

I could go on and on and on; but African Americans, despite our robust laws, face a daily dosage of humiliation as the result of racism. Thousands of African Americans and other racial and ethnic minorities have been the victims of racial, ethnic or national origin profiling; targeted, identified, stopped, questioned and searched by law enforcement officials under the guise of committing a crime, when in reality their only crime was the color of their skin or their country of origin.

Young black men are particularly prone to DWB, driving while black. Since September 11, law-abiding Arab-American citizens have been targeted for profiling by law enforcement officials. Racial profiling violates the equal protection provisions of our great Constitution. Not only is it un-American, it is also bad law enforcement.

Salim Muwakkil, in the Chicago Tribune, wrote about University of Toledo law professor David A. Harris' new book, "Profiles in Injustice: Why Racial Profiling Cannot Work." Harris' book, for the first time, compared all of the available data on racial profiling with relevant crime statistics and makes clear that the "hit rate," the rate at which police actually find contraband on people they stop in racial profiling, is actually lower for blacks than for whites. The hit rate for Latinos is much lower than for either.

In 2001, a Department of Justice report came to the same conclusion. Wade Henderson, executive director of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights said, "Most Americans think that the most blatant forms of discrimination and segregation have ended, that we are dealing now with a much more complex, often more subtle form of discrimination. Yet incidents like the ones we are discussing now seem to belie the point. They seem to suggest that even the more blatant forms of discrimination, though not as institutionalized as they once were, are still occurring, and I think stand in mockery of the perception that America has become a color-blind nation."

Since June of last year, the End Racial Profiling Act of 2001 has been pending in our esteemed institution. This 107th Congress could put an end to racial profiling by passing this act and sending it to the President for signature. Then we would really be celebrating Black History Month 2002.

So I end, Mr. Speaker, as I began. "O, let America be America again; the land that never has been yet and must be; the land where every man is free."

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I am pleased to yield to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS).

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Black History Month. Since 1976, each year during the month of February, Black History Month is celebrated across the Nation.

The origins of Black History Month are dated back to 1976 when, as the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) said, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, an American of African descent who was an educator and historian, set aside a special period of time in the month of February which began as Negro History Week, to recognize the heritage, the achievements and contributions of Americans of African descent to our great Nation.

When you consider that Abraham Lincoln, the Great Emancipator, is celebrated during February, it is only appropriate that those people whom he freed more than a century ago be celebrated during this month as well.

However, although February is officially recognized as Black History Month, we should celebrate black history throughout the entire year. This is a magnificent opportunity for everyone, red, yellow, brown, black and white, to learn about their own history.

After all, black history is American history. Rising from the horrors and brutality of slave roots, Americans of African descent are the epitome of strength and endurance, perseverance, intellect and creativity.

Throughout America's history, Americans of African descent have consistently served as a catalyst for change and progress. The innumerable struggles and successes of the African American people have made it possible for all Americans to enjoy and share the same civil rights and privileges which we all hold so dear: freedom, liberty, and equality.

It is impossible to imagine our world without the contributions of Americans of African descent. Americans of African descent have played an integral role in building this country and making it the superpower that we all know it to be today. From helping to fight the Civil War, to constructing America's most prominent addresses, the United States Capitol and the White House, as well as making some of the most important discoveries and inventions that to this day still influence every aspect of our lives, be it economics, politics, language, art, technology, food or music, Americans of African descent have made an extraordinary and indelible mark on American culture.

No one chooses to be born red, yellow, brown, black or white. Rather, the good Lord above makes that decision. And if it is good enough for God, it should be good enough for all of us; and it is surely good enough for me.

Therefore, I challenge each and every one of us who are gathered here today and all Americans to celebrate black history and the many different cultures that constitute this place that we all call home and the rest of the world calls America. After all, our diversity is our strength.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, continuing my reservation, I urge passage of this resolution.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today marks the end of Black History Month, a time when we are reminded of the great contributions of African-Americans to our Nation. Rhode Island has a proud history of African-American accomplishments ranging from the heroic deeds of the Black Regiment, which fought under General Nathaniel Greene during the American Revolution, to Ruth Simmons who, as president of Brown University, is the first African-American to head an Ivy League institution.

