

they'd be harmed by Hamas, despite the militants' offer of amnesty. By Thursday, the passage, rank with the stench of urine and garbage, was nearly empty after it became clear that a mass exit to the West Bank was not approved.

Earlier Wednesday, Israel took in several of the sick and wounded in the crowd.

In Washington, Olmert said he would propose to his Cabinet on Sunday that it unlock frozen funds, though he did not say how much money he thought Israel should free. Israel is holding about \$550 million in tax revenues it collects on behalf of the Palestinians.

Despite the talk about peace, however, the Hamas takeover has dealt a setback to statehood efforts, with the Islamic militants in charge of Gaza and Abbas in charge of the West Bank."

This Amendment is even opposed by the President. In a statement of White House policy, the Office on Management and Budget says:

"The Administration opposes the prohibition on a portion of the foreign military financing to Egypt contained in section 699. Military assistance is critical to our strategic partnership with Egypt and has contributed to a broad range of U.S. objectives in the region. Such a restriction will undermine the U.S. relationship with Egypt and send the wrong message to this important ally in the region."

As a former Member of this subcommittee, I personally appreciate the challenges that Chairwoman LOWEY and Ranking Minority Member WOLF not only face, but surpass. This bill provides significant funding increases for many programs that I have, and will continue to, support.

My objection is to Section 699 of the bill, a new provision, which sets conditions on \$200 million of the \$1.3 billion in military assistance to Egypt. This assistance is pending certification of the Secretary of State that Egypt is taking steps toward enactment of a new judicial law, including the principal components of the law and separation of the budget of the judiciary from that of the Ministry of Justice; steps to review criminal procedures and mass demonstrations by Egypt's police force; and steps to detect and destroy the smuggling network into the Gaza strip.

The Thirteenth Congressional District of Michigan contains one of the highest concentrations of Arabs in the United States. These tax-paying, hard-working Americans demand that the United States respect not just their homeland, but the past, present and future effort that Egypt has made manifest over the years as a strategic partner and toward peace. To remove this key support from Egypt, at this point, would signal an unnecessary reticence by the United States toward one of the few allies we have in the Middle East.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support Egypt, to support peace in the Middle East, and to support the amendment offered by my colleague from Louisiana, Congressman BOUSTANY and oppose the amendment offered by my colleague from New York, Congressman WEINER.

HONORING FRED S. PYLE

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 22, 2007

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, today at Arlington National Cemetery, my constituent and friend Fred Pyle of Ormond Beach, Florida was laid to rest. It was my honor to have had the opportunity to know Fred and his family. His service to our country through our Armed Forces and law enforcement is a shining example of American patriotism.

The son of Martin and Mae Emma Pyle, he was born in Somerset, Pennsylvania on April 17, 1920.

Fred was one of six sons, five of whom served in the United States military during World War II and were recognized as being the first family of five brothers to serve our Nation's armed services in that conflict. He first entered into the service in 1938 joining the National Guard in his hometown of Somerset. He was later selected to serve as an MP and saw combat with the 726th Police Battalion in World War II during what was known as the "Red Ball Express," when Allied Forces landed at Normandy and began their push towards Germany. His service later took him to Okinawa, Japan where his responsibilities included the overseeing of Japanese Prisoners of War. In addition to his service in World War II, Fred served in the Korean War and at the prestigious Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland where he served as Chief Master of Arms.

Fred achieved the rank of Staff Sergeant and was a recipient of several prestigious awards including the Victory Medal of World War II, American Theatre Ribbon, American Defense Ribbon and the Good Conduct Medal. He was also recalled during the Korean conflict where he honorably served as an instructor in a NCO academy and earned himself the Occupational Medal (Germany). He left the Army in 1952 with an honorable discharge.

After his service, Fred graduated from the Institute of Applied Science in Chicago and became a police officer with the Somerset Police Department where he worked for more than 10 years.

With the passing of Fred Pyle, America has lost an outstanding citizen and a shining example of a family's commitment and service to our Nation. He will be remembered as a patriotic American, a pillar of our community and a compassionate husband and a loving father. To his wife of 67 years, Stella, his son Bruce, his three grandchildren and one great-grandson, in addition to his loving family, we offer our deepest sympathy.

Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Fred Pyle's contributions and to ask all Members of the U.S. House of Representatives of the 110th Congress to join me in remembering a great American hero.

CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF TITLE IX OF THE EDUCATION AMENDMENTS OF 1972 AND RECOGNIZING THE NEED TO CONTINUE PURSUING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 changed everything about our college admissions process. Led by the late Representatives Patsy T. Mink and Edith Green, Congress established a principle we often take for granted today—the prohibition of gender discrimination in any federally funded educational program. The effects of the law have been substantial.

In 1972, only 42 percent of Bachelors of Arts degrees were earned by women; by 2004 that number rose to 57 percent. Only 9 percent of medical degrees were awarded to women; now it's above 45 percent. Not surprisingly, law degrees were the most imbalanced. In 1972, only 7 percent of law degrees were held by women and by 2004 almost 50 percent went to women. Only 15 percent of PhD's went to women before title IX and that number is now close to 50 percent.

This progress is worth celebrating but we have plenty more to do. Title IX has as much utility now as it did in 1972. Women continue to face substantial barriers, especially in high wage fields such as science, technology, engineering and math. Sexual harassment remains pervasive in schools and on college campuses. Women and girls' sports teams still do not receive an equal share of resources.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE COMPARATIVE STUDY OF VACCINATED AND UNVACCINATED POPULATIONS ACT OF 2007

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 22, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today I am reintroducing very important bipartisan legislation that I hope will resolve the question of whether or not there is a link between the increased incidence of autism and the use of thimerosal in vaccines. Many parents have raised concerns about the effect that thimerosal, which is made of mercury—a known neurotoxin that is widely used as a preservative in vaccines—may have had on a child's chances of developing autism and other neurological disorders. The study mandated by this new legislation would try to help resolve this controversy once and for all. While vaccines have been instrumental in reducing the incidence of many once-common diseases, we owe it to parents and children to study and resolve the question of the possible link between thimerosal in vaccines and autism. What is ultimately needed to resolve this issue one way or the other is a comprehensive national study comparing outcomes between vaccinated and unvaccinated children.

As the most scientifically advanced country in the world, we should be jumping at the chance to conduct a comprehensive national study and ensure absolute trust in our Nation's vaccine program. Parents deserve answers, and children deserve no less than absolute certainty and safety, which is why I am pleased to reintroduce this legislation today.

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 155, which recognizes the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day, and expresses the sense of Congress that history should be regarded as a means for understanding the past and more effectively facing the challenges of the future.

June 19th also known as Juneteenth, is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. From its Galveston, Texas origin in 1865, the observance of June 19th as the African American Emancipation Day has spread across the United States and beyond, yet it is still not a nationally recognized holiday.

On January 1, 1980, Juneteenth became an official Texas state holiday through the efforts of Al Edwards, an African American state legislator. The successful passage of this bill marked Juneteenth as the first emancipation celebration granted official state recognition. Representative Edwards has since actively sought to spread the observance of Juneteenth all across America.

Today, Juneteenth commemorates African-American freedom. This special day emphasizes education and achievement. It is a day, a week, and in some areas, a month marked with celebrations, guest speakers, picnics and family gatherings. It is a time for reflection and rejoicing. It is a time for assessment, self-improvement and for planning the future. Its growing popularity signifies a level of maturity and dignity in America long overdue. In cities across the country, people of all races, nationalities and religions are joining hands to truthfully acknowledge a period in our history that shaped and continues to influence our society today. Sensitized to the conditions and experiences of others, only then can we make significant and lasting improvements in our society.

The Civil Rights movement of the 50's and 60's yielded both positive and negative results for the Juneteenth celebrations. While it pulled many of the African American youth away and into the struggle for racial equality, many linked these struggles to the historical struggles of their ancestors. This was evidenced by student demonstrators involved in the Atlanta civil rights campaign in the early 1960's, who wore Juneteenth freedom buttons.

Again in 1968, Juneteenth received another strong resurgence through the Poor People's March to Washington, DC, Rev. Ralph Abernathy's call for people of all races, creeds, economic levels and professions to

come to Washington to show support for the poor. Many of these attendees returned home and initiated Juneteenth celebrations in areas previously absent of such activity. In fact, two of the largest Juneteenth celebrations founded after this march are now held in Milwaukee and Minneapolis.

