

The name “Juneteenth” is a combination of two words, “June nineteenth.” That was the day, in 1865, that the U.S. Army’s “General Order No. 3” was issued, finally informing the people of Texas of the Emancipation Proclamation—and that all of the remaining enslaved people in that State were free.

Sadly, on this Juneteenth—even as our Nation celebrates—we are witnessing the most concerted effort in decades to erase from our history America’s long and still unfinished struggle to fully end racism, the odious lie on which slavery was built. Last year, according to the American Library Association, there were 1,269 demands to ban books in school libraries in various States. That is more than double the number of book bans sought in 2021. And it is the greatest number of book bans demanded in the 20 years that PEN America, an organization dedicated to the freedom of expression, has kept records on this troubling trend.

What is the most frequent target of these new bans? Books involving, or even just mentioning, issues of race. And what are the books that these censors are demanding be pulled from the shelves of school libraries?

Here are some examples: “To Kill a Mockingbird” is one. Another is a biography of Jesse Owens, the great American runner who won four gold medals at the Olympic Games in Munich in 1936, shattering the Nazi myth of racial supremacy. In Florida, the book banners demanded that school textbooks containing the story of Rosa Parks remove race and racism as reasons she refused to move to the back of the bus. Such efforts to erase history are an attack on the freedom to read and learn.

This week, my State of Illinois became the first State in the Nation to ban this form of censorship by public libraries. I hope more States will stand up for history—and that on the eve of this Juneteenth, Americans will commit ourselves firmly to truth.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN DAVID OSBORN

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Capt. David Osborn, for his service to our Nation in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Captain Osborn entered the Marine Corps as a young man during World War II. After training as a pilot, he was deployed to the Pacific Theater where he was engaged in active combat. During his tenure in the Marine Corps, Captain Osborn flew vitally important but deeply dangerous missions, including several for which, he indicated, he volunteered. In all, Captain Osborn’s service contributed to the American military successes in the Pacific Theater. After the war, Captain Osborn continued his service as a flight in-

structor in Corpus Christi, TX. Captain Osborn was honorably discharged from the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve in March of 1958.

This year, Captain Osborn will celebrate his 100th birthday. He lives in Weston, CT, with his wife of 41 years, and cherishes time spent with his children and grandchildren. His honorable service is a model for all of us and will leave an enduring legacy.

We all owe our veterans a great debt of gratitude for fighting for our freedom and safety, and I hope my colleagues will join me in thanking Captain David Osborn for his remarkable history of service to our Nation.●

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND JOSEPH BAKER

• Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, I rise to commend Rev. Joseph Baker of St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church for his lifetime of service to the Chattahoochee River Valley and the State of Georgia. For the past 30 years, Pastor Baker has been a beacon of hope and service for members of the communities he has served since answering the call to preach in 1993. After relocating to Atlanta from Orlando to continue his higher education journey, Pastor Joseph Baker served as senior pastor of Saint Paul AME Church in Canton, GA, and both Saint Mary’s AME and Townsley Chapel AME Churches in Savannah, GA. Since July 2013, Pastor Baker has served the Columbus community as the 52nd pastor of St. James AME Church at the local, conference, and episcopal levels. He also serves as dean of the Southwest Georgia Annual Conference Board of Examiners and as a member of the Southwest Georgia Annual Conference Board of Trustees, Support of Presiding Elders and Ministerial Classification.

A product of the Suwannee County School System, the University of Central Florida in Orlando, and Turner Theological Seminary at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Pastor Baker continues to find ways to open doors of opportunity for others through access to education. For example, Pastor Baker established a partnership with Columbus Technical College to offer GED studies at St. James AME.

As Georgia’s U.S. Senator, I commend and recognize St. James AME pastor Rev. Joseph Baker for a lifetime of service on behalf of the State of Georgia.●

TRIBUTE TO MOISES VELEZ

• Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, I rise to commend Moises Velez of Macon, GA, for his years of service to Georgia’s Latino community.

Twenty-five years ago, Mr. Velez founded “Que Pasa,” the first Spanish newspaper in the Macon community. Mr. Velez’s vision of keeping newly arrived immigrants informed about vital services available to them in Middle

Georgia and across the State quickly transformed the newspaper into a trusted news source for the Latino community on important issues like health care, immigration, and education. “Que Pasa” keeps the growing Latino community in Middle Georgia informed about news and events statewide. Mr. Velez’s success led to his recognition as one of Georgia’s 50 most influential Latinos by the Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in 2022. Mr. Velez is a representation of the extraordinary contributions of Georgia’s Latino community.

As Georgia’s U.S. Senator, I commend and recognize Moises Velez for his contributions to Georgia’s Latino community and years of service to the Macon community.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Ms. Kelly, one of his secretaries.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT OF THE VETO OF S.J. RES. 11, A RESOLUTION THAT WOULD DISAPPROVE THE RULE ENTITLED “CONTROL OF AIR POLLUTION FROM NEW MOTOR VEHICLES: HEAVY-DUTY ENGINE AND VEHICLE STANDARDS”—PM 15

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, spread in full upon the Journal, and held at the desk:

To the Senate of the United States:

I am returning herewith without my approval S.J. Res. 11, a resolution that would disapprove the rule entitled “Control of Air Pollution From New Motor Vehicles: Heavy-Duty Engine and Vehicle Standards.”

This rule amends the Environmental Protection Agency’s heavy-duty emissions control program—including its standards, test procedures, and other requirements—to further reduce the air quality impacts of heavy-duty engines. The rule cuts pollution, boosts public health, and advances environmental justice in communities across the country. It will prevent hundreds, if not thousands, of premature deaths; thousands of childhood asthma cases; and millions of missed school days every year.

The resolution would deny communities these health benefits by resulting in weaker emissions standards for heavy-duty vehicles and engines, which are significant sources of pollutants that threaten public health. If enacted, the resolution would squander \$36 billion in benefits to society—and an opportunity to lead on the defining crisis of our time.