

that must be made to the Transportation, Treasury, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2004. This change pertains to the administration of the Federal Aid Highway Program and corrects a technical drafting error in the original bill. This technical correction must be enacted soon so as not to create unnecessary confusion as to how the program is to be administered.

It was my expectation and that of several of my colleagues that this technical correction would be included as part of the temporary extension bill that was to be adopted today to extend the Federal Aid Highway Program for an additional 2 months. However, since it is the desire of the majority leader to have the Senate pass the House-passed bill that was adopted last evening, we are not in a position to have the technical correction included in the bill at this time. It is essential that this correction be enacted into law at the earliest possible date. It must be enacted into law during the next few weeks so that the intent of the appropriations act can be carried out as intended.

Mr. BYRD. I share the concern of my chairman, Senator STEVENS, on this matter and join with him in insisting that the Senate attend to this matter on a legislative vehicle that will be enacted into law very soon. This matter is of the utmost urgency, if we are not to create confusion at the Federal Highway Administration as to how this program is to be implemented.

Mr. SHELBY. As the chairman of the Transportation, Treasury and General Government Appropriations Subcommittee, I, too, wish to echo the adamant view of Chairman STEVENS that this provision must be enacted into law in the next few weeks.

Mrs. MURRAY. As the ranking member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury and General Government, I also must insist that this technical correction be adopted immediately. The provision in question simply ensures that the program will be administered in the same manner as it has been in previous years. It must be enacted into law at the earliest possible date.

Mr. FRIST. I thank my colleagues for bringing this matter to my attention. As the bipartisan leaders of the full Appropriations Committee and its Transportation Subcommittee, they have all been unified and consistent in their view as to the legislative intent of the 2004 appropriations act. They have been equally unified in their insistence that this matter be fixed as quickly as possible.

Given the fact that the other body has now adjourned, we are required to pass a bill without this technical correction in order to keep the highway program operating beyond its expiration date of this Sunday, February 29. I give my personal assurance to my colleagues that, in the coming few weeks, I will work with my Senate col-

leagues as well as with the House leadership to ensure that the necessary technical correction is incorporated in a legislative vehicle that the President will sign in the very near future. I share their hope that this can be accomplished prior to the expiration of the short term highway extension bill that we will be adopting today.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I have the pleasure of serving both as chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee of the Environment and Public Works Committee and a member of the Transportation/Treasury Appropriations Committee. I want to join with my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee in emphasizing the urgency of adopting this technical correction as soon as possible. I also want to join with the majority leader and commit myself to seeing to it that this correction is enacted into law in the next few weeks.

Mr. REID. I serve as the ranking member of Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee and I, like Chairman BOND, also serve on the Transportation/Treasury Appropriations Subcommittee. In both of those capacities, I want to commit myself to getting this important technical correction enacted into law at the earliest possible date.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2004

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of H.R. 3850, the highway program extension bill, which is at the desk. I further ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 3850) was read a third time and passed.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, before making further remarks, I wanted to make sure that was done.

As we started about 7 hours ago, we had two issues. One was the extension which we passed.

There have been a lot of people over the course of the day who have wondered whether they were going to get paychecks on Monday and whether they would show up for work on Monday. After all of this, we have settled pretty much both issues in terms of moving forward. The highway extension has just been passed. So for those people who were on furlough and wondering what was going on today, they are going to be OK on Monday.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, in 1926, historian Carter G. Woodson designated the second week of February as "Negro History Week," an opportunity for America to recognize the achievements

and contributions made by African Americans.

As a result of promoting our Nation's history of diversity, and advancing tolerance and civil rights, this week was extended into a month in 1976.

Today, Black History Month serves as more than just a reminder of African American culture. It serves as a reminder of how far America has come in the areas of tolerance, civil rights, and diversity and far we have yet to go.

Black History Month conjures up familiar heroes for all of us: Rosa Parks and her legendary defiance; Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his historic leadership; Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall and his equitable judgment.

There are also inventors and physicians who may be less familiar to some of us: Granville Woods, who was granted more than 60 patents for inventions including steam-driven engines and a telephone transmitter; and Dr. Charles Drew, a medical professor at Howard University who, among other things, developed a way to extend the storage life of blood from two days to 1 week.

Interestingly, Elijah McCoy, the developer of the locomotive lubricator, is responsible for one of the most familiar expressions in the English language. Mr. McCoy, in an attempt to promote his product, coined a catchy slogan to remind railroad engineers that his original invention was the best: "The Real McCoy."

These are just some of our national heroes and heroines who achieved social, political, economic, and scientific goals. By reaching their own goals, they also contributed their strength and innovation to the collective American thought.

