

## 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 Hilmari 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

campus, including funding a new student center. Alumni have been rejuvenated and their positive excitement has led to more and greater financial commitments to the institution. His direction created a vibrant and engaging Homecoming event that has Belhaven alumni eagerly anticipating their annual visit to Jackson, Mississippi.

Belhaven College and Mississippi will miss Don and Jeannie Ray, but the First Congregational Church of Otsego, Michigan will benefit from his years of experience as a pastor and administrator. Before serving in development in higher Christian education including service at Belhaven College, Millsaps College, and Wheaton College, Don served at various churches as a youth pastor and senior pastor.

Don excelled in his previous career of financial planner. He began with Connecticut General Life Insurance in 1964 as an estate planner and business analyst. He moved up the corporate ranks through Northwestern Life Insurance and A.G. Edwards & Sons. He was selected by "Money Magazine" as one of the "200 Best Financial Planners in America" in 1987 and again in 1990. In 1991 he left Financial Review Services, where he served as president of the full services financial planning firm, to begin serving higher Christian education.

For about 25 years, Don Ray has been a Certified Financial Planner and he has a total of 40 years in the financial and estate planning industry. He is a past president and chairman of the board of the Mississippi Chapter of the International Association of Financial Planning, has served as an adjunct faculty member of the College for Financial Planning, and has been a member of both the Registry for Practicing Financial Planners and the Institute for Certified Financial Planners. His training in finance has benefited the Kingdom through gifts to education, churches, and other organizations for many years. He has served on the boards of several Christian organizations including Pioneer Bible Translators, Wheaton Christian Academy High School, Windsor Park Manor Retirement Center, Marble Retreat for Clergy, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and the Board of Stewards at Galloway United Methodist Church. Don and Jeannie both have served long hours in ministries at Galloway in Jackson and that congregation will certainly miss their gifts and their spirit of servanthood.

I know Belhaven College will be sad to see him go, though they, too, are excited about his new opportunity. I believe Belhaven President Dr. Roger Parrott described Don Ray's service best: "Don was exactly what we needed for this season of Belhaven's growth. He has helped us broaden our base of support among our friends and alumni, crafted together major gifts that have catapulted us forward, and created a platform of professionalism among the team that will carry us forward. Please join us in praying for Don's ministry."

The motto of Belhaven College is "to serve, not to be served." That phrase is the executive summary of Don Ray's life so far, and I believe will continue for many years to come. I hope Congress will join me and Belhaven College, a great Christian liberal arts college in my district, in saluting the service of Don Ray and wishing him the best in his return to the ministry.

## IN RECOGNITION OF SAMUEL ALVIN "SAMMY" BRASHER

### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Samuel Alvin "Sammy" Brasher—known to many of us as the man with the harmonica.

Sammy Brasher was an inspiration to us all. Born in 1959 with Down syndrome, Sammy was not expected to live a full life. When he was born doctors told his parents he would only have 3 years on Earth. He lived to be 44.

Mr. Speaker, Sammy Brasher is a shining example to us all. Never one to give up easily, Sammy lived his life as a testament to what we all can be, and what we all can achieve. He never let his health slow him down, and kept us smiling with his ever-present musical companion, his harmonica.

Sammy Brasher's memory will always be with us, and so will his life. His smile, his harmonica, and his honesty touched us all. At this difficult time we grieve for his family and remember them in our hearts, and in our prayers.

## INTRODUCTION OF THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG SAFETY AND AFFORDABILITY ACT

### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2004

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Prescription Drug Safety and Affordability Act. For far too long, the pharmaceutical industry has jeopardized patient safety and inflated prescription drug prices by using tax-deductible dollars to underwrite their marketing efforts. The Prescription Drug Safety and Affordability Act would root out this unethical and potentially fraudulent behavior by denying tax deductions to pharmaceutical companies for the gifts they lavish on physicians.

Recently, Congress passed a new Medicare prescription drug benefit that falls far short of giving seniors the relief they need from the high prices of prescription drugs. In fact, the average senior will still pay \$1660 out of pocket per year under the new drug benefit, and a total of \$2080 out of pocket when premiums are included. Unfortunately, the new drug bill does nothing to lower prescription drug prices. In fact, it specifically prevents the government from using the bargaining power of 40 million beneficiaries to negotiate lower drug prices. At the same time, it continues to prohibit seniors from shopping for a better price on the global market, despite broad bipartisan support for allowing them to do so.

Relief is all the more urgent because prescription drug prices are rising for seniors, who now pay an average of \$2,322 for their drugs. Between 1998 and 2003, of the 50 drugs most commonly prescribed to seniors, nearly three-quarters of them increased in price by at least one and one-half times the rate of inflation, and more than half increased by at least three times the rate of inflation. We must do all that we can to lower the price of

prescription drugs and to spend our healthcare dollars wisely.

Yet, drug companies are spending billions of dollars on promotions to entice doctors to prescribe their products, and these dollars are tax deductible. An April 2002 survey by the Kaiser Family Foundation found that pharmaceutical companies spent \$13 billion in 2001 on incentives for doctors, or more than \$15,000 per doctor. Sixty-one percent of physicians surveyed said they had received gifts from the industry. Drug companies often give out free meals, tickets to the theater, concerts, or sporting events, gifts such as watches and jewelry, and pay for physicians' travel to symposiums or conferences.

These gifts are often attempts by the pharmaceutical industry to induce doctors to prescribe their products even when it is not in the patient's best interest. For example, recently disclosed court documents have revealed that Warner-Lambert encouraged hundreds of doctors to prescribe Neurontin for unapproved uses by inviting them to dinners, weekend trips to resorts, and free tickets to the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta. Just a few months ago, the U.S. Attorney's office filed court papers accusing the company of implementing a "marketing scheme that is rife with false statements and fraudulent conduct." The U.S. Attorney concluded that the public interest can only be served when drug promotion is "free of the insidious effects of kickbacks and related financial conflicts of interest," which artificially inflate sales and prices. These gift-giving campaigns contribute to preference and rapid prescribing of new drugs, and decreased prescribing of generics. In other words, tax-deductible dollars contribute to the rising prices of prescription drugs.

These campaigns and inflated prices are particularly outrageous, given the level of profit the drug companies make at the expense of patients. The pharmaceutical industry is consistently the most profitable industry in America, with profit margins in 2001 more than five times the median for fortune 500 companies. Spending on prescription drugs has increased by 20% each year between 1997 and 2001. Between January 1997 and January 2002, the average price of the most commonly used prescription drugs for seniors rose by 27.6%, more than twice the rate of inflation.

The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) pretended to discourage these improper marketing ploys by issuing conflict-of-interest guidelines in April 2002. After announcing the guidelines with fanfare, they then paid the American Medical Association to "educate" their members on these guidelines—that is, they gave doctors financial incentives to promote ethical guidelines that called for an end to financial incentives! It is obvious that PhRMA is not serious about ending the practice of giving financial incentives to doctors. This bill would create an incentive for drug companies to adhere to their own code of conduct.

Not only are these incentives unethical, but they could even be illegal. The HHS Inspector General issued final guidance to pharmaceutical manufacturers saying that many of these gifts to doctors could be considered illegal kickbacks. By allowing tax deductions for these gifts, current tax law actually encourages this potentially illegal practice. This bill seeks to redress this perverse incentive.