

the WHO's mission. The people of Taiwan are volunteering these resources to fight global epidemics, and we are turning them away at the door. They have demonstrated this time after time—in Haiti; in El Salvador; and more recently by contributing a million dollars to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria. The world needs all the help it can get. Taiwan is not asking to join the WHO as a state, but rather as an observer. The case for observer status at the WHO is clear, and the Bush Administration should make it happen.

I strongly support H.R. 441, and urge my colleagues to do so as well.

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support to H.R. 441, a bill to authorize the United States to seek observer status for Taiwan within the World Health Organization (WHO).

Every May, the World Health Assembly meets to consider the acceptance of new members to the WHO. Unfortunately, even as Taiwan is among the leaders in Asia in important health indicators, such as life expectancy and infant mortality, it is unable to contribute to the WHO.

While nationhood is a membership requirement, the WHO does provide observer status to such entities as the Vatican, the Knights of Malta, and the Palestinian Liberation Organization. As a self-governing and democratic island of twenty-three million people, and as a potential member with a great deal to contribute to the WHO, I strongly support WHO observer status for Taiwan.

As we once again approach the annual World Health Assembly, I urge Secretary Colin Powell and Secretary Tommy Thompson to work with our friends around the world to obtain WHO observer status for Taiwan. I urge my colleagues to vote yes on H.R. 441.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 441, a bill endorsing observer status for Taiwan at the annual summit of the World Health Organization in May 2003. I thank my good friend, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for introducing the bill, and I look forward to voting for it.

Madam Speaker, over the years, this body has been divided on a variety of foreign policy issues. What the House has not been divided on, however, is its support for Taiwan, especially as it pertains to its status in the World Health Organization. The fact remains that Taiwan's exclusion from the WHO not only hurts Taiwan, but also the entire international community.

The WHO's constitution states that "the enjoyment of the highest standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition." Yet, the constitution of the WHO has been disregarded when the inclusion of Taiwan in the WHO, even at observer status, has been laid on the table. This time for this to change is now.

Few recall that Taiwan was an original member of the WHO, participating as a full member from 1948 until 1972. The United Nations' 1972 decision to award Taiwan's seat to the People's Republic of China resulted in Taiwan's replacement at the WHO. Since then, Taiwan has sought to be readmitted into the WHO at the same time it has built one of the world's most dynamic free market economies and become a leading technological and scientific population.

Tragically, the world community has never fully benefited from the medical advancements made by Taiwanese doctors and scientists because Taiwan lacks WHO membership. Taiwan enjoys one of the highest life expectancy rates in Asia, has relatively low infant and maternal mortality rates, and has eradicated major infectious diseases such as cholera, smallpox, and polio. Additionally, Taiwan's government was the first in the world to provide children with free hepatitis B vaccinations. Until the international community recognizes that each country in the world will benefit multi-fold from Taiwan's inclusion in the WHO, political pressure from the People's Republic of China will trump the spread of Taiwan's medical advancements.

Madam Speaker, health has no borders, and certainly neither does disease. Taiwan's 23 million citizens suffer every single time relief is delayed simply because Taiwan is not a part of the WHO. Likewise, the world community suffers each time its access to Taiwan's medical advancements is limited for the same reason.

Taiwan's readmittance to the WHO is long overdue. With passage of this bill today, the State Department is again given the necessary tools to push forward on Taiwan's request. H.R. 441 is not a political statement against the People's Republic of China. Instead, it is recognition of opportunity for the entire world community. The successes of Taiwan's medical experts must no longer remain locked in a chamber of politics, and access to these ideas must be extended to all countries.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill. May we all look forward to a day when Taiwan is admitted back into the World Health Organization, an organization it helped build 55 years ago.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 441, a resolution to authorize a United States plan to endorse and obtain status for Taiwan at the annual summit of the World Health Assembly in May 2003 in Geneva, Switzerland.

In response to an appeal from the United Nations and the United States, the government of Taiwan donated \$1,000,000 to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Taiwan has also been a sovereign state since its founding in 1912. Although China has exercised control over Taiwan, Taiwan is a democratic and free society duly elected by the people.

