

the House considers this resolution, the chairman of the Budget Committee ponders whether to forgo a budget resolution for the next fiscal year.

While Americans across the country evaluate their priorities and make tough choices to responsibly adhere to their budgets, Congress ought to do likewise. When times get tough, it's not the American way to stick our head in the sand, but to address our issues head-on.

This resolution "recognizes the importance of managing personal finances, increasing personal savings, and reducing personal debt in the United States," yet this Congress has consistently operated counter to the principles of managing, saving, and reducing debt. I encourage my colleagues to heed the advice we are giving the American people, and take a serious look at our finances. I believe the time has come for Congress to manage our nation's finances, increase our national savings, and reduce our national debt.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1257, supporting the goals and ideals of National Financial Literacy Month, 2010. The resolution recognizes the importance of managing personal finances, increasing personal savings, and reducing personal debt in the United States.

Creating a national culture of financial responsibility is incredibly important in these difficult economic times. I believe that a financially literate public is a key component to having a strong and robust economy. Resolutions like the National Financial Literacy Month help to promote broad-based financial literacy initiatives that are absolutely essential for the well-being of our country.

A recent survey done by the National Foundation for Credit Counseling has shown that more than 60 million adults admit to not paying all of their bills on time; approximately 150 million people report that they have not ordered their credit report in the last year, and more than 75 million people are not putting any part of their income toward retirement.

I am always surprised to hear statistics like this, and it is alarming because there are very simple things people can do to save money and lead more financially stable lives. We must do whatever is necessary to educate the public on financial matters and develop unbiased financial literacy training programs within our communities.

I want to acknowledge the vigorous efforts of Congressman RUBÉN HINOJOSA and Congresswoman JUDY BIGGERT, co-chairs of the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus, to improve the overall economic situation of all those residing in the United States. I would also like to acknowledge Greg Davis and Zachary Cikanek for their endless work and dedication to financial education.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that together we can continue to make a difference and help empower people to take control of their financial lives. I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1257, "Supporting the goals and ideals of National Financial Literacy Month, 2010, and for other purposes." Let me begin by thanking my colleague Representative RUBÉN HINOJOSA from my home state of Texas for introducing this legislation into the House of Representatives as it is important that we continually promote

and encourage honest and thrifty financial decision making abilities in our citizens.

Considering the current state of our economy, Mr. Speaker, it is critically important that we begin raising public awareness about financial education. A recent study put forth by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) stated that approximately 54 percent of Black households, 44.5 percent of American Indian/Alaskan households, and 43.3 percent of Hispanic households either have no checking or savings accounts or have used non-bank money orders, non-bank check-cashing services, payday loans, rent-to-own agreements, or pawn shops at least once or twice a year.

This statistic is alarming to many in our nation, Mr. Speaker, and it highlights an increasing lack of financial awareness in our nation. By educating our citizens on the proper use of checking and savings accounts as well as educating citizens of other financial instruments we will seek to see a reduction in the use of payday loans, pawn shops and other predatory financial transactions in our nation.

Furthermore, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis the U.S. aggregate personal savings rate as a percentage of disposable personal income dropped 0.3 percent between January and February of this year. In February the aggregate personal savings rate as a percentage of disposable personal income was 3.1, as compared with 3.4 percent in January 2010.

Still further, troubled loans, mortgages and toxic assets are still plaguing our economy and making it increasingly difficult for the average person to make sound financial decisions.

This is why it is critically important that we help give people the tools needed to manage their personal finances. Some of the basic encouragements we can pass along to our citizens through education programs would be to increase personal savings, and reduce personal debt.

Helping our citizens to become economically empowered and in control of their personal finances is also essential toward the recovery of our national economy. By giving our citizens the ability to plan for their financial future and by giving our citizens the ability to make important investment and entrepreneurial decisions, we will help to improve the quality of life of all Americans through the next generation.

While it is important to focus on educating adults in the areas of thrift and finance, it is even more important that we educate our youth about the importance of making sound economic and financial decisions. These types of financial decision making habits—whether they be wise or careless—are often developed during childhood and usually become lifelong tendencies.

An added benefit that would come from increasing our nation's financial literacy and providing financial education programs for our citizens would be the additional protection against financial fraud that would be created. Giving people the resources to understand and control their own finances and to understand potential risks and hazards would empower people against identity theft and other financial schemes that attempt to do them harm.

I ask my colleagues for their support of H. Res. 1257, as well as their continued support for the economically downtrodden in this nation. By increasing the capacity of our citizens

to make prudent economic decisions, I am sure that we will see a return to American prosperity that will last for generations to come.

I would like to again thank my colleague Representative RUBÉN HINOJOSA for his leadership in introducing his bill as well as for his support of the American people and our economy.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H. Res. 1257 and ask for its immediate adoption.

Mrs. BIGGERT. I would urge all of our colleagues to support this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1257.

