

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

with the Caribbean region, particularly in the context of safety and security, development and crime," Clarke said. "As far as I know, there hasn't been this level of recognition given to the responsibility and the type of bridge building that need to take place between the United States and the Caricom nations."

The resolution doesn't have the force of law but expresses the mood of the chamber. It was approved about a week ago and Clarke expects it to open the door to assistance from Washington at a crucial time.

"Typically when the House passes a resolution of this type, the State Department is usually close behind it in terms of its role and responsibility," she said. "We expect support, not only in the House and the Senate but in the executive branch, the Administration. Definitely, it could influence the flow of funds and technical support to the Caribbean."

Dr. Griffith, the author of a number of books on Caribbean security, said that two economic pillars of the region, tourism and agriculture were under threat from crime and violence because they have the potential to raise doubts about people's personal safety and their foreign direct investment.

Of course, there is oil in Trinidad and Tobago, bauxite in Jamaica and Guyana but as a region tourism and agriculture define the economic landscape of the Caribbean," he said. "Crime and security jeopardize those in dramatic ways. Jamaica is unique in a sense, but I am not sure for how long to have had a significant crime and security challenge but at the same time it has been doing fairly well in tourism. The general economic livelihood of the Caribbean very much revolves around having relative peace and stability."

As he sees it, the problem comes down to the degree of crime, the extent of drug trafficking and the prevalence and availability of weapons, all of which can undermine "the basic tenets" that influence the flow of long-term foreign investment in the various island-nations and coastal states.

The York College Provost warned that the negative news media coverage of the Caribbean, portraying it as a major center for crime and violence could make the various destinations far less appealing to tourists than at any other time.

"It raises the question if tourists are going to want to come to a region that is getting negative press day-in-and-day-out," he asked. "When someone in Europe sees a story about a particular country, he or she would see the Caribbean as a whole, not the individual destination. The region's long-term survivability makes crime and violence a clear and present danger."

He gave the heads of government good marks for confronting the problem but warned that many of the ideas approved in Port of Spain, including special crime fighting and management teams; improved training; introduction of sophisticated equipment; and the availability of mobile law enforcement units would take considerable amounts of financial resources and time to get off the ground. The upshot: moving the plans from the drawing board to reality would result in a time lag that the region could ill-afford.

"The challenge becomes translating the statement into practical reality," was the way Dr. Griffith, who advises western hemisphere and other international institutions on security question, put it. "The statement's truisms undermine some of the practical dimensions involved."

For instance, the decision to establish counter-kidnapping units and response teams and negotiators would "take a while to plan and deliver" and would involve foreign countries and quite a lot of money.

"The training necessary for them and the recruitment that's also necessary would require going beyond the Caribbean boundaries, getting the money to do that. I am not sure that the legislation to give effect to the proposals exists in the Caribbean," he added. "That would mean making legislative accommodations domestically to accommodate some of these worth

them on their dedicated service and I humbly welcome these men and their families to Kansas City.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING ELOISE HAGAN FOR HER SERVICE WITH THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker: Whereas, Eloise Hagan began volunteering with the Red Cross in 1957; and Whereas, Eloise Hagan is 99 years young; and

Whereas, she was recognized for her more than 50 years of volunteer service during the American Red Cross of Knox County's 2008 Volunteer Awards program; and

Whereas, Eloise Hagan continues to exemplify a special dedication to service and community; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend and thank Eloise Hagan for her contributions to her community and country.

IN HONOR OF JUDY MARTIN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Judy Martin, and in recognition of her dedication, advocacy, and promotion of community building in the Greater Cleveland Area. Judy Martin is this year's honoree of the Sixth Annual Beauty and Talent Pageant, presented by the Cleveland Joint Elks' Beauty and Talent Committee.

Judy, a Cleveland resident for over forty years, has been a tireless advocate of non-violence in the Greater Cleveland Area. Following the tragic death of her son in 1994, she became an activist and supporter of Black on Black Crime, Inc; working with the organization as their Secretary and Treasurer. Judy founded her own organization to support others who have also lost loved ones through violence, Survivors/Victims of Tragedy, Inc. She was instrumental in creating the Memorial Wall/Wall of Sorrows on display in East Cleveland, obtaining ninety-eight percent of the funds necessary to build the wall. The wall serves as a memorial for all children who have been victims of crime in Cleveland since 1990 and she continues working with the community in creating a Memorial Reflection Garden.

Judy Martin is also an advocate of Missing Children and Adults, a member of the Greater Cleveland Million Moms, part of the Brady Campaign to prevent gun violence, and a member of several other organizations including the Cleveland Joint Elks Education Committee, the Pioneer Fez Club, and the Veterans Department.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of Judy Martin for her outstanding and tireless efforts as an advocate of non-violence and promotion of community building in

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: June 17, 2008: rollcall vote No. 414, on motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended—H.R. 2964—To amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to treat nonhuman primates as prohibited wildlife species under that Act, to make corrections in the provisions relating to captive wildlife offenses under that Act, and for other purposes, I would have voted "nay"; rollcall vote No. 415, on motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended—H.R. 3702—Montana Cemetery Act of 2007—I would have voted "aye"; rollcall vote No. 416, on motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended—H. Res. 1275—Honoring the life of Timothy John Russert, Jr., public servant, political analyst, and author—I would have voted "aye."

U.S. ARMY FOURTH INFANTRY DIVISION LRRP/LRP/HIGHLAND RANGERS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I welcome the courageous and honorable men of the U.S. Army Fourth Infantry Division Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol, Company E 58th Infantry Long Range Patrol, and Company K 75th Infantry to their 40th Anniversary Reunion in Kansas City, Missouri. These brave men and their families will finally receive the honor they have deserved for so long.

This exceptional group began in Vietnam with the 4th Infantry Division LRRPs formed within the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Brigades in 1966 and 1967. On July 5th, 1968, these LRRPs were then placed under the control of Captain Ruben H. Siverling, Commander of E Company 58th Infantry (LRP). Captain Siverling described the greatness of these brave men by stating: "I have been recognized and honored for several various degrees of accomplishment in my journey through life. None are more satisfying or humbling than to have served under extreme combat as the last commander of E 58th (LRP) and the first commander of Company K 75th Rangers."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a very elite unit of U.S. Army Vietnam veterans, and to welcome them to their 40th Anniversary Reunion. These men, like so many others, have sacrificed so much to protect our Nation's freedom. I congratulate