

has always been, and continues to be, a defining feature of these colleges and universities in a society that in many ways remains hostile to people of color.”

It is important to note that the founders of these institutions recognized the importance of educating African Americans long before the Supreme Court ruled on the groundbreaking *Brown v. Board of Education*. Additionally, many of those who were part of the legal team that won that case were educated and trained at Howard University right here in our Nation’s capital.

Were it not for HBCUs, many of the great black minds of our time would not have had access to higher education. And some of the famous graduates include orator Booker T. Washington; civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King; Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall; world renowned opera singer Leontyne Price; entertainer Oprah Winfrey; and former Members of Congress that have already been noted, Kweisi Mfume and Parren Mitchell.

The great State of Ohio boasts two HBCUs, Wilberforce University and Central State University. Named in honor of the great abolitionist William Wilberforce, Wilberforce University was founded prior to the end of slavery in 1856 and is the Nation’s oldest private African American university. Former Congressman Floyd Flake is currently its President. Central State evolved from what was once a State-funded department of Wilberforce University known as the Combined Normal and Industrial Department. In 1941 the department expanded from a 2- to a 4-year program, and in 1947 it legally split from Wilberforce, becoming the College of Education and Industrial Arts at Wilberforce. The name was changed in 1951 to Central State College, and in 1965 the institution achieved its university status. I am the proud owner of an honorary doctorate degree from Central State University.

I am proud to have strong connections to HBCUs. Many of my family members attended, including my late mother, Mary Looney Tubbs, a graduate of Alabama State University; my late sister, Mattie Browder Still, a graduate of Alabama State University; and my sister Barbara Walker, who attended Morris Brown College. Additionally, my cousin Essie Baldwin attended Alabama State and my cousin Joan Wilson attended Morris Brown. Four of my staffers attended HBCUs. District Director Betty Pinkney and my health liaison are proud graduates of Central State. My Communications Director, Nicole Williams, a proud graduate of Spelman College; and my Scheduler, Lalla King, a proud graduate of Morgan State University.

As we continue to celebrate our HBCUs this week, it is my hope that we will begin to look at ways in which we can increase funding and resources for these historic institutions. Sadly,

many of the HBCUs remain underfunded in comparison to their predominantly white counterparts. Today I call upon both the Federal and State governments to increase funding to HBCUs so that they can remain competitive and continue to educate the leaders of tomorrow. They are not only part of African American history, they are part of American history, and the treasures they hold should be preserved for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I celebrate EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON for her leadership in bringing this bill to the floor.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BARTON of Texas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House for 5 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am very honored to join in this Special Order, and I salute my colleague the honorable EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON for her wisdom in selecting this time, September 10 through September 16, to be able to honor our historic historically black colleges across America.

Where would we be today if we did not have those refugees that allowed those ex-slaves to be able to come to a place of comfort and seek an educational opportunity? The colleges range throughout America, from New York to North and South Carolina to Georgia to Louisiana to Texas and many other places. They are the places where young people could not be educated elsewhere because of the dual society and the very hostile segregation that existed in America. These historically black colleges created the opportunities for geniuses to be educated.

I am very proud of several of the institutions in our State, and there are so many in the State of Texas, two that happen to be in my jurisdiction that I am particularly proud to mention: Texas Southern University that was created out of the segregated society of Texas. Heman Sweatt, who wanted to attend the University of Texas Law School, could not do so because the doors were closed. So they al-

lowed him to go in the basement of that school but realizing that they could not block Negroes in the 1940s from achieving an education, the birth of Texas Southern University. How proud we are that out of that institution that came out of the ashes of segregation we had the magnificent Members of this body, the honorable Barbara Jordan and Mickey Leland, both graduates of Texas Southern University. Its neighbor just down the street, Prairie View A&M University, has produced some of the outstanding African American engineers who have gone on to NASA and other institutions of engineering prominence to be able to be the scientists, the engineers, and the mathematicians of this day and time.

It is interesting to note that historically black colleges have always been alongside the black church, the place where the fight for segregation to end could find a place of comfort. Many do not know that there were few places that African Americans could meet in the 1800s and certainly in the 1900s. There were few places that African Americans could meet as they began to strategize for the civil rights movement after the *Brown v. Topeka Board of Education* case of Thurgood Marshall’s. They could meet at historically black colleges. In fact, Howard University is the anchor of civil rights lawyers. The first place that civil rights lawyers could be trained was at Howard University. And major lawyers who, of course, led the way of the civil rights litigation of the 1950s and 1960s, lawyers who protected the rights of civil rights workers in the Deep South, came out of historically black colleges. And they were the places where the civil rights workers could meet, where the civil rights strategists could meet, with the likes of Martin Luther King, with the likes of Julian Bond, with the likes of Andrew Young, could meet and strategize. And, of course, many of them were the products of African American churches and denominations that provided the resources for those institutions.