As a sovereign state, Taiwan has acceded to the World Trade Organization and, despite the PRC's objections, I believe it is time for Taiwan to also obtain status as a member of the World Health Organization.

I fully support the intent of H.R. 441 and I also urge my colleagues to support his bill.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 441.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of

those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

COMMEMORATING 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF HISTORIC RESCUE OF 50,000 BULGARIAN JEWS FROM THE HOLOCAUST

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 77) commemorating the 60th anniversary of the historic rescue of 50,000 Bulgarian Jews from the Holocaust and commending the Bulgarian people for preserving and continuing their tradition of ethnic and religious tolerance, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 77

Whereas the people of the United States and the Republic of Bulgaria respect all faiths, including Judaism and Jewish culture;

Whereas during World War II, despite being allied with Germany, Bulgarians did not cede to Nazi pressure to fully enforce anti-Jewish legislation and resisted orders to deport their Jewish compatriots to Nazi concentration camps;

Whereas in the spring of 1943 the Bulgarian people succeeded in preventing the deportation of 50,000 Jews to such camps;

Whereas it is acknowledged with sadness that the deportation of over 11,000 Jews from Thrace and Macedonia, territories which were administered by Bulgaria at that time, to Nazi concentration camps, took place;

Whereas Bulgaria was the only European country during World War II to increase its Jewish population;

Whereas members of the Bulgarian Parliament, the Bulgarian Orthodox Church, King Boris III, politicians, intellectuals, and citizens all played a part in the resistance to Nazi pressure to carry out the deportation;

Whereas March 2003 marks the 60th anniversary of Bulgaria's refusal to deport its Jews to Nazi concentration camps;

Whereas the Bulgarian people today preserve and continue their tradition of ethnic and religious tolerance; and

Whereas President George W. Bush and Prime Minister Simeon Saxe-Coburg Gotha are leading the United States and Bulgaria into a long-term strategic partnership: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) commemorates the 60th anniversary of the historic rescue of 50,000 Bulgarian Jews from the Holocaust and commends the Bulgarian people for preserving and continuing their tradition of ethnic and religious tolerance; and

(2) reiterates its support for strong ties between the United States and Bulgaria.

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

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHABOT. Madam 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. 77.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 77, a resolution commemorating the 60th anniversary of the historic rescue of 50,000 Bulgarian Jews from the Holocaust. This resolution was introduced by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON). H. Con. Res. 77 recognizes a relatively unknown but exceedingly important event in the history of Bulgaria and the history of Europe.

This resolution commends the Bulgarian people for their actions in 1943 and for preserving and continuing their tradition of ethnic and religious tolerance. In the spring of 1943, the Bulgarian people succeeded in protecting Bulgaria's entire Jewish population from deportation and death in Nazi concentration camps. This happened despite the fact that Bulgaria was officially allied with Nazi Germany from March 1941 until September 1944. Bulgaria's legislators, clergymen, civic leaders, intellectuals, and ordinary citizens, through a series of protests and appeals, blocked Nazi attempts to deport Bulgarian Jews to death camps in Poland. The entire Bulgarian nation, the people, the Parliament, the King and the Orthodox Church stood united and confronted the Nazi terror. As a result, in that critical moment in history, not even one of Bulgaria's 50,000 Jews was deported to Nazi gas chambers.

In fact, I am told that Bulgaria was the only country in Europe in which the Jewish population actually increased during World War II. The Bulgarian people should be commended for saving their fellow countrymen and compatriots from the Holocaust. Bulgarians today should be proud of their predecessors' courage and heroism, and we recognize today this historic action that was taken. In a country and region of such long and deep history, at the crossroads of civilizations, we should also recognize the tradition of ethnic and religious tolerance in Bulgaria and what it might mean today for the Balkans, for Europe, for the Middle East, and for the world.

Madam Speaker, I would again like to commend Bulgaria and the Bulgarian people for this historic event, and I urge strong support for this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution. First, I would like to commend the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) for his leadership on this important resolution. I also want to recognize the contributions to this measure of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT).

Madam Speaker, just in the past year Congress has focused attention on growing anti-Semitism in Europe. Unfortunately, some European leaders have used the pretext of the Middle East conflict to justify this ugly phenomenon of the 20th century reappearing in the 21st century.

