

H. Con. Res. 249 to commemorate the 45th anniversary of Bloody Sunday and the role that it played in ensuring the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

As we commemorate this day, I am reminded of the pain and hardships that the African-American community faced prior to the enactment of the Voting Rights Act. The use of intimidation, literacy tests, and poll taxes throughout the South ensured the disenfranchisement of most blacks, and while we have a difficult time fathoming these realities today, these practices were very common in the period before this historic legislation became law.

It is often regarded that the marches from Selma to Montgomery in 1965 were key in bringing about the Voting Rights Act, and perhaps the first march, which took place on March 7, 1965, or Bloody Sunday, was the most important of these. On that day, roughly 600 people led by Hosea Williams and JOHN LEWIS were beaten and bombarded with tear gas at the Edmund Pettus Bridge on the Alabama River. From this, two subsequent marches took place that culminated with the gathering of roughly 25,000 people on March 25, 1965 on the steps of the Alabama capitol. A few short months later, on August 6, 1965, the Voting Rights Act was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson to outlaw discriminatory voting practices.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to mention briefly how privileged I am to work with an American Hero and civil rights leader, Congressman JOHN LEWIS. His dedication to civil rights is unfaltering, and I am so fortunate to consider him a dear friend.

Mr. Speaker, Bloody Sunday and the march on Selma will continue to be infamous subjects in American history, and it is important for us to reflect on these events with solemn hearts. However, we have never been a nation to forget the future either, and as we continue to look towards tomorrow, we must not disregard our hope for that which is to come. For this reason, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in commemorating the 45th anniversary of Bloody Sunday so that we can honor the civil rights leaders of yesterday and encourage the generation of tomorrow to continue to work towards a more democratic America.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H. Con. Res. 249 which honors the 45th anniversary of Bloody Sunday and acknowledges the role that it played in ensuring the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. I would also like to commend Representative LEWIS, the sponsor of this resolution, for his continued commitment to preserving the importance of Bloody Sunday and to also acknowledge the unwavering courage of Congressman JOHN LEWIS, and all of those men and women who suffered the brutality of Alabama State Police on that Sunday on March 7, 1965. Much blood was shed when all white troopers and sheriff's deputies used tear gas, nightsticks and whips to break up the march. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 is pertinent today as it continues to provide much needed protection for minorities in my District and Americans across the country. Because of Bloody Sunday and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, all of my constituents in the Fourth District of Georgia have the opportunity to exercise their rights under the Fourteenth and Fif-

teenth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution. Indeed, it was because of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that all Americans were extended the right to vote guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, in the century following reconstruction, African Americans faced tremendous obstacles to voting. Despite the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution, which had enfranchised black men and women, southern voter registration boards used poll taxes, literacy tests, and other bureaucratic impediments to deny African Americans their legal rights. Southern blacks also risked harassment, intimidation, and physical violence when they tried to register or vote. As a result, African Americans had little if any political power. Sunday, March 7, 1965 was certainly a milestone for the United States. I am proud to say we have come a long way from that time. It is an honor to be an African American representative from Georgia and to be a legacy of the day on which 600 civil rights marchers were demonstrating for African-American voting rights. It is through the work of leaders like Representative LEWIS and the late Hosea Williams—who was a DeKalb County Commissioner, reverend, political activist, and science teacher from Georgia—that helped to codify civil rights in both the law and the heart of America that I am able to have the privilege of representing the great State of Georgia in the House of Representatives today.

Mr. Speaker, as the 45th anniversary of Bloody Sunday has come to pass, let us not forget the work of the 600 men and woman who marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, and what they did for America and the world and let us recognize the importance of this anniversary.

I applaud Congressman LEWIS for his leadership in bringing this important legislation to the floor. Furthermore, I commend him for leading those brave marchers across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama to stand up for political equality and fight against racial discrimination. This resolution recognizes the heroism of these freedom fighters with respect to the events that occurred on Bloody Sunday and their commitment to ensuring equal voting rights for all Americans.

I strongly support H. Con. Res. 249.

