

subsidized life insurance is available from the Federal Government and that the Government does not endorse, recommend or encourage them to buy the product.

Finally, H.R. 458 clarifies the authority of state insurance regulators to act against bad actors on-base. The States are also directed to create uniform military personnel protection standards and to work with the Department of Defense to carry out those standards.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to end a culture on military bases that too often favors financial interests over the interests of our troops, their families, and their futures.

I encourage my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RADANOVICH). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 458, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THERE SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED A CARIBBEAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 71) expressing the sense of Congress that there should be established a Caribbean-American Heritage Month.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 71

Whereas people of Caribbean heritage are found in every State of the Union;

Whereas emigration from the Caribbean region to the American Colonies began as early as 1619 with the arrival of indentured workers in Jamestown, Virginia;

Whereas during the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries, a significant number of slaves from the Caribbean region were brought to the United States;

Whereas since 1820, millions of people have emigrated from the Caribbean region to the United States;

Whereas much like the United States, the countries of the Caribbean faced obstacles of slavery and colonialism and struggled for independence;

Whereas also like the United States, the people of the Caribbean region have diverse racial, cultural, and religious backgrounds;

Whereas the independence movements in many countries in the Caribbean during the 1960's and the consequential establishment of

independent democratic countries in the Caribbean strengthened ties between the region and the United States;

Whereas Alexander Hamilton, a founding father of the United States and the first Secretary of the Treasury, was born in the Caribbean;

Whereas there have been many influential Caribbean-Americans in the history of the United States, including Jean Baptiste Point du Sable, the pioneer settler of Chicago; Claude McKay, a poet of the Harlem Renaissance; James Weldon Johnson, the writer of the Black National Anthem; Shirley Chisholm, the first African-American Congresswoman and first African-American woman candidate for President; and Celia Cruz, the world renowned queen of Salsa music;

Whereas the many influential Caribbean-Americans in the history of the United States also include Colin Powell, the first African-American Secretary of State; Sidney Poitier, the first African-American actor to receive the Academy Award for best actor in a leading role; Harry Belafonte, a musician, actor, and activist; Marion Jones, an Olympic gold medalist; Roberto Clemente, the first Latino inducted into the baseball hall of fame; and Al Roker, a meteorologist and television personality;

Whereas Caribbean-Americans have played an active role in the civil rights movement and other social and political movements in the United States;

Whereas Caribbean-Americans have contributed greatly to education, fine arts, business, literature, journalism, sports, fashion, politics, government, the military, music, science, technology, and other areas in the United States;

Whereas Caribbean-Americans share their culture through carnivals, festivals, music, dance, film, and literature that enrich the cultural landscape of the United States;

Whereas the countries of the Caribbean are important economic partners of the United States;

Whereas the countries of the Caribbean represent the United States third border;

Whereas the people of the Caribbean region share the hopes and aspirations of the people of the United States for peace and prosperity throughout the Western Hemisphere and the rest of the world; and

Whereas June is an appropriate month to establish a Caribbean-American Heritage Month: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) a Caribbean-American Heritage Month should be established; and

(2) the people of the United States should observe the month with appropriate ceremonies, celebrations, and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the concurrent resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Committee on Government Reform, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 71, a resolution that recognizes the Caribbean-American community. This is a meaningful resolution to many Americans of Caribbean heritage, and I trust my colleagues will join me in support.

Mr. Speaker, America and the islands of the Caribbean have been eternal neighbors, and our pasts and futures are inexorably connected. The first permanent European settlement in the Caribbean was established by Spain on Hispaniola, the island that is now Haiti and the Dominican Republic, in 1496. The first native Caribbean people came to mainland North America as indentured servants at Jamestown, Virginia, in 1619.

Since the birth of our Nation, the United States has greatly benefited from the contributions of those of Caribbean descent. From Alexander Hamilton, the first Secretary of the Treasury, and founder of the First Bank of the United States, who was born on the island of Nevis, through Secretary of State Colin Powell, who was born to Jamaican immigrants, Caribbean-Americans have impacted all aspects of our Nation in tremendous ways.

Mr. Speaker, without question America greatly values its Caribbean-American population. This concurrent resolution is one important way that Congress can express its appreciation of the patriotism and honor of Caribbean-Americans. In addition, the United States Government enjoys great relationships with many island countries in the Caribbean as we work together on many issues including drug trafficking and trafficking in persons.

