

early engagements surprised the British, who saw themselves as professionally trained soldiers and the militiamen as little more than a disorganized rabble.

But let us not forget that we surprised ourselves as well. Despite our dogged determination to confront the foe, we were unproven and uncertain of our abilities. Who could have imagined that our ill-equipped and untrained colonial militia would fare as well as it did? Our success in those early battles was significant.

The victories strengthened national pride, engendered new confidence and bolstered the will to fight. When word spread down the coast that New England farmers had successfully stood up to the well-equipped and well-trained British regulars, colonists everywhere were filled with newfound courage and patriotic fervor. Frustration turned to motivation, and from that point on, the cry for independence simply would not be quelled.

On June 14, 1775, Congress took the first formal step in the march toward independence by voting to establish what was then the Continental Army.

In those days, the term patriot more closely equated to insurgent. A patriot was a revolutionary who promoted the independence of his people from the country or union of countries that controlled them.

From the British perspective, patriots were criminals; to them, the term was an epithet carrying the negative connotation of disloyalty. Thus, in 1775, when George Washington dubbed the original rag-tag band of fighters "the patriot army," he was making a profoundly political and deliberately inflammatory statement; this newborn army would win independence for America.

Over time, the word "patriot" evolved to a more heroic meaning—a person who loves his country and who defends and promotes its interests. It is especially applied to soldiers who fight for love of country. Thanks to the success of the American Revolution, the connotation of that simple term changed from one of disloyalty to one of allegiance.

Since the end of the Revolution, American soldiers, imbued with the spirit of the original patriots, have pledged their allegiance to this nation through their sacrifices in uniform. In doing so, hundreds of thousands of them have given their last full measure of devotion in ultimate demonstration of love for country.

Today, thousands of soldiers serve around the globe to maintain our freedom and to provide the promise of a better life to others for whom liberty is but a dream. They are the finest men and women the nation has to offer—active, guard and reserve soldiers doing the heavy lifting so we can enjoy the comforts and freedoms of our way of life.

They are unknown to most of us, but they sacrifice daily in places like Kosovo, Saudi Arabia, Bosnia, East Timor, Kuwait, Korea and Macedonia in order to promote democracy and to preserve peace and stability.

These men and women are our patriots. They are prepared to defend our country, and they are also the best ambassadors for democracy we could have, carrying the same torch of liberty that was lit 225 years ago. In the remotest corners of the globe, American soldiers command respect because they symbolize the traits of our forefathers; a passion for liberty and a willingness to fight to protect freedom.

As we reflect on the Army's 225th birthday, let us remember that with our Army was born a nation; with that nation was born democracy; and with democracy was born the hope that peace and liberty could someday

be attained by all oppressed peoples of the world.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the presiding officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Commerce.

(The nomination received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 8:22 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hayes, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 3544. An act to authorize a gold medal to be presented on behalf of the Congress to Pope John Paul II in recognition of his many and enduring contributions to peace and religious understanding, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3591. An act to provide for the award of a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to former President Ronald Reagan and his wife Nancy Reagan in recognition of their service to the Nation.

H.R. 4391. An act to amend title 4 of the United States Code to establish sourcing requirements for State and local taxation of mobile telecommunication services.

The enrolled bills were signed subsequently by the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

MEASURE REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3323. An act to designate the Federal building located at 158-15 Liberty Avenue in Jamaica, Queens, New York, as the "Floyd H. Flake Federal Building."

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-551. A resolution adopted by the Assembly of the State of Wisconsin relative to the Washington Juneteenth 2000 National Holiday Observance; ordered to lie on the table.

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 29

Whereas, more than 130 years old, Juneteenth, National Freedom Day is the oldest and only African-American holiday observance in the United States, which is also known as "Emancipation Day," "Emancipation Celebration," "Freedom Day," "Jun-Jun" and "Juneteenth"; and

Whereas, Juneteenth National Freedom Day commemorates the survival, due to God-

given strength and determination, of African-Americans, who were first brought to this country stacked in the bottom of slave ships in a month-long journey across the Atlantic Ocean, known as the "Middle Passage"; and

Whereas, approximately 11,500,000 African-Americans survived the voyage to the New World (the number that died is likely greater), only to be subjected to whipping, castration, branding, rape, tearing apart of families and forced submission to slavery for more than 200 years after arrival in the United States; and

Whereas, Juneteenth commemorates the day on which freedom was proclaimed to all slaves in the South by Union General Granger, on June 19, 1865, in Galveston, Texas, more than 2.5 years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln; and

Whereas, for the first time, in over 130 years of the annual celebration, Juneteenth has finally been "officially recognized" as Juneteenth Independence Day in America by the President and Congress of the United States; and

Whereas, this reality is particularly underscored by the fact that it was in the 1st Session of the 105th Congress, via the bipartisan cooperation of former Congresswoman Barbara Rose-Collins (D-Michigan, former Senator Carol Mosley-Braun (D-Illinois), Congressman J.C. WATTS (R-Oklahoma), former House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Georgia), Senate Majority Leader TRENT LOTT (R-Mississippi) and Senate Minority Leader TOM DASCHLE (D-South Dakota), that Senate Joint Resolution 11 and House Joint Resolution 56 were successfully shepherded through both houses of Congress, in a successful effort to officially recognize Juneteenth as the Independence Day observance of Americans of African descent in 1997; and

Whereas, Americans of all colors, creeds, cultures, religions and countries-of-origin share in a common love of, and respect for, "freedom," as well as a determination to protect their right to freedom through democratic institutions, by which the "tenets-of-freedom" are guaranteed and protected; and

Whereas, the "19th of June" or Juneteenth Independence Day, along with the "4th of July," completes the "cycle of freedom" for America's Independence Day observances; and

Whereas, "Until All are Free, None are Free" is an oft-repeated maxim that can be used to highlight the significance of the end of the era of slavery in the United States; and

Whereas, the National Juneteenth Observance Foundation is sponsoring the premier celebration, concert, worship services and campaign to commemorate America's 2nd Independence Day observance, the "19th of June," as one which completes the cycle of America's 18th century Independence Movement, initiated with the "4th of July," 1776, "Declaration of Independence" and to recognize this country's movement towards a "One America," advanced by a sincere dialogue of the realization of what Juneteenth historically means to all Americans, promoting racial healing, restoration and justice: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the assembly, That the members of the Wisconsin assembly support this historic recognition and encourage participation of our members, families and communities in the "officially recognized" Washington Juneteenth 2000 National Holiday Observance, on the National Mall, Lincoln Memorial and U.S. capital grounds, scheduled