

FAMILY SEPARATION

(Mr. LANGEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, this very minute, terrified children are crying in cages, put there by our government at our Nation's borders. Innocent babies, taken from their mothers and fathers, are being held hostage by the President. This is wrong, Mr. Speaker. I never thought I would witness such cruelty in our country.

President Trump could stop this with a phone call, and congressional Republicans could end it with a vote. Their inaction is despicable, and it speaks volumes.

Mr. Speaker, I love this country, but today I am ashamed. I am sickened by the heartlessness of this administration.

These families are refugees fleeing violence, hoping simply to survive. How can we tear them apart and put them in actual cages?

Mr. Speaker, mark my words: This is a turning point in our Nation's history. We must decide what kind of country we want to be, what kind of people we want to be, and what we stand for as a nation.

I am proud to cosponsor the Keep Families Together Act to end this policy and turn the page on one of the saddest chapters in American history.

Mr. Speaker, this isn't over by a long shot.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

 THE SULTAN OF TURKEY HAS GONE ROGUE

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Turkish President Erdogan will stop at nothing to spread instability and chaos across the globe. He is funding mosques around the world as a means of supporting Islamic extremism.

These mosques are helping to indoctrinate an increasing number of radicals. These are the very same radicals who have gone on to commit terror attacks in other countries, like France, Belgium, and elsewhere.

In an effort to keep their citizens safe from terrorists, Austria has begun to fight back. Austria closed seven Turkish-funded mosques and expelled several dozen imams from their country because they are a national security risk. This is just the first step in putting the brakes on the new Ottoman Sultan: Erdogan.

Unfortunately, Erdogan has already turned his own country into a full-blown Islamist state. Now he is trying to radicalize other nations by supporting clandestine insurgent extrem-

ists. The Sultan of Turkey has gone rogue.

The United States should not sell new F-35s to this dictator until he changes his ways.

And that is just the way it is.

 FAMILY SEPARATION

(Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, my family and I spent a wonderful Sunday celebrating Father's Day, just like millions of other families across our country.

During our time together, I couldn't help thinking about the thousands of children who are unable to do the same because they have been separated from their own fathers and mothers by agents of our government. They are scared, they are lonely, and they are confused.

I am horrified by these actions, and I am determined to fight with my colleagues to end this cruel policy. It is our moral obligation to reunite these families, and it is imperative that we make sure this never happens again.

Fifty years from now, how will history judge those more committed to justifying this policy than ending it? We as a nation are better than this, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do what is right and end this policy of separating children from their parents.

 CELEBRATING JUNETEENTH

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, today is Juneteenth, a day to celebrate the end of slavery in the United States.

The destructive history of slavery in this country flows through the fabric of our social conscience, but much more so during the month of June.

On June 19, 1865—hence, the name Juneteenth—the Union Army took control over Texas. It is on that date, 2½ years after the fact, when slaves in Texas learned about the Emancipation Proclamation. That is how dominant the institution of slavery was. Slave owners were able to keep freedom a secret for 2½ years.

The end of slavery didn't mean freedom came overnight. It took a cultural transformation and the course of a hundred years before African Americans could even vote. And the effects of slavery continue still today.

On Juneteenth, we celebrate the end of slavery and aspire to be fully free.

 COMMEMORATING JUNETEENTH

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise to commemorate Juneteenth, as a Texan and one who acknowledges that it was my State, 153 years ago, June 19, 1865, where General Gordon Granger rode into Galveston, Texas, and announced the freedom of the last American slaves, belatedly freeing 250,000 slaves in Texas nearly 2½ years after Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation.

Having spent 2 days at the border, I know that there are 2,000 children who have been separated from their families who are seeking freedom. I rise today in honor of Juneteenth because it was and is a living symbol of freedom for people who did not have it.

Today, I introduced H. Res. 948, the annual congressional resolution commemorating Juneteenth Independence Day, which is cosponsored by more than 50 of my colleagues. Juneteenth remains the oldest known celebration of slavery's demise.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that we need to be able to honor the issue of freedom, so I conclude by saying that the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., once said, "Freedom is never free," and African American labor leader A. Phillip Randolph often said, "Freedom is never given; it is won."

We must win the freedom for these children, 2,000, who have been separated from their families.

Mr. Speaker, 153 years ago, on June 19, 1865, General Gordon Granger rode into Galveston, Texas and announced the freedom of the last American slaves; belatedly freeing 250,000 slaves in Texas nearly two and a half years after Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation.

Juneteenth was first celebrated in the Texas state capital in 1867 under the direction of the Freedmen's Bureau.

Juneteenth was and is a living symbol of freedom for people who did not have it.

Today, I introduced H. Res. 948, the annual congressional resolution commemorating Juneteenth Independence Day, which is cosponsored by more than 50 of my colleagues.

Juneteenth remains the oldest known celebration of slavery's demise.

It commemorates freedom while acknowledging the sacrifices and contributions made by courageous African Americans towards making our great nation the more conscious and accepting country that it has become.

It was only after that day in 1865 when General Granger rode into Galveston, Texas, on the heels of the most devastating conflict in our country's history, in the aftermath of a civil war that pitted brother against brother, neighbor against neighbor and threatened to tear the fabric of our union apart forever that America truly became the land of the free and the home of the brave.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Freedom is never free," and African American labor leader A. Phillip Randolph often said "Freedom is never given. It is won."

Truer words were never spoken.

We should all recognize the power and the ironic truth of those statements and we should pause to remember the enormous price paid by all Americans in our country's quest to realize its promise.