

RECOGNIZING THE 140TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 13TH AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, first I want to thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER), the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, for his leadership, for his support in recognizing this important date in our Nation's history, and also for ensuring that this resolution comes to the floor in a bipartisanship way, and for your support and for really reminding the entire country now of this important date.

Let me also take a moment to thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), our minority leader, who worked very hard with the gentleman from Wisconsin to bring this resolution today.

The gentleman continues to lead Congress in the civil rights tradition that actually began 140 years ago. From renewing the Voting Rights Act of 1965, to protecting the victims of Hurricane Katrina, he is a tireless advocate for civil rights and civil liberties for all Americans.

Let me also take a moment to thank our staff on both sides for their diligence and very competent work in bringing this resolution, especially Kanya Bennett, Perry Applebaum, David Lachmann of the House Judiciary Committee and Jamila Thompson of my staff, who have worked together for over a year now on this very, very important effort.

Let me also express my appreciation to the 13th Amendment Foundation, located actually in my district. They have worked diligently to honor and to recognize this momentous occasion. And as the gentleman from Wisconsin said, it is very important that our young people, especially, are reminded of the importance of this 13th amendment and read and understand why what happened 140 years ago is very, very important to today in 2005.

I hope that everyone will support this effort to honor the 140th anniversary of the ratification of the 13th amendment.

On December 6, 1865, slavery ended and the deep roots of the modern civil rights movement were planted. The 13th amendment was a response to the Dred Scott decision of 1856, a ruling that actually declared that Congress lacked the power to prohibit slavery in our country. If the Dred Scott ruling were still in effect today, Mr. Speaker, I would not be standing here, quite frankly, as a Member of Congress, nor would the 43 great Congressional Black Caucus Members.

As someone of African descent, whether free or enslaved, I would be considered only three-fifths of a person. I would never qualify as a citizen of this country. As the descendant of people who survived the Middle Passage, who survived the cruelty of slavery, who survived reconstruction, who survived Jim Crow, I know that my life, like the lives of millions of African Americans, our lives have been inextricably linked to the 13th amendment.

As we return from celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Montgomery Bus Boycott which launched the modern civil rights movements, we really are obliged to remember this 140-year history.

In the 1860s, Representative James Ashley of Ohio, Representative James Wilson of

Iowa, and Senator Charles Sumner of Massachusetts, all Republicans, led the congressional fight to abolish slavery.

This debate is a very important debate. And again, let me just talk about the vote. It was a vote of 119–56 right here on this floor. Our predecessors voted to add the following words to our Constitution:

Section 1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Section 2. Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Although the abolition of slavery did not necessarily mean equality for all Americans, the process actually began. According to historical accounts, on the day of the House vote on January 31, 1865, the gallery, which had just been opened, mind you, to African Americans, the gallery erupted into cheers and Representatives on the House floor were visibly moved, crying and hugging each other. Twelve months later, the requisite three-fourths of the States in the Union ratified the 13th amendment and more than 100 years later another 8 States followed suit.

Although not necessary, President Lincoln signed the 13th amendment to show a united front to abolish slavery in the United States. A treacherous and divisive burden was finally removed and our Nation was allowed to unite and truly begin to commit to the pursuit of life, liberty, and happiness for all. In fact, the 13th amendment was the foundation for future equal rights and legislative actions, like the 14th amendment, which ensured Federal and State rights to all individuals; the 15th amendment, which granted African American men the right to vote; and the 19th amendment, which expanded suffrage to all women, also the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act.

Protecting civil and human rights is not something that really should be taken lightly, quite frankly. It requires constant vigilance and review. As we honor this great act of our predecessors, we pay tribute to the visionaries who sacrificed and fought for our civil rights and liberty.

In 140 years, our country has fought and continues to fight to be a united country seeking liberty and justice for all. But it has been a long, hard journey; and countless individuals dedicated and continue to dedicate their entire lives towards this end. We must all pay tribute to the abolitionist movement leaders like Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, William Lloyd Garrison, Nat Turner, and John Brown.

And we have all reaped the benefits of the bravery and sacrifices of civil rights trail blazers like Dred Scott, Homer Plessy, Linda Brown, Ruby Bridges, Rosa Parks, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

There are many more individuals whose names will never ever be mentioned in the history books; but they worked hard, they fought, they sacrificed for the freedom that we all appreciate today. Collectively, we must pay homage to their legacy.

It is important that we not only honor this great day in history but make sure that our children and our grandchildren understand its importance, not just to African Americans, but to all Americans and to the world.

