

paper." It was with such dedication that the newspaper persevered to keep all the Armenians in California informed and connected.

Recognizing that there was an important role for Asbarez to play in the growing Armenian community in Southern California, Asbarez Publishing Company moved its operation to Los Angeles in the 1970's. In the last three decades, Asbarez has become a bilingual daily newspaper, becoming the voice of the Armenian-American community from libraries to newsrooms.

Today, what was once a small paper has grown to thousands of subscriptions, and is read in numerous countries reaching a larger, more diverse audience than ever before. It has maintained and reaffirmed its commitment to providing reliable news and information to the community for 95 years.

It is my distinct honor to recognize Asbarez's invaluable service to the constituents of the 29th Congressional District over the years. Asbarez has truly succeeded in becoming a trusted information and community source. I ask that all the members join me in congratulating Asbarez's 95 years of establishment and service to the community.

JAVITS-WAGNER-O'DAY NATIONAL DISABILITIES DAY

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2004

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind my colleagues of the many barriers people with disabilities face. They confront barriers to employment, transportation and mobility issues, environmental obstacles, as well as fears, prejudices and misconceptions about their ability to offer valuable service to business, to our communities, and to our nation.

People with disabilities battle a 50 percent nationwide unemployment rate, and those with severe disabilities struggle with a debilitating 70 percent rate of unemployment. I regret that ten years after this Congress passed the Americans with Disabilities Act, it is still necessary to affirm that people with disabilities can work and want to work. They can enrich the workplace with meaningful skills and talents. And they, like any other Americans, want to contribute their talents to our society.

The key to changing these shocking labor statistics is to encourage employers to focus on the abilities of an individual, rather than an individual's disabilities. Hiring a deserving, qualified individual with a disability is a win-win situation for business and the community. When a person with a disability is employed, the positive benefits reverberate in the community reducing welfare dependency and generating self-sufficiency, independence, stable families, and an increased tax base. Employing people with disabilities helps businesses as well. They have extremely high retention rates, higher than most employees, and there can be tax advantages for businesses that hire employees with disabilities.

The Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program is to be commended and should be supported for providing employment opportunities to Americans with disabilities. The JWOD Program uses the purchasing power of the Fed-

eral Government to buy products and services from participating, community-based nonprofit agencies dedicated to training and employing individuals with disabilities. JWOD completes the cycle of support by enabling persons with disabilities to acquire job skills and training, receive good wages and benefits, and gain greater independence.

The program serves 40,000 people with disabilities nationwide. Last year, it generated approximately \$280 million in wages earned and nearly \$1.5 billion in products sold. In Georgia alone, some 972 people with disabilities earned nearly \$3 million in wages last year as a result of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day program.

The Bobby Dodd Institute (BDI), a community rehabilitation facility in my district, has found particular success with JWOD contracts. Bobby Dodd Institute trainees operate the Veterans Administration Hospital switchboard, the U.S. Attorney Office mailroom, the Decatur Army Reserve Base janitorial service, and even have an expanded regional presence at the Veterans Administration Hospital switchboard in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

As a result of these JWOD contracts, the Bobby Dodd Institute has been able to provide employment opportunities to numerous individuals with disabilities and has helped them to become independent, self-sufficient citizens. I am pleased that these JWOD contracts have had such a positive impact and hope that this is only the beginning. With support from my esteemed colleagues, Javits-Wagner-O'Day contracts can increase, and our whole society will benefit.

This is a program that truly makes a difference in the nation, and in Georgia. I am proud to support it.

INTRODUCTION OF END RACIAL PROFILING ACT OF 2004

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2004

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the End Racial Profiling Act of 2000, along with additional bipartisan cosponsors. As a product of years of extensive consultation with both the law enforcement and civil rights communities, this legislation represents the most comprehensive federal commitment to healing the rift cause by racial profiling and restoring public confidence in the criminal justice system at-large. The introduction of this legislation is critical step in what should be a nationwide, bipartisan effort to end this divisive practice.

Before September 11, 2001, there was wide agreement among Americans, including President Bush and Attorney General Ashcroft, that racial profiling is wrong and should end. Many in the law enforcement community acknowledged that singling out people for heightened scrutiny based on their race, ethnicity or national origin had eroded the trust in law enforcement necessary to appropriately serve and protect our communities. What was true before September 11th is even more true today: racial profiling is inappropriate and ineffective as a law enforcement tactic.

