

the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to North Korea that was declared in Executive Order 13466 of June 26, 2008, expanded in scope in Executive Order 13551 of August 30, 2010, addressed further in Executive Order 13570 of April 18, 2011, further expanded in scope in Executive Order 13687 of January 2, 2015, and under which additional steps were taken in Executive Order 13722 of March 15, 2016, and Executive Order 13810 of September 20, 2017, is to continue in effect beyond June 26, 2022.

The existence and risk of the proliferation of weapons-usable fissile material on the Korean Peninsula; the actions and policies of the Government of North Korea that destabilize the Korean Peninsula and imperil United States Armed Forces, allies, and trading partners in the region, including its pursuit of nuclear and missile programs; and other provocative, destabilizing, and repressive actions and policies of the Government of North Korea, continue to constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States.

For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13466 with respect to North Korea.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 13, 2022.

□ 1945

CELEBRATING JUNETEENTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and submit additional materials and statements.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to proceed under this Special Order of the Congressional Black Caucus. It is my pleasure now to begin to frame this very important week to commemorate Juneteenth, the second acknowledgment of the Federal holiday created on June 17, 2021, by President Joe Biden—present, of course, was Vice President KAMALA HARRIS—when the first holiday for nearly 40 years, Federal holiday, was established.

I am pleased to be able to yield to the distinguished gentlewoman from Ohio

whose vision has helped us craft this recognition and this Congressional Black Caucus Special Order and her recognition of the cruciality of honoring those who have never been honored, the acknowledgment of Juneteenth, a day of freedom, and as well recognizing H.R. 40, the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals. We thank her for her leadership and her guidance.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY), the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, I thank Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, the chair of our Special Order, executive board member, a person who you want to be out front. Whether it is an issue on civil rights, criminal justice, reparations, voting rights, or domestic violence, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE has earned this day and this right. I could not think of a better person to stand here as we talk about commemorating Juneteenth. We know the history all too well of what happened in Texas. Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE hails from Texas.

Today, as we talk about Black excellence, as we talk about the members of the Congressional Black Caucus, Madam Speaker, we speak to America tonight. We want America to know that as we commemorate Juneteenth, it is about our work; it is about our scholarship; it is about our fight. You will hear a broad range of issues that we are so proud to stand up for and let America know we are there.

I could not think of a better issue to weave into Juneteenth than reparations, H.R. 40. SHEILA JACKSON LEE, if you have been in the room with her, you have heard her say it at the White House, you have heard her say it at caucus, you have heard her go in the Halls of Congress talking about H.R. 40. I could stop there, but I can tell you that piece of legislation has her fingerprints on it and the signatures of 200-plus Members. What a great way for me to start and to stand here as chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Tonight, we commemorate a day in our Nation's history that can only be described as a celebration of freedom, Juneteenth.

On June 19, 1865, enslaved African Americans in Texas received the joyous news of emancipation and that they were finally free.

Despite that, we are still enslaved in many ways, so it is critical for America to know of our fight and our progress.

Tonight, you will hear Members discuss our work on criminal justice, reparations, uplifting of our Black men and boys, racial equity, fair housing, and so much more. We are leading the charge and laying the foundation to deliver on voting rights, student loan debt, and gun control. Tonight, we tell our story of Black excellence.

Nearly 1 year ago, on June 17, 2021, the Congressional Black Caucus went

to the White House and joined with President Joe Biden and Vice President KAMALA HARRIS as he signed the historic legislation that made Juneteenth the 11th national holiday and the first new Federal holiday since Martin Luther King Jr. Day in 1983.

Now, more than a century-and-a-half later, I stand here as chairwoman of the largest Congressional Black Caucus in the Nation's history.

Every day, 58 Black members of the Congressional Black Caucus legislate in these Halls built by our enslaved ancestors. Six full committee chairs, chair of the Democratic Caucus, the House majority whip, former senior adviser to the President, and Vice President of these United States are all active and former members of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Madam Speaker, we have come so far, but we realize there is still work to do. Yes, from being considered one-third of a person, we want the American people to know that we continue fighting.