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. HINOJOSA. 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.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF REV. BENJAMIN LAWSON HOOKS

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1271) honoring the life and achievements of Rev. Benjamin Lawson Hooks.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1271

Whereas Benjamin Lawson Hooks, a native Memphian, was the fifth out of seven children born to Robert B. and Bessie Hooks;

Whereas his grandmother, Julia Britton Hooks, was the second African-American female college graduate in the Nation, graduating from Berea College in Kentucky in 1874;

Whereas Dr. Hooks studied prelaw at LeMoyne College in Memphis and continued his studies at Howard University in Washington, DC, and at Depaul University Law School in Chicago, Illinois;

Whereas Dr. Hooks was a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity;

Whereas after college, he then served in the United States Army during World War II and had the job of guarding Italian prisoners who were able to eat in restaurants that were off limits to him, an experience that he found humiliating and that deepened his determination to do something about bigotry in the South;

Whereas in 1949, Dr. Hooks met teacher Frances Dancy and the couple married in 1952;

Whereas the couple had a daughter, Patricia Gray;

Whereas from 1949 to 1965 he was one of the few African-Americans practicing law in Memphis, Tennessee;

Whereas in 1954, Dr. Hooks served on a roundtable with Thurgood Marshall and

other Southern African-American attorneys to formulate a possible litigation strategy days before the Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* was handed down;

Whereas Dr. Hooks served as assistant public defender of Shelby County, Memphis, from 1961 to 1965;

Whereas in 1965, he was appointed by Tennessee Governor Frank G. Clement to serve as a criminal judge in Shelby County becoming the first African-American criminal court judge in the State of Tennessee;

Whereas Dr. Hooks was also a Baptist minister who pastored at the Greater Middle Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee, and the Greater New Mount Moriah Baptist Church in Detroit, Michigan;

Whereas he joined the Southern Christian Leadership Conference of Reverend Martin Luther King in 1956;

Whereas from 1972 to 1977, President Richard Nixon appointed Rev. Hooks to the Federal Communications Commission, making him the first African-American appointed commissioner;

Whereas from 1977 to 1992, Rev. Hooks was the Executive Director and CEO of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP);

Whereas under his leadership, the NAACP fought for affirmative action, led efforts to end apartheid in South Africa, and addressed racism in sports and in the Rodney King trial;

Whereas Rev. Hooks was awarded the Spingarn Medal in 1986 from the NAACP;

Whereas Dr. Hooks served as chairman of the board of directors of the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis;

Whereas he taught at the University of Memphis, and the Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change was established at the University in 1996;

Whereas on March 24, 2001, Rev. Hooks and his beautiful wife Frances renewed their wedding vows for the third time, after nearly 50 years of marriage;

Whereas in 2002, Dr. Hooks founded the Children's Health Forum to protect the most vulnerable children from preventable disease;

Whereas Dr. Hooks received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President George W. Bush at a White House ceremony in November 2007;

Whereas Rev. Hooks gave one of his last lectures on civil rights and social justice as part of the premier lecture series of the Benjamin Hooks Institute for Social Change in the Judiciary Committee Room of the Rayburn House Office Building in Washington, DC, on October 6, 2009;

Whereas he was one of the greatest civil rights icons of United States history and a community leader in Memphis; and

Whereas Rev. Benjamin L. Hooks was one of the golden-throated warriors of the spoken word, and one of the few silver-tongued giants of oratory: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives honors the life and achievements of Dr. Benjamin Lawson Hooks, for his commitment to justice on the bench in Memphis, Tennessee, for his strong work with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to formulate strategies for eliminating barriers to civil rights, and for his leadership in promoting equal opportunity for all.

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, with the news today of Dorothy Height's passing, we have now lost two significant civil rights leaders in less than 1 week. Today in Memphis, Memphians and others throughout the country will have the opportunity to pay respects to Reverend Benjamin Hooks during a viewing at Greater Middle Baptist Church where he pastored for 52 years. Yesterday in Detroit, Michigan, Reverend Hooks was honored at Greater New Mount Moriah Baptist Church where he also pastored for some 40 years in the Detroit area.

A native Memphian, Reverend Hooks was one of the golden-throated warriors of the spoken word and one of the few silver-tongued giants of oratory. Dr. Hooks was born in 1925 and was the fifth of seven children born to Robert B. and Bessie Hooks.

His grandmother, Julia B. Hooks, was the second African American female college graduate in the Nation after graduating from Berea College in Kentucky in 1874.

Following in her footsteps, Dr. Hooks attended Le Moyne College in Memphis, where he studied pre-law. He continued to study at Howard University here in Washington, and later at DePaul University Law School in Chicago, Illinois, where he received a law degree. It was unfortunate that when he decided to go to law school, there was not a law school in Tennessee that accepted African Americans, and for that reason, Dr. Hooks traveled to Chicago.

After graduation from college but before law school, he entered the Army during World War II, and he had a job guarding Italian prisoners. The prisoners were able to eat in restaurants that were off limits to him because he was African American. He found this experience to be humiliating, and it deepened his determination to do something about bigotry not just in the South but in our country, as our Armed Forces were segregated and our African American soldiers fighting for our freedoms were not allowed freedoms that prisoners of war enjoyed.

