

level of criticism due to local and State governments, too. Allowing New Orleans to turn into something out of the Wild West where anarchy reigns is inexcusable, and all levels of government need to see what was done wrong. In the meantime, we must work together to ensure that the necessary resources are available.

#### ENCOURAGING SIMPLIFIED FORM FOR VICTIMS OF HURRICANE KATRINA

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, our hearts go out to all who have suffered the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina. Our hearts also go out to those who have suffered the tragedy of a failed Federal Government in coming to their aid in saving people's lives.

I ask my friends on the other side of the aisle to step back for a minute, to stop their campaign out of the White House blaming local and State officials for their role in this tragedy. I also ask my friends on the other side of the aisle to step back from their mission to cut Medicaid \$10 billion, that they step back from their drive to cut taxes for the wealthiest 1 percent of people in this country; because instead of those tax cuts for the wealthy, instead of cutting Medicaid \$10 billion, this Congress should, first of all, adopt legislation that anybody in need of disaster-related assistance should only have to fill a single form out for Medicaid, if they have lost their job, for TANF, for unemployment insurance, for food stamps. The simplified form, instead of the bureaucracy we know they will deal with, could be used to determine eligibility for all Federal programs for a 90-day period, just showing you have lost your job because of Hurricane Katrina, and then they could be helped.

#### IMMIGRATION PROBLEM IS MORE ALARMING THAN EVER

(Mr. SHUSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because America's immigration problem has grown to be even more alarming to me than it was just 2 weeks ago. Three men were killed in Altoona, Pennsylvania, by an illegal alien who should have been deported years ago.

Miguel Padilla, the alleged killer, has been living in central Pennsylvania for 15 years. He has a driver's license, a registered car. He graduated from a Pennsylvania high school and has been arrested twice for assault with a knife and illegal possession of a gun, all after entering the U.S. illegally.

Al Mignogna, a beloved local businessman; Fred Rickabaugh; and Stephen Heiss, a Marine veteran, were killed in cold blood by Padilla last week.

□ 1430

It is terrible enough when a murder occurs, but to have it happen by someone who should not have been here adds to the despair. This is an example of what happens far too often in our country. When police had Padilla in custody during these arrests, they contacted the Immigration and Customs Enforcement. ICE did nothing and they have no answers to this day. Three murders could have been prevented. It is outrageous for Padilla to go unnoticed by ICE for so long, especially with prior arrests. It is hard enough to find illegal aliens, but when they are handed over to Federal authorities, action needs to be taken.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

#### COMMEMORATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF V-J DAY AND THE END OF WORLD WAR II IN THE PACIFIC

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 360) commemorating the 60th anniversary of V-J Day and the end of World War II in the Pacific.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 360

Whereas the United States entered the Second World War in December 1941, following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, and over the next four years Americans participated in what was arguably the greatest national endeavor in the Nation's history;

Whereas the casualty toll of Americans in the Pacific Theater during World War II was approximately 92,904 killed, 208,333 wounded, and tens of thousands missing in action and prisoners of war, with civilians and military forces of the Allied Powers suffering equally devastating tolls;

Whereas Japanese military forces and the Japanese civilian population also suffered staggering losses;

Whereas on August 15, 1945, Emperor Hirohito of Japan announced the unconditional surrender of Japan's military forces, made formal on September 2, 1945, aboard the U.S.S. Missouri in Tokyo Bay, Japan; thus ending the most devastating war in human history;

Whereas Japan is now a free and prosperous democracy, a valued, durable friend based on shared values and mutual interests, and a guarantor against despotism and oppression in that area of the world; and

Whereas the courage and sacrifice of the members of the United States Armed Forces and of the military forces of the Allied Powers who served valiantly to rescue the Pacific nations from tyranny and aggression should always be remembered: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the 60th anniversary of V-J Day and the end of World War II in the Pacific theater;

(2) joins with a grateful Nation in expressing respect and appreciation to the members of the United States Armed Forces who served in the Pacific theater during World War II; and

(3) remembers and honors those Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice and gave their lives for their country during the campaigns in the Pacific theater during World War II.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. CHANDLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. 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 the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to begin by thanking the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS), my good friend and colleague, for authoring this resolution. The gentleman is a Member who is considerably schooled in the Far East and knows well the effects which the war in the Pacific had, not only on Japan, but on other nations in the region.