It was the Congressional Black Caucus that brokered the \$1 trillion infrastructure law for our roads and bridges and provided little children a broadband network. It was the \$1,400 in the pockets of everyday Americans, the \$300 a month for working families with children, the historic funding for HBCUs, and each Congressional Black Caucus member bringing community dollars to their district.

We have seen one of the most consequential civil rights legislations aiming at interrupting the school-to-prison pipeline and uplifting Black men and boys, the U.S. Commission on Social Status of Black Men and Boys, created and birthed by our very own Congresswoman FREDERICA WILSON, a sojourner for our Black men and boys.

Tonight, you will hear other members of the Congressional Black Caucus commemorate our successes in the spirit of Juneteenth.

But, Madam Speaker, in the immortal words of Dr. Maya Angelou: Bringing the gifts that our ancestors gave, we are the dream and the hope of the slave.

I am proud to proclaim on this floor tonight: Happy Juneteenth Day. Our power, our message.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her distinguished presentation.

I will take a moment, as other Members are on the floor, so I can at least set the framework of this evening of which she has done so ably. I think the cornerstone of the chairwoman's remarks is that we have been building on Juneteenth, as members of the Congressional Black Caucus, for all of our tenure in Congress. We have done it by the myriad of legislative initiatives that continue to build and repair what was generated from the 246 years of slavery.

Let me, first of all, read into the RECORD that order of General Gordon Granger on June 19, 1865, on the shores of Galveston, Texas:

“The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor. The Freedmen are advised to remain quietly at their present homes and work for wages. They are informed that they will not be allowed to collect at military posts and that they will not be supported in idleness either there or elsewhere.”

Most people have not heard the entire order.

Union soldiers, up to 200,000, fought in the Civil War and died. Union soldiers were killed by Confederate soldiers. Rather than, under the laws of the military protocol, captured as prisoners of war, they shot them dead.

Blood was shed by slaves, or Freedmen, and the order that we all so often praised, let me be very clear, General Granger said you are free, but your posture, your framework, the guidepost, is you are not to leave. You are now employer and not even employee but hired labor.

There was no obligation for Freedmen to stay and take a job, and most of the slaves looked askance. They didn't understand what “employer” was. That is not a word they had ever heard, in any large sense, and “hired labor.” We are free.

Tonight, we speak about freedom. They were free. Yet, even in the goodness of that order, they were advised to remain at their present homes, probably something that had been given to the plantation and the masters and to work for wages. It did not say what kind of wages, what kind of work conditions you had, what kind of workers' comp, insurance. No, they were informed that they would not be allowed to collect at military posts, and as if that had been the slaves' mantra, they even challenged them to not be supported in idleness either there or elsewhere.

Let me tell you, by this very potent picture, what the ancestors had gone through for 246 years. For those who were born, lived, and died in the brutality of slavery, this was their lives, the separation of families and the unname of families. They had first names, or they were called “husband” or “wife.” They were not given the dignity of a name. This was their lot.

So Juneteenth, its essence was freedom, but the words were hesitant. Even though slavery had been abolished, as most people will know, except for convicted persons, which made them as a challenged amendment, if you will, because that process of prisoners continued into the 20th century.

But I say this to say, as we begin our discussion, and I will just make this point, I am here to honor those who never were honored, whose names were never called, whose funerals or burials

were never given the dignity of a human being. They died as less than a person, as the Constitution dictated, for at least a century. They never had that dignity of who they were and the work they did and the building of the economic engine of America and the shedding of blood in both the Revolutionary War and the wars in between and the Civil War.

As we look at these scars, that is why I am so adamant about H.R. 40, the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals. Because even in the pronouncement of freedom, Chairwoman BEATTY, Chairman JEFFRIES, Chair BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN—even in the proclamation of freedom, they did not have freedom. They were qualified in their freedom.

