

the will of the people and the laws of our great Nation. The United States has made great strides of improvement and we continue to press forward to obtain those values in which we hold dear.

Juneteenth became an official State holiday through the efforts of Al Edwards, an African-American State legislator from Texas in 1980. The successful passage of this bill marked Juneteenth as the first emancipation celebration granted official State recognition. As of March 2010, 36 States have followed suit in the celebrations and the adoption of this historic day. In my district, we actively celebrate this holiday through, reenactments, of the reading of the Emancipation Proclamation at Ashton Villa and various parades and musical events all across Houston.

Juneteenth is a day to reflect upon the African-American experience and it includes all races, ethnicities and nationalities. It is a symbolic reference point of our progress and the contributions we have made to make this country what it is today. Juneteenth is a time to reconnect with loved ones and have a renewed sense of community.

In conclusion, I am reminded of what President Obama stated 2 years ago pertaining to Juneteenth and the continued pursuit of the values embedded in this day:

We pause to remember that our nation has made tremendous progress, but has many miles to go on the long march toward finally fulfilling the ideals of this country. When too many Americans go without affordable healthcare or a quality education; when neighborhoods unravel due to a housing market in crisis; when special interests hold their thumbs on the scale of opportunity; we have more work to do.

Juneteenth is a day for celebration of freedom and family, but also a day that calls us all to rededicate ourselves to the convictions at the heart of our American experiment. It reminds us that with the work of each successive generation, we come closer to the realization of that more perfect union.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting 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 Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 546.

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. 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 NATIONAL CARIBBEAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1369) recog-

nizing the significance of National Caribbean-American Heritage Month.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1369

Whereas people of Caribbean heritage are found in every State of the Union;

Whereas emigration from the Caribbean region to the American Colonies began as early as 1619 with the arrival of indentured workers in Jamestown, Virginia;

Whereas during the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries, a significant number of slaves from the Caribbean region were brought to the United States;

Whereas since 1820, millions of people have emigrated from the Caribbean region to the United States;

Whereas like the United States, the countries of the Caribbean faced obstacles of slavery and colonialism and struggled for independence;

Whereas also like the United States, the people of the Caribbean region have diverse racial, ethnic, cultural, and religious backgrounds;

Whereas the independence movements throughout the Caribbean during the 1960s and the consequential establishment of independent democratic countries in the Caribbean strengthened ties between the region and the United States;

Whereas Alexander Hamilton, a founding father of the United States and the first Secretary of the Treasury, was born in the Caribbean;

Whereas many influential Caribbean-Americans have contributed to the rich history of the United States, including Jean Baptiste Pointe du Sable, the pioneer settler of Chicago; Claude McKay, a poet of the Harlem Renaissance; James Weldon Johnson, the writer of the Black National Anthem; Celia Cruz, the world-renowned queen of Salsa music; and Shirley Chisholm, the first African-American Congresswoman and first African-American woman candidate for President;

Whereas the many influential Caribbean-Americans in the history of the United States also include Colin Powell, the first African-American Secretary of State; Sidney Poitier, the first African-American actor to receive the Academy Award for best actor in a leading role; Harry Belafonte, a musician, actor, and activist; Al Roker, a meteorologist and television personality; and Roberto Clemente, the first Latino inducted into the baseball hall of fame;

Whereas Caribbean-Americans have played an active role in the civil rights movement and other social and political movements in the United States;

Whereas Caribbean-Americans have contributed greatly to the fine arts, education, business, literature, journalism, sports, fashion, politics, government, the military, music, science, technology, and other fields in the United States;

Whereas Caribbean-Americans share their culture through festivals, carnivals, music, dance, film, and literature, which enrich the cultural landscape of the United States;

Whereas the countries of the Caribbean are important economic partners of the United States;

Whereas the countries of the Caribbean represent the United States' third border;

Whereas the people of the Caribbean region share the hopes and aspirations of the people of the United States for peace and prosperity throughout the Western Hemisphere and the rest of the world;

Whereas since the passage of H. Con. Res. 71 in the 109th Congress by both the Senate

and the House of Representatives, a proclamation has been issued annually by the President declaring June National Caribbean-American Heritage Month; and

Whereas June is an appropriate month to establish a Caribbean-American Heritage Month: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Congress—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Caribbean-American Heritage Month;

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe Caribbean-American Heritage Month with appropriate ceremonies, celebrations, and activities; and

(3) affirms that—

(A) the contributions of Caribbean-Americans are a significant part of the history, progress, and heritage of the United States; and

(B) the ethnic and racial diversity of the United States enriches and strengthens the Nation.

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 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.

