

destructive effects of historiographies, which either deliberately distorted or ignored the positive roles of Black people in almost every aspect of life on the planet.

Clearly, time has proven Dr. Woodson right.

Undoubtedly, Black History Month is bringing to the fore important and accurate narratives about the multifaceted chapters Blacks have written in advancing global human development.

From their ancestral homeland in Africa to North America, the Caribbean, Latin America, and other parts of the world, people of color have been instrumental in improving the daily lives of human beings everywhere.

Names that run the gamut from Pianky, the military genius and Black King of Nubia who conquered Egypt around 700 BC; Antar, the African-Arabian poet and storyteller; and Abram Hannibal, the soldier and commander of 18th century Russia to Chaka who led and forged the proud Black nation of South Africa until his assassination in 1828 dot the pages of history.

Their presence and deeds underscore an essential reality: Blacks have been part and parcel of world history and were present from exploration and revolution to scientific and other achievements.

Blacks from Africa pioneered in the making of iron, fashioned precious stones into historic ornaments, statues, and valuable works of art; and used oil-bearing plants for both medicinal and dietary purposes. The developed cereal and transformed a wild plant into cotton, thus opening up the world to the art of weaving. They were among the world's first farmers, producing wheat, groundnuts, yams, watermelons, and possibly coffee.

In the past 150 years, Black inventors and pioneers created the key devices that perfected the overall lubrication systems used in large industry today; invented the lasting machine that revolutionized the mass production of shoes; created the means to communicate between fast-moving trains; came up with the inhalators used by rescuers at sites where disasters have occurred; performed the first successful open-heart surgery; produced scientific evidence of cell life and metabolism; and pioneered in blood plasma preservation, more commonly called blood banks.

These are but a handful of the exploits of Blacks, deeds which were previously shunted aside but have since been recognized through the study of history by and of Blacks. Along the way that historical record gained prominence in books, scholarly papers and presentations in classrooms, libraries, newspaper and magazine columns, and in special radio and television programs.

If knowledge is power, then it stands to reason that we in the United States, the Caribbean and Africa have much to gain from the information and the results of academic and scientific inquiry, which Black History Month and other observances inspire.

People everywhere owe Woodson a debt of gratitude for his pioneering action that effectively promoted the institutionalization of Black History as an academic discipline and as a vehicle that has made us all aware of the truth of the valuable contributions of Blacks to international development.

He was driven to act because he complained in the 1930s that while white historians used textbooks to persuade students and others that Blacks couldn't "subject passion to reason," they failed to teach them the authentic stories of African achievement.

Dr. Woodson argued, quite correctly, that the knowledge of "real history" would liberate people of African descent from mental slavery and inspire to demand social equal-

ity while upsetting the "oppressor in America and the colonizer in Africa." Add the Caribbean to that equation and the international scope of his efforts would become clear.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, every February, Americans celebrate Black History Month. This tribute dates back to 1926 and is credited to a Harvard scholar named Carter G. Woodson. The son of former slaves, Woodson dedicated his life to ensuring that black history was accurately documented and disseminated. In an effort to bring national attention to the contributions of black Americans, Woodson organized the first annual Negro History Week in 1926. He chose the second week of February in honor of the birthdays of pivotal black supporters Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. From Jackie Robinson to Tiger Woods, Harriet Tubman to Barack Obama, Black History Month pays tribute to inspirational African Americans from the past, as well as those who will continue to make history well into the future.

For 1 month, people of African descent in America are recognized for their contributions. The irony of recognizing and paying tribute to people of African descent in America is that we are recognizing all people of the Earth. Africa represents all people of the world. Every person born since creation, every person alive today, and every person born in the future was, is, and will be of African descent. The gift Africa has provided the world is humanity and civilization.

Be that as it may, Black History has been presented and accepted as a fragmented afterthought. It is celebrated for 1 month and/or mentioned with a couple of lines in a text or Social Studies course outline. In most instances, the references begin with slavery and end with the Civil Rights Era and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. A question I ask high school students is, "What were slaves before they became slaves?" Their response, 90 percent of the time, is "nothing." It appears many of our youth believe their ancestors fell out of the sky as slaves.

Black History is world history. Old and new research on Africa and its place in human history has proved that Africa is the birthplace of mankind and was, for many centuries, in the forefront of human progress. African or Black History must be looked at anew and seen in its relationship to world history as only the history of the first and second rise of Europe. Yet, the history of Africa was already old when Europe was born. Until quite recently, it was rather generally assumed, even among well-educated persons in the West, that the continent of Africa was a great expanse of land, mostly jungle, inhabited by savages and fierce beasts. It was not realized that great civilizations could have existed there, or that great kings could have ruled there in might and wisdom over vast empires. Today, many of us, as the descendants of queens and kings of Africa, refuse to identify with the Motherland of all people. We begin with 1619 and slavery. We identify with 370 years of physical and mental bondage as opposed to three thousands years of uninterrupted civilizations. Our story is everyone's story. Our story begins with the worshipping of one God, builders of the pyramids, and builders of the first cities and universities.