The gentleman from Florida is also a senior member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and I know that he has been a leader in ensuring that no veteran is ever left behind. He is also the author of the Millennium Health Care Act, which puts a special emphasis on providing long-term health care, especially to our World War II veterans. So it is very fitting, I think, that the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) is the author of this resolution, and I thank the gentleman for introducing it.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 360 is a resolution that recognizes the 60th anniversary of victory in the Pacific during World War II, V-J Day.

Mr. Speaker, 60 years ago the guns fell silent and the world was able to begin the process of, paraphrasing Abraham Lincoln at Gettysburg when he said, we will bind up our Nation's wounds when we begin the very difficult and arduous process of binding up the world's wounds. The loss of life was indeed staggering; the process of rebuilding seemingly insurmountable. But just as Americans had rallied in war, Americans rallied in peace as well.

This resolution reiterates the simple, but very powerful, message that our Nation honors and deeply appreciates

the men and women who served in the Pacific Theatre during World War II, and we especially remember and pay tribute to those Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

Mr. Speaker, we take this opportunity to honor those individuals who gave their lives in the Pacific Theatre and thank all veterans of World War II. During the war, several million members of the United States Armed Forces fought in the Pacific, including the chairman of the International Relations Committee, our distinguished friend and colleague, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE). This was one of the largest military forces ever committed by the U.S. in any theatre of operation.

I would also briefly pay tribute to my own late father, who saw horrific combat starting in New Guinea and ending in the Philippines. My dad was tough as nails but had a very gentle heart, and he was like so many of those combat veterans that I have met over the many years who absolutely hated war, but felt it was his duty to defend freedom and to defend America.

This resolution recognizes the staggering deaths and casualties and the struggle by military forces and civilians of the allied powers during the epic struggle for the control of the Pacific. It also recognizes that since the war Japan has become a free and prosperous democracy and has become a valued partner in the process of standing tall against despotism and oppression.

This is an occasion, Mr. Speaker, to remember and to commemorate. We must remember why the war was fought, remember the victims and the heroes, and thank those who fought so hard and sacrificed so much. I join millions of Americans participating in thousands of events all across the United States, many of which have already been held, and around the world, in observing and honoring the courage of American servicemembers, allied soldiers, and home front workers. This truly was the greatest generation.

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

Mr. CHANDLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege for me to address this resolution where the House will once again congratulate the Armed Forces of our great Nation for their service in the Pacific Theatre of World War II. And it is also a privilege to serve on a committee whose chairman participated in the struggle against fascism by helping liberate the Philippines and helped liberate the people of those islands from Japanese control.

It is with a point of personal privilege to support this particular resolution that I stand to mention that my family, like so many other families, were affected. Just about every family in the United States of America was af-

ected by World War II, and most by the Pacific Theatre in World War II.

My grandfather had the honor to serve on the Military Affairs Committee of the United States Senate during World War II; and during that service on the Military Affairs Committee, he spent time in the Pacific Theatre meeting with such American heroes as General Douglas MacArthur and General Joseph Stillwell to discuss allied war strategy. He said that he was never more proud than he was of our soldiers in the Pacific Theatre because they gave everything that they had.

The liberation of much of Eastern Asia and the eventual victory of allied forces in the war on the Pacific now seems to have been predetermined. Yet it was anything but decided during that important moment in global history.

Mr. Speaker, I have the greatest respect and admiration for the sacrifices of American soldiers, many of whom gave their lives in this epic battle against the forces of fascism. There are millions of citizens in the Asia-Pacific region, from the Philippines to South Korea, who also owe their freedom to the brave Americans who fought our enemies at Midway, at Guadalcanal and many other places.

