

very much involved in the Boys and Girls Clubs of America. They have a national charter from this Congress, and they report to us annually.

Like the Boys and Girls Club, this enterprise gives young people a positive focus and positive way to participate in directing their energy in ways that will result in benefits to themselves and to our community.

Mr. Speaker, I am more than honored to have been involved in this effort and thank all of the corporate sponsors, all of the volunteers, all of the parents, and, yes, certainly all of the young people who participate in this event. It is right that we give them the opportunity to do so on this historic Hill. I rise in strong support of the resolution.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the efforts of the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) and the entire delegation. I urge an "aye" vote.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as the great chairman of our committee says, there is no such thing as a Republican soap box and no such thing as a Democratic derby. I urge passage of the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NETHERCUTT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 277, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN CONTINUED SYMPATHY FOR VICTIMS OF OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING ON OCCASION OF 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOMBING

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 448) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives in continued sympathy for the victims of the Oklahoma City bombing on the occasion of the 5th anniversary of the bombing.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 448

Whereas on April 19, 1995, as the result of an act of terrorism, a bomb exploded in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, collapsing the north face of the 9-story Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building;

Whereas April 19, 2000, marks the 5th anniversary of this tragic event;

Whereas the explosion killed more than 168 people, including 19 children, and injured

more than 700 others in the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building and in and around surrounding buildings;

Whereas the explosion destroyed a childcare facility located in the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, killing 15 children;

Whereas 320 surrounding buildings were impacted from the explosion;

Whereas flying glass and debris from the explosion were a major cause of injury; and

Whereas greater awareness and sensitivity to the safe design and operation of buildings could help make the people who live and work in and around the buildings safer: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the countless acts of goodwill by the thousands of volunteers (including those who donated goods and services), rescue workers, and Federal, State, and local officials who assisted in the rescue and recovery efforts following the bombing in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on April 19, 1995;

(2) sends continued condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones who still suffer from the consequences of the bombing;

(3) pledges to make Federal buildings safer, while still maintaining a level of openness to the citizens served by the buildings;

(4) pledges to create an awareness of the dangers of flying glass and debris resulting from an act of terrorism, an explosion, or a natural disaster; and

(5) pledges to support efforts to make buildings more secure for people from flying glass and debris and to promote the use of available technology to protect people from such glass and debris.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE).

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

House Resolution 448 expresses the sense of the House of Representatives in continued sympathy for the victims of the Oklahoma City bombing on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of that bombing.

On April 19, 1995, one of the worst acts of terrorism in the United States took place. A bomb exploded in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, collapsing the north face of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. The explosion resulted in the death of 168 people, including 19 children, and injuring more than 700 other people in the area.

This resolution recognizes the countless acts of goodwill, of thousands of volunteers, including those donating goods and services, who aided in rescue and recovery efforts following the bombing. It also sends continued condolences to the family, friends, and loved ones who still suffer from the consequences of that act. It also pledges to make Federal buildings safer while maintaining a level of openness to its citizens.

This resolution also pledges to create an awareness of the dangers of flying glass and debris in the case of such tragedies.

Finally, it pledges to support efforts to make buildings more secure for peo-

ple by promoting the use of available technology to protect people from flying glass and debris.

Two weeks ago, Mr. Speaker, our subcommittee received testimony from Aren Almon-Kok, a young mother who lost her 1-year-old daughter, Baylee, in this senseless act. This woman has put aside her grief over this loss to speak out on the dangers of flying glass and to promote safety in child care centers.

Ms. Almon-Kok has also established a Web site for individuals concerned about flying glass and child safety at www.protectingpeople.com.

This awareness is slow in coming to the government; but with the help of citizens like Aren, those who attend child care centers can be made safer through conscious efforts on our part. I wholeheartedly support this resolution. I urge our colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to echo the comments and associate myself with the words of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) whom I believe has spoken the predicate elements of this particular resolution.

I would just like to add that the events of April 19, 1995 have forever changed the ways in which we shall view the safety of American citizens and all visitors in public places. The tragedy of the bombing of the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City has regrettably become part of an American history we would prefer not to have to remember.

In the aftermath of this senseless act, however, we saw numerous acts of great bravery and countless acts of sacrifice and goodwill by many people. Thousands of volunteers, including Federal, State, and local personnel and workers, as well as rescue teams from all across this great Nation, provided immediate help and support. Even today as Congress convenes, condolences continue to be sent to the victims and their families.

We are here today to join once again in offering our sympathy and our prayers to the victims of this tragic bombing.

Mr. Speaker, I close by saying that the Committee on Ways and Means is working to better secure and make our buildings safe for the visiting public.

I urge an "aye" vote, and I compliment my neighbor, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) for his efforts in this regard as well.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1430

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, 5 years ago on April 19, America was glued to radio and TV broadcasts for the latest news, sights and sounds for Oklahoma City. The minutes, hours, and days that followed the senseless destruction of the Murrah Federal

Building filled our citizens with shock, horror, anger, rage, and sadness. Each story of pain and loss was shared by everyone in America, each story of heroic rescue by Federal and State safety officials made us proud, and each memorial service caused us to pause and mourn as a Nation.

