

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

FLAG PROTECTION AMENDMENT

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Flag Protection Amendment, introduced by Congressman DUKE CUNNINGHAM (R-CA) and Congressman JOHN MURTHA (D-PA). This bill will ensure that our flag receives the utmost respect and Constitutional protection it deserves.

I strongly believe flag desecration is a slap in the face to all those who fought and died for our freedom. This symbol is more than a simple matter of pride, the flag binds us together as a nation. We pledge our allegiance to it, many people are buried with the flag draping their casket, the least we can do is protect it.

According to a national survey conducted by the Gallup Organization, three out of four Americans favor passage of the Flag Protection Amendment. We owe the passage of this Amendment to every American. What better way to do the business of the people, than to protect our symbol of national unity.

Mr. Speaker, this bipartisan Amendment is highly valued by a clear majority of Americans. Forty-nine states have petitioned Congress for a Flag Protection Amendment. The fact is Americans want our flag protected.

The American flag is a national treasure. It is the ultimate symbol of freedom, equal opportunity and religious tolerance. Amending our Constitution to protect the flag is a necessity.

TRIBUTE TO THE LOIL ELLISON, JR. FAMILY

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition, defines family as "a group of persons of common ancestry; a people or group of peoples regarded as deriving from a common stock." I am proud today to recognize a group of individuals who embody, in a very special manner, the principles inherent in Webster's definition of family. The extended family of my friend Loil Ellison, Jr. traces its history back nearly 174 years and counts amongst its members more than 350 descendants of George Brown and Josephine Britton Brown.

It is especially fitting that this tribute to the Ellison, Brown, Kyle, Brawley, Baker, Wright, Watson, Boyd, Callaghan, Hughes, and Hubbard families comes during the month of February, that time of the year traditionally set aside when Americans honor the rich contribu-

tions made to this country by distinguished African Americans. It is a proud time for our nation and although we traditionally reserve the accolades for those African Americans who have gained public distinction and acclaim, I would like to pause today to honor this wonderful family for its greatness as a family, one that is richly steeped in tradition and which defines, better than most, the true meaning of family.

Loil, who has lived in Los Angeles since 1987 where he is one of the top car salesmen in the industry for Mike Miller Toyota, has shared with me an authoritative and comprehensive manuscript compiled by his niece and president of the Brown Family Reunion, Marion Joann Thomas. In it, Marion has chronicled the history of the Brown family beginning with the births of great, great, great, great-grandparents George, born in May 1839, and Josephine, born in February 1840. So impressive is From Generation to Generation, 1825-1998 The Legacy of George Brown and Josephine Britton that a copy of the document is catalogued in the Institute of Texas Cultures Library and the Carver Library in San Antonio, Texas. A copy is also on record with the Historical Society of Caldwell County Library in Luling, Texas.

Loil Ellison, Jr.'s extended family come from all over the United States. Last summer, on July 17, 1998, the family held its annual reunion, which drew more than 350 family members. For three days, family members participated in a range of activities celebrating their rich heritage. They held a reception and dinner dance, a family picnic, and joined in a family worship service held at Trinity Baptist Church. What a glorious sight it must have been to witness the group, 350 plus strong, marching into the church as they prepared to give thanks for the spiritual blessings and legacies bestowed by their ancestors George and Josephine.

Mr. Speaker, the history of George Brown and Josephine Britton Brown, as told through the eyes of Marion Joann Thomas, is a poignant and inspirational story of love of family. It is a rich narrative of a people filled with hope and a determined spirit to achieve as a legacy to their ancestors George and Josephine Britton Brown. I commend Loil and his niece, Marion, for sharing their history with me and convey my wishes that their future will be as rich as their past.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL TRIO DAY

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring my colleagues' attention the celebration of Na-

tional TRIO Day. National TRIO Day was designated by concurrent resolution on February 24, 1986 by the 99th Congress. National TRIO Day is celebrated on the last Saturday of February each year as a day of recognition for the Federal TRIO Program.

The TRIO programs are Upward Bound, Upward Bound Math/Science, Veterans Upward Bound, Talent Search, Student Support Services, Educational Opportunity Centers and the Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program. These programs, established over the past 30 years, provide services to low-income and potential first generation college students and help them overcome class, social, cultural and physical barriers to higher education.

Currently 2,000 colleges, universities and community agencies throughout our nation sponsor TRIO programs. Over 780,000 middle school and high school students and adults benefit from their services. Most of these students represent the highest aspirations and best hope for the American dream. By lifting these students out of poverty, the nation is lifted to new heights.

There are 15 TRIO programs in my State which serve 6,000 aspiring students and adults annually. I know these programs work. For example, last year I met Mark Crosby, a First Vice-President for Personnel for one of Maine's most successful and fastest-growing employers, MBNA America Bank. Mark was a student in the University of Maine Upward Bound Program which he credits for his success in completing high school, college and graduate school. As he told me, "I went to college. My brother, who did not go to Upward Bound, went to jail".

TRIO graduates can be found in every occupation; doctor, lawyer, astronaut, television reporter, actor, professional athlete, state senator and Member of Congress. In fact, some of our colleagues today are graduates of TRIO programs. The TRIO programs are a cost-effective investment in our nation's future. They help to ensure that no child will be left behind, his or her aspirations unrealized.

In closing, I would like to encourage my colleagues to visit the TRIO Programs in their districts and learn for themselves how valuable these programs are to our nation. I also want to say a warm hello to all of the Maine students currently participating in TRIO programs and to remind them to keep reaching for their dreams.

KATE MULLAY—350 EIGHTH STREET, TROY, NY

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, John F. Kennedy once said: "A nation reveals itself not

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