

Frankly, in my district I do not think I got enough applicants for all the slots we have. I think that perhaps there are many students, black, white, Hispanic, other races, men and women, who perhaps do not consider the opportunities which General Davis paved the way for in the military academies.

So tonight, during Black History Month, I pay tribute to General Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., and I hope the youth of America will also consider the opportunities to lead such a distinguished career in the military.

#### 1998 CONGRESSIONAL OBSERVANCE OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STOKES) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to reserve this special order this evening. I would also like to thank my colleagues who are gathered in the Chamber with me. We take special pride in coming together for the 1998 Congressional observance of Black History Month.

Since 1976 when Congress adopted the resolution designating February of each year as Black History Month, we have utilized this opportunity to highlight and pay tribute to the notable accomplishments of black men and women who helped to build our great Nation.

From Garrett Morgan's invention of the traffic signal, to Mary McLeod Bethune's founding of a university on \$1.50, black men and women have made enormous contributions to the development of this country.

With this in mind, the members of the Congressional Black Caucus proudly take this time to share with our colleagues and with the world black history, our history.

As we move forward with our special order, I want to commend the chairperson of the Congressional Black Caucus, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) for her unfailing leadership of this organization. Her strong leadership guarantees that the Congressional Black Caucus will continue to be a tireless advocate on behalf of minorities, the poor and the disadvantaged of this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, the theme for the 1998 observance of Black History Month is "African Americans in business: The path towards empowerment." The theme is particularly significant as we pause to review our history and highlight some of our accomplishments in the business arena.

In the field of business, it is important to note that some free black Americans managed and owned small businesses during the period of slavery. For example, Fraunces Tavern was a well-known dining place and tavern popular in New York City during the latter half of the 18th century. It was

owned and operated by Samuel Fraunces, a migrant from the British West Indies. Both British and American troops patronized the tavern, and George Washington came there to draw up terms with the British regarding their evacuation of New York in the 1770's.

Paul Cuffe, a free black man, was a shipper and merchant in New England in the 1790's. James Wormley was a well-known hotel proprietor in Washington D.C. in the 1820's.

After gaining their freedom from slavery, many black Americans set up businesses that rendered personal services to blacks who were the victims of discrimination and segregation imposed by white businesses.

For example, barbering was a source of both black employment and business. Two of the earliest fortunes among black Americans were made by Annie T. Malone and Madame C.J. Walker in the manufacture and marketing of hair products for black Americans. Funeral services were another personal service business almost exclusively under black ownership and control.

As we celebrate the success of African American businesses, we mark the founding in 1888 of the True Reformers Bank of Richmond, Virginia, and the Capital Savings Bank of Washington, D.C., the first black-created and black-run banks in America. We also mark the historic achievements of Maggie Lena Walker, who, in 1903, became the first black woman to be a bank president. She founded the Saint Luck Penny Savings Bank in Richmond, Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, in another field of business, the African Insurance Company of Philadelphia was the first known black insurance company, founded in 1810. It was not incorporated, but had capital stock in the amount of \$5,000. The North Carolina Mutual Insurance Company, founded in 1893 in Durham, North Carolina was the first black insurance company to attain \$1 million in assets.

In celebration of Black History Month, we note the achievements of D. Watson Onley, a black businessman, who in 1885 built the first steam saw and planing mill owned and operated entirely by blacks. We also recognize the contributions of Ruth J. Bowen, the first black woman to establish a successful booking and talent agency. Bowen began her business in New York in 1959 with a \$500 investment. Within 10 years, her firm became the largest black-owned agency in the world.

Mr. Speaker, I will at this time recognize a number of my colleagues gathered here in the Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York, Mr. Engel.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STOKES) for having this special order.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate Black History Month. Although I have only a few minutes to honor hundreds

of years of struggles and achievements of black Americans, I must share my feelings of how much the African American community has added to our country.

In 1782, Thomas Jefferson, a slave holder himself declared that "the whole commerce between master and slave is a perpetual exercise of the most boisterous passions, the most unremitting despotism on one part, and degrading submission on the other."

A Founding Father to whom our Nation looked for moral guidance, his hypocrisy only underscored the terror our Nation was inflicting on generations of African Americans at that time.

Yet, even with slavery placing in bondage hundreds of thousands of Africans, some black Americans had already begun to make their mark. For instance, 200 years ago, in 1798, James Forten, Sr., established the first major black-owned sail-making shop in Philadelphia, achieving a net worth of more than \$100,000, a massive sum at the time. Forten went on to become a leader of the abolitionist movement and the organizer of the Antislavery Society in 1833.

The heights of Forten's achievements only remind us what our country lost due to the depths of slavery and subsequent years of oppression. This country at one time erected every conceivable legal, societal and cultural roadblock to prevent African Americans from getting an education, wealth and power from our society.

As we commemorate Black History Month, the people of the United States must recognize what injustices were perpetrated through the years. We must recognize that our society still suffers the results of the oppression of African Americans.

It has only been within the last half century that our country has made real progress to guaranteeing to black Americans the basic civil rights that other citizens have for so long taken for granted. Within that time, America has only begun to see the tip of the iceberg, the tremendous potential of this community. It is only during this period that we have come to realize the dream of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., that "Children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the contents of their character."

As a Jewish American, Mr. Speaker, I believe I share a sense of understanding with African Americans. Not only do our two communities face a history filled with severe cruelty and discrimination, but we also fought together for decades to overcome bigotry in this country.

When I commemorate Black History Month, I am reminded of a civil rights movement where Jewish Americans and black Americans stood shoulder to shoulder to fight racial prejudice.

Today black Americans, more and more, are represented in leadership positions in our society, from black members of the President's Cabinet, to educators, athletes, scientists and members of the clergy, African Americans of today have begun to take their rightful positions in the United States, and our country as a whole has benefited.

As we celebrate Black History Month, we must never forget the injustices inflicted upon African Americans through the years. We honor those who suffered by recalling the circumstances through which they lived. At the same time, we must recognize that our Nation has finally begun to unlock the great untapped potential of the black community.

□ 1945

It is my hope that when we celebrate Black History Month in the future, circumstances facing black Americans will continue to improve, and that someday we will achieve true freedom and equality for all citizens of this great Nation. If we recognize what happened in the past, it will help us to build a better future for all of our citizens.

I very much feel very close to Black History Month, having been born in the month of February, and I think it is very, very important that all of us in the Congress pause and reflect, because until, as we say, all of our citizens are free, all of us are not really totally free.

So I thank my colleague from Ohio (Mr. STOKES) for this commemoration, and I think it is very, very fitting that this Congress commemorate Black History Month.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I thank my distinguished friend from New York, (Mr. ENGEL), for his comments.

At this time I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding.

I rise to join with my colleagues and to share with them and with America our appreciation for the contributions made to African Americans in the history and development of this Nation.

This year's theme, African Americans in Business: The Path Toward Empowerment, is the most appropriate one, and I am pleased to have in my own congressional district some of the most well-known and productive businesses in America.

I represent Harpo Studios, which is owned by Oprah Winfrey and is known all over the world. In my congressional district is the First Baptist Congregational Church, which was a stop on the underground railroad, and is now building houses and a community under the leadership of its pastor, Dr. Authur Griffin.

I have in my district the Johnson Publishing Company, which was put together and developed by Mr. John H. and Mrs. Eunice Johnson and is now operated by their daughter, Mrs. Linda

Johnson Rice, and is home to many great writers like Lerone Bennett and Alex Poinsett. In my district I have the Parker House Sausage Company and its esteemed president, Mr. Daryl Gris-ham. It is also my pleasure to represent and to use Rabon's High-Tech Automotive Center at Kostner and Roosevelt Road in Chicago, which is known and owned by Mr. Lee Rabon, and is known for its precision automotive work.

I also represent Shine King, the best shoe shine shop in America, owned by Mr. James Cole who has parlayed his original shoe shine shop into two shops, part ownership of a bank, a construction company, King Construction, and vast real estate holdings. Mr. Cole's shine boys are known to earn between \$400 and \$500 a week, shining shoes. Many of them have gone on to become doctors, lawyers, policemen, school teachers and businesspersons in their own right. The most famous of this group is the renowned National Basketball Association star and businessperson, Isiah Thomas, or Zeke, as he was known around the shop and throughout the NBA. Mr. Cole was recently featured in the Chicago Sun Times and WGN Channel 9 television as a result of the work that he has done through his businesses with young boys growing up in his community.

I also pay tribute, Mr. Speaker, to the many members of the public housing community in my district, Ms. Martha Marshall, Shirley Hammonds, Cora Moore, Mattie McCoy, Mamie Bone, Mary Baldwin, and Mildred Dennis, for the outstanding leadership they are providing as they manage the recently developed businesses that public housing residents in the city of Chicago are putting together, managing, owning, and carrying out the duties and responsibilities of redeveloping their own communities. So they are a part of this great legacy that we know as African-American history.

I commend the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STOKES) of this event for the leadership that he has displayed throughout the years, but in taking out this Special Order, and pay tribute to the leader of the Congressional Black Caucus, the erstwhile gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS). As a result of her leadership, the gentleman's leadership, the work of people all over America, the legacy and the history will continue.

I thank the gentleman.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his kind remarks and his eloquent statement.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. FURSE).

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for taking out this hour. As the gentleman said in the beginning, this is an hour to honor the contribution of black leaders across the world. I would like to pay tribute to some great South African black leaders whose names I believe should be part of

our history books, who the gentleman, through his work and the work of the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and the gentleman from California, (Mr. DELLUMS) these people have brought the possibilities of the freedoms that occurred.

I would like to remind of us Chief Albert Lithuli. He received the Noble Peace Prize, but he was not allowed to travel to Sweden to collect that prize, because the apartheid government of South Africa refused to allow him to do that, but Chief Lithuli is remembered in South Africa as such a great leader.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Desmond Tutu shown the light of religion on the horrors of apartheid. He made those who said that they were Christian look clearly at what was happening in South Africa in the South African apartheid policy.

Deputy Premier Tabo MBeke. Taboo MBeke spent decades in exile from his homeland because he could not live in any kind of safety in South Africa. He is now the deputy premier of South Africa. His father, Mr. MBeke, Senior, Mr. MBeke was in the dreadful prison that Nelson Mandela spent so many years. Madam Speaker, Together they studied and they kept the faith of the South Africa to-be.

Oliver Jhambo, the ANC leader who traveled tirelessly around the world to light the fire in the world that we needed all of us to be involved in the struggle of South Africa.

Then of course the great premier of South Africa, President Nelson Mandela. President Mandela spent 29 years in a dreadful prison in South Africa and he never, ever lost sight of the goal, that goal which was realized in 1994 on a sunlit day in Pretoria, South Africa, where President Mandela became the first President of a truly multiracial government in South Africa, the first premier, without violence, who led his country to democracy.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that this history, this history of those great African leaders should join the proud list of African-American leaders who together have so shaped our common history. We are all in this world so lucky indeed to have had such mentors in our lifetime. I thank the gentleman for this opportunity to speak about those great South African leaders.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her participation in this Special Order.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BERRY).

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to three Arkansans who have made a difference in their community: Arkansas State Representative Joe Harris, Jr., Mr. Terry Woodard, and Mr. Fredrick Freeman. They are three African Americans who have worked to make a difference in their communities and in our State and in my congressional district. They are people who

have risen to the challenges handed them.

They grew up in the Arkansas Mississippi River delta, one of the poorest regions in the country. Not only did they withstand adversity, but they have decided to remain in the delta to make it a better place to live and work and raise a family.

State Representative Joe Harris is a lifelong resident of Mississippi County, Arkansas, which he now represents in the State legislature. He is also the founder and owner of a successful business, Joe Harris Jr. Trucking and Demolition Company. He has worked for the community by serving on boards and commissions, by chairing the Board of Deacons of the Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church, and participating in Chamber of Commerce work.

