

judge to impose an injunction against the Federal Government's unscientific drilling ban. And in just the last hour, a U.S. district judge has ruled the administration was wrong in illegally summarily stopping deepwater drilling. It is unfortunate the administration has to be sued by the people of this country to keep it from destroying American jobs.

And that's just the way it is.

COMMENDING ARIZONA EDUCATORS

(Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, to succeed in today's global economy, our children need a great education. And as any mom knows, a great education comes from great teachers, working hard and giving every student the attention they deserve.

Though schools are starting their summer breaks, Arizona's teachers, administrators, and support staff are still putting in very long days. They are taking the time to get ready for fall so they can work with parents to help their students along the path to college or the job they want.

Even as many of our State's educators face layoffs and pay cuts this year, they remained devoted to making sure our kids can realize their potential and their dreams. In my district, where we have been hit hard by the downturn, they are finding creative ways to do their jobs with fewer resources.

As parents and as citizens, we owe our teachers, administrators, and support staff thanks for all their efforts. This Congress should do whatever it can to better support them in the coming school year.

NATIONAL MEDIA REVEAL DOUBLE STANDARD

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in 2006, the current House majority leader said enacting a budget was "the most basic responsibility of governing."

Now he says that the Democratic majority will not even pass a budget this year. The House has passed a budget every year since the Budget Act became law in 1974. If House Republicans had failed to pass a budget during an economic crisis such as this, it would be the lead story on every network news program and the lead editorial in every newspaper.

Instead, the national media have collectively yawned and have given the Democrats a free pass. The Democratic majority doesn't want to pass a budget because it will expose their run-away spending.

Americans want Congress to pass a responsible budget that will get gov-

ernment spending under control and reduce the national debt.

COMMENDING REAL MEN COOK FOR CHARITY

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the Real Men Cook for Charity in Chicago for its annual event which was held on Sunday, Father's Day, at the Kennedy King College for the purpose of promoting healthy lifestyles, family values, and community spirit.

As is usually the case, it was well-attended by hundreds of individuals and their families as a tribute to fathers. I again commend them for this great activity.

RECOGNIZING IMPORTANCE OF PASSING A BUDGET

(Mr. BOOZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, when hardworking Arkansans receive their paychecks, they are forced to make difficult decisions about their finances and how to spend their money. Arkansas families are forced to tighten their belts in this economic climate and change their spending habits, and they expect Washington to do the same.

It is the job of Congress to be responsible stewards of taxpayer money, but not passing a budget is far from responsible. It is a failure by the majority to govern at its most basic level.

The level of discretionary spending increases and spending in the past year has become unsustainable. Failing to produce a budget only places future burdens on our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

We need fiscal discipline and a balanced budget that controls the national debt, does not raise taxes, and achieves lower deficits. Not passing a budget for the first time in modern history demonstrates how out of touch Speaker PELOSI and Majority Leader HOYER are with the American people. We owe it to the American people to do better.

HONORING ALFONSO OBREGON

(Mr. CUELLAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of an outstanding citizen of Pearsall, Texas, for his educational contributions to the community.

Mr. Alfonso Obregon recently retired as a public school superintendent with 30 years of experience. He retires with an exceptional background, having earned a bachelor's degree in education and a master's degree in education ad-

ministration. Mr. Obregon has dedicated 38 years to education, including 30 years as an accomplished superintendent. He started off in the 1970s teaching elementary and junior high school. He was promoted to superintendent for the Dilley Independent School District. From there he went to Progreso Independent School District, Asherton Independent School District and recently retired from the Charlotte Independent School District.

Throughout his career, he has been one who has served the public and has taught our children the difference between right and wrong.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to have time to recognize Mr. Alfonso Obregon, a great educator for south Texas.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 18, 2010.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, Capitol, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in clause 2(h) of rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on June 18, 2010 at 2:57 p.m.:

That the Senate agreed to S.J. Res. 33.

