

video description. Those rules, originally promulgated in 2001, were struck down by a U.S. Court of Appeals for lack of FCC authority. This section also authorizes the FCC to promulgate additional rules to (1) ensure that video description services can be transmitted and provided over digital TV technologies, (2) require non-visual access to on-screen emergency warnings and similar televised information and (3) increase the amount of video description required. Finally, this section adds a definition for video programming to include programming distributed over the Internet to make clear that the existing closed captioning obligations (and future video description obligations) contained in Section 713 apply to video programming that is distributed or re-distributed over the Internet.

This section is also intended to ensure the continued accessibility of video programming to Americans with disabilities, as this programming migrates to the Internet. It further tasks the FCC to create captioning rules for three types of programming: (1) pre-produced programming that was previously captioned for television viewing, (2) live video programming, and (3) programming (first published or exhibited after the effective date of the FCC's regulations) provided by or generally considered to be comparable to programming provided by multichannel programming distributors.

Section 204 requires devices used to receive or display video programming, including devices used to receive and display Internet-based video programming, to be accessible by people with disabilities so that such individuals are able to access all functions of such devices (such as turning these devices on and off, controlling volume and select programming). The section contains requirements for (1) audio output where on-screen text menus are used to control video programming functions, and (2) a conspicuous means of accessing closed captioning and video description, including a button on remote controls and first level access to these accessibility features when made available through on-screen menus. The final section of the legislation requires multichannel video programming distributors to make their navigational programming guides accessible to people who cannot read the visual display, so that these individuals can make program selections.

Madam Speaker, I look forward to working with all of my House colleagues on this important legislative initiative in the coming weeks.

**HONORING PAMELA
SONNENMOSER**

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Pamela Sonnenmoser of Northwest Missouri. Pamela is active in the community through work and in her spare time and she has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Award for Emerging Leader.

Pamela Sonnenmoser is a multi-talented individual as a floral designer, artist, journalist, and public speaker. She is also reaching out with Christian love and the desire to enrich the lives of others. Whether through daily inspira-

tional radio messages on our St. Joseph Christian radio or by speaking at retreats or seminars, she focuses on spiritual and/or personal and professional development of women. As a Certified Personality Trainer, Pamela helps women improve relationships with family, friends and coworkers and find their niche in the workplace by learning and developing the strengths of their temperament. Pamela is a contributing author to three books in the Christian non-fiction genre.

Her talents to train and guide others have been further recognized by her appointment to the training faculty of the Christian Leaders Authors and Speakers Services (CLASS). Her volunteer efforts include being a staff member at God's Mountain Youth Camp, speaking for church groups at no cost, organizing teen groups to feed the hungry of the inner city, and teaching creative writing workshops on poetry at the Atchison Public Library for home school groups.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Pamela Sonnenmoser. She has made an amazing impact on countless individuals in her community. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

**STATEMENT CONCERNING THE
VOTE ON HOUSE AMENDMENTS
TO THE SENATE-PASSED
VERSION OF H.R. 2642, THE SUP-
PLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS
BILL**

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I voted for a provision that would provide funds for Iraq and Afghanistan when, under the rules governing the legislation, that funding would be tied with a specific mandate for an orderly redeployment of troops from Iraq.

Today, June 19th, I voted against providing funds for the conduct of the war in Iraq and Afghanistan when such funding was not linked to such a mandate.

**HONORING THE MEMORY OF
NORTH CAROLINA STATE TROOP-
ER DAVID SHAWN BLANTON, JR.**

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the memory of North Carolina State Trooper David Shawn Blanton, Jr. Trooper Blanton was a 2-year veteran of the North Carolina State Patrol and a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

While performing a traffic stop in Canton, NC, on the evening of June 17th, 2008, Trooper Blanton was shot twice and killed in the line of duty. He was 24 years old.

Trooper Blanton gave the ultimate sacrifice to serve and protect our community. He showed true courage through his determination to uphold the law and keep our highways safe. He leaves behind his wife and one child.

I offer my sincere condolences to them and the rest of his family and friends. They are in my thoughts and prayers.

I would also like to offer my gratitude to the law enforcement officers of the Haywood County Sheriffs Office and the Canton Police Department who risked their lives to apprehend the man who shot Trooper Blanton and bring him to justice.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing remorse at to the passing of Trooper David Shawn Blanton, Jr. Trooper Blanton's life was an example of service for all of us to follow. I am grateful to his fellow State Troopers and all of North Carolina's law enforcement community for their dedication to keeping our communities safe every day.

