will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

RECOGNIZING AFRICAN AMERICAN SCIENTISTS

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1133) recognizing the extraordinary number of African-Americans who have overcome significant obstacles to enhance innovation and competitiveness in the field of science in the United States.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1133

Whereas from 1654 until 1865, slavery for life was legal within the boundaries of much of the present United States;

Whereas slaveholders limited or prohibited education of enslaved African-Americans because they believed it would empower them;

Whereas African slaves, because they were not considered citizens, could not register any invention with the U.S. Patent Office;

Whereas any free person wanting to patent a scientific invention could not acknowledge any contribution from a slave;

Whereas there is a strong likelihood that scientific innovation during the period of slavery may have been undocumented or stolen;

Whereas after slavery had been abolished, the majority of African-Americans lived in poverty and faced legal and social discrimination;

Whereas Historically Black Colleges and Universities were founded because few institutions of higher learning in the United States admitted students of African-American descent;

Whereas Historically Black Colleges and Universities have contributed and continue to contribute significantly to the overall percentage of African-Americans who receive undergraduate and graduate degrees in the fields of science, including agriculture (51.6 percent), biology (42.2 percent), computer science (35 percent), physical science (43 percent), and social science (23.2 percent);

Whereas many African-Americans have overcome extraordinary odds to advance scientific contributions to mankind;

Whereas the Nation's transportation system has been greatly enhanced due to the contributions of Richard Spikes, who invented the automatic gear shift technology, Joseph Gambol, who invented the super charge system for internal combustion engines, Garrett Morgan, who invented the automated traffic signal, and Elbert Robinson, who invented the electric railway trolley;

Whereas modern-day high-density cities and the United States unique architectural development of high rise buildings and modern-day skyscrapers were enhanced by Alexander Mills, who invented key elevator technology;

Whereas health and medicine in the United States have been advanced by Otis Boykin, who invented the pacemaker, Dr. Ben Carson, who led a medical team who became the first to separate conjoined twins successfully, Dr. Charles Drew, who found the method to preserve and store blood which led to the world's fist blood bank, and Dr. Daniel Williams, who performed the first successful open heart surgery;

Whereas press and media have been strengthened by Will Purvis, who invented the improved fountain pen, Lee Burridge, who invented typewriting machine advancements, and W.A. Love, who contributed to the advanced printing press;

Whereas home appliances have been improved by Frederick Jones, who invented the portable air conditioner, Lewis Latimer, who helped pioneer the electric light bulb, George Sampson, who invented the clothes dryer, and John Standard, who enhanced the refrigerator;

Whereas historically, African-Americans have faced unprecedented inequities which have caused a disparity in the number of undergraduate and advanced degrees in the sciences, described as ''the achievement gap'';

Whereas many Members of Congress have proposed that this gap can and will be eliminated through progressive policies such as desegregation and Federal outreach and training programs;

Whereas many studies suggest that the achievement gap of African-Americans in the sciences has been lessening due in part to the effectiveness of these policies and programs;

Whereas the United States has vast untapped potential because African-Americans and other minorities remain underrepresented in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) disciplines; and

Whereas society in the United States today would not be the same without African-American innovations in the sciences: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the extraordinary number of African-Americans who have overcome significant obstacles to enhance innovation and competitiveness in the field of science in the United States;

(2) honors and recognizes all African-American innovators who have contributed to scientific education and research, directly and indirectly, whose contributions have increased economic empowerment in the United States; and

(3) encourages the Administration to invest in programs that are proven effective to lessen the achievement gap of African-Americans as well as other minority and disadvantaged groups in the sciences and ultimately strengthen competitiveness in the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on H. Res. 1133, the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

To honor the extraordinary number of African Americans who have enhanced our country through scientific innovation, I offer this resolution to celebrate their accomplishments. This resolution also recognizes the significant barriers African Americans have broken to enhance science and increase American competitiveness.

February is normally the month where the accomplishments of African Americans are celebrated. It was our original intent to do just that and be on the floor last month. However, I am pleased to see this resolution on the floor today in March, knowing we all enjoy the contributions of African American scientific contributions every day of the year.

As we go throughout our daily routines, Americans rely on technologies, procedures, and improvements fashioned by African American innovators over the centuries. In any field, whether it is transportation, architecture, transportation, medicine, or home appliances, African Americans have innovated, improved, and enhanced our technology.

In 2010 it is unthinkable that a person of any race, origin, or culture in this country would be denied an education because of the color of their skin. For centuries, African Americans who developed procedures, inventions, and technologies we rely upon each day had to overcome significant obstacles to advance our Nation.

From 1654 until 1865, slavery for life was legal within the boundaries of much of the present United States. At that time, many slaves were prohibited from obtaining an education. In response, many historically black colleges and universities were founded. These universities contribute significantly to the overall percentage of African Americans who receive undergraduate and graduate degrees in the fields of science today. We honor and celebrate the effectiveness of these vital institutions.

We acknowledge that slaves, because they were not considered citizens, could not register any invention with the U.S. Patent Office. Due to this, there is a strong likelihood that during the period of slavery many discoveries have been undocumented or stolen. After President Lincoln abolished slavery in 1865, many African American scientists continued to face poverty, legal and social discrimination over 100 years later.

Our past is our prologue, and we must recognize and celebrate our history in order to achieve our full potential as a Nation. As Martin Luther King once said, ''Many of the ugly pages of American history have been obscured and forgotten. A society is always eager to cover misdeeds with a cloak of forgetfulness, but no society can fully repress an ugly past when the ravages persist into the present.''