Therefore, it gives me great pleasure to commend an important U.S. ally, a future member of NATO, on what it did during the darkest hours of European history. Bulgaria's actions during the Second World War prove that a small nation can have a tremendously positive impact on humanity. In Bulgaria, the effort to resist the Nazi pressure to enforce anti-Jewish laws and to deport its Jewish citizens to death camps was undertaken by the full spectrum of Bulgarian society. Members of the Bulgarian Parliament, the Bulgarian Orthodox Church, politicians, intellectuals, but most importantly, ordinary citizens all played a part in the resistance to Nazi pressure to carry out the unconscionable act of deportation to death camps.

March 2003 marks the 60th anniversary of Bulgaria's historic refusal to deport its Jews to Nazi concentration camps.

Some years ago at the initiative of my wife, she and I went to Bulgaria to express our appreciation for this heroic action of the Bulgarian people during the most difficult years of the Second World War. We met with a broad spectrum of Bulgarian people, and we had the opportunity of telling them that their little recognized heroic action is deeply appreciated by the American people and the Congress of the United States.

Sadly, Bulgaria was unique among its East European neighbors. In too many instances, the populations of other countries occupied by the Nazis turned against their Jewish compatriots or remained indifferent to their nightmare fate.

That is why today, Madam Speaker, I shudder when I hear the excuses used by some governments in Europe to explain the rise of anti-Semitism again on that continent. As we commend Bulgaria for this historic rescue, we must note that neighboring Macedonia is marking the tragedy of the deportation of over 11,000 Jews to Nazi death camps. This region was under the control of Bulgarian authorities at the time, but the Jewish residents did not have Bulgarian citizenship and were not saved from the Nazi death camps. They all perished.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this important resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON), the principal sponsor of the bill. I might note that the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) is likely to become a grandfather for the first time within the next few hours.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today with the great honor of introducing a bill with the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TAUSCHER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) to recognize the 60th anniversary of the historic rescue of 50,000 Bulgarian Jews from the Holocaust and commending the Bulgarian people for preserving and continuing their tradition of ethnic and religious tolerance.

□ 1515

As the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) just mentioned, this indeed is a special day for me. It is a special day because I am so happy to tell the people of the world about the wonderful people that I have had the opportunity to be associated with in the Republic of Bulgaria. It is a special day because my daughter-in-law, Lauren, is in Bethesda right now. She is in labor awaiting the birth of our first grandchild. This is an extraordinary day on behalf of my son, who is an ensign in the U.S. Navy, Addison. We are indeed looking forward to the birth of Addison Graves Wilson, III. In fact, my wife is with the other prospective grandparents. My wife, Roxanne, and Julie and Craig Houston of West Columbia, South Carolina, are on I-95 as we speak coming up for the blessed event. We are just very grateful.

My association with Bulgaria, it is a bit unusual for someone from South Carolina to have an association with a country which does not have significant immigration to our State. It really started, and I need to give thanks to the late Lee Atwater, chairman of the Republican National Committee. He appointed me to be an observer for the first democratic elections that had occurred in decades in Bulgaria on June 10, 1990. I had the extraordinary opportunity of visiting Bulgaria. I do not want to give anybody the impression I am a world traveler, because it was my first visit to Europe. It was an extraordinary opportunity, though, for me.

I had gone to Bulgaria fully expecting to find the most slavish Soviet satellite. It was a country that was marked with a bitter dictatorship and a loyalty to the former Soviet Union that was unparalleled among the satellite countries of Eastern and Central Europe. When I arrived, it was, in fact, significantly different. It was like a country frozen in time. I found people who were really back to about 1939. It was an extraordinary circumstance of a country where the people were just terrific. They were very friendly, they

were very open, they were excited about the efforts that Ronald Reagan had made of peace through strength, the liberation of Eastern and Central Europe. I also found a country which I could identify with coming from the southeastern part of the United States, which is in the southeastern part of Europe.