COMMEMORATING JUNETEENTH

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and recognize Juneteenth as a pivotal moment in our nation's history when the last American slaves learned of their freedom and the legal practice of slavery in the United States officially ended.

On June 19, 1865, Union General Gordon Granger arrived with over 2,000 troops on Galveston Island to deliver the news of freedom and enforce the two-year-old Emancipation Proclamation. The news came in the aftermath of the deadliest war in American history and a nation fractured by loss and resentment. However, in the midst of social and political turmoil, a new opportunity for all people to share the quintessential American experience of freedom emerged. 90 years after gaining independence, our young nation took a crucial step toward finally ensuring that the value of freedom was not simply rhetorical, but a right to be given to all Americans.

Sadly, the legal abolishment of slavery has not guaranteed the legal abolishment of inequality and unequal representation. As we all know, it would be another century before African Americans were given the same rights as white Americans.

In the years after emancipation and Jim Crow, the United States has made serious improvements in drafting and implementing laws and policies that encourage equality. However, serious economic, health and educational disparities persist for many in the black community and other communities of color. These inequities threaten to exacerbate the division between those who have and those who do not.

Today, we are confronted with two contrasting images of black America that are really two sides of the same coin. The countless sacrifices and efforts of previous generations have made it possible for blacks and other minority groups to excel and break boundaries from our nation's classrooms to the space program. And, for the first time in our history, the idea of a black president is not simply a fantastic dream, but a serious hope and possibility.

Yet, in this same land and era of opportunity, black people across the socioeconomic spectrum have a lower life expectancy, higher instances of heart disease, greater rates of infant mortality and hypertension, and receive

overall inferior healthcare compared to whites. What's more, blacks are more likely to fall victim to a justice system that prioritizes punitive criminalization over rehabilitation. Our children are victims of inadequate educational systems and African Americans receive lower incomes than others in our country with similar experience. Lastly, HIV/AIDS, a disease that has taken the lives of millions of men, women and children around the world is most rampant in the black community with the majority of new infections occurring in young African American women.

So while America takes time to commemorate this historic day, we must also recognize that there is much more to be done both here and abroad. African Americans in this country know first hand the travesties of slavery. As such, we must lead the way for others to achieve their own freedom.

According to the International Labor Organization, between 12 and 27 million people are the victims of forced labor worldwide. The majority of these men, women and children come from the poor and rural parts of countries that are in the midst of war, unstable economies, and political conflict. Whether forcibly removed or lured by false promises of opportunity, millions of the most desperate and vulnerable populations of the world are forced to work without pay in the agricultural, textile, service and sex industries under the constant threat of violence or death.

Haiti was once hailed as one of the most profitable colonies in the Caribbean and was the first black led republic in modern history. Home to the most successful African slave rebellions in the Western Hemisphere, Haiti is now the poorest country in the Western hemisphere and is plagued by poverty, political unrest, hunger, disease and violence. Now, more than two hundred years after Haiti was declared a free republic, between 90,000 and 300,000 Haitian children alone are trafficked into areas where they are forced into slavery. Even right here in the U.S., despite our system of laws, an estimated 20,000 people are trafficked into our country from all over the world to provide unpaid labor and services.

The fact that our brothers and sisters to the south are enduring such conditions is unconscionable. We must support Haitians in their attempt to achieve sustainable development and restore dignity and socioeconomic stability to their proud nation. As the leader of the free world, we can and must do better to stop this and other injustices.

Historian and Columbia Professor, Manning Marable wrote, "Historical amnesia blocks the construction of potentially successful social movements." As we continue to fight for equality and justice in our communities and in Congress, we have a responsibility to ensure that our nation, particularly our young people, do not fall victim to historical amnesia.

Because so many years have passed, many forget or dismiss the role that slavery and the fight for emancipation and racial equality played in constructing the social fabric of this country. Thankfully, this problem is entirely remediable, and we can engender a new commitment to understanding our past to build a better future.

Madam Speaker, as we celebrate Juneteenth, I urge my colleagues in Congress to join me in reflecting on how our country has evolved into a nation that understands the importance of protecting the rights, liberties and

privileges of all people. America has bettered itself by improving the lives of its citizens and people in the rest of the world. It is imperative that we continue our uniquely American tradition of fighting for equality and justice in our country and abroad.