Dr. Hooks returned to Memphis after being discharged from the war with the rank of staff sergeant. He began practicing law in Memphis in 1949, one of the few African Americans practicing law in Memphis. In 1954, he appeared on a roundtable with late Justice Thurgood Marshall and other southern African American attorneys to formulate a possible litigation strategy days before the Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*

was handed down, the landmark case that ended separate but equal and started the end of segregation in our Nation.

Dr. Hooks served as assistant public defender of Shelby County from 1961 to 1965, and in 1965, he was appointed by Governor Frank Clement to serve as criminal court judge in Shelby County. And he became the first African American criminal court judge in the State of Tennessee.

In 1956, while serving in the Baptist ministry at Greater Middle Baptist Church in Memphis, he joined the Southern Christian Leadership Conference with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., about the time that Dr. King in Montgomery was starting the boycotts of the downtown stores in Montgomery and working with Rosa Parks and boycotting the busses, leading to the great civil rights uprisings and movement in the South that made our Nation a more perfect Union.

□ 1500

President Nixon appointed Dr. Hooks to the Federal Communications Commission in 1972, and he served from 1972 to 1977 and was the first African American appointed commissioner, and there he wanted to make sure that African Americans had the opportunity to have ownership interest in radio and television and other opportunities that they didn't previously have.

In 1977 when he left the Federal Communications Commission, he did so to become executive director and the chief executive officer of the NAACP, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. In 1977, at that same time, Dr. Hooks' nephew, Michael Hooks, and I were serving on the Tennessee State Constitutional Convention, and we drafted a resolution to invite Dr. Hooks to address the Tennessee Constitutional Convention, limited convention, of 1977, the first African American ever asked to address the joint legislative body in the State of Tennessee.

While Dr. Hooks served as executive director of the NAACP, he fought for affirmative action, led efforts to end apartheid in South Africa, and addressed racism in sports and dealt with the Rodney King trial in Los Angeles. He was awarded the Spingarn Medal from the NAACP, its highest honor.

Reverend Hooks served as chairman of the board of directors of the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, my hometown and his as well. He taught at the University of Memphis, where the Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change was established in his honor in 1976. He made a significant personal financial contribution to that particular institute and commented to me one time that it was appropriate and right and proper that when African Americans have been able to secure monies and savings that they make contributions to their society, and he was able to do that, a first generation of wealth that was able to contribute

to civic causes. And he was proud to be a leader in that cause as well.

I was present in 2007 and honored to be in the White House when President Bush awarded Dr. Hooks the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Most recently he gave one of his last lectures on civil rights and social justice as part of the premier lecture series of the Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change of the University of Memphis here in our Judiciary Committee room in the Rayburn House Office Building. It was October 6, 2009. Several Members of Congress were present and other interested parties in D.C. and on the Hill, and he was accompanied on that occasion, as he was on so many occasions, by his beautiful and jovial bride, Frances.

Frances Dancy was a teacher. She met Ben Hooks at a Shelby County fair. Ben Hooks was a lucky man because he found the perfect bride. Frances was by his side and gave up her career as a teacher. She gave up that career to be first lady of the church, whether it was Mount Moriah, Greater New Mount Moriah in Detroit or Greater Middle Baptist in Memphis, whether on Lamar or on Knight-Arnold.

They were married in 1952. They renewed their vows for the third time after nearly 50 years of marriage on March 24, 2001. She has encouraged him in all of his endeavors, and she will see that his memory is maintained and preserved in an appropriate fashion.

Dr. Hooks was one of the greatest civil rights icons in American history and a community leader in Memphis and a friend of many in this Congress. He is survived by his beautiful and devoted wife, Frances, his daughter Patricia Gray, grandchildren and a nephew, in particular Michael Hooks, who served in public office and a great grandnephew, Michael Hooks, who also served in a public office.

His funeral will be tomorrow in Memphis, Tennessee, at Bountiful Blessings, the flagship Church of God in Christ in Memphis, Superintendent Hawkins presides. His was a life well lived.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Chairman CONYERS and Ranking Member SMITH for so quickly sponsoring this resolution and bringing it to the House floor.

I support House Resolution 1271, and this resolution honors the life and achievements of Dr. Benjamin Lawson Hooks for his commitment to justice and his work with the NAACP to eliminate barriers to civil rights and his leadership in promoting equal opportunity for everybody.

He was born in Memphis in 1925. His family inspired him to study diligently in school and go to college, from which he graduated in 1944. After service in the United States Army, he went to law school at DePaul University. He graduated in 1948 and went back home to Memphis, Tennessee.

From 1949 to 1965 he was one of a handful of African Americans practicing law in Memphis. In his law practice, Dr. Hooks was determined to combat segregation. Days before the United States Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954, Dr. Hooks joined Thurgood Marshall and other attorneys at a roundtable to consider litigation strategies to challenge Jim Crow laws. Dr. Hooks was a pioneer in restaurant sit-ins and other boycotts sponsored by the NAACP. Throughout the 1960s he worked with the NAACP on several civil rights protests and marches throughout the United States.

