

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE SMITHSONIAN FOLKLFIE FESTIVAL

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues and members of their staffs to attend a free musical event that will be held this afternoon (Tuesday, June 21, 2011) from 1:00–2:00 p.m. on the West Front Lawn of the United States Capitol. This event will feature music performed by the David Pernell Ensemble as a preview to the Smithsonian's annual Folklife Festival. This year, one of the Folklife Festival themes is Rhythm and Blues: Tell It Like It Is.

The 2011 Smithsonian Folklife Festival will celebrate the people and culture of R & B music in the United States. R & B encompasses jump blues, soul, funk and more contemporary styles and is recognized throughout the world as one of the most identifiably American forms of popular music. The Festival program will explore the social and cultural history integral to the development of R & B and will present not only performances, but also conversations and discussions with some of the artists, songwriters, radio personalities, and others who have worked behind the scenes to produce the music.

From June 30th–July 4 and from July 7–11, the Rhythm and Blues: Tell It Like It Is program will consist of two large covered stages on the National Mall and a smaller discussion/narrative stage, highlighting select styles associated with African American urban centers in the United States. Through performance and narrative presentations, Festival visitors will discover exciting connections between different forms of musical performance, social dance, the recording industry, and broadcast radio—all of which accompanied and contributed to shaping the musical heritage of R & B. The program is being produced in partnership between the Smithsonian's Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, the Folklife Festival, and the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

I encourage my colleagues and their staff to take a few minutes and enjoy some great R & B music today as a preview to the Smithsonian's 2011 Folklife Festival.

REMEMBERING LAURENCE BUTLER DILLARD

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and legacy of an individual that served this body, the Commonwealth of Virginia and our Nation tirelessly for many, many years, Mr. Laurence Butler Dillard, who most of us came to know simply as Larry.

I had the pleasure of meeting Larry many years ago, during the early days of my own journey in public service. Larry proudly served the people of Virginia's 3d Congressional District in the office of my friend and colleague, BOBBY SCOTT. With Larry's passing, Congressman SCOTT's office has lost not just an employee, but a friend, and I offer my condolences to Representative SCOTT and his entire staff.

Larry's quest for knowledge and genuine appreciation for history, especially Virginia's history and culture, was infectious to all that had the pleasure of interacting with him.

In an environment that is often described as unyieldingly partisan, Larry's approach to the legislative system and constituent service was indeed refreshing. His unique ability to overcome differences, backed up by his positive and enthusiastic personality, bridged the parties together and remains a model for all of us. And that's how Larry was—never deterred, no issue insurmountable, always finding that common ground. He devoted his life to the service of others.

I hope this body will join me in offering sincere condolences to Larry's wife Sherry, his son Brandon, his brother Randy, Congressman SCOTT and his staff and Larry's many family members and friends. Larry Dillard's contributions to this institution will always be remembered.

PROCLAMATION FOR COLTON BULLARD, RECIPIENT OF THE “2011 LITTLE LEAGUE INTER- NATIONAL’S GOOD SPORT OF THE YEAR AWARD”

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, on June 18, 2011, Colton Bullard, from Rye, NH will be receiving the “2011 Little League International’s Good Sport of the Year Award.” Colton has exceptional work ethic and drive as well as a deep passion for the sport of baseball. His dedication to his team and to improving his skills is known and witnessed by all. Colton not only is a huge asset on the team but he is the epitome of what this award represents.

This award is a testament to his spirited and dedicated commitment to the ideals and goals of the Little League program. Colton has become a true student of the game and is always listening and learning. Everyone who knows Colton recognizes his humble and modest personality and consider him to be the “best kid on the field.” He is a shining example of all that is positive and beneficial through participating in Little League.

I congratulate Colton for receiving this award and for his outstanding sportsmanship. I wish him the very best in his athletic career and for a bright future.

IN HONOR OF HENRY L. MEYER III

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Henry L. Meyer III and his leadership of KeyCorp on the occasion of his retirement.

