

appreciate the important contributions of their forebears and contemporaries to the development of this nation and American society.

I am proud to stand before you today to salute two outstanding citizens from my childhood home of Waco and congressional district of Dallas. James Andrew Harris was born on March 26, 1932 in Waco, Texas. As a graduate of Houston-Tillotson College in Austin with a chemistry degree, Mr. Harris worked in the Nuclear Chemistry Division of the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory at the University of California. There he was part of the team that discovered and identified elements 104-Rutherfordium and 105-Dubnium on the Periodic Table of Elements.

Dr. Otis Boykin was born in 1920 and raised in Dallas. His mother was a homemaker and his father a carpenter. Dr. Otis attended Fisk University and the Illinois Institute of Technology. Unfortunately, his parents could not afford his tuition and he dropped out of college after two years. Thereafter, Dr. Boykin built electrical devices used today in all guided missiles and IBM computers. He also developed a control unit for an artificial heart simulator (pacemaker) that helps millions of cardiovascular patients. Otis Boykin will be remembered as one of the greatest inventors of the twentieth century.

Mr. Speaker, today I am worried that given the current educational settings of our country, future Otis Boykins and James Andrew HARRISES will not have the opportunity to pursue their dreams or realize their talents.

I want to focus briefly on what is going to happen in my State of Texas. It is reported that at least \$2.7 billion must be cut from Texas public education over the next two years to balance the state budget without a major increase in taxes or fees. The University of Texas at Austin will hire fewer professors, forcing students to scramble for the classes they want. At Texas Women's University, fewer police officers may patrol the campus. Some intercollegiate sports may disappear from Collin County Community College. Tuition will probably rise at Dallas County Community Colleges. Universities, medical schools, community colleges and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board collectively must slash \$343.8 million in the middle of the school year.

Mr. Speaker, one University of North Texas official summarized the current situation very clearly: "The monster came through our door, and now he's sitting on our lap."

I am further concerned as I read news stories, such as a Washington Post article which recently indicated that Oregon is on the verge of cutting as many as 24 days from its school year. The United States ranks 18th among the industrial nations in school year length. How can we expect American schoolchildren to learn in 180 days as much as Korean children learn in 220? They cannot!

Just a couple of weeks ago we listened to President Bush's well-written, well-delivered State of the Union address. Yes, it was nice to hear words about diversity, higher education, making college more affordable, and leaving no child behind. But words are cheap! What has been done to increase the diversity of our populations in higher education? What is being done to make higher education more affordable? And how will we ensure that no child is really left behind in our elementary and secondary public school education system?

Mr. Speaker we should invest in the education of under-privileged young people here at home. It will improve not only our educational system, but our society as a whole. So many Otis Boykins and James Andrew HARRISES will have the opportunity to revolutionize technology that affects people's everyday lives.

Again, thank you to Congressman CUMMINGS for organizing tonight's special orders.

CELEBRATING THE 140TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION AND COMMENDING ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S EFFORTS TO END SLAVERY

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 2003

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 36—Encouraging the people of the United States to honor and celebrate the 140th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation and commending Abraham Lincoln's efforts to end slavery. To this end, this legislation serves both to remind us of the tremendous strides this nation has made toward ensuring life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all citizens and to recognize Abraham Lincoln, the sixteenth President of the United States, for his commitment to these ideals.

On September 22, 1862, Abraham Lincoln took a bold step towards eradicating the horrible institution of slavery in this country by issuing a preliminary proclamation, which declared "all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free."

Perhaps the three most significant documents in U.S. history that exemplify America's passion for freedom are the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the Emancipation Proclamation. Although each has maintained its rightful place in the annals of American history, only the Bill of Rights and the Constitution have identifiable dates and cultural festivities. Each year, the United States celebrates the Fourth of July, Constitution Day, and Flag Day, all of which have developed into an expression and ceremony of appreciation by the American People with special events emphasizing the historical importance of these significant documents.

However, the Emancipation Proclamation, which is particularly significant to African Americans, has not until recently received its rightful day of national appreciation. With the resurgence of the African American community's celebration of Juneteenth, America is growing in its awareness and appreciation of this highly meaningful document.

Juneteenth, celebrated on June 19, is the name given to emancipation day by African-Americans in Texas. On that day in 1865, six months after the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment, Union Major General Gordon Granger read General Order #3 to the people of Galveston. General Order #3 stated "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 personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor. The freedmen are advised to remain quietly at their present homes and work for wages. They are informed that they will not be allowed to collect at military posts and that they will not be supported in idleness either there or elsewhere."

Large celebrations on June 19 began in 1866 and continued regularly into the early 20th century. In many parts of Texas, ex-slaves purchased land, or "emancipation grounds," for the Juneteenth gathering. One example of this is Emancipation Park in Houston, which was purchased in 1872.

Since this moment in our nation's history, the Juneteenth celebration has spread to the neighboring states of Louisiana, Arkansas and Oklahoma. It has also appeared in Alabama, Florida, and California as African-American Texans migrated.

Frederick Douglass once noted, "A [person] who will not labor to gain his [or her] rights, is a [person] who would not, if he [or she] had them, prize and defend them." With this in mind, I want to remind Congress of the labor of individuals of African descent who have devoted their lives to securing a just and prosperous future for all Americans and the duty we have as citizens to make sure their blood, sweat, and tears are never forgotten and our rights are preserved. This legislation helps to further this sense of obligation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. Through your support for this legislation, we are certain to sustain this great legacy of justice and equality upon which this great nation was founded.

HONORING BILLY LEE

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, a longtime friend of mine, Mr. William R "Billy" Lee, passed away on Friday, January 3rd, 2003, at his residence in Green Cove Springs, Florida. Billy was born in Russell, Florida, on October 28th, 1934, and lived his entire life in Green Cove Springs, Florida, located in my congressional district, Florida's third. A religious man, Mr. Lee was a Baptist by faith, and was a dedicated member of Russell Baptist Church. In fact, Mr. Lee was a former Deacon of the church.

Billy joined the International Association of Machinists in July 27th, 1956, in Local Lodge 1098, in Palatka, Florida. A dedicated union activist, Billy served as the Florida State Council of Machinists Vice President for 10 years before he was elected President in 1998. He served in this capacity until retiring in 1998.

I have always been a devoted friend of the organized labor movement. I have spent a great deal of time here in my 10 years in Washington advocating on behalf of America's working men and women. It has been a privilege for me to be able to work with brave local