This concurrent resolution enjoys strong bipartisan support, of course, of the Caribbean-American Cultural Association and the Caribbean Diaspora Empowerment Foundation, not to mention the 81 cosponsors here in the House. I support the concurrent resolution as well.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with the gentleman from Pennsylvania in consideration of H. Con. Res. 71, which expresses the sense of Congress that June should be designated as National Caribbean-American Heritage Month.

This concurrent resolution, introduced by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), recognizes that emigration from the Caribbean region to the American colonies began as early as 1619 with the arrival of indentured workers in Jamestown, Virginia. During the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries, a significant number of slaves from the Caribbean region were brought to the United States.

This concurrent resolution also recognizes that millions of people have

emigrated from the Caribbean region to the United States since 1820 and points out that Alexander Hamilton, a Founding Father of the United States, was born in the Caribbean. Other influential Caribbean-Americans include Jean Baptiste Point du Sable, the pioneer settler of Chicago; Celia Cruz, the world renowned queen of Salsa music; James Weldon Johnson, the writer of the Black National Anthem; Shirley Chisolm, the first African American Congresswoman and first African American woman candidate for President; Colin Powell, the first African American Secretary of State; and Al Roker, a meteorologist and television personality.

Caribbean-Americans have played active roles in the civil rights movement and other social and political movements in the United States; and they have contributed greatly to education, fine arts, business, literature, journalism, sports, fashion, politics, government, the military, music, science, and technology. This concurrent resolution will increase national awareness of contributions made by Caribbean-Americans to U.S. culture, history, and politics.

I am also pleased to note, Mr. Speaker, that Ambassador Sidney Williams is an ambassador to the Bahamas and is also a spouse of a Member of this body, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS).

I know that the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) had wanted to be here to speak to her resolution; but, unfortunately, her flight was such that she could not make it.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 71, expressing the sense of Congress that there should be established a Caribbean-American Heritage Month and urge my colleagues to support its adoption. As a Caribbean-American myself, it gives me great pride to have been an original cosponsor of this resolution as well as to see it on the verge of passage in the House.

Mr. Speaker, the contributions of the people and islands of the Caribbean in the fields of sports, entertainment, politics and culture in the 20th century alone more than makes this resolution worthwhile.

In the fight for emancipation and liberation, my fellow Virgin Islander Edward Blyden, along with George Padmore, Marcus Garvey and Claude McKay were among the first West Indian Americans to become well known and well respected in the African American's struggle for racial equality.

Other famous West Indian Americans include former U.S. Representative Shirley Chisolm; Franklin Thomas, former head of the Ford Foundation; Federal Judge Constance Baker Motley, the first black woman appointed to the Federal Judiciary; activists Stokely Carmichael—Kwarne Toure—Roy Innis, Malcolm X and Louis Farrakhan; world renowned actor Sidney Poitier; civil rights activist and singer, Harry Belafonte; Earl Greaves, philanthropist, businessman and publisher of Black Enterprise; and now Colin Powell the first black U.S. Secretary of State, have all made impressive contributions on behalf of African Americans.

Mr. Speaker, the small nations of the Caribbean wield a cultural influence that has spread to the remote corners of the world. Our culture, notably the music—calypso, reggae, Afro-Cuban and their derivatives—which was created by-and-large by a people who long considered themselves marginalized, has spread far and wide and enjoys unheard of popularity today.

But more than just our musical influence, Nobel prizes for literature have gone to poets St. Jean Perse of Guadeloupe and Derek Walcott of St. Lucia from among a number of highly regarded Caribbean writers. Moreover, internationally admired painters Wifredo Lam of Cuba and Leroy Clarke of Trinidad and Tobago and Haiti's "naive" artists took inspiration from a complex cosmology born from West African religions and Christianity. And Trinidad and Tobago's carnival was the basis for the breathtaking costumed parades designed by Peter Minshall of Guyana and Trinidad for the Barcelona, Atlanta and Salt Lake City Olympics.

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed fitting and proper that we honor the contributions of the people of the Caribbean to our history and culture. Indeed, if providence had not made it possible for our founding father Alexander Hamilton to travel to New York from my home island of St. Croix to further his education, we might not be celebrating the founding of this Nation next week and instead have remained a colony of the United Kingdom even today.

I urge my colleagues to support the adoption of H. Con. Res. 71.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 71, supporting the establishment of a Caribbean American Heritage Month. I urge the approval of this resolution to support the Caribbean Americans who have contributed immensely to American society throughout our history. They overcame slavery and colonialism to fight for their independence, and emigrated to American colonies as early as 1619.

