CELEBRATING JUNETEENTH
(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)
Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as we reflect on our colleagues and pray for their speedy recovery, let me stop for a moment to pay tribute to a very special time in certain parts of the United States now being celebrated, really, across the land.

As I go home this weekend, we will be celebrating, commemorating Juneteenth. As President Lincoln gave the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, my constituency’s ancestors did not hear of the freeing of the slaves until more than 2½ years later when Major Granger landed in Galveston to announce that the slaves were free and emancipated.

It is a serious time to honor those and the legacies of all of those who gave to this country, and we celebrate it with excitement and honor and dignity.

Today, or this weekend, I am excited that we will rededicate the Emancipation Park. We will name the street Emancipation Street. We are delighted that the OST’Almeda TIRZ donated $33 million, along with foundations, to the city of Houston and community dollars.

We will acknowledge those who bought the land, some many, many years ago, and this restoration will give the opportunity, not only for those in the Third Ward, where I am privileged to represent, and all of those heroes and heroes, but it will be a park that will welcome everyone, from not only around the community and the city, but it will welcome those from across the Nation.

Today, I introduce a Juneteenth resolution honoring Juneteenth with 51 plus sponsors. I am proud to acknowledge that, yes, we got the news late, but we celebrate freedom and we recognize that America is at her greatest because we are free, and freedom is cherished.

To all the fathers across the land, to our colleagues and to our constituents in Puerto Rico—well, in full gran-deur, as every one of us have—and have a chance of making sure we can vote for everyone to be part of this.

I think it is time that America should stop colonizing. If I am not mistaken, this is the last Nation that has a colony. The great America of the United States has a colony, and I think it is time that we change that. Vote in Congress to make sure that we have the 51st State.

Mr. HOYER. Will the gentleman yield?
Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I want to join my friend who has been such a great leader in dealing with those who have associations with our country but are not States. I join with his remarks.

The Puerto Rican election that was held overwhelmingly voted for statehood as the option of governance they wanted to pursue. It is now, it seems to me, the responsibility of the United States Congress and the administration to recognize the overwhelming sentiment of the Puerto Rican people, expressed in a free and open election.

SUPPORTING STATEHOOD OF PUERTO RICO
(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) for his leadership on this effort, a Representative on the most recent State.

I didn’t want to take all of his time. Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HOYER. I yield to the gentleman from Alaska.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from Maryland, STENY HOYER, for the support. It is going to take a lot of effort. There is a lot of naysayers out there. But, again, I believe so strongly that we treat every American equally.

This is a civil rights issue, and they have voted 97 percent in favor of statehood. As you know, I led this battle with your help in 1997. We had a vote, and, with your side, I won by one vote. Puerto Rico and Alaska didn’t go anywhere, but I ask every American to think about it.

Let’s make this the last colony. Let’s make this the 51st State.

SUPPORTING STATEHOOD OF PUERTO RICO
(Mr. YOUNG of Alaska asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege last Sunday to be an observer in Puerto Rico for the plebiscite and watch the people of Puerto Rico make the decision that they would like to be the 51st State.

I think it is time for this Congress to make the 3,400,000 American citizens part of the United States—in full gran-deur.

PRAYING FOR VICTIMS OF CONGRESSIONAL BASEBALL TRAGEDY
(Mrs. DEMINGS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I, too, want to join with all of my colleagues in recognizing the heroism of David Bailey and Crystal Griner, wishing them a speedy recovery, and that they take time to recover emotionally as well.

I also want to extend a love note to the Scalise family and the Mikal family know that they are in our prayers. We pray for their speedy recovery.

God bless.

LOVE NOTE TO MADISON AND HARRISON SCALISE AND SPEEDY RECOVERY TO ALL
(Ms. SPEIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)
Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I, too, want to join with all of my colleagues in recognizing the heroism of David Bailey and Crystal Griner, wishing them a speedy recovery, and that they take time to recover emotionally as well.

I also want to extend a love note to the children of STEVE SCALISE. This is a love note to Madison and Harrison: Father’s Day is on Sunday, and I know for both of you it is going to be