In many ways, Mr. Speaker, the victory over Japan was more of a beginning than an end. In the aftermath of World War II, the United States developed strong alliances across the Asian-Pacific region that have only strengthened over the last 60 years.

The United States and Japan have developed a robust multifaceted relationship based on shared democratic values and mutual interests in Asia and global stability and development.

The strength of our relationship with Japan today demonstrates that the sacrifices made by brave American soldiers in the Pacific Theatre were indeed not in vain. With passage of this resolution, we once again commemorate these enormous contributions and commit ourselves to remembering for all time those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, it is only right that we continue to help these veterans. I was amazed to hear reports that members of our Armed Forces who survived Pearl Harbor have now survived Hurricane Katrina.

415 veterans from World War II and Korea whose Armed Forces retirement home in Gulfport, Mississippi, was swamped by Hurricane Katrina have been relocated around the country; 250 of those veterans have come to this very city.

Mr. Speaker, just as we are caring for our veterans who have been afflicted by this horrendous crisis, I hope this House quickly turns to the relief of all of our people on our Nation's gulf coast.

And I would also like to thank the U.S. servicemen and -women and all those citizens who are helping the citi-

zens of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama survive and recover from the devastation that they are enduring.

I fully support the emergency appropriations that this House passed last week. And I and the people of Kentucky stand ready to not only help the veterans but also every U.S. citizen affected by this devastating natural disaster.

Mr. Speaker, we are supremely proud of our heroes of the Pacific Theatre in World War II. And I proudly support this resolution. I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the author of the resolution, my distinguished friend and colleague from Florida (Mr. STEARNS).

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), my distinguished colleague, the former chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. And like his father, the gentleman is as tough as nails, also with a gentle heart. And I think most of our people on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs where he served with distinction as chairman will agree with that.

I am very pleased this afternoon to bring my resolution to the floor commemorating the 60th anniversary of V-J Day and the end of World War II in the Pacific. I thank sincerely the two Chairs of the committees of jurisdiction for their consideration. First of all, the House Committee on International Relations, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), who himself fought for victory in Japan as mentioned by my colleague from Kentucky, and the chair of the Committee on Armed Services, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER). Like my father, Chairman HUNTER's father, Robert Hunter, served in World War II.

On August 15, 1945, Emperor Hirohito of Japan, in a radio address to his countrymen, announced the unconditional surrender of Japan's military forces. So, frankly, World War II officially came to a close with the signing of the surrender documents on September 2, 1945, aboard the USS *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay.

Throughout the Pacific Theatre, the men and women of the United States Armed Forces fought bravely and suffered brutally. My own father, United States Navy Captain Clifford Robert Stearns, participated in the landing on the island of Iwo Jima. During the battle, a bullet passed close by his temple, striking the bulwark of the ship behind him. He recovered the bullet, brought it home to my mother and I. And while I could never name each of my constituents who fought, I have been honored by many such stories, just like my dad's.

I wanted, in this World War II anniversary year, to focus attention once more on what we call V-J Day.

For years, following World War II, both V-E Day, victory in Europe, May

8, and V–J Day were commonly printed on calendars. But that is not so anymore. And sometimes when I talk to veterans of the Pacific Theatre, they will say, you know, CLIFF, we have seen movies like “Saving Private Ryan” and “Band of Brothers,” and while we take nothing away from the triumph of our brothers in the European theaters, we would like to see our story told also. And I do think this summer we see a renewed interest in just this. From the movie “The Great Raid,” to dances, a parade, a V–J 60th speech by the President, to fireworks last Friday night, September 2, on the National Mall, the veterans of the Pacific are getting their due.

When exactly is V–J Day, some will ask me. Some refer to it as the day that the Emperor announced the surrender, which is August 15. This is when many of our World War II allies formally recognized August 15 as V–J Day, namely, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Australia. In Australia, as a matter of fact, they are particularly adamant about naming August 15 as V–J and not V–P, for victory in the Pacific, as some do, because the Australians in the West fought just as strongly in the Indian Ocean. Some Asian islands, such as China and Korea, recognize August 15 as Liberation Day.