Throughout this time period, however, Dr. Hooks fulfilled a long desire and he entered the Christian ministry. In 1956, he was an ordained Baptist minister and preached regularly and contributed in many ways to churches which he served. It was his ministry and his law degree working together that gave him the deep conviction to fight for civil rights.

This deeper yearning surely influenced the power and scope of all of his civil rights work. He ran unsuccessfully for the State legislature in 1954; and as a juvenile court judge in 1959 and 1963, he became well-known in Tennessee politics and the Governor tapped him to fill a vacancy in Shelby County criminal court, and in 1965 he became the first African American in criminal court as a criminal court judge in the State of Tennessee.

When President Nixon appointed him to the Federal Communications Commission in 1972 through 1977, he was also the first African American appointed to the FCC. And from 1972 to 1992, 20 years, he served as executive director for and CEO of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Then in 2007, in recognition of his life's work and commitment to the ideal that all people are created equal, Dr. Hooks received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President George W. Bush.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to comment, I appreciate Representative POE's comments. He was a former criminal court judge and like Judge Hooks was a criminal court judge, they share that experience.

I keep under the glass on my desk a picture that was taken of Benjamin Hooks as a lawyer with Russell Sugarman, A.W. Willis, I believe it was A.A. Latting and S.A. Wilbun, and appearing in city court in Memphis and defending individuals in Memphis charged with the violations of the law that were Jim Crow laws. It's a historic picture that people in Memphis know well; they stood up in a courtroom with just about a predominance of policemen around there and white visitors in the courtroom, but they stood for justice and they stood up.

Leaders in Memphis like Maxine Smith and Russell Sugarman are getting older, but they continue the fight as Reverend Hooks has. He had a difficult last few days, but he knew his time had come and he was at peace. He tried to make it to the inaugural to see the inauguration of the first African American President, Barack Obama. He was here. I think the weather was such and the conditions that he wasn't able to make it to the inauguration, but he made a point of coming in here and wanted to participate.

He was bipartisan. He came of an era when many African Americans in the South, if not most, were members of the Republican Party, the party of Lincoln. And he maintained a Republican allegiance through his appointments by President Nixon and a closeness to Senator Baker and others, but also had Democratic roots.

President Bush recognized his talents, as has President Obama and President Clinton. He supported Hillary Clinton for President because he had been close to the Clinton family. But he was happy to see America come to the time when an African American could be elected President, as Dr. King had wanted that time to come, that people were judged by the content of their character and not the color of their skin. We saw part of that resolution in 2008, and Ben Hooks was pleased to be able to see it.

As I said, he will be buried tomorrow at Bountiful Blessings where G.E. Patterson served as bishop of COGIC, and I know there will be many other people from around the world there to honor him.

I would like to thank my friend JOHN CONYERS, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, who worked with me on this resolution and is unfortunately absent because of other commitments. He was close to Reverend Hooks in Detroit and other places fighting for civil rights over the years. I would also like to commend the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, LAMAR SMITH, for joining me in cosponsoring this resolution.

I yield as much time as he may consume to Chairman TOWNS of New York.

Mr. TOWNS. Let me thank the gentleman from Memphis for yielding to me, because I had an opportunity to work very closely with Dr. Hooks. I recall we moved the NAACP to Brooklyn, and he was the president of NAACP at the time we moved them to Brooklyn. I was always impressed with his dedication and commitment to people.

Dr. Hooks was really committed to change in a positive way; and, of course, having the opportunity to work very closely with him, I had the opportunity to observe him as he moved with people. He had just a way of bringing about coalitions where people would disagree with each other, but Dr. Hooks could pull them together and some way or another get them to begin to talk and work together. He is going to be truly missed. He was a person

that has truly made a difference in this world as a result of his attitude and what he has done on behalf of the people.

So may I say to his family, you have my deepest, deepest sympathy; but, here again, we can be thankful that we had an opportunity to live during Dr. Hooks' lifetime. There is no question about it, he made this world a better place for all of us to live.

Mr. COHEN. I thank the gentleman for joining and relating those parts of Dr. Hooks' life.

He was, as I said, a great orator who took the Southern tradition of politics and the ministry and wove it into a manner of speech that was unrivaled and to his last days could deliver a sermon or a speech that was unparalleled. He will be buried tomorrow at Elmwood Cemetery, where my father is buried and where I suspect I will be buried, and we will spend eternity together.

I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, this resolution honors the life and achievements of my dear friend, the late Dr. Benjamin Lawson Hooks.

With Dr. Hooks's passing last week, our nation lost a champion for justice and an iconic figure of the Civil Rights Movement.

Personally, I will never forget the genuine spirit and talent Dr. Hooks had in inspiring every individual he encountered. This spirit of Dr. Hooks is what we celebrate today.

In addition to being a dedicated civil rights advocate, Dr. Hooks was an accomplished attorney and judge, a government servant, and a respected Minister of the Gospel.

