

I would simply like to add, for almost a century now the Osage Tribe of Oklahoma has lived with a cloud over their ability to determine tribal membership roles. This is a basic right afforded all Indian tribes, and I am pleased we are here to clarify the matter for the tribe.

I would also like to commend the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. CARSON) for his work on behalf of the legislation during its consideration by the Committee on Resources.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS), who is the author of this bill.

Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to bring my strong support to H.R. 2912 to reaffirm the inherent sovereign rights of the Osage Tribe to determine their membership and form of government. Because of a law created in 1906 by this Congress, the Osage Tribe has not been afforded the same rights as every other federally recognized tribe. According to that law, membership in the tribe would be extended only to those who owned a share of the Osage mineral estate and their descendants. Today, there are literally thousands of Osage Indians denied the benefits of membership simply because they do not hold a share of that estate.

H.R. 2912, which I introduced in July of 2003, was designed to clarify the 98-year-old law. It is intended to put the Osage Tribe on equal footing with all other federally recognized tribes by allowing them to determine their own membership criteria and system of government, while protecting the headrights of the shareholders.

I believe most importantly it will give many Osages, many young Osages, the opportunity to take part in Indian programs that have been previously denied to them.

At a field hearing in March of this year, members of the Committee on Resources and I heard testimony from members of the Osage Tribe, as well as others involved with Indian affairs. It was clear from the warm reception that the bill received that the Osage people are prepared for the right to decide for themselves who is and who is not a tribal member.

Mr. Speaker, I am quite confident in 1906 that this body was acting in the spirit of benevolent support to protect the Osages from what was, at that time, I should say, fantastic mineral wealth within their tribal reservation. Times have changed. The oil fields are not quite what they once were. It is important, I believe, now that we allow the Osages the same rights as every other federally recognized tribe; that we allow the Osages to go forward with their tribe.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 2912, bringing the Osage Tribe one step closer to finally receiving that right.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2912.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## NATIONAL GREAT BLACK AMERICANS COMMEMORATION ACT OF 2004

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1233) to authorize assistance for the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum and Justice Learning Center, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 1233

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Great Black Americans Commemoration Act of 2004".

### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Black Americans have served honorably in Congress, in senior executive branch positions, in the law, the judiciary, and other fields, yet their record of service is not well known by the public, is not included in school history lessons, and is not adequately presented in the Nation's museums.

(2) The Great Blacks in Wax Museum, Inc. in Baltimore, Maryland, a nonprofit organization, is the Nation's first wax museum presenting the history of great Black Americans, including those who have served in Congress, in senior executive branch positions, in the law, the judiciary, and other fields, as well as others who have made significant contributions to benefit the Nation.

(3) The Great Blacks in Wax Museum, Inc. plans to expand its existing facilities to establish the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum and Justice Learning Center, which is intended to serve as a national museum and center for presentation of wax figures and related interactive educational exhibits portraying the history of great Black Americans.

(4) The wax medium has long been recognized as a unique and artistic means to record human history through preservation of the faces and personages of people of prominence, and historically, wax exhibits were used to commemorate noted figures in ancient Egypt, Babylon, Greece, and Rome, in medieval Europe, and in the art of the Italian renaissance.

(5) The Great Blacks in Wax Museum, Inc. was founded in 1983 by Drs. Elmer and Joanne Martin, 2 Baltimore educators who used their personal savings to purchase wax figures, which they displayed in schools, churches, shopping malls, and festivals in the mid-Atlantic region.

(6) The goal of the Martins was to test public reaction to the idea of a Black history wax museum and so positive was the re-

sponse over time that the museum has been heralded by the public and the media as a national treasure.

(7) The museum has been the subject of feature stories by CNN, the Wall Street Journal, the Baltimore Sun, the Washington Post, the New York Times, the Chicago Sun Times, the Dallas Morning News, the Los Angeles Times, USA Today, the Afro American Newspaper, Crisis, Essence Magazine, and others.

(8) More than 300,000 people from across the Nation visit the museum annually.

(9) The new museum will carry on the time honored artistic tradition of the wax medium; in particular, it will recognize the significant value of this medium to commemorate and appreciate great Black Americans whose faces and personages are not widely recognized.

(10) The museum will employ the most skilled artisans in the wax medium, use state-of-the-art interactive exhibition technologies, and consult with museum professionals throughout the Nation, and its exhibits will feature the following:

(A) Blacks who have served in the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, including those who represented constituencies in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia during the 19th century.

(B) Blacks who have served in the judiciary, in the Department of Justice, as prominent attorneys, in law enforcement, and in the struggle for equal rights under the law.

(C) Black veterans of various military engagements, including the Buffalo Soldiers and Tuskegee Airmen, and the role of Blacks in the settlement of the western United States.