Before I begin, I know that Representative BARBARA LEE, who is the author of this resolution, had wanted to be here to express her opinions and positions on it. Unfortunately, she could not.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1369, a resolution that recognizes National Caribbean-American Heritage Month. Congress has taken time each year since 2006 to recognize Americans of Caribbean descent for their contributions to our Nation, and I am glad we can bring this measure to the floor today.

H. Res. 1369 was introduced by my friend and colleague, Representative BARBARA LEE, on May 18, 2010, 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 50 cosponsors, and I am pleased to join them in celebrating the rich heritage of Caribbean Americans.

Millions of people from the Caribbean islands have emigrated to our shores for centuries. We acknowledge that many arrived here in bondage and against their will as slaves and indentured servants, and their struggles for freedom reverberate even today.

Today, we are a better Nation for having them here. Caribbean Americans include such cultural figures as the poet Claude McKay, musician and television star Hazel Scott, actor and activist Harry Belafonte, as well as political leaders from Alexander Hamilton to former Secretary of State

Colin Powell and our current Attorney General, Eric Holder. These and countless other Caribbean Americans have made invaluable contributions to our Nation, and it is right that we honor them today.

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 in support of H. Res. 1369, recognizing the significance of National Caribbean-American Heritage Month. For the past 4 years, our country has proudly recognized the contributions that Caribbean Americans have made to our lives and our country. Since 1619, when the first Caribbean people came to the United States as indentured servants to Jamestown, the Caribbean people have held a place in our growth and development.

We are proud to count among them, as we heard earlier, leaders in government, the military and the arts. The first Secretary of the Treasury and one of our Founding Fathers, Alexander Hamilton, was born in the Caribbean. Former General and Secretary of State Colin Powell; Academy Award winner and musician, Sydney Poitier; and social activist, Harry Belafonte, are all of Caribbean heritage.

There are many similarities in the histories of the United States and the countries of the Caribbean. The United States and the countries of the Caribbean both have endured the trials of slavery, colonialism, and the struggle for independence. The separate countries of the Caribbean share a diverse racial, ethnic, cultural, and religious background that is comparable to our multicultural Nation. These similarities are but a few ties that bind our countries together.

The countries of the Caribbean are also important economic partners of the United States and, importantly, represent the United States' third border. They share our commitment to peace and prosperity throughout our hemisphere. These common goals make our countries both strategically and culturally long-time allies.

I ask all my fellow Members to join me in celebrating National Caribbean-American Heritage Month and recognize the contributions Caribbean Americans have made to the history of the United States.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1369, recognizing the significance of National Caribbean-American Heritage month. This resolution acknowledges the important contributions Caribbean-Americans have made to our nation's history and culture.

Let me begin by thanking Chairman TOWNS, Ranking Member ISSA, and the staff of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee for helping to bring this bipartisan resolution to the floor today. I would also like to thank Congressman DAVIS for managing the floor and for graciously submitting my statement for the RECORD in my absence.

I would also like to recognize my colleagues—Congresswoman CHRISTENSEN, Con-

gresswoman CLARKE, Congresswoman JACKSON LEE, Congresswoman WATERS, Congressman PAYNE, and Congressman BURTON—and others for their tremendous leadership on Caribbean issues.

I would also like to acknowledge Dr. Claire Nelson and the Institute of Caribbean Studies—and all the other Caribbean-American organizations in Washington, my home state of California, and across the country that have worked and continue to work to make Caribbean-American Heritage Month a great success.

As a long-time supporter of the Caribbean and a frequent visitor to the region, I was very proud to see us celebrate this important commemorative month for the fifth straight year. Since Congress unanimously passed H. Con. Res. 71 in February 2006, the President has issued a proclamation annually recognizing June as Caribbean-American Heritage Month. This year, President Obama issued a proclamation on May 28.

People of Caribbean heritage reside in every part of our country. Since before our nation's founding, millions of people have emigrated from the Caribbean to the United States.

Throughout U.S. history we have been fortunate to benefit from countless individuals of Caribbean descent who have contributed to American government, politics, business, arts, education, and culture—including one of my personal mentors, the Honorable Shirley Chisholm.

Shirley Chisholm was a woman of Ba-jan and Guyanese descent, who never forgot her roots in the Caribbean. She was the first African American woman elected to Congress and the first woman to run for President.

My political involvement began as a volunteer during her historic presidential campaign in 1972. Through her mentorship, she strengthened my interest in issues of importance to the African Diaspora both here in the U.S. and abroad.

