

ACKNOWLEDGING AFRICAN DESCENDANTS OF THE TRANS-ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE IN ALL OF THE AMERICAS

SPEECH OF

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 18, 2005*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 175, a resolution acknowledging African descendants of the transatlantic slave trade in all of the Americas and recommending that the United States and the international community work to improve the situation of Afro-descendant communities in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The early history of the Americas is plagued with immeasurable acts of violence and inhumane cruelties. The establishment of the transatlantic slave trade is merely one of numerous blemishes that remain a part of our troubled past. From the late fifteenth through nineteenth centuries, an estimated ten million Africans were abducted, bound and shipped as human cargo to the Americas.

These men, women and children were used to build the foundation of nations spanning Latin America, North America and the Caribbean. Words can hardly do justice to the struggle these individuals faced on a daily basis. Working endless hours through unbearable conditions, African slaves constantly fought a losing battle to survive. Though disbanded several hundred years ago, the legacy of this institution remains imbedded in our societies even today.

African descendants throughout the Americas have historically suffered from societal and governmental marginalization. In the United States, African descendants experience disproportionately high infant mortality, illiteracy and poverty rates. As a nation, we have worked to fight against these racial disparities, yet they continue to persist.

Only recently have similar trends been analyzed and acknowledged in Latin American and Caribbean countries. This fight is ongoing both at home and abroad. We must extend our reach beyond domestic policy to advance an international discussion of racial issues.

Though America aspires to lead the world in the realm of economic policies and technological innovation, it constantly falls short of promoting racial equality. As pioneers in all other industries, it is our duty to be at the forefront of all efforts geared towards amending the social and economic disparities that continue to haunt African descendants in the Americas.

The largest number of Afro-descendants living outside of Africa can be found in Latin America and the Caribbean. These individuals share in our early history and suffer from the residual effects that are evidenced in our own communities. It is equally our responsibility to aid and assist Latin American and Caribbean nations' efforts to overcome their institutionalized racial disparities. Our common past will forever link our futures.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution serves as a reminder of the history shared amongst the Americas. The emancipation of all men, though boldly declared by many nations throughout the nineteenth century, remains to

be realized. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution as a necessary step in addressing the racial inequities that persist in North America, Latin America and the Caribbean.

HONORING HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE OF CENTRAL KENTUCKY

**HON. RON LEWIS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 20, 2005*

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, in 1979, a small group of health care professionals and lay volunteers in Elizabethtown began meeting to explore the idea of establishing a hospice in Hardin County. On April 24, 1980, the Elizabethtown Area Hospice (EAH) served its first patient. The agency was staffed entirely by volunteers who provided care for patients and families living in and around Elizabethtown. In 1986, EAR became fully certified by Medicaid and Medicare. The next year EAH changed its name to the Hospice of Central Kentucky (HCK) and expanded its services to include five counties: Hardin, LaRue, Grayson, Meade, and Breckinridge. In 1989, HCK also began offering its services to patients living in Marion and Washington counties. In the spring of 1990, Taylor, Green and Adair counties became a part of HCK's service area.

As the organization has grown and expanded its services, its base of operations has also changed. EHA was first headquartered in a small office in Hardin Memorial Hospital. Over the years, HCK has moved to different locations around Elizabethtown as the agency grew. After a successful capital campaign in 1993, HCK moved into its new main office building located on Diecks Drive in Elizabethtown. Since expanding its services to Taylor County in 1990, HCK has operated a satellite office in Campbellsville.

A significant milestone in HCK's history occurred in 1996 when HCK joined with Hospice of Louisville to form the Alliance of Community Hospices, Inc. The following year HCK received its first certification from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

During its 25 years of existence, Hospice & Palliative Care has provided high-quality end-of-life care services to thousands of patients and their families living in the Central Kentucky area. In 2004, HCK provided almost 30,000 patient days of care to 625 patients and their families. These services include pain and symptom control, medication management, personal care, emotional and spiritual support, volunteer assistance and bereavement care. In addition to providing core hospice services, HCK also employs a children's counselor to provide children and adolescents with specialized counseling and support. HCK also sponsors a grief camp, Camp Evergreen, for grieving children and their families.

Licensed by the state of Kentucky, HCK accepts Medicare, Medicaid and many forms of private insurance. With the help of donations from the community, HCK provides care for seriously ill patients and their families living in the Central Kentucky area regardless of their ability to pay for services.

While HCK has grown and changed in many ways over the years, one thing has always re-

mained constant and that is the agency's commitment to providing the highest quality, most compassionate care possible to patients with terminal illnesses and their families. HCK dedicates its 25th anniversary to its patients and families. Their courage and their faith, in the midst of illness and loss, is a source of inspiration to others.

KELLY'S BODY SHOP, ONE OF THE WINNERS OF THE 2005 CALIFORNIA SMALL BUSINESS AWARD

**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 20, 2005*

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Benjamin Mendoza, Sr., owner of Kelly's Body Shop in Santa Ana, California.

Kelly's Body Shop was opened in 1978 by three separate owners but was then bought in 1994 by Mr. Mendoza who consolidated its ownership.

Over the past 12 years, under Mr. Mendoza's ownership and strong management skills, Kelly's Body Shop has become one of the most successful businesses in Santa Ana, almost tripling its production and revenue in 2001.

Mr. Mendoza considers it the mission of Kelly's Body Shop to provide quality, timely and satisfactory repairs and services to all of its customers and the people of Santa Ana, California.

It is for these reasons that on June 15, 2005, the California Small Business Association awarded Mr. Mendoza a Small Business Award for his contribution and dedication to the city and people of Santa Ana.

Kelly's Body Shop is an example of a successful business in California that continues to give back to its community. I believe that Mr. Benjamin Mendoza, Sr., will continue to expand his commitment to the communities he serves.

LOUISVILLE YOUTH CHOIR TO TOUR AUSTRIA IN JUNE 2006

**HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 20, 2005*

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the recent selection of the Louisville Youth and Children's Choir to represent Kentucky and perform in the 2006 Mozart Youth Choral Festival in Salzburg and Vienna, Austria, in celebration of the 250th anniversary of Amadeus Mozart's birth. Receiving the opportunity to perform in Austria, home of the musical capital of the world, is a great honor and wonderful experience for these young musicians.

Founded in 1967 by Italo Taranta, a former Professor of Music and Choral Conductor at the University of Louisville School of Music, the Louisville Youth and Children's Choir is the city's premier children's and youth choral training program, composed of young talent throughout metropolitan Louisville representing