

The Monterey County Branch of the NAACP was created in 1932. Our chapter now ranks as one of the largest per capita branches in the United States and has been active in education and law—and we're all better for it. In 1947, the Fort Ord Army training base in Seaside, CA—one of the largest bases in the U.S.—was the first military base in the United States to be integrated.

As we recognize the great achievements of one of America's finest organizations, let us not forget that the struggle continues. Our country was founded on the ideal of equality for all, with the self-evident right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The mission of the NAACP is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination.

I want to thank the NAACP for 101 years of hard work. You've made America a stronger and better nation. I especially want to thank my constituent, Ben Jealous, now the youngest national president of the NAACP. Your work continues, but we congratulate you on this historic day.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and 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. 242.

The question was taken.

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

HONORING THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ON ITS 140TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1422) honoring the Department of Justice on the occasion of its 140th anniversary.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1422

Whereas the Department of Justice officially came into existence on July 1, 1870, through an Act of Congress establishing it as "an executive department of the government of the United States" with the Attorney General as its head;

Whereas pursuant to the Act, the Department was charged with providing the means for enforcing Federal laws, furnishing legal counsel in Federal cases, and construing the laws under which other Federal executive departments act;

Whereas there are currently 93 United States attorneys stationed throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands, serving as the Nation's principal litigators and chief Federal law enforcement officials for their specific region, under the direction of the Attorney General;

Whereas the Department of Justice comprises 7 specialized divisions, including the Antitrust Division, Civil Division, Civil Rights Division, Criminal Division, Environment and Natural Resources Division, National Security Division and the Tax Division, also including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Prisons, the United States Marshals Service, the U.S. Central Bureau-International Criminal Police Organization, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, and the Office of Justice Programs;

Whereas in 2006, the Department of Justice recognized the danger threatening the United States due to technology-assisted exploitation crimes targeting children, and responded by launching Project Safe Childhood, an effort which has resulted in record numbers of arrests and prosecutions of individuals who seek to commit sexual crimes against children;

Whereas in the past decade the Department of Justice has obtained approximately 1,300 convictions for financial crimes;

Whereas the Department of Justice responded to the significant increase in the number of firearms-related violent crimes in small geographic areas by creating the Violent Crime Impact Team (VCIT) initiative and since 2004 has arrested more than 14,100 gang members, drug dealers, felons in possession of firearms, and other violent criminals, including more than 2,800 identified as "worst of the worst" criminals;

Whereas the Department of Justice plays a key role in the fight against international drug trafficking;

Whereas in the past 8 years, the Department of Justice has disrupted 8, and dismantled 2, Priority Target Organizations (PTOs);

Whereas Operation FALCON (Federal and Local Cops Organized Nationally) is a series of nationwide fugitive apprehension operations coordinated by the Department of Justice, and has resulted in the collective capture of more than 55,896 dangerous fugitive felons since its inception in 2005;

Whereas since 2004, the Department of Justice has led the 2 largest multinational law enforcement efforts ever directed at online piracy, involving simultaneous efforts in 12 countries, more than 200 searches and arrests in more than 30 States, more than \$100,000,000 in seized pirated works, and a total of 112 felony convictions to date; and

Whereas the Department of Justice's accomplishments are numerous and have played a significant part in securing the safety and security of the families and communities of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) honors the Department of Justice on the occasion of its 140th anniversary;

(2) commends the men and women of the Department of Justice for their tireless commitment to pursuing justice, combating major domestic and international crimes, ensuring civil liberties, and protecting the people of the United States; and

(3) encourages the Department of Justice to continue its mission of pursuing the administration of justice for all people in the United States.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COHEN. I ask unanimous consent all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and add extraneous material.

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 1422 recognizes the 140th anniversary of the creation of the Department of Justice. Since 1870, the Department has been tasked with enforcing our laws, providing Federal leadership in securing the public safety, and ensuring the fair and impartial administration of justice for all Americans.