I found a very friendly meteorological climate. The people were friendly. The geography was remarkably similar to my home State of South Carolina. They have beautiful beaches to the east on the Black Sea, there is a midlands very similar to where I represent in Congress, and then there are mountains to the west. It was a time to really feel at home. I met wonderful people. The first person who greeted me was a candidate for the National Assembly, Stefan Stoyanov. Stefan ultimately was elected to their parliament, the National Assembly. Then I had the good fortune of hosting him to observe our elections in November of 1990. This was hosted by various civic organizations: the Rotary Clubs, the Kiwanis Clubs, the Optimist Clubs, the Lions Clubs of the central part of South Carolina, the midlands of South Carolina. They raised money for Assemblyman Stoyanov to come visit. At that time it was an extraordinary election victory for Governor Carroll Campbell, who was reelected. Governor Campbell took the Bulgarian assemblyman to the stage for recognition on election night at the victory party. It was an extraordinary event.

I then had the opportunity to visit later that year with the democratically elected members of the National Assembly, thanks to the Free Congress Foundation and Mr. Paul Weyrich and, in particular, the late Dr. Bob Kriebel, who is the founder of the Kriebel Institute, which has worked so well to establish democracy in the formerly-Communist countries. It was an extraordinary opportunity to be what Dr. Kriebel called an agent of influence, and it was positive influence, to promote democracy.

I then returned several years later and saw remarkable change. Through the sister city program of the Columbia International Affairs Association, we have a sister city relationship with Plovdiv, the second largest city in Bulgaria. Columbia, the capital of South Carolina, is very fortunate to be associated with this ancient city. It was known as Philippopolis. It was known as Trimontium. I found the history of Bulgaria to go back to Roman and Greek times. It is just a phenomenal experience of wonderful people. I was very fortunate at that time to have my son with me, Addison, Jr., who then left that next week to be a midshipman at the U.S. Naval Academy.

In the particular bill today, I am very grateful for the leadership of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), the chairman of the Committee on International Relations. I want to thank the gentleman from Nebraska

(Mr. BEREUTER), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Europe. And of course, somebody near and dear to me, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT), who has been a real leader. And the professional staff has been so helpful.

The rescue of the Bulgarian Jews from the Holocaust. In the spring of 1943, a period when Jews across Europe were subjected to total extermination in the Nazi death camps, the Bulgarian people, politicians and civic leaders through a series of resolute actions succeeded in protecting their 50,000 Jewish compatriots from deportation to the death camps. Bulgaria was the only country in Europe to increase its Jewish population during World War II. This happened despite Nazi pressure and the fact that Bulgaria was officially an ally of Hitler Germany as part of the Axis from March 1941 until September 1944.

Despite the anti-Jewish legislation and the heavy restrictions of the rights of the Jewish population adopted by the Bulgarian Government and Parliament in 1941-1942, anti-Semitism was never morally accepted by the Bulgarian society. King Boris III and the majority of the members of Parliament only reluctantly followed Hitler's official policy, resisting the implementation of the anti-Jewish legislation and regulations in their entirety. As a result of Nazi pressure, in February 1943 a secret agreement was reached to start the secret deportation of Jews by cargo trains in the first days of March 1943.

Due to the prompt public reaction and the resolute intervention of a group of active citizens, church leaders and politicians, led by Deputy Speaker of the Bulgarian National Assembly Dimitar Peshev, the Minister of Interior Gabrovski was forced on 9 March 1943 to cancel the deportation orders for the Jews from several Bulgarian cities. The trains, which had been waiting to be loaded with Bulgarian Jews and sent to the concentration camps in Poland, did not depart. Unfortunately, about 12,000 Jews from Aegean Thrace and Macedonia, who did not at that time have Bulgarian citizenship and had been already driven out of their homes by the special forces of the Jewish Commissariat, could not be saved and were deported through Bulgarian territory to Germany. The horrible sight of train compositions packed with Jews from Thrace and Macedonia crossing Bulgarian territory had a tremendous impact on public opinion in Bulgaria and strengthened even more the popular resistance against deportation.

Later, in March 1943, 43 members of the Bulgarian Parliament from the ruling majority, led by Deputy Speaker Dimitar Peshev, addressed a bold and decisive letter to the then Prime Minister Filov in which they called a possible deportation of Jews an inadmissible act with grave moral and political consequences for the country. The Bulgarian Orthodox Church played a cru-

cial part in mobilizing public support against the deportation and exerting its influence on the government. Metropolitan Stefan in Sofia and Kiril in Plovdiv actively contributed to the campaign against state discrimination of the Jews.