To that end, the Bush administration has promulgated a series of guidelines which are designed to end the practice of racial profiling

by federal law enforcement agencies. However, we must not mistake the issuance of federal guidelines as the final resolution of the racial profiling problem nationwide. The vast majority of racial profiling complaints arise from the routine activities of state and local law enforcement agencies. While these guidelines send a signal, they are not a replacement for the enactment of comprehensive federal anti-profiling legislation.

Racial profiling not only undermines our constitutional rights, it undermines the trust on which law enforcement depends to protect our communities. Since the first introduction of racial profiling legislation in the 105th Congress, the pervasive nature of the practice has gone from anecdote and theory to well documented fact. Data collected from New Jersey, Maryland, Texas, Pennsylvania, Florida, Illinois, Ohio, New York and Massachusetts show beyond a shadow of a doubt that African-Americans and Latinos are being stopped for routine traffic violations far in excess of their share of the population or even the rate at which such populations are accused of criminal conduct. Moreover, a recent Justice Department report found that although African-Americans and Hispanics are more likely to be stopped and searched by law enforcement, they are much less likely to be found in possession of contraband.

This legislation is designed to eliminate racial profiling by changing the policies and procedures underlying the practice. First, the bill provides a prohibition on racial profiling, enforceable by injunctive relief. Second, the receipt of federal law enforcement and other monies that go to state and local governments is conditioned on their adoption of effective policies that prohibit racial profiling. Third, the Justice Department is authorized to provide grants for the development and implementation of best policing practices, such as early warning systems, technology integration, and other management protocols that discourage profiling. Finally, the Attorney General is required to provide periodic reports to assess the nature of any ongoing discriminatory profiling practices.

The vast majority of law enforcement officers discharge their duties professionally and without bias. The value of their service should not be tarnished by a minority of police officials who engage in discriminatory behavior. Evidence obtained from enforcement efforts over the past several years has made it clear that federal action is necessary to address this problem with finality.

Racial profiling is a divisive practice that strikes at the very foundation of our democracy. When law-abiding citizens are treated differently by those who enforce the law simply because of their race, ethnicity, religion or national origin, they are denied the basic respect and equal treatment that is the right of every American. Decades ago, with the passage of sweeping civil rights legislation this country made clear race should not affect the treatment of individual Americans under the law. The practice of using race as a criterion in law enforcement flies in the face of the progress we have made toward racial equality.

With the continuing cooperation of the Administration, we have the opportunity to move bipartisan legislation and end the practice of racial profiling. I hope that we do not miss an historic opportunity to heal the rift cause by racial profiling and restore community confidence in law enforcement.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2004

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Black History Month. Black History Month was established in 1926 to pay tribute to the many African-Americans and other people of African descent for their myriad of contributions to human civilization. It is important to remember that during the years of 1619 and 1926 African-Americans received no recognition of their achievements that are inseparable from our lives.

Under President Woodrow Wilson's tutelage, the "Negro History Week" was created to promulgate the African-American achievements through sets of colloquiums, lectures, and exhibitions. It was to give a balanced view of all the people that contributed to the improvements of the Western society. Since then, the government has extended the longevity of the celebration to a month in order to provide a more extensive, global recognition and educational opportunity.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court ruling in the case of Brown versus the Board of Education, which established that every child deserves an education that is equal and substantive. This case changed the way African-American children were educated and was a catalyst that promoted change in the areas of voting, housing, and social justice.

In my home state of Arizona, before the year 1909, Arizona's schools were not segregated. However, during that year, Arizona's General Assembly passed legislation requiring African-American children to attend all black schools and be taught by black educators for the first eight years of their schooling. The first Tucson Unified Arizona District school to engage in segregation was the Paul Lawrence Dunbar School, named after a notable African-American poet. Through the collaboration of zealous teachers and caring parents, the students were able to receive a good education despite the school's inadequacies.

In 1951, Tucson Unified School District freely decided to integrate the school system, and in 1952 the school was renamed John Spring.

The school closed in 1978. To preserve the school, the Dunbar Coalition, a community organization, bought the property from Tucson Unified School District in 1995. The coalition is currently refurbishing the school and transforming it into an African-American Museum and Cultural Center. The school now serves as a venue for community events, and will be having a hearing on May 8th, 2004 to discuss the 50th anniversary of the Brown versus the Board of Education. Over 100 years ago, this building represented the inequities African-American children faced within the education system; it now symbolizes the injustices that are still present in the education system.

Black History Month, along with other celebrations, holidays and laws, has recognized the discrimination, harassment and abuse that blacks have endured. It showcases how far we have progressed, as well as reminds us that our goal in reaching true equality has not yet been completely fulfilled. Black History Month is a tool that educates and teaches the community on the African-American experience and struggle.