Also since the surrender announcement fell on August 14 in American time zones, you may see this date commemorated as V–J Day here.

And finally, it may refer to the date of the formal surrender which was September 2, as I mentioned earlier, in 1945.

I would like to take us back to August 14, 1945. When this news was made public over radios, America experienced a moment mixed with both relief and jubilation. This is the very essence of V–J Day, a collective sense of ease and an express ebullience of excitement. We had endured many years of worry, of rationing, planting victory gardens, buying war bonds, air raid drills and civil defense patrol, blackouts even on our own soil. But on V–J Day this ended. America was thrown open for the Nation’s single largest tailgate party, and we were all there rooting for the same team.

In this jubilation, there was no difference between enlisted, officers or civilians. Americans danced in the streets, honked horns, blared radios. Americans poured into village parks, busy city squares in the streets. Libations flowed. Everywhere the noise was deafening.

Even before the surrender, when it appeared imminent, there was some interesting preparation.

□ 1445

In my State of Florida, on August 10, 1945, Governor Millard F. Caldwell issued a proclamation calling for Floridians to maintain the “solemnity and dignity of the occasion” by avoiding “boisterous conduct,” and to facilitate this, that “all liquor package stores,

bars and tap rooms and places dispensing alcoholic beverages remain closed during that period.”

Now, I do not imagine that he achieved his objective here. I do not think the decorum was what he thought it would be, but everybody was excited with jubilation.

Of course, the image most recognizable to Americans and the world is of the Life Magazine cover of a joyous kissing sailor and nurse which photographer Alfred Eisenstadt froze for all time. In an interview last month, the nurse, now a grandmother, Edith Cullen Shain, recalled the pandemonium on August 14, 1945, when people grabbed anyone and hugged and kissed each other.

Mr. Speaker, I close with the testament that understanding and alliances can arise out of former cataclysms. Today, Japan stands with us as a true and enduring friend, fellow economic world leader and a force for a stable and prosperous Asia.

I believe it is important to bring this resolution to the floor to commemorate that. As the events of World War II pass further and further into history, the deeds of so many must not fade in our memories. The veterans in the Pacific theater brought peace and liberation to millions and millions of people. And as Americans rejoiced on V–J Day 1945, we will continue to salute those veterans for many, many more years to come.

I am pleased that the House is bringing up my resolution commemorating the 60th anniversary of V–J Day and the end of World War II in the Pacific. I want to thank the two Chairs of the Committees of jurisdiction for their consideration. First, of the House Committee on International Relations, the gentleman from Illinois, the Honorable HENRY HYDE, who himself fought for Victor in Japan by piloting a landing craft in the Lingayen Gulf. And next, the Chair of the Committee on Armed Services, the gentleman from California, the Honorable DUNCAN HUNTER. Like mine, Chairman HUNTER’s father, Robert Hunter, served in WWII.

On August 15, 1945, Emperor Hirohito of Japan, in a radio address to his countrymen, conceded defeat and announced the unconditional surrender of Japan’s military forces. World War II officially came to a close with the signing of the surrender documents on September 2, 1945, aboard the U.S.S. *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay. Thus ended this devastating war.

Throughout the Pacific Theater, the men and women of the United States Armed Services fought bravely, and suffered brutally. My own father, USN Captain Clifford Robert Stearns participated in the landings on the island of Iwo Jima. During the battle, a bullet passed close by his temple striking the bulwark of the ship behind him. He recovered the bullet and brought it to my mother and me. And, while I could never in a million years name every one of my constituents and neighbors who fought in this theater, I have had the honor of hearing so many stories:

1. Writing last Friday for the Gainesville Sun on V–J Day, Bob Gasche of Gainesville was a Marine who saw combat in the Pacific.