The countless number of influential figures in American history who are of Caribbean heritage indicates the need to set aside a designated time to celebrate their contribution to our country. Alexander Hamilton, a founding father of the United States and the first Secretary of the Treasury, James Weldon Johnson, the writer of the Black National Anthem, Colin Powell, the first African-American Secretary of State, Marion Jones, an Olympic gold medalist, Shirley Chisolm, the first African-American Congresswoman and first African-American woman candidate for President are only a few. These key figures in our history have left their marks on an array of fields; politics, art, music, business, government, and more.

A large number of my constituents are of Caribbean heritage, including Haitian, Jamaican, Dominican, and others. Our community has benefited greatly from their presence and involvement. I advocate establishing a Caribbean-American Heritage month to highlight my own constituents as well as Caribbean Americans all over the United States. I support a month with appropriate ceremonies, celebrations, and activities for a people who have suffered through years of slavery in past centuries and who have come to America to share with the rest of the world their dreams of freedom.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important resolution and I therefore strongly urge its passage.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 71, to provide for the establishment of a Caribbean-American Heritage Month. Congresswoman LEE's resolution represents a nonpartisan appeal to honor the millions of Caribbean-Americans who have contributed greatly to the social, political, and economic life of the United States. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this legislation, and urge my fellow colleagues to lend their support to this important measure.

Caribbean Americans are becoming an increasingly integral part of the American fabric. Though the total Caribbean-American population is approximately 3 million, the Department of Homeland Security estimates 4 million Caribbean people have immigrated to the United States since the 1820s. As a representative of New York City, where Caribbean Americans account for over 25% of the population, I can attest first-hand to the size and impact of this community.

Many Americans do not know the extent of the Caribbean-American contribution to the United States. Indeed, the Capitol Building in which we stand today was designed by a man from the British Virgin Islands. Alexander Hamilton, one of our country's founding fathers and the first U.S. Secretary of the Treasury was from the Caribbean island of Nevis.

The founder of Chicago, Jean Baptiste Point du Sable, was born in Haiti, and Shirley Chisolm, the first African American woman elected to Congress, was also of Caribbean ancestry. Colin Powell, the first African American Secretary of State, is of Jamaican heritage. One could go on and on with the names of Caribbean Americans who have made significant contributions to our history and society, and that just serves to validate why this resolution is long overdue.

In addition to their contribution inside the U.S., individuals of Caribbean descent have contributed directly to the United States even when they did not actually reside in the country. Many are not aware that the United States utilized the skill and labor of thousands of English speaking Caribbean workers in the construction of the Panama Canal in the early 1900s. So large was this group that many of their descendants remain in Panama, and throughout Central America, to this day. The immense contribution that the Canal has made to the American economy, and global trade in general, serves as another reminder of what people of Caribbean descent have given to our country.

Caribbean-Americans also help to maintain the economic vitality of the region. As we all know the United States provides significant financial assistance to the Caribbean. However, this amount is dwarfed by the \$1.6 billion that Caribbean Americans send to the region in the form of remittances to family members. This is needed more than ever as the nations of the Caribbean continue to face many obstacles related to their small economies, and frequent natural disasters.

As we reflect on the contributions of the Caribbean community, there is much that we can learn from them. The Caribbean is quite arguably the most diverse region in the Western Hemisphere. With a population consisting of Asians, East Indians, Africans, Europeans, Native Americans, and even Middle Easterners, the Caribbean has thrived in its diversity, and Caribbean Americans have brought this culture of tolerance and inclusion with

them as they have integrated into American society.

As we now find ourselves with the passage of this resolution appropriately recognizing the Caribbean American community, I find it appropriate to point out a little-known, but ironic, fact. The first country to recognize the fledgling United States in 1776 was the Caribbean island of St. Eustatius. At a time when the odds were stacked against our Nation, the Caribbean was the first to extend the hand of friendship. Now we have the opportunity to return the favor with H. Con. Res. 71. I thank the gentlewomen from California for her introduction of this resolution, and I am confident that my colleagues will follow her lead.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as an original cosponsor to H. Con. Res. 71, which expresses the sense of Congress that there should be the institution of a Caribbean-American Heritage Month. Persons of Caribbean descent played a fundamental role in the establishment of our Nation—these same Diasporic communities continue to contribute to the well being of the United States today.

