

this benefit would have the important benefit of helping the DCNG to maintain the force necessary to protect federal presence, including Members of Congress, the Supreme Court, and visitors if an attack on the Nation's capital should occur. I am pleased to introduce this bill on advice of Guard personnel who know best what is necessary.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
SUPERINTENDENT SUSAN
BACKMAN

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Susan Backman on the occasion of her retirement as Superintendent of Schools for Dearborn Heights District #7. She has served the community and its students with distinction for more than 30 years.

Mrs. Backman graduated from Western Michigan University in 1971 with a degree in home economics and distributive education. In 1979, she earned her Master of Education degree from Wayne State University. She then earned advanced certification as an education specialist and completed post-graduate credits at Wayne State University in 1988 and 1992 respectively.

In 1971, Mrs. Backman began her career as a teacher in District #7, a job she would keep for the next 13 years. In 1986, she became the Special Education Supervisor, and she earned the position of Director of Student Services in 1994. She then served as Interim Superintendent from 1996 until 1997, when she was hired as Superintendent of Schools. Since that time, Mrs. Backman has worked tirelessly to provide all that she can for the students and staff of District #7.

There is no question that Mrs. Backman's nine years as Superintendent greatly benefited the students of Dearborn Heights. She spent countless hours fostering better relationships with the staff, the community and the Board of Education. Mrs. Backman led a dedicated team of administrators and facilitated the passage of many ballot initiatives to secure additional resources. Furthermore, she oversaw the dramatic reversal of the District's finances from budget deficits and mismanagement to one of growth and responsibility. Throughout her career, Mrs. Backman has been an innovator and a pioneer in researching and implementing the new policies, procedures and programs that have helped District #7 succeed and excel. Mrs. Backman's 2005 nomination for National Superintendent of the Year reflects her undying efforts as an advocate for public education.

Susan Backman's retirement is a bittersweet moment for District #7, and I would ask that my colleagues rise and join me in wishing her the very best of luck, health and happiness in the future. I join the community in thanking her for her dedicated service to the students of Dearborn Heights over the last 35 years. While her leadership and guidance will be missed, her work and achievements will not be forgotten.

CIVIL RIGHTS, IMMIGRANT
RIGHTS, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE: A
UNIFIED MOVEMENT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD, an editorial, entitled From Civil Rights to Immigrant Rights, published in the May 16, 2006 edition of the New York Carib News, by Basil Wilson on the CaribOpinion page. Mr. Wilson raises some pertinent issues and questions about the highly polarized immigration debate. The Republican immigration bill wants to criminalize illegal immigrants and individuals and organizations that support them. Claiming that illegal immigrants are a costly burden on legitimate taxpayers, legislation is being discussed to deny medical services to undocumented workers. Fearing that "Latinization of America" is a threat to American values, the conservatives plan to militarize the southwestern border but policing 1,900 miles border is very difficult, not to mention costly.

The shocking revelation is that this anti-immigrant sentiment is not only backed by economic concerns but also by academic ideology. Samuel P. Huntington and the like are "for immigration provided the dominant culture of white Protestantism is preserved." Recalling the Know Nothing Party of the 1840's whose goal was to expunge the "foreign and unassimilatable Irish Catholics," Mr. Wilson deplores the generalization of the supremacists that Mexican immigrants are unwilling to be integrated into American society. Even if that were the case, the history of Black America proves that assimilation alone is not the answer. The civil rights movement abolished the institutionalized segregation but racism has not disappeared from America. More importantly the power relation with white America has not changed. "The black commitment to integration did not ease the white backlash and the immigrant assimilation will not mitigate the resistance to the browning of America." The struggle of today's immigrants is about first class citizenship. The 11.5 million immigrant workers who are an integral part of the American society deserve their rightful place.

I join Mr. Wilson in urging that the movements for civil rights, immigrant rights and social justice should join forces to free America from the grip of its historical racism.

[From the New York CaribNews, May 16, 2006]

FROM CIVIL RIGHTS TO IMMIGRANT RIGHTS
(By Basil Wilson)

The mass demonstrations on May 1, 2006, dramatized the rights of immigrants and their capacity to mobilize on the part of Hispanic Americans. Mass numbers took to the streets in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Phoenix, etc. The mass mobilization has unsurprisingly triggered a white backlash from segments of white civil society who were opposed to any form of legalization of undocumented workers. Like the civil rights movement of the 1960s, the immigrant rights movement that has been launched in 2006, seeks legislation in Congress to redress their grievances.

Paradoxically, it was the proposed bill passed in the House of Representatives on December 17, 2005 which precipitated the im-

migrant rights movement. The Republican Bill sought to criminalize visitors staying beyond their stay or crossing the borders illegally. The proposed legislation seeks to criminalize individuals and organizations that provide support for illegal immigrants. This extreme legislation reveal the high state of polarization in the country regarding what is to be done with 11.5 million illegal immigrants who take part in the day to day life of American society. The immigration debate like the civil rights debate evokes deep emotions among white Americans who view the Latinization of America as constituting a threat to Protestant hegemony.