He served as the Executive Director of the NAACP for fifteen years. He was also the first African-American appointed as Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission, and the first African-American criminal court judge in Tennessee.

Dr. Hooks was the founder of the Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change at the University of Memphis. He also founded the Children's Health Forum in 2002.

And the list of his accomplishments goes on.

Today, I would like to touch on three significant points.

First, Dr. Hooks's leadership in the Civil Rights Movement was shaped by his firm belief that education and non-violent activism could lift the oppressed.

He once said: "There are a lot of ways an oppressed people can rise. One way to rise is to study, to be smarter than your oppressor. The concept of rising against oppression through physical contact is stupid and self-defeating . . . the most enduring contributions made to civilization have not been made by brawn, they have been made by brain."

Dr. Hooks's own life was a testament to the power of education to overcome racism and oppression. He studied pre-law at Lemoyne-Owen College in Memphis, TN. While in college, Dr. Hooks was required to use segregated lunch counters, water fountains, and restrooms.

But he was not deterred by these daily reminders of inequality—he finished his college education, and joined the U.S. Army in 1944.

Even in the Army, Dr. Hooks was subjected to discrimination—he found that prisoners of

war were often given better eating accommodations than African-American soldiers.

Dr. Hooks's pursuit of a legal education was also full of obstacles, because no law school in his native State of Tennessee would admit him.

However, he persevered, and obtained his Juris Doctorate degree from DePaul University College of Law in Illinois.

And he pledged to use his hard-earned legal education to further the Civil Rights Movement.

On my second point, Dr. Hooks's life's work resulted in the acceleration of significant changes towards equality in America.

It has been written that "Often in the past, Benjamin Hooks's words have been heeded by his fellow Americans and have been turned into national policies that have benefitted the whole society."

The Civil Rights Movement is woven from the work of many people who have tirelessly campaigned to end discrimination and racism in all its forms.

Dr. Hooks was a central thread in the patchwork of great civil rights leaders. His leadership in NAACP sit-ins and boycotts helped further the cause through non-violence.

And he applied his hard-earned education in his work with Thurgood Marshall and members of the Regional Council of Negro Leadership to create strategies in the wake of the Supreme Court's decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*.

It is with great pride that I remember Dr. Hooks's fifteen years of leadership with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). I attribute the success and the turn-around of the NAACP to my friend, Dr. Hooks.

His tailored focus on empowering black Americans, and his call to all Americans to continue pressing for equality, helped the NAACP combat racism, fight apartheid, and defend affirmative action.

Finally, I would like to celebrate my dear friend's commitment to public service, and to lifting up people from all walks of life.

Dr. Hooks never strayed from his focus on securing equality for all Americans.

In 1972, he became the first African-American to be appointed to the Federal Communications Commission. He used his tenure in this distinguished government position to actively promote the employment of African-Americans and other minorities in the broadcast industry.

Dr. Hooks saw his own success as an opportunity to help further the cause of equality and justice. He once said, "Black men who have succeeded have an obligation to serve as role models for young men entrapped by a vicious cycle of poverty, despair, and hopelessness."

I would like to commend my colleagues for their sponsorship of this resolution.

In particular, I would like to thank my good friend from Memphis, Tennessee, STEVE COHEN, for working with me on this important resolution.

I would also like to commend the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee, LAMAR SMITH, for joining me in co-sponsoring it.

I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, rise today to express my strong support for H. Res. 1271, honoring the life and achievements

of Dr. Benjamin Lawson Hooks. I would also like to commend the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, JOHN CONYERS JR., and Chairman STEVE COHEN, the sponsors of this resolution, for their commitment to preserving the accomplishments of Dr. Hooks.

Dr. Hooks had a legendary career and truly exemplifies the quintessential renaissance man. He was an inspirational speaker, defender of minorities and the poor, and a well-known director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Dr. Hooks was a lawyer and a Baptist minister best known for boosting membership in the NAACP and making it relevant in today's political times. After a lifetime of advocacy for the oppressed, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2007.

Dr. Hooks was born in Memphis, Tennessee, and took pre-law courses in his home town from LeMoyne College; after graduating in 1944 he joined the Army. During the Second World War, Hooks found himself in the position of guarding Italian prisoners who were allowed to eat in restaurants that were off limits to him. The experience helped to deepen his resolve to do something about bigotry in the South. After his wartime service, he was promoted to the rank of staff sergeant. Hooks went north to Chicago to study law at DePaul University because no law school in Tennessee would admit him. He completed his Juris Doctor Degree in 1948. Upon graduation, Hooks went into private practice in Memphis from 1949–1965. While in private practice he became an ordained Baptist minister in 1956 and began to preach regularly at the Middle Baptist Church in Memphis, while continuing his busy law practice. He served as a public defender in Shelby County. From 1964 to 1968 he was a county criminal judge. Benjamin Lawson Hooks was nominated as a member to the Federal Communications Commission by President Richard M. Nixon in 1972. Shortly thereafter the United States Senate confirmed the nomination, and thus Mr. Hooks became the first African American to be appointed to the Commission. He served as a member of the Federal Communications Commission until 27 July 1977.