Henry L. Meyer began his long career with KeyCorp in the summer of 1970, when he worked as a teller. After receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in econometrics from Colgate University in 1972, Mr. Meyer joined KeyCorp, formerly Society National Bank. In 1978, he received a Master of Business Administration degree from Harvard University.

In 1984, Mr. Meyer relocated for his position with Society National Bank to Dayton, but moved back to Cleveland in 1987 after being elected Executive Vice President of Society Corporation and Senior Executive Vice President of Society National Bank. In 1990, he was elected as Society National Bank's President and Chief Operating Officer, and became the Chief Executive Officer in 1993. After Society National Bank became KeyCorp in 1994, Mr. Meyer became the Chief Executive Officer in February of 2001. In May of 2001, he was elected as KeyCorp's Chairman of the Board.

In addition to his career, Mr. Meyer is involved in his community. He serves on a number of civic and cultural boards in the Cleveland area, including the Northeast Ohio Council on Higher Education, Law Enforcement Foundation, Inc., ideastream (WVIZ/PBS and WCPN), United Way of Greater Cleveland, University School, the Greater Cleveland Partnership, University Hospitals Health System, Inc., and University Hospitals of Cleveland. Mr. Meyer is also on the Federal Advisory Council of the Federal Reserve System and serves as a director of Continental Airlines, Inc.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of a hardworking and worthy individual, Mr. Henry Meyer. We should reflect on his good deeds and his admirable work ethic.

THE OFFICIAL FEDERAL HOLIDAY OF GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to reestablish the legal public holiday for Washington's Birthday from the third Monday of February to the actual date of George Washington's birth on February 22.

I have long admired President Washington and have found inspiration in public service from studying his life. Unfortunately I have found that students today have a dearth of knowledge about our nation's beginnings and

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

the man from Virginia who led the colonies to form the union known as the United States of America.

Two-time Pulitzer Prize winning history author David McCullough recently observed, “We’re raising young people who are, by and large, historically illiterate.” The 2010 National Assessment of Educational Progress, or Nation’s Report Card, in U.S. history underscores that concern. Students in grades 4, 8, and 12 participated in the assessment. At each grade, students responded to questions designed to measure their knowledge of American history in the contexts of democracy, culture, technological and economic changes, and America’s changing world role. The levels—Basic, Proficient and Advanced—measure what students should know and be able to do at each grade assessed. At all grade levels, less than one-quarter of students performed at or above the Proficient level in 2010. Only 20 percent of fourth-graders, 17 percent of eighth-graders, and 12 percent of twelfth-graders performed at or above the Proficient level on the 2010 U.S. history assessment.

I believe Congress has unwittingly contributed to this lack of historical understanding by relegating Washington’s Birthday to the third Monday of February to take advantage of a three-day weekend. We need to change the focus from celebrating sales at the mall to celebrating the significance of President Washington’s birth to the birth of our nation.

There is a reason the birthday of President George Washington is the only legal federal holiday observed for a president of the United States. He is called the “father of our country” because he is without compare in our nation’s history. We need to reestablish Washington’s Birthday on the actual date of his birth to honor his legacy and in doing so call upon schools across the nation to focus on Washington as the soldier, legislator, and president who shepherded our young nation through war, political turmoil, rebellion and expansion as no other single individual was capable of doing.

Washington’s Birthday has been celebrated since the final days of the Revolutionary War. French and American troops paraded through Newport, Rhode Island, in 1781 and celebrations were held in Richmond, Virginia, in 1782. Organized by French General Rochambeau and others who knew him personally, these celebrations drew special attention to the bravery, courage, leadership and perseverance of the Revolutionary War hero.

From the beginning of our country, the importance of this day has been recognized. As President James Buchanan said in 1860, “. . . when the birthday of Washington shall be forgotten, liberty will have perished from the earth.” In response, President Rutherford B. Hayes signed legislation in 1879 that made Washington’s Birthday a holiday for District federal workers. The holiday was extended to all federal workers in 1885.

