

Whereas, in our beloved Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, we are honored to have members of the Johnson-Ramsey family, including Ms. Wandra Seymore-Outlaw one of our most beloved citizens in our District who resides in Ellenwood, Georgia; and

Whereas, family is one of the most honored and cherished institutions in the world, we take pride in knowing that families such as the Johnson-Ramsey family have set aside this time to fellowship with each other, honor one another and to pass along history to each other by meeting at this year's 80th family reunion in Atlanta, Georgia; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize the Johnson-Ramsey family in our District; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim June 20, 2014 as Johnson-Ramsey Family Reunion Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 20th day of June, 2014.

#### JUNETEENTH 2014

### HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 19, 2014*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, on June 19, 1865, General Gordon Granger rode into Galveston, Texas and announced the freedom of the last American slaves; belatedly freeing 250,000 slaves in Texas nearly two and a half years after Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation.

Juneteenth was first celebrated in the Texas state capital in 1867 under the direction of the Freedmen's Bureau.

Today, Juneteenth remains the oldest known celebration of slavery's demise. It commemorates freedom while acknowledging the sacrifices and contributions made by courageous African Americans towards making our great nation the more conscious and accepting country that it has become.

This year, I introduced H. Res. 632 to Honor Juneteenth Independence Day. In introducing this Resolution, I acknowledge State Representative Al Edwards of Texas and all Houstonians who honor Juneteenth as well or all who celebrate this freedom day.

Last year, I introduced H. Res. 268—a Resolution observing the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day. As we celebrate the anniversary of Juneteenth, I ask that all of my colleagues join me in reflecting upon its significance.

Today, I will be reintroducing the Resolution to commemorate this year's celebration of Juneteenth.

Because it was only after that day in 1865 when General Granger rode into Galveston, Texas, on the heels of the most devastating conflict in our country's history, in the aftermath of a civil war that pitted brother against brother, neighbor against neighbor and threatened to tear the fabric of our union apart forever that America truly became the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Not until 1979 when my friend State Representative Al Edwards introduced the bill did Juneteenth become a Texas state holiday. It was first celebrated as such in 1980.

Civil rights pioneer Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Freedom is never free," and Afri-

can American labor leader A. Phillip Randolph often said "Freedom is never given. It is won."

We should all recognize the power and the ironic truth of those statements and we should pause to remember the enormous price paid by all Americans in our country's quest to realize its promise.

Juneteenth honors the end of the 400 years of suffering African Americans endured under slavery and celebrates the legacy of perseverance that has become the hallmark of the African American community and its struggle for equality.

Throughout the 1980's and 90's Juneteenth has continued to enjoy a growing and healthy interest from communities and organizations throughout the country.

Institutions such as the Smithsonian, the Henry Ford Museum and others have begun sponsoring Juneteenth-centered activities. In recent years, a number of National Juneteenth Organizations have arisen to take their place alongside older organizations—all with the mission to promote and cultivate knowledge and appreciation of African American history and culture.

Juneteenth today, celebrates African American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures.

As it takes on a more national and even global perspective, the events of 1865 in Texas are not forgotten, for all of the roots tie back to this fertile soil from which a national day of pride is growing. The future of Juneteenth looks bright as the number of cities and states come on board and form local committees and organizations to coordinate the activities.

#### HONORING THE CITY OF LEXINGTON, MISSISSIPPI

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 19, 2014*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the historically rich city of Lexington, Mississippi.

Lexington is a city in Holmes County, Mississippi. The population was 2,025 as of the 2000 census. It was named in honor of Lexington, Massachusetts. Like much of the state, Holmes County suffered during and after the Civil War.

The City of Lexington is served by the Holmes County School District. It is also served by a private school called Central Holmes Christian School (formerly Central Holmes Academy).

The City of Lexington also has some rich African-American History. It is the root for the Church of God in Christ (COGIC) (formerly called the Church of God when it got its Lexington beginning) by founder Bishop Charles Harrison Mason.

The City of Lexington can also boast as having the first black-elected school superintendent in the State of Mississippi—Elder William Dean, who is now pastor of the St. Paul Church of God in Christ here in Lexington. The church is situated next to the beautiful campus of Saints College (now closed to students) but is used for multiple purposes, especially its church-like edifice commonly known as "Holy Hill."

Saints College was founded by an African-American, Dr. Arenia Mallory as Saints Industrial and Literary School.

The historically black school was renamed and is currently called Saints Academy. Dr. Mallory served as president of the school from 1926 until her death in 1983. It is run under the Church of God in Christ. Dr. Mallory was an active member of the COGIC church and participated in the Women's Department and was the leader in the national church. She also served as the Vice President of the National Council of Negro Women from 1953–1957.

Lexington is also the home of the Dr. Arenia C. Mallory Community Health Center, Inc. (Mallory CHC) founded by Dr. Martha Davis (now deceased). Its mission is to provide high quality, customer oriented and cost effective healthcare services in a safe and accessible environment to all persons of Holmes, Carroll, Madison, Leflore counties and surrounding communities. Its motto is "Enter a Patient, Leave a Friend." (See more about the clinic at <http://www.mallorychc.org/>)

The City of Lexington is also the home of the Community Students Learning Center (CSLC) founded by longtime African-American natives Leslie and Beulah Greer: "Our Mission for the Community Students Learning Center is to promote community and educational change, by providing state-of-the-art leadership development and personal improvement opportunities for youth, adults, and seniors." Its motto is "In Relentless Pursuit of Education and Knowledge." (See more about CSLC at <http://www.communitystudentlearning.org/>)

The City of Lexington was at the heart of the Civil Rights Movement in Holmes County, Mississippi. Brave men and women, black and white, protested, challenged and worked hard to bring about racial harmony. While some success in that regard was made, the city and County both still could currently use more racial reconciliation, according to some of the residents.

In addition to numerous historical firsts, today, the City of Lexington also boasts first ever Black Mayor of Lexington, Mississippi—the Honorable Mayor Clint Cobbins, who is currently leading his community toward progress.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the City of Lexington as a resilient, historically rich rural town that has maintained its community ties inside and outside its city limits by staying true to its roots in agriculture and local owned businesses.

#### RECOGNIZING THE SECOND ANNUAL GREATER SPRINGFIELD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE "ABOVE AND BEYOND" AWARDS

### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 19, 2014*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an outstanding group of first responders and public safety officers who have been honored with the Second Annual Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce "Above and Beyond" Award.

These awards honor Fairfax County Firefighters, EMTs, Police Officers and Sheriff's