Terry Woodard is another African-American leader in Arkansas' First Congressional District who is a successful businessman and makes significant contributions to his community. He is a tireless worker for the betterment of the community in which he lives. He is the president of Woodard Brothers Funeral Services in Wynne, Arkansas, and currently serves as chairman of the Arkansas Funeral Directors Association.

Fredrick Freeman is a native of Forrest City, Arkansas, where he still resides. Since graduating from North Carolina A&T State University with a degree in business and finance management in 1981 and returning to Arkansas, he has started and successfully managed two family owned businesses. He focuses much of his time on community and business development. He serves as a member of the State of Arkansas Aviation and Aerospace Commission, as chairman of the St. Francis County Workforce Alliance, president of the Arkansas Democratic Black Caucus, and is active in his local NAACP chapter.

These are the kinds of community leaders the First District of Arkansas and communities across the Nation should feel very fortunate to have. They are people who grew up economically deprived in economically deprived areas. They got the education they needed, and they have worked hard and played by the rules.

Mr. Speaker, the African-American businessmen I have mentioned deserve to be commended for the service they have given to their communities. It is important that as this Congress addresses the needs of public education and community assistance we make decisions to empower a new generation of leaders for all constituencies. It is a privilege for me today to pay honor to these leaders in the First Congressional District of Arkansas and say thanks to them for the great contribution they have made.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arkansas for his participation in this Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the distinguished gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK).

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, my esteemed colleague, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STOKES), for having the insight to organize today's Black History special.

Certainly, the history of the people of African descent is interwoven with the history of America. The theme of African Americans in Business: The Path Toward Empowerment, is particularly significant. Since African Americans have been on American soil since 1619, black Americans have played an important part in the development of this great Nation. We helped to build this Nation. We helped to fight for America, and we helped America to gain its independence. We helped to build this country's thriving cities and farmed its fields and settled the West.

□ 2000

As we celebrate Black History Month, I am mindful of this month's theme again, "Black Americans in Business." And I can think of many that have been mentioned, like Madame C.J. Walker, Percy Sutton, John Johnson, Robert Johnson, and Cathy Hughes.

And then I cannot forget that blacks have owned and managed businesses since slavery. In the 1770s, Samuel Fraunces was a successful tavern owner in New York.

During this period, many blacks also owned well-to-do barber and beauty shops and dry goods stores. After slavery, blacks began to acquire more property and capital, and increasing numbers began to set up businesses. Two of the earliest of those were Annie Malone and Madam C.J. Walker.

Funeral services was one area where blacks had a significant number of businesses and other personal services. Blacks have ventured into other forays. Maggie Lena Walker became the first black woman in 1903 to become a bank president. She founded the Saint Luke Penny Savings Bank in Richmond, Virginia, and the bank became so very strong that it survived the Depression.

Mrs. Walker's bank was by no means the first black-owned bank. That distinction belongs to the True Reformers Bank of Richmond, Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot overlook the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company founded in 1893 in Durham. In 1789, James Forten, Sr., established the first major black-owned sailmaking shop. We could go on and on talking about the good highlights of black Americans who have distinguished themselves in the area of business.

There is a growing crowd of black men and women who have taken their seats at the tables of business power here in America. People like American Express President Kenneth Chenault; Maytag President Lloyd Ward; Richard Parsons, President of Time Warner; Toni Fay, Vice President at Time War-

ner; Elliott Hall, Vice President of Ford Motor Company; and Ben Ruffin, Vice President at Philip Morris.

They are well-educated, highly motivated and strong-willed business leaders who have raised the glass ceiling beyond any level that their parents dared imagine. They are sharp and unapologetic. They are influencing hiring and promotion at their companies. They are gaining access to capital and creating unprecedented partnerships with large companies. In short, they are obliterating the myth that blacks cannot prosper at the highest level of industry.

Mr. Speaker, I would say to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STOKES), our wonderful chairperson of this event tonight, as more blacks experience corporate success, more and more are expanding and creating their own businesses as well. Between 1987 and 1992, the number of black-owned businesses rose 46 percent compared to the 26 percent increase in U.S. business overall.

As we honor the legacy of achievement of blacks in business today, I, for one, am comforted to know that history is still being made by a new generation of blacks in business for themselves and at the highest levels of some of our Nation's largest corporations.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for giving this time to help America understand the significant contributions of African Americans.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentlewoman from Florida for her statement and her participation in this special order.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield to the distinguished gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Ohio for organizing tonight's special order to commemorate Black History Month. I have been privileged to serve with the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STOKES) on the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education of the Committee on Appropriations, and I would like to say what an honor it has been to work with him and that he will be truly missed in this body. This country is a better place for his having served in this body.

Black History Month is a time for us to join together to salute the accomplishments of African-American men and women who have contributed so much to make our Nation strong. I would like to take this opportunity to remember some of the key events that took place in my home State of Connecticut.

I guess I must deviate just a bit from the specific topic of businesspeople, but I think that New Haven, Connecticut, has a specific historical fact that it is important, I think, for people to understand about the city. And I think there are so many young people in the City of New Haven who do not realize the history of African Americans in this city.

These young people do not realize that their city was an important station on the underground railroad. In fact, the Varick AME Episcopal Church and Dixwell Avenue Unitarian Church of Christ were both way-stations for escaped slaves traveling through New Haven toward freedom in the North.

New Haven found itself in the center of the dispute between the forces supporting slavery and those working for freedom when the Amistad ship arrived in Long Island Sound in the summer of 1839. The Amistad has become a household word, thanks to a blockbuster movie this year, and we are grateful to Steven Spielberg for making such a movie. But before the movie, very few people knew about this event, even people living in the City of New Haven, where much of the action occurred.

After the Amistad was captured in Long Island Sound, the Africans on the ship, led by Sengbe Pieh, were put in a New Haven jail while a court battle was waged to determine whether they would be slaves or free men and women. The dispute forced the country to confront the moral, social, political and religious questions that were surrounding slavery.

Many members of the New Haven community pulled together to work for the freedom of the Africans, including the congregation of the Center Church on Temple Street and students and faculty from the Yale University Divinity School. Finally, in February of 1841, the Africans, who were defended by former President John Quincy Adams, were declared free by the United States Supreme Court.

Today there are several memorials in New Haven commemorating the Amistad and the story of the brave Africans who fought for their liberty on its decks. A statue of Sengbe Pieh, who was also known as Joseph Cinque, sits in front of the city hall in New Haven, and I was there for the dedication, along with our sister city from Sierra Leone. Plans are under way for a life-size working replica of the ship to be docked on Long Wharf with exhibitions and programs on African-American history and the long fight for true freedom.

This is a month that gives us the opportunity to remember these events and the people behind them. Unfortunately, in our lives, we compartmentalize and we have a month where we talk with these things. It ought to be the topic of conversation and discussion and just woven into our everyday lives. But we are grateful that we have a time to single out the opportunity for the conversations, where we remember people with the courage to stand up and fight against tyranny and oppression, and we also have the opportunity to talk about those who have been such a tremendous success in business and academics and the arts and all the parts of our society.

Mr. Speaker, America is strong because we have been successful at molding our different backgrounds into a

strong Nation. We are a diverse, tolerant and constantly changing country that has been enriched by our differences. We celebrate our rich history, not just in Black History Month, but throughout the year.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio for organizing this event tonight.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Connecticut for both her eloquent statement and her participation in this special order.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield to the distinguished gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON).

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in commending the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STOKES) for doing this annually and for his leadership. This hour gives us an opportunity to put in the RECORD some reflection and attributes of black history. This month as a whole gives the Nation an opportunity to reflect, but also gives an opportunity to assess what is going on.

Mr. Speaker, last night I attended an event at which Vice President AL GORE and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, Aida Alvarez, announced a new major initiative aimed at increasing loan approvals to minority entrepreneurs.

The announcement of this initiative is most appropriate as we pause to celebrate Black History Month. I was particularly struck by the Vice President's remarks as he discussed the historical debate between the value of political power as compared to economic power. The Vice President recognized that this debate has spanned the years past and acknowledged that it would likely continue into the years ahead. We actually need both economic development and political power if we, as a community, are to sustain a quality of life.

Whatever the view one may hold on this issue, it cannot be denied that the initiative announced last night, once implemented, would benefit the black community and, in particular, the black businesses in ways that would be felt into the future.

This lending assistance and marketing campaign is designed to support blacks who are interested in starting or expanding their own small businesses. Under the campaign over the next 3 years, SBA plans to more than double its annual level of loan guarantees now provided to blacks.

In the fiscal year 1997, SBA provided 1,903 guaranteed loans valued at \$286 million. Those funds were provided to black entrepreneurs from the 7(a) and the 504 lending program.

By fiscal year 2000, SBA expects the annual loan guarantees to black businesses to reach 3,900 with an estimated value of \$588 million from these 2 programs. And for the next 3 years combined, SBA expects to provide some 9,300 loan guarantees with an estimated value of \$1.4 billion.

Mr. Speaker, the impact of this kind of infusion of capital into black enter-

prise is inestimable. But the true brilliance of this initiative rests with the fact that the SBA has enlisted a number of prominent black American groups to assist in facilitating this process to make sure that these loan guarantees are known and indeed get out to those entrepreneurs who may need them.

Those groups include the National Urban League, the National Black Chamber of Commerce, the National Council of Negro Women, the Minority Business Enterprise, the National Legal Defense and Education Fund, the Organization for a New Equality and the Phelps Stokes Fund.

The initiative represents an important and significant step forward. We are indeed making progress. In recent years, the number of black-owned businesses grew by nearly 50 percent from 424,000 to almost 621,000 new businesses, according to the Census Bureau. But at the same time, the average black firm generates an annual income of less than \$52,000 while the average small business annual income is \$193,000, some \$141,000 more each year.

We are progressing, however. But yet we have a long way to go. This is a journey we must make.

America's 200 million small businesses employ more than half of the private work force. But that is not all. America's small businesses generate more than half of the Nation's gross domestic product and are the principal source of the new jobs in the United States economy and the reason that we are enjoying prosperity today.

But in the end, Mr. Speaker, this new initiative will work best if entrepreneurs who take advantage of it have the same daring and pioneering spirit as the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company, which is in my State, headquartered in Durham, North Carolina. North Carolina Mutual, with determination and hard work, has become one of the Nation's largest insurance companies and the largest black-managed insurance company in the world.

Since its founding in 1898, just a few years after the doctrine of "Separate but Equal" was pronounced, North Carolina Mutual has been the symbol of progress and a symbol of success and entrepreneurial achievement, of leadership and economic vitality and the strength of the black community.

North Carolina Mutual has achieved this triumph despite overwhelming and seemingly insurmountable odds. Today, with assets over \$228 million and insurance in force of over \$9 billion, it ranks among the top 10 percent of the Nation's life insurers. North Carolina Mutual has offices in 11 States and the District of Columbia and is licensed to operate in 21 States and the District of Columbia.

It is fitting, Mr. Speaker, that the company has its headquarters atop the highest hill in Durham, because indeed it is at the top of its industry. Poised for the 21st century and all the promise

that it holds, North Carolina Mutual deserves our respect, our notice, our appreciation, our admiration and our thanks for their leadership.

With this new initiative SBA is doing, we can only be hopeful that there will be many, many more North Carolina Mutuals in the future being multimillion dollar firms being run and managed by African Americans.

□ 2015

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina for her participation in this special order. It is a pleasure to have her participate.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much for his leadership on this very special order and tribute to black history and appreciate very much my colleagues who have come to the floor of the House to acknowledge this very special month. By their presence, I glean from their words that although we have this month to commemorate black history, the contributions of black Americans are so very important as it relates to the history of this Nation. The Preamble to the Constitution of this great Nation aptly begins, "We the people."

As I take my place on the floor of the House of Representatives to pay tribute to African Americans, I am reminded of the fact that those who first took their place in this very spot did not include me nor my people and their vision of "We the people."