(D) Blacks who have served in senior executive branch positions, including members of Presidents' Cabinets, Assistant Secretaries and Deputy Secretaries of Federal agencies, and Presidential advisers.

(E) Other Blacks whose accomplishments and contributions to human history during the last millennium and to the Nation through more than 400 years are exemplary, including Black educators, authors, scientists, inventors, athletes, clergy, and civil rights leaders.

(11) The museum plans to develop collaborative programs with other museums, serve as a clearinghouse for training, technical assistance, and other resources involving use of the wax medium, and sponsor traveling exhibits to provide enriching museum experiences for communities throughout the Nation.

(12) The museum has been recognized by the State of Maryland and the city of Baltimore as a preeminent facility for presenting and interpreting Black history, using the wax medium in its highest artistic form.

(13) The museum is located in the heart of an area designated as an empowerment zone, and is considered to be a catalyst for economic and cultural improvements in this economically disadvantaged area.

### SEC. 3. ASSISTANCE FOR NATIONAL GREAT BLACKS IN WAX MUSEUM AND JUSTICE LEARNING CENTER.

(a) ASSISTANCE FOR MUSEUM.—Subject to subsection (b), the Attorney General, acting through the Office of Justice Programs of the Department of Justice, shall, from amounts made available under subsection (c), make a grant to the Great Blacks in Wax Museum, Inc. in Baltimore, Maryland, to be used only for carrying out programs relating to civil rights and juvenile justice through the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum and Justice Learning Center.

(b) GRANT REQUIREMENTS.—To receive a grant under subsection (a), the Great Blacks

in Wax Museum, Inc. shall submit to the Attorney General a proposal for the use of the grant, which shall include detailed plans for the programs referred to in subsection (a).

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$5,000,000, to remain available through the end of fiscal year 2009.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RODRIGUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 1233, the Senate bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nevada?

There was no objection.

□ 1600

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, Senate Bill 1233, introduced by Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI of Maryland and amended by the Committee on the Judiciary, authorizes assistance for the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum and Justice Learning Center located in Baltimore, Maryland.

Mr. Speaker, the Great Blacks in Wax Museum was founded in 1983 by Doctors Elmer and Joanne Martin, two Baltimore educators who used their personal savings to purchase wax figures which they displayed in schools, churches, shopping malls, and festivals in the mid-Atlantic region. The goal of the Martins was to test public reaction to the idea of a black history wax museum. So positive was the response over time that the museum has been heralded by the public and the media as a national treasure.

As part of a proposed expansion of the museum, which is to occur over the next several years, S. 1233 would allow the museum to receive grants from the U.S. Department of Justice to establish programs relating to civil rights and juvenile justice.

Mr. Speaker, S. 1233, as amended, is supported by the majority and minority of the Committee on Resources, and I submit for the RECORD letters from the Chairman of the Committee on Resources and the Chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary regarding this bill.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,  
Washington, DC, March 25, 2004.

Hon. RICHARD POMBO,  
Chairman, Committee on Resources, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN POMBO: I am writing regarding S. 1233, the "National Great Black Americans Commemoration Act of 2003" which was referred primarily to the Committee on Resources and secondarily to the Committee on the Judiciary. The Committee on Resources reported the bill favorably on

November 17, 2003. H. Rept. No. 108-372, Part I. The Committee on the Judiciary's secondary referral is currently scheduled to expire on April 2, 2004.

The spending authorized by S. 1233 would come from funds appropriated to the Office of Justice Programs within the Department of Justice. For that reason, I had concerns about the bill as reported by your Committee. My staff has had discussions with staff for the sponsor of the companion House measure, Rep. Cummings, and we have reached a mutually agreeable compromise to resolve these concerns. A copy of the compromise language is attached.

I understand that through staff discussions you have indicated your willingness to take the bill to the floor under suspension of the rules and use the attached compromise language as the manager's amendment when you do so. I also understand that you will use your best efforts to get the bill scheduled for floor consideration as soon as you are reasonably able to schedule it with the House leadership.

Based on your willingness to follow this course, I am willing to waive further consideration of the bill in the Committee on the Judiciary so that the bill may proceed expeditiously to the floor. The Committee on the Judiciary takes this action with the understanding that the Committee's jurisdiction over the bill is in no way diminished or altered. I would appreciate your including this letter and your response in the Congressional Record during consideration of the legislation on the House floor.

I appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES,  
Washington, DC, March 25, 2004.

Hon. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.,  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding S. 1233, a bill to authorize assistance for the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum and Justice Learning Center. I am delighted that you were able to negotiate a suitable source and amount of funds for the project.