Let me speak of today because I think there is a challenge for historically black colleges, one, in our recognition, but they should be a challenge in this government. We have to do much better by historically black colleges. If you compare the research grants that have been given to other institutions of learning, the black colleges have not had their equal share. That is patently unfair. And I am delighted that Texas Southern University will be hosting in February of 2007 a major minority institute research conference to focus on that absence of dollars coming from the Federal Government because those colleges are equal too. I know they are equal because they rose to the occasion when the flood waters and winds raged in the Gulf Coast region. Those schools that were devastated were able to seek refuge for their students in other historically black colleges. Dr. Francis, who

heads up the Louisiana recovery, is the President of Xavier University. I salute him for his leadership. But his school was devastated. But other historically black colleges, like Texas Southern University and Prairie A&M, were the schools that opened their doors. So, frankly, I believe that we owe more to those schools.

And my closing words are simply this: Corporate America, wake up. You are losing the opportunity to partnership with major institutions, institutions that go into the inner city and provide opportunities for children who could not have the doors open elsewhere or their parents did not have the doors open elsewhere. Today they choose historically black colleges, but we must not throw away a huge percentage of Americans who are talented and ready to serve. Let us rise up as a government, provide the research dollars, because they are equal. Let us be fair but not unfair. And corporate America, answer the call of fairness. Provide the partnerships with historically black colleges so they too can continue to march into the 21st century and provide the leadership that has paved the way for equality, justice, and freedom for America.

I salute the historically black colleges. It is their week, but the Nation belongs to them. As we belong to them, they will continue to serve.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE CRISIS IN IRAQ

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of turn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, Last Sunday Vice President CHENEY appeared on NBC's "Meet the Press" and provided a vivid example of George Santayana's admonition that "those who do not learn from the past are doomed to repeat it."

After 3½ years of bloody combat; after our Nation has lost more than 2,600 of our military's finest; after thousands more of our brave men and women have been wounded; after we have spent more than \$300 billion; with

no end in sight to the insurgency and Iraq plunging into civil war; and after finding no weapons of mass destruction, the very basis of that war, the Vice President told the American people that "if we had to do it over again, we'd do exactly the same thing."

Never mind that the next day the Washington Post published an article on the front page entitled "Situation called Dire in West Iraq: Anbar is Lost Politically, Marine Analyst Says," which revealed that the Marine Corps Chief of Intelligence had recently completed a report that concluded the prospects for securing Iraq's western Anbar province are "dim" and that there is almost nothing the U.S. military can do to improve the political and social situation there. According to Vice President CHENEY, "if we had to do it over again, we'd do exactly the same thing."

Never mind that our invasion of Iraq was predicated on the need to neutralize Saddam Hussein's active nuclear weapons program and destroy his stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons. But no weapons were ever found. According to Vice President CHENEY, "if we had to do it over again, we'd do exactly the same thing."

Never mind that retired senior military officers, former U.S. diplomats, and a wide range of military and foreign policy experts see our efforts to pacify Iraq as undermined by a host of mistakes the administration has made in the prosecution of the war, including the failure to bring enough troops to secure the peace and the catastrophic decision to stand down the Iraqi army. According to our Vice President, "if we had to do it over again, we'd do exactly the same thing."

Never mind that our troops went into battle without adequate body armor and up-armored vehicles. According to the Vice President, "if we had to do it over again, we'd do exactly the same thing."

Never mind that countless billions have been spent on reconstruction with little to show for the effort, many billions unaccounted for. According to Vice President CHENEY, "if we had to do it over again, we'd do exactly the same thing."

Earlier this year House and Senate Democrats unveiled our "Real Security" agenda that lays out a blueprint for a new direction in Iraq. Our plan calls for the establishment of full Iraqi sovereignty, provides for the responsible redeployment of our forces to better protect our troops and to facilitate the transfer of authority, and provides oversight, vigorous oversight, of the prosecution of the war and the reconstruction of Iraq. This new direction in Iraq was rejected by the Republican majority in the House, which has endorsed the President's stay-the-course policy in Iraq, a policy which amounts to nothing more than more of the same.

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The majority in this House is complicit in this failed policy through

its failure to oversee the war and to hold accountable those officials who have failed our troops and the American people. That failure of oversight and the need to hold people accountable has plagued Iraq from the very beginning, and because this Congress, this Republican Congress, refuses to hold the President to account, we keep making the same mistakes over and over again.

On April 26 of this year, in the International Relations Committee, I asked the administration witnesses in our first hearing on Iraq whether they could name any individual who had been held accountable for the myriad failures in prosecuting the war on Iraq. The witnesses were silent for an interminable 14 seconds before the Assistant Secretary of State replied, "That is way above our pay grade." The answer, however, is no one has been held accountable.

That lack of oversight, the absence of accountability, the stubborn refusal to acknowledge that mistakes have been made has brought us to the precipice in Iraq. But as the Vice President revealed so clearly last week, the senior officials in our government still blithely insist, If we had to do it over again, we would do exactly the same thing.

Our troops in Iraq, their families here at home, the families of those who have served deserve better than a stubborn insistence that all is well when it is not, that no mistakes have been made when there have been many, that no correction in course will be made because to do so would acknowledge error. That is unacceptable.

The Democrats will provide a new direction in America. The Democrats will provide a new direction for our national security. There is no time more than now when a new direction is necessary.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. HULSHOF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HULSHOF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PAYNE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TIME FOR A REALITY CHECK

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, on May 1, 2003, under a banner displaying the words, "Mission Accomplished," President George W. Bush stated, "Major combat operations in Iraq have ended."