

However, even when young men have insurance, they are less likely to seek medical care. Less than 60 percent of young men with Medicaid coverage had an annual doctor visit, compared to over 90 percent of young women. These behavior patterns can lead to missed opportunities for early intervention in a number of medical conditions and chronic illnesses, especially those that are exclusive to or disproportionately effect men.

Beyond expanding health insurance coverage, therefore, it is necessary to improve men's uptake of healthcare services. The first step towards this goal is to increase awareness about men's health issues. I applaud the current resolution in support of National Men's Health Week, as well as the request that interested groups observe with appropriate ceremonies and activities. By educating men about the available predictive screening and preventive care, we can help our nation's fathers, husbands, brothers and sons to live longer, healthier lives.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 288.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECOGNIZING JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 546) recognizing the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day, and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that history should be regarded as a means for understanding the past and more effectively facing the challenges of the future.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 546

Whereas news of the end of slavery did not reach frontier areas of the United States, and in particular the Southwestern States, for more than 2 years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863, and months after the conclusion of the Civil War;

Whereas, on June 19, 1865, Union soldiers led by Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War had ended and that the enslaved were free;

Whereas African-Americans who had been slaves in the Southwest celebrated June 19, commonly known as Juneteenth Independence Day, as the anniversary of their emancipation;

Whereas African-Americans from the Southwest continue the tradition of Juneteenth Independence Day as inspiration and encouragement for future generations;

Whereas for more than 135 years, Juneteenth Independence Day celebrations have been held to honor African-American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures;

Whereas although Juneteenth Independence Day is beginning to be recognized as a national, and even global, event, the history behind the celebration should not be forgotten; and

Whereas the faith and strength of character demonstrated by former slaves remains an example for all people of the United States, regardless of background, religion, or race: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the House of Representatives recognizes the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day to the Nation;

(2) the House of Representatives supports the continued celebration of Juneteenth Independence Day to provide an opportunity for the people of the United States to learn more about the past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped the Nation; and

(3) it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(A) history should be regarded as a means for understanding the past and more effectively facing the challenges of the future; and

(B) the celebration of the end of slavery is an important and enriching part of the history and heritage of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 546, a resolution that recognizes the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day and expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that history should be regarded as a means for understanding the past and more effectively facing the challenges of the future. I am delighted that we can bring this measure to the floor today.

I introduced H. Res. 546 on June 15, 2009, and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform ordered it to be reported by unanimous consent on June 17, 2010. It comes to the floor with over 60 cosponsors. I am pleased to join with them in recognizing this important day.

Juneteenth, or the 19th of June, recognizes June 19, 1865, when, in Galveston, Texas, Union General Gordon Granger announced freedom for all slaves in the Southwest.

□ 1430

This was the last major vestige of slavery in the United States following the end of the Civil War. This event occurred more than 2½ years after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued by President Abraham Lincoln. Upon reading of General Order No. 3 by General Granger, the former slaves celebrated jubilantly, establishing America's second independence day celebration and the oldest African American holiday observance.

Since that time over 145 years ago, the descendants of slaves have observed this anniversary of emancipation as a remembrance of one of the most tragic periods in our Nation's history. The suffering, degradation, and brutality of slavery cannot be repaired; but the memory can serve to ensure that no such inhumanity is ever perpetrated again on American soil.

Today, Juneteenth celebrates African American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures. This celebration of the end of slavery is an important and enriching part of the history and heritage of the United States. I, therefore, ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the passage of this measure.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H. Res. 546, recognizing the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day. It is important to once again remember a day when the wants and needs of the people brought our country out of one of the darkest stages of its history. It is through recognition of such an incredible achievement that we are able to pave the way for many more like it.

On June 19, 1865, 2,000 Federal soldiers marched into Galveston and notified the slaves of Texas that their lives of servitude were over. Amazingly, this action took place more than 2 years after President Lincoln's famous Emancipation Proclamation speech was delivered.

Over 100 years later, Juneteenth serves as a time when we can celebrate the true end to slavery in the United States. June 19, commonly known as Juneteenth, also reminds us that it is our duty to constantly work to better our country. On this day, we celebrate culture and, more importantly, emancipation. It is important that our children learn along with our families about the times surrounding the Civil War, but also of this monumental achievement that followed that June day in Galveston.

