

the Queen City Foundation, the Greater Cincinnati Tall Stacks Commission and the Catholic Big Brothers Association of Cincinnati.

The Peace of the City Award is a well-deserved recognition for a man whose efforts have significantly increased educational attainment in Ohio, and whose community involvement has contributed to the quality of life in Greater Cincinnati.

COMMEMORATING 50 YEARS OF
RELATIONS BETWEEN THE
UNITED STATES AND THE RE-
PUBLIC OF KOREA, H. RES. 459

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 5, 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce today a Resolution commemorating 50 years of relations between the United States and the Republic of Korea. It is right and fitting that the House of Representatives makes note of the special relationship that the United States and the Republic of Korea have shared since 1948—nearly half a century.

The introduction of this Resolution also marks the visit of South Korean President Kim Dae-jung to the United States and to Capitol Hill next week on June 10th where he will address a joint session of the Congress.

I congratulate President Kim and the people of South Korea on the most recent presidential elections and their strong commitment to democratic principles and practices. President Kim's visit provides a unique opportunity for the United States and the Republic of Korea to renew their commitment to cooperate on issues of mutual interest and concern.

Though the United States and South Korea are literally an ocean apart, the large Korean-American community—of almost two million—has immeasurably enriched the social and cultural fabric of the United States and serves as a sturdy bridge of friendship between the two countries.

The United States has important strategic, economic and political interests at stake in Northeast Asia and maintaining stability remains an overriding U.S. security concern in the region. South Korean soldiers have stood shoulder to shoulder with American troops on the battlefields of Korea and Vietnam to protect and advance these mutual interests.

Today, South Korea remains an important partner and ally in guarding the peace and maintaining stability in Northeast Asia. To support these objectives, 37,000 American servicemen and women are stationed in South Korea protecting freedom and democracy which is threatened on a daily basis by the communist government and armed forces of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

The United States is pleased with the flourishing of democracy in South Korea. It is hoped that the Republic of Korea will serve as an example to others in the region and will encourage progress in the furthering of democratic principles and practices, respect for human rights, and the enhancement of the rule of law.

I am confident that despite current economic uncertainties, the Republic of Korea will

weather the troubles plaguing Asia and emerge even stronger than before.

The Congress looks forward to a broadening and deepening of friendship and cooperation with the Republic of Korea in the years ahead for the mutual benefit of the peoples of the United States and the Republic of Korea.

I am pleased to have this opportunity to introduce the legislation and I invite my colleagues in the House of Representatives to support this Resolution commemorating the distinctive ties between the peoples and the governments of these two great nations.

I include the entire text of H. Res. 459 for insertion at this point in the RECORD:

H. RES. 459

Whereas the Republic of Korea was established 50 years ago on August 15, 1948;

Whereas the United States and the Republic of Korea have long had a close relationship based on mutual respect, shared security goals, and common interests and values;

Whereas the United States relies on the Republic of Korea as a partner and treaty ally in fostering regional stability, enhancing prosperity, and promoting peace and democracy;

Whereas the American military personnel who are, and have been, stationed on the Korean Peninsula have been key in deterring armed aggression for more than 4 decades;

Whereas South Korean soldiers fought alongside American troops on the battlefields of Korea and Vietnam;

Whereas the Republic of Korea has embraced economic reform and free market principles in response to current economic circumstances;

Whereas the Republic of Korea is an important trading partner of the United States, the recipient of significant direct American investment, and a prominent investor in the United States;

Whereas the large Korean-American community has made significant contributions to American society and culture;

Whereas the people of the Republic of Korea have demonstrated their strong commitment to democratic principles and practices through free and fair elections; and

Whereas the state visit of President Kim Dae-jung to the United States offers the people of the United States and the people of South Korea an opportunity to renew their commitment to international cooperation on issues of mutual interest and concern: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates the Republic of Korea on the 50th anniversary of its founding;

(2) commends the people of the Republic of Korea on the peaceful democratic transition that has taken place during the most recent Presidential elections;

(3) supports the government of President Kim Dae-jung as it takes appropriate measures to address the problems in the Korean economy;

(4) confirms that the question of peace, security, and reunification on the Korean Peninsula is, first and foremost, a matter for the Korean people to decide and that the Four-Party Peace Talks complement direct North-South dialog; and

(5) looks forward to a broadening and deepening of friendship and cooperation with the Republic of Korea in the years ahead for the mutual benefit of the people of the United States and the people of the Republic of Korea.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE AND
COMMITMENT OF ROBERT F.
KENNEDY ON THE 30TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF HIS DEATH

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 5, 1998

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the memory of one of our Nation's most compassionate and principled leaders—Robert Francis Kennedy, who was assassinated thirty years ago today. He served our country as Attorney General and United States Senator, but his legacy cannot be measured by mere titles and offices; rather, his greatness can only be understood by understanding the uncompromising morality of his political philosophy, his devotion to the most downtrodden in our society, and the intellectual eloquence of his efforts to communicate their needs to the rest of the American community.

Robert F. Kennedy believed that one person, standing alone and guided only by the courage of his or her convictions, could move metaphorical mountains. His inspirational words to the oppressed black people of South Africa, spoken 32 years ago today, capture this spirit. They apply not just to those who were fighting against the brutal racism of apartheid, but to all of us. These words apply in particular to the life of Robert F. Kennedy.

Few will have the greatness to bend history itself; but each of us can work to change a small portion of events, and in the total of all those acts will be written the history of this generation. * * * It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.

Robert F. Kennedy rode the crest of an immense wave, serving as the nucleus of so many great progressive causes that marked the 1960's and helped mold a more just society, one less encumbered by bigotry, poverty, and apathy. His numerous lofty causes reflected these high ideals.

Senator Kennedy fought for civil rights with a moral intensity rarely matched by the most legendary of noble crusaders. During his visit to South Africa, a land fractured by the scourge of apartheid, he addressed the most controversial questions with the absolute certainty of a man driven by the righteous rectitude of his cause. When asked at the University of Witwatersrand to respond to charges that blacks were too barbarous to be entrusted with power, he replied: "It was not the black man of Africa who invented and used poison gas and the atomic bomb, who sent six million men and women and children to the gas ovens." He condemned the race-baiting leaders of South Africa to their faces, leaving no doubt about the moral degeneracy of their policies.

Robert F. Kennedy's quest for human rights was felt most strongly by his own countrymen. As Attorney General, he did not hesitate to stare down Southern governors who attempted to curry favor with the Ku Klux Klan