Last month, I met with civil rights leaders from Rhode Island to discuss the work of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., and how we are still working to keep alive his vision for America. While we have made great strides since Dr. King's death, we have much more to accomplish. Throughout my service as a public official, I have met far too often with people with no access to affordable health care, housing, or even quality education for their children, and who fear for the safety of their loved ones because of gun violence. Congress must have the courage to address these problems immediately and promote efforts to improve the lives of all Americans.

We cannot tolerate violence and crimes that target a victim's race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or disability. We must demand affordable health care and housing. We must support equal pay for equal work. And we must defend affirmative action in order to provide greater opportunities to minority students, workers, and business owners.

When accepting his Nobel Peace Prize Reverend King said, "I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits." I challenge all of us to share Dr. King's audacity and to continue fighting for an America that offers equality for all.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the many achievements of African-Americans this February 2002, Black History Month.

The first Black History Month took place in 1926, when Carter G. Woodson chose the second week in February, a week that includes the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, to honor the contributions of African-Americans.

The rich history of African-Americans reflects the challenges our Nation has faced, the diversity of our people, and the bright future ahead. Throughout our history, African-Americans have bravely fought for the freedoms we hold dear. The first American to lose his life in the American Revolution was a free black man named Crispus Attucks and, posing as a double agent, a slave, James Armistead, a slave, received permission to enlist in the Army under French General Marquis de LaFayette, providing the Americans with crucial information about British naval support.

During the 19th century, many African-Americans joined the abolitionist movement, fighting against the injustices of slavery. We remember the bravery of Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, and Sojourner Truth who stood for the principles of freedom and equality.

The 20th century has also known many achievements of African-Americans. In New York a remarkable period of literary creativity in the 1920s and 1930s came to be known as

the Harlem Renaissance. Among the notable writers of this era were Langston Hughes, Claude McKay, and poet James Weldon Johnson. In sports, while fans will remember Jackie Robinson's talents in fielding, hitting, and base running, it was his bravery in breaking the color barrier that paved the way for many great athletes.

In our mutual struggle for civil rights, our Nation has reaped the benefits of dedicated African-Americans. We must never forget the life, message, and many achievements of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., whose efforts paved the way for the revolutionary legislation of the 1960s. In addition we remember the bravery of Ms. Rosa Parks, who as a young woman, stood to end discrimination on a bus in Alabama and ignited change throughout our Nation.

Our society has come a long way. Today, many African-Americans serve in this body and in the President's Cabinet. President Bush recently stated that "Nobody can understand this country without understanding the African-American experience. It began when America began."

Mr. Speaker, too often, people think of Black History Month as a time for African-Americans to reflect and celebrate their rich history. However, this is a time for us all to recognize the significant contributions of African-Americans, to reflect upon the struggle to end slavery and to extend civil rights to all, and to reinvigorate our efforts to end prejudice throughout our Nation and our world.

I am pleased to join my colleagues and all Americans in expressing appreciation for the contributions African-Americans have made to our Nation this Black History Month.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SWEENEY). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 335

Whereas the first Black Americans were brought to these shores as early as the 17th century;

Whereas these first Black Americans and subsequent generations were enslaved and brought to America against their free will;

Whereas, despite this enslavement, early Black Americans made significant contributions to the economic, educational, political, artistic, literary, scientific, and technological advancement of the United States;

Whereas many of these enslaved Black Americans fought and died in the Revolutionary War and the Civil War;

Whereas, despite official and social discrimination, subsequent generations of Black Americans have continued to build on these early contributions and continue to make important advancements in politics, business, culture, education, art, literature, science, and technology;

Whereas Black Americans have worked consistently and arduously to strengthen the Constitutional values of freedom, liberty, and equality;

Whereas Black Americans have disproportionately contributed to protecting the Nation's security and freedom through service in the Armed Forces;