With that in mind, I continue to raise up this bill, with almost 217 cosponsors, to this week even become an executive order, pronouncement of such, or ultimately passed by the House of Representatives, that is, H.R. 40, the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals.

I am prepared to yield to the chairman of the House Democratic Caucus, who has certainly evidenced the essence of freedom in our work together on criminal justice reform. I think he well knows what the 13th Amendment left us with, as well as General Granger's order. I hope that he has heard that even in freedom, we were given qualifications and structures and strictures, and we were denied the true freedom of this Nation.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES).

□ 2000

Mr. JEFFRIES. Madam Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentlewoman from the great State of Texas, the Chair of the Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security Subcommittee, SHEILA JACKSON LEE, for yielding and for her leadership in so many different areas, particularly as it relates to the effort to make sure that we explore to the greatest extent possible the legacy that still remains in terms of the damage that was done relative to the enslavement of people of African descent here in the United States of America.

We have come a long way in this great country, but we still have a long way to go, racism is in the soil of America going all the way back to 1619.

It is an honor to stand here with my distinguished colleagues, the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, the Honorable JOYCE BEATTY, who has done such an amazing job leading us forward in this Congress and, of course, the distinguished gentlewoman from the great State of New Jersey, Congresswoman BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN. I thank you, Madam Speaker, for presiding over this particular discussion.

Juneteenth as a Federal holiday is an amazing development. An effort was led by the Congressional Black Caucus and, of course, the legislation was signed into law by President Joe Biden.

I thank the distinguished gentlewoman from Texas for leading the effort.

I first came to know of Juneteenth when I was a student at the LBJ School of Public Affairs in the summer between my junior year and my senior year and had not heard—I am just a kid from Brooklyn—had not heard about Juneteenth. Folks down there said we are going to celebrate Juneteenth. I said June what? I was unsure of it, growing up proudly as an African American in New York City, something that had been in the heart and soul of the people of Texas and throughout the south but hadn't necessarily made it into my consciousness. I was thankful for that moment.

I think about that journey to a point now where we have a Federal holiday to mark the journey of African Americans and the progress that has been made but the need to continue, of course, to do more.

As Chairwoman BEATTY talked about some of the things that the Congressional Black Caucus has worked on, I think this Juneteenth marker is an important point in time both to reflect upon what has been done, but also, of course, to mark what still needs to be done to continue America's march toward a more perfect Union.

We weren't promised a perfect country. We know the Framers of this great Republic themselves were imperfect. We were never promised a perfect country. Slavery was in existence when the Republic was founded, but they did promise a march toward a more perfect Union that America could try to continue to be the best version of herself. And that is what the Congressional Black Caucus has really been all about.

In our 51 years I can't stand here in the time that I have to catalogue all that has been done, but if you just look at what has occurred in the last 10 or 15 years; signature pieces of legislation year after year after year; Congressman DANNY DAVIS leading the effort to pass the Second Chance Act to make sure that incarcerated individuals and others who need a second chance at life could successfully reintegrate into society in a way that helps them as individuals, their families, our communities, as well as taxpayers. That was a bill that was signed into law by a Republican President George Bush. Leadership from the Congressional Black Caucus.

Certainly, in that criminal justice reform space we know that Chairman BOBBY SCOTT in 2010 led the effort to pass the Fair Sentencing Act, which lowered the 100 to 1 egregious crack cocaine sentencing disparity—that disparity between crack cocaine and powder cocaine—and dropped it down to 18 to 1 in a way that allowed thousands of individuals, the overwhelming majority of whom were Black men, to be released back into society to live productive lives.

There was still more work that needed to be done. We took up the effort in 2018, and collectively the Congressional

Black Caucus passed the FIRST STEP Act. Representative SHEILA JACKSON LEE was very involved in that effort as a member of the Judiciary Committee, Cedric Richmond, KAREN BASS, myself, others, JOYCE BEATTY, BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN were supportive, and we were able to take that 18 to 1 and make it retroactive, which the Senate refused to do in 2010, and enact a wide variety of sentencing reforms that created a fairer more equitable criminal justice system resulting in thousands of individuals being able to successfully reintegrate back into society, save taxpayer dollars, but also repaired lives, repaired families, repaired communities.

