

renegotiations should exercise vigilance in preserving the strategic interests of the United States in maintaining friendship with the Marshall Islands.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge that our colleagues support this worthy measure that underscores the importance of our deep and enduring relationship with the good people of the Marshall Islands, and, Mr. Speaker, it is my sincere hope that in the coming weeks and months I will provide for my colleagues and the American people a series of floor statements to fully explain what took place in that 12-year period of nuclear testing of our nuclear testing program in the Marshall Islands and the need for the Congress to do more to properly compensate the Marshallese people for the harm and suffering that we brought to them.

Mr. Speaker, again I would issue my warmest greetings and best wishes to President Imata Kabua and Foreign Minister Phillip Muller on their visit to Washington and other members of their official delegations, and, Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer for the record additional materials to be submitted and be made part of the RECORD:

H. CON. RES. 92

Whereas on November 3, 1986, President Reagan issued Proclamation 5564, implementing a Compact of Free Association between the United States and the newly formed governments of Pacific island areas which had been administered by the United States since 1947 under a United Nations trusteeship;

Whereas the Compact of Free Association was approved by the United States Congress with overwhelming bipartisan support on January 14, 1986, under the terms set forth in the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (P.L. 99-239);

Whereas, in addition to providing the multilateral framework for friendly political relations with the new Pacific island nations, the Compact of Free Association established, on a bilateral basis, a long-term military alliance and permanent strategic partnership between the United States and the Republic of the Marshall Islands;

Whereas for 50 years the Marshall Islands has played a unique and indispensable role in maintaining international peace and security through activities of the United States in the Marshall Islands which were essential to the feasibility and ultimate success of the United States-led strategy of nuclear deterrence during the Cold War era, as well as the United States Strategic Defense Initiative which contributed significantly to the end of the nuclear arms race;

Whereas, the Republic of the Marshall Islands includes Bikini Atoll and Enewetak Atoll, which were the nuclear weapons proving grounds for Operation Crossroads from 1946 to 1958, as well as Kwajalein Atoll, which was the site of the mid-Pacific missile testing range for intercontinental ballistic missiles fired from the Vandenberg facility, a vital installation of the United States Army's ballistic missile systems command and a key support facility for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and other programs critical to the promotion of vital national interests;

Whereas the people of the Marshall Islands and the United States have a close and mutually beneficial relationship which evolved

from liberation and military occupation at the end of World War II to United States administration under the United Nations trusteeship from 1947 to 1986 and which is now maintained on a government-to-government basis under the Compact of Free Association;

Whereas this relationship was forged through a process of self-determination and democratization which reflects the common values and cross-cultural respect that the people of the Marshall Islands and the people of the United States have developed since the middle of the last century when American missionaries first came to the Marshall Islands;

Whereas the people of the United States and its allies paid a high price, including great loss of life and injuries in the heroic battles for Kwajalein and Roi-Namur, to liberate the Marshall Islands during World War II and again made sacrifices as a result of the Cold War nuclear arms race;

Whereas the people of the Marshall Islands suffered great injury and hardship due to the exposure of individuals to nuclear test radiation and the radiological contamination of the Marshall Islands;

Whereas, in recognition of the unique role of the Republic of the Marshall Islands in supporting the United States during the Cold War, the 104th Congress provided additional assistance, pursuant to the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985, to meet the special need of the people of the Marshall Islands arising from the nuclear testing program, including funding for radiological monitoring, island rehabilitation, and community resettlement programs;

Whereas within the framework of the settlement of all legal claims under section 177 of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985, the Congress continues to monitor and evaluate measures being taken to implement programs authorized under Federal law to promote the recovery, resettlement, health, and safety of individuals and communities affected by the nuclear testing program in the Marshall Islands;

Whereas the special relationship between our nations and our peoples is a bond that has grown strong as a result of our shared history and common struggle and sacrifices in the cause, not of conquest, but to promote international peace and security and secure liberty for future generations; and

Whereas, just as the extraordinary demands of world leadership fell on the United States in this century, among this Nation's allies the Marshall Islands bore an immensely disproportionate share of the burden of the Cold War, and this remote island nation continues to play an important strategic role in the preservation of global peace as well as in the military and scientific programs which promote the United States, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the other people of the world: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) recognizes the value of continued friendly relations between the United States and the Republic of the Marshall Islands;

(2) intends to maintain, through appropriate mutually agreed political and economic measures, the long-term military alliance and strategic partnership defined by the Compact of Free Association as a primary element of bilateral relations between the United States and the Republic of the Marshall Island in the future;

(3) recognizes the importance of ongoing measures to address, in accordance with the legal settlement set forth in section 177 of the Compact of Free Association of 1985, the impact on the Marshall Islands of the nuclear testing program; and

(4) intends, through its oversight responsibilities and the exercise of its Constitu-

tional authority regarding negotiation and approval of bilateral agreements with respect to those provisions of the Compact of Free Association which expire in 2001, in exercise vigilance in preserving the strategic interests of the United States in ensuring that the friendship between the United States and the Republic of the Marshall Islands is sustained as mutually agreed pursuant to their respective constitutional processes.

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA FOR HIS EXCELLENCY
IMATA KABUA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

His Excellency Iroi jlaplap Imata Kabua was elected President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands on January 13, 1997 following the sudden passing of his cousin, the late Iroi jlaplap President Amata Kabua, in December 1996. President Imata Kabua is both Head of Government and Head of State.

President Imata Kabua is the current serving chairman of the South Pacific Forum.

Born on May 20, 1943 on Enmat, Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands, Mr. Kabua first attended the Ebeye Public Elementary School in Kwajalein and later went to Marshall Christian Elementary and Laura Intermediate School, Majuro. Mr. Kabua attended the Kauai Technical School, Honolulu Christian College and later Ventura College, California, USA.

President Kabua began his public service career as principal of the Ebeye Christian Elementary School. Later, he served as Postmaster of Ebeye Post Office.

Mr. Kabua's political career began when he first served in 1976 as senator to the Nitijela under the US Trusteeship, followed by his consecutive election as delegate to the first and second Marshall Islands Constitutional Conventions (MICC) in 1978 and 1990 respectively. In 1994, he was elected to the third MICC as delegate Iroj from Ralik. He then served as senator to the Nitijela under the Constitutional Government in 1979, until 1996 when he was appointed as Minister without Portfolio for the Ralik Chain.

As Iroi jlaplap, Mr. Kabua is an active leader in cultural affairs. He is presently one of the four major Iroi jlaplaps from the Ralik Chain in the Marshall Islands.

President Kabua continues to lead and guide the development work on his constituent island atoll, Kwajalein, where in the past he served in a range of key positions including as president of the Kwajalein Atoll Corporation (KAC), chairman for Kwajalein Atoll Development Authority (KADA), and chairman for Kwajalein Atoll Joint Utility Resource (KAJUR).

President Kabua's hobbies include tennis, chess, table tennis, checkers and fishing. In 1969, Mr. Kabua was awarded a gold medal each for volleyball and table tennis at the 1969 Micronesian Olympic Games in Saipan.

President Kabua is married to the First Lady Hiromi Konou Kabua. They have 8 children.

President Kabua is a member of the Protestant Church.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 37 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.