To "secure the blessing of liberty to ourselves and our posterity" is one of the basic reasons that the Constitution was "ordained" and "established." These are basic tenets of freedom. This portion of the Preamble to the Constitution reminds us of the economic empowerment that surrounded the push towards the establishment of this great country. That is why it is so apropos that we celebrate African Americans in business, the path towards empowerment. There is no doubt that African Americans and Black History Month are one and the same. They recognize the importance of providing the pathway for evidencing what we have done for this country. African Americans have made unique contributions to the significant scientific and technological advancement of this country and to the growth and popularity of American culture around the world. Many of the modern conveniences that we enjoy today were invented by African Americans. Where would we be without the stop light invented by Garrett Morgan; the incandescent light bulb invented by Lewis Latimer; Dr. Charles Drew, a pioneer in blood research who established the first blood bank; and George Washington Carver, who so often we found as youngsters enjoyment in studying, maybe one of the few African Americans that our

teachers allowed us to know? He revolutionized the agricultural economy of the South with his novel ideas on crop rotation.

Today African American scientists and astronauts are expanding our knowledge of space. How many of us know the names of these African American astronauts who have led the way for our country to be the leader in space exploration and space-based science? Major Lawrence, the first African American astronaut, Ron McNair, Guion Bluford, first African American to actually fly in space and Ron McNair who lost his life in the tragic *Challenger* accident, General Fred Geary, Charles Bolan, Mai Jaimson, first African American woman in space, Robert Curbeam, Winston Scott, Evon Cagle, Joan Higginbotham, Stephanie Wilson, Bernard Harris and Mike Anderson, an African American astronaut who flew in January on the last mission of the space shuttle *Endeavor* to *Mir*.

The economic benefits gained from the work of these African Americans has proved monumental. Our path towards economic empowerment has forged its way even through the hard times. And yes, even our African American farmers, our small businesses and large businesses to pay tribute to. For it was after slavery when we were told that we would receive 40 acres and a mule. I am sad to say that to this day, we have not received the full measure of the 40 acres and a mule. But our African American farmers in the deep South, the Midwest and other parts have held steady and strong, keeping up the good fight, providing that enhancement of economic opportunity that has kept this country going.

I hope as we proceed to celebrate this day and as well as we celebrate African American history throughout the years to come, we will pay tribute to our African American farmers and the justice that they deserve.

Now let me simply say this, Mr. Speaker. I too wanted to acknowledge the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) for her leadership in the Congressional Black Caucus, and certainly since we are talking about minority businesses and in this instance African American businesses, let me acknowledge Mr. Minority Business or African American Business in the United States Congress, Parren Mitchell, and thank him for his leadership on these issues of opening the doors of opportunity. Kweisi Mfume followed him with his interests in small business, and now the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. WYNN).

None of these individuals gave particular interest for their own self-aggrandizement, but they knew that it was important for us to be strong economically. So they championed, along with other members of this Caucus, affirmative action.

I would simply say that now is the time, as we celebrate this month, that we recognize that the struggle is not

over. Affirmative action is under siege and many of our African American businesses that are successful today are successful because of African American effort in promoting affirmative action that has helped so many in this Nation, the rule of two that has provided for opportunities for small businesses and, yes, the Community Reinvestment Act that forced many of our Nation's banks to recognize that they could not do business by taking in money from the African American community and not investing money in the African American community. The creation of BET, one of the most well watched national stations has also been a recipient and beneficiary of affirmative action.

Lastly I would say, Mr. Speaker, that the important thing is what our young people believe and how they will carry the torch into the 21st century. I hope and my challenge is that although they may not have lived through the time frame of Dr. Martin Luther King or Stokely Carmichael or any of the others who so aptly raised their voices for equal opportunity and freedom, I hope that they will never forget. I hope there is a sense of loyalty and understanding and guts that they would feel that the work that they do, wherever it might be, those who may work in the United States Congress, with many of the Members and particularly those of the Congressional Black Caucus, understand that they have a mission, that it is a challenge and an honor to be so associated, that many of the strides that have been made by African Americans have come from the Congressional Black Caucus.

I challenge our educators and teachers: Teach our children about their history, do not have them scratching to find out about African American history because school boards and schools refuse to include those very important subjects in our curriculum. We all have a challenge. And to our African American businesses across the Nation, not to the exclusion of small businesses or Hispanic businesses or women-owned businesses, you have a special responsibility to give back to your community. I know that you live there. I know that you are giving. Let that be your cause.

My final word is to simply say that black history must be lived and not spoken. That means that we are all challenged to live African American history and the contributions to this Nation every single day. God bless you.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the theme for this year's special order to commemorate Black History Month is "African Americans in Business: The Path Towards Empowerment." There is no doubt that the path towards empowerment includes economic empowerment—the ownership of businesses, as well as the creation of and participation in business opportunities. However, this assumes the freedom and liberty to do so.

To "secure the blessing of liberty to ourselves and our posterity" is one of the basic reasons that the Constitution was "ordain[ed]"

and established." These are basic tenets of freedom. This portion of the preamble of the Constitution reminds us of the economic empowerment that surrounded the push towards the establishment of this great country.

There is no doubt that African Americans have always believed in the principles set forth in both the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. Our contributions to the preservation of American liberty even extends to the beginning of this country, when Crispus Attucks was the first to die for the cause of American freedom and liberty in the Revolutionary War.

From the activism of Frederick Douglas, Sojourner Truth, and Harriet Tubman during the abolitionists movement, to the heroic efforts of Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, Thurgood Marshall and Fannie Lou Hamer during the civil rights movement, African Americans have never lost faith in this country to expand democracy and provide true economic freedom for all Americans.

African Americans have been entrepreneurs from the very beginning of this country. During Reconstruction, African American businesses flourished in black neighborhoods largely due to the fact that we were not welcomed in majority stores and business establishments.

When African Americans were barred from purchasing life and health insurance coverage, African American entrepreneurs established their own life insurance companies. Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Co., North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Co., and Atlanta Life Insurance Co. are only a few of the companies that were started by African Americans. These companies exist even today.

In Houston, Unity Bank serves as a model of African American empowerment. It is the only African American owned bank in Houston and serves as a beacon for African American business and commerce.

In the present era, our African American elected officials, along with the presidents of the various civil rights, fraternal, religious and business organizations continue to encourage our Nation to keep its commitment to freedom, equality and economic well-being and empowerment for all Americans.

Black History Month celebrations provide excellent opportunities to inform young and old alike of African American contributions to America and the world. The origins of the celebrations of black history as Black History Month date back to 1926, when Dr. Carter G. Woodson set aside a special period of time in February to recognize the heritage, achievements and contributions of African Americans. It has only been since 1976 that we officially designated February as Black History Month.

African Americans have made unique contributions to the scientific and technological advancement of this country and to the growth and popularity of American culture around the world. Many of the modern conveniences that we enjoy today were invented by African Americans.

Where would we be without the stop light, invented by Garrett Morgan; the incandescent light bulb, invented by Lewis Latimer; Dr. Charles Drew, a pioneer in blood research who established the first blood bank; and George Washington Carver who revolutionized the Agricultural Economy of the South with his novel ideas on crop rotation.

Today, African American scientists and astronauts are expanding our knowledge of

space. How many of us know of the names of these African American astronauts who have led the way for our country to be the leader in space exploration and space based science:

Major Lawrence—the first African American astronaut; Ron McNair; Guion Bluford—the first African American to actually fly in space; Gen. Fred Geary; Charles Bolan; Mai Jaimson; Robert Curbeam; Winston Scott; Evon Cagle; Joan Higgenbotham; Stephanie Wilson; Benard Harris; and Mike Anderson, an African American astronaut who flew in January on this last mission of the space shuttle Endeavor to Mir.

The economic benefits gained from the work of these African Americans has proven monumental. Our path towards economic empowerment has forged its way even through space.

After the enslavement of Africans in this country, we were promised 40 acres and a mule. This, for many, would have provided a means by which newly freed slaves could work the land in order to provide for themselves. It was to allow for economic empowerment. That dream did not come true. It was readily apparent that the path towards economic empowerment for African Americans was littered with lies, deceitfulness, and Jim Crow laws that were designed to stifle the ability of African Americans to own business and in turn "secure the blessing of [economic] liberty."

African Americans built this country with their sweat and blood. They served as the economic backbone of the southern economy and helped to develop the West. During the migration from the South to the North in the first half of this century, African Americans played critical roles in the factories that energized the Industrial Revolution.

It is widely understood that education improves one's quality of life. African Americans have always believed in the importance of education. During the Reconstruction period, African Americans pooled their resources to form schools and colleges that still exist and thrive. Today, historically black colleges and universities are producing the doctors, lawyers, business persons, dentists, pharmacists and professionals that help to construct a better path to economic empowerment.

The accomplishments of African Americans are too numerous to actually list. From the tumultuous birth of our great Nation to this present day, African Americans have contributed to all that is good about America.

Black History Month is an ongoing celebration of victory. It is a celebration of our very survival and rise from oppression to recognized accomplishments and achievements.

Our challenge today is to become economically empowered through the ownership of business and the aggressive participation in business opportunities.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Texas for her eloquent statement on this occasion.

I yield to the distinguished gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS), chairperson of the Congressional Black Caucus. Over the number of years I have taken out this special order annually to celebrate Black History Month, I have always done so in conjunction with whomever was the chairperson of the Congressional Black Caucus. And I am delighted this year to have my name associated with that of our dis-

tinguished chairperson, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS), who is doing such an outstanding job in giving leadership not only to the Congressional Black Caucus but here in the House of Representatives. It is an honor to yield to her.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

I am delighted to be a part of this very special time that is taken out and directed by a very special man. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STOKES) has led this House in celebrating Black History Month and this will be the last year that the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STOKES) will be here to do this for us. While we are all saddened by the fact that he will not be here to guide us on this and in many other efforts that we have to put forth, we are delighted that he is here once again this evening to make sure that we take time out from our very busy schedules to pay attention to the contributions of African Americans to this society.

This year we have as our theme African Americans in business, the path towards empowerment. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with all my colleagues in celebrating this Black History Month. Each year during the month of February we consciously take time to acknowledge and celebrate the history and accomplishments of African Americans in this country and worldwide. As we reflect on our history, I am more convinced now than ever that economic development through black entrepreneurship is a key to creating jobs, wealth and opportunities in our communities. Our history is rich with African Americans who created economic opportunities for others by owning, operating and building their own businesses. The early trailblazers include black entrepreneurs like Madam C. J. Walker, A. G. Gaston and John Johnson.

Madam C. J. Walker, the first woman self-made millionaire of any race built an economic empire starting with \$1.50 in capital. In 1905, Madam Walker founded Madam C. J. Walker Manufacturing Company, the Nation's first successful black hair care products company. Madam Walker's company trained thousands of black women in her beauty schools and colleges. Her company sales force eventually exceeded more than 20,000 agents in the United States, the Caribbean and Central America.

Arthur G. Gaston founded the Booker T. Washington Burial Society in 1923. He parlayed his company, which guaranteed African Americans a decent burial, into a conglomerate of 10 companies that included two radio stations, a construction company, a bank, two funeral homes, a motel and a nursing home. When he died in 1996, he sold several of his businesses, valued at \$34 million, to his employees.

John Johnson, chairman and chief executive officer of Johnson Publishing Company, pioneered one of the Nation's largest black-owned businesses

and the world's largest black-owned publishing company. In 1942, with a \$500 loan secured by his mother's furniture, Mr. Johnson started his company, which now includes *Ebony*, *Jet*, *EM*, that is *Ebony Man*, and other enterprises. Today Johnson Publishing Magazines employ over 2,700 people and reach more than 20,000 readers in 40 countries.

