

example and began spending every evening reading and writing, a habit he continued until he died just a few days ago.

Dr. Franklin attended Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, where he graduated at the top of his class. Then he earned a master's and a Ph.D. degree from Harvard College. He had planned to be a lawyer like his father.

But one of his professors encouraged him to tell the story of African Americans, to tell their history. His first book, called "From Slavery to Freedom," sold 3.5 million copies. He became a full professor at Brooklyn College, and he taught one of our colleagues in the Senate. He was appointed Chair of the history department at the University of Chicago, and many years later he became a professor at Duke University.

I knew John Hope Franklin. He was a beautiful human being. He never gave up on the promise of America. Even though he dug deep into America's dark past, he never lost faith in the dream of a new day. He believed that if we were willing to take a hard look at where we have been, we could reconcile the future of all humanity. He believed in a nation and world community at peace with itself. And he did his part.

John Hope Franklin was not only a great historian, but he was a champion of civil rights and social justice. He worked alongside Thurgood Marshall to help dismantle legalized segregation and racial discrimination. In him we have lost more than a brilliant scholar, more than a noble historian, more than a father of African American history. We have lost one of the great men of our time.

There was a gentle power in his presence, an abiding respect in his name, a brilliance and humility in his spirit that changed us all. He is an inspiration to everyone who met him.

John Hope Franklin was a prince of a man. By sharing the riches of his mind and the wealth of his knowledge, he helped not just to educate but to free a people and an entire Nation. He will be deeply missed.

SAN JACINTO DAY

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, growing up in Houston, Texas, I always liked this day, April 21, because it was a school holiday. I believed there was no school because it was my mother's birthday. She never told me differently. I was proud to be the only kid that had a mother with a school holiday.

It was only later that I came to find out that the holiday also represented the most important military victory in Texas history, one that occurred near my hometown of Houston. It was a unique holiday for Texas called "San Jacinto Day."

It all started when Texas declared independence from Mexico on March 2, 1836. Texans held off the invading Mexican army at a place called the Alamo. They were led by a commander by the name of William Barret Travis, a 27-year-old lawyer from South Carolina. The 187 volunteers held out for 13 days and inflicted vicious casualties on the invaders. But Santa Anna, dictator of Mexico, was able to storm over the Alamo walls on March 6, 1836, and killed all the remaining defenders. He went looking for the rest of the Texans that wanted independence from Mexico. General Sam Houston had been building the Texas army, and Santa Anna's three armies from Mexico were giving chase. The Texans and their families fled east in what historians call the "runaway scrape."

Finally, near the San Jacinto River and Buffalo Bayou at Lynch's Ferry near Houston, Texas, they stopped to fight. Houston and his army of 700 faced Santa Anna and his army of twice that number on the marshy plains of San Jacinto. Scout Deaf Smith was ordered to burn the only bridge and trapped both armies on the peninsula between the river and the marshes.

It was April 21, 1836. General Sam wanted to charge into battle the next day at dawn, but after discussions with his troops, he decided not to wait any longer. So in the middle of the afternoon, General Sam and the boys marched in a single line in broad daylight with little cover toward the Mexican army.

The outnumbered Texans were an odd, terrifying-looking bunch. Without regular uniforms, they were dressed in buckskins, with pistols in their belts, bowie knives, long muskets, and tomahawks. They came from numerous States and foreign countries like Germany, England, Scotland, and Mexico. The Tejanos, Mexicans loyal for independence, were led by Captain Juan Sequin. So as not to confuse these Tejanos with Santa Anna's army, General Sam had Captain Sequin put a playing card in the headband of each Tejano so they could be easily recognized as Texans and not the invaders.

This was General Houston's first Texas battle. Santa Anna's veteran army had yet to lose any conflict after they invaded Texas. The Texans charged down the hill yelling "Remember the Alamo," "Remember Goliad." They carried a flag of a partially nude Miss Liberty, and the fife played a bawdy house song called "Come to the Bower."

Santa Anna's army was caught napping and was routed. Most of the enemy were killed or wounded. The rest were captured or disappeared. The victory was stunning. The Texans wanted Santa Anna hung because of the Alamo and for murdering Colonel Fannin and his 13 volunteers at Goliad after they had surrendered. Wise and politically astute, Sam Houston would have none of the lynching and spared

Presidente Santa Anna for later bartering power.

Texas became a free and independent nation that day and claimed what is now Texas but also parts of New Mexico, Oklahoma, Kansas, Wyoming, and Idaho, all the way to the Canadian border. It was one of the largest land transfers in world history as a result of one battle. The latter land was sold to the United States to pay for Texas' war debts. But Texas was a free independent republic for 9 years and then was admitted into the United States in 1845 by one vote. A Louisiana Senator changed his mind and voted for admission for the State of Texas to become part of the Union. Some now wished the vote had gone the other way.

Texas still has the right, Mr. Speaker, to divide into five States. It also has the absolute right to fly the Texas flag at the same level of the United States flag because Texas was a country once. In 1936 Texans built the San Jacinto Monument in honor of the Texas War of Independence and General Sam's victory. It looks like the Washington Monument but it has a star on top. But, of course, Mr. Speaker, it's taller than the Washington Monument.

Today the bugles are silent and the battlefield is surrounded by petrochemical plants. Not much is said about Texas Independence or San Jacinto Day. It's not a school holiday anymore. But once again this year, proud Texans were at the San Jacinto battleground today to honor the few brave Texans and Tejanos that made Texas a free nation. We remember our past, knowing we were a nation once, and sometimes we still act like an independent country. I have a grandson who was named in honor of William Barret Travis and Sam Houston. His name is Barret Houston. I flew the Texas Lone Star flag today proudly on this San Jacinto Day. But, also, Mr. Speaker, I sent my mom a bunch of flowers remembering that this glorious day was a school holiday to celebrate her birthday.

And that's just the way it is.

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

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

AMERICA'S RE-ENGAGEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to praise President Obama on his recent meetings with foreign leaders. He changed both the tone and the substance of American foreign policy, and I believe he did a great deal to restore America's reputation throughout the world.