

INTRODUCTION OF NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR HAITI ACT OF 2005

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the New Partnership for Haiti Act of 2005, which will help Haitians overcome the many social, economic, and physical challenges currently facing the country.

Today in Haiti less than 45 percent of Haitians have access to safe water and access to sanitation. Seventy-six percent of Haiti's children under the age of five are underweight, or suffer from stunted growth and 63 percent of Haitians are undernourished. Eighty percent of the population lives in abject poverty and the unemployment rate is estimated to be nearly 90 percent.

My long standing interest in ending the AIDS pandemic has brought focus on Haiti, with 90 percent of all HIV/AIDS cases in the Caribbean. As we combat global HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, maternal and child mortality, and many other life threatening diseases, we must address the long-term effect of dilapidated physical and health infrastructure and abject poverty throughout the world, including in Haiti.

My bill, the New Partnership for Haiti Act of 2005 offers a comprehensive plan for future engagement between the U.S. and Haitian Government. This legislation partners Haitians and Americans together to execute an environmentally sound approach to rebuilding Haiti. Its major provisions are aimed at developing basic sanitation, water, and other health infrastructures in Haiti.

The New Partnership for Haiti Act would bring the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers to train and educate Haitians on how to rebuild, pave, and maintain roads to provide access to rural and urban areas to health clinics. It will commission environmental impact studies for these projects, focusing on long term, environmentally sound solutions—not short term remedies.

Haiti needs assistance in addressing its long-term health infrastructure development. The most basic of these needed development challenges is water. How can Haiti begin to combat its enormous health problems without basic clean and safe water?

Haiti's water quality is life-threatening. In a study released in May of 2003, Haiti ranked last in the world for water quality. The New Partnership for Haiti Act will provide funds and expertise through USAID to partner with Haiti on rebuilding of sanitation, water purification projects, and education for Haitians on how to maintain these systems themselves in the future. This bill will help Haitians build and maintain safer, quality sewage systems and safe water delivery for both urban and rural communities.

The New Partnership for Haiti Act will start a pilot program for American Health Professionals and also Engineers who are interested in going to Haiti and helping with the development process.

It is my hope that a transfer of knowledge from U.S. professionals in the fields of health and engineering to Haitians will ensure long term development and guarantee the success of the programs similar to the success of the

Global Fund and other international initiatives. By widening the knowledge base of non-governmental organizations and professionals in Haiti, the U.S. will take advantage of a unique opportunity and obligation towards Haiti's future.

We worked together to get the humanitarian loans, which had been held up by the Inter-American Development Bank officially released on May 9, 2003. It is my hope that we can continue to push for the full release of these loans and the potential for future humanitarian grants through the IDB. I also believe we must move forward on establishing a health infrastructure for efficient delivery of these health and social sector funds.

Today I submit this legislation, and thank all of my original cosponsors.

I look forward to the support of my colleagues and the Administration.

BLACK HISTORY TRIBUTE TO MARY ELIZABETH PIPPINS GATES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, throughout the month of February, I would like to recognize outstanding African Americans of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi, and their contribution to Black History. The 23 counties of the 2nd District are well represented from both a local and national perspective.

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month." In fact, black history had barely begun to be studied—or even documented—when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a presence in our history books.

Though scarcely documented in history books, if at all, the crucial role African Americans have played in the development of our nation must not be overlooked.

I would like to recognize Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Pippins Gates, of Leake County, Mississippi. Mrs. Gates is a graduate of Baldwin High School and received her high school diploma at the age of 15. Ms. Gates continued her education and entered Mississippi Industrial College in Holly Springs, MS where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education. Mrs. Gates later received Master's degrees in Library Science from Delta State University, Cleveland, MS and in School Administration from Jackson State University, Jackson, MS. In addition, she has done additional study at Mississippi State University and at the University of Southern University.

Mrs. Gates began her teaching career at Conway Attendance Center in Conway, Mississippi. She also served as an elementary teacher at South Leake Attendance Center in Walnut Grove, MS. Mrs. Gates served as President of the Bolivar County Teachers Association and the Leake County Association of Educators. She served as full-time state president of the Mississippi Association of Educators in 1982–1983. She was appointed by Governor William Winter to serve on the first Commission on Teacher and Administrator

Education, Certification, and Development. She served as chairperson of the Board of Directors of the East Central Community Action Agency for eight years. Mrs. Gates retired from the Leake County School district after 40 years of dedicated service to education.

Mrs. Gates served as First Vice-President of the Leake County Branch NAACP for twenty years and is presently serving her 4th year as President. She is a member of the Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church and is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. She is currently serving as a member of the Thomastown Attendance Center Improvement Committee.

Mrs. Gates has received numerous awards for distinguished service to public education and civil rights which have included Outstanding Achievement in Education presented by the Leake County Branch NAACP, Outstanding Achievement in Human Relations from the Mississippi Association of Educators, Exemplary Service in the Promotion of Literacy from the International Reading Association and Distinguished and Dedicated Service as President of the Mississippi Association of Educators.

I take great pride in recognizing and paying tribute to this outstanding African American of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi who deserves mention, not only in the month of February but year round.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE DAY OF REMEMBRANCE: INTRODUCTION OF THE WARTIME PARITY AND JUSTICE ACT OF 2005

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my constituents to commemorate the Day of Remembrance. As we know, on February 19, 1942, then President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 that led to the internment of 120,000 Americans of Japanese descent. With the stroke of a pen, innocent men, women, and children became prisoners and were branded disloyal to the nation they called home. Lives were disrupted and homes were broken as these Americans were uprooted from their communities and locked behind barbed wire fences.

The force of wartime hysteria darkened the light of justice and reasonable people suddenly embarked on an unreasonable course. Indeed, America was engaged in a monumental struggle as our soldiers engaged the enemy in the European and Pacific theatres. Here in the United States, many citizens had faces that looked like that of the enemy. Without any evidence, fear was mounting, and the patriotism of these Japanese Americans was questioned. Some worried that they were intent on doing harm against the very flag they saluted. Decades later, history vindicated these loyal Americans as not even a single documented case of sabotage or espionage was committed by an American of Japanese ancestry during that time.

What our nation found through the disinfected of time was what those who endured internment knew all along. Surrounded by armed guards behind a prison fence, mothers