

Juneteenth honors the end of the 400 years of suffering African Americans endured under slavery and celebrates the legacy of perseverance that has become the hallmark of the African American experience in the struggle for equality.

In recent years, a number of National Juneteenth Organizations have arisen to take their place alongside older organizations—all with the mission to promote and cultivate knowledge and appreciation of African American history and culture.

Juneteenth celebrates African American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures.

But it must always remain a reminder to us all that liberty and freedom are precious birthrights of all Americans which must be jealously guarded and preserved for future generations.

As it takes on a more national and even global perspective, the events of 1865 in Texas are not forgotten, for all of the roots tie back to this fertile soil from which a national day of pride is growing.

FAMILY SEPARATION

(Ms. ROSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. Speaker, the images we are seeing of children crying alone, calling out for their mothers and fathers, is absolutely heart-wrenching.

Right now, innocent children are being detained at our border, and they are going through unthinkable and life-altering trauma as a result of the Trump administration's cruel decision to separate migrant families.

Let me be crystal clear: There is no law requiring border agents to separate migrant children from their parents, yet this administration has chosen to implement this horrendous policy and deliberately ignore public outcry by refusing to put an end to this madness. They are playing political games instead of doing what is right and true to our American values.

This heartless and inhumane behavior should not have to require action from Congress to be changed. But with the President pledging to continue his heartless policy, we are compelled to act. That is why I am helping introduce legislation that puts an end to this despicable policy and keeps families together, which I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BAILEY SCHWEITZER

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

Mr. KIHUEN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to remember the life of Bailey Schweitzer.

Bailey was a kid at heart who loved playing around at her father's speedway racetrack in Bakersfield, California.

Bailey was at the Route 91 Harvest festival on October 1 in Las Vegas, attending the concert with her mother and other friends. She had a smile that could light up the room and was capable of making everyone laugh.

Bailey was a natural born leader and an amazing aunt to her brother Dakota's two kids. Bailey is remembered as being a master at being friends to everyday people and to everyone she met.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my condolences to Bailey Schweitzer's family and friends. Please know that the city of Las Vegas, the State of Nevada, and the whole country grieve with you.

FAMILY SEPARATION

(Mr. CORREA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, in late May of this year, a 5-year-old boy named Jose and his father arrived in El Paso, Texas. Together, they had braved the dangerous trek from Honduras to the United States in search of freedom from gang violence, poverty, and hardship.

They came as asylum seekers and put themselves at the mercy of American laws. Instead, they were treated like criminals.

They journeyed across the continent for a life free of violence and a life free of crime. It is a human right enshrined in international law.

When Jose arrived at the border, he was ripped away from his father and detained. Neither one of them were told when, or if, they would see each other again.

Jose was assigned to a host family he had never met, taken to a house he had never lived in, and was treated like a prisoner in the land of freedom.

According to his host family, every night he placed a handwritten picture of his family under his pillow, holding out hope that they would someday be reunited.

This is the picture that he drew.

This is immoral, illegal, and an un-American practice that will not go unchallenged.

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THE WORLD IS WATCHING

(Ms. SHEA-PORTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Speaker, America is looking on, indeed the world is looking on with horror as they see pictures of children in cages.

First it was denied. They were saying, No, we weren't separating families. Then they said, Well, we are not putting them in cages.

And now America and the world sees the truth. And it is up to the President. He could change this tonight if he wanted to. I think we have to ask ourselves: Why won't he? Why won't this Congress do something?

The world is watching. We are losing our moral authority as we speak. I beg the President and the Speaker of the House and others in this Congress to stop this now.

WHAT HAS AMERICA BECOME?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, America, my colleagues, Democrat and Republican, this young girl needs our help. She is crying out for her parents. She needs our help. She needs our help now. She is crying for her mother and her father, who have been taken from her.

This is the picture of America today. This is a picture of our values as Americans. 350 million of us are responsible for this young girl crying for her mother and her father, who have been taken from her.

They came to America, her mother came to America because she feared that in her home country, they would be harmed. They came to America seeking life. This young girl is crying out for our help, and she is not alone.

She is joined by this young girl, who has been separated from her parents, and she is alone in a building foreign to her. She is crying out to America for our basic humanity, for our basic morality, and she is not alone.

She is not alone, and neither are these young children in a cage in America.

What have we become? What has America become that we would take children and their parents who have come here seeking refuge, we take the parents away and we put the children in a cage? What has America become that we would allow this to happen?

Whatever the reason is for their arrival at our border, we know this about them: they came here seeking the very best of America, the promise of this country, and we put them in a cage.

What has America become that we would allow this to happen, that the man in the highest office of this Nation would make it the policy of America to cage children; that the man who occupies the highest office in this land would make it the policy of this Nation, a Nation whose reputation was one of humanity, of concern, and fundamental morality, that the man who occupies the highest office in this land would put in place policies that would make this young girl cry for her parents?

Is this the America that we want? Is this the America that we have come to be? Is this the America who has lost its moral compass, who believes that you could take this young girl or these young men and women, these children, and hold them hostage?

The ransom is a border wall. Is that where we are as Americans that the