By taking time to celebrate Juneteenth Independence Day, we honor the richness, diversity, and heritage of all races in our Nation. I ask all my fellow Members to join me in support of H. Res. 546.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of "Juneteenth," the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the

ending of slavery in the United States. Originally a celebration of the announcement of the abolition of slavery in Galveston, Texas in 1865, the holiday has come to symbolize our Nation's most significant moment of moral and social progress: the end of the Civil War, the abolition of slavery throughout the full United States, and the freedom of enslaved African Americans after hundreds of years of untold oppression and hardship endured.

The observance of June 19th as the African American Emancipation Day originated in Galveston, Texas in 1865, and is now celebrated around the United States. This day was chosen because it was on June 19, 1865 that the Union soldiers landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and informed the enslaved population that they had been set free under President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation a full two and one half years earlier. The day was largely celebrated within African-American communities until the Civil Rights Movement, when Reverend Ralph Abernathy called for people of all races, economic strata, and professions to come to Washington, D.C. to show support for the impoverished and oppressed at the Poor Peoples March on June 19, 1968. Many of the participants returned home and initiated Juneteenth celebrations in their own communities.

Every year, the celebration of Juneteenth grows in popularity across the United States. It is a day when we recognize and remember the evils of slavery, the suffering it caused, and the lives it took. But it is also a day that celebrates African American freedom and achievement with celebrations, guest speakers, picnics, and family gatherings. Participants of all races, nationalities and religions celebrate and take the time to reflect on the past and rejoice in the present and future. Finally, it is an opportunity to emphasize the need for continued efforts to promote educational, economic, political, and social equality throughout our country.

Mr. Speaker, in the wonderfully diverse 37th District, we share as a community a legacy of overcoming difficulties, working to defeat our obstacles, and empowering ourselves to improve our lives and our neighborhoods. I am proud that, this year, in the 37th district, the cities of Carson, Compton, and Long Beach, as well as the neighborhoods of Watts and Willowbrook, all held Juneteenth celebrations. I was fortunate enough to attend the celebration in Compton and can say that it was at once a solemn remembrance of those who struggled against slavery and oppression, an inspiring celebration of freedom, and an opportunity to revisit the past in order to improve our collective future.

As we celebrate Juneteenth, Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to recognize this day and take a moment to honor the women and men that dedicated their lives to ending slavery and promoting freedom and equality in our Nation.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H. Res. 546 recognizing the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day, and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that history should be regarded as a means for understanding the past and more effectively facing the challenge of the future. I would like to applaud my colleague Representative DAVIS for his persistence in celebrating this momentous occasion in U.S. history.

When Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation into law in 1863, he freed the slaves in the confederate states. Though they were free on paper many slaves continued with their lives unaware of their freedom. Such was the case in Galveston, Texas. For two years the black population of this city lived their lives as slaves, as opposed to other southern states like Georgia and North Carolina in which the black population knew of the Emancipation Proclamation. On June 19th, the situation changed when Union General Gordon Granger announced the news of their freedom to the black citizens of Galveston. Seen as one of the last bastions of slavery, General Granger's announcement brought about the end of slavery in Texas.

We often praise this country for the great freedom that it affords its citizens, yet Juneteenth serves as a consistent and glaring reminder of our darker past. While it is true that significant strides have been made since then, it is important that we not forget from whence we come and learn from it. I'm proud to represent the state of Georgia in the United States House of Representatives, but I also recognize that the great state I serve did allow the oppression of blacks as slaves. History is a tool to be used for growth—a means through which we can understand and face the challenges of tomorrow.

Today Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day, is now recognized as a state holiday in 36 states and primarily serves to remind, inspire, and encourage future generations. Mr. Speaker, I stand proudly to support this resolution and would urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support H. Con. Res. 546, legislation commemorating a monumental day in the history of liberty, Juneteenth Independence Day. Juneteenth marks the events of June 19, 1865, when slaves in Galveston, Texas learned that they were at last free men and women. The slaves of Galveston were the last group of slaves to learn of the end of slavery. Thus, Juneteenth represents the end of slavery in America.