While the southern United States is the birthplace of many significant achievements in African American history, there are also accomplishments of note in western States, including my native Nevada.

Among the African American men and women who hailed from or made significant contributions to Nevada, there are a few pioneers I want to introduce to you.

At a time when black people were not invited to participate in the political process or the business world, there was a group of ranchers in Nevada who thought differently.

Ben Palmer, who was noted as "one of the heaviest taxpayers in Douglas County," was a hugely successful rancher and businessman.

This may seem commonplace today. But at the time when he was prospering, blacks couldn't even vote, serve on a jury, testify against whites, send their children to public school, or marry whites.

Mr. Palmer lived in Carson Valley, NE, which is not only one of the most beautiful parts of the State, but also served as an early route for the migration to California.

It didn't take long for him and his sister to deduce that, by establishing

ranches, they could turn a profit by providing care for weary travelers and their livestock.

Since there was no Federal authority over much of the land at that time, ranchers used to just claim a spot of land and water rights; then they would start to sell grazing rights to emigrants and cut grass to provide feed during the winter.

By the 1870's, Palmer had established himself as a prosperous cattleman. It was reported in the Carson Valley News that he had driven 1,500 head of cattle from Seattle to Carson Valley to replenish his herd. He also introduced fine horses into the Valley, pioneering locally with the Bonner breed.

Despite the legal restrictions facing African Americans during this time, Palmer was so highly regarded that he was invited to register to vote in the Mottsville precinct before the 15th Amendment to the Constitution was passed.

It is recorded that in 1876 and 1878, he was selected to be a member of a Douglas County grand jury, and was named to the panel of trial jurors for that year's term of the District Court.

When the residents of Carson Valley launched a short-lived political organization, the National Greenback and Workingmen's Party, a county central committee was selected and Ben Palmer was one of the committee members representing the Mottsville precinct.

He couldn't read or write, but that didn't stop him; he wasn't supposed to vote or serve on a jury, but he did anyway; the color of his skin was supposed to prevent him from participating in the political process, but he pressed ahead.

It is no wonder that his obituary in the Record-Courier said that, "He met success in every meaning of the word and leaves one of the finest farms in Carson Valley as a monument. He bore a man's part in the battle of life, bore it bravely, gently and without ostentation. He believed in the right and practiced the right always."

Treasure Hill and Virginia City are two other areas of Nevada where African Americans overcame restrictions to find success.

The mining prospects in Nevada and other parts of the West attracted people from all races and walks of life in search of gold.

Black people came to Nevada in hopes of securing mining jobs and finding prosperity for themselves. Unfortunately, most mines would not hire blacks, as some whites quipped that they would be too ignorant to tell one rock from another.

This discriminatory perspective may explain why there were only six black people recorded as official miners in Nevada in 1870. Another reason for their widespread absence from the mining industry may be their exclusion from unions.

Despite these obstacles, African Americans had considerable success mining in Treasure Hill in eastern Ne-

vada from 1868 to 1870, noted as "probably the shortest, most intense mining rush in the history of the West."

In April 1869, a group of black miners, headed by William Hall and J.C. Mortimer, announced their discovery of a rich mining ledge in Treasure Hill and vowed that they would "supply (their) colored brethren of the low countries with mines as good as any a white man dare own."

Messrs. Hall and Mortimer incorporated the Elevator Mining Company of Treasure Hill, White Pine, and planned to issue 6,000 shares of stock at \$100 each.

Treasure Hill was an economic advance for blacks and the area was home to several wealthy families: Samuel Wilcox, Daniel W. Cherry, John Maxwell, Sanford Venery, and Joseph Anderson.

After fires and poor prospects drove many residents out, Treasure Hill was left with only one black resident and only eight black residents in White Pine County.

Another mining district, the Comstock Mining District, was founded in 1859 and was once considered to be one of the richest gold and silver discoveries in history.

Blacks who had come to Virginia City in hopes of securing jobs in the industry would face discrimination; however, when their mettle was tested, most were resolute to become business owners. Although there is no documentation of a particular neighborhood or area where they lived, there is a scant record of the number of businesses they owned and operated.

One of the most successful businesses in Virginia City was the Boston Saloon. In 1864, William A.G. Brown founded the Boston Saloon only a year after arriving from Massachusetts and initially working as a bootblack and street polisher.

The Boston Saloon catered to the Comstock black population and served as a place to socialize and exchange information about business opportunities.

Archeologists and historians discovered the site of the Boston Saloon in 1997 and quickly determined that uncovering the history behind the specific characteristics of the saloon and its patrons would help reveal an important chapter of African American history in the early west.