During his term on the Commission, Hooks actively promoted the employment of African Americans and other minorities in the broadcast industry as well as at the Federal Communications Commission offices. He also encouraged minority ownership of broadcast properties. Hooks supported the Equal Time provision and the Fairness Doctrine, both of which he believed were among the few avenues available to minorities for gaining access to the broadcast media.

The nomination and confirmation of Hooks to the Federal Communications Commission represented the efforts by African American organizations such as Black Efforts for Soul on Television to have an African American appointed to one of the seven seats on the Commission. Before Hooks' appointment there had been no minority representation on the Commission and only two women, Frieda Henncock and Charlotte Reid, had been appointed up to that time. Additionally, for 15 years Hooks presided over America's largest and most influential organization for blacks, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Dr. Hooks once said "A good history covers not only what was done, but the thought that

went into the action. You can read the history of a country through its actions." Dr. Hooks would be proud on this day. Today, the United States House of Representatives recognizes his travail and hard work through the years. History will judge us by our actions.

As a member of the Judiciary, Subcommittee Chairman on Courts and Competition Policy, and a former judge myself, I recognize the importance of leaders such as Dr. Benjamin Lawson Hooks. I am proud to be a legacy of Dr. Hooks' work. He symbolized the epitome of what lawyers and judges strive to be, the character that all of us should strive to show. Please join me and support this resolution to honor Dr. Benjamin Lawson Hooks.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1271, which remembers Rev. Benjamin Hooks, who passed away last Thursday at the age of 85, and honors this heroic figure's life and achievements. This important measure is a deserving tribute to Rev. Hooks, a true champion of justice and equality. Rev. Hooks fought tirelessly for civil rights and, in doing so, made our country a better place for all Americans.

Rev. Benjamin Hooks was a critical figure in the fight for civil rights in the United States. He fought segregation through his many successful careers as a businessman, lawyer, judge, minister, and public servant. Rev. Hooks was the first African-American criminal court judge in Tennessee and the first African-American commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission.

Rev. Benjamin Hooks is most well known for his work with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Rev. Hooks was a pioneer of the NAACP-sponsored restaurant sit-ins and boycotts in the early years of the Civil Rights Movement. In 1976, the NAACP elected Rev. Hooks as the executive director of the organization. Rev. Hooks reenergized the NAACP, increased its enrollment dramatically, and enhanced the group's effectiveness. At a time when the Civil Rights Movement was widely considered to have ended, Rev. Hooks recognized that much work was left to be done and recommitted the NAACP to tirelessly fighting for the rights of disadvantaged communities across the United States. Rev. Hooks guided the NAACP through decades of activism and oversaw the constant modernization and adaptation of the organization to respond to the new challenges of changing times.

Rev. Benjamin Hooks was a giant in the fight for civil rights in America over the last 60 years. Even as he and his family were targeted in bombings against civil rights leaders in the 1990s, his resolve and commitment to an equitable society never faltered. In characteristic modesty, Rev. Hooks often referred to himself as "just a poor little old country preacher," but the truth is that he was much more than that. He left an indelible mark on American society and helped improve the lives of countless Americans. Rev. Hooks was honored for his life of service with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, which President George W. Bush presented to him in 2007.

I extend my deepest condolences to the family and friends of Rev. Benjamin Hooks as they grieve the loss of this truly special individual. Rest in peace, Rev. Hooks—"there is a balm in Gilead."

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great lion, a leader, one of the golden

throated warriors of the spoken word and one of the few silver tongued giants of oratory, and a great civil rights icon, Benjamin Hooks. He passed away in Memphis, Tennessee, on Thursday, April 15, 2010. Dr. Hooks was the fifth child out of seven born to Robert and Bessie Hooks. His grandmother, Julia B. Hooks was the second African-American female college graduate in the nation after graduating from Berea College in Kentucky in 1874. Following in her footsteps, Dr. Hooks attended LeMoyne College in Memphis where he studied pre-law. He continued his studies at Howard University in Washington, D.C. and at DePaul University Law School in Chicago, Illinois. He was a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

After graduating from college, Dr. Hooks served in the Army during World War II and had the job of guarding Italian prisoners who were able to eat in restaurants that were off limits to him. He found this experience to be humiliating and it deepened his determination to do something about bigotry in the South. Dr. Hooks returned to Memphis after being discharged at the end of the war with the rank of staff sergeant.

Dr. Hooks began practicing law in 1949 becoming one of the few African-Americans to practice in Memphis. In 1954, he appeared on a roundtable with Thurgood Marshall and other Southern African-American attorneys to formulate a possible litigation strategy days before the Supreme Court decision in *Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka* was handed down. Dr. Hooks served as assistant public defender of Shelby County from 1961–1965 until being appointed by Tennessee Governor Frank G. Clement to serve as a criminal judge in Shelby County, Memphis—becoming the first African-American criminal court judge in the State of Tennessee.