I hope all Americans will take the time to commemorate Juneteenth. Friends of human liberty should celebrate the end of slavery in any country. The end of American slavery is particularly worthy of recognition since there are few more blatant violations of America's founding principles, as expressed in the Declaration of Independence, than slavery. I am particularly pleased to join the recognition of Juneteenth because I have the privilege of representing Galveston.

I thank the gentleman from Illinois for introducing this resolution, which I am proud to co-sponsor. I thank the House leadership for bringing this resolution to the floor, and I urge all of my colleagues to honor the end of slavery by voting for H. Con. Res. 546.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 546 recognizing the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day. On June 19th, 1865 Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free. This news was declared two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. Because the slaves spent two years unnecessarily enslaved, this day had been declared a holiday; Juneteenth is the

oldest holiday in the United States commemorating the ending of slavery. The Juneteenth holiday is a day where peoples of all races can reflect on the evils and suffering of slavery and recognize the contributions that African Americans have made to society since Juneteenth.

When I first came to this body, these were the same issues that my constituents and the African American community at-large faced. As we commemorate Juneteenth, there will be celebrations, but I hope there will also be reflections. Even today, the vestiges of slavery still impose the cycle of poverty on the descendants of the freedmen. As time has passed, many have said the free market would take care of these people, but it is clear that it has left them behind. As we commemorate today, we must not forget to pursue the unfinished business of equality that emancipation began so long ago.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 546 which recognizes the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day, and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that history should be regarded as a means for understanding the past and more effectively facing the challenges of the future.

On June 19, 1865, the day Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War had ended and that the enslaved African-Americans were free, "Juneteenth Independence Day" was born. On this historic day, legend has it, while standing on the balcony of Galveston's Ashton Villa, Granger read the contents of "General Order No. 3":

The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor. The freedmen are advised to remain quietly at their present homes and work for wages. They are informed that they will not be allowed to collect at military posts and that they will not be supported in idleness either there or elsewhere.

In that moment, Galveston streets were filled with jubilant celebrations and the following year, the commemoration of June 19th or Juneteenth celebrations began in Texas. The newly freed African-Americans pulled what few resources they had to purchase land in their communities to have these gatherings. Houston's Emancipation Park, Mexia's Booker T. Washington Park, and Emancipation Park in Austin are the present day result of these efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I can image how the words of President Lincoln resonated in their hearts and souls; life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for all equal citizens was no longer a dream, they were a reality. Hundreds of thousands of American citizens were released from the grips of bondage; we are freed men and women. However, while it is a celebration of our emancipation, it is also a reminder of the progress we have yet to make.

The Emancipation Proclamation Abraham Lincoln issued on September 22, 1862, with an effective date of January 1, 1863, had minimal initial effect in some States. Let this be a reminder, that words are meaningless without action. We must be steadfast and willing to do our parts as citizens to uphold and carry out

the will of the people and the laws of our great Nation. The United States has made great strides of improvement and we continue to press forward to obtain those values in which we hold dear.

Juneteenth became an official State holiday through the efforts of Al Edwards, an African-American State legislator from Texas in 1980. The successful passage of this bill marked Juneteenth as the first emancipation celebration granted official State recognition. As of March 2010, 36 States have followed suit in the celebrations and the adoption of this historic day. In my district, we actively celebrate this holiday through, reenactments, of the reading of the Emancipation Proclamation at Ashton Villa and various parades and musical events all across Houston.

Juneteenth is a day to reflect upon the African-American experience and it includes all races, ethnicities and nationalities. It is a symbolic reference point of our progress and the contributions we have made to make this country what it is today. Juneteenth is a time to reconnect with loved ones and have a renewed sense of community.

In conclusion, I am reminded of what President Obama stated 2 years ago pertaining to Juneteenth and the continued pursuit of the values embedded in this day:

We pause to remember that our nation has made tremendous progress, but has many miles to go on the long march toward finally fulfilling the ideals of this country. When too many Americans go without affordable healthcare or a quality education; when neighborhoods unravel due to a housing market in crisis; when special interests hold their thumbs on the scale of opportunity; we have more work to do.