Ranchers, frontiersmen, miners, business owners—all success stories during a time when success was discouraged or denied by ignorance and discrimination.

These are just a handful of the African Americans who made important contributions toward the early establishment of Nevada and the early West. Countless others have gone unnoticed or uncelebrated.

I commend Dr. Elmer Rusco of Reno for his tireless leadership in attempting to chronicle the contributions of African Americans in Nevada. It is due to his scholarship that much of Ne-

vada's black history is preserved and presented.

I am honored to share these nuggets of Nevada history on behalf of the African Americans who helped establish the great Silver State, and in honor of Black History Month.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, for the past month, we have been celebrating Black History Month.

I believe that Black History Month is not only a time to recognize the contributions and achievements of African Americans to this Nation, but it is also a time to acknowledge both progress African Americans have made and the continued racial disparities in this Nation.

We usually celebrate African-American athletes, musicians, and actors. While their successes have been significant, I feel it is important that we acknowledge some of the great thinkers, inventors, and discoverers who were African American.

Some of the great pioneers include Dr. Charles Drew, who discovered the process for storing blood plasma; Garrett Morgan, who was the first to patent the traffic light and the gas mask; Granville T. Woods, who invented a train-to-station communication system; Astronaut Mae Jamison, the first African-American woman to enter space; Dr. Benjamin Carson, who successfully separated Siamese twins joined at the head; and Otis Boykin who invented the electronic control device for guided missiles, IBM computers, and the pacemaker.

These great innovators and pioneers not only blazed the trail for other young African Americans to follow, but they also inspired and contributed to American development and progress. Therefore, these pioneers were not only great African Americans, they were quintessentially American.

During this time when our Nation's military is engaged in conflicts throughout the world, I would like to acknowledge the contributions that African Americans have made to every war in American history. Today, African Americans serve a vital part of the troops deployed throughout the world, including Afghanistan and Iraq. Almost 22 percent of the members of our enlisted armed services are African-American.

Despite all of these important accomplishments, African Americans have yet to enjoy true racial equality in this Nation. And, in the absence of real equality, African Americans are being denied the essence of what it means to be a first-class American.

Statistics are the clearest barometer for determining and measuring the quality of life in American society and far too many of them reveal that African Americans continue to lag behind whites in important ways.

In January 2004, the national unemployment rate was 5.6 percent overall but just 4.9 percent for white Americans while it was 10.5 percent—more than twice as high—for African Americans.

The national poverty rate rose, for the second straight year, to 12.1 percent in 2002, from 11.7 percent the year before. In 2002, the national poverty rate for African Americans was 22.7 percent.

In 1999, median income for African Americans was \$31,778, compared to \$51,244, for the median income of white families. According to one report, in 1995, average white households had \$18,000 in financial wealth, while African-American households possessed a total of only \$200.

These statistics show the depth of racial inequality in America. In addition to economic disparities, the incarceration rate of African Americans, especially African-American males, is deeply disturbing.

Today, black men make up 41 percent of the inmates in Federal, State, and local prisons, but black men are only 4 percent of all students in American institutions of higher education, according to the *Journal of Blacks in Higher Education*, autumn 2003.

According to a recent study, while African Americans are 13 percent of the population of my home State of New Jersey, they represent a staggering 63 percent of New Jersey's 27,891 State prisoners in 2002.

About 10 percent of all black men between 25 and 29 were incarcerated in 2002, compared with 1.2 percent of white men and 2.4 percent of Hispanic men.

Not only are African Americans imprisoned in disproportionately high numbers, they are disproportionately the victims of crimes, as well. In New Jersey, out of 341 total homicides by guns in 2002, 138 of those victims were African American. In 2000, more than 6,200 African Americans were killed by guns. In the 15 to 24 age group, firearm homicides were responsible for more than 86 percent of homicides suffered by African Americans. In the next age group up, 25 to 34, firearm homicides were more than 81 percent of homicides. In both cases firearm homicides were the number one cause of death for African Americans. The homicide victim rate for African Americans, 20.5 per 100,000 persons, is over six times that of whites, 3.3 per 100,000 persons.

I highlight these statistics about our Nation and my home State because the problems confronting the African-American community are in New Jersey, and they are in every State. We all bear responsibility to acknowledge them, to confront them, to help remedy them.

There are no easy answers to the problems African Americans face, but as Theodore Roosevelt put it a century ago, "This country will not be a really good place for any of us to live in if it is not a really good place for all of us to live in." So while we take this opportunity to celebrate the wonderful accomplishments of African Americans through the ages, we should also rededicate ourselves to making America a really good place for all of us to live in.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, every February nationwide we celebrate the diverse and monumental contributions African Americans have made not only for the advancement of African Americans but for all people of our Nation.