During this month, we acknowledge the many national African-American trailblazers such as, W.E.B. Dubois, Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr., Frederick Douglass, Malcolm X, and Hiram Revels and Shirley Chisholm, the first African-Americans elected to the U.S. Congress. Through these individuals and the dedication and hard work of countless others we, as Americans, are more tolerant, patient and accepting of others. We benefit from their legacies not in February alone, but every day.

It is important that minority groups work collectively to ensure civil rights are sustained and each person is treated with the respect and dignity they deserve, regardless of the color of their skin or ethnic background. It is my goal to build strong alliances and coalitions among all minority communities to work collectively toward reaching true equality.

I am very proud to have the opportunity to stand on the floor of the United States House of Representatives to help celebrate Black History Month. This is the time when we must commemorate and celebrate the lives of the many African-Americans that have made historic contributions in the areas of academics, politics, science/technology, and social justice. Their struggles and their triumphs are engraved in our everyday life and it is essential that we celebrate all of their accomplishments.

REGARDING THE TRAGIC EVENTS
TAKING PLACE IN HAITI AND
INTRODUCING LEGISLATION WITH
RESPECT TO THE URGENCY OF
CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2004

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the situation in Haiti continues to get worse. The attacks on towns and cities are ongoing and more frequent. There are reports of widespread looting and roundups. Haiti is now threatened with chaos.

The ongoing political crisis in Haiti has devastated the country's economy, social fabric, and the livelihoods of its people, leaving Haitians with a ruined economy and barely functioning physical infrastructure, few resources or the basic necessities to maintain life, and an insolvent government.

The path we tread is a difficult one. On the one hand, the disappointing Aristide presidency has reached an impasse, and has not yet shaken off the questions of constitutional legality. On the other hand, the democratic and constitutional principles are the foundations to a free society that we must always treasure. But the issue is not whether or not to support President Aristide. Rather, finding a solution that will bring stability while strengthening the democratic process in Haiti.

To achieve this, a political solution is needed to bring together all those that refuse to make things worse. The rebels are degrading the democratic institutions. For that reason, sacking an elected leader is a recipe for illegitimacy and more bloodshed.

The American people eagerly support a peaceful transition to a representative government in Haiti. Moreover, the Haitian communities in exile are committed to peace and de-

mocracy in their country, and I thank them for their steadfast advocacy for Haiti's interests.

Mr. Speaker, to put an end to violence, the best solution is to involve the international community in ceasing the hostilities, to find respite and protect the population. A peaceful and democratic solution is needed that respects the rule of law and the people's rights.

But, what can we do? I am introducing a resolution that will call for international efforts to end the violence and develop the economic and political institutions necessary to permit Haiti to sustain its population and restore its economic, social, and political process.

This legislation would also call on President Aristide to announce early elections. Thereafter, all the people of Haiti will decide whether or not new political leaders are needed.

It would be structured as follows:

The immediate formation of a United Nations peacekeeping force to help put an end to the violence in Haiti and assist with the subsequent peace, provide for political transition, and establish an economic reconstruction in Haiti.

International support preparing for early presidential elections by establishing a legitimate electoral process.

An international and long-term commitment to aid with the reconstruction of Haiti.

All of the above must be legitimized and implemented by the international community, with the absolute steadfastness from the United States to Haiti's peace, justice, and prosperity.

Mr. Speaker, as the Western Hemisphere's second-oldest democracy—wrestled from the clutches of European colonialism in 1804 by African slaves—the turbulent events in Haiti are of great concern to me. As a result, I am introducing this legislation with the utmost urgency.

I implore my colleagues to support this resolution.

IN HONOR OF DON RAY

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2004

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, next month, Don Ray, a great servant in Mississippi will be leaving his home and work in my district to serve a higher calling. We will miss him in the South, but the Lord has called him to a church in Michigan, and we are proud and excited he will be responding to this, the highest of callings.

Don and Jeannie Ray have reared a wonderful and loving family: son Craig; daughter Jene with her husband Michael Barranco and their children Mia Julia and Michael; daughter Jerri with her husband Ralph Ross and their children Jennings and Graeme; daughter Julie; and son Kyle with his wife Hilmar and their children Baylor and Carly Marie. Five children and six grandchildren are fitting legacy for anyone, but Don has made an impact in many other ways: the Church, higher education, and the world of finance.

Don has served as Vice President for Development at Belhaven College since November of 1999. Under his leadership, Belhaven has brought in multi-million dollar deals significantly increasing the vitality and stability of the