

after their wars. That opened up the great West. If it had not been for the Haitian country depleting funds from the French Government, the progress of moving west would not have happened so soon. So we are tied together.

As a matter of fact, Simon Bolivar lived in Haiti; and he went to liberate South America. So Haiti has had a tremendous importance in the growth and development of not only this country but the entire Western Hemisphere, and I appreciate the gentleman yielding to me.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time once again, I want to thank both the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) and my colleague, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTSCH), for joining in; and we would ask other Members to join us in this resolution.

Yesterday, May 18, marking the 200th year of Haitian history, Haitian Americans and the country of Haiti celebrated their Flag Day. They celebrated in the country of Haiti with great fanfare on the grounds of the Haiti's capitol. In the United States Haitian Americans celebrated Flag Day with cultural events, including ceremonies, concerts, and prayer vigils. Haitian Americans in my district celebrated countywide and particularly in an area that is fondly known as "Little Haiti" to commemorate their Flag Day.

America is founded on basic democratic beliefs and cultural values of people from every country in this world. There are over 1.2 million Haitians living in the United States today, with over 700,000 in Florida. I honor Haitian Americans for continuing to believe in the guiding phrase that is included below the country arms in Haiti's flag, "In Union There Is Strength."

That unity has been seen throughout American History since the 1700s. During the American Revolution at Savannah, Haitians and Americans fought side by side prevailing against Britain and creating the independence of the 13 colonies.

Haitians Americans are woven into the fabric of American culture, economy, and politics. They are owners of newspapers, and radio stations, and have television programming and varied commercial businesses nationwide.

In the month of May, in addition to Flag Day, Haitian Americans also celebrate Labor Day on May 1 and Haiti's Mother's Day is the last Sunday in May.

It is my request that my colleagues offer their support for the legislation I introduce today expressing the sense of this body that there should be established a "Haitian-American Heritage Month." I deem it only befitting that the month of May be designated as an official month of ceremonies and celebrations, as it holds such historical significance to Haitian Americans in our great Nation.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN WEAVER

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

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to speak in honor of a great Minnesotan, a man I am honored to call friend,

John Weaver. John is a lifetime resident of Anoka, Minnesota, the Halloween Capital of the World; and a city I am honored to represent.

John has had an extraordinary life over the last 75 years, and the way he has lived that life is truly an example to others. Graduating as the valedictorian of Anoka High School in 1946, he then attended the University of Minnesota, where he pursued a degree in civil engineering. While in college, John still managed to serve his country admirably aboard the USS *Iowa* and the USS *Boxer* in the Pacific Ocean while in the Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps.

After graduating and building a thriving business, he never lost sight of what was truly important.

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His highest priority was and remains his family, his wife Jill and their three children, Jeff, Sara and Martha. Even with his commitment, or frankly because of his commitment to his family, he was drawn to service in the community.

Starting with his service on the Anoka-Hennepin school board in 1971, he made it clear that he wanted to give something back to the community, and the people he served recognized this, returning him to the school board for two additional terms before they made it clear that they wanted him to use his abilities to help all Minnesotans. As a reward for his tireless dedication to improving the community, John's peers elected him to the Minnesota House of Representatives in 1978. He distinguished himself by his service there.

Even after John left the State Capitol, he did not leave public service. Serving on the Anoka City Council beginning in 1983 and right up to the present day, John's energy has been put to good use for the community and the State of Minnesota. Despite his lengthy record of service and achievements in elected office, John has always looked for more opportunities for involvement. He was appointed and reappointed to the Mississippi River Coordination Commission by President George Herbert Walker Bush and President Clinton. He also served on the Minnesota Metropolitan Council of Transportation Board and was involved in countless community activities, including helping with the Anoka County History Museum. His service has had an impact on the lives of people across the States and the country.

But I think his greatest impact is not just on what he has done for us today but the impact he will have in the future. He has been very involved with the Boy Scouts of America since he himself achieved Eagle rank more than half a century ago. His years of involvement with the Scouts, the number of young men that he has helped to guide their lives to good character and good citizenship are countless.

Mr. Speaker, Minnesota is called The Star of the North. With people like John Weaver, that star burns brightly.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to echo the praise of the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KENNEDY) for a great Minnesotan, a great American, and a man I am proud to call a friend. John Weaver is an exemplary citizen both of his community and of his Nation.

As a father of three, grandfather of six and loving husband, his dedication to his family is evident. But despite his family-first philosophy, he has continued to find time to serve his community. That makes his involvement all the more meaningful. A life-long resident of Anoka, John Weaver has served the Anoka City Council since 1983. In a true demonstration of what it means to serve, John Weaver saw a need and met it head on.

When asked why he decided to run, Weaver said, "Anoka is potentially at a crossroads. We have some interesting challenges, not the least of which is the financial picture."

Standing up for his community, John has fought tirelessly to ensure his small town is not overlooked by the State of Minnesota. John Weaver believes that it is important that the people of Anoka see a return on their taxes in the form of outstanding government services. He has gone far beyond advocating this message, personally setting an example to other community leaders.

He has a long resume of public service that the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KENNEDY) has already enumerated. Let me say his dedication to his community is clear, and it is an honor to recognize this fellow Minnesotan and a great American.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to be heard out of order for 5 minutes.

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

There was no objection.

TEXAS DEMOCRATS TAKE A STAND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mrs. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I stand here to praise the actions last week of 50-plus Texas House Democrats, including the representatives from my county, Representative Roberto Alonzo, Yvonne Davis, Terri Hodge, Jesse Jones, Steve Wollens, and from the adjoining county of Tarrant, Lon Burnan, and my classmates of the class of 1972, Senfronia Thompson and Pete Laney.