Beginning with the emigration of indentured servants from the Caribbean to Jamestown, Virginia in 1619—through the slave trade the following three centuries, it is not surprising to find people of Caribbean heritage in every State of the Union. It is upon these first individual's works and merits that a large part of this country was built.

Although the countries of the Caribbean faced obstacles of slavery and colonialism, their struggles for independence prevailed. This racially, culturally, and religiously diverse region of the world contributes greatly to the economy of our own Nation. While the Caribbean is a vital supplier to the sugarcane, coffee, cocoa, gold, tobacco, and banana industries, their contributions exceed monetary value.

There have been many influential Caribbean-Americans in the history of the United States, including: Colin Powell, the first African-American Secretary of State. Shirley Chisolm, the first African-American Congresswoman and first African-American woman candidate for President. Sidney Poitier, the first African-American actor to receive the Academy Award for the best actor in a leading role. Harry Belafonte, a musician, actor, and activist. Claude McKay, a poet of the Harlem Renaissance. Celia Cruz, world renowned queen of Salsa music. Roberto Clemente, the first Latino inducted into the baseball hall of fame; and Al Roker, meteorologist and television personality.

From this short list, we see that Caribbean-Americans shared not only their culture, and expertise in education, fine arts, business, literature, journalism, politics, and science, but the people of the Caribbean region also share the hopes and aspirations of the people of the United States for peace and prosperity throughout the world. Given their contributions to our Nation, it would only be appropriate of the people of the United States to observe the month of June with fitting ceremonies, activities, and celebrations. It is on these grounds that I request that Congress honor the establishment of Caribbean-American Heritage Month.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support House Concurrent Resolution 71, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 71.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JOHN J. HAINKEL POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2346) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 105 NW Railroad Avenue in Hammond, Louisiana, as the "John J. Hainkel Post Office Building," as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. R. 2346

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. JOHN J. HAINKEL, JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 105 NW Railroad Avenue in Hammond, Louisiana, shall be known and designated as the "John J. Hainkel, Jr. Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "John J. Hainkel, Jr. Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation salutes the life of an extraordinary member of the Louisiana legislature, the late John Hainkel, Jr. John Hainkel served 20 years in the Louisiana State house and another 25 years in the State senate until he passed away on April 15 this year. I know he was a tremendous representative of his many constituents and supporters.

The State of Louisiana has mourned the loss of Senator Hainkel for several weeks, but I appreciate the House lead-

ership's selecting this bill for consideration so the entire Nation can acknowledge the life of this highly respected man. I also want to especially thank the distinguished gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JINDAL) for his work on this bill and his commitment to recognizing Senator Hainkel.

Prior to his passing, Senator Hainkel had served in Baton Rouge since 1968, when he was first elected to the State house. He clearly earned the great respect of his colleagues because he became speaker of the house in 1980, and he held that post through 1984. In 1988, New Orleans voters elected him to be their State senator. He ultimately became president of the senate from 2000 through last year. He remained in the senate until his passing in April.

Mr. Speaker, I support this post office designation on behalf of John J. Hainkel, Jr. and urge all Members to do the same. It seems clear his contributions to the State of Louisiana will be long lasting. I look forward to the words of the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JINDAL), sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as a Member of the House Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased to join with my colleague in consideration of H.R. 2346, legislation naming a postal facility in Hammond, Louisiana, after the late John J. Hainkel, Jr. This measure, which was introduced by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JINDAL) on May 12, 2005, and unanimously reported by our committee on June 16, 2005, enjoys the support and cosponsorship of the entire Louisiana delegation.

John Hainkel was first elected to the Louisiana legislature in 1968. He held that position for 20 years, also serving as speaker of the house from 1980 to 1984.

□ 1500

The voters in uptown New Orleans elected him in 1988 to the State senate, where he served until his death representing the Sixth District. While serving in the senate, his colleagues elected him president of the senate in the Year 2000, a position he held until 2004. He is the only legislator in Louisiana history to hold the leadership position in both houses.

Senator Hainkel supported the arts, was pro-business, worked hard to clean up Lake Pontchartrain, and loved to hold legislative meetings over the barbecue pit. He loved his district and State and served 38 years in politics working to improve the lives of his constituents. Sadly, John Hainkel passed away this past April.

Mr. Speaker, designating the post office in Hammond, Louisiana, is an excellent way to honor the memory of