And from my hometown of Ocala,

2. James C. Phillips, while we were interviewing him for the Library of Congress’ Vet-

erans History Project, quietly described his harrowing experience as a Kamikaze survivor of the USS *Luce*;

3. Dewey Roberson joined the Army Air Corps and went from New Guinea to the Philippines to Okinawa, dodging bombs every step of the way;

4. Nolie Deas was in the 517th Army Battalion in the South Pacific who invaded the Philippines in June 1945;

5. Leonard Orr served in the 509th Composite Group in the Air Force; and

6. Tommy Needham served in the Naval Reserve in post-war Japan. All of these gentlemen, and many women, brought us to Victory in Japan.

But I did not author this legislation to rehash the horrific, but brave, tales of Pacific battles; this has been done so much before. Instead, I wanted, in this World War II anniversary year, to focus attention once more, as we did 60 years ago, on what we called V–J Day.

For years following World War II, both V–E Day (Victory in Europe, May 8) and V–J Day (Victory over Japan, Aug. 14), were commonly printed on calendars. But that’s not so anymore, and I think this is a little sad. And sometimes, when I talk to veterans of the Pacific Theater they’ll say, “You know Cliff, we see movies like ‘Saving Private Ryan’, and ‘Band of Brothers’.” And while we take nothing away from the tremendous triumph of our brothers in the European theater, we sure would like our story told, too.” And, I do think this summer we are seeing a renewed interest. For example, the movie “The Great Raid”, about the successful rescue of over 500 Americans from a Japanese POW camp by the 6th Army Rangers Battalion and Filipino guerrillas was released. In my hometown, Ocala, Florida, the Yankee Air Force Inc. had a V–J Day dance on August 6 at the American Legion Post 58. More, the History Channel hosted and aired a commemoration on the USS *Intrepid* in New York City on V–J Day, on August 14th. Also Sunday the 14th, Moosup, Connecticut held a parade, believed to be the only V–J Day parade still held in the eastern United States. Meanwhile, the President commemorated the 60th Anniversary of V–J Day Naval Air Station North Island San Diego, California. And still, last Friday night September 2 on the National Mall, the National Park Service put on a fireworks display.

So, I think you, Pacific Theater veterans, are getting your due this summer and it is essential and proper that we as a grateful nation honor you.

When I talked about my V–J Day resolution, I encountered questions about when, exactly is it? Some refer to it as the day that the Emperor announced the surrender: August 15th. This is when many of our World War II allies formally recognize August 15th as “V–J Day”, namely the United Kingdom, New Zealand, and Australia. In Australia, as a matter of fact, they are particularly adamant about naming August 15th V–J, and not V–P for Victory in the Pacific, as some do, because the Australians in the West fought just as strongly in the Indian Ocean. Relatedly, some Asian lands, such as China and Korea, recognize August 15 as Liberation Day.

Also in the U.S., since the surrender announcement fell on August 14th in American time zones, you may see this date commemorated to as V–J Day. Finally, it may refer to the date of the formal surrender, September 2, 1945.

I would like to take us back to August 14, 1945, to the battlefield, and to the homefront. When this news was made public over radios, Americans experienced a moment mixed of both relief and jubilation. This is the very essence of V–J Day—a collective exhalation of ease, and expressive ebullience.

We had endured years of worry, of rationing, planting Victory Gardens and canning, buying war bonds. Even school children bought many war stamps and pasted them in special books. When the books were filled, the students traded them in for a war bond. We had air raid drills and civil defense patrolled blackouts on our own soil. Civil defense wardens saw to it that people obeyed the rules. According to a North Carolina history museum, one Wilmington, North Carolina department store clerk was even arrested, convicted, and fined “for smoking a lighted cigarette upon the streets after having been warned by a person in authority to extinguish it.” We studied printed plane silhouettes to learn the shape of enemy aircraft. Ration coupons for sugar, meat, fabric, and gasoline were a way of life, as was carpooling to preserve rubber and gasoline for troops. Housewives poured off cooking fat to be salvaged for munitions.