HONORING BARBARA IDE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Barbara Ide of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Barbara has been chosen to receive the St. Joseph YWCA Women of Excellence Lifetime Achievement Award.

In 1969, Barbara Ide became involved in historic preservation to preserve the cityscape of St. Joseph. Among the many buildings she helped preserve were downtown St. Joseph's crown jewel—the Buchanan County Court House, the city founder's Robidoux Row, Patee Hall, Warehouse Row, and the Hall Street Historic District. Barbara first became involved in historic preservation when St. Joseph's Federal urban renewal program proposed demolishing over half of the historic downtown. The National Trust for Historic Preservation took notice of Barbara's efforts and in the early 1970s invited her to address its National Convention to present preservation lessons learned in St. Joseph. Her speech was later reprinted in a National Trust's publication.

After purchasing Robidoux Row, she developed and chaired the highly successful Robidoux Festival which ran for several years. As a founding board member and the first president of the not-for-profit St. Joseph Preservation, Inc., she established a revolving fund through historic property donations and attracted a membership of over 200.

In addition to preserving the historic cityscape of St. Joseph, Barbara has contributed to the city's social fabric. Moving to St. Joseph in 1948, she became an integral part of the community leading by example. Over the years, Barbara has served as an active member (often on the board or as president) of numerous organizations like the Runcie Club, PEO, St. Joseph Historical Society, the First Presbyterian Church, Questors, and the Junior League.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Barbara Ide. She has come to be one of the most outstanding members of our community and I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

TRIBUTE TO AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL MICHAEL T. MOSELEY

HON. ROB BISHOP

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, I rise this evening to express my appreciation to a fine public servant and military officer, former Air Force Chief of Staff General Michael T. Moseley who recently resigned on orders from the Secretary of Defense.

There are a few lingering questions regarding the scope and unfortunate timing of this unprecedented decision to dismiss both top Air Force leaders at the same time only days before the Government Accountability Office (GAO) was scheduled to issue its decision in the hotly contested \$40 billion tanker program. The dismissals also come during a time of war and great stresses on Air Force personnel. No one will argue that it is not within Secretary Gates' authority to take that drastic and unprecedented action even if some of us question whether or not it was really the right thing to do given the totality of circumstances. Every military and civilian officer knows that they serve at the pleasure of the President and that they stand to be dismissed for any reason whatsoever. As professional leaders, General Moseley and former Secretary Wynne accepted that fact.

Unfortunately, the entire record of their decades of public service, notable achievements, and personal sacrifices for our country, are at risk of being lost or pushed aside due to media focus of these recent headline-grabbing events. And I regret that a handful of individuals, including Members of Congress, may be tempted to seize upon Secretary Gates' action to somehow legitimize unrelated claims in areas of disagreement with these two Air Force leaders. That would be patently unfair and unjust, and I feel an obligation to remind us all of a few points.

With particular regard to General Michael T. Moseley, it would be hard to find a more competent and experienced Air Force Chief since the service's inception over 60 years ago. Having entered the Air Force in 1971, he rose quickly through the ranks and his competency as a top F-15 pilot led him to command responsibilities at the U.S. Air Force Fighter Weapons School. In addition to other command responsibilities in different parts of the world, General Moseley served as the combat Director of Operations for Joint Task Force-Southwest Asia. Like no other Air Force Chief in a generation, General Moseley demonstrated that he knew how to command air power during combat operations. Between 2001 and 2004, he served in combat, having commanded coalition air forces in Afghanistan and Iraq that employed greater precision and air-ground coordination than ever before. With advanced post graduate degrees as well, he is regarded by many as a military scholar and historian, which has given him a level of rounded perspective that has benefited the Air Force.

He served as both Vice-Chief and Chief of the Air Force during very tumultuous times in the Air Force. He became Vice Chief in 2004, and confronted with extremely challenging budget and personnel cuts posed by the Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR), and still additional cuts mandated by the Administration, General Moseley helped to steer the Air Force through some very tough times. In so doing, and to his great credit, he always put the airmen and their families first. He recognized that our Nation unwisely took a "holiday from history" in the 1990s by delaying and deferring aircraft modernization, and as a result, our pilots are having to fly aircraft that are on average nearly 40 years old. We have F-15's literally flying apart in the air due to age and corrosion. We have F-16s that are nearing the end of their service-life. We have 40-year-old tankers, and 50-year-old bombers.