That the Senate passed with amendments H.R. 3962.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 242.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair 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 after 6 p.m. today.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL MEN'S HEALTH WEEK

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 288) supporting National Men's Health Week.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 288

Whereas despite the advances in medical technology and research, men continue to live an average of more than 5 years less than women and African-American men have the lowest life expectancy;

Whereas 9 of the 10 leading causes of death, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, affect men at a higher percentage than women;

Whereas between the ages of 45 and 54, men are 1½ times more likely than women to die of heart attacks;

Whereas men die of heart disease at 1½ times the rate of women;

Whereas men die of cancer at almost 1½ times the rate of women;

Whereas testicular cancer is one of the most common cancers in men between the ages of 15 and 34, and when detected early, has a 96 percent survival rate;

Whereas the number of cases of colon cancer among men was almost 49,470 in 2010, and almost half of such men died from the disease;

Whereas the likelihood that a man will develop prostate cancer is 1 in 6;

Whereas the number of men developing prostate cancer in 2010 will reach more than 217,730 and an estimated 32,050 of them will die from the disease;

Whereas African-American men in the United States have the highest incidence of prostate cancer in the world;

Whereas significant numbers of male-related health problems, such as prostate cancer, testicular cancer, infertility, and colon cancer, could be detected and treated if men's awareness of such problems was more pervasive;

Whereas more than half of the elderly widows now living in poverty were not poor before the death of their husbands, and by age 100 women outnumber men 4 to 1;

Whereas educating both the public and health care providers about the importance of early detection of male health problems will result in reducing rates of mortality for these diseases;

Whereas appropriate use of tests such as Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) exams and blood pressure and cholesterol screens, in conjunction with clinical examination and self-testing for problems such as testicular cancer, can result in the detection of many of these problems in their early stages and increases in the survival rates to nearly 100 percent;

Whereas women are twice as likely as men to visit the doctor for annual examinations and preventive services;

Whereas men are less likely than women to visit their health center or physician for regular screening examinations of male-related problems for a variety of reasons, including fear, lack of health insurance, lack of information, and cost factors;

Whereas National Men's Health Week was established by Congress and first celebrated in 1994 and urges men and their families to engage in appropriate health behaviors, and the resulting increased awareness has improved health-related education and helped prevent illness;

Whereas the Governors of all 50 States issue proclamations annually declaring Men's Health Week in their States;

Whereas since 1994, National Men's Health Week has been celebrated each June by dozens of States, cities, localities, public health departments, health care entities, churches, and community organizations throughout the Nation that promote health awareness events focused on men and family;

Whereas the National Men's Health Week Web site has been established at www.menshealthweek.org and features Governors' proclamations and National Men's Health Week events;

Whereas men who are educated about the value that preventive health can play in prolonging their lifespan and their role as productive family members will be more likely to participate in health screenings;

Whereas men and their families are encouraged to increase their awareness of the importance of a healthy lifestyle, regular exercise, and medical checkups; and

Whereas June 14 through June 20, 2010, is National Men's Health Week, which has the purpose of heightening the awareness of preventable health problems and encouraging early detection and treatment of disease among men and boys: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) supports the annual National Men's Health Week; and

(2) requests that the President of the United States issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States and interested groups to observe National Men's Health Week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. 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 gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

On behalf of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I present House Concurrent Resolution 288 for consideration. This resolution expresses our support for the goals and ideals of the annual National Men's Health Week, the observance of which is designed to heighten awareness of preventable health problems and encourage early detection and treatment of disease among men.

H. Con. Res. 288 was introduced by my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS), on June 14, 2010. It was reported out of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform by unanimous consent on June 17, 2010. H. Con. Res. 288 enjoys bipartisan support from over 50 cosponsors.

□ 1415

Mr. Speaker, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 9 of the 10 leading causes of death in America among men, including heart disease and cancer, affect men at a significantly higher percentage than women. In addition, the CDC has reported that women are 100 percent more likely than men to seek annual medical examinations and preventative health care. Moreover, health statistics also indicate that despite advances in medical care, men continue to live an average of approximately 6 fewer years than women, with African American men having the lowest life expectancy.

