

made to the United States as citizens since 1917.

More importantly, however, we as a nation must recognize the emancipation of African slaves as part of the process of extending civil rights to all individuals in the United States.

Unfortunately, the struggle for equality for all Americans still continues. Discrimination is still rampant in housing, education, employment, the environment and in many other areas in society.

Despite the uphill battle that we appear to be facing at times, we must maintain our unwavering commitment to preserve, protect, and defend human rights and freedom.

Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman for those kind remarks.

Mr. Speaker, as my constituents and I prepare to celebrate the 150th anniversary of our emancipation, we hope it will serve as a reminder and a reaffirmation, to all of us, of the ideals of freedom and equality that this country was founded on.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 495

Whereas, prior to July 3, 1848, many Africans were held as slaves on the islands of the Danish West Indies, now the United States Virgin Islands;

Whereas, on July 3, under the leadership of Moses "General Budhoe" Gottlieb, the African slaves on the Island of St. Croix responded to the signal of the blowing of conch shells by leaving their plantations to converge on Fort Frederick in the town of Frederiksted;

Whereas in Frederiksted the African slaves demanded their freedom and threatened to destroy the island by fire unless it was granted by 4 o'clock that afternoon;

Whereas, confronted by reports of arson and insurrection, the Danish governor, Peter von Scholten, met the African slaves in Frederiksted and declared that "all unfree in the Danish West Indies are from today free";

Whereas the heroes of this rebellion paid a high price, General Budhoe being sent into exile, and Governor von Scholten being convicted in Denmark of dereliction of duty and of exceeding his authority;

Whereas the American people declared their independence from the British on July 4, 1776; and

Whereas the courage of these heroes serves to connect Virgin Islanders and all Americans to their past and to reinforce their unwavering commitment to preserve, protect, and defend freedom: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives urges—

(1) the American people to recognize the historical significance of the emancipation of African slaves in what is now the United States Virgin Islands; and

(2) Virgin Islanders and all Americans to maintain their unwavering commitment to preserve, protect, and defend human rights and freedom.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

DESIGNATION OF THE HONORABLE CONSTANCE A. MORELLA TO ACT AS SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE TO SIGN ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS THROUGH JULY 14, 1998

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

June 25, 1998.

I hereby designate the Honorable CONTANCE A. MORELLA to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through July 14, 1998.

NEWT GINGRICH,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the designation is agreed to. There was no objection.

REPORT OF NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on Science.

*To the Congress of the United States:*

As required by 42 U.S.C. 1863(j)(1), I am pleased to submit to the Congress a report of the National Science Board entitled *Science and Engineering Indicators—1998*. This report represents the thirteenth in a series examining key aspects of the status of American science and engineering in a global environment.

Investments in science and engineering research and education have enjoyed bipartisan support. They are critical to America's ability to maintain world leadership and fulfill our potential as a Nation as we begin the transition into the 21st century.

This report provides a broad base of quantitative information about U.S. science, engineering, and technology in an international context. I commend *Science and Engineering Indicators—1998* to the attention of the Congress and those in the scientific and technology communities. It will assist us in better understanding the new developments and trends in what is rapidly becoming a global knowledge-based economy.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, June 25, 1998.

PROJECT EXILE

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

Mr. GOODE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about an anti-crime pro-

gram that has been successfully implemented in several cities across America. The program, which was the topic of a June 18 article in the Washington Post, is known in Virginia as Project Exile. Project Exile includes a program that imposes automatic five year sentences on felons caught carrying guns.

The program is being credited by Richmond police with helping to dramatically cut the city's homicide and armed robbery rates. The idea behind the program is simple: To get guns out of the hands of those who are caring them illegally, felons who are most likely to use the weapons in the commission of a crime.

Mr. Speaker, I include the Washington Post article for the RECORD.

[From the Washington Post, June 18, 1998]

RICHMOND GUN PROJECT PRAISED

(By R.H. Melton)

RICHMOND—A program that imposes automatic five-year sentences on felons caught carrying guns is being credited by Richmond police with helping to cut dramatically the city's homicide and armed robbery rates.

The program, under which authorities generally prosecute gun cases as federal crimes—ensuring stiffer bond rules and tougher sentences—is known as Project Exile and has received high marks from two unlikely allies: Handgun Control Inc. and the National Rifle Association.

The federal prosecutor's office here is one of only a handful in the nation—Boston and Philadelphia are two others—to launch an experimental attack on gun crimes. The idea behind the program, authorities say, is to get guns out of the hands of those who are carrying them illegally, people who are most likely to use the weapons in other crimes.

In Richmond, which in recent years has had one of the nation's highest homicide rates, authorities credit Project Exile with helping to reduce gun-related homicides dramatically. Police say there were 140 gun-related homicides last year; so far this year there have been 34. Gun-related armed robberies, meanwhile, are down by a third.

On a morning talk show Sunday, NRA President Charlton Heston told a national television audience that "in less than a year, they reduced deaths, murders, in the city of Richmond by half" through the Exile project.

Handgun Control Chairman Sarah Brady, in a letter to the U.S. attorney here, said: "Your work is succeeding in getting guns out of the hands of criminals . . . The results in Richmond are impressive.

Cynthia L. Price, a Richmond police spokeswoman, said Exile has had a profound effect on the number of violent crimes and the nature of those offenses, leading to far fewer instances in which guns are drawn in anger.

"It's a great program," Price said.

So how did Exile help cut homicides and armed robberies? A cadre of aggressive federal prosecutors, including a lead attorney who earned his spurs hounding Mafia dons in New York City, determined that Richmond's number one crime problem was similar to that plaguing Washington: street-level violence fueled largely by an evidently insatiable appetite for weaponry.

They then brought to bear on city gun cases the full force of the federal government, using statutes dating from the late 1960s to seek mandatory minimum prison sentences of five years for gun-related crimes. That expedited many of the gun cases, ensuring stiffer penalties and, in many cases, eliminating parole.