While C. J. Walker and A. G. Gaston and John Johnson paved the way, Reginald Lewis and Robert Johnson raised black entrepreneurship to another level. They used savvy deal-making and Wall Street financing techniques to create two of the largest publicly traded African American controlled companies in America. Reginald Lewis, a Wall Street lawyer, used his financial and legal savvy to buy Beatrice International Food Company, a global giant of 64 companies in 31 countries. With that acquisition, he parlayed TLC Beatrice into the largest African American controlled business in the United States. In 1992, TLC Beatrice had revenues of \$1.54 billion. When he died in 1993, he had a net worth of \$400 million. His wife Loida N. Lewis currently runs the company.

Robert Johnson also recognized early on the power of Wall Street to create economic opportunities. In 1980, he created Entertainment Television, the largest black cable television and entertainment network. In 1991, BET became the first African American owned and controlled company traded on the New York Stock Exchange. BET has revenues in excess of \$132 million.

Several African American entrepreneurs and entertainers have continued the legacy of ownership and empowerment for African Americans. These include among others: Edward Lewis, J. Bruce Llewellyn, Earl Graves, Berry Gordy, Bill Cosby and Oprah Winfrey.

Edward Lewis, the publisher, chairman and CEO of Essence Communications, heads one the country's most successful and diverse African American owned communications companies. In May 1970, Lewis and partner Clarence O. Smith published the first issue of *Essence Magazine*, a fashion magazine for black women. Today Essence Communications Incorporated is synonymous with black womanhood.

I cannot go into Mr. James Bruce Llewellyn, Mr. Earl Graves, Mr. Bill Cosby, Oprah Winfrey, and of course Berry Gordy. But I have mentioned them and we shall continue to make this information available to all.

I thank the gentleman very much for this opportunity to share the contributions of these wonderful African Americans.

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James Bruce Llewellyn has built several multimillion dollar companies. He currently is the president of the Philadelphia Coca-Cola bottling companies of one of the largest Coca-Cola Bottling distributorships in this country. The Philadelphia Coca-Cola Bottling Company currently employs over 1,000 people.

Earl G. Graves, Sr. launched Black Enterprise magazine in 1970. His magazine set the standard for informing African American entrepreneurs "how to" start and grow a successful business. Black Enterprise magazine now boasts more than 3.1 million readers and has a controlled subscriber base of 300,000.

Bill Cosby is one of the most highly-paid TV personalities in America. After cutting his first comedy album in 1964, Cosby went on to star in several television series, including "I Spy," "The Cosby Show"—NBC's top-rated program through most of the late 80s and the new sitcom "Cosby." Cosby also is known for his Jell-o commercials with children; as the narrator of the "Fat Albert" cartoons and as a producer and creator of other television shows. Cosby and his wife, Camille, have been active in education circles through their donations amounting to over \$20 million to black women's colleges. Mr. Cosby's earnings exceeded \$33 million last year.

Oprah Winfrey, queen of the afternoon talk shows, worked her way up from a local TV reporter to a morning talk show host. Her lively, aggressive, intelligence and streetwise common sense made her a popular television personality who earns top ratings and numerous television awards. Winfrey is also a savvy business woman. In 1988, Winfrey purchased a Chicago-based movie and television production facility that she renamed Harpo Studios. She has used Harpo Studios to produce her own television dramas and series. She made over \$200 million last year.

We have made tremendous strides in creating black-owned businesses. Between 1987 and 1992, the number of black-owned businesses grew by 46 percent. Revenues also rose by 63 percent from \$19.8 billion to \$32.2 billion. Black Enterprise reports that the leading black industrial and service firms created more than 4,000 new jobs between 1995 and 1996.

However, in 1992, African Americans and other minorities, collectively, owned only 11 percent of all businesses in America. Annual sales receipts for minority-owned businesses averaged only \$202,000, compared with an average of \$3.3 million for white-owned businesses.

To bridge those gaps and build economically sound communities, the development of more black businesses is essential. Economic power today will mean jobs, creation of wealth, and continuing political clout in the future.

As Madam C.J. Walker was fond of saying, "I am not merely satisfied in making money for myself, for I am endeavoring to provide employment for hundreds of women of my race." "I had to make my own living and my own opportunity! But I made it! That's why I want to

say . . . don't sit down and wait for the opportunities to come . . . Get up and make them!"

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Mr. Speaker, I thank our distinguished chairperson of the Congressional Black Caucus for her statement and her participation in this Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased now to yield to the distinguished gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. BARRETT).

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STOKES). It is an honor to be here tonight with him.

Today I honor the accomplishments and advancements of African Americans, and I join the celebration of Black History Month. It is fitting that we honor African-American business pioneers this year, as we are in the midst of record economic growth. Many African-American businesses have indeed made strides in the business world.

The Reverend Martin Luther King saw the economic potential of the African-American community and called for the use of that power. He said, "We are a poor people individually. Collectively, we are richer than all the nations in the world, with the exception of nine. We have an annual income of more than \$30 billion a year. That is power right there if we know how to pool it."

In my home city of Milwaukee, and across the Nation, African-American businesses have made the sacrifices necessary to achieve success in the business world. These efforts have paved the way for today's African-American businesses and entrepreneurs and established a solid business environment in which minority-owned businesses now grow and prosper.

One of these businesses, the Columbia Building and Loan Association, was the first African-American financial institution in Milwaukee. The business has been located at Fond du Lac and 20th, in the heart of Milwaukee, since it was founded in 1915. The founders, Wilbur and Ardie Hayland, were committed to development in the African-American community and used their business to invest in and develop homes and businesses. They saw that African Americans could not secure loans from white institutions and the housing situation in their community was bleak. They decided to do something. As a result, great strides were made in this community. The Columbia Building and Loan is still in business today as the Columbia Savings and Loan.

Another Wisconsin African-American pioneer, William Green, was the author of Wisconsin's first civil rights legislation, the Wisconsin Civil Rights Act of 1895, which outlawed discrimination in public places. Mr. Green came to Wisconsin in 1887 and graduated from the law school there in 1892.

Wisconsin's first African-American newspaper, the Wisconsin Enterprise-

Blake, founded in 1916, paved the way for many of today's successful businesses.

Wisconsin now has a number of African-American radio stations and newspapers, including the Community Journal, the Milwaukee Time, and the Milwaukee Courier. These publications and outlet serve as a window on the community, highlighting the achievements of the community they cover.

But these businesses are just the tip of the iceberg when we talk about African-American businesses in Wisconsin. African-American entrepreneurs have established grocery stores, child care centers, health care centers, law firms, eye care centers, engineering firms, data centers, sales and marketing services, and many more. Some of these businesses have succeeded in securing contracts and investing millions of dollars in community development projects. Just last summer an African American-owned contracting company secured the largest 8(a) contract awarded by the U.S. Small Business Administration in Wisconsin's history. Bowles Construction of Milwaukee received a \$6.1 million contract for a flood control project over the Wisconsin River.

This month, during Black History Month, we can all take pride in the success of both past and present African-American businesses. These businesses have become a growing, integral part of the healthy economy America is enjoying today. They deserve this recognition, and we should all be proud of what has been accomplished.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin for his participation tonight, and at this time I am pleased to yield to the distinguished former chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE).

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, let me congratulate the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LOU STOKES) again for his effort of bringing forth our African-American history to the Nation. We will certainly miss him when he departs from this great body.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues this evening in commemorating Black History Month, which is celebrating the achievements of African Americans in the field of business. This year's theme, African Americans in Business: The Path Towards Empowerment, is very fitting at a time in history when so many talented African-American men and women are playing leading roles in our Nation's business sector and taking their rightful place in national and international economic affairs.

According to the Census Bureau's survey of minority-owned business enterprises, the number of black-owned businesses has increased 46 percent in recent years. The 100 largest black-owned companies in the United States generated revenue of over \$14 billion.

Last summer Fortune Magazine profiled a new generation of African

Americans who are achieving phenomenal success on Wall Street. Among them are John Utendahl, a bond trader who founded Utendahl Capital Partners, the largest black-owned investment bank in the United States. His firm has been involved in over \$250 billion worth of transactions.

Another success story, a friend of mine, young Ron Blaylock from New Jersey, a young man in his 30s, founded Blaylock and Partners, the first minority firm to manage a corporate bond underwriting. His firm supervised the \$150 million issue on behalf of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

We all know Marianne Spraggins, the top achieving African-American woman on Wall Street, who took on the challenging position of CEO for W.R. Lazard, a black-owned firm.

One African American caught in downsizing of Occidental Petroleum, William Davis, started his own company, Pulsar Data Systems. This \$166 million business is now the largest owned black computer firm.

In addition to large-scale companies, successful small businesses are being started every week in communities throughout the Nation. I am very proud of the entrepreneurs in my congressional district in New Jersey, who have worked hard to build their businesses.

Our local communities are enhanced by the presence of successful businesses in the 10th District. Starting very quickly with the City National Bank, a minority-owned bank, chaired by Mr. Lewis Prezau; Dunn and Sons, a janitorial service owned by Malcolm Dunn; Bradford and Byrd, also a janitorial service, owned by Avery and Trina Byrd; Ke'Dar Books, a store that sells books on Bergen Street, owned by a former student of mine, Jack Martin; P.C. Pros, a computer company owned by an outstanding businesswoman, Avis Yates; JOHNSON Publication Company of New Jersey, which produces many publications, including the popular newspaper City News; and Evan Bow Construction, owned by the Bowser brothers; Justin's Mens Clothing in South Orange, New Jersey.

And so during this Black History Month, as we celebrate, I conclude by saying that even during the era of slavery, free blacks were successful business owners. RECORDS show back in the 1700s, as we have heard, Paul Cuffe was a shipper and merchant in New England; James Wormley owned a hotel right here in Washington, D.C.; William Johnson owned a string of barber shops in Natchez, Mississippi. And after the Civil War many African Americans were established in businesses.

So as I conclude, I do want to mention this is the hundredth anniversary of the birth of Paul Robeson, a Jersian, a 12-letter man in every athletic event that they played at the time, an outstanding singer, but who had to fight to get on the chorus, on the glee club, and who was not allowed to play football initially when he first went out.

He ended up with a broken rib and destroyed his hands, but he went back to say he was going to play. He became an all-American. And with that I yield back to the gentleman.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey and, Mr. Speaker, I express my appreciation to all the Members who have participated in this Special Order.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and join my friends and colleagues in celebrating and honoring Black History Month. As we observe and reflect on the achievements of African-Americans in our Nation, I enthusiastically support and salute this year's theme, "The Path Towards Empowerment."

The African-American business community has been the hallmark of empowerment efforts in my Congressional District. This year marks the fifth consecutive year that I will host a Small Business Conference in my Congressional District in San Diego. These conferences have already opened the doors of opportunity to many African-American businesses which lacked such access in the past.

These seminars have been concentrated in the African-American community and have produced significant achievements. Bryco Distributing Company, one of San Diego's largest paper goods distributing companies, has relocated into my Congressional District. We are also developing both a Business Improvement District and a Micro-Business District in the heart of San Diego's African-American community.

Government contracting has also increased opportunities for the African-American business community. The Navy Exchange system has enabled an African-American baking goods company to acquire a Navy vendor contract. Construction contracts for Navy housing and other facilities have given African-American contractors, subcontractors and vendors valuable opportunities of historic proportions.

My own efforts have also attempted to provide local empowerment through the business community. I am working with local African-American leaders to foster a strong working relationship with the African-American Chamber of Commerce in my district. I regularly review actions of the Small Business Administration (SBA) and that of local banks to monitor adherence to California's Community Reinvestment Act passed to guarantee investment in traditionally red-lined communities. I have also supported efforts of the Economic Community Magazine to create an Entrepreneurial Training Center.

