

experienced both spiritual and personal growth and has maintained a constant presence for community residents. Pastor Craig has been involved with numerous service organizations and has been awarded countless honors for his leadership, notably serving as president of the Norristown Ministerium.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating the Macedonia Baptist Church on its 85th anniversary. May their continued care, compassion, and commitment to God and the community be an inspiration to us all.

RECOGNIZING JUNETEENTH
INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I support H. Res. 1237, a resolution recognizing the historical significance of Juneteenth. The holiday of Juneteenth is an important opportunity to recognize the abolition of slavery in the United States. This holiday commemorates the emancipation of African Americans from the final vestiges of bondage in our Nation. On June 19, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger led Union troops into Galveston, Texas, and announced that all slaves had been freed by the Emancipation Proclamation. The celebration of Juneteenth recognizes that day, two and a half years after Lincoln's proclamation, as the first opportunity for Union troops to penetrate Texan military resistance to announce and enforce the Emancipation Proclamation.

On June 19, 1865, after overcoming extreme opposition from Southern slave owners, General Granger arrived at Galveston, Texas. Beginning his fateful announcement, he said, "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 rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and free laborer."

These words brought forth the emancipation of 250,000 Texas slaves who were among the last people to learn of their freedom. Granger's statement marked the full realization of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness as intended by the Founding Fathers of our great Nation. The date of June 19, 1865 symbolizes the genius of our country's struggle to bring about a more perfect union, a struggle that continues to this very day.

I take this opportunity to recognize the historical significance of Juneteenth as a holiday which celebrates African American freedom while also encouraging self-pride and multicultural respect. I also thank Congressman DANNY DAVIS for sponsoring H. Res. 1237, a commendable resolution that I wholeheartedly support. I knowledge and support the historical significance of Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day or Emancipation Day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, June 17, 2008, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 414. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2964—Captive Primate Safety Act.

CRIME IN THE CARIBBEAN—PRAISING
YVETTE CLARKE'S RESPONSE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to praise the efforts of Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE with regard to the bipartisan resolution that addresses crime in the Caribbean. The prevalence of crime in the Caribbean and its particular importance to the United States are discussed in the editorial "Resolution Passes House of Representatives" and "Crime and Violence in the Caribbean: Clear and Present Danger," which appeared in this week's edition of the *New York Carib News*.

Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE introduced the resolution to the House floor in the hopes that it would raise awareness about the horrific situation of skyrocketing crime rates in the Caribbean. The resolution unanimously passed the House and hopefully will be followed by support from the Senate and the administration. Crime is threatening the pillars on many Caribbean nations' economies: tourism and agriculture. Crime destroys both people's perception of safety and companies' perception of a sound location to invest funds. Whether America likes to admit it or not, we have played a crucial role in causing this crisis. Contagion is a real concern as extremely high rates of violent crime can easily pass through our porous borders.

Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE has done America a great service in bringing this very serious issue to the forefront of American politics. I urge Americans to remain informed on the situation by reading the editorials "Resolution Passes House of Representatives" and "Crime and Violence in the Caribbean: Clear and Present Danger" in *Carib News*.

U.S. REP. CLARKE'S CARIBBEAN CRIME RESOLUTION PASSES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Today a bipartisan resolution addressing crime in the Caribbean region introduced by Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke passed unanimously in the House of Representatives. The resolution (H. RES. 865) expresses that the United States Government should assist Caribbean nations in taking specific measures toward reducing crime in that region.

Below are Congresswoman Clarke's prepared remarks on H. RES. 865:

"The release of the UN/World Bank report 'Crime, Violence, and Development: Trends, Costs, and Policy Options in the Caribbean' is a wake-up call for every American interested in the security of our nation.

As the report points out, a variety of factors, including some for which the U.S. is partly responsible—such as heavy illicit drug use and problematic deportation policies—have contributed to the Caribbean region having the highest crime rate in the world.

While today the region remains a wonderful place for Americans to visit, in the long-term, continuing these high levels of crime will wreak serious social, economic, and security troubles for many Caribbean countries.

Allowing this situation to deteriorate for years-to-come will undoubtedly create a security threat not just for the Caribbean states, but also for our own country, as an unstable Caribbean would create a vast hole in America's border security.

Many of the problems identified by this report have long been recognized by Caribbean leaders.

Now, with the confirmation provided by this report in hand, the U.S. must partner with its Western Hemisphere neighbors and allies to find workable solutions that will help the people of the Caribbean and ensure the long-term security and stability of our region.

I ask my colleagues to support this resolution calling for the U.S. to take up the solutions contained in a very important UN/World Bank report. If we act now, we can help our allies to greatly reduce their crime levels before the situation becomes far less manageable."

[From the *Carib News*, Apr. 22, 2008]

CRIME AND VIOLENCE IN THE CARIBBEAN,
CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER EXPERTS WARN
(By Tony Best)

"A clear and present danger to the Caribbean's social stability and economic vibrancy." That's how Dr. Ivelaw Griffith, perhaps the Caribbean's foremost security specialist, described the bleak picture of crime and violence confronting almost every nation and territory in the region.

With the homicide rate at historic levels in some countries, the rising incidence of kidnappings and armed robberies, drug and gun running serious problem for urban communities, and break-ins and assaults of homeowners now commonplace throughout the area, Dr. Griffith, Provost and Senior Vice President of the York College of the City University of New York, said that unless a comprehensive solution and implemented soon, the economic impact would be severe and the social stability undermined.

"It has reached a nearly uniform level of being a clear and present danger for the region," he told the *Carib News* after Caricom leaders approved a plan to deal with it at a recent special summit in Trinidad and Tobago, one of the region's hardest hit countries. "Although it is not a crisis-driven situation in every country, for instance there is variability in the homicide rate in Jamaica and St. Kitts-Nevis and there is the perennial trafficking of drug trafficking in Guyana vis-à-vis the Bahamas. But given the connectivity of the region, given the transnationality of the challenges, an appropriate definition is that the situation is a clear and present danger."

Meanwhile, the Caribbean's crime profile hasn't gone unnoticed by members of the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington. At the urging of Brooklyn Congresswoman, Yvette Clarke, the chamber has approved a resolution calling on the United States to assist the region as it tries to grapple with the growing problem.

"What is very significant about it is that is a record by which we can hold the feet of the House and by extension the Congress to the fire when it comes to our relationship