To reverse our fall from being builders of pyramids to project dwellers; to reverse our fall from being controllers of our own destiny

to caretakers of someone else's destiny; and to reverse our unraveling as a whole people will necessitate knowing who we are and what we represent. Our future as a people, community, and world is related to the past. Back to the future—Black History not for a month, but for a lifetime!

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order today related to Black History Month.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. ABERCROMBIE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of illness.

Mr. HINCHEY (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and March 1 on account of illness.

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of illness.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business in the district.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of illness.

Mrs. BIGGERT (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of illness.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and the balance of the week on account of illness.

Mr. OSBORNE (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of business in the district.

Mr. ROHRBACHER (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of illness.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DEFAZIO) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mrs. MCCARTHY, for 5 minutes, today.
 Ms. DELAURO, for 5 minutes, today.
 Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.
 Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, for 5 minutes, today.
 Ms. WATERS, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCDERMOTT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WYNN, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. OSBORNE, for 5 minutes, March 1.

Mr. RAMSTAD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, March 1.

Mr. KING of Iowa, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, March 1 and 2.

Ms. FOXX, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, for 5 minutes, March 1.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and March 1 and 2.

Mr. DREIER, for 5 minutes, today and March 1 and 2.

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for 5 minutes, today and March 1.

Mr. PAUL, for 5 minutes, today and March 1 and 2.

Mr. SOUDER, for 5 minutes, today and March 1 and 2.

Mr. WELDON of Florida, for 5 minutes, March 1.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Ms. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker pro tempore, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia:

H.R. 4745. An act making supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2006 for the Small Business Administration's disaster loans program, and for other purposes.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House reports that on February 17, 2006, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill.

H.R. 4745. Making supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2006 for the Small Business Administration's disaster loans program, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 54 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, March 1, 2006, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6290. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting requests

for FY 2006 supplemental appropriations for the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Justice, Veterans Affairs, the Corps of Engineers, the Environmental Protection Agency, the General Services Administration and the Small Business Administration; (H. Doc. No. 109-89); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

6291. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a request for FY 2006 supplemental appropriations for ongoing military and intelligence operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, and selected other international activities; (H. Doc. No. 109-90); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

6292. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting the required report on the Warranty Claims Recovery Pilot Program, pursuant to Public Law 105-85, section 391; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6293. A letter from the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting authorization of the enclosed list of officers to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6294. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting notification that the T700-GE-401 and -401C Turbo-shaft engines are commercial items and, therefore, are excluded from core logistics capability requirements, as well as the justification for such a decision, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2464(c); to the Committee on Armed Services.

6295. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General David W. Barno, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6296. A letter from the Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's semiannual Monetary Policy Report pursuant to Pub. L. 106-569; to the Committee on Financial Services.

6297. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting the annual report on the Emergency Steel Loan Guarantee Program, as required by Section 101(i) of Chapter 1 of Pub. L. 106-51; to the Committee on Financial Services.

6298. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting the annual report on the Emergency Oil and Gas Guaranteed Loan Program as required by Section 201(h) of Chapter 2 of Pub. L. 106-51; to the Committee on Financial Services.

6299. A letter from the Acting Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a draft of the legislation necessary to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States; to the Committee on Financial Services.

6300. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting reports in accordance with Section 36(a) of the Arms Export Control Act, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

6301. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting reports in accordance with Section 36(a) of the Arms Export Control Act, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

6302. A letter from the Principal Deputy for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a report on the audit

of the American Red Cross for the financial year ending June 30, 2005, pursuant to 36 U.S.C. 300110; to the Committee on International Relations.

6303. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting notification that effective December 11, 2005, the 15% Danger Pay Allowance for Dushanbe, Tajikistan was terminated based on improved security conditions, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 5928; to the Committee on International Relations.

6304. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

6305. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a report including matters relating to the interdiction of aircraft engaged in illicit drug trafficking, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2291-4; (H. Doc. No. 109-91); to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

6306. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting the FY 2005 annual report on Military Assistance, Military Exports, and Military Imports for Fiscal Year 2005, as required by Section 655 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (FAA), as enacted 10 February 1996, by Section 1324 of Pub. L. 104-106, and 21 July 1996, by Section 148 of Pub. L. 104-164; to the Committee on International Relations.

6307. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting in accordance with Section 647(b) of Division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004, Pub. L. 108-199, the Department's report on competitive sourcing efforts for FY 2005; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6308. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6309. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting a copy of the Government National Mortgage Association (Ginnie Mae) management report for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2005, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6310. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting the 2006 Federal Financial Management Report as required by the Chief Financial Officers (CFO) Act of 1990, marking the 14th report submitted by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on the government-wide status of financial management, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6311. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting a draft of a joint resolution entitled, "Approving the location of a Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial in the Nation's Capital."; to the Committee on Resources.

6312. A letter from the Director, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Implementation of the Equal Access to Justice Act in Agency Proceedings (RIN: 1094-AA49) received February 8, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6313. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting a copy of the report entitled, "Comprehensive Inventory of U.S. OCS Oil and Natural Gas Resources" as required by Section 357 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005; to the Committee on Resources.