Mr. COHEN. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 249.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the reso-

lution (H. Res. 1081) supporting the goals and ideals of National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1081

Whereas dating, domestic, and sexual violence affect women regardless of age, and teens and young women are especially vulnerable;

Whereas approximately 1 in 3 adolescent girls in the United States is a victim of physical, emotional, or verbal abuse from a dating partner, a figure that far exceeds victimization rates for other types of violence affecting youth;

Whereas nationwide, 1 in 10 high school students (9.9 percent) has been hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by a boyfriend or girlfriend;

Whereas more than 1 in 4 teenagers have been in a relationship where a partner is verbally abusive;

Whereas 20 percent of teen girls exposed to physical dating violence did not attend school on 1 or more occasions during a 30-day period because they felt unsafe either at school, or on the way to or from school;

Whereas violent relationships in adolescence can have serious ramifications for victims, including higher risk for substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior, suicide, and adult revictimization;

Whereas teen girls who are physically and sexually abused are up to 6 times more likely to become pregnant, and more than 2 times as likely to report a sexually transmitted disease, than teen girls who are not abused;

Whereas nearly 3 in 4 children, ages 11 to 14 (hereinafter referred to as "tweens"), say that dating relationships usually begin at age 14 or younger, and approximately 72 percent of 8th and 9th grade students report "dating";

Whereas 1 in 5 tweens say their friends are victims of dating violence and nearly ½ of tweens who are in relationships know friends who are verbally abused;

Whereas more than 3 times as many tweens (20 percent) as parents of tweens (6 percent) admit that parents know little or nothing about the dating relationships of tweens;

Whereas teen dating abuse most often takes place in the home of one of the teens in the dating relationship;

Whereas a majority of parents surveyed believe they have had a conversation with their teen about what it means to be in a healthy relationship, but the majority of teens surveyed said that they have not had a conversation about dating abuse with a parent in the past year;

Whereas digital abuse and "sexting" are becoming new frontiers for teen dating abuse;

Whereas 1 in 4 teens in a relationship say they have been called names, harassed, or put down by their dating partner through cellular phones and texting;

Whereas 3 in 10 young people have sent or received nude pictures of other young people on their cellular phones or online, and 61 percent who have "sexted" report being pressured to do so at least once;

Whereas targets of digital abuse are almost 3 times as likely to contemplate suicide as those who have not encountered such abuse (8 percent versus 3 percent), and targets of digital abuse are nearly 3 times more likely to have considered dropping out of school;

Whereas the severity of violence among intimate partners has been shown to be greater

in cases where the pattern of violence has been established in adolescence;

Whereas primary prevention programs are a key part of addressing teen dating violence, and many successful community examples include education, community outreach, and social marketing campaigns that account for the cultural appropriateness of programs;

Whereas in addition to prevention programs, skilled assessment and intervention programs are necessary for youth victims and abusers;

Whereas the alarming trend of unhealthy and abusive youth relationships exists in communities across the country, and affects youth of every race, culture, sex, and socioeconomic status; and

Whereas the establishment of National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month in February will benefit schools, communities, families, and youth throughout the Nation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week to raise awareness of teen dating violence in the United States;

(2) supports and encourages communities to empower teens to develop healthy relationships; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States, State and local officials, middle schools and high schools, law enforcement agencies, and other interested groups to observe National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week with appropriate programs and activities that promote awareness and prevention of the crime of teen dating violence.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COHEN. I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. COHEN. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 1081 designates the month of February 2010 as National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month. By designating a month to teen dating violence awareness, Congress hopes to bring more attention to the problem. We also hope to underscore the need for more effective prevention and deterrence efforts to help young people break the cycle of violence.

Dating violence is a serious problem in this country, and many teens do not report it because they're afraid to tell family and friends. It often starts with teasing and name calling but escalates to more serious violence like physical and sexual assaults. Teen victims of dating violence are at greater risk of doing poorly in school and abusing drugs and alcohol. Fifty percent of young people reporting both dating vi-

olence and rape also reported increased rates of attempted suicide, compared to youth who had not been abused.

Physically abused teens are three times more likely than teens who have not been abused to experience violence during college. Teen victims also carry the patterns of violence into future relationships. According to a recent report by the American Bar Association, dating violence is occurring with people as young as 12 years of age. A Department of Justice study found that girls and young women between the ages of 16 and 24 experienced the highest rate of intimate partner violence at a rate almost triple the national average. As a result of the growing number of deaths and injuries resulting from teen dating violence, we must recognize this type of behavior is not only a crime but also is a serious public health concern.

Today's resolution should occur in families and communities around the country to educate their teenagers about this problem and help in preventing it. I would like to thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) for his leadership on this issue and this important resolution. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting House Resolution 1081.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H. Res. 1081 which supports the goals and ideals of National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month. This nationwide effort seeks to increase public awareness and to educate citizens about the prevalence of dating violence among American teenagers. The Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Initiative was spearheaded by teenagers across our Nation who chose to take a stand and put a stop to teen dating violence. The initiative began in 2004 and is now supported by numerous national, State and local organizations, and in 2005, this Congress noted the importance of addressing teen dating violence and highlighted the initiative in the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act.

