

The week of September 10th is officially HBCU week. I am pleased to be able to join with my colleagues today to recognize these fine institutions of higher learning.

For over 170 years, our Historically Black Colleges and Universities have been on the forefront of preparing our nation's youth for a bright path and successful future. Originally founded for the purpose of providing educational opportunities for African Americans, HBCUs have profoundly changed the American economic and social climate.

The fact is that until 1964, HBCUs represented one of the only opportunities African American students had to obtain a degree in higher education. HBCUs have changed the face of this nation and have opened the door for many generations of African American students.

Today, America's HBCUs continue to provide excellent educational opportunities to all Americans. Over 200,000 diverse students across the United States attend HBCUs today.

I am proud to represent Paul Quinn College, the oldest historical Black college west of the Mississippi River. For over 130 years, Paul Quinn has provided their students with the tools to become successful leaders. Because of their unique resources, HBCUs continue to be extremely effective in graduating African American students and preparing them to compete in the global economy.

HBCUs graduate over half of all African American professionals, and fifty percent of all African American school teachers. Additionally, HBCUs remain extremely successful in graduating African American Ph.D.'s and scientists. The fact is that we cannot move forward as a country until all our children have the opportunity to succeed academically. Each day HBCUs help us bridge that achievement gap.

National HBCU Week allows us to reflect upon the impact these institutions have had on our history and to celebrate their continued commitment to outstanding education. I would like to thank my colleagues for their support in passing the national HBCU week resolution.

#### NATIONAL HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues today to recognize Historically Black Colleges and Universities during this newly established National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week, September 10 through September 16. I share September 10 with them because September 10 was my birthday.

This year's theme, "The Tradition Continues: New Successes and Challenges," speaks to how important HBCUs have been to the education of African Americans and minorities in this country and how we must continue to preserve these unique institutions of higher learning.

□ 1815

Though I did not attend an historically black university, I understand the importance these schools played in African American history and African American heritage. Many HBCUs were formed during Reconstruction following the Civil War to educate freed slaves and sharecroppers. H. Patrick Swygert, the President of Howard University, noted the significance of HBCUs in a speech in which he stated "HBCUs provided the avenue for the descendants of sharecroppers to get an education in an environment that was sensitive to their special circumstances and one where their humanity would not be questioned. This has always been, and continues to be, a defining feature of these colleges and universities in a society that in many ways remains hostile to people of color."

It is important to note that the founders of these institutions recognized the importance of educating African Americans long before the Supreme Court ruled on the groundbreaking *Brown v. Board of Education*. Additionally, many of those who were part of the legal team that won that case were educated and trained at Howard University right here in our Nation's capital.

Were it not for HBCUs, many of the great black minds of our time would not have had access to higher education. And some of the famous graduates include orator Booker T. Washington; civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King; Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall; world renowned opera singer Leontyne Price; entertainer Oprah Winfrey; and former Members of Congress that have already been noted, Kweisi Mfume and Parren Mitchell.

The great State of Ohio boasts two HBCUs, Wilberforce University and Central State University. Named in honor of the great abolitionist William Wilberforce, Wilberforce University was founded prior to the end of slavery in 1856 and is the Nation's oldest private African American university. Former Congressman Floyd Flake is currently its President. Central State evolved from what was once a State-funded department of Wilberforce University known as the Combined Normal and Industrial Department. In 1941 the department expanded from a 2- to a 4-year program, and in 1947 it legally split from Wilberforce, becoming the College of Education and Industrial Arts at Wilberforce. The name was changed in 1951 to Central State College, and in 1965 the institution achieved its university status. I am the proud owner of an honorary doctorate degree from Central State University.

I am proud to have strong connections to HBCUs. Many of my family members attended, including my late mother, Mary Looney Tubbs, a grad-

uate of Alabama State University; my late sister, Mattie Browder Still, a graduate of Alabama State University; and my sister Barbara Walker, who attended Morris Brown College. Additionally, my cousin Essie Baldwin attended Alabama State and my cousin Joan Wilson attended Morris Brown. Four of my staffers attended HBCUs. District Director Betty Pinkney and my health liaison are proud graduates of Central State. My Communications Director, Nicole Williams, a proud graduate of Spelman College; and my Scheduler, Lalla King, a proud graduate of Morgan State University.

As we continue to celebrate our HBCUs this week, it is my hope that we will begin to look at ways in which we can increase funding and resources for these historic institutions. Sadly, many of the HBCUs remain underfunded in comparison to their predominantly white counterparts. Today I call upon both the Federal and State governments to increase funding to HBCUs so that they can remain competitive and continue to educate the leaders of tomorrow. They are not only part of African American history, they are part of American history, and the treasures they hold should be preserved for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I celebrate EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON for her leadership in bringing this bill to the floor.

#### HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House for 5 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am very honored to join in this Special Order, and I salute my colleague the honorable EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON for her wisdom in selecting this time, September 10 through September 16, to be able to honor our historic historically black colleges across America.

Where would we be today if we did not have those refuges that allowed those ex-slaves to be able to come to a place of comfort and seek an educational opportunity? The colleges range throughout America, from New York to North and South Carolina to Georgia to Louisiana to Texas and many other places. They are the places where young people could not be educated elsewhere because of the dual society and the very hostile segregation that existed in America. These historically black colleges created the opportunities for geniuses to be educated.

I am very proud of several of the institutions in our State, and there are so many in the State of Texas, two that happen to be in my jurisdiction that I am particularly proud to mention: Texas Southern University that