Our efforts here and at home on behalf of African-American businesses work to further strengthen this community and create additional opportunities. It is this community empowerment which will ultimately sustain ongoing efforts to ensure equality, guarantee justice and maintain hope in the future.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleague, LOUIS STOKES, in celebration of black history month. This special order is a time honored tradition in the House, and I always enjoy participating.

For the past 17 years, I have celebrated black history month with the families, community leaders and elected officials of the fifth congressional district in Maryland, together, we reflect the memory of African American leaders past, honor the leaders and activists in

the present, and encourage the development and education of future leaders: the children.

One of the reasons I celebrate black history month is because I believe that African American history is the foundation of American history: They are indeed one in the same. African American history is a celebration of the journey of a people from which all Americans are able to witness the meaning of strength, perseverance, resilience, talent, faith, leadership, economic empowerment, and vision.

Strength was what the African ancestors drew upon when they were stripped from their native land, chained in the bowels of a slave ship, and forced to make the traumatic transatlantic voyage into the unknown.

Strength was the African slaves' will to survive in a foreign land, under violent, torturous and deplorable conditions for over 260 years.

Perseverance was when Harriet Tubman, "the Moses of her people" led slaves to freedom countless times, dubbed "the underground railroad" in the face of danger and exhaustion. I am pleased to be a co-sponsor of Mr. STOKES' bill, H.R. 1635, the national underground railroad network to Freedom Act of 1998. This legislation would authorize the National Park Service to link together in a coordinated and cohesive fashion the many sites, structures, activities, museums and programs that commemorate and celebrate this African American triumph.

Resilience is Booker T. Washington, who, after walking from West Virginia to Hampton Institute located in Hampton, Virginia, swept the floors of a classroom as his admissions test, and went on to become the principal of Tuskegee Institute in Tuskegee, Alabama. Washington played a defining leadership role in American politics in the early 1900's.

Talent is defined by the great storytellers of the Harlem Renaissance era, like Langston Hughes, James Weldon Johnson, Nella Larsen, and Claude McKay—writers who drew upon their own experiences and societal African American culture as the basis of their compelling text.

Talent is the musical genius of Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong, who developed the wonders of jazz music and laid the foundation of America's appreciation for many genres of contemporary music.

Faith is what the late Jackie Robinson had when he became the first black player in modern major league baseball in 1947, an act which helped break down racial barriers in professional sports. We just celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his feat last year, marking this triumphant point in history and reminding our youth of how far we have come and how far we have yet to go in fighting discrimination.

Faith is what Rosa Parks had when she denied a white person a seat on a bus, which helped lead us into the greatest movement in American history—the civil rights movement.

Faith is what nine students in little rock, Arkansas had when they integrated Little Rock Central High School in 1957, becoming symbols of educational equality.

The late Thurgood Marshall demonstrated leadership when he became the first black associate justice of the supreme court in 1967. The vital role he played as counsel in *Brown v. Board of Education* Topeka, Kansas left an indelible mark on the history of education in America, eliminating the cruel ruse of "Separate but equal"—overturning *Plessy v. Ferguson*.

The late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was and will remain one of America's most revered and honored leaders as an advocate for racial harmony. Like many other leaders of the 1960's, Dr. King's assassination took him from us physically, but his spirit of leadership and his vision for racial equality still lives.

Economic empowerment is what all of us here are seeking to sustain and create. We all want to develop and strengthen our communities economically by creating jobs and other opportunities to make sure that our neighborhoods are prosperous and our children are provided for.

All of these attribute I have touched upon lead us to vision. African-Americans have always had a vision, whether it was of freedom, equality, voting rights civil rights, economic stability or justice. It must be noted historically that, when reviewing the visions of African Americans from one point in history to another, one thing rings true: The vision is always realized.

As we approach the year 2000, we should all take a long, hard look at the journey that our ancestors have taken, that we have taken—and how, we need to look at the road we have left for our children to take on their journey.

We leave our children with a rich history full of leaders and innovators, of men and women who made a difference and ensured the survival of a race of people in the face of adversity.

Yet, as we prepare to pass the legacy of a people to the next generation, it is still incumbent upon us to tell the story, to celebrate the history. We must impress upon our children not to give up, but to always hope. They must hold onto the vision for their journey, and stick with it until it is realized—as our African American forefathers and mothers did.

It is impossible for me to recognize all of the African-Americans throughout history who have influenced our lives. However, I am truly thankful that, with the leadership of Representative STOKES and others here today on the floor, we take the time to recognize black history month.

Today, we are celebrating the African-American journey and are passing the legacy onto the next generation. I am proud to have participated in this special order commemorating black history month in 1998.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise on this the 11th day of Black History Month to salute African-Americans in business. In Martin Luther King's "I have a Dream" speech, he spoke of a promise that America made to its people: "A promise that all men, yes, black men as well as white men, should be guaranteed the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." Today as more and more young black women and men graduate from colleges and business schools, medical and law schools across this land, they are taking Dr. King's dream and turning it into a reality. In 1960, 141,000 African-Americans attended college, in 1988 785,000 African-Americans attended. Two decades ago, only a handful of African-Americans graduated from MBA programs whereas in 1995, 4000 African-Americans graduated. There is a strong correlation between higher education and African-American business success. By utilizing their hard won knowledge and mixing it with their strength and perseverance, African-Americans are becoming more empowered through entrepreneurship each day.

According to "Banking on Black Enterprise" a new community of African-American businesses are emerging. From 1987 to 1992, African-American businesses grew by over 45 percent. Between the years of 1984 and 1994, African-American pilots and navigators increased 650%, dentists 311% and black engineers 173%. Other factors such as corporate procurement plans and municipal plans have led to empowerment for African-Americans. Programs of this nature such as the General Motors African-American empowerment forum for small minority-owned business and the Michigan Minority Business Development workshops and conferences have also opened doors for African-American businesses.

We must fight to maintain these gains and ensure the growth of the African-American middle class into the next century. Every time that a little black boy or black girl takes their first step into a school, Dr. King's dream takes one step closer to becoming reality and every time that a new African-American business opens, Dr. King's dream takes yet another step closer to reality. Our successes in entrepreneurship are numerous, our chances for further growth, limitless.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Black History Month and its 1998 theme, African-Americans in Business, I would like to draw your attention to seven distinguished residents of Indiana's First Congressional District. These business people have achieved stunning success while generously giving of themselves to the community.

Nathaniel Z. Cain is a native of Gary. With his wife, Jacqueline, they raised 3 children, Fred, Jeff and Natalie, and now have 3 grandchildren. Nate started his business career in the automobile industry after serving 4 years in the U.S. Marine Corps and 2 tours of duty in Vietnam. He began working at a Ford dealership in Gary in 1969, began buying stock ownership in dealerships in 1986, and, in 1996, bought the same Ford dealership in Gary in which he had begun his career in 1969. He currently serves as President and Dealer-principal of Tyson Ford and Tyson Lincoln-Mercury and Vice-President of Melrose Lincoln-Mercury.

Nate has been recognized and rewarded for his outstanding achievements throughout his career. He was awarded 4 medals for his service in Vietnam: the National Defense Service medal, two Vietnam service medals (1st & 2nd awards), and the Vietnam campaign medal. He received numerous awards at the Tyson Motor Corp. in Joliet, Illinois, and in 1996 received the "100 Champions Award" for the top 100 Lincoln-Mercury Dealers. He has also been listed on Black Enterprise magazine's Top 100 Black Auto Dealers List since 1990. Throughout his career, Nate has been involved in his community, serving on various boards and councils, including the Board of Directors of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest Indiana, the Gary Mental Health Association, the Urban League of Northwest Indiana, the Board of Trustees of the Gary YWCA, the National Auto Dealers Association, the Ford-Lincoln-Mercury Minority Dealers Association, and the Chrysler-Plymouth Minority Dealers Association. His story is clearly a tribute to economic success and civic devotion.

Sharon L. Chambers is an insurance agent with State Farm in Gary, where she lives with her daughter, Sheena. Sharon received a degree from Indiana University and started her own insurance agency in 1984. Sharon has received the "Outstanding Young Women of

America Award," and, last year, she was inducted into Gary's first Women's Museum of Cultural Development. Sharon started her own agency with no customers and, for years later, was the number one insurance agent in the State of Indiana. She truly made it on her own. However, Sharon does not focus the story of her success on herself. She talks about the support of Gary citizens, and about the numerous young African-American women who have worked in her office as Marketing Representatives, five of whom have started their own businesses and four of whom have returned to college.

Imogene Harris is a Gary native, who earned her undergraduate degree from Indiana University and undertook graduate studies at Valparaiso and Purdue Universities. She was a teacher with the Gary School Corporation for 12 years and became President and Publisher of the family-owned Harris Printing Co. and INFO News in 1978. She and her husband, James T. Harris, have worked at their business for nearly 48 years. Imogene is actively involved in the community and works with the Gary Chamber of Commerce Board, the Urban League of Northwest Indiana Board, the Gary Accord Board, and the NAACP. Additionally, she holds membership in numerous organizations, including the National Newspaper Publishers Association, the Great Lakes Broadcasting Board, the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and the Delaney United Methodist Church. She has been honored by the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, the NAACP (nationally and locally), NCNW and many other organizations. In addition, Imogene has received the Gary Frontiers' "Drum Major Award" and the "Distinguished Hoosier Award." She has continually distinguished herself as an individual committed to equality, actively working to eradicate racism and prejudice through providing a forum in which issues can be addressed in a productive manner. She has been committed to the improvement of Gary for 50 years and much of the progress that has been made can clearly be attributed to her.

Roosevelt Haywood came to Indiana from Mississippi in 1948, and he attended Indiana University. He has a wife and seven children and is currently the owner of Haywood Insurance Agency in Gary. Before going into the insurance business, Roosevelt was a member of the United Steelworkers' Local #1014. Roosevelt built his successful business on his own, but he has been an active member of the community while doing so. He is currently Vice-President of the Gary branch of the NAACP, Vice-President of the Gary Black Insurance Agents and Brokers Association, a Deacon-Trustee at his Baptist Church, and a Board Member of the Brothers' Keeper. His record of civil service is extensive. Roosevelt worked as a State Chairman of the Fair Share Organization, a civil rights group that broke down the discrimination barrier over a decade ago in Gary, Michigan City, and East Chicago, Indiana. He founded and served as President of both the Gary United Council of Midtown Businessmen and the Gary Toastmasters International. He also served as Vice-President of the Minority Business Steering Committee and on the Advisory Board of the Urban League. He served as President of the Ambridge-Mann Community Board and the Indiana Association of Black Insurance Professionals. Finally, he served as a member of the Gary Library Board, the Gary Parks and Recreation Board, the Lake Country Economic Opportunity Council, Inc., and the Gary Common Council.

The Reverend F. Brannon Jackson and his wife, Doris, are another Northwest Indiana success story. Reverend Jackson came from Mobile, Alabama in 1946, and became pastor of his church on December 1, 1965. Doris graduated from East Chicago Washington and studied fine arts at the Chicago Art Institute. She opened her own boutique in downtown Gary, and has been in business for almost 17 years. While Reverend Jackson has served as President of the Ordinary General Missionary Baptist State Convention of Indiana, Chairman of the Office of Convention and Meetings for the National Baptist Convention, USA, and Treasurer of the City of Gary's Commission on Economic Development, Mrs. Jackson has supported his efforts in a tangible way by keeping her own shop in downtown Gary, while many of her neighbors moved their businesses elsewhere. Both Reverend and Mrs. Jackson have stood by and sustained downtown development and committed many hours to making Northwest Indiana safe for worship and shopping. They are two beacons in the Gary Community, providing both economic and spiritual leadership.

Dorothy Leavell is the Editor and Publisher of the Crusader Newspapers, which are published in Gary and Chicago. Dorothy attended public school in Arkansas and Roosevelt University in Chicago. In June of 1998, the Chicago Crusader will celebrate 58 years of continuous publishing, and the Gary Crusader will celebrate 37 years of operation. Dorothy took over the newspapers upon the untimely death of her first husband, Balm L. Leavell, Jr. She had been working there for 7 years as an Office Manager and Business Manager before taking over the helm of the Crusader Newspapers in 1968. Dorothy's newspapers have never missed a single issue.

