

Once again, congratulations to Queer in Canton for this monumental achievement and for their advocacy this Pride Month and beyond. They are truly making a difference in Ohio's 13th Congressional District and making it the best place to live, work, and raise a family, no matter who you love or how you identify.

□ 1100

PENN KINGSMEN SOFTBALL 4A STATE CHAMPIONS

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

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the newest State champions to come out of Indiana's Second District.

Last weekend, the Penn High School softball team won the 4A State Championship for the second time in school history. The return of State champs was 24 years in the making for the Lady Kingsmen.

It wasn't easy. To take home the trophy, the Kingsmen first had to go through two-time defending champs Indianapolis Roncalli.

With the score tied 1-1 going into extra innings, Head Coach Beth Zachary knew that her team was going to do whatever it took to pull out a win. That is exactly what the Kingsmen did, eventually prevailing 2-1 after an exhilarating nine innings.

Congratulations to Coach Zachary and all the Lady Kingsmen on your big win and an incredible season.

Thank you for making Hoosiers and north central Indiana and beyond so incredibly proud.

God bless you, and Go Kingsmen.

HONORING DEPUTY BRETT HARRIS OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and memorialize a fallen hero, Riverside County Sheriff's Office Deputy Brett Harris, who gave his life serving our communities.

Every day, our law enforcement officers say good-bye to our loved ones and make our community safer no matter the cost.

On May 12, 2023, Riverside County Sheriff Deputy Brett Harris was on duty responding to a request for assistance before he was involved in a serious motor vehicle collision that caused him significant and traumatic head injuries. At only 27 years old, Deputy Harris succumbed to his injuries the following day, surrounded by his family and his wife, Myrela, in a hospital ICU.

Today, a wife and a family mourn a loved one, a public servant, and a

friend. Let us honor and cherish the memory of a good man, loving son, and a devoted husband who served our communities well and who loved music, the arts, and video games.

Mr. Speaker, I ask everyone present on the House floor to join me in a moment of silence for Deputy Brett Harris, his family, and every fallen peace officer who has answered the call, put their lives on the line, and sacrificed themselves for our safety.

ENERGY REGULATION

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

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, on top of the self-inflicted crises the Biden White House has created, including excessive spending, the assault on American energy, open borders, and a rattled economy, the Biden administration has accumulated over \$367 billion in regulatory costs.

These overbearing regulations are harming small businesses and hindering growth. This administration seems determined as well to weaken the American energy industry. It has gone after everyday automobiles, drilling, pipelines, coal, and natural gas. But their anti-all-of-the-below energy crusade doesn't stop there.

They have mandated emissions rules on air-conditioning units, washing machines, refrigerators, and, yes, even light bulbs. What a bright idea.

Now they are coming after the American families' gas stoves.

This is a blatant example of the heavy hand of government thinking it knows best, putting an excessive burden on American families.

Mr. Speaker, we must change course and start working for the American people, not against them.

CELEBRATING JUNETEENTH

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I wish my colleagues a happy Juneteenth. I hope they will celebrate Juneteenth as we leave for this Juneteenth commemoration.

H. Res. 1001, my resolution to recognize Juneteenth, June 19, was introduced on June 15, 2020. The resolution garnered 214 of my colleagues as co-sponsors, and it led to the introduction of the first Juneteenth National Independence Act, my bill, H.R. 7232, on June 18, 2020.

In the 117th Congress, we introduced again the Federal holiday on February 25, 2021. I was asked by Senator MARKEY to introduce the Senate companion to my bill in the United States Senate.

Mr. Speaker, that year was the golden year. That led to both Houses supporting the legislation and being signed by the President of the United States.

How significant this was that General Granger made a visit to Galveston 2 years after the Emancipation Proclamation to indicate to those slaves—still slaves—you are free.

This is a day of jubilation. This is a day of freedom. It is a holiday for all Americans. The 12th holiday here in the United States; 38 years after the last holiday. I encourage the Nation to celebrate it.

I thank Reginald Adams for a wonderful mural. I thank Representative EDWARDS for putting that forward in the State of Texas.

Happy Juneteenth. Celebrate it.

Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the House Judiciary Committee, the Chair of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, and the principal sponsor in the House of the Juneteenth National Independence Day Federal Holiday.

I stood in strong and enthusiastic support of S. 475, the Senate companion to the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act I introduced on February 25, 2021, which establishes June 19 as a federal holiday.

Research by the Library of Congress looking back to the beginning of the Congress's existence as a legislative body could find no bill that sought to make Juneteenth a federal holiday, prior to the bill I introduced on June 18, 2020.

I have introduced the Juneteenth resolution annually since 2013. In 2020, the resolution received 214 sponsors in the House of Representatives. This surge in support let me know that the nation was ready for a new holiday, and therefore I introduced H.R. 7232, the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act which received 158 sponsors in the 116th Congress.

I applauded the U.S. Senate for passing S. 475, Juneteenth National Independence Day Act in the 117th Congress, which was a companion bill to H.R. 1320, which I introduced to make Juneteenth a federal holiday to commemorate the end of chattel slavery, America's Original Sin, and to celebrate the perseverance that has been the hallmark of the African American struggle for equality.

I thank Senator MARKEY of Massachusetts for contacting my office with his request to introduce the Senate companion to H.R. 1320 for this Congress, and to my senior senator, Senator JOHN CORNYN of Texas, for his steadfast support of the Juneteenth holiday over the years, and others who spearheaded this effort in the Senate, and Senate Majority Leader SCHUMER for his support and for using his legislative skills to ensure the bill was voted on and passed.

Mr. Speaker, the process that has brought us to this day has been bipartisan, bicameral, cooperative, and constructive beginning with my collaboration in the 116th Congress with former Senator Doug Jones of Alabama and Senator CORNYN of Texas to coordinate the introduction and cultivate the necessary support for the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act.

That partnership has continued through the 117th Congress with the addition of Senator MARKEY of Massachusetts as the lead Democratic sponsor in the Senate.

The bipartisan H.R. 1320, the House version of S. 475, is sponsored by 166 Members from all regions of the country, including

two of my Republican colleagues from Texas, Congressman Van Taylor and Congressman RANDY WEBER.

Mr. Speaker, now it is time for the House of Representatives to act swiftly and bring to the floor, vote on, pass the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, and send it to the desk of President Biden for signature.

With the President's signature, the federal government will join 47 states in recognizing as a holiday Juneteenth, the day that has been celebrated by African Americans for 156 years and has been called rightly as "America's second Independence Day."

Let me extend on behalf of all of us who have labored to pass this important legislation our deep appreciation to the House leadership, particularly Majority Leader HOYER, for their support which paved the way for the House last year to pass by unanimous consent H. Res. 1001, the resolution I introduced recognizing Juneteenth Independence Day.

As I have said many times, Juneteenth is as significant to African Americans as July 4 is to all Americans because on that day, June 19, 155 years ago, General Gordon Granger, the Commanding Officer of the District of Texas, rode into Galveston, Texas and announced the freedom of the last American slaves; belatedly freeing 250,000 slaves in Texas nearly two and a half years after Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation.

When General Granger read these words of General Order No. 3 set off joyous celebrations of the freedmen and women of 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 rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection therefore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired laborer."

Juneteenth thus made real to the last persons living under the system of chattel slavery, of human bondage, the prophetic words of President Abraham Lincoln delivered November 19, 1863, at Gettysburg 'that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.'

Juneteenth was first celebrated in the Texas state capital in 1867 under the direction of the Freedmen's Bureau and remains the oldest known celebration of slavery's demise, commemorating freedom while acknowledging the sacrifices and contributions made by courageous African Americans towards making our great nation the more conscious and accepting country that it has become.

As the nation prepares to celebrate July 4th, our nation's independence day, it is a time to reflect on the accomplishments of our nation and its people.

The celebration of Juneteenth followed the most devastating conflict in our country's history, in the aftermath of a civil war that pitted brother against brother, neighbor against neighbor and threatened to tear the fabric of our union apart forever that America truly became the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Juneteenth honors the end of the 400 years of suffering African Americans endured under slavery and celebrates the perseverance that has been the hallmark of the African American experience in the struggle for equality.

