

HBCUs have strengthened our country and enriched our culture beyond measure, and while they can take great pride in their glorious past, it is incumbent upon all of us to ensure that they enjoy an even brighter future.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our historically black colleges and universities, or HBCU's.

It is important that every American understands the history of these institutions and the great impact that they have had on our Nation, and I thank Representative EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON for introducing the resolution declaring this week "National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week."

For years, HBCU's offered many African Americans their only educational opportunity. HBCU's remain a vital part of our higher education system because they continue to offer high quality educational opportunities.

In fact, about one-third of black lawyers, one-half of black engineers, two-thirds of black physicians, and four-fifths of black federal judges are graduates of HBCU's.

Among the leaders who HBCU's have produced throughout our history are artists and writers, astronauts, business leaders, civil rights leaders, mayors, Members of Congress, a Supreme Court Justice, university presidents, and countless others.

So, today, we honor HBCU's because of their glorious past and look forward to what I am sure will be an even more glorious future.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, thank you to my colleagues who have also risen to pay tribute to our nation's historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs). September 10–16 is the week designated by the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities to recognize the work of HBCUs. As a graduate of Florida A&M University (FAMU), a historically black university in Tallahassee, Florida, this occasion holds special significance for me.

Over 40 years ago, I arrived on Florida A&M University's campus in Tallahassee, Florida for my freshman year. At 16 years old, I was a young man with dreams and great ambition like scores of other black men and women who have filled the halls of historically black colleges and universities for more than a century. My story is theirs; like so many HBCU graduates, the invaluable education I received afforded me countless successes throughout my career. After graduating from Florida A&M University in 1967, I attended the Wharton school of business, ran a successful advertising firm, and served in the Georgia State Senate for 26 years. Today I represent the 13th Congressional district.

Indeed just as my experience reflects the opportunities available to HBCU graduates, the evolution of Florida A&M represents the growth of many HBCUs from niche schools to solid academic institutions with national recognition. Florida A&M University evolved from a small, little known school in Florida's panhandle to a university ranked the best overall university for African American students by Black Enterprise in 2006. Florida A&M University has created a culture of achievement in its undergraduate and graduate programs. In 1997 Florida A&M University beat out thousands of institutions to receive the College of the Year honor from Time Magazine-Princeton Review.

Florida A&M University's success is only a part of a larger story of achievement for nu-

merous institutions and the students who fill their hollowed halls. Over 100 HBCUs continue to educate the best and brightest of America's emerging leaders. In 2001, HBCUs awarded one-fifth of all bachelor's degrees earned by black students nationally. HBCU graduates fill professional ranks, closing gaps in professional and economic attainment. One example of this can be found at Xavier University in Louisiana. Xavier University outranks all institutions in the country for the placement of black students into medical schools.

Moreover, HBCUs are embedded within America's historical and cultural fabric. Their accomplished graduates have spurred social change, led political movements, forged divergent artistic paths, and heralded the dawning of new literary ages. To list all the prestigious alumni of HBCUs would require volumes. In summation, it can be said that without them and the institutions that honed their skills, there would have been no Harlem Renaissance, Civil Rights Movement, Brown vs. Board of Education, and countless other eras and historical turning points which redefined the lives of all Americans.

Today I commend the work of HBCUs and the leaders and scholars that have dedicated their abilities to leading them into the 21st Century. I wish each institution a century's more of unparalleled achievement. Borrowing from the Black National Anthem.

... We have come over a way that with tears have been watered,  
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,  
Out from the gloomy past, Till now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast. . . .

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, this week we celebrate National Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) Week, and all that they have done for our country. While I did not attend an HBCU, I have reaped the benefits of these institutions, as have all Americans.

Historically black colleges and universities were founded at a time when segregation was often the norm, whether officially sanctioned or not. These institutions offered African-Americans the opportunity to pursue an education that may have otherwise been out of their reach. Education is very often the key to a successful and productive life, and HBCUs continue to provide this invaluable asset to thousands of African Americans and other Americans.

HBCUs have helped many students who have gone on to become leaders and who have left a positive and lasting effect on society as a whole. In law and politics, HBCUs have yielded great minds such as Martin Luther King, Jr. and Thurgood Marshall. HBCUs have educated cultural and literary greats such as Toni Morrison, Langston Hughes, and Ralph Ellison. Many talented entertainers and athletes have attended HBCUs, including Oprah Winfrey and football great Walter Payton. These individuals and countless others have gone on to make a significant contribution to society after attending an HBCU. For all that HBCUs have done to improve the lives of African Americans, and for all that these African Americans have in turn done to improve society, we are eternally grateful.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### UNJUST PROSECUTION OF TWO U.S. BORDER PATROL AGENTS

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the time of the gentleman from Texas.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am on the floor today to bring to the attention of the House a situation involving two U.S. Border Patrol agents. These agents were found guilty in a Federal Court for wounding a drug dealer, a smuggler, who brought 743 pounds of marijuana across our southern border into Texas. These agents now face up to 20 years in Federal prison.

Agent Ramos served the Border Patrol for 9 years and was a former nominee for Border Patrol Agent of the Year. Agent Compean had 5 years of experience as a Border Patrol agent. These agents never should have been prosecuted for their actions last year.

By attempting to apprehend a Mexican drug smuggler, these agents were simply doing their job to protect the American people. These agents should have been commended for their actions, but instead the U.S. Attorney's office prosecuted the agents and granted full immunity to the drug smuggler for his testimony against our agents. The drug smuggler received full medical care in El Paso, Texas, was permitted to return to Mexico, and is now suing the Border Patrol for \$5 million for violating his constitutional rights. He is not an American citizen. He is a criminal.

Mr. Speaker, I have spoken to numerous people inside Texas and outside of Texas regarding this outrage, including the attorney for one of these agents. I have written the President of the United States asking him to please look into this matter. I have written two letters to Attorney General Gonzalez asking him to reopen this case for a fuller investigation before these men are sentenced on October 19.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that the American people will agree that this prosecution is an outrageous injustice and that the situation must be investigated.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that fellow Members of the House will join me in this effort. I know Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON-LEE and Congressman POE and Congressman GOHMERT have all said that they want to join in this effort to find out what has happened. I believe this is an injustice that needs to be looked into by the Attorney General and by the Congress of the United States.