after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, which had become official January 1, 1863. Thus it was on Juneteenth that the African American slaves of Texas and other parts of the South celebrated the final execution of the Emancipation Proclamation, giving them their freedom forever.

The celebration of Juneteenth which has not until recently received its rightful day of national appreciation is not only a showcase of the African American community's positive contributions to the American way of life, but it also makes a statement for all Americans that the United States is truly the ''Land of the Free.'' Juneteenth is an expression and extension of American freedom and, like the Fourth of July, a time for all Americans to celebrate our independence, human rights, civil rights and freedom.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO BETTY JO SHERMAN ON HER NFRW TRIBUTE NOMINATION

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2002

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding citizen from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. Betty Jo Sherman will be honored by the Ohio Chapter of the National Federation of Republican Women on Sunday, June 23, 2002 for her continued dedication to the electoral process.

Mr. Speaker, Betty Jo is celebrating this monumental occasion with family, friends, and colleagues, all who have known of her selfless contributions to the U.S. electoral system. Serving a democratic institution was not only Betty Jo's duty but also her honor. These opportunities to contribute to a fundamentally American responsibility have brought her a lifetime of both personal and professional achievement. Betty Jo truly is a valued citizen of the State of Ohio.

Betty Jo continues to lead a distinguished career as an advocate for the participation in American political process, which is made evident through the numerous positions she has held within the local and state Republican Party. She has also served her local community by becoming the first woman to be elected to the Woodmore, Ohio Board of Education. Betty Jo has been active in the electoral process since the early 1970's and tirelessly continues to serve both the interests of that system and those of her local community. These achievements demonstrate not only that Betty Jo is dedicated to the strong ideals of the American electoral process, but also to the vision of our founding fathers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Betty Jo Sherman. Our democratic institutions are served well by having such honorable and giving citizens, like Betty Jo, who care about the active participation of all Americans in the electoral process. I am confident that Betty Jo will continue to serve her community as an advocate of citizen participation in the American electoral system well into the future. We wish her the very best on this special occasion.

HONORING JANET COHN OF CONNECTICUT

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2002

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Janet Cohn of Connecticut, who died on April 25th at 92 years young. Mrs. Cohn was the wife of the late Yale Cohn, who passed away in 1995, and mother of the Secretary of the Connecticut State Democratic party. She was an active member of the League of Women Voters as well as various other West Hartford organizations.

Born in New York City, Mrs. Cohn moved to Connecticut where she skipped two grades and graduated from Rockville High School as class valedictorian at the age of 16. From there she went on to work at the Aetna Insurance Company due to the fact that college was financially out of the question.

At Aetna, her exceptional skill as a typist was widely known as well as her tendency to distract most of her gentleman co-workers with her flapper skirts, as she would gleefully report to all those who inquired.

Mrs. Cohn met Yale at a dance for Jewish singles and married in 1933. Soon after, her skills in the workplace caused the company to break its then longstanding policy of firing female employees after they married. After she left Aetna, she took up the books at her husband's fish store, the Bostonian Fishery.

A self-proclaimed ''old fashioned girl,'' Mrs. Cohn refused to bow to the increase in technology over the years, which meant that she never used a videotape recorder or flew in a plane. Her lack of travel only increased her focus on the welfare of her community. After moving to West Hartford in 1964, she became chairwoman of her voting district, pitching in wherever she felt that she was needed most.

In addition to her love of politics, Mrs. Cohn found time for her love of painting, making hand painted cards for the birthdays of all of the many members of her family. She even found the time to serve as a Justice of the Peace, a role she gladly played at the age of 91 for her own granddaughter's wedding ceremony. She leaves behind two daughters, four grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Janet Cohn was an exceptional human being whose love of life was contagious to all those she came into contact with. She will truly be missed by the community she served for so many years, but most of all by her loving family.

THE PLIGHT OF HAITIAN AND AFRICAN REFUGEES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, though the events of September 11 were a tragic and unbelievable experience for almost all of us in this country, some of the policies and security measures that we are creating and enforcing because of it go against the principles that we as a nation stand for. The freedoms that many countries deny their citizens, but we allow to ours, has been the reason that we have been able to shine as the great nation that we are. The responsibility that we have taken on by assisting victims of terror and oppression have separated us from other countries and again helped us to create a nation dedicated to the welfare of all peoples. However as a result of 9–11, we have started to retract on these policies. And though they may be grounded in a fear that is all too real, retracting on our principles and ideals will not remove that fear, nor will it solve the problem. Two groups that have been affected the most by some of the new policies and/or security measures are two groups that need it the most. Haitian and African refugees are suffering in their homelands and are turning to the U.S. for aid, nonetheless, we are turning them away and/or allowing them to enter the U.S. and continue their suffering in detainment centers. Will we allow ourselves to succumb to the laws of other countries that deny people their rights and ability to live as free civilized peoples?

In December, the Administration initiated a policy, which detains all Haitians seeking asylum in Miami. This policy is unmistakably discriminatory: 91 percent of refugees from other nations are given parole in American communities while they seek asylum, while Haitians who have been granted asylum often remain in detention. The policy's objective, to deter Haitians from risking their lives to come to the U.S. by boat, has not been successful. Many Haitians are not aware of this new policy and some choose to face detainment here rather than face terrorism at home. In fact, approximately 97 percent of Haitians seeking asylum are detained. For a country that was built on a historical acceptance of refugees, does it make logical sense that we treat refugees in this manner? Most Americans' ancestors came here escaping problems in their homelands as well, yet were not treated with the same disdain. Yet this goes beyond disdain, these people lack the basic rights that we as a country preach that everyone should have. These people are detained in facilities that have surpassed their maximum limit. They are not given ample time to obtain legal assistance or prepare and file their claim of asylum. They are not given sufficient medical care. Their children are denied educational services and are not allowed recreational time outdoors. They are housed with criminal prisoners even though they themselves are not. Their human rights are being violated. It is important that we ensure the due process and equal protection to Haitians asylum seekers as they turn to us for help.

The treatment of African refugees is equally problematic. According to the Interaction's Committee on Migration and Refugee Affairs, almost 50 percent of the world's 25 million internally displaced persons are in Africa, yet we only allow 31 percent of all refugees admitted to the U.S. are African. And, because the Department of State has consistently not processed refugees, we have not been able to reached our refugee allocations throughout the 1980s and 90s. For the Fiscal Year 2002, the allocation for Africa was 22,000 yet only 891 African refugees were admitted into the country. In 1999, $120 was spent on a refugee from Yugoslavia, whereas $35 was spent on one refugee from Africa. If African refugees are in greater need why are their needs being neglected?