The Committee on Resources will be pleased to take up your negotiated text on the Floor when S. 1233 is considered by the full House of Representatives. I also agree that I will place your letter and this response in the Congressional Record to memorialize this agreement. Finally, I agree that by allowing the Committee on the Judiciary to be discharged from further consideration of the measure, you have not waived or otherwise compromised your jurisdiction over the subject matter of S. 1233.

Thank you for your cooperation on this bill and for the good work of Joseph Gibson of your staff. I look forward to other mutually beneficial dealings in the future.

Sincerely,

RICHARD W. POMBO,  
Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. RODRIGUEZ asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, the Great Blacks in Wax Museum is a unique education facility, well-deserv-

ing of the enormous support that it receives. The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS), chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, a sponsor of the companion legislation here in the House, and Senator MIKULSKI are to be congratulated for their tireless efforts on behalf of this facility and this important piece of legislation.

The museum expansion plans are ambitious, and I urge my colleagues to support S. 1233 to help them on their way.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to urge an "aye" vote on this very positive bill.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the National Great Black Americans Commemoration Act, an important measure put forth by Hon. ELIJAH CUMMINGS which gives long overdue commemoration to the many Black Americans who have served honorably in this Nation.

By expanding the Great Blacks in Wax Museum, Inc., in Baltimore, Maryland, to establish the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum and Justice Learning Center, Congress is acknowledging the monumental contributions of African Americans who have served in the Senate and House of Representatives; the judiciary and the field of law; various military engagements, including the Buffalo Soldiers and Tuskegee Airmen; senior executive branch positions; and numerous other occupations which have advanced the goals and causes of the United States over the more than 400 year history of people of African descent in America. The museum, which is currently visited by more than 300,000 people annually, will employ the most skilled artisans in the wax medium to accurately and honorably portray those Black Americans who, with ability and perseverance, have worked tirelessly for justice, equal rights, peace, and rule of law in our great Nation.

The National Great Black Americans Commemoration Act is certainly worthy of support by this body, particularly as it is a key complement to the National Museum of African American History and Culture Act, championed by Hon. JOHN LEWIS and signed into law December 16, 2003. However, these gestures are but first steps in the directions of endowing esteemed Black Americans with the veneration that they deserve. More efforts like this Act are needed if proper homage is to be paid to those great Black pioneers who truly laid the foundation upon which this Nation has been built.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of passage of the National Great Black Americans Commemoration Act of 2003, H.R. 2424 and S. 1233, companion legislation that I introduced along with my friend Senator MIKULSKI. This bill has received bipartisan support in both committees of jurisdiction in the House, as well as bicameral support where it passed quickly to the floor out of the Senate Judiciary Committee. I urge all of my colleagues to vote in support of this measure and I urge the President to sign this important bill into law when it reaches his desk.

With valued input from Drs. Elmer and Joanne Martin, founders of the Great Blacks in

Wax Museum. I introduced this bill to help bring long overdue recognition of African Americans who have served our Nation with great distinction, but who names, faces and achievements may not be well-known by the average citizen. Rest assured that this recognition can and will be accomplished and preserved through expansion of the Great Blacks in Wax Museum—a national treasure located in my district in Baltimore, Maryland.

In addition to the 200 existing figures at the museum, I am pleased to inform my colleagues that a priority will be placed on exhibits presenting the twenty-two Black Americans who served in Congress during the 19th century. Several of these 22 were born into slavery. All of these Americans proudly served their constituents and their Nation. Other members from the 1990s such as Senator Edward Brooke, Representatives Julian Dixon (D-CA), Oscar Stanton De Priest (R-IL), Louis Stokes (D-OH), Parren J. Mitchell (D-MD), J.C. Watts, Jr. (R-OK) and others will also receive special recognition. Some of the existing distinguished figures depict Collin Powell, Harriet Tubman, Martin Luther King, Jr., Mary McLeod Bethune and former Representatives Mickey Leland of Texas as well as Shirley Chisholm and Adam Clayton Powell of New York.

The expanded museum will focus on Black military veterans of various military engagements, including the Buffalo Soldiers and Tuskegee Airmen; on Black judges and prominent attorneys; and the role of Blacks in the discovery and settlement of America. It will also showcase Blacks who served in senior civilian Executive Branch positions, such as Ralph Bunche (FDR administration), E. Frederic Morrow (Eisenhower administration), Robert Weaver (Johnson administration), William Coleman (Ford administration), Patricia Harris (Carter administration), Louis Sullivan (George H.W. Bush administration), and others who have not received appropriate recognition.

Lastly, this legislation authorizes assistance in establishing a Justice Learning Center as a component of the expanded Museum complex. The Justice Learning Center will include state-of-the-art facilities and resources to educate the public, especially at-risk youth about the role of African Americans in our Nation's judicial system. It will include a special focus on the civil rights movement, on the role of African Americans as lawmakers, attorneys and in the Judiciary.