Republican conservatives have somewhat sanitized their position since immigrants have taken to the streets. Representatives in the House like Tancredo and Sensenbrenner insist that they are for legal immigration but vehemently oppose amnesty as that would undermine the rule of law in the country. The salient issue for the conservative wing of the Republican Party is the sealing of the borders. Since the 1996 immigration legislation, the United States Congress has allocated billions of dollars to protect the 1,900 mile border between Mexico and America. The Immigration and Custom Enforcement division under the rubric of Homeland Security has been using state of the art technology, helicopters, and increased patrols to stem the tidal wave of immigrants streaming across the unsealed border. There is strong sentiment among conservatives to build a wall and to militarize the border to thwart illegal aliens from crossing the southwest border. The truth of the matter is that the policing of 1,900 mile border is a trying task. That situation becomes even more challenging when so many Mexican and Central American workers find themselves succumbing to an increasingly immiserated state.

Republican conservatives make the case that illegal immigrants are a costly burden on the backs of legitimate taxpayers. The accusation is that illegal aliens are overcrowding the public school system and clogging the emergency wards of hospitals. There is even legislation underway in the House of Representatives to prevent hospitals from providing emerging service to undocumented workers.

The level of polarization is not driven just by economics. Economics provide a respectable cover for the debate. The recent study authored by the Harvard scholar, Samuel Huntington, Who Are We? The Challenge to America's National Identity unmasks the true roots of the national hysteria. Huntington in 1996 wrote. For the Harvard scholar, the new danger was the clash of civilization between Islam and the West. Those fault lines were particularly volcanic and the war in the Middle East is manifestation of that collision between Islamic civilization and the encroaching military arm of western civilization. The Huntingtons of the world are preoccupied with the preserving of American military hegemony and the only way that the hegemony can be sustained is for America to pursue policies aimed at the subjugation of peoples committed to the post-colonial principle of self-determination.

Huntington's point of departure vis-à-vis migration is identical to his position on world civilization. He is for immigration provided the dominant culture of white protestantism is preserved. Huntington's position is that the volume and cultural distinctiveness of the new immigration poses a threat to American civilization. His wrath is aimed not just at immigrants but Mexican immigrants in particular. In his view, the former epochs of mass migration were unthreatening because the Irish wave of the

1840s and the Southern Europe phase of 1890–1920s were assimilatable unlike the present wave of Mexicans.

The previous immigrant waves generated the same histrionics. In the 1840s, the Know Nothing Party was created to purge the country of the foreign ad unassimilatable Irish Catholics. White Anglo-Saxon Protestants argued that Italians and Jews were not assimilatable. Italians and Jews were not seen as white and were not given that status until after Hitler's genocide in World War II.

Huntington sees the Mexicans as constituting a threat to values that made America great—the values of hard work, love of family, and a unitary cultural system. According to Huntington's weltanschauung, the concentration of Mexicans in the southwest constitutes a threat to American loyalty. He perceives that the loyalty to Mexico, the difference in culture, the language clash will invariably lead to two Americas. He throws data into the mix and argues that Mexicans have not shown a propensity to learn the language or a willingness to show loyalty to America. In the 2004 Presidential election, a majority of the Hispanic community supported the war in Iraq. In contrast blacks overwhelmingly opposed the war.

The response to the mass mobilization on the part of the Hispanic community on May 1, 2006 and previous demonstrations reflects the deep asundering in the American society. The detractors have been critical of Mexican or other foreign flags. The singing of the national anthem in Spanish sparked vehement emotions and brought to the fore issues of patriotism and dual loyalties.

White America likes to be flattered. Martin Luther King and the civil rights leadership understood the importance of flattery to persuade a majority of Americans to the correctness of toppling Jim Crow. Black people sought to be assimilated into America. The civil rights movement was about building an integrated society consolidating the cultural system. The immigrant movement is about Mexicans and others taking their rightful position in American society. Immigrants have taken great risk to enter America's borders to become American. One sees the magnetic force of American culture and by the second generation of immigrants, they become indistinguishable from indigeneous Americans.

The black commitment to integration did not ease the white backlash and the immigrants to assimilation will not mitigate the resistance to the browning of America. There is a convergence of the civil rights movement, the immigrant rights movement and the movement for social justice. Although the civil rights movement accomplished the abolition of de jure segregation with the passage of the Civil Rights Bill in 1964, the Voting Rights Act in 1965, the Housing Rights Act of 1968 and the Immigration Legislation of 1965, institutionalized racism has not disappeared.

Racism persists but in a less truculent form. In the post civil rights era, the black community finds itself in a far more variegated state. There has been some expansion in the ranks of the black middle class. The working class has become more precarious and even though there is a reduction in poverty, there has been a sharp rise in the ranks of the incarcerated. Nonetheless, there has been no change in the power relationships with white America. Power is far from being variegated.

