persons living with disabilities. It is these people whom we honor during National Long-Term Care Residents' Rights Week, which will begin this year on October 3.

I am especially pleased to be following in the footsteps of the legendary Claude Pepper, who first introduced a resolution in 1980 to designate a Nursing Home Residents Day. As many of you may remember, Claude Pepper was a tireless advocate for the interests of senior citizens and the disabled during his five decades of public service. Since 1980, this commemoration has been broadened to include all 2.7 million persons who live in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and board and care facilities in the U.S.

A large number of these long-term care residents are members of America's "Greatest Generation"—those men and women who protected our freedoms in World War II and helped rebuild the world in the post-war years. Our Nation should honor and celebrate these residents, recognize their rich individuality, and reaffirm their rights. These rights include the right to privacy, the right to be treated with dignity, the right to review one's care plan, the right to voice grievances without fear of reprisal, and the right to vote.

Mr. Speaker, residents of long-term facilities are a vital part of our Nation and they deserve our honor today. I urge the passage of H. Res. 772.

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 772, which recognizes the importance of residents of long-term care facilities to the Nation, including senior citizens and individuals living with disabilities. This resolution calls for the week beginning October 3, 2004 to be celebrated as National Long-Term Care Residents' Rights Week.

We should do all that we can to help senior citizens and individuals living with disabilities maintain their rights and dignity in their daily lives as they strive to participate in the community and make meaningful contributions to our society. Helping them achieve their goals and dreams, and empowering them with the resources they need to lead rewarding lives depend on making sure their rights and benefits are preserved and strengthened. The objectives set forth under this resolution are consistent with these laudable goals.

Our nation's elderly include approximately 1.7 million who are living in 17,000 nursing homes and 1 million living in 46,000 assisted living facilities in the United States. About 160,000 people younger than 65 years of age live in the Nation's nursing homes. These numbers show the elderly and disabled constitute growing significant segments of our population and that we should recognize their specific needs and challenges and how to best serve their interests. I encourage my colleagues, therefore, to support the goals and ideals of National Long-Term Care Residents' Rights Week, and I welcome the participation of long-term care advocates as we strive to help those in such facilities lead productive and rewarding lives.

My commitment to our seniors in long-term care facilities and who are cared for by their families is why I introduced "The Elder Justice Act" (H.R. 2490). This bill will elevate problems associated with abuse against seniors to national attention by consolidating existing government functions dealing with the problem in several different federal agencies under a new Elder Justice Office within the Department of Health and Human Services. My legislation will also help States and local agencies combat neglect and exploitation—whether it is physical, psychological or financial—such as assisting victims and at-risk seniors through "safe havens" and supporting local and state prosecution of abuse perpetrated against the elderly.

Mr. Speaker, we should fulfill our commitment to seniors and disabled Americans. And we must ensure that resolutions like these move forward to demonstrate our obligations to those who need our help. I thank the gentleman from California, Mr. WAXMAN, for introducing this important resolution, and I urge my colleagues to support passage of H. Res. 772.

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

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues support the passage of this important legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LINDER). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 772.

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.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD DESIGNATE SEPTEMBER 11 AS A NATIONAL DAY OF VOLUNTARY SERVICE, CHARITY, AND COMPASSION

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res 473) expressing the sense of Congress that the President should designate September 11 as a national day of voluntary service, charity, and compassion, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 473

Whereas, across the Nation and around the world, people of all ages and walks of life collectively witnessed an event of immense tragedy on September 11, 2001;

Whereas the events of that day instantly transformed many lives, some through personal loss, and many others through an unfamiliar sense of individual and national vulnerability;

Whereas an unprecedented, historic bonding of Americans arose from the collective shock, unifying the Nation in a sustained outpouring of national spirit, pride, selflessness, generosity, courage, and service;

Whereas, on that day and the immediate days that followed, many brave people heroically, tirelessly, and courageously participated in an extraordinarily difficult and dangerous rescue and recovery effort, in many cases voluntarily putting their own well being at risk;

Whereas September 11 will never and should never be just another day in the hearts and minds of all Americans;

Whereas the creation of memorials and monuments honoring the lives lost on September 11, as well as the efforts of those who participated in rescue, recovery, and voluntary service efforts, are necessary, proper, and fitting, but alone cannot fully capture the Nation's desire to pay tribute in a meaningful way;

Whereas it is fitting and essential to establish a lasting, meaningful, and positive legacy of service for future generations as a tribute to those heroes of September 11;

Whereas many citizens wish to memorialize September 11 by engaging in personal and individual acts of community service or other giving activities as part of a national day of recognition and tribute; and

Whereas to lose this opportunity to bring people together for such an important endeavor would be a tragedy unto itself: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That—

(1) it is the sense of Congress that it is appropriate to annually observe Patriot Day, September 11, with voluntary acts of service and compassion in honor of the lives lost on that day and in the spirit of selflessness and unity demonstrated by those who participated in the rescue, recovery, and voluntary service activities that day; and

(2) Congress urges the President to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to annually observe Patriot Day, September 11, with appropriate and personal expressions of voluntary service, charity, and compassion toward others.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OSE. 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 H. Con. Res. 473.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, in September 2002 President Bush declared the anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks as Patriot Day. The President said September 11 should be a national time for prayer and remembrance for the heroes America lost on that fateful, Earth-shattering day. Accordingly, House Concurrent Resolution 473 states that it is appropriate to annually observe Patriot Day on September 11. I join with my colleagues in urging strong support of this meaningful resolution.

