

The Active Schools Acceleration Project (ASAP) was launched by First Lady Michelle Obama and ChildObesity 180 and identify and reward the most creative, impactful, and scalable school-based programs and technological innovations that promote physical activity for children. ASAP initiated a competition this year for schools nationwide to create a school-based physical activity program in order to inspire youth to be more physically active. ASAP honored school districts with the most innovative ideas.

EPISD and the other regional winners will receive a grant of \$25,000 to support physical activity programming. Regional winners are now eligible to become national winners with the opportunity to receive a \$100,000 grant, and participate in a developmental pilot aimed at expanding its program's to reach even more students and schools within the region and nationally, so I wish EPISD the best of luck! This award displays the courage and activism of a community that prioritizes children's health.

None of this could have been possible without the passionate staff, the leadership of Superintendent Terri Jordan, and, of course, the energetic students of EPISD. I am pleased that EPISD has made great strides in the area of health and wellness, and the award both gives their program validation and allows them to do more for our students in these areas. It is important that future generations have a well-rounded education that includes physical wellness. The award is not only an indication of the district's success, but is also a great example for youth to follow.

COMMEMORATING "JUNETEENTH"

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to mark the occasion of "Juneteenth," the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. From its Galveston, Texas origin in 1865, the observance of June 19 as the African American Emancipation Day has spread from coast to coast in the United States and beyond.

Today Juneteenth commemorates African-American freedom. This special day emphasizes education and achievement. It is a day, a week, and in some areas, a month marked with celebrations, guest speakers, picnics and family gatherings.

Juneteenth is a time for reflection and rejoicing. It is a time for assessment, self-improvement and for planning the future. Its growing popularity signifies a level of maturity and dignity in America long overdue. In cities across the country, people of all races, nationalities and religions are joining hands to truthfully acknowledge a period in our history that shaped and continues to influence our society today. Sensitized to the conditions and experiences of others, only then can we make significant and lasting improvements in our society.

The Civil Rights Movement of the 50's and 60's yielded both positive and negative results for the Juneteenth celebrations. While it pulled many of the African American youth away and into the struggle for racial equality, many linked these struggles to the historical strug-

gles of their ancestors. This was evidenced by student demonstrators involved in the Atlanta civil rights campaign in the early 1960's, whom wore Juneteenth freedom buttons.

Again in 1968, Juneteenth received another strong resurgence through Poor Peoples March to Washington D.C. Rev. Ralph Abernathy's call for people all races, creeds, economic levels and professions to come to Washington to show support for the poor. Many of these attendees returned home and initiated Juneteenth celebrations in areas previously absent of such activity.

On January 1, 1980, Juneteenth became an official state holiday through the efforts of Al Edwards, an African American state legislator. The successful passage of this bill marked Juneteenth as the first emancipation celebration granted official state recognition. Representative Edwards has ever since actively sought to spread the observance of Juneteenth all across America.

Juneteenth today, celebrates African American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures. As I look proudly upon the 37th District of California—one of the most ethnically and culturally diverse districts in the nation—the future of Juneteenth looks bright.

Throughout the year, but especially during this celebration, the communities of Southern California have come together to recognize one another's heritages and histories. From commemorating Black History Month in February to celebrating the Cambodian New Year this April, we are seizing every opportunity to educate ourselves about the experiences of others in true Juneteenth spirit.

And yet, we remain mindful that the struggle continues.

Unfortunately, laws aimed at voter suppression have been recently introduced in several states across the country and disproportionately reduce the turnout of minority voters. Some laws require specific forms of government-issued photo identification that as many as one in ten voters do not have. Nine states have introduced bills to reduce early voting periods, a system that is most utilized by minorities and seniors.

Given the lack of evidence of current voter fraud, I fear that these bills instead stem from a political agenda to dampen voter turnout. These unnecessary and discriminatory regulations are a dangerous step backward in time. We should be promoting civic participation, not limiting it and disenfranchising millions of Americans.

Mr. Speaker, freedom is not to be taken for granted. It is promised to every citizen, but that promise is only upheld by constant vigilance and hard work. To mark Juneteenth this year, I ask my colleagues to join me in ensuring that the freedom secured through emancipation is a reality for all citizens almost 150 years later.

HONORING MAYOR ROB LEDERER
FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE CITY
OF FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and thank Mayor Rob

Lederer of the City of Fairfax, Virginia, for his years of service to our community. On June 30th, Mayor Lederer will complete his 5th term as mayor and he will retire from elected office. First elected to the City Council in 1982, Mayor Lederer served three two-year terms and later returned to the Council to serve two more terms starting in 1998. In 2002, he was elected Mayor.

During his decades of service to the City, Mayor Lederer has had many notable accomplishments. Forbes Magazine ranked the City of Fairfax as the third best place to live in the U.S. The city achieved a AAA bond rating from the credit rating agencies in recognition of its sound fiscal management, saving taxpayers millions of dollars in financing costs for needed infrastructure improvements. The city received a Gold Medal from the National Recreation and Parks Association, only the fourth time a Virginia locality has won this award since 1965.

As a former Member of the Fairfax County, Virginia, Board of Supervisors and as the current Representative for the 11th District of Virginia, which includes the City of Fairfax, I have been pleased to partner with Mayor Lederer in regional matters affecting our shared constituents. Mayor Lederer led the effort to redevelop and renew historic Old Town Fairfax, including the planning, development, construction and opening of the City of Fairfax Regional Library in partnership with Fairfax County.

In addition, Mayor Lederer played a lead role in protecting surrounding businesses and homeowners affected by leaks from the gas and oil tank farm at Pickett Road. The tank farm affected residents of both Fairfax County and the City of Fairfax, and the Mayor collaborated with me and other regional leaders to improve safety and accountability. Thanks to those efforts, last year the Commonwealth of Virginia enacted a law to require modern storage and safety procedures at the tank farm. This is a tremendous example of how local leaders like Mayor Lederer are able to work with neighboring jurisdictions and with various levels of government to protect the interests and the safety of their communities.

Mayor Lederer is a lifelong resident of the city. In addition to serving the entire city, he found time to serve his neighbors as a board member on the Cobble Dale Civic Association. Thanks to his tireless efforts over the years, Mayor Lederer has made a tremendous contribution to the lives of residents of the City of Fairfax now and for future generations. I have no doubt that despite his retirement from elected office he will continue to serve the community for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Mayor Rob Lederer for his service to the residents of the City of Fairfax, thanking him for all that he has done to improve our community, and wishing him and his family well in his retirement from public life.

HONORING THE PRINCETON SENIOR
HIGH SCHOOL "TIGERS"
BASEBALL TEAM WEST VIRGINIA
STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2012

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Princeton Tigers, the 2012 Class