

in which Magellan was killed, Spain, for whom Magellan worked, colonized the Philippines and held power for nearly 400 years.

In 1896, Filipinos mustered the courage to bond together to overthrow the Spanish colonialists. Filipino revolutionaries, led by General Emilio Aguinaldo, took to the streets of his hometown of Kawit, Cavite, about 15 miles southwest of Manila and proclaimed an end to Spanish rule. The open resistance of the imperial power of Spain led to the Declaration of Independence 2 years later on June 12, 1898, and with it the birth of Asia's first independent nation.

But in real terms, just as Spain slipped out, came the colonizing power of the United States. Spain ceded the Philippines to the U.S., blatantly ignoring the Filipinos' own proclamation of freedom. So, practically, the century of independence is somewhat of an illusion, for the Philippines was a territory and then a Commonwealth of the United States until July 4, 1946. However, Independence Day is celebrated for good reason on June 12 because the victory in 1898 symbolizes to the Filipino people the triumph of political will and physical endurance by Filipinos against foreign control. Today, Filipinos are free and they have proven their quest for freedom in countless battles, most recently as part of the American army in World War II.

Mr. Speaker, it is time we award these brave heroes with the recognition they deserve. Let us pass the Filipino Veterans Equity Act this centennial year.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. ADAM SMITH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. ADAM SMITH addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF MARLBORO TOWNSHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAPPAS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to congratulate the citizens of Marlboro Township as they commemorate the 105th anniversary of the incorporation of their community. This is a time of celebration and remembrance, a time to celebrate the growth and achievements of Marlboro Township, while remembering the efforts and sacrifices of the good men and women, past and present, who helped make Marlboro Township what it is today.

Beginning as a small group of small rural settlements in the 1600s, Marlboro has grown to be a center of activity and a place to call home for a community of over 30,000 people. Throughout this time of growth, Marlboro has

retained and contributed its own piece to our Nation's history, from being a Dutch and Scottish farming settlement to a battle site for revolutionary war skirmishes; from supporting New Jersey as a rural community to transforming it into a suburban center. In the wake of World War II, Marlboro has made its mark. Now, 150 years later, the township will celebrate its anniversary with rich new traditions, including a time capsule burial and ceremony to offer history to future generations, annual recreation events, concerts and festivities, as well as having speakers on Marlboro's history and other events.

It is fitting that, while remembering the past, they are looking to the future by having children participate in the celebration. A time capsule, as I mentioned earlier, will create a picture for later generations of what the township was like in 1998.

In the years to come, I sincerely hope that Marlboro Township will continue to build on the foundations of the past to ensure a happy and prosperous future for all its residents. I offer my congratulations and best wishes to Mayor Matthew Scanepiecco and the Township Council. It is my honor to have this municipality within the boundaries of my district and it is my good fortune to be able to participate in its very special anniversary.

THE MEDICARE VENIPUNCTURE FAIRNESS ACT OF 1997

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, before I begin, I yield to my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BENTSEN).

SUPPORTING THE INCLUSION OF THE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BIRTHDAY IN THE U.S. FLAG CODE

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation correcting an oversight that occurred in the 98th Congress during the establishment of the Federal holiday celebrating the birthday of our Nation's greatest civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

It is customary during the establishment of official Federal holidays to signify the importance of the date through recognition in the U.S. Flag Code. The U.S. Flag Code encourages all Americans to remember the significance of each Federal holiday through the display of our Nation's banner. The Flag Code reminds people that on certain days every year, displaying the flag will show respect for the people and events that have shaped our great Nation.

I believe the American people should be afforded the opportunity to pay their respects to the memory of Dr. King and all his achievements through the display of our flag on the day we honor him. Of the ten permanent Federal holidays, only the King birthday

lacks this honor, and I believe that as we celebrate Black History Month, it is appropriate to correct this omission.

I would like to offer my appreciation to Mr. Charles Spain, a resident of Houston, which the gentlewoman and I come from. Mr. Spain brought this very important matter to my attention and I am grateful for his diligence and assistance in helping my office to introduce this legislation to correct this error.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure. Let us continue to honor the legacy of Dr. King and continue to move forward with his dream.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I applaud the gentleman for his leadership on this issue, and I would join the gentleman in cosponsoring this legislation, which I think is an important correction for an honorable gentleman, Dr. Martin Luther King.

I would like to as well, Mr. Speaker, to raise several issues that really are in keeping with Black History Month, in recognition of many of our tried-and-true men and women who served in the Vietnam war. I am certainly a product of that era and I could not find a better time to take a moment to salute those who lost their lives and sacrificed in order that we might be free.

Many people had many things to say about the Vietnam war, but I have nothing to say other than for those who fought and those who lost limbs and were injured and those who lost lives and to their families and loved ones, I salute you, I applaud you, I honor you.

In my district I work extensively with homeless veterans, many of whom are from the Vietnam era. They are no less diminished because of the tragedy of their life, because of some misstep that might have brought them to this point, but they are certainly a part of the honor of those who have served, and my hat is off to them.

I salute those veterans of the 18th Congressional District who served in Vietnam. I certainly am grateful for the ending of that war, and I salute all of the veterans and all of the men and women all over this country who served in this Vietnam war.

It is for this reason, Mr. Speaker, that I applaud the President today highlighting for America the Patient's Bill of Rights. And I will be supporting that legislation, along with the Venipuncture Fairness Act of 1997. In fact, many of my constituents, many veterans, are in home care, and the home care agencies are now being precluded from going to the homes of homebound individuals and taking vital signs that are necessary for prescription drugs and other various medications and physical needs. This H.R.