Juneteenth is a day for celebration of freedom and family, but also a day that calls us all to rededicate ourselves to the convictions at the heart of our American experiment. It reminds us that with the work of each successive generation, we come closer to the realization of that more perfect union.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 546.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL CARIBBEAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1369) recog-

nizing the significance of National Caribbean-American Heritage Month.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1369

Whereas people of Caribbean heritage are found in every State of the Union;

Whereas emigration from the Caribbean region to the American Colonies began as early as 1619 with the arrival of indentured workers in Jamestown, Virginia;

Whereas during the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries, a significant number of slaves from the Caribbean region were brought to the United States;

Whereas since 1820, millions of people have emigrated from the Caribbean region to the United States;

Whereas like the United States, the countries of the Caribbean faced obstacles of slavery and colonialism and struggled for independence;

Whereas also like the United States, the people of the Caribbean region have diverse racial, ethnic, cultural, and religious backgrounds;

Whereas the independence movements throughout the Caribbean during the 1960s and the consequential establishment of independent democratic countries in the Caribbean strengthened ties between the region and the United States;

Whereas Alexander Hamilton, a founding father of the United States and the first Secretary of the Treasury, was born in the Caribbean;

Whereas many influential Caribbean-Americans have contributed to the rich history of the United States, including Jean Baptiste Pointe du Sable, the pioneer settler of Chicago; Claude McKay, a poet of the Harlem Renaissance; James Weldon Johnson, the writer of the Black National Anthem; Celia Cruz, the world-renowned queen of Salsa music; and Shirley Chisholm, the first African-American Congresswoman and first African-American woman candidate for President;

Whereas the many influential Caribbean-Americans in the history of the United States also include Colin Powell, the first African-American Secretary of State; Sidney Poitier, the first African-American actor to receive the Academy Award for best actor in a leading role; Harry Belafonte, a musician, actor, and activist; Al Roker, a meteorologist and television personality; and Roberto Clemente, the first Latino inducted into the baseball hall of fame;

Whereas Caribbean-Americans have played an active role in the civil rights movement and other social and political movements in the United States;

Whereas Caribbean-Americans have contributed greatly to the fine arts, education, business, literature, journalism, sports, fashion, politics, government, the military, music, science, technology, and other fields in the United States;

Whereas Caribbean-Americans share their culture through festivals, carnivals, music, dance, film, and literature, which enrich the cultural landscape of the United States;

Whereas the countries of the Caribbean are important economic partners of the United States;

Whereas the countries of the Caribbean represent the United States' third border;

Whereas the people of the Caribbean region share the hopes and aspirations of the people of the United States for peace and prosperity throughout the Western Hemisphere and the rest of the world;

Whereas since the passage of H. Con. Res. 71 in the 109th Congress by both the Senate

and the House of Representatives, a proclamation has been issued annually by the President declaring June National Caribbean-American Heritage Month; and

Whereas June is an appropriate month to establish a Caribbean-American Heritage Month: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Congress—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Caribbean-American Heritage Month;

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe Caribbean-American Heritage Month with appropriate ceremonies, celebrations, and activities; and

(3) affirms that—

(A) the contributions of Caribbean-Americans are a significant part of the history, progress, and heritage of the United States; and

(B) the ethnic and racial diversity of the United States enriches and strengthens the Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Before I begin, I know that Representative BARBARA LEE, who is the author of this resolution, had wanted to be here to express her opinions and positions on it. Unfortunately, she could not.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1369, a resolution that recognizes National Caribbean-American Heritage Month. Congress has taken time each year since 2006 to recognize Americans of Caribbean descent for their contributions to our Nation, and I am glad we can bring this measure to the floor today.

H. Res. 1369 was introduced by my friend and colleague, Representative BARBARA LEE, on May 18, 2010, and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform ordered it to be reported by unanimous consent on June 17, 2010. It comes to the floor with over 50 cosponsors, and I am pleased to join them in celebrating the rich heritage of Caribbean Americans.

Millions of people from the Caribbean islands have emigrated to our shores for centuries. We acknowledge that many arrived here in bondage and against their will as slaves and indentured servants, and their struggles for freedom reverberate even today.

Today, we are a better Nation for having them here. Caribbean Americans include such cultural figures as the poet Claude McKay, musician and television star Hazel Scott, actor and activist Harry Belafonte, as well as political leaders from Alexander Hamilton to former Secretary of State