The Department has long been served with distinction and courage by attorneys, investigators, and prosecutors at Main Justice and in the field. Its divisions and components do important work for the American people in criminal law, civil litigation, environmental law, antitrust law, tax law, and administration of justice-related grants. We especially appreciate the efforts and sacrifices of the law enforcement officers serving in components such as the FBI, DEA, ATF, and the U.S. Marshals office.

I would like to highlight three important points today as we commemorate the 140th anniversary of the Department. First, the Department has played an integral part in promoting justice for all Americans. Since its creation, the Department has handled the legal business of the United States, with control over all criminal prosecutions and civil suits in which the United States has an interest.

Through the Civil Rights Division, the Department enforces Federal law, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, disability, religion, familial status, and national origin. Following the landmark Civil Rights Acts of the 1960s, the Department of Justice used its newfound authority to initiate desegregation of school districts across this Nation. And through its enforcement of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the Department helped curtail the injustice of African American voters being prevented from exercising what is an American right, the right to vote.

The Justice Department also continues to vigorously enforce the Americans with Disabilities Act, to ensure that people living with disabilities are not discriminated against in employment, by public entities and transportation, or in public accommodations.

The great strides we have made in securing rights for all Americans to attain an education, access the voting booth, and secure jobs and housing, regardless of race, gender, or national origin, are in no small part due to the thanks of the Department of Justice.

Second, the Department has played an important role in protecting Americans from acts of terrorism, whether

foreign or domestic. Since the terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center in 1993 and at the Federal Building in Oklahoma City in 1995 and the attacks on September 11, it's been the Department's highest priority to prosecute and bring to justice perpetrators of terrorism.

However, it is important that, in its effort to combat terrorism, the Department is equally vigilant in upholding justice and in observing the constitutional rights of Americans that it is responsible for enforcing. This means a commitment to due process and transparency, even in the most difficult situations. It also means Congress must be steadfast in its commitment to consistent and thorough oversight.

Third, the Department has taken on an increasingly active role in helping to secure public safety in its 140-year history. Notably, the Department's efforts to support community-based programs have seen dramatic success. For example, the Office of Violence Against Women is charged with providing national leadership in reducing domestic violence through the implementation of the Violence Against Women Act. Through 19 Violence Against Women Act grant programs, the Department is helping to develop the Nation's capacity to reduce domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, strengthening services to victims and holding offenders accountable, most important work in preserving the integrity of women and our commitment to individual freedoms.

In fiscal year 2009, the Office of Violence Against Women made nearly 1,100 awards. These grants have helped enable communities to develop coordinated responses to domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking—no trivial matters, Mr. Speaker. The grants have helped communities bring together dedicated individuals and advocates from diverse backgrounds to share information and to use their distinct roles to improve community responses to violence against women.

In addition, the Department's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, also known as the COPS Office, has promoted public safety through local investments, where police are involved in the community and show that policemen are the friends, and get a hold in the community to bring about public safety. The COPS program promotes this community policing by funding efforts by State and local authorities intended to put law enforcement professionals where they are most needed—on the streets. That way they can build mutually beneficial relationships with the people they serve, have a rapport that's necessary.

In closing, I would like to thank my colleague, Mr. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, for introducing this resolution. I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution. I couldn't let this resolution go by without remembering former U.S. Attorney Robert F. Kennedy, one of my heroes, who headed the Department of Justice.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 140th anniversary of the Department of Justice. The Judiciary Act of 1789, which was passed by the First Congress and signed into law by President George Washington, created the office of Attorney General, which eventually became the chief law enforcement officer of the Federal Government.

The Department of Justice began its work on July 1, 1870, through an act of Congress, with the Attorney General at its head. Since then, the Department has evolved into the world's largest law office and the central agency for the enforcement of Federal law.

Today, the Department strives to meet four goals in its pursuit of justice: First, protecting the public against foreign and domestic threats; second, ensuring the fair administration of justice in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution; third, assisting both State and local law enforcement agencies; and, fourth, defending the United States and its foreign interests.