Dorothy has been involved in numerous civic and humane organizations. She founded and sponsored the "Odyssey Club," a teen club at her church, dedicated to raising funds and items necessary for teens to further their educational and career goals. Her contribution to community service has earned her many awards over the years, and she has been recognized with distinction by: the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago; Holy Name of Mary School Board; Prospair Ladies Social Club, and the National Association of Black Media Women. She has received the Operation PUSH "Family Affair Award"; "Fourth District Community Improvement Association Award" in Gary; "Dollars and Sense Award"; Mary McLeod Bethune Award"; the "Publishing Award" from the National Association of Negro Business and Profession Women's Club, and the "NNPA's Publisher of the Year Award" in 1989. Dorothy has been a member of the National Newspaper Publisher Association (NNPA), for more than 25 years, and she is currently serving her second term as president of NNPA, which represents more than 215 African-American newspapers in the United States. Dorothy has always had a keen interest in art, and she donated her personal art collection valued at over \$50,000 to the DuSable Museum of African-American History in Chicago in the 1970's. Dorothy is currently married to John Smith, and she has two grown children, Antonio and Genice Leavell. She also raised a niece and nephew, Sharon and Leonard Gonder, and has four grandchildren.

Mamon Powers' college education at Campbell College in Mississippi was interrupted when he was drafted to serve in the European theater during World War II. He served for almost three and a half years, and was discharged as a Sergeant Major in April 1945. He then followed his sweetheart north, and settled in Gary to work in the steel mills. But Mamon did not end up working in the mill, instead deciding to try carpentry. Relying on the experience he had gleaned through this father's long association with the trade, he joined the Carpenters' Local #985, and was the first black carpenter's apprentice in the program. He worked at Means Brothers Construction Co. during the day and at night worked at getting his degree from Horace Mann, from which he graduated in 1949.

He was then noticed by his long-time mentor, Andrew Means, who offered him a Vice-Presidency at Means Developers. Mamon studied Mr. Means' building techniques and financial planning, and in 1955 formed his own partnership with drywall contractor, Hollis Winters. Winters Powers Construction Co. built homes for 9 years before Mamon decided he wanted a company that was truly his own. In 1967, Powers & Sons Construction Co. began. Amidst a city that was changing economically and politically, Mamon changed with the time, branching out into commercial construction, and bringing two of his sons into the business with him. In 1971, Powers & Sons won its first million-dollar contract, and, in 1987, it was named one of the top businesses in the Nation. Black Enterprise magazine has recognized this feat for eight years. Mamon has contributed to many civic and charitable organizations and continues to volunteer and donate his time by lecturing at the various Gary schools on careers in the construction industry. Powers & Sons continues his personal commitment on a professional level by providing scholarships to area youths.

These people are remarkable not just for their astounding business success. They are doubly remarkable for having achieved such success in arenas which were just beginning to open up for African-Americans. Marcus Garvey's prediction, that African-Americans could accomplish what they willed, has been borne truthful by people like these fine citizens of Northwest Indiana.

But the 'bootstraps' mentality is only one aspect of Garveyism, and these people's success can be measured in more than just professional terms. These Northwest Indiana leaders exemplify the true extent of success African-American business leaders have achieved; these men and women have not only made successes out of themselves, they have, and continue to, make successes of their communities, by devoting as much of their time and energy to others as they do to themselves. Sharon Chambers talks about the African-American women she has mentored, Mamon Powers talks about the man who mentored him. Roosevelt Haywood talks about participating in organizations which broke down the racial barriers facing African-Americans in the area, and Dorothy Leavell describes donating art in order to inspire other to achieve. The Reverend and Mrs. Jackson couple their work for economic growth with a devotion to community spiritualism. Nate Cain followed his career in the military with a long history of devoting his time to local youths. And Imogene Harris followed a career in

teaching children with a career in teaching the community as a whole. George Washington Carver once said, "How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in life you will have been all of these." These seven people have indeed been tender, compassionate, sympathetic and tolerant. And they have met with great success, both personal and professional, because of it.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend my esteemed colleagues, LOU STOKES and MAXINE WATERS, for arranging today's Special Order on Black History Month. LOU and MAXINE truly lead the House of Representatives in promoting racial consciousness, and their tireless work on behalf of African-Americans is unparalleled. With his recent retirement announcement, LOU promises to leave a significant void in the House of Representatives. We will miss him, but I look forward to others benefitting from the example he has provided, as well as continuing his legacy.

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlemen for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to join our Nation in celebrating Black History Month. In keeping with this year's theme of "African Americans in Business: The Path Towards Empowerment," I want to take this opportunity to honor African American publishers in Houston who are business leaders themselves and play a critical role in helping other businesses to succeed.

Part of this year's theme is empowerment, and certainly the African American press is invaluable in empowering businesses to succeed, both in providing them with important community information and linking them to customers through advertising. I have seen the value of the African American press firsthand in Houston, which benefits greatly from a healthy number of African American community newspapers.

Today, I want to take the opportunity to honor the publishers of these newspapers, including Sonceria "Sonny" Messiah Jiles of The Houston Defender; Dorris Ellis of The Houston Sun; Lenora "Doll" Carter of The Houston Forward Times; Francis Page, Sr., of The Houston NewsPages; and Pluria Marshall, Jr., of The Houston Informer. These newspapers and their publishers were honored when the National Newspaper Publishers Association held their annual convention in Houston in 1996, and it was rightly noted how remarkable it is that Houston has so many members of the Association. This is a testament to the strength of the African-American community in our city and to the diversity of voices heard in Houston's marketplace of ideas.

I want to take the opportunity to honor each of these newspapers and their publishers.

The Houston Defender was founded in 1930 by C.F. Richardson Sr., a journalist who used his newspaper to fight racism and was often the target of death threats and beatings by the Ku Klux Klan. Since becoming the publisher in 1981, Sonny Messiah Jiles has steered the paper back to its roots, focusing on economic and political issues while striving to promote positive images of African-Americans.

Sonny Messiah Jiles is a 20-year veteran of Houston media, having worked in public relations and radio, as well as hosting two long-running talk shows on minority issues. She

bought the Houston Defender at the age of 27 with money she had saved and borrowed from family and friends and practically ran it by herself during her first year of ownership. Since then, the Houston Defender has won numerous awards, including an NAACP Carter G. Woodson Award in the early 1990s for the paper's focus on equity issues, and Sonny Messiah Jiles was selected as publisher of the year in 1991 by the National Newspaper Publishers Association.

The Houston Sun provides extensive coverage of community, local, and national news, with a goal, as stated by publisher Dorris Ellis, "to provide news and information the community could use and trust." Dorris Ellis began publishing The Sun out of an extra room in her home, and it has since grown into much larger offices and a respected role in Houston's African-American community.

Dorris Ellis has long been active in a wide range of community activities, dating back to her work as a poll-watcher at age 14 after elimination of the poll tax enabled more African-Americans to vote. Today, she is president of the Houston League of Business and Professional Women and of the Houston Association of Black Journalists, working successfully to double the membership of each organization. A former kindergarten teacher, Dorris Ellis has always made education and youth high priorities. She has led many efforts to improve literacy, volunteers often in public schools, and publishes articles by student journalists in The Houston Sun.

The Houston Forward Times has been a family affair since its founding in 1960 by Julius Carter. His wife, Lenora "Doll" Carter, joined the paper in 1961 as its advertising director and office manager. After the death of her husband in 1971, she became the publisher, and her children grew up working at the paper.

The Houston Forward Times has sought to serve as an effective watchdog and voice for African American concerns in Houston, providing tough reporting on critical government and community issues. Relying on a staff of 15 full-time employees, the Houston Forward Times plays a specific role in keeping the community informed on such issues.

The Houston NewsPages began publishing in 1986 as a newsletter in which retail tenants could advertise their businesses. Publisher Frances Page, Sr., remembers the painstaking and time-consuming process of taking each article individually to the typesetter after it was written by his wife Diana Fallis Page, who is co-publisher and editor-in-chief. Today, the paper is published utilizing state-of-the-art computer technology.

The Houston NewsPages seeks to highlight the achievements of African-Americans and is known for its uplifting stories and eye-catching covers. From its humble beginnings, the paper has grown tremendously and won numerous journalism awards, including the 1990 John H. Stengstacke National Merit Award for General Excellence, the most prestigious award given to African-American publications by the National Newspaper Publishers Association.

The Houston Informer & Texas Freeman is the oldest African-American newspaper in Texas and the third-oldest in the nation. While it has changed ownership several times in its 105-year history, this weekly paper has never missed an edition or lost its commitment to firebrand journalism.

Pluria W. Marshall, Jr., the current publisher of *The Informer*, has inherited a piece of Texas history. The first issues of the paper focused on eradication of Jim Crow laws, equal pay for black teachers, and other race related issues. In the 1920s and 1930s, the newspaper became a strong advocate for civil rights and grew into a chain—since disbanded—that reached all major Texas cities and New Orleans. For more than two decades, George A. McElroy, a former Texas Southern University journalism professor, has served as editor-in-chief, leading the paper to numerous honors from the Texas Publishers Association and other organizations.

These five newspapers and their publishers play vital roles in Houston's African-American community, creating jobs and business opportunities themselves, helping other businesses to succeed, and improving our community for all Houstonians. I am pleased to honor them as we celebrate Black History Month.

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, in commemoration of Black History Month, I rise to recognize the contributions of my fellow Los Angeleno William Kennard, the new Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, to the expansion of minority entrepreneurship in the telecommunications industry. As we observe 1998 Black History Month's theme of "African Americans in Business: the Path to Empowerment," it is important to highlight the unique opportunity that Bill Kennard will now have as FCC Chairman to influence the path of minority entrepreneurship in the modern technological age. Bill is in a position to promote a prosperous business climate through his stewardship of FCC actions impacting the communications and broadcasting industries. As we near the end of the 20th Century, there will be few businesses unaffected by changes in telecommunications, internet and wireless services. As chairman of the FCC, this distinguished African American will play a significant role in ushering in these changes.

Bill Kennard became chairman of the FCC on November 7, 1997, after having served several years as General Counsel of the Commission. A native of Los Angeles, he graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Stanford and received his law degree from Yale Law School in 1981. Before joining the FCC as its first African American general counsel, a primary focus of his law practice was committed to assisting minority business entry into the communications marketplace. Bill served on the FCC's Advisory Committee on Minority Ownership in Broadcasting and was instrumental in expansion of the FCC's minority tax certificate program adopted by the FCC in 1982. When members of Congress targeted the tax certificate program for elimination, Bill Kennard became the only senior FCC official to publicly defend the program and advocate for its retention.

As general counsel of the FCC, he actively recruited minorities to serve in policy making positions, helping to place African Americans in charge of four of the Commission's 16 operating bureaus and offices. Bill Kennard's recruitment efforts resulted in significant increases in the number of minority lawyers throughout the commission. Prior to his arrival, few minority attorneys had ever served in the Office of General Counsel in its 60 year history; during his tenure, the office hired over 15 minority attorneys, including 12 African Americans. In addition, Bill created a Commission-wide mentoring program for new attorneys.

Outgoing FCC Chairman Reed Hundt said this about William Kennard: "Bill Kennard has been the best General Counsel in FCC history and has successfully run the most difficult cases this commission has ever encountered. Under his leadership, we have dramatically improved our win record in the Court of Appeals. We have also greatly expanded the depth and breadth of our recruiting and instilled in all our audiences an awareness of fairness and impartiality of our rulemaking."