The overwhelming majority of folks, again, who were released, 90 percent, Black men.

Why?

Because it was Black men who bore the brunt of the failed war on drugs and the failure of so-called lock 'em up and throw away the key sentencing schemes, all of which didn't make us safer, as people were banished, often for nonviolent drug offenses. That was the Congressional Black Caucus.

It was the Congressional Black Caucus led by FREDERICA WILSON that passed into law the Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys and it was signed into law by a Republican President, passed through a Republican-controlled United States Senate. Because the Congressional Black Caucus stays on the case. And as was said during its founding, no permanent friends, no permanent enemies, only permanent interests, and the interests to make sure that these principles: equal protection under the law, liberty and justice for all, and fundamental fairness apply to all Americans regardless of race.

And so that is a very important piece of legislation. That commission is a foundation that, under the leadership of JOYCE BEATTY, we can continue to make progress, particularly for those Black men and boys who have been isolated and under-resourced and targeted in our society.

I am thankful that during that same Congress there was an effort to more fully and robustly fund historically Black colleges and universities. That effort was led by Representative ALMA ADAMS. It was also legislation that made it through a Republican-controlled Senate, Republican-controlled House, signed into law by a Republican President. The CBC stays on the case.

And that is certainly what occurred this particular Congress with passage of historic infrastructure legislation. That effort was, in part, when we were at a stalemate led by our chairwoman, JOYCE BEATTY, who worked to bring the caucus together to a place where we could enact groundbreaking legislation that will create millions of good-paying jobs, make sure that there is clean water in every single community, and we know that it is Black communities that often suffer from water that has been poisoned.

And, of course, it was our great whip, JIM CLYBURN, who led the effort to make sure that we put into place a process so that we can get high-speed internet access in every single community. This is the CBC staying on the case.

So I am thankful for the leadership of my colleagues within the Congressional Black Caucus, thankful that our chair has continued to pull us together and lead us in such a phenomenal way, thankful for BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN, who is one of the most principled public servants you will find anywhere in these United States, thankful for SHEILA JACKSON LEE and what she is doing to lead us forward to examine through H.R. 40 the legacy of slavery and the fact that perhaps the least that we can do is have a study to figure out the damage that was done through the systematic rape and kidnapping, lynching, and oppression decade after decade, century into century and then its progeny in the context of Jim Crow and the institutional discrimination that remains with us today. The least that perhaps we can do at some point is figure out how we can study the issue, building upon all of the work that the CBC has been able to do today.

Juneteenth gives us an opportunity to mark the progress that we have made, and of course, think about a vision for the future as we continue our long, necessary, and majestic march toward a more perfect Union.

I thank you, Madam Speaker, for presiding. I thank my classmate and good friend, JOYCE BEATTY, for her work, and I certainly approve any message that she articulates. I thank my colleagues SHEILA JACKSON LEE and BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN who are helping to lead the charge with this Special Order.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for taking us through this powerful journey of a continued fight for freedom by the Congressional Black Caucus and incorporating all of the relief given for the continued ailments and disparities of African Americans and leading us to H.R. 40, the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act, which really are components of the work that we have been doing. They are the building blocks of trying to cure extensive disparities.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN), a Member that has worked on disparities focused on the journey of Black women, leading on issues of Black women maternity mortality, as well as my colleague on the Homeland Security Committee and a number of other collaborations.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Madam Speaker, I thank the leader of our Special Order hour, the magnificent, exquisite, and always on point the Honorable SHEILA JACKSON LEE for her work on H.R. 40 and reminding us every day that within that word "reparations" is

repair and our opportunity to study how we can repair the pain and the injustice that was accorded to our community.