This legislation I introduce today is not without precedent. In 1975, Congress amended the Uniform Monday Holiday Act and President Gerald R. Ford signed legislation into law returning the annual observance of Veterans Day from the fourth Monday in November to its original date of November 11, beginning in 1978.

The Uniform Holiday Bill signed in 1968 and effective in 1971 was intended to ensure three-day weekends for federal employees by

celebrating four national holidays on Mondays: Washington’s Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Columbus Day. Originally called Armistice Day to mark the signing of an Armistice on the 11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month in 1918 that ended World War I, the date of November 11 holds historic and patriotic significance as a day of thanks and remembrance for all veterans. The law change brought widespread public protest and 46 states refused to recognize any day other than November 11 to honor the sacrifice made first by World War I veterans and subsequently by all veterans. The restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day as a celebration to honor America’s veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

Likewise, we need to restore the observance of Washington’s Birthday to February 22 to preserve the date of his birth for history and to focus attention on his life of service and duty to his country. Even George Washington’s home state of Virginia, where he was born and raised, which he served in elected office, where he accepted General Cornwallis’ surrender, and where he is buried, celebrates Washington’s Birthday in accordance with the Uniform Monday Holiday Act. I believe all school children in every state should dedicate February 22 each year to learning about our greatest leader, foremost patriot, first president and the only six-star general in the nation’s history.

George Washington began his career in public service in the Virginia militia, eventually promoted to Colonel in command of the Virginia Regiment. He served as a voluntary aide-de-camp to British General Edward Braddock as part of the ill-fated Monongahela expedition before resigning his commission in 1759 and returning to Mount Vernon.

His military career earned him a seat in the Virginia House of Burgesses representing Frederick County, Virginia. The 10th Congressional District, which I currently represent, includes the City of Winchester, where the building that housed his office still stands. In 1774, Washington was a natural selection to be one of Virginia’s representatives at the First Continental Congress. During the Second Continental Congress in 1775, he was unanimously chosen to lead the Continental Army and subsequently led a team of young officers through eight years of war against the most powerful military in the world. Perhaps Washington’s greatest accomplishment during the Revolutionary War was building a professional army and keeping it together during long stretches of inactivity.

After the peace treaty was signed in Paris in 1783, Washington set perhaps one of the most important precedents in our history. When he resigned his commission in the Continental Army, Washington made it clear that the military was subordinate to the civil government. Washington had gone to great lengths to observe this subordination during the war years, and made sure that this act solidified its importance. Desiring simply to retire in peace to Mount Vernon, Washington voluntarily handed over the reins of power to the elected legislature.

But despite his desire to stay a private citizen, he left Mount Vernon in 1787 to serve as

the president of the Constitutional Convention because he felt that his country needed him. The power of his presence was perhaps the single most important factor in bridging the divide between the disparate interests of the newly created states. Through eight years of war and the voluntary relinquishment of power, the American people and his peers trusted Washington, noting that if he supported the new Constitution, it was worthy of adoption. This trust overcame the objections of many who continued to have problems with the document until passage of the Bill of Rights.

After the Constitutional Convention adjourned, Washington again made plans to permanently leave public life. But as he closely monitored the ratification process at Mount Vernon between 1787 and 1788, Washington became resigned to the fact that he was the only person that could hold the new union together. Washington moved to New York to take the position of chief executive after he received word that he had been unanimously by the Electoral College. To this day, Washington is the only president to be elected unanimously, first in 1789 and again in 1792.

Perhaps most importantly, Washington set the precedent of presidents serving a maximum of two terms. This precedent was followed by the following 31 presidents, until Franklin Roosevelt won a third term in 1940 and a fourth term in 1944. It is important to understand that historically, most victorious revolutionary generals grabbed as much power as possible and served as long as they possibly could. Washington, whose devotion to serving his country was only outdone by his love of his family, broke with this dubious tradition and began 219 years of peaceful transitions of power.