Whereas Black Americans have built many of the Nation's strongest faith-based institutions which serve the Nation's poorest citi-

zens, strengthen the Nation's moral core, and uplift its spirit; and

Whereas the month of February is officially celebrated as Black History Month, which dates back to 1926, when Dr. Carter G. Woodson set aside a special period of time in February to recognize the heritage and achievements of Black Americans: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That—

(1) Congress recognizes the significance of Black History Month, an important time to recognize the contributions of Black Americans in the Nation's history, and encourages the continued celebration of this month to provide an opportunity for all people of the United States to learn more about the past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped the Nation; and

(2) it is the sense of Congress that—

(A) the contributions of Black 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 concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Con. Res. 335.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

COMMENDING THE WINNERS OF THE ROSA PARKS ESSAY CONTEST HELD IN INDIANA'S TENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT.

(Ms. CARSON of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks and include therein extraneous material.)

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Black History Month, I rise to commend the six winners of the Rosa Parks Essay Contest held in Indianapolis' Tenth Congressional District conducted by my office in conjunction with the recent movie premier of "Ride to Freedom, the Rosa Parks Story."

I challenged the students of the Indianapolis public schools to write essays discussing the difference Rosa Parks made in the world and the difference they can make in their own lives. This competition was opened to students in grades 6 through 12. The six winners received two tickets to attend the movie premier of the "Ride to Freedom," as well as a replication of the Rosa Parks Congressional Gold Medal.

The winners were selected by my Congressional Youth Caucus: April Johnson and Ashlee Johnson, Arlington high school; Gabrielle Hayes and Alicia Henderson, both eight grade stu-

dents at the Sidener Learning Community; Heather Sweigart and Tiffany Thompson, both 7th grade students at John Marshall Middle School.

One of the winners wrote, "Rosa Parks is a leader and fighter for her beliefs," and that is what she wants to be. "We must stand up for what is right, no matter what the cost. In the end we will live safer, longer, and better . . ."

Mr. Speaker, I include copies of the essays for the winners for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The essays referred to are as follows:

(By Tiffany Thompson)

Rosa Parks was born in 1913, grew up in Montgomery, Alabama, where racism, segregation, and insults were a daily part of her life. She didn't care so she did it in her own way. For example, she would take the stairs instead of the elevators marked "color" elevators. Rosa grew up in a bad environment that is probably why it became more active in the civil rights movement. Rosa graduated from Alabama State College, and she worked as a housekeeper.

On December 1, 1955 after a long day at work pressing shirts, Parks was too tired to go all the way to the back so she sat in the section where blacks weren't supposed to sit but if a white person wasn't there they could. Parks and three other black women were sitting in the same section. When a white person got on the bus the three women went to the back but Rosa refused because she was too tired of work and racism. Then the Montgomery Boycott started. After refusing to move, Parks was arrested. She could have just paid a fine instead she chose to fight for her rights as well as others, and with the support of her family, she won, she took a stand that America will never forget.

What I am doing to help the community, first of all, at church we are donating shoes, clothes, food, and other things to the shelters and poor people. Second, we are giving money to help the people in New York, who don't have homes and have lost family members. Last, we are helping the community by all the kids who need help and who need families. In conclusion, this is how me and my church are helping the community.

"THE WOMAN WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE"

(By Heather Sweigart)

The things that Rosa Parks made a difference in her community. First of all, she was active in the Montgomery Voters League and the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) Youth Council. She was secretary of the Montgomery branch of the NAACP. On the other hand, Rosa also worked as a fundraiser for the NAACP. Rosa founded the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self-Development in 1987. The institute for self-development was for offering guidance to young blacks. That is how Rosa Parks made a difference.

These are the things that I do to make a difference. First, I help other people and volunteer for things during and after school. Right now at school, I'm helping do the yearbook and newspaper. I'm also helping Mrs. Hastings teach some people how to play volleyball. Most of the time, I'm helping people do math, reading, and s. studies homework. I like to help people by giving them my opinion on how to draw something, too. In conclusion, I volunteer during and after school, I help do yearbook and newspaper, help Mrs. Hastings teach volleyball, help people do different homework papers, and give opinion on drawings, that's how I make a difference.