I need to recognize my leader, JOYCE BEATTY, because under her leadership she has amplified our voice is our power. And on whatever level we decide that we must speak and we must act, JOYCE BEATTY has reminded us that our voice is our power because the Congressional Black Caucus believes in exercising that power on behalf of communities that have been underrepresented for so very long, whether it is environmental justice, social justice, criminal justice reform, housing, or just whether or not the whole system needs to be examined as it impacted us.

I thank the chair of our caucus, who took us through a journey that reminded me, as I was sitting there, of the good work that we have been able to do. I tell you that I feel like I am standing here in a very sacred space, and I want to speak in the spirit that flows through us that was left by Shirley Chisholm, Barbara Jordan, John Lewis, Elijah Cummings, and Alcee Hastings, and so many more that have gone before us and have opened the doors and pushed through the doors so that we might be here this evening to address you.

So, yes, slavery—supposedly freedom from it—came to us in 1865, and today we commemorate and we celebrate this end of slavery and all the progress that we have made over the last 157 years.

□ 2015

We must also acknowledge, as Chairman HAKEEM JEFFRIES reminded us, the long road ahead toward what would be full equality for Black Americans. Let Juneteenth be not just a celebration or a commemoration, but a rallying cry as we recommit ourselves to the centuries-long struggle for civil rights.

Through historic measures like the American Rescue Plan, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and executive orders on policing and advancing racial equity, the Biden administration, along with this Congress, has taken important steps to address the unique needs of Black communities across the country. The time is now to keep that momentum going.

Our current moment presents an opportunity to dismantle systemic injustices by bringing Black people from the margins to the mainstream of American society. We as a society must stop treating Black people as an afterthought. That means we must take direct action to end the racial discrimination that, contrary to what our colleagues across the aisle might like us to believe, still exists today.

It means ensuring that Black people, especially Black women, are in the rooms where decisions are made. It means passing legislation like the CROWN Act, which would put an end to the insidious discrimination against Black people because of their hair.

In the fight for a more perfect Union, we can, we should, and we must think bigger and bolder. Through policies like those that are outlined in the Black Women Best economic framework—which include everything from guaranteed basic income to sweeping criminal justice reform—we can bring the Black community from peril to prosperity. When we do that, we bring everybody else along with us. Only then will all Americans have the freedom to thrive.

Today, we celebrate this turning point in our Nation's history. Today, we look back on the milestones we have achieved since then. Today, we continue fighting for that more inclusive, that more equitable, that fairer society that really represents the best that America can be.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for bringing to our attention some very unique aspects, again, of the Congressional Black Caucus and her work.

As I travel the country, it is interesting to hear that our community has been so deprived as it relates to the discrimination against you with respect to your hairstyle. Congresswoman BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN, among other things, was able to lead on something, and I hear it often, that they are so proud of this legislation because it has given dignity to people whose dignity was taken away.

These are the building blocks that the Congressional Black Caucus pours into the symbolism of honoring Juneteenth and H.R. 40, the commission that studies slavery.

Madam Speaker, as I prepare to allow for an additional speaker to come, let me make this point—let me just take this moment as we prepare to yield.

Madam Speaker, would you give us the time, please?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman has 26 minutes remaining.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, let me put this into the record as I prepare to yield, and emphasize what H.R. 40 does. As I do so, let me emphasize why H.R. 40 is so important.

This is what you see—it is the hanging of Black men, and it is the presence of individuals who are making a spectacle of this. There is one Black man already on the ground. There is no evidence of a trial, no evidence of guilt. This is an example of what preceded 1865.

When you talk about H.R. 40—or even when we were trying to make Juneteenth a Federal holiday—I introduced resolutions over and over again and finally got the bill introduced as a Federal holiday, which then we proceeded and worked to get it passed. There was always a question: Why?

There was always a question about this issue of freedom. You are already free. You live in America. The same goes for this issue of: Why H.R. 40? Because the continuing—continuing—ailments that ailed our community did not end.