Nonetheless, many male-related health problems, including prostate

cancer, testicular cancer, and colon cancer are treatable upon early detection. Specifically, the use of prostate cancer-specific antigen exams, blood pressure screenings, and other exams, when coupled with clinical examination and self-testing for testicular cancer, can lead to early detection and increase survival rates to nearly 100 percent.

Accordingly, we must do more to encourage healthy behavior and disease prevention within America's male population. A more concentrated focus upon male-related health conditions such as prostate, colon, and testicular cancer, along with a genuine commitment to addressing heart health, will go a long way toward ensuring that men have access to critical health information.

In addition, it is important to remember that prevention and treatment of men's health conditions are critical not only to men, but also to the health and well-being of the American family. Having just recently celebrated Father's Day, I believe that it is important for this legislative body to recognize men's health from a family perspective.

Furthermore, while an effort to encourage prevention and wellness among the male population can help meet our primary goal of improving health outcomes, in the aggregate, utilization of these preventive services can lower health costs that currently are spiraling out of control.

Mr. Speaker, since 1994, National Men's Health Week has served as a catalyst for increased attention towards men's health issues. So I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting House Concurrent Resolution 288, recognizing the tremendous importance of these efforts.

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 288, supporting National Men's Health Week. In 1994, Congress established National Men's Health Awareness Week to be celebrated the week leading up to Father's Day. This week brings national attention to the critical health issues facing men and highlights the preventative measures that are necessary and available.

Every day men are reminded about the benefits of living a healthy life. Whether it's through exercise, a balanced diet, or regular visits to the doctor, these simple steps can lead to long, vibrant lives. Sadly, many men still neglect the basic preventative measures and often fail to realize the ripple effect their declining health can have on those around them.

Men have a shorter lifespan than women. On average, men live 5 years less than women. Men are also 1½ times more likely to die from heart attacks, heart disease, and cancer than

women. The reality is that men all too often neglect to seek out the medical initiatives they need. Early detection is vital and, in many cases, increases the chances for survival.

Men's Health Awareness Week helps bring this information to light and highlights the proactive steps that men can take to improve their chances for a long, healthy life. The benefits of a more proactive approach to men's health extends not only to the individual, but to their family, friends, taxpayers, and employers.

I urge my colleagues not only to support this resolution but honor its message. Men's Health Awareness Week helps broaden our understanding of serious health risks and the simple steps we can all take to help mitigate their effects.

I ask my fellow Members to join me in support of this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it's now my pleasure to yield such time as he may consume to the author of this resolution, the very distinguished gentleman from Maryland, Representative ELIJAH CUMMINGS.

Mr. CUMMINGS. I want to thank the gentleman for yielding. My appreciation also goes out to Chairman TOWNS for moving this resolution recognizing National Men's Health Week through the Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

This past Sunday, many of us celebrated Father's Day, which also marked the end of National Men's Health Week that is celebrated from June 14 through June 20. The need for this legislation could not be more evident. Despite advances in medical technology and research, men continue to live an average of more than 5 years less than women, and African American men have the lowest life expectancy of all groups.

Further, 9 out of the 10 leading causes of death, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, affect men at a higher percentage rate than women. Men simply are not getting the care they need. Women are twice as likely as men to visit the doctor for annual examinations and preventive services.

By the way, the research shows that most men who are the beneficiaries of early diagnosis and treatment with regard to many, many diseases have been urged to go to the doctor by a woman in their life, a significant other, a sister, a wife. But women are quite often the ones who also make the decisions for the family and sometimes drag us men to the doctor's office kicking and screaming.

Men are also less likely than women to visit their health center or physician for regular screening examinations or gender-related problems for a variety of reasons, including fear, lack of health insurance, lack of information, and cost factors. Quite often, men believe in this macho concept that they can get over anything, that it's

just a small thing. Although their heart is aching, they say, well, I will get over it and everything will be all right. And the next thing you know, he lands in the hospital or, sadly, lands in the cemetery.

The disparity in men's health has led to increased risks of death from heart disease and cancer. But these problems do not only affect men. More than half of the elderly widows now living in poverty were not poor before the death of their husbands. And by age 100, women outnumber men four to one.

