

EXPRESSING REGRET FOR PASSAGE OF LAWS ADVERSELY AFFECTING THE CHINESE IN THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support passage of H. Res. 683, an overdue and needed resolution that expresses the regret of the House for passing laws that targeted Chinese in the United States, including the Chinese Exclusion Act. A previous commitment has prevented me from being present to vote in support of H. Res. 683 today, but had been present, I most certainly would have voted for the Resolution, adding my voice to the Sense of the House of Representatives in expressing regret for the unconscionable Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882.

That Act stands as an example of the intolerance against which Americans must constantly fight to achieve the ideals on which our nation was founded. We can't ignore our country's history of exclusion and discrimination based on identity and country of origin. But today, the House's expression of regret for the past and apology to Chinese Americans is an important milestone in our nation's ongoing moral journey. This resolution, insufficient to repair the historical harm caused by such laws, does serve to recognize past wrongs and to remind us of our continuing work ensuring inclusion and equality for all.

While I could not be present to add my solemn support to the votes in favor of the resolution, I wish to express my regret for this historical legislation. I join my fellow members of the House of Representatives in recognition of the immense contribution of Chinese-Americans to the success of the United States historically and today, and affirm my commitment to securing the rights of all who call America home.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS ASSOCIATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 25th anniversary of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association. Since their establishment in 1987, NATCA's 20,000 air traffic controllers and aviation safety professionals have ensured that our nation has the safest, most efficient air traffic control system in the world. This is a record that makes both the Union and our country proud.

Aviation creates more than 10 million good-paying U.S. jobs and drives more than \$1 trillion in annual economic activity. The services that NATCA members provide enable American businesses to connect on a local, regional, national, and global level.

Aviation safety is not a partisan issue. As Members of Congress, we are all frequent users of the National Airspace System and are

reassured to know that when we board a plane, NATCA's membership will safely guide us home.

Again, I want to commend the National Air Traffic Controllers Association and their leadership on a job well done.

RECOGNIZING THE 147TH ANNIVERSARY OF JUNETEENTH AND THE 19TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF THE JUNETEENTH FREEDOM AND HERITAGE FESTIVAL IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 147th anniversary of Juneteenth and the 19th annual celebration of the Juneteenth Freedom and Heritage Festival in Memphis, Tennessee. This past weekend, we celebrated Juneteenth, which is the oldest known celebration of the ending of slavery. Juneteenth commemorates African-American freedom and emphasizes education and achievement.

On June 19, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, and announced in the town square that all slaves were free. Although this came nearly 3 years after the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation, the newly freed men and women rejoiced in the streets with jubilant celebrations, and thus, the Juneteenth holiday was born. The theme of this year's Memphis Juneteenth festival is "Saluting Black Educators."

Memphis has a long history of excellent black educators. During the Civil Rights Movement Memphis needed a powerful voice to stand up and push for equality in the Memphis City schools. After being denied admission to Memphis State University because of her race, Maxine A. Smith joined the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and soon became an agent for change as she was instrumental in desegregating Memphis schools. In 2003, alongside President Clinton, Maxine Smith received the Freedom Award from the National Civil Rights Museum.

Memphis has had its fair share of outstanding black educators in recent years as well. In 2009, the White House honored Melissa Collins with the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Melissa Collins is a second grade teacher in Memphis, and during a time in this country where math and science teachers are scarce, Melissa Collins exhibits the teaching skills necessary to inspire our children to learn. In February of this year, Velma Lois Jones received the Drum Majors for Service Award from the White House. Velma Lois Jones was the first black classroom teacher ever elected as president of the Tennessee Education Association and she was also a board member of the National Education Association.

Mr. Speaker, it is in the spirit of these great individuals that I ask my colleagues to join me in observing our nation's 147th anniversary of Juneteenth and the celebrations in Memphis. This is a time to celebrate the end of slavery in America and to recognize the many contributions of African-American citizens.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF RICHARD W. LYMAN

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the rich and accomplished life of Richard W. Lyman, Stanford University's seventh president, who died on May 27, 2012, at his home in Palo Alto at the age of 88.

The eloquent words of Stanford University President John Hennessy bear quoting: "Dick Lyman was a man of great strength, integrity, common sense and good humor. It was a privilege to know him, and I am deeply saddened by his death. His impact on Stanford was profound. He guided the university through some of the most turbulent years in its history, and under his leadership, Stanford not only survived, it flourished. He had an unswerving belief in academic freedom and universities, and he inspired that commitment in others. We are very fortunate—and certainly the better—for having known him and for having his courageous, committed leadership and service to Stanford."

Richard Lyman was born in 1923 in Pennsylvania and was raised in New Haven, Connecticut. His father was an attorney and his mother a French teacher. His education at Swarthmore College was interrupted by three years of service in the Army Air Forces Weather Service, and after college he began graduate studies leading to a Ph.D. in history at Harvard. He spent two years as a Fulbright Fellow at the London School of Economics, and two summers writing for *The Economist*. He also taught history at Washington University in St. Louis from 1954 to 1958.

Richard Lyman came to Stanford in 1958, with the great love of his life, Jing, whom he married in 1947. He became a full professor in 1962, and rose through the ranks, becoming Stanford's president in 1970, a post he held until 1980. He served in some of the most turbulent years in our Nation's history, and in the opinion of many, he saved Stanford from collapse and greatly enhanced its prestige.

After leaving Stanford, he held many important posts, including President of the Rockefeller Foundation and Vice Chair of the National Council on the Humanities. He returned to Stanford in 1988 and developed a forum for interdisciplinary research on key international issues, and retired in 1991.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life of one of the most distinguished and extraordinarily accomplished leaders of our country, and to extend our deepest condolences to his devoted wife Jing, and his four children Jennifer Lyman, Rev. Holly Antolini, Christopher Lyman, Timothy Lyman, and his four grandchildren.

Richard Lyman's leadership brought great distinction to our community and strengthened our Nation. I am blessed to have known him, and our country was blessed by his high sense of citizenship and patriotism.