

black community may be more severe, they are an indication of where the rest of the nation may be if corrective measures are not quickly taken. For example, the rate of white unwed births has risen dramatically in recent years, continues to rise and now stands at almost 30%. The level of violence now found in once quiet suburbs is alarming and further demonstrates that our past, present and future are linked. It is not safe for this nation to assume that unaddressed social problems in the poorest parts of our country will not ultimately affect the larger society.

Black history is extremely important because it is American history. Given this, it is in some ways sad that there is a need for a black history month. Though we are all enlarged by our study and knowledge of the roles played by blacks in American history, and though there is a crying need for all of us to know and acknowledge the contributions of black America, a black history month is a testament to the problem that has afflicted blacks throughout our stay in this country. Black history is given a separate and clearly not equal treatment by our society in general and by our educational institutions in particular. [It is only given a month (the only month with 28 days!) of recognition.] As a former American history major I am struck by the fact that such a major part of our national story has been divorced from the whole. In law, culture, science, sports, industry and other fields, knowledge of the rules played by blacks is critical to an understanding of the American experiment. For too long we have been too willing to segregate the study of black history. There is clearly a need at present for a device that focuses the attention of the country on the study of the history of its black citizens. But we must endeavor to integrate black history into our culture and into our curriculums in ways in which it has never occurred before so that the study of black history, and a recognition of the contributions of black Americans, become commonplace. Until that time, Black History Month must remain an important, vital concept. But we have to recognize that until black history is included in the standard curriculum in our schools and becomes a regular part of all our lives, it will be viewed as a novelty, relatively unimportant and not as weighty as so called "real" American history.

I was invited to speak to you today because some consider me, the first black person to be named United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, a part of black history. We do a great disservice to the concept of black history recognition if we do not acknowledge that my appointment cannot be viewed in isolation. I stand on the shoulders of many other black Americans, all of whom should be widely known to all Americans: admittedly, the identities of some of these people, through the passage of time, have become lost to us—the men, and women, who labored long in fields, who were later legally and systemically discriminated against, who were lynched by the hundreds in this century and those others who have been too long denied the fruits of our great American culture. But the names of others of these people should strike a resonant chord in the historical ear of all in our nation: Frederick Douglas, W.E.B. DuBois, Walter White, Langston Hughes, Marcus Garvey, Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, Joe Louis, Jackie Robinson, Paul Robeson, Ralph Ellison, James Baldwin, Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, Ralph Bunche, Rosa Parks, Marion Anderson, Emmet Till. These are just some of the people who should be generally recognized and are just some of the people to whom all of us, black and white, owe such a debt of gratitude. It is on the broad shoulders that I

stand as I hope that others will some day stand on my more narrow ones.

Black history is a subject worthy of study by all Americans. To truly comprehend this country you must have knowledge of its constituent parts. Black Americans have played a pivotal role in the development of this nation. Perhaps the greatest strength of the United States is the diversity of its people. But an unstudied or misunderstood diversity can become a divisive force. An appreciation of the unique black past, acquired through the study of black history, will help lead to understanding and compassion in the present, where it is so sorely needed, and to a future where all of our people are truly valued.

TRIBUTE TO LASHAUN QUARLES

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 1995

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased and proud to rise today to salute LaShaun Quarles, an eighth grader who attends St. Aloysius School in Cheektowaga, NY.

LaShaun was chosen as the first place winner of a Black History Contest which I sponsored to help commemorate Black History Month. Students throughout the congressional district were encouraged to highlight some of the important contributions African-Americans have made to our Nation.

LaShaun chose Marcus Garvey as a figure whom she believes is vitally important to the history of the United States. A panel of judges found LaShaun's essay to be most inspirational and knowledgeable.

LaShaun's admiration for Marcus Garvey and appraisal of his principles is worthy of our attention. I commend her essay to you and ask that it be placed in the RECORD.

WHY MARCUS GARVEY IS IMPORTANT TO THE UNITED STATES

(By LaShaun Quarles, St. Aloysius, Grade 8)

Marcus Garvey was a man who founded a most significant movement in African American freedom. Garvey traveled around the world forming the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA) and teaching African Americans that black is beautiful.

I found Garvey's principles to be interesting. I learned a great deal from them. One of Garvey's principles includes "never spend all of your earnings." It is very important to save a little of what you earn. I have observed a number of young African Americans spending a great deal of money on clothes, Nikes, etc. We need to begin to save a portion of our money towards our education and future. Reading about Garvey has encouraged me to save even more of my money.

Another one of Garvey's principles is to "have pride in your race." In a world where black is often hated, he taught us that black is beautiful. Not having pride in your race destroys our self-esteem and confidence. We as people must learn to love and appreciate ourselves and recognize the beauty of being African. Garvey was against skin bleaching and hair straighteners. He felt that God made us dark skin with coarser hair for a reason, and that we should keep ourselves looking natural. I realize that some young people within my community need to have more pride in their race and not be concerned about changing their physical appearance. If you choose to change something about yourself, it should be because you want to and not because you feel your friends will have more respect for you.

Good character is a good principle also. Back in the early 1900's when Caucasians met an African America, they would automatically think that the person was bad news, but if you have a good personality, it will usually come naturally for a person to like you. I realize that you should always take time to know a person before passing judgement. As I look within my community, I realize that some kids judge people based on how they look or how they are dressed. We will often find better friends if we look for a good character.

Another principle that Garvey talked about was "obey the rules of society." This is an important principle because so many people do not obey rules. Many young African Americans go to jail because they broke a law. We have rules in society for a reason, if there were no rules, there would be no order in society. We have rules in school, and they are there so that we may be more disciplined and prepared for life.

"Never stop learning" is another principle that Garvey stressed. I realize that it is necessary that I stay in school, if I am to reach my goal of becoming a lawyer. I hope that all young people continue their education. With education, kids most likely will not resort to selling or using drugs, because they would realize the negative consequence of their actions.

Reading about Marcus Garvey has encouraged me to continue to have high self-esteem and pride in my race, not so that I may hate other races, but respect them as human beings with feelings. Marcus Garvey was a courageous man, and he not only helped me to discover the principles that I will use to guide my own life, but it teaches me about my African American heritage and about America itself. I think it is very crucial for us to know the heroes of our history.

TRIBUTE OF CHIEF WILLIAM "BILL" BAKER

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 1995

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, March 10, 1995, family, friends, and colleagues of Chief of Detectives William "Bill" Baker will pay tribute to him at a retirement dinner in his honor at the Hotel Intercontinental in Los Angeles. This affair will follow—by 4 days—Bill's official retirement from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department where he has served with great distinction for nearly four decades. I am honored and pleased to have this opportunity to salute Bill and to share with my colleagues in the House of Representatives a brief retrospective of his outstanding career.

During his exemplary career in the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Bill has held a variety of assignments, including commander of the court services division; technical services division; field operations region II; and the detective division. As a commander, he commanded field operations region II, and as a captain, he directed operations at the West Hollywood, Altadena, and Lennox Stations. Other assignments have included an investigative position in the narcotics bureau as well as patrol assignments at the Lennox and Firestone Stations. In addition, Chief Baker served as sheriff's department's civil service advocate.