President Washington exemplifies the best that America and Americans have to offer the world; principled leadership, personal bravery, a sense of duty and public service, patriotism, recognition of our unique role in world history, and a reverence for his Creator. His enduring service deserves to be remembered on his actual birthday.

This legislation is supported by George Washington’s Mount Vernon Estate and its executive director James Rees. A copy of his letter appears below.

Mr. Speaker, it is only right that we hold February 22 as a date of reverence to commemorate the unique person without whom the tide of American history may well have taken a different turn. I urge my colleagues to join in cosponsoring this legislation to forever honor President George Washington’s Birthday.

GEORGE WASHINGTON’S
MOUNT VERNON,
Mount Vernon, VA, June 21, 2011.
Hon. FRANK WOLF,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN WOLF: I would like to thank you for introducing legislation to restore the nation’s official observance of George Washington’s Birthday to February 22, the actual date of his birth 279 years ago. We are writing today in strong and enthusiastic support of your efforts.

Today many states, the media, advertisers and the general public have abandoned recognition of Washington’s Birthday and replaced it with a commercial “shopping holiday” that leaves American history and patriotism by the side of the road. The holiday

was far more meaningful when it revolved around George Washington, and schools were able to focus on his sterling example of character and leadership. We look forward to the day, when once again, February 22 is marked by patriotic festivities and lessons about the life of George Washington, which can teach and inspire American leaders of today and tomorrow.

As our nation's foremost founding father, Washington is relevant to each new generation because his prominent character traits—undaunted courage, unabashed patriotism, reasoned judgment, a profound sense of civic responsibility, and a deep, selfless commitment to country—never go out of style. Educating the children of America about the life and leadership of George Washington is an important investment in the future of our nation.

Your efforts are particularly important because as noted author and historian David McCullough has said many times, we are “raising a generation of historically illiterate children.” Surveys and focus groups over the years tell us that most Americans—particularly young Americans—know the face of Washington because they see it every day on their dollars and quarters, but they don't know much more about him.

Why should we be concerned? Because George Washington was the most important, the most effective, the most powerful leader of our nation's founding era, and the shining example of his life is needed today more than ever.

To those like you who know and respect George Washington, it is crystal clear that many today have drifted so far from his standards of leadership that there is a real cause for concern for the future of our nation. We believe that George Washington is the best example of leadership and character the nation has ever known; therefore, it is our duty, our responsibility and our privilege to teach today's leaders and young people about George Washington's leadership with the hope that they will follow in his footsteps. Your legislation will be a significant step in that direction.

For example, a most compelling lesson for young people today is that George Washington served in the three most important leadership roles in the founding era. Quite remarkably, the Father of our Country was selected for each of these jobs unanimously, and, contrary to the common practice of the day, he gave up power and walked away from each of the positions despite strong support for him not to do so.

First, as Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army, he surmounted incredible odds, never took a day off in eight years of battle, and emerged victorious. But perhaps Washington's greatest moment came when he halted an attempt by his officers to overthrow the civilian government and make him king. He then resigned from the military entirely and returned to his life as a farmer at Mount Vernon.

With this resignation, Washington actually established a new definition of power. Before George Washington the road map was for great leaders to gain as much power as possible and keep it. But Washington truly believed in the concept of liberty—where the power rests with the people. He taught the world how to relinquish power—what an important lesson for the leaders of today.

Less than four years after his return to Mount Vernon, Washington was drafted to be President of the Constitutional Convention—because only he could bring the delegates together. He was elected as our first President and after serving two terms—he exited. He could have been elected again and again but he peacefully transferred power demonstrating that democracy really works.

Celebration of George Washington's Birthday on February 22 will help restore the position of the Father of Our Country as “First in War, First in Peace, and First in the Hearts of his Countrymen,” as Light-Horse Harry Lee said so many years ago. George Washington's sterling example of character and leadership provides the opportunity to refresh and inspire our country as we face formidable challenges both at home and abroad.

Sincerely,

JAMES C. REES,
President.

