

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CATHOLIC  
CHARITIES OF SOUTHERN NEVADA

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 26, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada recognize their 65 years of distinguished service to the community.

The Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada was formed to carry on charitable work in the fields of religion, education and social services. Catholic Charities is one of the largest nonprofit social service providers in the state of Nevada, offering the most comprehensive range of human services which include Adoption Services, Child Care Services, St. Vincent Lied Dining Facility, Immigration Services, Migration and Refugee Services, Residential Services, Senior Services and Thrift Stores. The agency now encompasses many diverse programs that are designed to aid individuals in gaining self-sufficiency, independence and dignity.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada for their 65 years of admirable service. Their tireless work to provide a wide array of services to the people of southern Nevada is a noble mission and I wish them the best in their continued efforts.

U.S. FAMILY HEALTH PLAN  
MARKS 25 YEARS OF CARING  
FOR UNIFORMED SERVICES FAMILIES

**HON. CHET EDWARDS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 26, 2006*

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, on this, the 26th day of April 2006, the U.S. Family Health Plan celebrates its commitment and service to the nation's military health system with 25 years caring for our military families. Through the years, the U.S. Family Health Plan has been a valued partner with the U.S. Department of Defense by continuing to serve nearly 100,000 military beneficiaries today.

U.S. Family Health Plan's roots date back to 1981 when the Omnibus Reconciliation Act designated 10 public health hospitals as U.S. Treatment Facilities to provide care for the uniformed services through and agreement with DoD. In 1993, that designation evolved into a fully at-risk managed healthcare plan named U.S. Family Health Plan. The Plan's popularity grew in the regions where it was offered. In 1996, the National Defense Authorization Act designated the U.S. Treatment Facilities as TRICARE Prime Designated Providers and made the U.S. Family Plan Health a permanent part of the military health system.

The U.S. Family Health Plan is a proud member of the TRICARE program. It has distinguished itself by consistently earning the highest beneficiary satisfaction ratings among all TRICARE providers. The plan is

administered by some of this nation's finest health care institutions, including John Hopkins (Maryland), Brighton Marine Health Center (Massachusetts), Martin's Point Health Care (Maine), St. Vincent Catholic Medical Centers (New York), CHRISTUS Health (Texas), and Pacific Medical Centers (Washington State).

Please join me in congratulating the U.S. Family Health Plan on their 25 years of service to our nation's military families and for their outstanding contributions to military health care.

INTRODUCTION OF H. RES. 777

**HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 26, 2006*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I introduced H. Res. 777, which would establish a month as Haitian-American Heritage Month.

I think it is important to recognize the many influences of the Haitian people to the history and culture of the United States.

Since our Revolutionary War, Haitians have allied themselves with the United States, sharing our common values of democratic governance and self-determination. While their country was still bound by servitude, Haitian freemen fought alongside U.S. troops at the Siege of Savannah in 1779, even as their own fate remained uncertain at home.

It was eight years after the end of our revolution that Haitians rose up to fight for their own independence from France—a struggle for freedom that was to play a key role in U.S. history.

In an effort to subjugate the Haitian people and suppress Haiti's revolution, France assembled in Haiti the largest expeditionary force it had ever sent to the Americas, composed of its very finest troops. However, by 1803, France had lost most of these troops and expended countless resources. As a result, instead of fortifying and exploiting its position in Louisiana, France was forced to sell it to the United States. In what became known as the Louisiana Purchase, this territory now comprises 22.3 percent of the United States.

Haiti's independence, which was officially declared in 1804, made it the first black republic in the world; the second democracy in our hemisphere; and the only country born of a successful slave revolt.

Haitians and their descendants have been instrumental in numerous American achievements in the sciences, in the arts, in our culture and in our commerce.

During the month of May, these contributions and accomplishments will be commemorated in Miami, Florida as part of community-wide, Haitian-American heritage celebrations. These events correspond with numerous Haitian holidays that are observed throughout the month of May.

In light of these events, Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support the passage of H. Res. 777 as an appropriate way for our government to recognize and celebrate the contributions of Haiti to our nation.

H. RES. 777

Whereas freemen from the French colony of Saint Domingue, now the Republic of Haiti, fought alongside the United States Continental Army at the Siege of Savannah in 1779;

Whereas Jean Baptiste Point du Sable, a Haitian, built the first permanent settlement of what later became the city of Chicago, Illinois, in 1779;

Whereas the significant loss of life and financial burden of the failed efforts to quell Haiti's revolution prompted France to sell Louisiana to the United States in 1803, territory that now comprises 22.3 percent of the United States;

Whereas, on January 1, 1804, Haiti declared its independence from France to become the world's first Black republic and the second democracy after the United States;

Whereas Major Joseph Savary, a Haitian, was the first Black Major in the United States Army, and led the Second Battalion of Freemen of Color at the Battle of New Orleans, January 8, 1815, under then-General Andrew Jackson, who became the first Governor of the Territory of Florida in 1821;

Whereas, in 1889, Frederic Douglass, the period's foremost spokesman on human rights and prominent leader of the anti-slavery movement in the United States, became the first United States Minister and Consul-General to Haiti;

Whereas the longest occupancy of a foreign state by American troops was in Haiti, circa 1915-1934;

Whereas an estimated 1,200,000 persons of Haitian descent now live throughout the United States;

Whereas Haitians and their descendants have contributed greatly to the arts and sciences, including John James Audubon, the acclaimed naturalist and wildlife artist who inspired the American conservation society that bears his namesake, and W.E.B. DuBois, the Haitian-American author and political activist, who became one of the most prominent, intellectual leaders of African-American society during the twentieth century;

Whereas the close proximity of Haiti to American shores, in conjunction with our common bond of mutual values and commitment to democracy, ensures lasting comity of nations and continued trade and diplomatic relations;

Whereas Haiti—the only republic to rise from a successful slave rebellion—inspires pride, solidarity, and self-reliance;

Whereas the last Sunday of May is commemorated in Haiti as Mother's Day;

Whereas the 18th of May is Flag Day, the most celebrated holiday in Haiti, and is observed by people of Haitian descent throughout the world;

Whereas in Miami, Florida, home to the largest Haitian-American population in the United States, there are numerous cultural events and celebrations planned during the month of May to honor Haitian heritage; and

Whereas May is an appropriate month to establish a Haitian-American Heritage Month: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) "Haitian-American Heritage Month" be established; and

(2) the people of the United States should observe the month with appropriate ceremonies, celebrations, and activities.