This year, with all overwhelming bipartisan support, Congress passed resolutions that rec-

ognized the hemispheric survivors of the transatlantic slave trade and great historical trailblazers like the great Honorable Shirley Chisholm and Judge Constance Baker Motley.

These resolutions actually show how far we have come since the 19th century, but we also have a long, long way to go. One hundred forty years after slavery was abolished, African Americans and other minorities continue to experience social and economic injustices, as the recent Hurricane Katrina disaster magnified.

Within our own borders and throughout the world, human trafficking is rampant. It is a modern version, quite frankly, of slavery; and it must be abolished. And, of course, we witness every day discrimination against those who have no voice. Our work in Congress should be straightforward. It is our duty to reaffirm this tradition of justice, equality, and liberty for all.

We have an obligation to ensure that everyone has equal access to health care, education, livable wages, housing, and of course economic opportunities. Clearly, we still have much work to do. We have much work to do to ensure that discrimination is eliminated, and I mean totally eliminated, and that all people are considered equal in the eyes of our laws.

The movement that began with the ratification of the 13th amendment must continue. This has not ended. We owe it not only to those who suffered and who sacrificed in the past, but more importantly we owe it to future generations. The 13th amendment liberated African Americans from the yoke of slavery. It liberated America, and we must not forget that.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution. I want to thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) again for ensuring this resolution is bipartisan.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE UNITED COMMUNITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the achievements of the United Community Civic Association (UCCA) on the occasion of its annual holiday champagne brunch. I ask that my colleagues join me in saluting UCCA's distinguished honorees: Assembly Member Michael N. Gianaris, Council Member Peter F. Vallone, Jr., Gerald J. Walsh, and Dr. Arthur N. Gualtieri.

The United Community Civic Association is one of the Queens community's foremost neighborhood organizations. Deeply committed to the improvement of the Queens community, UCCA has remained vigilant on a variety of issues relevant to Queens residents, including airport pollution and health concerns. Furthermore, UCCA is an important catalyst for community pride and involvement. UCCA hosts a yearly candlelight ceremony honoring the firefighters who lost their lives on September 11 and organizes the annual Flag Day Parade in Queens. These events are moving tributes to the best America has to offer, and are always beautifully done.

UCCA is also known for its tradition of excellent leadership. UCCA's president, Rose

Marie Poveromo, has served as a pillar of the Queens community through her leadership and activism. She has contributed to community dialogue on issues of public concern and sustained the spirit of civic participation so important to our Nation's health and well-being.

The recipients of UCCA's "Men of the Year" awards, Assembly Member Michael N. Gianaris and Council Member Peter F. Vallone, Jr., have outstanding records of public service and community activism. Representing the 36th Assembly District in Queens, Assembly Member Gianaris has established himself as an effective and smart legislator, authoring many public safety measures to enhance New York's security after the attacks on New York on September 11, 2001. A lifelong resident of Queens, Assembly Member Gianaris has committed himself to improving the community in which he grew up and has provided the residents of Queens with impeccable leadership.

Council Member Peter F. Vallone, Jr., also has shown exemplary public service to our community. A tireless advocate for public safety issues, Council Member Vallone has led the fight to keep illegal guns off of the streets of New York City. Council Member Vallone has also been a strong advocate for environmental rights, introducing bills to curtail the carbon dioxide emissions from power plants.

Gerald J. Walsh, this year's recipient of the Valerie Fisher Community Service Award, was born and raised in Queens and is a longtime community activist and leader. Currently the Deputy Director of Computer Operations Hardware and Financial Information Services for the City of New York, Mr. Walsh is the President of the Dutch Kills Civic Association and also serves as a member of the 114th Police Precinct.

Dr. Arthur N. Gualtieri, the Deputy Commissioner at The City of New York Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and former Medical Director of the Mount Sinai Hospital of Queens, is being recognized with the Special Award of Recognition. A devoted public servant, Dr. Gualtieri is both a physician and a lawyer and a member of both the Queens County Bar Association and the Queens County Medical Society. As a resident of Astoria, Dr. Gualtieri continues his devotion to the Queens community by serving as a member of the Board of Directors of the Astoria Civic Association, SHAREing & CAREing, and UCCA.

Mr. Speaker, I request that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to the United Community Civic Association and its celebrated honorees: Assembly Member Gianaris, Council Member Vallone, Mr. Walsh, and Dr. Gualtieri.

