

Americans. Like Japanese-Americans, Italian and German-Americans were branded "enemy aliens" and were required to carry identification cards, saddled with travel restrictions, had their personal property seized, and placed in internment. For example, 3,200 resident aliens of Italian background were arrested and more than 300 of them were interned. About 11,000 German residents—including some naturalized citizens—were arrested and more than 5,000 were interned.

Executive Order 9066 was finally rescinded by Gerald Ford on April 19, 1976 and in 1983, the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC) concluded that the incarceration of Japanese-Americans had not been justified by military necessity. Rather, the report determined that the decision to incarcerate was based on "race prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership." The Civil Liberties Act of 1988, based on the CWRIC recommendations, was signed into law by President Ronald Reagan and an appropriations bill authorizing reparations to be paid between 1990 and 1998 was signed by George H.W. Bush in 1989. Finally, in 1990, surviving internees began to receive individual redress payments and a letter of apology. Through these acts, our government has attempted to make amends, yet the initial effects of Executive Order 9066 remain in the hearts and minds of many Americans.

Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the Congressional Italian-American Delegation, I fully support H. Res. 122, which would effectively recognize the significance of the 65th anniversary of Executive Order 9066 and support the goals of the Japanese-American, German-American, and Italian-American communities in recognizing a National Day of Remembrance. This bill will go a long way in helping to increase public awareness of the events surrounding the restriction, exclusion, and internment of individuals and families during World War II, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately I was unable to cast my votes on the following rollcall votes on February 12, 2007. I request that the RECORD state my intentions on these votes had I been present to vote.

On rollcall No. 93—on the motion to Suspend the Rules and pass H. Res. 134, recognizing and honoring the employees of the Department of Homeland Security for their efforts and contributions to protect and secure the Nation, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall No. 94—on the motion to Suspend the Rules and pass H. Con. Res. 44, honoring and praising the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on the occasion of its 98th anniversary, I would have voted "yea."

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 9066 AND SUPPORTING AND RECOGNIZING A NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 12, 2007

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, February 19th marks the 65th anniversary of one of the greatest mistakes in our country's long history.

On that day in 1942, President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which authorized the internment of tens of thousands of Japanese Americans. This executive order was also applied to a smaller group of Americans of both Italian and German descent.

In recognition of the 65th anniversary of the internments, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 122. This resolution supports the goals of the Japanese American, German American, and Italian American communities in recognizing a National Day of Remembrance for those individuals who were unjustly imprisoned.

It is said that those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it. A National Day of Remembrance would increase public awareness of the events surrounding the internment of innocent Americans and their families.

While our society has made important strides towards ending racial discrimination and inequality in the 65 years since President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, we still have a long road ahead of us.

Just last week, alarming statistics were released on the resurgence of the KKK and other hate groups in the United States.

This is why we must pass this resolution. Our government and our leaders cannot make the mistakes of the past. Instead they must guide us to a greater understanding and respect for all Americans.

WELCOME TO SPEAKER OF THE KYRGYZ PARLIAMENT, MR. MARAT SULTANOV

HON. CHRIS CANNON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2007

Mr. CANNON. Madam Speaker, I rise to welcome to the United States and to my State of Utah the Speaker of the Kyrgyz Parliament, Mr. Marat Sultanov. Mr. Sultanov was hosted by leaders in Utah on February 3–5.

Kyrgyzstan is a small nation in the heart of Central Asia, landlocked and inhabited primarily by a Muslim population with a predominantly nomadic culture and heritage. Kyrgyzstan has demonstrated itself a friend and ally of the United States, especially in the fight against terrorism. The air base at the Manas International Airport in Bishkek is still the only military base in Central Asia supporting coalition forces operations against the Taliban and Al-Qaeda forces in Afghanistan.

For some time the Kyrgyz Republic has been considered an advanced nation in terms

of political and economic transformation. After the change of regime in 2005 and the election of a new president, Kyrgyzstan still faces many challenges. One great challenge for this nation stems from its proximity to Afghanistan, and the threat of increasing drug trafficking, weapons smuggling and radical militancy. Kyrgyzstan needs our support to progress with reforms for a better future for its citizens.

During his visit to the United States, and Utah in particular, Speaker Sultanov talked about those matters. His background and political career show his own contributions to the promotion of market-based economic reforms. Before his election to the Parliament of Kyrgyzstan, he was head of the National Bank and the Minister of Finances.

Speaker Sultanov's visit to Utah came at the invitation of Utah Senate President John Valentine, as a result of the Speaker's special interest in building strong, direct ties between the legislators of Kyrgyzstan and the legislature of Utah, as well as with the U.S. Congress.

While in Utah, Speaker Sultanov lectured at Utah Valley State College on the subject of "The Kyrgyz Republic-Utah-Rocky Mountain States: A new level of cooperation through a sustainable Mountain Partnership." The Speaker will emphasize for the first time a new tack in the bilateral agenda, related to cooperation in the sphere of sustainable mountain development, which will be very important for both Kyrgyzstan and Utah.

The idea of sustainable development is directed toward fighting poverty, unemployment and inequality by looking for the exchange and implementation of best practices among the people who live in similar environments with similar challenges. Many of these challenges in mountain nations come because of remoteness, lack of resources and infrastructure.

The Rocky Mountain States and Utah are actively involved in this cooperative process. In November of last year several institutions from this region, including Vista 360 (Jackson, Wyoming), Utah Valley State College and the Utah-Russia Institute became members of the UN-related Mountain Partnership, which coordinates efforts on sustainable mountain development on a global level.

Another major project which Utah Valley State College is pursuing, together with its partners from the National Center of Development of Mountain Regions of Kyrgyzstan, is the international conference "Women of the Mountains." A number of prominent women from around the world and from the Rocky Mountain region will take part in the Conference. The goal of the Conference is to unite leading scholars and institutions from the Rocky Mountain States in a regional approach toward sustainable mountain development. This conference will be free and open to the public on the UVSC Orem campus from March 8th–March 10th.

The conference will give scholars from the region an opportunity to talk to each other and identify positive examples of sustainable development in the Rocky Mountains and then to further these experiences both in this region and with interested partners around the world. UVSC intends that the Conference be held on an annual basis.

Representatives of Kyrgyzstan and other developing mountain nations have emphasized how important it is for them to have specific support from the mountain communities of