The broad popular and civil movement in defense of the Bulgarian Jews culminated in May 1943 when the plan of deportation was finally aborted. King Boris III played a decisive role in this decision by not ceding to Hitler's increasing pressure and not allowing the deportation to happen. The King resisted Hitler's demands with the argument that the Bulgarian Jews were needed as a workforce in Bulgaria. At the end of May 1943, about 20,000 Jews from Sofia were sent to work camps in the countryside where they were assigned heavy labor duties and lived in miserable conditions; but they survived. Many other political and professional organizations and groups of intellectuals joined actively in this national effort. The credit as a whole belongs to the Bulgarian people who showed courage and strength in defending their fellow Jewish countrymen. Bulgarians today feel proud of the courage of their predecessors to save from deportation and death nearly 50,000 Bulgarian Jews.

I have seen firsthand the good will of the Bulgarian people as an observer of Bulgaria's first democratic elections in 1990, and I have witnessed the progress of Bulgaria's democracy away from communism. I commend the efforts of patriots like Prime Minister Simeon Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, Ambassador Elena Poptodorova, Foreign Minister Solomon Pasi, Defense Minister Nikolai Svinarov, Deputy Chief of Mission Emil Yalnazov, and Bulgarian Ambassador to Greece Stefan Stoyanov for continuing important reforms and for leading their entry into NATO.

We are proud of our allied Bulgaria. As cochairman of the House Caucus on Bulgaria along with the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TAUSCHER), it is my privilege to introduce this legislation. I urge my colleagues to support House Concurrent Resolution 77.

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

First, I want to commend my friend for his powerful and eloquent and thoughtful statement. I would like to add that it is no accident that as we speak, Bulgaria is standing tall with the United States at the United Nations at another critical juncture of history.

Mr. BEREUTER. Madam Speaker, this Member rises today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 77, a resolution recognizing and commending the Bulgarian people for a little-known, but extraordinary, historical fact. The resolution was introduced by the distinguished gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON), and this Member is pleased to be an original cosponsor.

This resolution seeks to commemorate the 60th anniversary of a historic act of courage

and heroism: the rescue of the Bulgarian Jews from the Nazi Holocaust in 1943. In that critical moment of history, the Bulgarian people, from every walk of life, through a series of resolute actions, successfully stopped the deportation of Bulgaria's Jewish population to Nazi death camps.

Bulgaria was officially allied with Hitler Germany from March 1941 until September 1944, but anti-Semitism was never morally accepted by Bulgarian society. It is said that King Boris III and the majority of the Members of Parliament only reluctantly followed Hitler's official policies, resisting the implementation of anti-Jewish legislation and other restrictions in their entirety.

In February 1943, as a result of Nazi pressure, a secret agreement on the deportation of Bulgarian Jews to Germany was signed between Hitler's special envoy Dannecker and the Bulgarian Commissar on Jewish Affairs Belev. The plan was to start the secret deportation of Jews by cargo trains in the first days of March 1943.

Due to immediate public reaction and the resolute intervention of a group of active citizens, church leaders and politicians, led by the Deputy Speaker of the Bulgarian National Assembly Dimitar Peshev, the Minister of Interior Nikola Gabrovski was forced on March 9, 1943 to cancel deportation orders for Jews from several Bulgarian cities. The trains, which had been waiting to be loaded and sent to concentration camps in Poland, did not depart.

Unfortunately, about 12,000 Jews from Aegean Thrace and Macedonia, who did not at that time have Bulgarian citizenship and who had already been driven out of their homes by the special forces of the Jewish Commissariat, were deported through Bulgarian territory to Germany. The horrible sight of trains carrying Jews from Thrace and Macedonia crossing Bulgaria and strengthened even more the popular resistance against deportation.

Later in March 1943, 43 members of the Bulgarian Parliament from the ruling majority, led by the Deputy Speaker Dimitar Peshev, addressed a bold and decisive letter to the then-Prime Minister Bogdan Filov, in which they called a possible deportation of the Jews an "inadmissible act" which "grave moral and political consequences" for the country.