HONORING SCOTT COULSON AND
THE POTEET HIGH SCHOOL
MARCHING BAND

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor Mr. Scott Coulson and the Poteet High School Pirate Marching Band for their recent victory at the University Interscholastic League State AAAA Marching Band

Championship. On November 8, 2005, the Pirates competed against more than 20 other bands from across the State of Texas and won their second State Championship since 1997.

This year mark's Mr. Coulson's 25th year of service to the Mesquite Independent School District and his 18th year on the faculty of Poteet High School. In addition, Mr. Coulson will also soon be inducted into the John Phillip Sousa Foundation Legion of Honor, where he will be recognized as an outstanding high school band director.

A graduate from Mesquite High School, Scott Coulson has been a strong role model and exceptional leader for the Poteet Pirates Marching Band. In 1987, he was named Director of Bands at Poteet High School in Mesquite, and has since then received multiple Interscholastic League Sweepstakes awards, led the band to four Grand Championships at the Plano East Invitational Marching Festival and five state Marching Championships.

As the Congressional representative of the students, parents, and teachers involved with the Poteet High School Marching Band, it is my pleasure to recognize their tremendous victory. This is an accomplishment that Mr. Coulson and these young men and women will remember for years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HAWAII
FILIPINO CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the great contributions of the Filipino community to Hawaii's diverse and multicultural society, as we commemorate the arrival of the first Filipinos and the community's subsequent achievements in Hawaii.

Since the arrival of the first Filipinos to Hawaii in 1906, the rich culture and proud heritage of the Filipino people have been and continue to be a positive influence upon life in Hawaii. Next year marks the 100th anniversary of their arrival in Hawaii. The Centennial Celebration will reflect the courage, values, pride and dedication of all Filipinos. The Celebration will also raise awareness about the important accomplishments of Filipinos for the past 100 years in the fields of politics, education, business, labor, industry and medicine. It will raise awareness about the challenges and struggles that Filipinos have faced to earn their rightful place in society.

The Centennial Celebration reflects the growing significance of the Filipino community, its growing role in the development of public policy, and its increasing contributions to policy leadership at every level of government—local, state and national.

Mahuhay and best wishes to the Filipino Centennial Commission and everyone in the Filipino community who has joined together to celebrate Hawaii's Filipino Centennial. You have the nation's thanks for your contribution, and you can count on my continued support.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. ROSE BROWN

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a dynamic, feisty, dedicated, committed and courageous community, civic and religious leader who gave of herself consistently until all of her energy was gone and she had no more to share. Just a few weeks ago, I was pleased to speak at a banquet sponsored by Women for Social Change and of course, Mrs. Brown was in charge as she so often was. The banquet was in a church dining hall and was focused on education. Mrs. Brown was one of those individuals that you always looked forward to seeing and hearing because you always knew that she was either saying or doing something to benefit humanity. I always called Mrs. Brown, Aunt Rose because my friends who informally adopted me into their family called her Aunt Rose and that's how I felt about her.

Aunt Rose, I close my tribute with these words: Roses are Red, Violets are Blue, Sugar is sweet and so are you! May you rest in peace.

CONGRATULATING DR. ROY L.
GLAUBER ON RECEIVING THE
2005 NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSICS

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Roy J. Glauber, a distinguished professor of physics at Harvard University, who will be awarded the 2005 Nobel Prize in Physics this weekend in Stockholm, Sweden. Dr. Glauber will share the prestigious prize with John L. Hall of the University of Colorado and Theodor W. Hansch of the Institute for Quantum Optics in Munich, Germany. All three will receive the award for their groundbreaking work in optics and the nature of light.

Dr. Glauber will receive the Nobel Prize for his contribution to the quantum theory of optical coherence. His research on the subject was published in 1963 and provided a theoretical description of the behavior of light particles. Dr. Glauber's groundbreaking work laid the foundation for the development of incredibly high precision instruments such as lasers and Global Positioning Systems.

As a teenager growing up in New York, Dr. Glauber became so fascinated by astronomy that he created his own lens for a telescope. His interest in physics and mathematics blossomed during his high school years at the Bronx High School of Science. During his undergraduate years at Harvard, Dr. Glauber also worked on the Manhattan Project, developing the first atomic bomb. He graduated summa cum laude from Harvard in 1946 and went on to earn a Ph.D. at Harvard in 1949. Upon graduation, Dr. Glauber conducted research at the Institute for Advanced Studies at Princeton and at the California Institute of Technology. In 1952, he returned to Harvard where he has taught and researched ever since.