Rev. Benjamin Hooks was also the pastor at Greater Middle Baptist Church in Memphis and Greater New Mount Moriah Baptist Church in Detroit, Michigan. In 1956, while serving in the Baptist ministry, he joined the Southern Christian Leadership Conference of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

President Richard Nixon appointed Dr. Hooks to the Federal Communications Commission, making him the first African-American appointed commissioner. He served in this position from 1972 to 1977. From 1977 to 1992, Dr. Hooks was the Executive Director and CEO of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Under his leadership, the NAACP fought for affirmative action, led efforts to end apartheid in South Africa and addressed racism in sports and the Rodney King trial. He was awarded the Spingarn Medal in 1986 from the NAACP.

Rev. Hooks served as chairman of the board of directors of the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis. He also taught at the University of Memphis where the Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change was established in 1996.

Dr. Benjamin Hooks was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President George W. Bush at a White House ceremony in November 2007. Most recently, he gave one of his last lectures on civil rights and social justice as part of the premier lecture series of the Benjamin Hooks Institute for Social Change in the Judiciary Committee Room of the Rayburn House Office Building in Washington, DC, on October 6, 2009.

Always by his side was his beautiful and jovial wife, Frances. They were married in 1952 and renewed their vows for the third time after nearly 50 years of marriage on March 24, 2001.

Dr. Benjamin Hooks was one of the greatest civil rights icons in American history and a community leader in Memphis. His commitment to justice on the bench in Memphis, his strong work with the NAACP to formulate strategies for eliminating barriers to civil rights and his leadership in promoting equal opportunity for all will always be remembered by the countless number of lives he touched. Rev. Benjamin L. Hooks is survived by his devoted wife Frances, daughter Patricia Gray, grandchildren and nephew Michael Hooks. His was a life well lived. Thank you for coming our way, Benjamin Hooks.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1271, "Honoring the life and achievements of Dr. Benjamin Lawson Hooks" introduced by my distinguished colleague from Michigan, Representative CONYERS.

Dr. Benjamin Lawson Hooks was a civil rights leader and served as the Executive Director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) from 1977 to 1992. Dr. Hooks graduated with a bachelor's degree from Howard University, a juris doctor degree from DePaul University College of Law, and received an honorary doctorate from Central Connecticut State University. He held professional memberships with the American Bar Association, National Bar Association, Tennessee Bar Association, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Tennessee Council on Human Relations, and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. After passing the Tennessee Bar, he established his own law practice.

Dr. Hooks served as a distinguished adjunct professor for the Political Science Department at the University of Memphis. In 1996, the Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change was established at the University of Memphis. The Benjamin L. Hooks Institute is a public policy research center supporting the urban research mission, and honoring Hooks' many years of leadership in the American Civil Rights Movement. The Hooks Institute also emphasizes social movements, race relations, strong communities, public education, effective public participation, and social and economic justice.

Dr. Hooks was ordained as a Baptist minister in 1956, and he preached regularly at the Greater Middle Baptist Church in Memphis. He joined the Southern Christian Leadership Conference along with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. Hooks became a pioneer of NAACP-sponsored restaurant sit-ins and other boycotts of consumer items and services.

In 1965, Dr. Hooks was appointed by Governor Frank G. Clement as the first African American criminal court judge in the Shelby Criminal Court. In 1966, he would later campaign for and win a full term to the same judicial office that he had been appointed to due to a vacancy. In 1972, President Richard Nixon appointed Dr. Hooks to be one of the five commissioners to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). As a member, he addressed the lack of minority ownership of television and radio stations, the minority employment statistics for the broadcasting industry, and the image of African Americans in

mass media. Dr. Hooks served as a producer and host for several local television shows in Memphis.

Dr. Hooks' honors and awards include the NAACP Spingarn Medal for outstanding achievements made by an African American, receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President George W. Bush in November of 2007, and he was inducted into the International Civil Rights Hall of Fame at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site on January 12, 2008. The Memphis Library Branch is also named in his honor. The NAACP later created the Benjamin L. Hooks Distinguished Service Award, which is awarded to persons for their efforts in implementing policies and programs which promote equal opportunity.

So it is with great pride and admiration that we honor Dr. Benjamin Lawson Hooks as a great civil rights leader, and as a successful businessman, judge, lawyer, and minister. He has fought triumphantly for the rights of African Americans and made great contributions to the African American community.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and the legacy of Rev. Benjamin Lawson Hooks, who passed away April 15, 2010, at the age of 85. Rev. Hooks was more than just an accomplished man; he was a modern-day pioneer who overcame modern-day struggles. No matter the obstacle, Rev. Hooks continued to fight for equal rights, always believing that tomorrow will be better.

In fact, Rev. Hooks was often quoted as saying, "you have to believe that tomorrow somehow can be, and will be, better than today." His mission in life was to make this belief a reality. As the first African-American commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission, a member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Tennessee's first African-American criminal court judge, and, finally, as the Executive Director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) from 1977 to 1992, Rev. Hooks worked tirelessly to make America a fairer, and more just, nation.

