

to give those local school districts the flexibility to take advantage of the ideas and energy that they have, in turn equipping our children with the best possible education for their futures.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of my special order this evening, Black History Month.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I reserved this time tonight for a special order to allow my colleagues and I to recognize and celebrate contributions of African Americans during Black History Month.

I stand here the 101st African American to serve in the House of Representatives. It is only appropriate that I recognize the two people who are most responsible for my service: My parents, Andrew and Mary Tubbs, residents of my district, the 11th Congressional District of Ohio. I stand upon their legacy of hard work, undying faith and love. Thank you, mom and dad. I love you.

I first want to pay tribute to the founder of Black History Month, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, an historian and educator who pioneered the research and dissemination of African American history. It was his mission to dispel the racist myth about African Americans and their past that the historical writings of scholars promulgated. He asserted, and I quote, "If a race has no history, if it has no worthwhile tradition, it becomes a negligible factor in the thought of the world and it stands in danger of being exterminated."

One of his most enduring achievements is his initiation of Black History Month. In 1926, he launched Negro History Week, a commemoration of black achievement held the second week of February, which marks the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

□ 1830

To encourage African-Americans to celebrate Negro History Week, Woodson distributed a kit containing pictures of and stories about notable Afri-

can-Americans. Negro History Week was changed to Black History Month in the 1960s.

Woodson was a prodigious author, co-authoring 19 books on various aspects of African-American history. He was one of the first scholars to consider slavery from the slave's perspective, to compare slavery in the United States with slavery in Latin America, and to note the African-American cultural influences in new world slave culture.

Perhaps more than any other person, Woodson helped African-American history develop into a widely recognized and respected academic discipline. It was his faith that "the achievements of the Negro properly set forth will crown him as a factor in early human progress and a maker of modern civilization."

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK) my friend.

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES), for organizing today's Black History Month special order. It is a tribute to her creativity to convene us here today. I think it is Congress's duty to help America understand what black history is all about.

The gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) follows in the footsteps of one of the individuals whom history will surely recall as one of the giants of not only black history but surely the history of this body, the Honorable Louis Stokes, who for 30 years distinguished himself and us as a caring and committed legislator who served his constituents and this Nation with impeccable leadership and integrity.

We are here today not only to celebrate black history but American history as well. Certainly the history of black Americans is interwoven with the history of America. Since the first Americans arrived on what is now American soil in 1619, black Americans have played an important part in the development of this great Nation. Black Americans helped build this country's thriving cities, farmed its fields and settled the West.

Recently, the Allstate Insurance Company of Chicago, Illinois, recognized 12 contemporary African-American leaders at their "From Whence We Came Awards." These leaders were honored as architects of the African-American village for their efforts to help build stronger, safer communities across America. These were contemporary African-American leaders and heroes.

I commend Allstate for its efforts to promote black history and for emphasizing the importance of celebrating the contributions of African-Americans year-round by making available to schoolchildren a black history calendar, commemorative poster and video documentary.

So as we celebrate this Black History Month, I want to pay tribute to some of the more contemporary leaders who history is sure to record as significant figures in black history and the history of this Nation.

If it takes a village to raise a child, then surely some of the individuals I am about to mention who were recently honored by the Allstate Insurance Company can be designated as "architects of the village."

Contemporary black leaders like Dave Bing of the Bing Group of Detroit, Michigan; actor and actress Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee; Tommy Dortch, president of the 100 Black Men of America; George Fraser, author and motivational speaker; William H. Gray, III, president of the United Negro College Fund; Linda Johnson Rice, president of Johnson Publishing Company; Tom Joyner, radio host; Mayor Marc Morial of New Orleans; Dr. Jane Smith, National Council of Negro Women; Sheryl Lee Ralph, actress; and Mother Mary Ann Wright.

Each weekday morning from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m., Tom Joyner entertains and informs the Nation during his live, nationally syndicated radio show.

My colleague, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES), wants America to understand that these contemporary leaders are leaders in their own right; and history will record them as having contributed quite a bit to African-American history.

A four-time Billboard Magazine award winner, Mr. Joyner's upbeat attitude has helped America understand at this particular point various issues that have come over this radio hall of fame. He has established the Tom Joyner Foundation, and he has funded a United Negro College Fund scholarship, Dollars for Scholars, to help give financial aid to students at black colleges.

Linda Johnson Rice presides over two of the world's largest black-owned companies, Fashion Fair Cosmetics and Johnson Publishing Company. As president and chief operating officer of Chicago-based Johnson Publishing Company, Ms. Johnson Rice manages the largest number one black-owned publishing company in the world, boasting the familiar magazine titles Ebony, Jet, and Ebony South Africa.

Ms. Johnson Rice is also the President of Fashion Fair Cosmetics, the largest black-owned cosmetic company in the world, with more than 2,500 stores in the United States, Africa, Europe, the Caribbean and Canada.

I can go on and on. But I did want my colleagues to understand that these are contemporary African-American leaders who will go down in history as helping America understand and made a contribution and it is a tribute to them to have been named "architects of the village."

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, reclaiming my time, I want to