This was obviously not in 1865. This was into the 1900s, the 20th century, as evidenced—or maybe the late 1800s that Black men were being hung, Black women were being raped and separated from families, and the abuse of racism was deep and abiding. The Klan would raid and burn communities, hospitals, churches, homes, and have a reign of terror.

This work of the Congressional Black Caucus, with the many splinters of legislation, can be culminated by the passage through a vote on the floor of the House or through an executive order that clearly would provide an answer to the language here that says:

Following the abolition of slavery, the United States Government, at the Federal, State, and local levels, continued to perpetrate, condone, and often profit from practices that continued to brutalize and disadvantage African Americans, including share cropping, convict leasing, Jim Crow, redlining, unequal education, and disproportionate treatment at the hands of the criminal justice systems, and lack of access to healthcare. Harvard University said, If we had it, we would not have been that impacted by COVID in terms of dying and sickness. This is a symbolic depiction that racism and discrimination continue to exist.

This legislation was updated to say: And develop reparation proposals. That is the key. It is an action item. We want a response to Black America; a response to African Americans; we want a response to the 57 members of the Congressional Black Caucus—coming from a variety of districts—some with small measures of African Americans. Yet, the recognition of wherever they live in America, and as our members represent all people, millions of Americans, they understand the stark disparities they see even in their congressional districts.

That is why we stand here today, to honor Juneteenth which equals freedom. That is why we are here today, to say that we are never giving up the fight. We are most proud of the fact that we collectively came as a body, embraced our work as individual members, and got Juneteenth signed. We will now go into this week speaking about freedom, but also speaking about truth and the work we have to do.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield to gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY).

CELEBRATING JUNETEENTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON LEE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the majority leader.

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, tonight we have heard from leadership in the Congressional Black Caucus and leadership in the Democratic Caucus of the United States Congress.

Madam Speaker, I thank Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE for threading the needle, for reminding us of the history of how we started; 1863. And then 2 years later in 1865 when it was announced that Juneteenth would exist because Black people were free. Juneteenth, independence day, freedom day, all of it makes a difference for us because we know freedom is never given, it is won.

Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure now—another colleague from the great State of Ohio. Someone who knows the value and importance of fighting because she is a fighter. She is a sojourner who understands that her voice speaks for thousands of individuals, especially Black individuals.

It is a great honor to have a colleague that hails from the same State that I hail from, the great State of Ohio. She walks in the footsteps of Congresswoman Marsha Fudge, Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones, and a Congressman—one of the founders of the Congressional Black Caucus—Congressman Lou Stokes.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. BROWN), from the 11th District.

Ms. BROWN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, thank you for the kind introduction. I thank Chairwomen Beatty and all my Congressional Black Caucus colleagues for highlighting the significance of Juneteenth during today's Special Order hour.

Madam Speaker, the date was Monday, June 19, 1865; the location, Galveston, Texas. It was 2½ years after President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation and 2 months after the Civil War ended, 250,000 enslaved Black people in Texas still did not know they were free.

That was until—on that Texas summer day—Federal troops rode into town and a Union general read aloud an order announcing their freedom.

Emancipation didn't happen all at once, and slavery wasn't formally abolished until the passage of the 13th Amendment later that year. That 19th day in June came to be known as Juneteenth, a day celebrating the end of slavery in America.

The year following the 1865 declaration, freedman in Texas organized the first of what became the annual June 19 celebration. Slowly but surely, Juneteenth celebrations spread across the country.

Last year, thanks to the hard work of my friend, my colleague, the dynamic incomparable Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, President Biden signed a bill into law recognizing Juneteenth as a Federal holiday.

Juneteenth is a time to celebrate, and it is a time to take pride in the many contributions of African Americans to our society and our country across the generations.

It is also a time of remembrance and action. On Juneteenth, we acknowledge a dark period in our history and its lasting legacy of inequality and injustice—a legacy that continues to influence our country today. We have made