The Bulgarian Orthodox Church played a crucial part in mobilizing public support against the deportation and exerting its influence on the government. Metropolitans Sefan in Sofia and Kiril in Plovdiv actively contributed to this effort.

The broad popular and civil movement in defense of the Bulgarian Jews culminated in May 1943 when the plan of deportation was finally aborted. King Boris III played a decisive role in this decision by not ceding to Hitler's increasing pressure and by not allowing the deportation to happen. Many other political and professional organizations and groups of intellectuals actively participated in this national movement.

The credit as a whole belongs to the Bulgarian people who showed courage and strength in defending their fellow countrymen. Bulgarians today rightly feel proud of the actions of their predecessors to save from deportation and death nearly 50,000 Bulgarian Jews.

Bulgaria should be proud of this historical event, and its tradition of ethnic and religious tolerance. Bulgaria's history should be recog-

nized, and its people should be commended. Bulgaria should be an example to a region that has been torn apart by so much hatred and violence over the past decade. Let Bulgaria's history be an example to the Balkans and Southeastern Europe. Let Bulgaria's history be an example to all of Europe today, East and West, North and South, Old and New.

Madam Speaker, on this occasion, this Member urges strong support for this resolution and would also particularly like to thank Bulgaria, and the Bulgarian people, for Bulgaria's exceptionally strong support and cooperation with America in the international war on terrorism.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 77, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RICHARD K. ARMEY ROOM

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 19) designating the room numbered H-236 in the House of Representatives wing of the Capitol as the "Richard K. Armeay Room".

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 19

Whereas, at the end of the 107th Congress, Representative Richard K. Armeay retired after 18 years of distinguished service in the House of Representatives, including service as the Majority Leader for 8 years, the longest tenure of any Republican Majority Leader in 92 years: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the room numbered H-236 in the House of Representatives wing of the Capitol shall be known and designated as the "Richard K. Armeay Room".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS).

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

Madam Speaker, House Resolution 19 designates room 236 in the House wing of the United States Capitol as the

Richard K. Armeay Room. Former Majority Leader Dick Armeay represented the 26th Congressional District of Texas for 18 years, and his dedication to the 26th district and to the State of Texas had no bounds. He represented the constituents with honesty, integrity, and was passionate about his fiscally conservative principles. I now represent this same district and will follow in the same spirit. The people of this district, the State of Texas, and our great Nation are better off as a result of Dr. Armeay's leadership in Congress.

Former Majority Leader Armeay was the first of his family to attend college. He rose from humble beginnings in rural North Dakota to the pinnacle of American government. His was not a path of privilege but of hard work, dedication and strong beliefs. He earned a bachelor's degree from Jamestown College, a master's degree from the University of North Dakota, and a doctorate from the University of Oklahoma.

In 1984, Dr. Armeay was elected to his first of nine terms in this body. He quickly made a name for himself as someone dedicated to sound public policies based on conservative principles. During his time in the House, he was instrumental in passage of public housing reform, closing of obsolete and unnecessary military bases, and farm legislation reform, each of which saved the American people money and allowed the Federal Government to better serve the communities impacted.

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Dick Armeay was also a steadfast conservative who advocated fundamental tax reform and brought the implementation of the flat tax to the national stage. These achievements and ideas all came as all of Dick Armeay's accomplishments came, through hard work, persistence and dedication.

In 1992, Representative Armeay was elected to the position of conference chairman of the House Republicans, the top policy position within the Republican Conference. In 1994, when Republicans won a majority of seats in this House of Representatives for the first time in 40 years, Representative Armeay was elected to serve as majority leader, a position he held for 8 years, one of the longest terms of any majority leader in the history of this body.

In addition to his leadership roles, Majority Leader Armeay also served as cochairman of the Joint Economic Committee and as chairman of the Select Committee on Homeland Security, which was responsible for writing the legislation creating the Department of Homeland Security.

The naming of Room 236 as the Richard K. Armeay Room is a fitting tribute to a dedicated public servant. I support the legislation and encourage all of my colleagues to do the same.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.