

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.

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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 weekend.

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.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in keeping Don's beloved wife, Carolyn, and his children, Dawn and Jonathan, in our thoughts and prayers.

May they find solace in knowing Don's legacy will live on in the hearts and minds of those who had the honor of knowing him.

BLIZZARD OF REGULATION

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot of discussion going on this week about regulation. As we go home for this 3-day weekend, I encourage my colleagues, as they get around their district, whether they run into people who are in farming, in manufacturing, in banking—particularly in the nursing home field—to ask those folks about the difference between regulatory rules that they live under today and 30 years ago. How many more man-hours are they spending every week filling out government forms that does nothing to make their bank or farm or manufacturing facility run better.

I think you will find them saying that they never would have gone into business in the first place if they knew about this blizzard of regulation, that they could not have swallowed it all at once but had to take a drip, drip, drip over 20 years.

In any event, I encourage my colleagues to get out to a different group that they normally don't deal with, the businessmen and -women—the farmer, manufacturer, nursing home, banker—and they will find out that our country is unquestionably poor because of the sea of people we have filling out paperwork every week.

ILWU/PMA TENTATIVE AGREEMENT

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

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend both the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, the ILWU, and the Pacific Maritime Association, the PMA, for reaching a new 6-year contract just last night for 22,000 workers across 29 West Coast ports.

This agreement is critical for our economy and recognizes the heroic work of all frontline dock workers, who worked tirelessly throughout our entire supply chain crisis to move our economy forward.

As mayor of Long Beach, I oversaw our port, which supports 2.6 million jobs across the country. As co-chair of the Ports Caucus, I am proud to have worked with both sides throughout the entire bargaining process. This deal would not have been possible without the work of President Biden and Acting Labor Secretary Julie Su.

Julie's engagement was key and proved why she should be confirmed swiftly by the Senate.

This news builds upon Tuesday's report that showed inflation has fallen for 11 months in a row.

Our ports will continue to fight inflation and bring back jobs.

HONORING OUR COURAGEOUS SERVICEMEMBERS WITH THE FLAG ACT

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country, I introduce the bipartisan Honor and Remember Flag Recognition Act of 2023 with Representative JEN KIGGANS of Virginia.

Currently, 27 States, including North Carolina, have adopted this symbol in honor of those killed in action. By supporting the Honor and Remember Flag Recognition Act, we can help the families of these fallen servicemembers find closure.

On behalf of these families, I ask all Members of Congress to support this vital legislation. Together, let us affirm our unwavering commitment to honoring and remembering our courageous and brave heroes who have given their lives for our freedom and democracy.

HONORING SANDY TORRES FOR HER WORK AND SERVICE

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and the work of Sandy Torres for a lifetime of commitment and service to Santa Ana Unified School District.

Sandy was born and raised in Orange County, and Sandy attended local Santa Ana schools. She started working at Madison Elementary School when she graduated from college in 1982.

Mr. Speaker, 40 years later, she is still there, working and helping children learn to become good citizens.

She has been a three-time recipient of the Madison School Employee of the Year Award and was recognized last year as a classified employee of Santa Ana Unified.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to nominate her as my Congressional Woman of the Year.

We thank Sandy for a lifetime of service, and we honor her commitment.

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COMMEMORATING THE LEGACY OF JESSE TAFALLA, JR.

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the legacy of Jesse Tafalla, Jr., a pillar in the north Texas community who was a steadfast champion for equality, justice, and inclusion.

Jesse lived to serve his community. After high school, Jesse worked for IBM and, for the past 10 years, DART. He was an active member in many organizations in Dallas, including Rainbow LULAC, Stonewall Democrats, Dallas County Democratic Party, and the MLK Jr. Community Center board.

He was a champion of so many different social causes and issues, and he worked tirelessly to try to bridge the gaps and create understanding between communities. He was a very special person.

He greeted everyone with the line, "Hey, don't I owe you a drink?" This was his way of saying that he cared. After that, he would listen to people, and he advocated for communities and people who he felt were genuinely left behind.

Jesse was an embodiment of service and kindness, and his legacy will be carried on through the countless lives he touched. His love for family, friends, and strangers was unconditional.

I extend my deepest condolences to all of his family, his friends, and everyone in the community who loved him and called him a friend.

CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF SERVICE OF THE PENNSYLVANIA GRANGE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedication and determination of the Pennsylvania Grange as they celebrate 150 years of service.

Their story began in 1871 with the organization of the Eagle Grange No. 1 near Williamsport in Lycoming County. It eventually became statewide in 1873. The PA Grange was founded with the intent to heal a wounded Nation following the Civil War.

Today, the PA Grange has members of all ages and represents more than 5,440 Pennsylvanians.

The PA Grange is honoring their 150 years with 150 acts of service. Each chapter is tasked with completing a service project, and as of Wednesday, June 13, they have completed 194 projects.

It is with full confidence I stand here honored to represent a State with people dedicated to helping members grow as individuals, unifying their communities, and fostering opportunities through legislation and community service.

Mr. Speaker, every year I have the privilege of attending the Grange Fair in Centre County, my home county. While attending the fair, I am able to witness their mission firsthand. The