Mr. Speaker, the resolution before us takes the call for remembrance a step forward. It urges people to commemorate the day with voluntary acts of compassion towards loved ones, neighbors and others. These actions can have great effects on our communities all year long.

With little question, September 11, 2001, ushered in a new era in American history. This is a period in which we need to be vigilant, aware, unafraid, and appreciative of our freedoms. But because countless Americans have embraced the sentiment of this resolution

in the past 3 years, this new era can be one of not just security and freedom but compassion and charity as well.

I congratulate the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING), my distinguished colleague, who will speak in a minute, for his work to move forward House Concurrent Resolution 473.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, since the tragedy of September 11, volunteerism has experienced a renewed popularity in our country. Government officials, religious leaders, political activists, health professionals and others all have noted the importance of volunteerism and the positive impact it has on families and communities.

It is fitting, therefore, that we designate September 11 as a national day of voluntary service, charity, and compassion.

After September 11, many Americans channeled their fear, anger, sadness, and frustration into volunteerism. Americans joined the military, volunteered with local charities, and contributed to good causes. Our citizens have shown tremendous resolve by using the tragedy of September 11 to help the less fortunate and those in need.

There are many battles won and lost every day in America. These battles are not exclusive to fighting terrorism. They include fights to eradicate poverty, to improve education, and to reduce crime. By creating a national day of service, we will be giving the American people another vehicle for channeling their grief into progress along their own streets, within their own communities, and around the world.

By working together on a day dedicated to volunteerism, we Americans can create the next defining moment in our history, one marked by generosity, understanding, and compassion. I urge the President to designate officially September 11 as a day of service through which the American people can continue this movement of good will towards others.

Mr. Speaker, I urge unanimous passage of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING), the sponsor of this resolution.

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 473, and I thank the gentleman from California for his efforts on having this on the floor today. And I thank the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for the bipartisan support which he has given to this resolution. I also wanted to commend Senator SCHUMER in the other body for introducing a similar piece of legislation, because this is truly a bipartisan measure.

Mr. Speaker, the attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, were obviously the worst national tragedy to ever affect this country. The deaths, the suffering which so many people went through certainly in my district and adjoining districts, there were many hundreds of people killed that day, certainly down here at the Pentagon there were many more killed, almost 3,000 people killed all together. And, again, it was a time of excruciating agony, torment, and suffering.

But as tragic and as terrible as those days were, we also saw something arise in this country, a sense of unity, a sense of people coming together, a sense of the country standing as one.

Obviously in a democratic society, a mood of total unity is never going to prevail for very long; and it is probably just as well that we do have our partisan differences, we have our ideological differences. That is what makes a democracy what it is. But on the other hand, I do wish we could bring back some of that sense of unity that we had in those days immediately following September 11, when people donated blood, when people raised funds, when people actually went to the site of the World Trade Center to assist the rescue workers who were there. It was just a tremendous sense of national unity.

What I have attempted to do with this resolution is to have the President establish a day which would commemorate September 11. It would call upon people to give of themselves. This is not going to be a holiday. We are not talking about giving people time off. We are asking people to go back to that sense of giving and donate their time and their efforts.

People could donate blood. People could take part in food drives. People could go to distribute food to the poor and to the needy. They can go to veterans hospitals. They could work with senior citizens. They could help Alzheimer's patients. They could just find a way to show a sense of giving which so prevailed in our country after September 11.

There are many ways we can honor the legacy of those who died on September 11. We can certainly do it by winning the war on terrorism. We can do that by establishing as much of a bipartisan policy as we can in combating terrorism. But we can also do it in a way which really crosses all ideological and partisan divides. That is by working together, by helping our fellow man, by helping our neighbor, by coming together. That is what this resolution attempts to do.

We call upon the President to designate September 11 as a national day of voluntary service, charity, and compassion. I strongly urge this House to adopt this resolution.

I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), and all those who co-sponsored it with me.

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote as the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) did, unanimously in favor of this resolution.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my statement be included in the RECORD in its entirety and request permission to revise and extend my remarks.

Mr. Speaker, the bill before us would express the sense of Congress that September 11 be designated a national day of voluntary service, charity and compassion in recognition of the nearly 3,000 Americans who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and the hijacked plane that crashed in Pennsylvania. Clearly, all those who tragically lost their lives that day will forever be memorialized by New Yorkers and the Nation at large. Likewise, it is important that we all continue to pay tribute to the countless rescue and recovery workers and volunteers who toiled heroically to locate survivors as well as the deceased and to clean up the Pentagon and Ground Zero.

Yet it is imperative that we do far more than pay symbolic tribute to these front-line heroes. For many on the front lines at Ground Zero in particular, 9/11 can never be a distant memory. Many of these dedicated workers, from the search and rescue teams to the clean-up and construction crews, have significant and lingering health problems as a direct result of exposure to a wide range of toxins. A number have had to retire from active duty due to serious breathing and respiratory symptoms. Far too many can no longer work at their chosen occupations. Others will never be able to work again.

On Workers Memorial Day in 2003, I held a forum in New York City to examine the health status of the 9/11 workers, including a large contingent of immigrant workers entrusted with decontaminating Ground Zero. We must ensure that these brave 9/11 workers, including the group of day laborers; receive all appropriate health care and monitoring as long as necessary. We must also ensure that the health and safety blunders made in this case, and the failure to protect our workers, are never repeated again.

Mr. Speaker, I hope and expect that in the very near future, we will act upon legislation providing the critical health and compensation these brave 9/11 workers merit and require.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 473, 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.

The title of the concurrent resolution was amended so as to read: ''A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that it is appropriate to annually observe Patriot Day, September 11, with voluntary acts of service and compassion.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.