During Caribbean-American Heritage Month, we recognize the important contributions of people like Shirley Chisholm, as well as Alexander Hamilton, Hazel Scott, Sidney Poitier, Wyclef Jean, Eric Holder, Colin Powell, Harry Belafonte, Roberto Clemente, Celia Cruz—and yes, Congresswomen DONNA CHRISTENSEN, SHEILA JACKSON LEE, and YVETTE CLARKE—and many other persons of Caribbean descent who have helped shape this country.

Caribbean-American Heritage Month reminds us of the large and diverse constituencies of Caribbean-Americans in our nation, and provides us with an opportunity to send a message of good will to the community at home and abroad.

Caribbean-American Heritage Month also provides us with an opportunity to celebrate and share in the rich culture of the Caribbean-American community through showcases of Caribbean art, festivals, concerts, and film.

In my own district of Oakland, California, individuals and organizations celebrate the rich heritage of people of Caribbean descent through musical concerts and family picnics.

In addition to presenting us with an occasion to celebrate the legacy of Caribbean-Americans, this month also provides us an opportunity to strengthen our long-term partnership with nations of the Caribbean Community.

From trade, energy, and immigration to disaster preparedness, HIV/AIDS and—as recent

events in Jamaica have made clear—drug-related violence, we share a number of mutual policy interests with our Caribbean neighbors. These challenges are regional in nature, so we must confront them together and in partnership.

One issue which I think deserves a special mention is the recent earthquake and resulting tragedy that has unfolded in Haiti. Like many of my CBC colleagues, I have followed Haiti's progress for some time now and have visited the country on multiple occasions.

The American people, including Haitian Americans, have responded incredibly to the tragedy just off our shores—and along with the international community we have conducted one of the largest humanitarian responses in history.

Once the cameras are gone and Haiti slips off the front pages and the 24-hour news cycle, it is up to us to ensure that the United States maintains its attention on the plights of the Haitian people.

Last year, I introduced H.R. 417, the Next Steps for Haiti Act, to create a professional exchange program to assign U.S. professionals, particularly Haitian-Americans, in Haiti to provide technical assistance in fields critical to development. Such an initiative would tap into the vast energy and knowledge of the Haitian Diaspora to promote long-term capacity building.

H.R. 417 is just one of a number of initiatives that the U.S. can establish to promote the reconstruction of the country.

The recent tragedy in Haiti provides us, to use an oft-quoted phrase, with an opportunity to “rebuild Haiti differently.” I believe that in order to rebuild differently, in a manner that is sustainable and works to end—not promote—Haiti's dependence on foreign aid, we must promote ownership amongst the Haitian people.

It is critical that any long-term reconstruction and development agenda is Haitian-led, that Haitian civil society and the Haitian Diaspora play a central role, and that such an agenda focuses on building the capacity of the Haitian Government to provide basic services and protect the social, civil, and political rights of its people.

Only by empowering Haitians to rebuild their own lives and their own country will we truly “rebuild differently.”

I would like to end by stating that although the Caribbean faces many challenges, we understand that we must face them together. Despite the often turbulent history between the United States and Caribbean countries, our ties cannot be pinned down to geography alone, or economics alone, or even history alone. The region continues to shape us as Americans as much as we here continue to shape the Caribbean.

So I ask all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this measure to honor the Caribbean-American community, and to honor the rich gifts that they have given and continue to give this country.

Let us continue to celebrate the rich diversity of this nation of immigrants and recognize that it will forever be the great blessing and strength of our country.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support of H. Res. 1369, which recognizes the significance of National Caribbean-American Heritage Month.

As a child of Jamaican parents, I understand the importance of recognizing the influence Caribbean cultures continues to have on

the many facets of these United States. Growing up, my parents instilled in me a strong appreciation for the Caribbean values they learned in Jamaica: a strong work ethic and tremendous pride in my heritage. As a parent, I have passed on these same values to my own children, so they will develop a sense of pride in their Caribbean heritage and acknowledge the many roles Caribbean people play in shaping this nation. I wholeheartedly support this resolution that commemorates Caribbean heritage, history, culture and contributions to the United States.

In her 1970 autobiography, Shirley Chisholm, the first black woman elected to Congress, credited her success to the education she received while attending school in Barbados. She wrote, "Years later I would know what an important gift my parents had given me by seeing to it that I had my early education in the strict, traditional, British-style schools of Barbados. If I speak and write easily now, that early education is the main reason."

This is a nation built by immigrants. From as early as the 17th century there have been individuals from the Caribbean Islands, working here in the United States as indentured servants in the colony of Jamestown, Virginia. They worked in fields picking cotton, tobacco and crops just as the slaves did.

