

signing of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Now, my great-grandmother and many of my ancestors were born during slavery in Galveston, Texas. My grandfather was born in 1867 in Galveston, Texas. So this day has always symbolized a time for me personally, as well as for many African Americans; a time for reflection, as well as a recommitment to justice.

Each year, Juneteenth compels us to confront the darkest moments in our Nation's history, a chapter that was born in the Middle Passage, continued through slavery, and manifests itself today through systemic racism.

We must acknowledge the legacy of slavery and systemic racism that continues today in education and healthcare and a broken criminal justice system. I could go on and on.

It is also at the heart of the crises facing our Nation today, including economic injustice and hate-fueled violence.

As we recognize this important day in history, it is also crucial that we pass Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE's H.R. 40 legislation to develop a commission on reparations and recommit to an agenda for Black America that realizes true equity and justice.

APOLOGIES TO BORDER PATROL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I would like to comment on the recent developments regarding those brave Border Patrol officers who used their reins to prevent people sneaking into a country illegally, prevent them from getting stomped under their horses' hooves.

I have been to the border several times. Uniformly, all the Border Patrol felt those people behaved appropriately, and I think continuous studies have shown they behaved appropriately. But sadly, President Biden has decided to pick them out for punishment.

It reminds me when he calls the police of this country racist—both completely unfounded. He only does it, I think, to divide our country, create divisions here.

I would demand that President Biden apologize to the brave Border Patrol, those great guys or gals who, on that day, prevented the Haitians trying to slip into this country from getting stomped underfoot.

I would also like him to apologize to the police of this country who are not racist and are doing a great job to try to hold down our murder rate.

□ 1300

RIISING PRICES HIT LOW-INCOME FAMILIES HARDEST

(Ms. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BROWN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, rising prices at the pump and at the supermarket are costing families more each month, and higher prices are falling hardest on low-income families, who spend a larger share of their budget on food and gas.

Since the beginning of the year, gas prices have increased by nearly \$2. No doubt, this is in part due to Putin's war in Ukraine, but it is also driven by oil and gas companies raising prices on consumers.

Last month, the House passed the Gas Price Gouging Prevention Act to institute the first Federal law against profiteering by oil and gas companies. Today, the House considered and passed legislation to make cheaper and cleaner ethanol blends more available.

These commonsense measures would get gas prices under control and put money back in families' pockets.

HONORING FRANK BUCKLES

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

Mr. MOONEY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to share the story of an American patriot from Charles Town, West Virginia, which is where I live.

Corporal Frank Buckles lived to be 110 years old. He died in 2011 and was America's last known World War I veteran. Buckles had enlisted in the Army by giving his age as 18 rather than his actual age of 16. He drove an Army ambulance in France in 1918 and came to symbolize a generation of embattled young Americans as the last of the World War I doughboys.

Buckles later spent 3 years as a Japanese prisoner of war during World War II after being captured in the Pacific while serving as a U.S. contractor.

Buckles lived on a 330-acre West Virginia cattle farm, where he drove a tractor until 102 years old. I am honored to introduce legislation to designate the United States Postal Service located in Charles Town, West Virginia, as the "Corporal Frank Buckles Post Office." He was a true patriot and is most deserving of this honor in the town he called home for 50 years.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF MIKE SMITH

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

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Mike Smith, who was truly a pillar in the Fort Worth community. At 78 years old, Mike was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and was known as the unofficial mayor of Magnolia Avenue in Fort Worth.

Throughout his 55-year tenure, Mike baked over half a million pies, which put his restaurant, the Paris Coffee

Shop, on the map. His pies were listed in USA Today, Bon Appetit magazine, and really known all around the world, but what really made Mike so special was the warmth and love that he showed everyone that walked into his coffee shop.

It didn't matter if you were from Rivercrest or Riverside. It didn't matter if you were from Whitehall Street in Eastwood in Fort Worth or if you were from Westover Hills, Mike made everyone feel welcome any time you came into the Paris Coffee Shop. His firm handshake, his hugs, his conversations were just absolutely unforgettable, and he will be deeply missed.

Just in addition to everything that he has done for the food community, the restaurant community in Fort Worth, we send prayers out to his entire network of friends and family.

CONGRATULATING RUSSELL COUNTY BASEBALL

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

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Russell County High School baseball team, the Kentucky State High School runners-up. Their head coach, David Rexroat, has led the Lakers baseball team since 2002. He is the all-time winningest baseball coach at Russell County, and he was recently inducted into the Kentucky High School Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame.

Russell County began their journey to the State tournament by winning the 16th District baseball tournament, which includes my home school of Monroe County. They have won the 16th District 9 of the last 10 years. They won the region, the 4th Region in Bowling Green, and went on to Louisville to the State. They made it all the way to the State finals, to the State championship game.

The Russell County Lakers baseball team had nine seniors on that team that had played together most of their lives. They finished the season 31-7, the most wins in Russell County school history.

Madam Speaker, that State championship game was in Louisville, Kentucky, against St. Xavier, which is one of the largest high schools in the State. It is about a 2½ hour drive from Russell County to Louisville. Ninety-five percent of the crowd was from the small county of Russell County. This community is proud of this baseball team and their great accomplishment. I commend them for a tremendous baseball season.

HAPPY JUNETEENTH, AMERICA

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, this morning I introduced the 2022 Observance of Juneteenth Independence

Day Resolution. I thank my cosponsors and those who recognize this important Federal holiday.

H. Res. 1182 is to celebrate Juneteenth, but I was pleased to be the first Member of Congress, after years of introducing resolutions, to introduce the actual language of the Federal holiday signed by President Biden on June 17, 2021.

