

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.

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Some evidence links the disorder to environmental factors, as evidenced by autism "clusters". Others point to genetic causes, and still some others to a combination of the two. The bottom line is that we just don't know. This illustrates the need for a greater federal commitment to epidemiological and basic clinical research to get to the root cause of this devastating developmental disorder.

I strongly support legislative efforts to improve surveillance of autism and enhance federal research to prevent, treat and one day cure this developmental disorder. H.R. 4365, the Children's Health Act, would expand research and prevention activities in a number of childhood diseases.

Importantly, H.R. 4365 would help unravel the mystery of autism. This legislation would create up to five Centers of Excellence for autism. The bill would create a centralized and open facility for gene and brain banking, which is essential for scientific progress in autism. H.R. 4365 would also develop an autism awareness campaign for the public and physicians. Finally, it would bring together the resources of NIH, CSC, and DHHS to attack the problem of autism.

I look forward to working with my colleagues toward the enactment of this important legislation and other measures that will help move us toward finding a cure for autism.

TURKEY IN THE KOREAN WAR

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2000

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, as someone who joined the Marine Corps during the Korean War, I've always felt strongly about our allies in Turkey.

As we mark the 50-year anniversary of the start of the Korean War on June 25th, the Turkish military's bravery and heroism deserve great praise. The Turkish Brigade demonstrated superior combat capability and courage from the critical moment it entered the battlefield in October 1950, through the cease-fire agreement of July 1953.

Turkey provided the fifth-largest military contingent among United Nations forces—5,453 soldiers at the peak of the war. The Turkish Brigade is credited with saving the U.S. Eighth Army and the IX Army Corps from encirclement by communist enemies, and the 2nd Division from total destruction during critical battles in November 1950.

United Nations' Forces Commander in Chief General Douglas MacArthur said "The Turks are the hero of heroes. There is no impossibility for the Turkish Brigade."

No enemy attack succeeded in penetrating the front of the Turkish Brigade, while British and American forces were forced to withdraw from defensive lines. Even though out of ammunition, the Turks affixed their bayonets and attacked the enemy, eventually in hand-to-hand combat. The Turks succeeded in withdrawing by continuous combat and carrying their injured comrades from the battlefield on their backs.

Among the twenty U.N. Members contributing military forces in Korea, Time Magazine

praised the Turkish Brigade for its courageous battles and for "creating a favorable effect on the whole United Nations Forces." A U.S. radio commentary in December 1950 thanked the Turkish Brigade's heroism for giving hope to a demoralized American nation.

Although the Korean War is often called "the Forgotten War," partly because it ended inconclusively with no real winner, the fierce combat ability of the Turkish Brigade should never be forgotten. The 717 Turkish soldiers killed in action, and the 2,413 wounded in action, represent the highest casualty rate of any U.N. element engaged in the fighting. The simple white grave markers in a green field near Pusan will eternally remind us of the heroic soldiers of a heroic nation.

IN HONOR OF TIGER WOODS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, to honor a living sports hero of our time. Having entertained millions around the world with his incredible skill and superb sportsmanship, the great Tiger Woods has most certainly earned the title of American Sports Legend. With a record-breaking 15-shot win at the U.S. Open last week, Tiger Woods once again amazed the golf world. This latest victory is now added to the long list of accomplishments that Tiger has achieved in his very impressive career.

Tiger Woods showed himself to be an exceptional athlete from very early on. He has had a remarkable beginning since becoming a professional golfer in the summer of 1996. He has won an impressive 22 tournaments, with 16 of those being on the PGA Tour. Most memorable was Tiger's victory in the 1999 PGA Championship and the 1997 Masters Tournament. With the latter, Tiger set yet another record by becoming the youngest Masters Champion in the history of golf; he was 21 years old.

This, however, is not the only record Mr. Woods has set. His 21 victories at age 23 exceed the career start of any other professional golfer. He won four consecutive PGA Tour events to end 1999, and started the millennium off with a fifth straight victory. This streak has only been surpassed by two other golfers more than 50 years ago. And possibly even more impressive is the fact that in Tiger Woods' last 21 PGA Tour starts, he has won 12 of them.

But how can any of us forget the sight of Tiger Woods this past weekend? As I watched Mr. Woods outshine his already astounding performances, I felt inspired by his motivation, his spirit, and his poise. I must admit, however, that I was most impressed by his drive. His drive not only to perform, but also his drive on the ball.

In the words of Tom Watson "Tiger has raised the bar." He has become, in the opinion of many, the best in professional golf. His story illustrates the value of practice, hard work, and positive character. The most astounding idea, however, is that his story is only beginning. America will watch in wonder

at how much more Mr. Woods will accomplish in his future matches.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in congratulating Tiger Woods for his outstanding accomplishments. America should be proud to have such a fine athlete and such a fine citizen.

INTEREST RATE RESOLUTION

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2000

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to introduce a sense of the House resolution with respect to interest rates.

As we all know, the Federal Reserve Board met today, and will meet again tomorrow, after which we will find out if interest rates will rise yet again, or remain at the current level. With six increases over the last year, we have seen a significant rise in rates. I recognize the Federal Reserve is doing the best job it can to maintain the longest economic expansion in U.S. history by keeping any signs of inflation in check. However, at this point I am convinced that any further increases could seriously impact ordinary working Americans without providing any sort of benefit.

Recent economic reports suggest that the economy is slowing in response to prior rate increases. Retail sales dropped in April and May, unemployment increased in May, and new home starts have decreased by 10% since December.

Just a few weeks ago, a number of our colleagues sent a letter to the Federal Reserve urging the board not to raise interest rates at their next meeting. They maintained that it could "lead to an unnecessary and socially damaging increase in unemployment without any significant offsetting advantage."

I agree with that sentiment. In addition to increased unemployment, it would raise borrowing costs yet again for working people and make it more difficult to purchase a home. While I understand the Fed's intent to engineer a "soft landing," do we really need additional actions to slow the economy when it is clear that is already occurring? As a follow up to the letter our colleagues sent to the Federal Reserve, I am introducing a resolution expressing the sense of the House that the Board of Governors should take action to decrease, or at a minimum not raise interest rates further at this time. I think it's important that we send the Fed a message about the impact continued increases will have on working families back in our districts. I hope you will join me in supporting this resolution.

RECOGNITION OF KOREAN WAR VETERAN STAFF SERGEANT MIGUEL BACH

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2000

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, today, on the 50th anniversary of the day President