

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

NATIONAL JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2000

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to the Juneteenth National Museum, located in my home district of Baltimore, MD., and in observance of the National Juneteenth Celebration.

On June 17–18, 2000, the Juneteenth National Museum held its 12th annual “Juneteenth” celebration commemorating the Emancipation Proclamation. Juneteenth is generally celebrated on June 19, which is considered as the day of emancipation from slavery of African-Americans in Texas. It was this day in 1866 that Union Major General Gordon Granger read General Order #3 to the people of Galveston, Texas, informing them of their new status as free men. Since then, Juneteenth was celebrated in Texas, and quickly spread to other southern states, such as Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and eventually the rest of the country. In addition to a festival, the celebration included the purchase of lands or “emancipation grounds” by freed slaves in honor of the celebration. On January 1, 1980, under the provisions of House Bill No. 1016, the 66th Congress of the United States declared June 19th “Emancipation Day in Texas,” making Juneteenth a legal state holiday.

Juneteenth is an important event in Baltimore that celebrates American history and historical figures. The annual occurrence of Juneteenth attracts people from across the state to downtown Baltimore in observance of this event. Among the various festivities, the celebration included lectures on important historical figures and events, spoken word readings, and food venues that satisfied every taste imaginable. There were shopping opportunities for antique buffs, and a vast array of arts and crafts available for purchase. Attendees were able to tour the Underground Railroad site, the Mother Seton House, the Hampton National Park, Auburn Cemetery, and Historic East Baltimore on one of the Juneteenth van tours. Festivalgoers were also able to see slave artifacts and collect the Juneteenth commemorative plates by Terra Treasures. Stamp collectors appreciated the first Juneteenth Post Office cachet.

Further, the Juneteenth festival also featured a Sweet Potato Pie contest, folklore and street dance, a Musical Craft Show, Double Dutch rope, and an Islamic Exhibit. Lastly, the festival would not be complete without the sounds of gospel and jazz. The attendees celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Negro National Anthem “Lift Every Voice and Sing” and the winner of the Billie Holiday Blues Contest graced all with moving hymns.

The Juneteenth Festival has grown to be a vitally important part of not only Baltimore, but African-American culture as well. True to tradition, this year’s celebration proved to be as exciting as ever.

I congratulate Juneteenth National Museum on a successful Juneteenth celebration!

IN HONOR OF THE LATE WILLIAM SENQUIZ

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the memory of William Senquiz on the tenth anniversary of his death.

William Senquiz was the first director of Esperanza, Inc., a non-profit organization which provides educational services to Hispanic students from elementary school through college. This organization, whose name, Esperanza, means “hope” in Spanish, has given assistance to Hispanic students in the Greater Cleveland area since 1983.

William Senquiz, the first director of the program, was a native of Lorain, Ohio, and a graduate of Bowling Green State University. He died in June, 1990, at the young age of 32. In his honor, Esperanza, Inc., along with several other organizations, established the William Senquiz Endowment Fund in 1990 to realize Willie’s dream of establishing a fund that would serve as a continual source of scholarship funds for the Hispanic community.

Willie Senquiz was a mentor and teacher whose deep commitment to the Hispanic youth in the Greater Cleveland area is an example to us all.

My fellow colleagues, please join with me in honoring William Senquiz’s memory on the tenth anniversary of his death.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CLASSROOM MODERNIZATION ACT

HON. HOWARD P. “BUCK” MCKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2000

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, today, I join with my other colleagues on the Education and the Workforce Committee—Committee Chairman BILL GOODLING, Early Childhood Subcommittee Chairman MIKE CASTLE, and JOHNNY ISAKSON—to introduce the Classroom Modernization Act.

I support this legislation because it is a reasonable and, more importantly, a responsible solution to our nation’s school improvement and construction needs from a federal level. The building of new schools or the major ren-

ovations of existing ones has always been left to the states and local school districts. And it should continue to be that way.

Instead, the Classroom Modernization Act is responsible to the needs of the American taxpayer, our school boards, and our children.

It is responsible to the American taxpayer because it provides for a limited program aimed at fulfilling the most important needs of America’s schools. We do not open the federal coffers to a broad, new—and potentially very costly—construction plan.

It is responsible to our school boards because it doesn’t make promises the federal government cannot keep. Instead of promising them new schools paid for with federal dollars, we are promising them assistance to meet mandates and standards imposed on them by the federal government.

Finally, it is responsible to our children because through this legislation, we will give special needs students access to school buildings; we will make schools safer; and we will provide them with the resources they need to be ready to join the New Economy of the 21st Century.

To conclude, I want to thank Chairman GOODLING, Chairman CASTLE, Mr. ISAKSON, and the other Members who have worked to put this legislation together. It was truly a collaborative process.

I want to urge all my colleagues to support this legislation. Thank you.

H.R. 4365, THE CHILDREN’S HEALTH ACT

HON. J.D. HAYWORTH

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2000

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, autism is a severe, lifelong neurological disorder that usually manifests itself in children during the first two years of life and causes impairment in language, cognition and communication. For over forty years autism was thought to be an emotional disorder caused by trauma or bad parenting. This tragic mistake resulted in the loss of an entire generation of children to medical progress. Now that we know that autism is, in fact, a medical disorder for which medical treatments and a cure can and will be found, we must devote appropriate resources.

Autism is the third most common developmental disorder to affect children, following mental retardation and cerebral palsy. Autism currently affects over 400,000 individuals in the U.S. and 1 in every 500 children born today. Autism is more prevalent than Down syndrome, childhood cancer or cystic fibrosis.

Because we currently don’t know what causes autism, it is imperative that we seek a better understanding of its origins. Some believe passionately that vaccines cause autism.

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