There is increased black representation in politics but the black community finds itself still in a state of powerlessness. Black people are not catching hell in America because of the massive influx of legal and illegal immigrants. There are sectors of the economy where illegal immigrants occupy niches such

as in construction that black workers could fill that void. There are black spokespersons who see illegal immigrants as the reason why black men are being left behind.

The immigrant struggle is synonymous with the black struggle. The struggle of the immigrants is about first class citizenship. In American society, like so many other societies, there is a need to have someone beneath to stomp on perennially. That is what whites sought to do with blacks from the genesis of the society until now. That is what poor whites relished in the Jim Crow years and continue to sustain that asymmetrical relationship. If black labor is degraded, then all labor is degraded. The immigrant movement is about worker's rights and the recognition that illegal workers who have been for decades are entitled to emancipation from deportation, to live in human dignity. That is a condition that black people and all people of color in American society can identify. The caricaturizing of Mexicans is no different from age-old dehumanization of black people. Huntington and others of his ilk are oblivious to their supremacist worldview which is so entangled with America's view of military hegemony.

This other worldview is possible but the possibility for this other world is enhanced if white supremacy on the national stage and on the world stage is obliterated. It will only come about when America recognizes the pluralistic state of the world and that America's role is not about the building of walls or engaging in inhumane forms of mass deportation. America has had to adapt to the millions of Africans who came ashore beginning in 1619 and now constitute an integral part of America's multi-racial society.

The 12 million immigrants must become an integral part of America. The change in status from their undocumented precarious position will enable them to have access to higher education and social programs to improve the conditions of their existence. America is split down the middle on the rights of immigrants. This is a difficult time for America. It is confused about its role in the world. Frederick Douglass, the great abolitionist recognized that no entity gives up power willingly. The significance of the black and brown movement is the capacity to forge links with the other America to force America from the trappings of white supremacy. The test of the immigrant movement will be its staying power. The battle for immigrant rights has only just begun.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL TOURISM WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2006

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 729, Supporting National Tourism Week. National Tourism Week, established by Congress in 1983, celebrates tourism to our country, the hospitality of the American people, and the hard work done by the many Americans who are involved directly and indirectly in the tourism and hospitality industry. This resolution highlights some of the major economic contributions that tourism from domestic and international visitors has upon the U.S. economy, at the Federal, State and local levels.

To quantify the U.S. tourism industry as one industry is challenging. In fact, the tourism in-

dustry in the U.S. is a conglomeration of many different industries, the leadership of many individuals at the national, State and local levels, and the myriad dreams and interests of all those who come to enjoy America's vacation spots, its natural wonders, and its historical areas of interest. The strength of the U.S. tourism industry is in its diversity and the diversity of the visitors it hosts.

Tourism is vitally important to Guam. The Guam Visitors Bureau, led by Chairman David B. Tydingco, Vice Chairman Bruce Kloppenburg, General Manager Gerald S.A. Perez, Deputy General Manager Mary C. Torres, and its board members and other officers, continues its excellent work toward increasing the numbers of visitors to Guam. The Guam Hotel and Restaurant Association, led by President David B. Tydingco, Chairman of the Board of Directors Bartly Jackson, and members of the board of directors, continue to ensure that the visitors to Guam receive a world-class level of hospitality, service, and entertainment during their stay on-island. The Guam Chamber of Commerce, under the able leadership of Chairman Michael T. Benito and President Eloise Baza, remains as the lead organization promoting the economic benefits of tourism to Guam and the general economic development of the island through the growth and diversification of Guam's private sector.

The vibrant, capable, and professional tourism industry in the United States provides individuals, families, and groups the ability to see, to experience, and to become a part of the many wonderful tourist attractions located across the United States. In doing so, the U.S. tourism industry facilitates greater understanding of, respect for, and identification with American history, culture and society by both Americans and guests from foreign countries. National Tourism Week is the celebration of the effort to foster better relations between communities within the U.S. and around the world while growing, diversifying, and strengthening the U.S. economy by promoting travel and tourism to the United States.

DESIGNATING JULY AS SMART IRRIGATION MONTH

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with the Irrigation Association in designating July as Smart Irrigation Month.

Since 1949, the Irrigation Association has been charged with and has been successful in leading the advancement of water-use efficiencies to create smarter solutions for agricultural, residential and commercial landscape irrigation. The Irrigation Association is dedicated to developing the irrigation industry and effectively utilizing our most vital resource.

With such charge in mind, the Irrigation Association has named July Smart Irrigation Month to raise awareness about the importance of using efficient watering practices, technologically advanced irrigation products and water conservation. In addition, Smart Irrigation Month is a great opportunity to educate constituents and consumers, including homeowners, garden clubs, growers and farm irrigation managers, with valuable watersaving irrigation information, products and services.