

we can celebrate marriage equality all across America. Until then, I share in the joy of another step forward in the struggle for equal rights for all, regardless of their race, age, gender, or sexual orientation.

IN RECOGNITION OF FORMER PRESIDENT OF MEXICO, INDIGENOUS LEADER, AND FRIEND TO THE UNITED STATES, BENITO JUAREZ

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2013

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, as millions of Mexican Americans across the country commemorate the 5th of May, or "El Cinco de Mayo," I would like to pay particular homage to the indigenous visionary leader and friend to the U.S., Benito Juarez, whose historic actions lead to this celebrated occasion. Born the son of Zapotec Indian peasants, Juarez rose above racial, economic, and political challenges to become one of Mexico's most renowned presidents.

Juarez became a lawyer in 1834, a judge in 1841, Governor of the state of Oaxaca in 1847, President of the Supreme Court of Justice in 1857, interim President of Mexico in 1858, and finally President elect in 1861.

Juarez served his country at a time of tremendous political discord. Inspired by the idea of a modern civil society and free market principles prevalent in its neighboring country to the north, Juarez dedicated himself to ridding his country of its historically corrupt military rule. Juarez also successfully ousted British, Spanish, and French opposition forces while serving as head of state in exile. It was at the Battle of Puebla, on May 5, 1862, that Mexican forces won a victory against the French. Although significantly outnumbered, the Mexicans defeated a much better-equipped French army of more than double their size in numbers. The French army had not been defeated in almost 50 years. On May 9, 1862, Juarez declared that the anniversary of the Battle of Puebla would be a national holiday regarded as "Battle of Puebla Day" or "Battle of Cinco de Mayo."

I note that Juarez maintained a special relationship with President Abraham Lincoln. During Juarez' exile, President Lincoln sent him a message expressing hope "for the liberty of . . . [his] government and its people." Later while Juarez fought against the French, General Ulysses S. Grant, under President Lincoln's direction, issued an order to "concentrate in all available points in the States an army strong enough to move against the invaders of Mexico." President Lincoln also supplied arms and munitions to Juarez, sending as many as 30,000 muskets to reinforce the Mexican line.

In turn, Juarez stood strong against Confederacy efforts to topple the Union armies. When the South sent a delegation under John T. Pickett to Mexico to win over the juaristas, Pickett was thrown into a Mexico City jail for 30 days and thereafter expelled from the country.

Upon receiving news of President Lincoln's assassination, Juarez ordered flags at all public buildings and military stations in Mexico to

fly at half-mast. In a letter to the Secretary of the Mexican Legation and his charge d'affaires in Washington, D.C., Juarez wrote: "[This] great misfortune has profoundly impressed me, as Mr. Lincoln, who worked with so much earnestness and abnegation for the cause of nationality and freedom, was worthy of a better fate than the poniard of a coward assassin."

Today, Juarez is remembered as being a progressive reformer dedicated to democracy, equal rights for his nation's indigenous peoples, and the defense of national sovereignty. Let us honor him on this day.

TRIBUTE TO DR. STANLEY H. STONE

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2013

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the constituents of the Fifth Congressional District of Florida and myself, I rise now to offer a tribute to the career and success of my friend, Dr. Stanley H. Stone, who served as the Vice President of Human Resources and Diversity for Valencia College in Orlando, FL for the past ten years. A visionary and scholar Dr. Stanley H. Stone is a true leader of the Central Florida Community and the great State of Florida.

We exalt Dr. Stone for his accomplishments while the legacy honoring the man, husband, father, and a community leader who is beloved by many in the Central Florida area. A man dedicated to education and committed to achieving athletic excellence, Dr. Stone earned a Bachelor's of Arts degree in Political Science in 1974 from Howard University in Washington, District of Columbia while on a track athletic scholarship. During his tenure at Howard, he was acknowledged as a College All-American in Track and Field. This prestigious honor catapulted him toward his aspirations of representing the United States in the Olympics after winning several sprinting competitions. Continuing his pursuit of academic scholarship, Dr. Stone was awarded his Juris Doctorate degree in 1977 from Howard University.

Upon relocating to the State of Florida, Dr. Stone began his professional career as a staff attorney for Central Florida Legal Services, Inc. In 1979, Dr. Stone's call to service lead him to the classrooms of Seminole Community College in Sanford, FL and Valencia Community in Orlando, FL as an adjunct professor, where he taught both business and law classes at each respective institution. Within the year, Dr. Stone became the Program Director of the Paralegal Program at Valencia. Progressing forward, he became the Dean of the Business and Public Services department and served in this capacity for 10 years. Because of his exceptional work ethic, management skills, and business savvy, Dr. Stone was promoted to Provost of Valencia College, East Campus in 1994 and remained in this position until 2003. It was during his tenure as Provost that the East Campus experienced extraordinary growth in student enrollment, increased number of grants awarded to faculty and staff, and the expansion of buildings and facilities. Subsequently, by the end of his term, the East

Campus bolstered an enrollment of over 17,000 students per semester, greatly exceeding that of the other three respective Valencia Community College campuses. Also as campus Provost, Dr. Stone served as the Chair of the college-wide Equal Access/Equal Opportunity Committee, responsible for recommending college policies and procedures for controlling employment discrimination investigations, sexual harassment complaints, and provided guidance to administrators on college recruiting and hiring practices. As a result of being an advocate for students, Dr. Stone was awarded an honorary membership into the Phi Theta Kappa Society.

In recognition of exemplifying phenomenal leadership, Valencia's President, Dr. Sanford Shugart, promoted Dr. Stone to the position of Vice-President of Human Resources and Diversity division in 2003. Dr. Stone is the first to hold this position and was the only African American on the president's cabinet. He served as the president's liaison to the College's Black Advisory Committee. Dr. Stone holds memberships in the American Association of the Community Colleges, the Florida Association of Community Colleges and the College and University Public Administrators organization.

As a community leader Dr. Stanley H. Stone efforts are unrivaled. He has served on numerous boards, commissions and panels throughout the Central Florida area. In September, 2006, Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer appointed Dr. Stone as Chair of the Mayor's Safe Orlando Task Force his unprecedented recommendations to resolve law enforcement issues and reduce crime were unanimously accepted recommendations for implementation. In addition, Dr. Stone serves on the Board of Directors for the African American Chamber of Commerce, the Central Florida Urban League, 100 Black Men organization and Boys and Girls Club. Dr. Stone reached the pinnacle of his volunteerism and philanthropic efforts by being recognized by several organizations such as the Orange County Black History Committee who named Dr. Stone, Educator of the Year in 2006; The Links, Incorporated in 2009; and he was most recently recognized by Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated as a Blue Indigo award recipient.

Though Dr. Stone H. Stone is a celebrated educator and exemplary community leader, the title that suits him best that which he is most proud of is father. Dr. Stone enjoys leisure time with his son, Terrance, and his loving wife, Barbara. In memory of their most cherished and treasured daughter Shannon, who transitioned in 2007, Dr. and Mrs. Stone established a foundation through which several students have been granted scholarships and book awards. A devoted and active member of Antioch Missionary Baptist Church in Oviedo, Florida, Dr. Stone is a man of great faith. Through his faith he has persevered from his childhood in the inner city to his stellar achievements as a community servant. Always remembering to reach back, Dr. Stone's commitment and dedication to our youth has provided young people with the opportunities that were not so easily afforded to him.

We pay tribute to a man of God Dr. Stanley H. Stone, as a humanitarian, man, husband, father, educator, and community leader in Central Florida whose life work and achievements symbolize compassion, thoughtfulness, patience, wisdom, confidence and faith. He is