Over the past decade, the Department has made significant efforts to protect the children of America. In 2006, through the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act, the Department of Justice created a national sex offender registry to better protect children by organizing sex offenders into three tiers. The act also created a nationwide DNA database and allows law enforcement to monitor dangerous sex offenders through the use of GPS technology.

Recognizing the dangers of technology-assisted exploitation crimes against children, the Department of Justice launched Project Safe Childhood, an effort that resulted in record numbers of arrests and prosecutions of individuals seeking to commit sexual crimes against children.

The AMBER Alert system, a Department of Justice directive, works to protect and save the lives of abducted children. Since the expansion of the system in 2003, more than 500 missing or exploited children have been safely recovered. Alerts are broadcast over the Internet, television and radio programming, electronic highway signs, lottery tickets, and text messaging.

Shortly after the September 11 attack, I introduced the USA PATRIOT Act, which afforded the Department of Justice new tools to detect and prevent terrorism, organized crime, and drug trafficking. The provisions of the act updated laws to reflect new threats and new technologies, facilitate better cooperation amongst government agencies, and updated and increased penalties for convicted terrorists. Since the act's passage in October 2001, the numbers of terrorist convictions and prosecutions by U.S. attorneys have soared. Make no mistake, the USA PA-

TRIT Act has contributed to the prevention of another large-scale terrorist attack on American soil.

The Justice Department has also made a commitment to protect Americans residing in areas riddled with gun and gang violence. It responded to the significant increase in the number of firearms-related crimes in small geographic areas by creating the Violent Crime Impact Team initiative.

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Since 2004, it has arrested more than 14,000 gang members, drug dealers, felons in possession of firearms, and other violent criminals, including more than 2,800 who have been identified as the "worst of the worst" criminals.

I applaud the work of the Department of Justice in its efforts to defend the American people and to administer justice while respecting and ensuring the rights and dignity entitled to all.

I encourage my colleagues to support House Resolution 1422.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I support House Resolution 1422 to honor the Department of Justice on the occasion of its 140th anniversary.

In 1870 Congress passed the "Act to Establish the Department of Justice." President Ulysses S. Grant signed the bill into law on June 22, 1870, and the Department of Justice officially began operations on July 1, 1870.

The Office of the Attorney General, created by the "Judiciary Act of 1789," was in need of more attorneys after the Civil War.

The 1870 Act met this need by creating the Department of Justice to oversee federal law enforcement as well as criminal prosecutions and civil suits in which the United States has an interest. The Act also created the Office of the Solicitor General.

While the 1870 Act still remains the foundation on which the Department of Justice stands, the structure of the Department of Justice has changed over the past 140 years.

Today the Department of Justice comprises seven litigating divisions and 93 United States attorneys and thousands of assistant United States attorneys who enforce our civil and criminal laws, including tax, environmental, and immigration laws, and defend the United States from claims.

The Department also oversees a number of federal law enforcement agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Marshals Service, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, and the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Among recent examples of the Department's work, we could look to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives' establishment of the Violent Crime Impact Team (VCIT) initiative in 2004. Since then, more than 14,000 violent criminals were arrested, including gang members, drug dealers, and felons in possession of firearms.

The Department is also combating gang and gun violence through programs like "Project Safe Neighborhoods." Since its inception in 2001, \$2 billion has been committed to "Project Safe Neighborhoods." Funding has been used to hire new prosecutors, support investigators, and promote community outreach and education.

In another area of great interest, during the past decade the Department secured approximately 1,300 convictions for financial crimes.

The Department has also been successful in combating crimes against children, drug trafficking, and counterterrorism efforts.

In 2006 the Department introduced "Project Safe Childhood" to combat predators who use the Internet to sexually exploit our children. Along with the FBI's "Innocent Images National Initiative," programs like these help break up networks of online pedophiles and rescue children who are victims of sexual exploitation.

With regard to drug trafficking, just this month the Department's "Project Deliverance" resulted in more than 2,200 arrests and the seizure of approximately 74 tons of drugs and \$154 million. This was the result of a 22-month operation. The Drug Enforcement Administration has been instrumental in bringing to justice those organizations and principal members responsible for the manufacture and distribution of illicit drugs throughout the United States.