As Chairman of the FCC, Bill continues to demonstrate his commitment to assisting minorities and small businesses through the Telecommunications Development Fund (TDF), authorized under the 1996 Telecommunications Act. The TDF promotes access to capital for small businesses to enhance competition in the telecommunications industry, stimulate new technological growth and development, and promotes universal service. TDF is an important tool for minority entrepreneurs to access the capital necessary to participate in the communications revolution. He is a strong advocate for universal service, an essential part of the 1996 Act that seeks to ensure that communities and consumers are not negatively impacted by telecommunications deregulation.

In talking of Bill's accomplishments, I want to knowledge the role that his parents, Robert and Helen played in raising this important member of our community. I was a friend of Robert Kennard, and greatly respected his accomplishment in creating the largest black-owned architectural firm in the western United States. He started his Los Angeles firm shortly after returning from service in World War II, at a time when it was particularly difficult for African Americans to break into this business. Clearly his dedication and commitment to excel has been passed on to his son. His mother, Helen, worked in the Los Angeles school district, teaching English to non-English speaking students. It is noteworthy that in his FCC biography, Bill credits his parents with teaching him the power of communication and the importance of building communities.

With our help and support, the potential impact that Bill Kennard can have on minority business development in the telecommunications industry cannot be underestimated. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on his accomplishments, and wishing him much success in a complex, often controversial, and powerful role as Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission.

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, when Dr. Carter Woodson established the first black history observance in 1926, he had several goals in mind.

As a historian, he wanted to make American history as accurate and as complete as possible. As an African-American who worked his way up from poverty to become a renowned teacher, writer and scholar, he wanted to give black people, particularly young people, a better sense of their heritage and a more hopeful vision of their own future and the country's future.

These goals are being fulfilled. Americans everywhere recognize that African-Americans have made substantial contributions in the sciences, in exploration, in business, in education, in the arts, in politics and government, in entertainment and sports, in the military, in religion, in citizenship, in every endeavor that has made our country what it is.

As we observe Black History Month, I would like to recognize several African-Americans from the area of middle and south Georgia that I have the honor of representing who have achieved greatness—greatness not only because they have been extraordinarily successful in their own lives, but because they have reached out and uplifted many others.

One of these Georgians is Apostle Isaiah Revills, a man of great stature physically who is also a giant spiritually. He was born in Moultrie, Georgia, in humble circumstances, 66 years ago, and was called to the ministry at age 21. Since then, he has extended his ministry in tent crusades throughout the United States and has preached in Africa, Israel, Haiti and much of the world. He attracts thousands to his services at the First Albany Deliverance Cathedral in Albany, Georgia. He has been named one of Georgia's 10 most prominent black pastors and has been honored by governors, legislators, mayors and members of Congress. But most of all, his positive, visionary ministry has changed the lives of thousands and thousands of God's children.

Brady Keys, Jr., a native of Austin, Texas who attended Colorado State on a football scholarship and went on to become an all-pro defensive back for the Pittsburgh Steelers, is now a businessman in Albany, Georgia who oversees an empire that includes restaurant outlets, hair styling salons, a steel company, real estate, oil and coal interests, and a vending company. He was the first African American to own and operate a franchise company. His firm, The Keys Group Company, is ranked as one of the largest black-owned businesses in the country. He has served in many leadership positions, including membership on President Nixon's Advisory Council on Minority Business Enterprise. His greatest success story, however, is the opportunities he has given to young people. He has hired and trained more than 150,000 youth, giving many their first real job opportunity.

John R. Harris was an educator who stayed close to home, serving as a teacher and principal for 40 years in his native Early County Georgia—19 years as principal of Early County Middle School in Blakely. He has been an inspiration to thousands of young people and a leader in his community for many years. He has served with the Chamber of Commerce, worked on literacy projects, and served as a gubernatorial appointee on the Georgia Agrirama Development Authority, which has meant so much to his area of Georgia. In 1981, the Early County Board of Education named and dedicated the Middle School Media Center in his honor in recognition of the many contributions he has made to the community.

America has produced many heroes. They are not limited to any race, or creed, or national background. We find examples of greatness among all people in this patchwork of cultures that has become the strongest, freest, and most productive nation the world has ever known. Black History Month gives us an opportunity to learn from their lives.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Black History Month for 1998. I would like to thank the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. STOKES] for arranging this special order.

It is appropriate at this time that we call to mind the outstanding black men and women who have contributed so much to our national prosperity. Many of these men and women are

yet to be properly recognized in history texts, and as we approach the next millennium we must continually work towards correcting this great injustice, and towards acknowledging the role African Americans have played in making America the great nation that it is today.

For example, Crispus Attucks, a free black man of Boston, Mass., was the first American to die for the revolutionary cause. After we achieved our national independence, a black man by the name of Benjamin Banneker was an integral planner in the lay-out of the Capital city, working to assist and expand upon the ideas of Pierre L'Enfant.

In our nation's fight to achieve civil rights and equality black men and women always took a leadership role. In the late nineteenth century—when our nation stood divided, and many black slaves were being massacred as examples to their peers—heroes such as Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth organized the underground railroad, leading thousands of black men and women to freedom, and ensuring that the lives of those murdered were not spent in vain.

When the Civil War was brought to its end, and racial discrimination was de jure abolished, black leaders such as Frederick Douglass and W.E.B. DuBois fought to bring discrimination to its de facto conclusion, speaking out against the hypocritical, racist Jim Crow laws of the South.

These heroic pioneers of the civil rights movement brought about a new way of thinking in our nation. In the twenty-first century the movement reached epic proportions, and the goals of national equality and non-discrimination were further advanced through the heroic actions of black men and women.

As Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in professional major league baseball, Marian Anderson became a symbol of equality in the world of music. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. opened the public's eyes to the horrors of racial discrimination through his policy of "peaceful demonstration," and inspired our hearts through his ideas of American unity and brotherhood. Mrs. Rosa Parks became a symbolic hero around which an entire nation rallied when she refused to move "to the back of the bus."

In modern-day America, the barriers which once separated black men and women from pursuing their dreams have virtually disappeared. The worlds of entertainment, politics, scholarship, sports, arts and literature have all been significantly improved by the contributions of African Americans. Men and women such as Dr. Mae C. Jemison, our first female astronaut; Akua Lezli Hope, a poet and Amnesty International leader; Zora Neale Hurston, anthropologist; and William Brown, the mayor of San Francisco, are the modern day pioneers who lead our nation towards the twenty-first century in the hopes of full racial equality.

Black History Month is also an appropriate time to look forward, and as we pause to recall and recite the actions of the innumerable black men and women who changed our Nation's policies and attitudes, we must also remind ourselves to look ahead, and vow to work harder towards resolving the struggle for equality which persists not only in the United States but also abroad.

Our society's strength is a direct result of its great diversity. It is this diversity which we rightfully honor today and all throughout this

month. I urge my colleagues and all Americans to recognize the contributions African Americans have made to our nation.

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, during the month of February our great Nation's schools, businesses, churches, and civic organizations are making a special effort to proclaim the importance of African-Americans to this Nation's progress and success.

We make this special effort for two fundamentally important reasons:

First, Black people of this Nation have suffered unfairly through generations of slavery and oppression. Today, I am grateful that we are working together to ensure that all people are treated equally, both in word and deed.

The second reason we mark this time with Black History Month is that African-Americans have made substantive and vitally important contributions to this Nation's progress and success. Quite simply, we would be much diminished as a nation if it were not for the hard work, insight, activism, leadership, and excellence found within the African-American community.

At the base of the Statue of Freedom on the Capitol Dome in Washington is the Latin phrase "E Pluribus Unum"—Out of many, one. This motto expresses very simply the key to success for our great Nation. Out of the many citizens of the United States, we must come together to form one America. Building a united America is vital to the success of our great democracy.

This phrase—"Out of many, one"—is also a great challenge. If we meet the challenge to build a better America, we must face three very important questions:

How should we unite as a people?

What is our purpose in seeking a united American people?

And what kind of partnership do we need to achieve our purpose?

PEOPLE: RECOGNIZING WHAT IS IMPORTANT FOR AMERICA

President Woodrow Wilson, who led our Nation during the first half of this century, has a message for us as we enter the 21st century:

It was . . . an historical accident . . . that this great country was called the "United States;" yet, I am very thankful that it has the word 'United' in its title, and the man who seeks to divide man from man, group from group, interest from interest in this great Union is striking at its very heart!

His words remind us that people matter and that we are doomed as a nation if we allow one race to oppress the other.

However, unity has not always been the case in America. For too long, issues of unfair treatment have divided the citizens of the United States. If we are to ever be united in the good sense of the word, we must ensure that all individuals, regardless of race, share the same rights and are granted equal protection under the law.

The African American people—whose heritage we celebrate here and now—have fought long and hard for fair treatment and equal opportunity while working to make a better united America.

The great Black leader Frederick Douglas was right when he said, "Liberty given is never so precious as liberty sought for and fought for." The founders fought for their freedom from Britain during the American Revolution, but they left the American people less than totally free. It is up to us to work for lib-

erty for all people in this Nation. To accept anything less diminishes the greatness of our Nation.

As your federal representative in Washington, I want to tell you about several important pieces of legislation that I am cosponsoring that will provide long overdue recognition to the African-American community. Recognition of the varied and numerous contributions of the African-American people to this country is crucial to achieving our goal of unity and understanding the complete—not partial—history of our Nation's African-American citizens.

H.R. 773, the National African-American Museum Act, seeks to remember the people who have shaped this country's history. This bill would authorize the establishment of the National African-American Museum within the Smithsonian Institution and thereby provide a center for scholarship and location for exhibits related to African-American art, history, and culture.

That museum will be a wonderful starting point for recognizing and respecting the African-American people and their history of suffering and accomplishment.

Consider the impact African-Americans have had in politics and civil rights. Of course, Blacks have always been politically active. Today, we should call special attention to Blacks who serve their Nation and communities in ways unimaginable one hundred years or even fifty years ago. Blacks now serve in unprecedented numbers in elected and appointed positions at all levels of government. In our Congressional district, several black leaders have served on the city council, school board, board of county commissioners, community college board members, state board of transportation, numerous other state boards and commissions, state legislature, and in government positions at all levels, including Congress, for many years with distinction. The civil rights advances in our nation could not have been made without these fine citizens. We must recognize the importance Blacks have in shaping our political lives.

We should also recognize Blacks for their contributions to advancing American science and technology. Blacks have been vitally important inventors and scientists from our nation's earliest days. Did you know that Onesimus, a black slave, was experimenting with smallpox vaccines in the 1720s? This pioneer of modern medicine was followed by others such as Dr. Charles Drew, who engineered blood transfusions; and Samuel Kountz, who made kidney transplants more successful. Elijah McCoy's perfection of the locomotive engine led to people saying they wanted his product—not some cheap imitation. They wanted "the real McCoy"—a saying which became popular in society for those who want the real thing, the best there is! In technology, Blacks have invented the incandescent light bulb, truck refrigeration, polymer fabrics, and automated manufacturing machines used in making shoes, telephones, and other items essential to our daily lives. In space, Lt. Colonel Guion Bluford was the first Black to fly in space. Hoping to advance human sciences, astronaut Ronald McNair tragically died in the Challenger shuttle explosion. These individuals and many many other African-Americans must be fully recognized for their contributions to American life.

Once we recognize African-Americans for their accomplishments, we must respect them

as valuable contributors to American society. In North Carolina, the African-American community emerged from the shadows of slavery to quickly take positions in government, education, entertainment, and media.

Take, for example, two North Carolinians who should have our respect. First, in the early 1900s Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown founded a school for African-American children. Although she was attacked and oppressed with Jim Crow laws, her faith in God and her commitment to her community gave her the strength to ensure that her school, known as the Palmer Institute, educated Black children in the sciences, language, and culture. She received many honors, and was a friend of Eleanor Roosevelt, W.E.B. DuBouis, Booker T. Washington, and other leaders of the day. I have nothing but respect for people like Dr. Hawkins, who spend their lives committed to God and community.

