

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION BUILDING

SPEECH OF

**HON. AL GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2007*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is a great privilege to honor the 36th President of the United States, a great Texan and American, Lyndon Baines Johnson, by passing this resolution naming the headquarters of the Department of Education the "Lyndon Baines Johnson Federal Building." President Johnson's lifelong commitment to improving the American education system and the lives of children across the United States makes him a perfect choice for this honor.

President Johnson, known as the "Education President," made education a top priority of his Great Society programs, with an emphasis on helping poor children. This commitment resulted in the passage of the "Elementary and Secondary Education Act" and the "Higher Education Act" in 1965.

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act was the first comprehensive federal education program that provided substantial funds for elementary and secondary schools. This Act funded schools progressively, giving impoverished districts financial support to allow them to fund schools adequately.

The Higher Education Act also greatly improved our educational system by expanding access to higher education for low-income students. The Act established new grants, federal loans and work-study programs that have given innumerable students the opportunity to take advantage of their potential and go to college.

President Johnson also established the Head Start program, which has been critical to ensuring that low-income children have access to pre-school programs. Years of experience have shown that early childhood education leads to improved academic performance and life outcomes. Since its inception, the Head Start program has given over 22 million low-income children the opportunity to take advantage of early childhood education.

President Johnson's commitment to educating all American children was also evidenced by his appointment of the great justice Thurgood Marshall to the Supreme Court. Justice Marshall rose to prominence by winning the historic *Brown v. Board* case as chief counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. By outlawing segregation in our schools, this case for the first time gave American children hope for the future, regardless of the color of their skin. That President Johnson was willing to appoint as justice a man who had dedicated so much of his life to justice for American children shows the commitment of President Johnson himself to this noble goal.

No president in the history of our great nation has shown a greater level of dedication to

the education of our children than President Johnson. I believe that it is just and fitting that the Department of Education headquarters be named in honor of a man with such unparalleled commitment to the education of our nation's children. I commend my colleague Mr. GENE GREEN from Texas for introducing this resolution.

D.C. HOUSE VOTING RIGHTS BILL  
OF 2007

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 12, 2007*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, the bipartisan bill we introduce today is a culmination of four years of during which Democrats and Republicans have worked together to accomplish a common goal for Utah and the District of Columbia. This effort has been worth every minute, as we are poised to clear the high hurdle to equal citizenship in the People's House—the House of Representatives. Representative TOM DAVIS (R-VA) and I have worked together on many tough bills and have gotten a fair number passed. Still, the bill we introduce today has surely been the toughest, has required the most work for us both, and has taken the most time. I am most grateful to Representative DAVIS who found the balance that makes this bill possible, modeled most recently on Alaska and Hawaii, both admitted to the Union in 1959 after Congress assured itself that their entry would benefit both parties. TOM DAVIS did not stop with his good idea but has worked relentlessly to reach this milestone. Speaker NANCY PELOSI has long fought for the rights of D.C. residents. It was she who personally insisted that this legislation go forward without delay as a bill of historic importance. Majority Leader STENY HOYER, my regional friend for years, has been an especially outspoken champion of this bill. Throughout this process Chairman HENRY WAXMAN (D-CA) has been a central figure, making every possible effort to ensure we would reach this day. From the very beginning, Chairman JOHN CONYERS (D-MI) as a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus and a member of the Judiciary Committee has fought for our full rights throughout his years in Congress, pressing all along until as chair he will now preside over the committee that will send this bill to the floor. Governor Jon Huntsman Jr. and the entire Utah delegation have been steadfast and determined throughout.

TOM and I have understood that the essential metric required bringing both parties with us, not only bipartisanship in the usual sense but equivalence, that is no partisan gain and no partisan disadvantage. We have gone through many variations, beginning with TOM's original proposal, where the D.C. House seat would have included some Maryland residents. TOM then accepted our notion that a

D.C. stand-alone seat would be best and less controversial all around, and the talks and proposals proceeded. We since have tried several scenarios for moving the bill. I continued to keep my bill, the No Taxation Without Representation Act for the full representation that will never abandon until a bill agreeable to all could be fashioned.

The District of Columbia has waited 200 years to gain the equal citizenship rights they deserve and seek. The framers were clear that American citizens are entitled to equal representation in the House. Our status as second in the United States in federal income taxes that support our government argues indisputably for equivalent rights. However, in this time of war with residents serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, our bill for congressional voting rights for D.C. residents must and I believe will not be denied.

Finally, I hope I can be forgiven a personal moment. Throughout this process, I have never referred to the District's vote as my vote or what the vote would mean to me personally because it will not belong to me. I have never mentioned the special reason I personally wanted to be the first to cast that vote because this bill is for D.C. residents now and in the future, not for me. However, my 16 years in Congress has been defined by the search for some way to get full representation for the city where my family has lived since before the Civil War. That search has included the two-day debate followed by a vote on statehood more than 10 years ago, and the vote I won in the Committee of the Whole. The struggle has been driven by its own terms, by the here and now. Yet, I cannot deny the personal side of this quest, epitomized by my family of native Washingtonians, my father Coleman Holmes, my grandfather, Richard Holmes, who entered the D.C. Fire Department in 1902 and whose picture hangs in my office, a gift from the D.C. Fire Department, but especially my great-grandfather, Richard Holmes, a slave who walked off a Virginia plantation in the 1850s, made it to Washington, and settled our family here. By definition, subliminal motivation is unknown and unfelt. However, when TOM and I knew that we had reached the best agreement we could, I thought openly of my family. I thought especially of the man I never knew. I thought of Richard Holmes, a slave in the District until Lincoln freed the slaves here nine months before the Emancipation Proclamation. I thought of my great grandfather who came here in a furtive search for freedom itself, not the vote on the House floor. I thought of what a man who lived as a slave in the District, and others like him would think if his great-granddaughter becomes the first to cast the first full vote for the District of Columbia on the House floor. I hope to have the special honor of casting the vote I have sought for 16 years. I want to cast that vote for the residents of this city whom I have had the great privilege of representing and who have fought and have waited for so long. Yes, and I want to cast that vote in memory of my great-grandfather, Richard Holmes.

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