Finally, the Department has played a key role in a number of operations to protect Americans from terrorist threats. The passage of the Patriot Act in 2001, its reauthorization in 2005, and various other counter-terrorism tools have proven helpful toward this end.

This resolution commends the work of the men and women in the Department of Justice who pursue and have pursued the administration of justice for the people of the United States. The essence of democracy is the rule of law. The Department of Justice hopefully stands as a defender of the rule of law.

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

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

Mr. COHEN. I want to thank Mr. SENSENBRENNER for bringing this important resolution honoring the Department of Justice, and I should have earlier thanked Mr. SMITH and Mr. SENSENBRENNER each for their work on the NAACP resolution.

I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. RICHARDSON). 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. 1422.

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. Madam 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 AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 879) supporting the goals and ideals of American Education Week, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 879

Whereas the National Education Association has designated November 14 through November 20, 2010, as the 89th annual observance of American Education Week;

Whereas public schools are the backbone of the Nation's democracy, providing young people with the tools they need to maintain the Nation's precious values of freedom, civility, and equality;

Whereas by equipping young people in the United States with both practical skills and broader intellectual abilities, public schools give them hope for, and access to, a productive future;

Whereas people working in the field of public education, be they teachers, higher education faculty and staff, custodians, substitute educators, bus drivers, clerical workers, food service professionals, workers in skilled trades, health and student service workers, security guards, technical employees, or librarians, work tirelessly to serve children and communities throughout the Nation with care and professionalism; and

Whereas public schools are community linchpins, bringing together adults, children, educators, volunteers, business leaders, and elected officials in a common enterprise: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of American Education Week; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Education Week by reflecting on the positive impact of all those who work together to educate children.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, it is my great privilege to rise in support of H. Res. 879. This measure encourages the people of the United States to observe National Education Week by reflecting on the positive impact of all those who work together to educate America's children. American Education Week spotlights the importance of providing every child in America with a quality public education from kindergarten through college and the need for everyone to do his or her part in making public schools great.

Madam Speaker, America's success in the 21st century will be determined by our ability to innovate, foster entre-

preneurship, and constantly improve the skill base of our workforce. We believe that the evolving demands of the global economy make education vital to sustainable social and economic success. We also believe that education is a fundamental human right and is the single most important investment in the future of individuals, communities, the Nation, and the world. We in Congress and we as a Nation must make it one of our highest priorities.

H. Res. 879 was introduced by our colleague, the gentleman from Idaho, Representative WALTER MINNICK, on October 29, 2009. The measure was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which ordered it reported by unanimous consent on May 6, 2010. The measure has the support of over 70 Members of the House.

I thank the gentleman from Idaho for introducing this measure.

And I'd also like to thank Chairman TOWNS and Ranking Member ISSA for their support for the bill.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of House Resolution 879, supporting the goals and ideals of American Education Week.

Thousands of teachers in our country inspire our young children to want to learn and to teach them the vital skills they need both to succeed in their future careers and in their lives. We also cannot forget about the librarians, the cafeteria staff, the coaches, the janitors, the bus drivers, the crossing guards, the administrators, all those employees who dedicate their time, effort and talents in order to make sure that our kids are enjoying a safe environment and that they're welcomed into the classrooms and that they truly learn.

Teachers simply do not receive the gratitude that they deserve. Most people can remember that one teacher who inspired them in some way and urged them to explore a subject further. Many of us simply would not have the same lives or careers without a special teacher to guide us.

For me, that was Mr. Kobiashi in the fifth grade, who really inspired me to have a true appreciation for the environment and a true understanding of our oceans and all the living creatures and just inspired me to be a better person. I still remember him to this day and can't thank him enough for the service and the thousands of untold lives that he had touched along the way.

Those are special people, and they ought to be recognized for their efforts, and while I know that this resolution is important, they truly get the satisfaction that they deserve and that they need by inspiring those young people throughout our country.

Yet for all the effort and tireless hours the teachers put in every single