

call all the positive memories and influences my own father had with me.

I'm sure that most people in this room already know of the importance of fathers. Fathers bring love, care, and emotional support that work in tandem with the support of mothers to bring about positive development for their children. For some, however, fatherhood is a foreign concept. Twenty-three percent of families with children in 2008 were maintained by single mothers. Approximately sixty percent of children born during the 1990s lived or would live significant portions of their lives without fathers. For minorities, the numbers are even more daunting, with only thirty-five percent of African American children living with two married parents, and only fifty percent of children having regular contact with their fathers.

For these same minority families, being a father is simply not the same. Barriers like education and access to jobs continue to restrict the involvement of men who would otherwise be involved fathers. While it is important to promote and celebrate the significance of fathers, it is equally important to recognize that fatherhood comes with varying obstacles and responsibilities for every background. To fully promote a healthy nation and support the ideals behind designating 2010 as the Year of the Father, it is crucial that we pursue more opportunities for non-custodial and would-be fathers to live up to their potential, and the potential of our present and future generations.

It is my hope that by declaring 2010 as the Year of the Father, we would not only be honoring and recognizing the importance of fathers to the family, but also encouraging reform to make fatherhood a reality for countless Americans.

HONORING OUR NATION'S HEROES FROM THE KOREAN WAR

HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2010

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in our solemn recognition this morning of the 60th anniversary of the Korean War as we pay tribute to the American heroes who served in the finest tradition in that so called "Forgotten War."

To this member though, Korea was far from a forgotten war. It was war in which more than 36,000 Americans lost their lives defending our ideals of freedom and democracy against communist aggression.

It was 60 years ago that North Korean troops stormed across the 38th parallel into South Korea, launching a three-year conflict that culminated in an armistice in 1953. The ferocious North Korean attack caught the South Korean army by surprise—they rapidly advanced, seizing the capital in a few short days. Concerned over the spread of communism, President Truman ordered U.S. forces to defend South Korea as part of a United Nations Task Force. Unfortunately, that initial effort did little to stop the advance and our forces suffered heavy losses during their first significant engagement of the war.

For the next couple of months, the situation looked extremely dire as U.N. forces were beaten back all the way to Pusan. There, however, we held the line with the Battle of Pusan

Perimeter. The now famous Inchon Landing further turned the tide by enveloping North Korean forces and forcing them to retreat. Ultimately, China entered the war, a stalemate developed, and the war ended much where it began at the 38th Parallel.

The timeline of the Korean War itself does little to capture the individual stories of heroism and sacrifice. Our soldiers endured the harshest of conditions and the coldest of winters. Ultimately, 36,000 lost their lives and many thousand more were wounded or captured. Their sacrifice was not in vain and their defense of our ideals bore fruit that can be seen today. The clearest evidence is that South Korea has emerged as a democratic and economic powerhouse while North Korea languishes in an isolated morass of its own making.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to take the time today to reassure our heroes of the Korean War that they are not forgotten. Instead, they remain an inspiration to us and to all who have worn the uniform and who will volunteer to do so in the future. Only they have the firsthand knowledge of the hardship and challenges faced on that distant battlefield but they can rest assured that they have the heartfelt thanks and grateful appreciation of our nation for their service half a world away.

RECOGNIZING JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 2010

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize Juneteenth Independence Day which we observe with Resolution 546, sponsored by Rep. DANNY DAVIS of Illinois. The House of Representatives notes the importance of effectively understanding our past as the foundation of a progressive and egalitarian future.

We remember June 19, 1865, "Juneteenth," as the day of the announcement of the Emancipation Proclamation in the last of the States in the Union. Though President Abraham Lincoln intended the Emancipation Proclamation to go into effect on January 1, 1863, slaves in the last of the slaveholding territories, namely Texas, did not hear of their freedom until 1865. Galveston, Texas is recognized as the birthplace of Juneteenth and as of this March, 36 states have recognized the day for observance. Now, 145 years later, we remember Juneteenth as a turning point in the history of Black Americans.

This celebration of freedom and equality is an important patriotic symbol in the history of the Nation. Juneteenth is an opportunity for us to pause and remember the difficult road to advancement and to reflect on the importance of that political organizing in Galveston by former slaves to celebrate their freedom and new status. Juneteenth is one of the earliest landmarks of the active political involvement of Black Americans following the sacrifices made by the more than 200,000 people who fought and died in the Civil War.

We are also reminded of the many achievements and contributions Black Americans

have made to the country in all fields. We highlight the work done by civil rights leaders and activists who have carried on the spirit and legacy of emancipation. In particular, we salute those men and women serving in our armed forces, who could not serve today without the rights afforded them by the work of previous generations of Black Americans who fought in every conflict since the Nation's founding. Culturally, we must recognize the magnanimous impact of Black artists, performers and academics in shaping American identity well beyond the 21st century.

While Juneteenth started in Texas, its impact and importance to the United States' commitment to independence and liberty is felt nationwide. Freedom is at the core of the legacy of the United States and of all its citizens, regardless of race or personal background. I am proud to celebrate and recognize the significance of Juneteenth today and forever in our Nation's history.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT
BRYAN HOOVER

HON. KATHLEEN A. DAHLKEMPER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2010

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life of a fallen hero from Western Pennsylvania. Staff Sergeant Bryan Hoover of Lyndora, Pennsylvania was only 29 years old when he made the ultimate sacrifice defending our nation in Afghanistan.

On June 11th, a suicide bomber detonated an explosive near the Bullard Bazaar in Zabul Province in southern Afghanistan where Staff Sergeant Hoover and his fellow soldier, Sergeant First Class Robert Fike, also of Western Pennsylvania, were on foot patrol. Both these brave men were killed in the explosion. They were members of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard's Company C, 1st Battalion, 110th Infantry, based in Connellsville.

Staff Sergeant Hoover was passionate about his service to his country, and dreamt of joining the military even as a child. He enlisted in the Army National Guard in 2005 and previously served in the Marines. Bryan served a total of four tours overseas, two in Afghanistan, one in Iraq and one in Kuwait. He truly lived to serve our nation.

To his fellow soldiers, he was one of them, but to the students of Elizabeth Forward High School in Elizabeth, Pennsylvania, he was known as Coach Hoover. Bryan was the assistant cross country and track coach at his alma mater, where he graduated in 2000. Bryan loved sports, and was a talented athlete himself who particularly enjoyed hockey. He earned a degree in sports management from California University of Pennsylvania.

For his brave service and sacrifice, Staff Sergeant Bryan Hoover was awarded the Purple Heart.

Bryan is survived by his father, Melvin Hoover; his brothers, Richard and Ben; his sister, Samantha; his grandfather, Ray Bradford; his stepmother, Elaine Evans, and his fiancé, Ashley Tack. His mother, Debra Jean, preceded Bryan in death.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Staff Sergeant Bryan Hoover in the RECORD of the