Under his leadership of the NAACP, he brought this storied civil rights organization from the brink of financial collapse. Rev. Hooks returned it to stability, increased membership, and created programs such as the NAACP ACT-SO (Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics) competitions, a major youth talent and skill initiative, and Women in the NAACP.

Rev. Hooks also was a stalwart in the face of adversity. In 1989, there were several gasoline bomb attacks in the South, resulting in the murder of a federal judge in Alabama and an African-American civil rights lawyer in Georgia. NAACP leaders were threatened with violence as well. Rev. Hooks responded to these acts of violence by saying, "We believe that this latest incident is an effort to intimidate our association, to strike fear in our hearts. It will not succeed."

This remarkable American lived a life of honor and purpose, leaving behind a legacy of equality and justice. Our nation is so much better for his dedication to the idea that "all men are created equal." Rev. Hooks is an inspirational figure to us all, and we must continue to strive to ensure that tomorrow will continue to be better than today.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of

H.R. 1271 to honor the life and achievements of Dr. Benjamin Lawson Hooks who passed away on April 15, 2010. Dr. Hooks served as the Executive Director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and was a great civil rights leader.

Born in Memphis, Tennessee as the fifth of seven children, Dr. Hooks faced numerous racial barriers growing up in the segregated South. He graduated from Howard University in 1944, and after serving in the army during World War II, he completed a law degree from DePaul University in 1948. Upon graduation, he returned to Memphis where he opened his own law practice. Although faced with relentless discrimination in the legal field, Dr. Hooks managed to make a reputation for himself. In 1965 he was appointed to fill a vacancy in the Shelby County criminal court making him the first black criminal court judge in Tennessee history. Later, in 1972, he became the first African-American member of the Federal Communications Commission where he developed a reputation as a champion for minority owned television and radio stations.

In 1976, Dr. Hooks became the Executive Director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored Peoples. His tenure saw an increase in membership and revenue, and additionally, he was influential in the national recognition of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Benjamin Hooks was an unyielding advocate for African-American civil rights, and he will be greatly missed. I ask my fellow colleagues to join me today in recognizing this remarkable leader who worked diligently for the black community and was a stalwart champion of fairness and equality for all.

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 resolution, H. Res. 1271.

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 THE MISSION AND GOALS OF 2010 NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1104) supporting the mission and goals of 2010 National Crime Victims' Rights Week to increase public awareness of the rights, needs, and concerns of victims and survivors of crime in the United States, no matter their country of origin or their creed, and to commemorate the National Crime Victims' Rights Week theme of "Crime Victims' Rights: Fairness. Dignity. Respect."

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1104

Whereas over 25,000,000 individuals in the United States are victims of crime each year, including over 6,000,000 individuals who are victims of violent crime;

Whereas a just society acknowledges the impact of crime on individuals, families, neighborhoods, and communities by ensuring that rights, resources, and services are available to help rebuild the lives of victims;

Whereas although our Nation has steadily expanded rights, protections, and services for victims of crime, too many victims are still not able to realize the hope and promise of these expanded rights, protections, and services;

Whereas despite impressive accomplishments over the past 40 years in crime victims' rights and services, there remain many challenges to ensuring that all victims—

(1) are treated with fairness, dignity, and respect;

(2) are offered support and services regardless of whether they report the crimes committed against them to law enforcement; and

(3) are recognized as key participants in our system of justice when such crimes are reported;

Whereas justice systems in the United States should ensure that services are available for all victims of crime, including victims from underserved communities of our Nation;

Whereas observing victims' rights and treating victims with fairness, dignity, and respect serve the public interest by engaging victims in the justice system, inspiring respect for public authorities, and promoting confidence in public safety;

Whereas individuals in the United States recognize that our homes, neighborhoods, and communities are made safer and stronger by identifying and meeting the needs of crime victims and ensuring justice for all;

Whereas treating victims of crime with fairness, dignity, and respect, as encouraged and expressed by the theme of 2010 National Crime Victims' Rights Week, "Crime Victims' Rights: Fairness. Dignity. Respect.", costs nothing more than taking time to identify victims' needs and concerns, and effective collaboration among justice systems to meet such needs and concerns; and

Whereas 2010 National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 18 through April 24, 2010, provides an opportunity for justice systems in the United States to strive to reach the goal of justice for all by ensuring that all victims are afforded legal rights and provided with assistance as they face the financial, physical, spiritual, psychological, and social impact of crime: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the mission and goals of 2010 National Crime Victims' Rights Week to increase public awareness of—

(A) the impact on victims and survivors of crime; and

(B) the constitutional and statutory rights and needs of such victims and survivors;

(2) recognizes that fairness, dignity, and respect comprise the very foundation of how victims and survivors of crime should be treated; and

(3) directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the Office for Victims of Crime within the Office of Justice Programs of the Department of Justice.

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.