This celebratory month was made possible by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, an African-American studies scholar, who proposed such a recognition as a way of preserving African-American history. In keeping with the spirit and vision of Dr. Carter G. Woodson, I would like to pay tribute to one courageous woman, Sojourner Truth, who lived and died in Battle Creek, MI, and who played a significant role in addressing injustice and inequality in America. Sojourner Truth was a leader in the abolitionist movement and a powerful voice in the women's suffrage movement, playing a pivotal role in ensuring the right of all women to vote. Sojourner Truth changed the course of history.

Sojourner Truth was unable to read or write, but she mesmerized others by her speeches addressing the inhumanity and immorality of slavery. In 1851, Sojourner delivered her famous "Ain't I a Woman?" speech at the Women's Convention in Akron, OH. She spoke from her heart about the most troubling issues of her time. Her words on that day in Ohio are a testament to Sojourner Truth's convictions and are a part of the great legacy she left for us all.

I am proud and the people of my State are proud to claim this legendary leader as our own. In September 1999, we honored Sojourner Truth with the dedication of the Sojourner Truth Memorial Monument, which was unveiled in Battle Creek, MI.

Sojourner Truth was a political and social activist who personally conversed with President Abraham Lincoln on behalf of freed, unemployed slaves, and campaigned for Ulysses S. Grant in the Presidential election in 1868. Sojourner was a woman of great passion and determination who was spiritually motivated to preach and teach in ways that have had a profound and lasting imprint on American history.

Sojourner Truth was born Isabella Baumfree in 1797 in Ulster County, NY, and served as a slave under several different masters. She bore four children who survived infancy, and all except one daughter were sold into slavery. Baumfree became a freed slave in 1828 when New York State outlawed slavery. She remained in New York and instituted successful legal proceedings to secure the return of her son, Peter, who had been illegally sold to a slave-owner from Alabama.

In 1843, Baumfree changed her name to Sojourner Truth and dedicated her life to traveling and lecturing. She began her migration west in 1850, where she shared the stage with other abolitionist leaders such as Frederick Douglass. In October 1856, Truth came to Battle Creek, MI, with Quaker leader Henry Willis to speak at a Friends of Human Progress meeting. She eventually bought a house and settled in the area. Her antislavery, women's rights, and temperance arguments brought Battle Creek both regional and national recognition. Sojourner Truth

died at her home in Battle Creek, November 26, 1883, having lived quite an extraordinary life.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the Sojourner Truth "Ain't I a Woman" speech be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

AIN'T I A WOMAN?

(By Sojourner Truth)

Well, children, where there is so much racket there must be something out of kilter. I think that 'twixt the negroes of the South and the women at the North, all talking about rights, the white men will be in a fix pretty soon. But what's all this here talking about?

That man over there says women need to be helped into carriages, and lifted over ditches and to have the best place everywhere. Nobody ever helps me into carriages, or over mud puddles, or gets me any best place!

And Ain't I a Woman?

Look at me! Look at my arm! I have ploughed, and planted, and gathered into barns, and no man could head me!

And Ain't I a Woman?

I could work as much and eat as much as a man—when I could get it—and bear the lash as well!

And Ain't I a Woman?

I have borne five children and seen most all sold off to slavery, and when I cried out with a mother's grief, none but Jesus heard me.

And Ain't I a Woman?

Then they talk about this thing in the head; what's this they call it? (member of the audience whispers 'intellect') That's it, honey.

What's that got to do with women's right or negroes' rights? If my cup won't hold but a pint, and your holds a quart, wouldn't you be mean not to let me have my little half measure full?

Then that little man in black there, he says women can't have as much rights as men, cause Christ wasn't a women?

Where did your Christ come from? Where did your Christ come from? From God and a woman! Man had nothing to do with Him.

If the first woman God ever made was strong enough to turn the world upside down all alone, these women together ought to be able to turn it back, and get it right side up again! And now they is asking to do it, the men better let them.

Obliged to you for hearing me, and now old Sojourner ain't got nothing more to say.

FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, it has been nearly 2½ years since a monstrous act of war was committed against the United States. The American people responded to the attacks of September 11 with courage—courage that was evident that horrible day in the heroic actions of the passengers on Flight 93, in the firefighters and police officers at Ground Zero, and in the Pentagon employees who led their co-workers to safety through fire, smoke, and rubble.

That courage is evident today in the men and women of our Armed Forces on the front lines in the war on terrorism and in the ordinary Americans