There is one more person who exemplifies the sort of success that we should respect. Hiram Rhodes Revels is especially significant to me for three reasons. First, he committed his life to God and proclaiming the truth of the Christian Gospel. Second, he was born in Fayetteville, North Carolina, only 30 miles from where I was born. Third, he was the first Black member of the United States Congress. It is remarkable that his adult life spanned the Civil War, Reconstruction, and ended in 1901 during the Progressive Era. He was a true pioneer of American political life.

All the people I have mentioned today—the scientists, teachers, inventors, politicians, and every African-American—should be respected members of our Nation. And they would make wonderful additions to our nation's official African-American museum.

#### PURPOSE: LIVING UP TO AMERICA'S IDEALS

As we have seen, it is critically important that we work to make America a united country of diverse people. Yet it is also important that our work have a worthy purpose. We cannot satisfy ourselves with a united America that fails to live up to our guiding ideals.

As the great American President Abraham Lincoln told the nation at Gettysburg in 1863, "we are here highly resolved that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

In the 133 years since the end of slavery in America, all of the races in America have had to confront the struggles and successes of a nation working to better itself in difficult times. We joined together to defeat the racist rulers of Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan, and African Americans were emboldened to insist that America live up to our values.

On September 25, 1957, nine African-American children pioneered the civil rights movement by voluntarily integrating the all-white high school in Little Rock, Arkansas. I am pleased to be a cosponsor of H.R. 2560, which seeks to award the Congressional Gold Medal to each of those nine brave souls.

Later, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., led the mass civil rights movement that gave us a chance to redeem our nation's soul by embracing freedom and opportunity instead of hate and oppression. Our nation's ideals made Dr. King love America. He often spoke about the "great glory of America, with all its faults." On the night before his assassination, Dr. King

prophetically said, "Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over, and I've seen the promised land. I may not get there with you, but I want you to know tonight that we as a people will get to the promised land . . ." Today we remain committed to fulfilling Dr. King's dream of reaching the promised land—a land where all citizens regardless of their race—are treated equally. We have come a long way in reaching this land, but we still have a long way to go.

Today, we live in a country where African Americans are narrowing the gaps in salaries and education between themselves and the majority of Americans. Today, African-American employment is at its highest level in history, and African-American poverty is at its lowest in history. Yet black people still earn about 40% less than most whites, unemployment for blacks is still about twice the level for whites, and fewer blacks graduate from college than whites of similar backgrounds.

Clearly, we must stay true to America's purpose because we still have work to do.

#### PARTNERSHIP: BUILDING A BETTER AMERICA

Once we recognize the importance of the African-American people, we must continue to live up to America's purpose. But our great Nation's purpose will never be realized unless we enter into partnership with one another to build a better America.

A partnership can be a powerful and positive influence on our lives when it is between people who are able to bring their own unique gifts to our nation's progress. God has given the people of this nation a mission to prove to men and women throughout the world that people of different races and ethnic backgrounds can not only work and live together, but can enrich and ennoble both themselves and our common purpose.

In the 7th Congressional district, we have the great opportunity to bring into partnership all the different peoples who live here: African and Native Americans, new immigrants, and whites. Together—and there are over a half million citizens in this district—we can make a real difference in America's future.

With a strong people, a guiding purpose, and a powerful partnership, we can create better schools, better families, and better jobs for everyone.

My very first job while in college was a delivery boy for a black-owned business, Wesley's Florist, in Lumberton. Not only did I need that job, I found that being the only white employee required a special partnership between me and his family!

When I was a student at Lumberton Senior High School, I worked in partnership to help the first black female be elected as president of the student body.

I have had the honor to coach black boys and girls on local sports teams and to work with children of all races as a volunteer in the schools for the last 17 years.

The first person I hired on my congressional staff was a black woman. Why? Because she was the most experienced caseworker on Capitol Hill that I knew, and she deserved it!

Today, as your Congressman, I know full well how powerful partnerships can be. That is why I am fighting to recognize the importance of African-Americans, working to build better schools, and striving to bring fair treatment

and economic security to every American in our district.

Education and the best public schools possible are at the foundation of our efforts to build a lasting and positive partnership for America. That is why I am committing my time and energy in Washington and at home in North Carolina to better schools, better teachers, and better opportunities for our students. I have cosponsored:

HR 1154 The Partnership to Rebuild America's Schools Act. This bill would provide \$77.1 million for school construction in North Carolina. Our district would be eligible to receive nearly \$21 million. The money would go toward paying up to 50% of the interest on school bonds.

I am also an original Cosponsor of the State Infrastructure Bank Act. This legislation would establish State Infrastructure Banks (SIBs) for school construction. The proposal is based on the SIBs for the transportation program established through the National Highway System Act during the 104th Congress and is also similar to the widely successful State Revolving Funds (SRFs) used for Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act infrastructure improvements.

The Computer Donation Incentive Act, HR 1278, will allow companies to donate computer equipment and software, as well as training related thereto, to elementary and secondary schools for use in their educational programs. It will also allow donations to organizations that work with the disabled. This bill is designed to provide an incentive for businesses to donate equipment to local public schools.

I also supported HR 2264, the bill that appropriates funds for Education programs. Impact Aid was funded at \$796 million, \$66 million more than FY 1997. \$1.1 BILLION for education reform programs. \$531 million in block grants for Safe and Drug-Free Schools Programs. Over \$1.5 BILLION for higher education programs such as work study and Pell Grants. \$435 million for Education Technology programs and installing computers in our schools.

On November 3, 1997, I hosted parents, teachers, school administrators, and local leaders at a summit entitled "Successful Schools for the 21st Century." Three themes that focus our attention on critically important factors in education—commitment, construction, and computers—were highlighted.

I am excited about what the future holds for our district and our schools. But we should not lose sight of schools and colleges as places where we learn about character and values. Respect, responsibility, and hard work are all things that our schools can help us better understand and experience. In fact, the concern and commitment required for success, which begins in our families, should be nurtured in our schools.

With God's help, we can not only share His love, but also have His strength: to continue to recognize and respect our country's unique people, to re-commit ourselves to America's purpose, and to work together in partnership for a better future.

Will you join me in respecting America's people?

Will you join me in living up to America's purpose?

Will you join me in the partnership for a better America?

Together, we can take the steps toward a 21st century full of appreciation and hope. Much has already been done; however, I am sure you know that much more must be done.

And may we remember the words from Abraham Lincoln's last great speech—his second inaugural address—when he tells us even today:

With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish to work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds . . . to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.

I appreciate and commend each of you for your leadership within the African-American community, and I want to challenge you to never forget how great this democracy is. It is up to us to reach beyond our differences and pain and hold on to the strength to stand for what is right and what is good so that we are truly united. May God bless and strengthen us all. By his help, we will not fail!

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, it is once again an honor for me to take part in this Special Order for African-American History Month. I know I join with every American in this continuing effort to educate both ourselves and our children about African-American culture and history.

One of the most underappreciated segments of American history are the scientific achievements by African-Americans. For the past one hundred years, African-Americans have made crucial inventions in engineering, performed great scientific feats, and have served as inspirations to all Americans through their perseverance and determination, yet such accomplishments go widely unnoticed.

One of those inventors was Granville Woods. Mr. Woods was a great electrician and inventive genius who developed and patented a system for overhead electric conducting lines for railroads, which aided in the development of the overhead railroad system found in contemporary metropolitan cities such as Chicago, St. Louis and New York City.

As well, in the late 1800's Woods patented the Synchronous Multiplex Railway Telegraph, which allowed train stations as well as moving trains to know each others whereabouts. Train accidents and collisions were causing great concern at the time because train stations had no way of tracking their moving trains. This invention made train movements quicker and prevented countless accidents and collisions.

Garrett Morgan, who was born in 1875, also deserves wide recognition for his outstanding contributions to public safety. Firefighters in many cities in the early 1900's wore the safety helmet and gas mask that he invented. The gas mask Morgan invented in 1912 was used during World War I to protect soldiers from chlorine gas fumes.

In 1923, Morgan received a patent for his new concept, a traffic signal to regulate vehicle movement in city areas. It is impossible to overestimate the importance of this event to our country's history. This single invention helped bring order out of the chaos of regulating pedestrian and vehicle traffic on city streets.

In more recent times, Dr. Mae Jemison was our nation's fifth African-American astronaut, and the first African-American female astronaut. In August 1992, she participated in a

successful joint U.S. and Japanese science mission that made her the first African-American woman in space. Dr. Jemison's perseverance and success as an astronaut should serve as an inspiration to all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, when we honor great achievements in science by African-Americans, we inspire the next generation of Americans to achieve great things. I hope that all of our young people take a moment during African-American History month to reflect on what they can do in their communities and in their lives to make a difference.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the Special Order regarding Black History Month.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILCHREST). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

#### REPORT ON HOUSE RESOLUTION 355, DISMISSING THE ELECTION CONTEST AGAINST LORETTA SANCHEZ

Mr. THOMAS (during the special order of Mr. STOKES), from the Committee on House Oversight, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-416) on the resolution (H. Res. 355) dismissing the election contest against LORETTA SANCHEZ, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

#### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by saluting my colleague, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LOUIS STOKES). This is an annual Special Order that he has sponsored for many years, and we regret the fact that this is the last time that he will do it. We thank him very much for keeping the torch alive, and I assure him that in his memory the caucus will continue this tradition for years to come.

The gentleman from Ohio goes home to Cleveland, where there is the whole public library, a brand new pace setting state-of-the-art library, named after him. Cleveland also is a place where there is a new kind of macroeconomics reaching out to encourage and embrace all business, but certainly offering a great opportunity for black businesses, African-American businesses. Cleveland is setting an example with a progressive mayor, I suppose one of the protégée of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LOU STOKES), and the whole tradition of the Stokes family there in Cleveland.

So I salute the gentleman. I think the theme of this year's Black History Month is very fitting and proper for

him and the leadership in Cleveland, Ohio.

I also would like to note, Mr. Speaker, that I will take only 30 minutes of the hour, since none of my colleagues are here, and I want to thank the other side of the aisle for agreeing to allow us to do this back to back to give us more time to finish the Special Order on Black History.

I would like to continue in the same vein as my colleagues have proceeded before, saluting black business as a continuation of empowerment. Not a new thrust of empowerment. It is a continuation toward empowerment and it is inseparable.

What is happening with the African-American business community cannot be separated from political leadership and the history of civil rights and political developments related to the struggle for freedom of the African-American people in America. We cannot separate the two. I would like to bring that perspective to my discussion of the importance of this Black History observance this year.

We ought to become more economic minded. We should focus more on economics. We should understand we cannot separate economics from politics. They cannot be separated. They are inextricably interwoven in the history of this country. A lot of people have made a great attempt to separate economics from government, but that is not the case. That cannot happen. It is not true history when we try to do that.

The impact of the transcontinental railroad on the economic development of America is one example of how government, assuming a very aggressive position, created a situation where the industrial and business development of a nation certainly jumped forward by leaps and bounds. If the government had not taken the initiative, if the people in Washington had not said that we will subsidize the building of a transcontinental railroad, a railroad that will link the East with the West, if they had not paid so much per mile and been willing to undertake that giant project, encouraging, of course, contracting with and encouraging private enterprise to do it, it would never have happened. We would not have had the linkage between the East and the West, which made this Nation one nation in terms of business and industry.

And government, of course, has taken the initiative in many other ways, and I want to talk a little bit tonight about one of the latest initiatives. It is very small compared to the transcontinental railroad, or the building of the Tennessee Valley Authority, or the great leap forward we took when we passed the Morrill Act, the act which created the land grant colleges in every State.

Those land grant colleges were very practical institutions. They had the theoretical instruction in the classroom. I say had, but they still exist. They have the agricultural experiment stations; they have county agents that