But on V–J Day, this was over in an instant. America was thrown open for the Nation’s single largest tailgate party, and we were all rooting for the same team. In the joyous celebration, there was no difference between enlisted or officer or civilian, Americans danced in the streets, honked horns, blared radios. Americans poured into village parks, busy city squares and the streets. Libations flowed and everywhere, the noise was deafening.

Even days before the surrender, when it appeared eminent, there was some interesting preparation. In my State of Florida, on August 10, 1945, Governor Millard F. Caldwell issued a proclamation calling for Floridians to maintain the “solemnity and dignity of the occasion” by avoiding “boisterous conduct,” and to facilitate this, that “all liquor package stores, bars and tap rooms and places dispensing alcoholic beverages, remain closed during that period”. I do not imagine that he achieved the abstemious decorum he sought, but it all went well. (I would like to enter this into the RECORD.)

Of course, the image most recognizable to Americans, and the world, is of the Life magazine cover of a joyous, kissing sailor and nurse, which photographer Alfred Eisenstadt froze for all time. In an interview last month, Edith Cullen Shain recalled the pandemonium on August 14, 1945, the day of victory for the Allied Forces over Japan, when people grabbed anyone and hugged and kissed each other. “I let him kiss me because he had been in war and he fought for me,” Shain said of the sailor. “I only wish now I had had a conversation with him or asked his name. I just got lost in the moment,” said Shain, now an 87-year-old great-grandmother from Santa Monica, California. And never missing the opportunity to point out a Floridian, I share that Elizabeth Harris of Tampa is the lady in the photo peeking over the sailor’s shoulder. Also, two Floridians had their own V–J Day kiss. Betty and Dominick Bruno, 79 and 86 today living in Lakeland, never met but conducted a wartime correspondence. They finally met in person in Charlotte, North Carolina four years later, and kissed in the V–J Day bedlam in the streets, and have become local celebrities in

Charlotte where they are featured in newspaper stories every decade on the anniversary of V–J Day.

I would like to close with a testament that understandings and alliances can arise out of former cataclysm, today Japan stands with us as a true and enduring friend, fellow economic world leader, and force for a stable and prosperous Asia.

Thank you, again, for bringing this Resolution to the Floor. As the events of World War II pass further into history, the deeds of so many must not fade in our memories. The veterans in the Pacific Theater brought peace and liberation to millions, and as Americans rejoiced on V–J Day 1945, we will continue to salute you for many years to come.

[From: Division of Elections, Proclamations and Executive Orders, 1845–1995, Series S 13]  
V–J DAY PROCLAMATION, 1945

The United States entered the Second World War in December 1941, following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. For the next four years Americans participated in what was arguably the greatest national endeavor in our nation’s history.

World War II had an enormous impact on the state of Florida. More than 250,000 Floridians served in the Army, Navy, Marines, or Coast Guard and almost 4,700 gave their lives. About 170 military training bases of various sizes were established in the state; while shipyards at Tampa, Jacksonville, Panama City, and Pensacola turned out Liberty Ships and landing craft; and Florida farmers helped feed both Allied soldiers and civilians.

Spessard L. Holland served as Florida’s governor for most of World War II, but Millard F. Caldwell had been elected the state’s twenty-ninth governor in late 1944. He presided over the victory celebrations that erupted across the state in May 1945 upon the defeat of Nazi Germany, and again in August 1945, when victory over Japan was proclaimed.

On August 10, when it became obvious that Japan was on the verge of surrender, Governor Caldwell issued a proclamation calling for Floridians to maintain the “solemnity and dignity of the occasion” by avoiding “boisterous conduct.” He urged all establishments that dispensed alcohol to close for twenty-four hours following the announcement of the surrender. Nevertheless, when news reached the state a few days later of Japan’s acceptance of surrender terms, joyous pandemonium ensued. “News of the Japanese capitulation last night hit Tallahassee,” reported a newspaper, “with the force of Uncle Sam’s new atomic bomb and was the signal for everybody to unloose that pent-up feeling and start what old-timers view as the most wild, I spontaneous and enthusiastic celebration ever witnessed in the Capital City.”