The character and resilience of the Federal workforce posted in the Murrah Federal Building and the people of Oklahoma City remain a symbol of courage for the Nation, and it is only fitting and appropriate that the Congress of the United States remember, honor, and commemorate the 5th anniversary of this insane act of terrorism.

And since I have so much time left, Mr. Speaker, if it is not inappropriate, I ask my neighbor and colleague from Ohio to join me in a moment of silence for the victims in Oklahoma City.

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, on April 19, 1995 the greatest act of domestic terrorism occurred in my home state of Oklahoma. This heinous bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah building was supposed to strike fear and terror into the hearts of every Oklahoman and every American. 168 people were killed. Including 19 innocent children. To this day the image of little Baylee Almon lying lifeless in the arms of an Oklahoma City firefighter brings tears to my eyes.

However, despite this tragic loss of life, the men who were responsible for this bombing did not succeed in terrorizing America. In the aftermath of the bombing, Oklahomans and Americans did not show signs of fear or terror, they showed signs of love and compassion. I saw Americans respond not as Republicans or Democrats, not as rich or poor, not as black or white, not as man or woman, but I saw this country respond in a difficult time as unified Americans. When I look back on that terrible day 5 years ago, the first thing I remember is not the pain, I remember the compassion.

Today, this House stands together to let you know we will never forget. We will never forget the events that transpired on April 19, 1995, we will never forget the pain we felt, but most importantly we will never forget the overwhelming love that overcame the pain.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of the resolution. And, Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NETHERCUTT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 448.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material

on House Concurrent Resolution 277, as amended, House Concurrent Resolution 280, and House Resolution 448, the measures just approved by the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

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DECLARING "PERSON OF THE CENTURY" FOR 20TH CENTURY TO HAVE BEEN AMERICAN G.I.

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 282) declaring the "Person of the Century" for the 20th century to have been the American G.I., as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 282

Whereas the 20th century was a century of conflict between forces of totalitarianism and dictatorship and forces of democracy and freedom;

Whereas American soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines (collectively referred to as "G.I.'s") fought, bled, and died in a number of conflicts during the 20th century, including two World Wars, to secure peace and freedom around the world;

Whereas in large measure due to the heroic efforts of the American G.I., more people around the world enjoy the benefits of freedom at the end of the 20th century than at any other time in history;

Whereas the American G.I., in fighting the forces of totalitarianism and dictatorship, had a strong personal sense of right and wrong and did not want to live in a world where wrong prevailed;

Whereas it may truly be said that during the 20th century the American G.I. accomplished great things while doing good things, becoming recognized throughout the world as a representative of freedom and democracy and, fundamentally, as a force for good in the face of evil;

Whereas at the end of the 20th century numerous organizations and publications sought to identify and designate a "Person of the Century" based upon achievements and contributions during that century; and

Whereas in light of the accomplishments of the Armed Forces of the United States during that century both in defeating the forces of tyranny and dictatorship and in embodying a sense of honor, decency, and respect for mankind, it is appropriate that the American G.I. be recognized as the single most significant force affecting the course of the 20th century: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That Congress hereby declares the "Person of the Century" for the 20th century to have been the American G.I.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES) and the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Concurrent Resolution 282, now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a part of the honor of serving North Carolina's 8th district in the U.S. Congress, I represent Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base. I am continually impressed and made proud by their dedication, commitment, and patriotism.

We are just turning the corner on a period in which we ask the American G.I. to do more and more with less and less. As I have gotten to know these brave men and women, one statement continues to ring in my ears, the statement made during a military personnel hearing at the Norfolk Naval Base was, "Sir, whatever you give us, we will get the job done." The spirit of the American G.I., soldier, sailor, airman, and Marine, that "can do spirit," is why we honor today the American G.I. as the Citizen of the Century.

To help make clear why we honor these men and women, let me quote Stephen Ambrose, author of *Citizen Soldiers*. "American soldiers fought hard to win the war, but strove every step of the way to create peace." My friend and colleague, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON), said in a hearing held before the Committee on Armed Services that this should be the Year of the Troop. I could not agree more. And it is in that same spirit that I offer this resolution honoring the American G.I. as the Citizen of the Century.

Quoting Stephen Ambrose again, "At the core, the American citizen soldiers knew the difference between right and wrong, and they didn't want to live in a world in which wrong prevailed. So they fought and won. And we, all of us living and yet to be born, must be forever profoundly grateful."

We are grateful but must never forget what has been done for us, the Nation and the world, by the American citizen soldier known affectionately as the American G.I.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. THOMPSON of California asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I commend my friend, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES), for introducing this resolution and for bringing it to the House floor today. As he stated, the 20th century was a century marred by conflict between forces of totalitarianism and dictatorship and the forces of democracy and freedom. It was a century of tremendous turmoil, bloodshed, destruction, and displacement.

But by the end of that century, freedom and democracy flourished in more places than at the century's start. And this was due most of all to the courage and the bravery of millions of American G.I.'s: soldiers, sailors, Marines,