We simply must get more men the early care and education they need to lead long and healthy lives. That is why I am advocating for the recognition of June 14 through 20 as National Men's Health Week. We need to educate both the public and health care providers about the importance of early detection of male health problems that will result in reducing rates of mortality for common diseases.

Appropriate use of tests such as prostate-specific antigen exams, blood pressure screenings, and cholesterol screenings, in conjunction with clinical examination and self-testing for problems such as testicular cancer, can result in the detection of many of these problems in their early stages and increases in their survival rates to nearly 100 percent.

The number of men developing prostate cancer in 2010 will reach more than 217,000, and an estimated 32,000 of them will, sadly, die from this disease. This week is designed to encourage men and their families to engage in appropriate health behaviors, and the resulting increased awareness has improved health-related education and helped prevent illness.

National Men's Health Week was established by Congress in 1994. And on a more local note, just a few weeks ago I invited men to come in to Mercy Hospital in my district in downtown Baltimore to get prostate exams. I also invited women to come in to get mammograms. I just received a report today that of the 100 or so people that came in, 20 percent of them, 20 percent of them were in a position where they needed care, and if they did not get the care, it probably would have led to very, very, very serious debilitating circumstances or even death. So that's a perfect example of why we need to emphasize men's health and, by the way, women's health.

Men who are educated about the value that preventive health can play in prolonging their lifespan and their role as productive family members will be more likely to participate in preventive care. One of the things that a lot of people don't think about is the fact that there are many men, if they simply took the precautions, if they simply got the exams, they would be around for a lot more Father's Days. And a lot of folks don't realize that to have loved ones around for many, many years is so very, very significant, and, as the commercial says, it is simply priceless.

Again, I want to thank Chairman TOWNS and Chairman DAVIS for their support, and I encourage my colleagues to join me and the 60 other cosponsors in supporting this resolution.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend, again, Representative CUMMINGS for his introduction of this very important resolution. I also want to commend the community health centers in my congressional district, and especially the Near North Health Corporation, for their focus on men's health.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this measure.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Representative CUMMINGS for introducing H. Con. Res. 288, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Men's Health Week, and to urge my colleagues to support this important resolution.

National Men's Health Week took place from June 14–20, ending with Father's Day, this past Sunday. The United States celebrated National Men's Health Week to encourage men to live healthy lives, in particular by undergoing precautionary health tests. National Men's Health Week is of vital importance as it helps heighten awareness of preventable health problems and also encourages early detection and treatment of disease and injury among not only men, but young boys as well. Early detection lessens the impact and cost of disease, improves, and often save lives. By encouraging preventive National Men's Health Week and treatment of men's health issues is essential because these issues not only affect men across the nation, but the women, children and all other families members involved in a man's life.

The lessons of Men's Health Week have a personal significance for me. Nearly 20 years ago, I went in for a check-up due to constant fatigue and found out that I had Hepatitis C. Thanks, in part, to early detection, I was able to get proper treatment and fight back fiercely against the disease. I am able to stand here now, medication-free and healthy, because of early detection and treatment.

Today, thanks to this Congress, everyone in the United States—including men—have access to affordable health. The health reform law that I supported provides incentives to seek preventive care and makes that care affordable. I urge my male colleagues in Congress and men around the country to see their doctor for regular check-ups, to get screened and tested, and to do what they can to live healthier lives.

I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution which encourages men to take simple steps for a longer, healthier, and happier life.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is well known that one of the most important factors in access to medical care is health insurance. Recent Center of Disease Control and Prevention data show that young men are 36 percent more likely to be uninsured than young women. Additionally, young adults without insurance are four times as likely as those with private insurance to have unmet medical needs.

However, even when young men have insurance, they are less likely to seek medical care. Less than 60 percent of young men with Medicaid coverage had an annual doctor visit, compared to over 90 percent of young women. These behavior patterns can lead to missed opportunities for early intervention in a number of medical conditions and chronic illnesses, especially those that are exclusive to or disproportionately effect men.