A text version of the V–J Day proclamation is included below the graphic image.

PROCLAMATION  
STATE OF FLORIDA  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
TALLAHASSEE

WHEREAS, the announcement of victory against Japan and the final end of the destructive world-wide conflict, in which we have been engaged since 1941, will be received by the people of Florida, of the United States of America, and of the entire civilized world, with gratitude and thanksgiving that we have been spared further damage and sorrow, and

WHEREAS, the solemnity and dignity of this occasion should not be marred by any boisterous conduct on the part of the

thoughtless or by any tragic incident that can be avoided,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Millard F. Caldwell, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Florida, proclaim V–J DAY in Florida as the twenty-four hours next succeeding announcement of the surrender of Japan upon the proclamation by the President of the United States that hostilities are at an end, and urge that all liquor package stores, bars and tap rooms and other places dispensing alcoholic beverages, remain closed during that period;

I also call upon the Sheriffs, their deputies and other law enforcement officers throughout the State to cooperate in making V–J Day orderly, dignified and law-abiding in accordance with the spirit and intent of this proclamation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Florida at Tallahassee, the Capital, this the 10th day of August, A.D. 1945.

MILLARD F. CALDWELL,  
Governor.

Attest: R. A. Gray, Secretary of State.

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 360, a resolution commemorating the 60th anniversary of V–J Day and the end of World War II in the Pacific.

Sixty years ago today, Japanese officials formally surrendered and by doing so concluded the bloodiest war in modern history,

The United States entered the Second World War in December 1941, following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, and over the next four years Americans participated in the greatest national endeavor in our Nation’s history.

The casualty toll of Americans in the Pacific Theater during World War II was approximately 92,904 killed, 208,333 wounded, and tens of thousands missing in action and prisoners of war, with civilians and military forces of the Allied Powers suffering equally devastating tolls.

Mr. Speaker, the people of the Inland Empire are grateful to this greatest generation for their sacrifice and we honor them for their courage.

Courage of people like Frank Sandoval of Ontario, California who bravely stood his ground as a landing crew machinist during battles with Japanese forces off the Island of Leyte, Philippines.

Courage like that of former Congressman Jerry Pettis, who fought in the Pacific and then returned home to dedicate his life to his community. Indeed, our local VA Medical Center in Loma Linda is named after him.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support this resolution so we may appropriately acknowledge the countless number of Americans who sacrificed their lives in World War II.

The contributions of these brave Americans have allowed us to live in the prosperous and free America we know today. It is our duty not only to recognize and remember their example, but also to courageously follow it.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, as we commemorate the 60th anniversary of the victory over Japan and the end of World War II in the Pacific Theater, let us not forget the suffering and injustices experienced by prisoners of war (POWs) and innocent civilians who found themselves in the path of the Japanese military.

Thousands of American servicemen in the Pacific Theater were taken prisoner during World War II. Many were subjected to the Bataan Death March, in which the Japanese military forced them to march more than 60 miles

with little food or water. During this torturous trek, hundreds of U.S. soldiers died of dehydration, starvation, and violence. After being transported to Japan, many of these American POWs were handed over to private Japanese companies to toil as slave laborers.

Sadly, American POWs were not the only victims of Japanese military abuse. The list of atrocities committed by the Japanese military is extensive. Some of the more widely known acts of brutality include: death, beheadings, rape and other violent acts, forced labor and marches, and imprisonment during the occupation of Guam and many Asian countries; creation of a biochemical warfare detachment, known infamously as Unit 731 in Mukden, Manchuria, where horrendous experiments on living POWs were conducted; killing of more than 300,000 Chinese men, women, and children and the rape of 20,000 women during the event known as the 'Rape of Nanking'; and forced sexual slavery of hundreds of thousands of women from Korea, the Philippines and other countries for Japanese troops.

