awaken the hope of their enemies that they would soon disappear." But we did not disappear. We celebrate today not only freedom, but the triumph of the human spirit and the legacy of a people whose struggle for equality continues even today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing this great celebration.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE McINTYRE
OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, June 19, 2000

Mr. McIntyre. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, June 16, 2000, I was unavoidably absent for rollcall votes 285 through 291. Had I been present I would have voted "present" on rollcall vote 285, "yes" on rollcall vote 286, "yes" on rollcall vote 287, "no" on rollcall 288, "yes" on rollcall 289, "yes" on rollcall 290, and "no" on rollcall 291.

COMMENDING PRESIDENT KIM DAE-JUNG ON HIS HISTORIC QUEST FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, June 19, 2000

Mr. Rangel. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend President Kim Dae-Jung of the Republic of Korea for his historic efforts toward peace and reconciliation on the Korean peninsula. By extending the hand of friendship in summit meetings with Chairman Kim Jong Il and the Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea, President Kim Dae-Jung has shown himself as a courageous visionary committed to the improvement of relations with the North. The agreement reached by the two leaders on humanitarian and economic cooperation represent a bold step toward resolving a half-century of conflict.

As we prepare to depart on a Presidential Mission to Korea to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Korean War, I am filled with hope for the future of all the peoples of that great land.

On behalf of president Clinton and the people of the United States, I join with my former comrades-in-arms, the men of the 503rd Field Artillery Battalion who fought in defense of freedom and democracy in Korea in extending our congratulations to President Kim Dae-Jung and our best wishes for success in his great mission of peace.

A TRIBUTE TO JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN
OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, June 19, 2000

Ms. Baldwin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to pay tribute to Juneteenth Independ-