Today our Nation has a vast untapped potential as African Americans and other minorities remain disproportionately underrepresented in science,

technology, engineering, and math, the STEM disciplines. Many of these students suffer from inadequate schools, residential segregation, gender and racial bias from the classroom, and, perhaps even the most, nonprepared teachers. In order to become more energy independent, create new jobs and new exports, and develop the next great technology, we must invest robustly in scientific education and innovation.

Looking towards our future, the fraction of college age population ages represented by minorities is expected to grow to 55 percent in 2050. The proportion of STEM bachelor's degrees earned by minorities is much lower than the representation of minorities within the U.S. population. In order to keep the United States competitive in future years, we have a lot of work to do.

We honor African Americans who have overcome significant obstacles to enhance innovation and competitiveness in the field of science in the United States. We also encourage investment in programs which lessen the achievement gap of African Americans as well as other minorities and disadvantaged groups in the sciences and ultimately strengthen competitiveness in the United States.

The lights are on, the stage is set, the camera is rolling, and we are the actors. The actions we take today are ultimately what will determine our future.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

H. Res. 1133 recognizes the African American contribution to U.S. innovation and competitiveness. There is no doubt that the American transportation system is better off thanks to the contributions of African Americans like Richard Spikes, Joseph Gambol, Garrett Morgan, and Elbert Robinson. Our cities' skyscrapers are accessible thanks to the work of Alexander Mills. Modern medicine, particularly cardiology, may not be as advanced if it were not for the work of Drs. Otis Boykin, Daniel Williams, Charles Drew, and Ben Carson. And our work lives would not be as simple had it not been for Will Purvis, Lee Burridge, and W.A. Love, or our personal lives more comfortable had it not been for Frederick Jones, Lewis Latimer, George Sampson, and John Standard. And our children know that the sky is not the limit because of pioneering astronauts like Fred Gregory, Mae Jemison, Bernard Harris, and Charlie Bolden.

It is in part due to the contributions of these brilliant men and women that we as a Nation need to continue encouraging all Americans, male and female, from all socioeconomic, cultural and ethnic backgrounds, to become interested in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics disciplines so that our next generation of Americans will know there are no barriers to innovation, and United States competitiveness will continue to be unsurpassed.

I want to acknowledge and thank my good friend from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) for her tireless dedication and efforts on this issue. I encourage my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from Texas, Ms. SHEILA JACKSON LEE.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Let me rise and support the legislation that has been offered by my friend and colleague from Texas, and a senior member of the House Science Committee, to celebrate African Americans who have overcome significant obstacles to enhance innovation and competitiveness in the field of science in the United States.

Frankly, this debate is appropriate and timely, as we are discussing the status of NASA and the opportunity to inspire and to ensure that our scientists and physicians and those with inventiveness have the opportunity to show those talents and to produce on behalf of the American people.

As a 12-year member of the House Science Committee and the Subcommittee on Aeronautics, I know the value of research and the providing for a safe and secure place for the intelligence of America. I want to cite as part of this legacy of African Americans Dr. Lovell Jones, who heads the minority health center at M.D. Anderson, and has made great strides in the research dealing with cancer in minority populations.

Dr. Bernard Harris, an astronaut, who has led in establishing new businesses around research and knowledge that he was able to expand on as an astronaut in the NASA human space program.

The late Dr. Ron McNair, who was trained as a physicist, came from South Carolina, whose beginnings were enormously humble, and yet he was able to achieve greatness through his studies at MIT, and then ultimately he came to become an astronaut, and of course we lost him in the line of duty. But his research knowledge helped to expand horizons of the space exploration program.

Dr. Mae Jemison, trained as a physician, the first African American woman in space.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. I yield the gentlelady an additional 1 minute.

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Dr. Mae Jemison trained as a physician now is in the business of producing and training new astronauts by her summer programs and year-long programs and camps emphasizing math and science, her work that she has offered to do with the North Forest Independent School District on science, technology, engineering, and math.

And Dr. Joshua Hill, my friend, the late Dr. Joshua Hill, of Texas Southern University, was the first person to begin to talk about solar energy. And of course Prairie View A&M where a host of agricultural scientists have looked at new ways to produce food.

To the Speaker I will say that this legislation is timely. There are many scientists who are on the verge coming from the minority community and coming from the African American community. Look what they can do, and let us give them the further opportunity to be able to help America and to help the world.

Let us continue our support for NASA as many of these first develop their scientific prowess utilizing their skills as astronauts in America's human space program.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. I urge passage of the bill, and I yield back my time.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1133.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. 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.

RECOGNIZING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARIANA TRENCH DIVE

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1027) recognizing the 50th anniversary of the historic dive to the Challenger Deep in the Mariana Trench, the deepest point in the world's oceans, on January 23, 1960, and its importance to marine research, ocean science, a better understanding of the planet, and the future of human exploration.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1027

Whereas Captain Don Walsh, USN (ret.), Ph.D., and Jacques Piccard piloted the United States Navy's Trieste bathyscaphe to reach the deepest point in the world's oceans and remain the only two humans to ever achieve this historic feat;

Whereas Captain Walsh is the recipient of two Presidential Legion of Merit Awards and numerous honors and continues to explore the world;

Whereas Jacques Piccard is a hero in his home country of Switzerland;

Whereas Jacques Piccard passed away in November 2008, but the Piccard Family contribution and influence to marine science and exploration continues today;