The call to end dating violence was formally recognized by the House in 2006, and to bring more public awareness about teen dating violence, the House designated the first full week in February to be National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week over the last 3 years. However, the Justice Department worked with Congress to designate the entire month of February as National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month. This designation provides parity to the three other crimes—sexual assault, domestic violence and stalking—each of which has a designated month for public education and awareness activities. Across the country, dozens of States, cities and towns join Congress to designate February as National Teen Dating Violence Awareness

and Prevention Month. And in doing so, these jurisdictions demonstrated their collective commitment to ending teen dating violence and to support the numerous victims and survivors who live among us.

Research tells us that one in three adolescent girls in the United States is a victim of physical, emotional or verbal abuse from a dating partner. These violent relationships can have serious consequences for victims, putting them at higher risk for substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior, suicide and adult revictimization. In fact, teen girls who are physically and sexually abused are six times more likely to become pregnant and more than two times as likely to report a sexually transmitted disease as teen girls who are not abused. Perhaps the most alarming statistic is how prevalent this violence is in our country. Studies show that one in three teens has suffered from some sort of violence in a dating relationship. We also know that dating violence among children is not limited to physical, emotional or sexual assault. It also can take the form of harassment via computer or cell phone text messaging or by e-mail.

National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month provides an opportunity for parents to engage their children about dating violence and abusive relationships. Surveys of teens indicate that parents often do not know their children are in a relationship that is abusive. To start the dialogue, parents or teens can call the National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline at 1-866-331-9474. The helpline promotes awareness of healthy dating relationships and offers tips on preventing abusive relationships. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS), the sponsor of this resolution.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, let me begin by thanking Chairman COHEN, Chairman CONYERS, Chairman SCOTT, Ranking Member POE and all of their staff for their support and work on this issue. I am proud to sponsor this resolution and hope that all of my colleagues will support this simple but important effort.

This is an important effort. It's an important step. Youth dating violence is spreading all across our country. In my congressional district, the Center for Disease Control, the Fulton County district attorney, the Partnership Against Domestic Violence, colleges, high schools, and yes, even middle schools have been seeing an increase in abusive teen relationships. Fear, stalking, bullying, violence and abuse are unacceptable and always shocking. But it is tragic that domestic abuse is a very real part of our children's relationships. We see it in the headlines. We see it on the streets. We see it with

our own children. Mr. Speaker, we must break this chain. We must stop the cycle from being repeated over and over again.

The CDC worked with Liz Claiborne, Inc. to develop Dating Matters: Understanding Teen Dating Violence Prevention. This is a free online training course for teachers, youth leaders and family members. I encourage all those watching this discussion and debate to research this issue, take the course and watch for the signs. I think the time has come, Mr. Speaker, for us to teach our young people the way of non-violence, our children, our teenagers, our college-aged students.

Last month, I know that many across the country recognized Teen Dating Violence Prevention Month. I hope they continue through Women's History Month and really the entire year. We used to think a week was enough time, but it is just not enough. Mr. Speaker, our communities must have the information and the training to stop teen dating violence. I urge all of my colleagues to support this commonsense resolution.

Mr. POE of Texas. I have no further requests for time, Mr. Speaker, and I am prepared to close. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This is an important piece of legislation to bring national awareness to this problem. Some of the violence that occurs among our teenagers is horrible, the things they are doing to each other and those especially in a relationship and dating. I think it's important that the country understand that teen violence among those who are dating is a tremendous problem. I have four kids, three of them are girls, and their safety has always been a concern as they were growing up. As all parents have that concern. So I totally support this resolution and urge its adoption.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1081, which supports the goals and ideals of "National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month".

Mr. Speaker, allow these alarming statistics to speak on behalf of the importance of this resolution:

1 in 3 adolescent girls in the United States is a victim of physical, emotional, or verbal abuse from a dating partner, a figure that far exceeds victimization rates for other types of violence affecting youth.

1 in 10 high school students, nationwide, (9.9 percent) has been hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by a boyfriend or girlfriend.

1 in 4 teenagers have been in a relationship where a partner is verbally abusive.