Caribbean immigrants have been contributing to the well-being of American society since its founding. Alexander Hamilton, the First Secretary of the Treasury was from the Caribbean island of St. Kitts. We count among our famous sons and daughters, Secretary of State Colin Powell, Cicely Tyson, W.E.B. Dubois, James Weldon Johnson, Harry Belafonte and Sidney Poitier to name a few.

Moreover, this is a nation that reaches out to immigrants. None of us will forget the earthquake that shook Haiti to its very foundations in every sense of the word on January 12, 2010. Since then, we have all seen the outpouring of support to the Haitian people and their families on behalf of the American people.

What fewer notice perhaps, are the powerful contributions that Haitians have made to America, its history and its culture. In 1779 soldiers from then Saint Dominique, now Haiti, fought alongside American revolutionaries. Despite the fact that the then slave-holding United States did not look favorably upon an Independence Movement it saw as a dangerous slave rebellion, many historians attribute the Louisiana Purchase partly to the fact that Haitian slaves rose up against their French masters from 1794 to 1801. Haitian born Jean Baptiste Pointe du Sable founded Chicago, one of our great cities. And Americans from coast to coast have enjoyed the contributions Wyclef Jean, another of Haiti's sons, has made to our musical culture. Indeed, from history to food to music, Haiti has a long history of helping to shape America.

H. Res. 1369 recognizes the significance of Caribbean people and their descendants in the history and culture of the United States. Our nation would not be what it is today without these significant contributions of the Caribbean people and we should honor these accomplishments with the passing of this legislation. The contributions of Caribbean-Americans are a significant part of the history, progress, and heritage of the United States and play an important role in the unique diversity that enriches and strengthens our nation.

By passing this legislation we continue to honor the friendship between the United States and Caribbean countries. We are united by our common values and shared history, and we should celebrate the rich Caribbean Heritage and the many ways in which Caribbean Americans have helped shape this nation.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution to pay tribute to the common culture and bonds of friendship that unite the United States and the Caribbean countries.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, 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 resolution, H. Res. 1369.

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, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

SUPPORTING HIGH-PERFORMANCE BUILDING WEEK

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1407) supporting the goals and ideals of High-Performance Building Week.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1407

Whereas the High-Performance Building Congressional Caucus Coalition has declared the week of June 13 through June 19, 2010, as "High-Performance Building Week";

Whereas the House of Representatives has recognized the importance of high-performance buildings through the inclusion of a definition of high-performance buildings in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007;

Whereas our homes, offices, schools, and other buildings consume 40 percent of the primary energy and 70 percent of the electricity in the United States annually;

Whereas buildings consume about 12 percent of the potable water in this country;

Whereas the construction of buildings and their related infrastructure consumes approximately 60 percent of all raw materials used in the United States economy;

Whereas buildings account for 39 percent of United States carbon dioxide emissions a year, approximately equaling the combined carbon emissions of Japan, France, and the United Kingdom;

Whereas Americans spend about 90 percent of their time indoors;

Whereas the value of all United States construction alone represents more than 13 per-

cent of the Nation's Gross Domestic Product and the value of the Nation's structures is estimated at over \$28 trillion;

Whereas poor indoor environmental quality is detrimental to the health of all Americans, especially our children and the elderly;

Whereas high-performance buildings promote higher student achievement by providing better lighting, a more comfortable indoor environment, and improved ventilation and indoor air quality;

Whereas high-performance residential and commercial building design and construction should effectively guard against natural and human-caused events and disasters, including fire, water, wind, noise, crime, and terrorism;

Whereas high-performance buildings, which address human, environmental, economic, and total societal impact, result from the application of the highest level of design, construction, operation, and maintenance principles—a paradigm change for the built environment;

Whereas nearly 7,500,000 Americans are employed in the design, construction, operation, and maintenance sectors and require education and training to achieve and maintain high performance; and

Whereas the United States should continue to improve the features of new buildings and adapt and maintain existing buildings to changing balances in our needs and responsibilities for health, safety, energy and water efficiency, and usability by all segments of society: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of High-Performance Building Week;

(2) recognizes and reaffirms our Nation's commitment to high-performance buildings by promoting awareness about their benefits and by promoting new education programs, supporting research, and expanding access to information;

(3) recognizes the unique role that the Department of Energy plays through the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy's Building Technologies Program, which works closely with the building industry and manufacturers to conduct research and development on technologies and practices for building energy efficiency;

(4) recognizes the important role that the National Institute of Standards and Technology plays in developing the measurement science needed to develop, test, integrate, and demonstrate the new building technologies; and

(5) encourages further research and development of high-performance building standards, research, and development.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H. Res. 1407, the resolution now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 1407, supporting the