But as the poet Langston Hughes reminds us in his famous poem, "Mother to Son," life in America for African Americans "ain't been no crystal stair."

The post-bellum period in America was marked by violence and terrorism against African Americans as they sought to make real the promises of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

General Granger's reading of General Order No. 3 ended the remaining vestiges of the system of chattel slavery, a form of perpetual human bondage that held generations of Africans in captivity in the United States for two hundred and forty-eight years and opened a new chapter in American history.

Recognizing the importance of this date, former slaves coined the word "Juneteenth" to celebrate the occasion, the first of which occurred in the Texas state capital in 1867 under the direction of the Freedmen's Bureau.

Juneteenth was and is a living symbol of freedom for people who did not have it.

Juneteenth remains the oldest known celebration of America's freedom from slavery.

It commemorates freedom while acknowledging the sacrifices and contributions made by courageous African Americans in the quest to make our more perfect.

The celebration of Juneteenth followed the most devastating conflict in our country's history, in the aftermath of a civil war that pitted brother against brother, neighbor against neighbor and threatened to tear the fabric of our union apart forever that America truly became the land of the free and the home of the brave.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Freedom is never free," and African American labor leader A. Phillip Randolph often said "Freedom is never given. It is won." Truer words were never spoken.

We should all recognize the power and the ironic truth of those statements, and we should pause to remember the enormous price paid by all Americans in our country's quest to realize its promise.

In recent years, a number of National Juneteenth Organizations have arisen to take their place alongside older organizations—all with the mission to promote and cultivate knowledge and appreciation of African American history and culture.

I am reminded that the first legislation introduced in Congress recognizing Juneteenth occurred a quarter century ago, in 1996, when H.J. Res. 195 was introduced by Congresswoman Barbara Rose Collins of Michigan and I have introduced similar legislation annually since the 109th Congress.

So it has been a long road we have travelled to get to this day, even longer than the 15-year journey taken to pass the bill making the Birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. a national holiday.

Juneteenth celebrates African American freedom, and in so doing celebrates America's history and promise, while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures.

But it must always remain a reminder to us all that liberty and freedom are precious birthrights of all Americans, which must be zealously guarded and preserved for future generations.

In conclusion, I wish to take a moment to salute two of the unsung heroes who helped bring us to this day: the late Texas State Representative Al Edwards and nonagenarian

Opal Lee, known affectionately as the "Grandmother of Juneteenth."

In 1852, Frederick Douglass famously asked: "What to the slave is the 4th of July?"

In 2021, we can reply that it is the beginning of the American Promise that would be fulfilled and made real for all Americans, including the descendants of slaves, on June 19, 1865, "Juneteenth Day."

That is why we celebrate Juneteenth, and the nation joins in this celebration this week-end.

REIN IN FEDERAL REGULATIONS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, Federal bureaucrats have usurped more and more power over the American people in the last few decades.

Three-letter agencies now regularly enact sweeping unilateral rules without congressional approval or consent of the American people. This kind of governance is not in the spirit of the Constitution.

Congress makes the laws, the executive branch enforces the laws, and the judiciary makes sure the laws are constitutional.

Agency rulemaking makes a mockery of this system of checks and balances. This is why House Republicans passed the REINS Act. This bill will allow Congress to rein in out-of-control agencies by requiring our oversight over any regulation that is going to cost the people over \$100 million.

Congress for too long has abdicated its authority over these agencies. It is time for that to end.

It has been devastating, especially to our rural economies in agriculture, in mining, and in timber. It is killing small towns. Instead, they are burning up because they can't get over the regulations to do normal things like timber harvest, et cetera.

The American people elected us to do the job—not the EPA, not the ATF, not the FDA—to make the laws of this country.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DON BONKER

(Ms. PEREZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my distinguished predecessor, a true statesman, and above all, a dear friend, Don Bonker.

I had the honor of knowing Don personally and can attest to his generosity. When he heard that I was shopping for a suit for my husband at Goodwill, he mailed out one of his old suits for us to borrow. His generosity really knew no bounds.

He was a real source of guidance during those early days. He was always able to take my calls and answer my questions. I will forever cherish our memories and our conversations together.