

after several tries unsuccessfully when, apparently, a Louisiana Senator changed his vote from “no” to “yes,” and Texas came in under a joint resolution. Thus, the Republic of Texas was no more and became a State in the Union in 1845, in December of 1845.

When it came into the Union, Texas was allowed to fly its flag at the same height as the United States flag. If you come to Texas, you will notice there are a lot of Texas flags flying at the same level as the American flag.

Texas is allowed to divide into five States. We are not going to do that. People would debate who would be called Texas and what would the other four be called. So we are not going to divide into five States. But we have the ability, and we have the right to decide and to divide into five States.

But going back to Texas and the way it was when it came into the Union, what happened to all this land? Well, Texas had mounted a lot of debt and, to pay off its debt to the United States and to its creditors, sold this land to the Federal Government and wiped the slate clean. Therefore, Texas now looks like what we all know it looks like. The rest of that land went to the Union.

I mentioned and talked to you tonight, Mr. Speaker, about San Jacinto Day, not so much because it is really San Jacinto Day, but about the people who were there 179 years ago. I mentioned there were all types of folks. But similar to our ancestors in the colonial days who said “no” to oppression, they weren’t going to tolerate it. We still have oppression throughout the world. We have governments and dictators, military dictators oppressing their people. A lot of times, they can’t do anything about it, those people. They would like to be free and independent, but they are not.

Those folks back in 1836 made a decision that it was more important to them to be free than it was to be safe, secure in their own personal life. So they were willing to give their life for freedom. That is not a trite statement. We have had people from all over the United States who have done that since then, have fought for America, fought for liberty, fought for freedom, even for other people. They have sacrificed their lives so that other people can enjoy those words that most people have never enjoyed, “freedom” and “liberty.”

And when a dictator or any other powerful government shows up, some people have the ability to step up and say: I am not going to take it. I will give up my life so that there can be a free nation.

So we are grateful for those folks in 1836, on San Jacinto Day, and the ones at the Alamo who all died and the others who died and the ones that fought and lived, sacrificed their land to make sure that freedom rings in our State.

Texans are proud of their history. I mentioned that I learned about San Jacinto Day in Texas history. Kids

growing up in Texas today have to take Texas history twice, in the fourth grade and the seventh grade, where they learn about the history of our State.

Our history is different than the Thirteen Colonies’ history. It received its independence, but it was not from England; it was from a Mexican dictator.

And we appreciate that. We appreciate those folks—Sam Houston, William Barret Travis, Davy Crockett, Jim Bowie—all those many men and women who sacrificed life and their well-being so that we could be an independent nation that tyrants will not rule. They will not be successful. They will be defeated. And we should admire people like that. I think we do here in the House of Representatives and in the United States. We have had people like that in all of our history. That is what makes us a unique nation, because we can go all the way back to the American War for Independence and trace all of the history; and in much of it, the United States was at war and fighting for our liberty, and we thank those people.

We are still involved in war throughout the world today, the people fighting for America. So we are grateful for them, and we are grateful for those folks—Sam Houston and all of his boys of summer and boys of spring—that fought at the Battle of San Jacinto.

One hundred years after the battle, Texans built a monument similar to the one down the street, the Washington Monument. We have all seen the Washington Monument. If you come to the battlefield of San Jacinto, you will see a similar monument, but it has a big star on the top of it. It is taller than the Washington Monument because it is in Texas, and the star makes it taller than the Washington Monument.

As a side note, the Texas State capitol is also taller than this Capitol. That was built later.

And we honor those folks with that monument. We honor them on San Jacinto Day, today. It is not a holiday anymore. Kids don’t get out of school.

But it is still my mother’s birthday. I don’t know if she is watching or not, but she is certainly celebrating her birthday down in Texas.

So on behalf of those of us here, we commend those folks at the Battle of San Jacinto. And I also want to wish my mom a happy birthday on this April 21, 2015.

And that is just the way it is, Mr. Speaker.

I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. JACKSON LEE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o’clock and 10 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, April 22, 2015, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker’s table and referred as follows:

1215. A letter from the Principal Deputy, Reserve Affairs, Office of the Assistant Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department’s STARBASE Program 2014 annual report, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2193b(g); to the Committee on Armed Services.

1216. A letter from the Director, Acquisition and Sourcing Management, Government Accountability Office, transmitting a reissued report entitled “Defense Acquisitions: Assessments of Selected Weapon Programs” (GAO-15-342SP) to reflect changes made to the quantities of one of the programs used in the Office’s calculations; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1217. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a statement, pursuant to Sec. 2(b)(3) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended, on a transaction involving Hainan Airlines Co., Ltd. of Haikou, China; to the Committee on Financial Services.

1218. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation’s final rule — Transferred OTS Regulations Regarding Possession by Conservators and Receivers for Federal and State Savings Associations (RIN: 3064-AE17) received April 17, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

1219. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation’s final rule — Removal of Transferred OTS Regulations Regarding Rules of Practice and Procedure and Amendments to FDIC Rules and Regulations (RIN: 3064-AE08) received April 17, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

1220. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Federal Housing Administration (FHA): Removal of Section 235 Home Ownership Program Regulations [Docket No.: FR-5829-F-01] received April 16, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

1221. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s Major final rule — Hazardous and Solid Waste Management System; Disposal of Coal Combustion Residuals from Electric Utilities [EPA-HQ-RCRA-2009-0640; FRL-9919-44-OSWER] (RIN: 2050-AE81) received April 16, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1222. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s direct final rule — Vermont: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions [EPA-R01-RCRA-2015-0195; FRL 9926-54-Region 1] received April 16, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.