Mr. Speaker, the Great Blacks in Wax Museum was founded in 1983 by Dr. Elmer Martin and Dr. Joanne Martin, who started the museum with their own funds carrying a few figures and exhibit materials around the country in their car. The museum currently occupies part of a city block in East Baltimore, and includes more than 200 wax figures. It is America's first wax museum of Black history. The museum now receives over 200,000 visitors a year; over half of these visitors are school children. I also will mention that several members of Congress and their staff have visited and relayed to me the awesome nature of their visit—how the figures and exhibits both moved and informed. Passage of this bill will ensure that the Museum can continue its mission to preserve a great part of our Nation's history.

I would be remiss if I did not relay to you how important and inspiring this Museum is to its East Baltimore community. The Great

Blacks in Wax Museum functions as more than just a museum. It is a stalwart in its community. The Martins established the Museum with the primary motivation "to use education, history and example to help mainly disadvantaged youth overcome feelings of alienation, defeatism and despair." It provides a safe haven for at-risk youth and offers opportunities for young people in the community to take part in employment, intern and volunteer programs. The Museum has enrichment programs for individuals, families, daycare centers, churches, schools and other non-profit organizations. In keeping with its commitment to community involvement, the Museum's many programs serve as a means for taking learning and cultural enrichment beyond the school walls. The Justice Learning Center will extend the outreach efforts of the Museum to homeless shelters, halfway houses, adult day care, domestic violence centers, youth residential facilities and other places to reach disadvantaged and/or at-risk youth and families.

Mr. Speaker, passage of this bill will be seen as a testament to the Martins' persistence and vision. Passage will also mean that the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum—a national treasure will receive needed Federal support to ensure that generations yet unborn will be told the story of these great Americans. The Museum will ensure that history never forgets this legacy.

Finally, I want to thank Representative SENBRENNER and his staffers Joseph Gibson and Katy Crooks, Representative CONYERS and his staffer Lillian German, as well as Representatives POMBO and RAHALL and their staffers, Frank Vitello, Richard Healy and David Watkins for all of their hard work in moving this legislation through their respective Committees. I would especially like to thank my staff, Kimberly Ross in seeing this legislation through to its successful end.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MURPHY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1233, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

## AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. TERRY) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

H. Con. Res. 295, by the yeas and nays;

H. Res. 612, by the yeas and nays; and  
H. Con. Res. 417, by the yeas and nays.

The vote on S.J. Res. 28 will occur tomorrow.

The first and third electronic votes today will be conducted as 15-minute votes. The second vote in this series will be a 5-minute vote.

## CONGRATULATING AND SALUTING FOCUS: HOPE ON ITS 35TH ANNIVERSARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 295.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 295 on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 374, nays 0, not voting 59, as follows:

[Roll No. 210]

YEAS—374

Ackerman	Buyer	Dunn
Aderholt	Calvert	Ehlers
Akin	Camp	Emerson
Alexander	Cannon	Engel
Allen	Cantor	Eshoo
Andrews	Capito	Etheridge
Baca	Capps	Evans
Baird	Capuano	Everett
Baker	Cardin	Farr
Baldwin	Cardoza	Fattah
Ballenger	Carson (IN)	Feeney
Barrett (SC)	Carter	Ferguson
Bartlett (MD)	Case	Filner
Barton (TX)	Castle	Flake
Beauprez	Chandler	Foley
Bell	Chocola	Forbes
Berman	Clay	Ford
Berry	Clyburn	Fossella
Biggert	Coble	Frank (MA)
Bilirakis	Cole	Franks (AZ)
Bishop (GA)	Cooper	Frelinghuysen
Bishop (NY)	Cox	Frost
Bishop (UT)	Cramer	Gallegly
Blackburn	Crane	Garrett (NJ)
Blumenauer	Crenshaw	Gerlach
Blunt	Crowley	Gibbons
Boehlert	Cubin	Gilchrest
Bonilla	Culberson	Gillmor
Bonner	Cunningham	Gingrey
Bono	Davis (CA)	Gonzalez
Boozman	Davis (IL)	Goode
Boswell	Davis (TN)	Goodlatte
Boucher	Davis, Jo Ann	Gordon
Boyd	Davis, Tom	Goss
Bradley (NH)	Deal (GA)	Granger
Brady (TX)	DeFazio	Graves
Brown (OH)	Delahunt	Green (TX)
Brown (SC)	DeLauro	Green (WI)
Brown, Corrine	DeLay	Greenwood
Brown-Waite,	Diaz-Balart, L.	Grijalva
Ginny	Diaz-Balart, M.	Gutknecht
Burgess	Dingell	Hall
Burns	Doggett	Harman
Burr	Doyle	Harris
Burton (IN)	Dreier	Hart