Throughout the 80's and 90's Juneteenth has continued to enjoy a growing and healthy interest from communities and organizations throughout the country. Institutions such as the Smithsonian, the Henry Ford Museum and others have begun sponsoring Juneteenth-centered activities. In recent years, a number of National Juneteenth Organizations have risen to take their place alongside older organizations—all with the mission to promote and cultivate knowledge and appreciation of African American history and culture.

Juneteenth today celebrates African American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures. As it takes on a more national and even global perspective, the events of 1865 in Texas are not forgotten. The future of Juneteenth looks bright as the number of cities and states come on board and form local committees and organizations to coordinate the activities.

Now in 2007, I push forward with the hope that my colleagues will remember with compassion the African American citizens who helped build this country, but were still held in illegal bondage due to the hatred, bigotry and cruelty of others. I ask that my colleagues help support this resolution and its efforts in making Juneteenth a nationally recognized holiday.

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the passage of House Concurrent Resolution 155. This resolution recognizes Juneteenth's significance in crafting a rich African American legacy. Juneteenth, also known as Freedom or Emancipation Day, is an informal observance in fourteen states in the United States. It marked the beginning of a new phase in African-American history, when emancipated slaves along with their former owners began, slowly and haltingly, to travel the long road to equality and integration.

Celebrated on June 19th, Juneteenth is the name given to emancipation day by African Americans in Texas. On that day in 1865, Union Major General Gordon Granger read General Order #3, officially proclaiming freedom for slaves in that state. Granger's ride through Galveston culminated a two-and-a-half-year trek through America's deep south to liberate the enslaved.

Juneteenth is an expression and extension of American freedom, and like the Fourth of July, is a time for all Americans to celebrate our independence, human rights, civil rights and freedom. It is an occasion where time, history and culture conspire to celebrate such a symbolic event.

The celebration of June 19th as emancipation day spread from Texas to the neigh-

boring states of Louisiana, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. It has also appeared in Alabama, Florida, and California as African American Texans migrated to those regions. Juneteenth's commemoration did not only extend its geographic reach but it also embraced participants from all political and civic segments of the black community.

Unfortunately, my home state does not officially recognize Juneteenth but has an unofficial commemoration on May 20th in the capital, Tallahassee. Even as we acknowledge the evils of slavery and the ravages it wrought upon our society while paying tribute to those who suffered with no recompense, Juneteenth challenges us to strengthen our bonds of unity and to offer support to one another.

Even more importantly, Juneteenth does not polarize black and white Americans. Rather, it has become an annual cultural observance primarily devoted to civic affairs because it encourages us to be sensitive to others' conditions and experiences, so that we can make significant and lasting improvements in our society. Like the African Sankofa, we must acknowledge and honor our past. But we must always fervently forge to solidify a hopeful future.

Regrettably, the African American community continues to confront many challenges in mitigating and eventually eliminating institutional racism. Emancipation did not bring equality. We still live in a society plagued by prejudices and stereotypes. I find it unfathomable that such a momentous occasion is seldom acknowledged, much less celebrated. We must not let our past dictate our present. After all, we owe it to the thousands of lives that were mercilessly destroyed by an elitist society designed to subject and suppress them. Let us take the initiative to finally tend to a gashing wound that has crippled the African American community. Let us honor our ancestors and build a future noteworthy of their legacy.

Mr. Speaker, Juneteenth is a significant event that addresses the paradoxical race relations in our nation! It recognizes the impediments faced by the black community yet continues to inspire us to strive for an egalitarian society. We should set precedence on addressing past atrocities and present disparities so that we can truly embody democracy. I am honored to support this resolution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 22, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the chamber late last night. Had I been present for the seven rollcall votes that were taken on amendments to H.R. 2764, the Department of State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008, I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 535, "no" on rollcall No. 536, "no" on rollcall No. 537, "no" on rollcall No. 538, "no" on rollcall No. 539, "yes" on rollcall No. 540, and "no" on rollcall No. 541.