20 percent of teen girls exposed to physical dating violence did not attend school on 1 or more occasions during a 30-day period because they felt unsafe either at school, or on the way to or from school.

Since 2006, the United States has recognized "National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week" during the first week of February. Because of the severity of the issue, the awareness campaign was extended to include the entire month of February

in 2010. This initiative increases awareness and educates others about the very real dangers of teen dating violence. This epidemic of teen dating violence is perhaps one of the most complex and invasive problems facing teenagers today.

Technology has added an additional ubiquitous and hidden feature of teen dating violence, with the use and the availability of cell phones, text and instant messaging, e-mail, and community networks. About 30 percent of teenagers who have been in a dating relationship have been text-messaged between 10 and 30 times per hour by a partner seeking to find out where they are, what they are doing, and with whom they are with. Yet 67 percent of parents are unaware that their teen is being checked up on some 30 times per day on their teen's cell phone. The warning signs of teen dating violence for young females are:

Apologizes for his behavior and makes excuses for him; loses interest in activities that she used to enjoy; and stops seeing her friends and family members and becomes increasingly isolated.

Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today with a zeal and vigor about the goals and ideals that the "National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month"; because this issue, if not handled with properly, grows into domestic violence, the ugly older sister of teen dating violence. In Houston, 9 percent of Houston students surveyed in grades 9 to 12 reported being hit, slapped or physically hurt by their boyfriend or girlfriend in the past year. This is unacceptable! Teenagers' foremost concern should be achieving academic excellence, not dealing with physical and mental abuse, from anyone!

This Congress should be committed to tackling the roots of issues, such as teen violence and supporting this resolution will not only address with the root cause of domestic violence, but also; (1) support teen victims of abuse; (2) educate pre-teens and teenagers, both male and female, about the issue; and (3) give the support needed by organizations and groups to effectively distribute life saving information and awareness to those in need.

So in conclusion, I support H. Res. 1081 and I encourage my colleagues to join me.

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Mr. POE of Texas. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution, H. Res. 1081.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1081.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING JOHN H. "JACK" RUFFIN, JR.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1087) honoring the life of John H. "Jack" Ruffin, Jr.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1087

Whereas Jack Ruffin left a lasting impact on his State and the United States during his distinguished legal career as a civil rights attorney and as the first African-American chief judge of the Georgia Court of Appeals;

Whereas Jack Ruffin was born in the rural town of Waynesboro, Georgia, in 1934, where he spent his formative years and where today his portrait hangs in the Burke County Courthouse;

Whereas Jack Ruffin graduated from Morehouse College in 1957 and from Howard University School of Law in 1960;

Whereas Jack Ruffin became, in 1961, the first African-American admitted to the Augusta Bar Association, against the wishes of his mother who feared for his safety;

Whereas Jack Ruffin fought with great courage against injustices in his community throughout his life, most notably when he filed the lawsuits that desegregated the public school systems of Richmond County and of Burke County;

Whereas Jack Ruffin honorably served, from 1986 to 1994, as the first African-American Superior Court judge in the Augusta Judicial Circuit;

Whereas Jack Ruffin, having been appointed by Governor Zell Miller to the Georgia Court of Appeals in 1994, honorably served as a member of that Court until 2008;

Whereas Jack Ruffin became the first African-American Chief Judge of the Georgia Court of Appeals in 2005 and served honorably in that position until 2006;

Whereas the new Richmond County judicial center in Augusta, Georgia, will be named in Jack Ruffin's honor, a decision made by the Augusta-Richmond County Commission in 2009;

Whereas Jack Ruffin retired from the Georgia Court of Appeals in 2008 and spent the rest of his life giving back to his community by teaching students at his alma mater, Morehouse College;

Whereas Jack Ruffin died the night of January 29, 2010, at the age of 75, in Atlanta, Georgia, and is survived by his wife, Judith Ruffin, his father, John Ruffin, Sr., his son, Brinkley Ruffin, and two grandsons;

Whereas the passing of Jack Ruffin is a great loss to the legal community and to the State of Georgia, and his life should be honored with great praise and appreciation for the many contributions he made to the legal system in the United States and to the civil rights movement; and

Whereas it is the intent of the House of Representatives to recognize and pay tribute to the life of Jack Ruffin, his achievements for civil rights, his zeal for justice, and his passion for the law: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes Jack Ruffin as a great jurist in the State of Georgia and as an important figure in the civil rights movement; and

(2) recognizes the selfless and brave contributions that Jack Ruffin made to his community and to the law.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5