Beyond expanding health insurance coverage, therefore, it is necessary to improve men's uptake of healthcare services. The first step towards this goal is to increase awareness about men's health issues. I applaud the current resolution in support of National Men's Health Week, as well as the request that interested groups observe with appropriate ceremonies and activities. By educating men about the available predictive screening and preventive care, we can help our nation's fathers, husbands, brothers and sons to live longer, healthier lives.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. 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 Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 288.

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. DAVIS of Illinois. 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 JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 546) recognizing the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day, and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that history should be regarded as a means for understanding the past and more effectively facing the challenges of the future.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 546

Whereas news of the end of slavery did not reach frontier areas of the United States, and in particular the Southwestern States, for more than 2 years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863, and months after the conclusion of the Civil War;

Whereas, on June 19, 1865, Union soldiers led by Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War had ended and that the enslaved were free;

Whereas African-Americans who had been slaves in the Southwest celebrated June 19, commonly known as Juneteenth Independence Day, as the anniversary of their emancipation;

Whereas African-Americans from the Southwest continue the tradition of Juneteenth Independence Day as inspiration and encouragement for future generations;

Whereas for more than 135 years, Juneteenth Independence Day celebrations have been held to honor African-American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures;

Whereas although Juneteenth Independence Day is beginning to be recognized as a national, and even global, event, the history behind the celebration should not be forgotten; and

Whereas the faith and strength of character demonstrated by former slaves remains an example for all people of the United States, regardless of background, religion, or race: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the House of Representatives recognizes the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day to the Nation;

(2) the House of Representatives supports the continued celebration of Juneteenth Independence Day to provide an opportunity for the people of the United States to learn more about the past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped the Nation; and

(3) it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(A) history should be regarded as a means for understanding the past and more effectively facing the challenges of the future; and

(B) the celebration of the end of slavery is an important and enriching part of the history and heritage of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 546, a resolution that recognizes the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day and expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that history should be regarded as a means for understanding the past and more effectively facing the challenges of the future. I am delighted that we can bring this measure to the floor today.

I introduced H. Res. 546 on June 15, 2009, and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform ordered it to be reported by unanimous consent on June 17, 2010. It comes to the floor with over 60 cosponsors. I am pleased to join with them in recognizing this important day.

Juneteenth, or the 19th of June, recognizes June 19, 1865, when, in Galveston, Texas, Union General Gordon Granger announced freedom for all slaves in the Southwest.

□ 1430

This was the last major vestige of slavery in the United States following the end of the Civil War. This event occurred more than 2½ years after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued by President Abraham Lincoln. Upon reading of General Order No. 3 by General Granger, the former slaves celebrated jubilantly, establishing America's second independence day celebration and the oldest African American holiday observance.

Since that time over 145 years ago, the descendants of slaves have observed this anniversary of emancipation as a remembrance of one of the most tragic periods in our Nation's history. The suffering, degradation, and brutality of slavery cannot be repaired; but the memory can serve to ensure that no such inhumanity is ever perpetrated again on American soil.

Today, Juneteenth celebrates African American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures. This celebration of the end of slavery is an important and enriching part of the history and heritage of the United States. I, therefore, ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the passage of this measure.

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H. Res. 546, recognizing the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day. It is important to once again remember a day when the wants and needs of the people brought our country out of one of the darkest stages of its history. It is through recognition of such an incredible achievement that we are able to pave the way for many more like it.

On June 19, 1865, 2,000 Federal soldiers marched into Galveston and notified the slaves of Texas that their lives of servitude were over. Amazingly, this action took place more than 2 years after President Lincoln's famous Emancipation Proclamation speech was delivered.

Over 100 years later, Juneteenth serves as a time when we can celebrate the true end to slavery in the United States. June 19, commonly known as Juneteenth, also reminds us that it is our duty to constantly work to better our country. On this day, we celebrate culture and, more importantly, emancipation. It is important that our children learn along with our families about the times surrounding the Civil War, but also of this monumental achievement that followed that June day in Galveston.

By taking time to celebrate Juneteenth Independence Day, we honor the richness, diversity, and heritage of all races in our Nation. I ask all my fellow Members to join me in support of H. Res. 546.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of "Juneteenth," the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the