IN HONOR OF JAMES H. TROUT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor James H. Trout who is being honored as a 2011 Father of the Year by the Father's Day Council of Northeastern Ohio and the American Diabetes Association.

Mr. Trout is the Executive Vice President of Acme Fresh Market Stores, serving on its Board of Directors and its Executive Committee. He has been with Acme Stores since 1973, working in a number of different capacities in increasingly important roles, serving as Director of General Merchandise, Senior Director of Merchandising, and Vice President of Sales and Merchandising.

Mr. Trout and his wife, Debbie, are the proud parents of two children—Jennifer, 31, and Jeff, 29—and one grandchild. Jim and Debbie currently reside in Suffield, where they are active in their community. Mr. Trout, former President of the Suffield Jaycees, also serves as a trustee for the F.W. Albrecht Family Foundation.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring James H. Trout, a hardworking and industrious man, and a wonderful husband, father and grandfather, on the occasion of his recognition as Father's Day Council's Father of the Year 2011.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
MS. CONNIE FERRIS BAILEY

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and achievements of Ms. Connie Ferris Bailey, Executive Director of Operation Fresh Start, OFS, as she retires from her esteemed position after 34 years of service.

OFS was founded in 1970 and provides young offenders and high school dropouts with opportunities to learn basic work skills, prepare for high school equivalency exams, and secure employment. Furthermore, OFS stresses the importance of giving back to the community by renovating housing into safe, energy-efficient, affordable homes for low-income families. Over the past forty years OFS has built over 215 quality homes.

It is undoubtedly because of Connie's tireless leadership and energy that OFS is what it is today. In 1979, three years after joining

OFS, Connie assumed the role of Executive Director. Under her tutelage OFS expanded annual enrollment to over 150 youth and focused on helping participants achieve self-sufficiency and become contributing citizens of the community. Connie's dedication to building a sustainable future and continuing Wisconsin's proud environmental legacy led OFS to begin providing conservation and stewardship services in and around Dane County in 1980. Additionally, since 2005, OFS builds new homes to meet or exceed Wisconsin Energy Star standards.

Connie transformed lives of at-risk youth in Madison, Dane County, and across Wisconsin. To date, OFS has served over 7,000 people. Eighty-five percent of participants are between the ages of 16–24 and 80 percent complete the goals of the program. Studies show that an astounding 60–65 percent of graduates remain self-sufficient. These numbers only begin to explain why the OFS model that Connie helped shape is so successful. It is not surprising that, in 1998, then Governor Tommy Thompson was eager to work with Connie to establish Wisconsin Fresh Start, WFS, a network of non-profit agencies operating under the OFS model that provide services aimed at increasing self-esteem and self-sufficiency of troubled youth. Today, WFS includes 9 agencies in 12 communities around the state and OFS continues to provide technical assistance to WFS.

Over the years, Connie held every employment title within OFS, highlighting how vital each position is to the program's overall success. It is an understatement to say that Connie has been and forever will be an invaluable asset to OFS and our community as a whole. Her emphasis on the value of hard work, respect, and self-worth and her recognition of potential in each and every person makes her an inspirational role model. Thankfully, although Connie is retiring, she will continue to provide essential technical assistance to new Youthbuild USA programs throughout the Midwest. People like Connie and programs like Operation Fresh Start are yet another reason I am so proud to represent the Second Congressional District of Wisconsin. I join those across Wisconsin, the Midwest, and our great Nation in thanking Ms. Connie Ferris Bailey for her lifetime of service.

CONGRATULATING GEORGE DAWSON MIDDLE SCHOOL ON BEING RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF THE NATION'S TOP 100 SCHOOLS TO WATCH

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to recognize and congratulate George Dawson Middle School in Southlake, TX for being recognized as one of the Nation's Top 100 Schools to Watch. George Dawson was chosen for its academic excellence, developmental responsiveness to students and ability to provide students with the resources, teachers and support they need.

Sponsored by The National Forum To Accelerate Middle Grades Reform, the Schools