

this benefit would have the important benefit of helping the DCNG to maintain the force necessary to protect federal presence, including Members of Congress, the Supreme Court, and visitors if an attack on the Nation's capital should occur. I am pleased to introduce this bill on advice of Guard personnel who know best what is necessary.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
SUPERINTENDENT SUSAN
BACKMAN

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Susan Backman on the occasion of her retirement as Superintendent of Schools for Dearborn Heights District #7. She has served the community and its students with distinction for more than 30 years.

Mrs. Backman graduated from Western Michigan University in 1971 with a degree in home economics and distributive education. In 1979, she earned her Master of Education degree from Wayne State University. She then earned advanced certification as an education specialist and completed post-graduate credits at Wayne State University in 1988 and 1992 respectively.

In 1971, Mrs. Backman began her career as a teacher in District #7, a job she would keep for the next 13 years. In 1986, she became the Special Education Supervisor, and she earned the position of Director of Student Services in 1994. She then served as Interim Superintendent from 1996 until 1997, when she was hired as Superintendent of Schools. Since that time, Mrs. Backman has worked tirelessly to provide all that she can for the students and staff of District #7.

There is no question that Mrs. Backman's nine years as Superintendent greatly benefited the students of Dearborn Heights. She spent countless hours fostering better relationships with the staff, the community and the Board of Education. Mrs. Backman led a dedicated team of administrators and facilitated the passage of many ballot initiatives to secure additional resources. Furthermore, she oversaw the dramatic reversal of the District's finances from budget deficits and mismanagement to one of growth and responsibility. Throughout her career, Mrs. Backman has been an innovator and a pioneer in researching and implementing the new policies, procedures and programs that have helped District #7 succeed and excel. Mrs. Backman's 2005 nomination for National Superintendent of the Year reflects her undying efforts as an advocate for public education.

Susan Backman's retirement is a bittersweet moment for District #7, and I would ask that my colleagues rise and join me in wishing her the very best of luck, health and happiness in the future. I join the community in thanking her for her dedicated service to the students of Dearborn Heights over the last 35 years. While her leadership and guidance will be missed, her work and achievements will not be forgotten.

CIVIL RIGHTS, IMMIGRANT
RIGHTS, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE: A
UNIFIED MOVEMENT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD, an editorial, entitled From Civil Rights to Immigrant Rights, published in the May 16, 2006 edition of the New York Carib News, by Basil Wilson on the CaribOpinion page. Mr. Wilson raises some pertinent issues and questions about the highly polarized immigration debate. The Republican immigration bill wants to criminalize illegal immigrants and individuals and organizations that support them. Claiming that illegal immigrants are a costly burden on legitimate taxpayers, legislation is being discussed to deny medical services to undocumented workers. Fearing that "Latinization of America" is a threat to American values, the conservatives plan to militarize the southwestern border but policing 1,900 miles border is very difficult, not to mention costly.

The shocking revelation is that this anti-immigrant sentiment is not only backed by economic concerns but also by academic ideology. Samuel P. Huntington and the like are "for immigration provided the dominant culture of white Protestantism is preserved." Recalling the Know Nothing Party of the 1840's whose goal was to expunge the "foreign and unassimilatable Irish Catholics," Mr. Wilson deplores the generalization of the supremacists that Mexican immigrants are unwilling to be integrated into American society. Even if that were the case, the history of Black America proves that assimilation alone is not the answer. The civil rights movement abolished the institutionalized segregation but racism has not disappeared from America. More importantly the power relation with white America has not changed. "The black commitment to integration did not ease the white backlash and the immigrant assimilation will not mitigate the resistance to the browning of America." The struggle of today's immigrants is about first class citizenship. The 11.5 million immigrant workers who are an integral part of the American society deserve their rightful place.

I join Mr. Wilson in urging that the movements for civil rights, immigrant rights and social justice should join forces to free America from the grip of its historical racism.

[From the New York CaribNews, May 16, 2006]

FROM CIVIL RIGHTS TO IMMIGRANT RIGHTS
(By Basil Wilson)

The mass demonstrations on May 1, 2006, dramatized the rights of immigrants and their capacity to mobilize on the part of Hispanic Americans. Mass numbers took to the streets in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Phoenix, etc. The mass mobilization has unsurprisingly triggered a white backlash from segments of white civil society who were opposed to any form of legalization of undocumented workers. Like the civil rights movement of the 1960s, the immigrant rights movement that has been launched in 2006, seeks legislation in Congress to redress their grievances.

Paradoxically, it was the proposed bill passed in the House of Representatives on December 17, 2005 which precipitated the im-

migrant rights movement. The Republican Bill sought to criminalize visitors staying beyond their stay or crossing the borders illegally. The proposed legislation seeks to criminalize individuals and organizations that provide support for illegal immigrants. This extreme legislation reveal the high state of polarization in the country regarding what is to be done with 11.5 million illegal immigrants who take part in the day to day life of American society. The immigration debate like the civil rights debate evokes deep emotions among white Americans who view the Latinization of America as constituting a threat to Protestant hegemony.

Republican conservatives have somewhat sanitized their position since immigrants have taken to the streets. Representatives in the House like Tancredo and Sensenbrenner insist that they are for legal immigration but vehemently oppose amnesty as that would undermine the rule of law in the country. The salient issue for the conservative wing of the Republican Party is the sealing of the borders. Since the 1996 immigration legislation, the United States Congress has allocated billions of dollars to protect the 1,900 mile border between Mexico and America. The Immigration and Custom Enforcement division under the rubric of Homeland Security has been using state of the art technology, helicopters, and increased patrols to stem the tidal wave of immigrants streaming across the unsealed border. There is strong sentiment among conservatives to build a wall and to militarize the border to thwart illegal aliens from crossing the southwest border. The truth of the matter is that the policing of 1,900 mile border is a trying task. That situation becomes even more challenging when so many Mexican and Central American workers find themselves succumbing to an increasingly immiserated state.

Republican conservatives make the case that illegal immigrants are a costly burden on the backs of legitimate taxpayers. The accusation is that illegal aliens are overcrowding the public school system and clogging the emergency wards of hospitals. There is even legislation underway in the House of Representatives to prevent hospitals from providing emerging service to undocumented workers.

The level of polarization is not driven just by economics. Economics provide a respectable cover for the debate. The recent study authored by the Harvard scholar, Samuel Huntington, Who Are We? The Challenge to America's National Identity unmasks the true roots of the national hysteria. Huntington in 1996 wrote. For the Harvard scholar, the new danger was the clash of civilization between Islam and the West. Those fault lines were particularly volcanic and the war in the Middle East is manifestation of that collision between Islamic civilization and the encroaching military arm of western civilization. The Huntingtons of the world are preoccupied with the preserving of American military hegemony and the only way that the hegemony can be sustained is for America to pursue policies aimed at the subjugation of peoples committed to the post-colonial principle of self-determination.

Huntington's point of departure vis-à-vis migration is identical to his position on world civilization. He is for immigration provided the dominant culture of white protestantism is preserved. Huntington's position is that the volume and cultural distinctiveness of the new immigration poses a threat to American civilization. His wrath is aimed not just at immigrants but Mexican immigrants in particular. In his view, the former epochs of mass migration were unthreatening because the Irish wave of the