What is Juneteenth? It is a recognition of one of America's original sins, the slaves that were held over 200 years, and the brutality that they experienced but the freedom they experienced on June 19, 1865.

We can come together as a Nation to celebrate freedom in many, many ways. I am delighted that over the weekend in Houston and Galveston, we will be lifting up our voices of celebration, but we know that there are next steps.

As I have been introducing the resolution on Juneteenth, I also commend my colleagues to move forward on H.R. 40, the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act. Again, what are reparations? It is healing, it is restoration, it is repair. We look forward to responding to the indicia in African-American communities that should be fixed. Happy Juneteenth, America. Let's celebrate together.

AMERICA'S ASTRONOMICAL NATIONAL DEBT

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, our current national debt is not only huge, it is astronomical. As of today, the national debt exceeds over \$30 trillion. To put that in perspective, that amount in \$100 bills laid side by side would circle the Earth over 1,167 times. If stacked, it would reach the International Space Station 80 times.

The debt crisis is truly out of this world, and yet my colleagues across the aisle would rather spend even more money on unnecessary programs with unrealistic goals. Effects of the debt are already being felt in the form of record-high inflation and gas prices, but perhaps the greatest tragedy is that it will be our children and our children's children who will ultimately foot the bill.

RACIAL JUSTICE IN AMERICA

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, and still I rise. And I rise today with an expression of gratitude and great appreciation.

I thank the many persons who voted for H.R. 2543, the Financial Services

Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Economic Justice Act. I rise to thank persons for this because I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to manage the bill on the floor.

The Honorable MAXINE WATERS is the sponsor of this piece of legislation. It is a compilation of some 13 bills that were used and packaged so that we could bring about some racial justice in this country. Racial justice that is long overdue, I might add.

The Honorable MAXINE WATERS, but for her, I can say without reservation, hesitation, or equivocation, this bill would not have come to fruition. She has been a champion for those who have been left out, left behind, locked out, those that I label as being among the least, the last, and the lost.

The least, those who don't inherit a legacy of wealth but, rather, a legacy of poverty. The least, those are persons who are still finding themselves living in the streets of life.

The last, those are the last hired and the first fired.

The lost, those who are lost in the richest country in the world, but lost perhaps in chemical consumption, drugs, if you will, lost because of mental issues, but they are lost in the richest country in the world. She has been a champion for them.

I will always be grateful to her for working with me to help me to acquire a position on the Financial Services Committee. I think that probably but for her, I might not have the position that I have. So I know that she is not doing well today, but she will be back, and I want her to know today that I am appreciative for the many opportunities that I have acquired by virtue of her being there at the right time when these opportunities were available.

I also thank the Members who had those bills, the 13 bills: Mrs. JOYCE BEATTY, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. TORRES, and of course, Ms. WATERS, had a bill as well. I had two bills associated with this package.

This package, the Financial Services Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Economic Justice Act, why is it needed? Why is it needed on this day some few days away from Juneteenth? And I celebrate Juneteenth, by the way. I commend my colleague, Ms. JACKSON LEE, for her work on Juneteenth.

I knew the father of Juneteenth, Al Edwards. Al Edwards was a State representative in Texas, and he was a person who was tenacious about Juneteenth. It was his legislation that passed the Texas House and Senate and was signed by the Governor of the State of Texas, making Juneteenth a holiday at a time when, quite frankly, people thought that it was impossible to get it done.

Al Edwards, the father of Juneteenth, I always remember him, a dear friend. We celebrated Juneteenth together on many occasions. We traversed the State together. He was one of my supporters. I know his family.

His brother was a banker, Redick Edwards. He was my banker, as a matter of fact. So I have a relationship with this family. I want the world to know that I am appreciative for what he did to lay the foundation for Juneteenth as a holiday at the national level.

I also express my appreciation for what Juneteenth is all about. General Gordon Granger came into Galveston, Texas, in 1865. The Emancipation Proclamation had been signed. The war had ended, but in Texas, the slaves were not accorded their freedom. Some people say that the word hadn't reached Texas. I differ. The word reached Texas, but the slaveholders saw those slaves as personal property, and they saw no reason to give up their personal property simply because Mr. Lincoln signed an Emancipation Proclamation or simply because the war was over. That was their personal property.

It is said that someone was sent, an envoy, if you will, to make it known to people in Texas that the slaves had been freed. This is prior to General Gordon Granger arriving in Galveston, Texas in 1865. Well, they said that that person didn't quite get the message across, and one can well understand why, given the behavior of Texas, a State that seceded from the Union and also seceded from Mexico because of slavery.

□ 1315

They were recalcitrant—and that is being kind—about the desire to maintain slavery. But President Lincoln sent General Gordon Granger.

To say that he sent General Gordon Granger, quite frankly, is an incomplete statement. He sent General Gordon Granger and 2,000 troops. General Gordon Granger, being the wise man that he was, brought those troops with him, but they also had some friends with them. They had Mr. Winchester, Smith & Wesson. They were well equipped to present this message to the slaveholders. When it was presented with 2,000 troops who were well armed, it was received.

It was the next year that the first Juneteenth celebration took place. That was in 1866, the first celebration.

This is what Al Edwards shared with me about Juneteenth, the actual moniker, the name for the holiday. It was his position that it became known as "Juneteenth" because there was some question about the date that General Gordon Granger arrived, within the minds of the slaves, whether it was on the 18th or the 19th. Rather than continue a debate about the actual date, it simply became "Juneteenth," and folks can fill in the blank as they choose. 1866 was a big celebration of Juneteenth, a celebration of freedom.

Again, I commend the father, Al Edwards, and I commend my colleague, Ms. JACKSON LEE, for her stellar work here in Congress to work Juneteenth through to the point that it is now a Federal holiday. I commend both of