

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DR.
WILLIS T. GOODWIN

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2001

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Reverend Dr. Willis T. Goodwin, Pastor of Washington United Methodist Church in Charleston, South Carolina, and New Frances Brown United Methodist Church in North Charleston.

On May 15, Reverend Dr. Goodwin was awarded the prestigious "National Service Award" by the Washington Times Foundation. This "Salute to a National Hero" was presented at the third annual National Service Awards Banquet, here in Washington, DC, and I was honored to be present for the occasion.

Reverend Dr. Goodwin was honored for his outstanding record of humanitarian service. Faith-based community leaders from all 50 states were recognized for the wonderful contributions they have made to our society. Reverend Goodwin has spent a lifetime helping the sick, the dispossessed, and the less fortunate of this world, and I am pleased to see that this kind of commitment is recognized and commended.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to Reverend Dr. Willis T. Goodwin for his many years of unselfish service to God and Country.

RECOGNIZING HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, today marks an important date in our Nation's history. Today, the bells of freedom ring in our consciousness and our hearts as we celebrate Juneteenth, the oldest known celebration of the ending of slavery.

On June 19th, 1865, two years following the Emancipation Proclamation issued by President Abraham Lincoln, Major General Gordon Granger of the Union Army read General Order #3 in Galveston, Texas. This order began most significantly with:

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 heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and free laborer.

This profound news inspired immediate jubilation and happiness. African-Americans, previously bonded to their owners in slavery,

were now united in their freedom and liberty. Juneteenth, celebrated every June 19th, commemorates this day of emancipation in Texas.

Since 1865, Juneteenth celebrations have taken place throughout the United States. Large celebrations on June 19, 1866 marked the first anniversary of African-American independence day. Many of these events mirrored Fourth of July festivities. In these early days, the celebration included a prayer service, speakers with inspirational messages, reading of the Emancipation Proclamation and stories from former slaves.

Juneteenth festivals spread from Texas to neighboring states as freed African-Americans migrated in search of work and to re-unite families separated by the slave trade. Celebration of Juneteenth revived in 1950 at the Texas State Fair Grounds in Dallas. Legislation passed in the 66th Texas legislature declared June 19 Emancipation Day in Texas, beginning January 1, 1980. Since that time, the celebration of Juneteenth continues across the state of Texas.

Laws can set the stage for change, but actual progress can be slow. As Juneteenth takes on a more national and global perspective, the events in 1865 in Texas cannot be forgotten, for on this fertile soil the inalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness which Jefferson so eloquently crafted and championed in the Declaration of Independence were ultimately made possible—in law though not always in fact—for the former slaves. Today, Juneteenth celebrates African-American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures. As we continue to move forward as a nation, we must continue to strive for equality. As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. states on August 28, 1963 on the steps of the Lincoln memorial:

This will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with a new meaning, "My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring." And if America is to be a great nation, this must become true.

And so today, let us continue to ring the bell of freedom and renew our commitment to the principles of equality and freedom—in fact not just in law—for all.

TRIBUTE TO THE ACADEMIC QUIZ BOWL TEAM FROM NORTHSIDE HIGH SCHOOL IN FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS

HON. ASA HUTCHINSON

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2001

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Academic Quiz Bowl Team from Northside High School in Fort Smith, Arkansas, who recently earned the title of National Quiz Bowl Champions. The students defeated a field of 64 teams last month to win

the 15th Annual Scholastic Tournament of Champions in Chicago.

The Grizzlies, led by Coach Larry Jones, have dominated the quiz bowl circuit this year—placing first in 10 out of 11 tournament appearances. Bringing home the national title has been a year-long quest for team captain Shawn Standefer and senior members Colin Drolshagen and my son, Seth Hutchinson; juniors, Ryan Marsh, Willie Reyenga and Jill Hoang.

The team had a special chemistry from the very beginning as Shawn, Colin and Seth have been best friends since junior high school. The whole team has dedicated countless hours to studying everything from the classics to history to the latest developments in DNA.

After the team won the state championship, I asked my son, Seth, what the plan was for the national competition. Seth replied that the team members all decided to give something up in order to concentrate on preparation for the national championship. I thought to myself, "What do these teens value the most and are willing to sacrifice?" Mr. Speaker, it wasn't television. It wasn't sports. My son told me they were going to give up their personal reading time!

Like the members of the team, Coach Jones also sacrificed a great deal to bring home the title. Without extra compensation or recognition, Mr. Jones has gone the extra mile for this team. He has given up his afternoons, evenings, days, and weekends to help them train. He is a career-minded, student-oriented teacher who has made a difference in the lives of these young people. This team came to the table with a great deal of talent—but it was Mr. Jones who brought them together and inspired a team capable of competing at the national level.

Mr. Speaker and fellow colleagues, please join me in congratulating the Northside High School Quiz Bowl team as they enjoy their reign as national champions. They have made their school, their town, their state and, especially their parents, proud.

HONORING TOM STEARNS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Tom Stearns for his faithful dedication to improving the lives of others. Mr. Stearns died in a Missoula, Montana hospital on Sunday, May 27, 2001 after suffering a major heart attack.

Tom had an extensive career in public service. Mr. Stearns began his career as a member of the Clovis City Council in 1983 and was named Mayor for two years starting in 1988. In addition to his public service, Mr. Stearns was president of the Clovis Rodeo Association, and represented the city of Clovis on he

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