I acknowledge that H. Res. 360 properly recognizes that, "Japan is now a free and prosperous democracy, a valued and durable friend based on shared values and mutual interests, and a guarantor against despotism and oppression in that area of the world." However, we must not forget the past.

While the Government of Germany has formally apologized to the victims of the Holocaust and has taken great steps to provide financial compensation to the victims, the Government of Japan has refused to fully acknowledge the crimes it committed during World War II, and to provide reparations to its victims. The Government of Japan must reconcile its past in order to become a trusted world leader today.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I join in supporting House Resolution 360 recognizing V-J Day.

Last week, I was honored to serve on a delegation with Congresswoman MADELEINE BORDALLO, accompanied by Col. Antonio Baines (U.S. Army—Ret.) for the V-J Day activities in Beijing, China. The U.S. Embassy staff professionally coordinated the visit.

A highlight was to meet with U.S. veterans who served in China during World War II. It was inspiring to personally meet heroes who still exhibit the courage of their service 60 years ago.

I am grateful for my host, the Hon. Jiang Enzhu, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National People's Congress, who extended the invitation and provided a warm exchange of ideas to promote Chinese American Friendship. I addressed concern that the talks on textile imports had broken down the previous day.

At the Great Hall of the People, we were welcomed by the Hon. Sheng Hauren, Vice Chairman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee. In a frank exchange of viewpoints, we determined China and America have more in common rather than differences.

It was inspiring to join veterans of a dozen nations at the Beijing Peace Wall for the signing for the Beijing Peace Declaration. Our stay concluded with a dinner hosted by President Hu Jintao.

As the son of a Flying Tiger who served in China, I especially was appreciative to attend these events. My late father, 1LT Hugh D. Wilson, was proud to have protected the Chinese

people in the Fourteenth Air Force as a member of the 91st Fighter Squadron, 81st Fighter Group known as the Thunderdragons of Fungwaushan, China.

The following report by my father was presented to fellow 14th Air Force Veterans as he reflected on his service.

A NIGHT ON A SANDBAR ON THE YANGTZE RIVER—MARCH 8, 1945

(By Hugh D. Wilson)

I had spent twelve months in China as a fighter pilot, flying P-40's and P-47's. In another three months I would finish my quota of missions and be on my way home.

On March 7, Lt. Col. Getchel, 1st Lt. Phil Van Sickle and I were called into our CO's office to inform us that we had been picked to ferry three L-5's (Stinson) from Kunming to Chengtu a distance of 600 miles. We were to fly by transport to Kunming early on the 8th. The planes would be ready and we were to fly half way back by night fall to Ipin, spend the night and then on to Chengtu.

We took off from Kunming about 2 p.m. with an ETA at Ipin at 5 p.m. The L-5's had a 165 HP Engine and we were cruising about 100 MPH.

Van Sickle and I being 1st Lts. closely followed our Col. which was a mistake, for after about two hours he called on the radio that he thought he had missed a check point.

I had been doing some map reading and assured the Col. that we couldn't be far off course and should reach the Yangtze river in about 45 minutes. So—on we flew and arrived at the river in one hour. The Col. said he thought we were west of Ipin and that we should fly east along the river until we could recognize some check points.

Ipin is at the foot of the Himalaya mountains on the headwaters of the Yangtze river. We were warned not to fly much west of Ipin because there was a tribe of Chinese head hunters at the foot of Mt. Minya Konka. (Second highest mountain in the world 24,900 ft.)

It was getting dark about this time as I spotted a white sand bar that I thought we could land on. We all agreed and flew down close to get a good look. The river runs thru a narrow valley with mountains on each side rising to 800 ft.

On landing the Col. who went in first landed too far from the water where the sand was soft and nosed but he was not hurt. Van Sickle and I were both from Florida and knew that on our beaches the sand is firmer at the water's edge. We both got in fine. In a few minutes it was dark.

In about thirty minutes we could see a circle of lanterns all around us and closing in slowly. We didn't know whether they were head hunters or who. As they closed in on us we stood close together and agreed to be as friendly as possible (all the Chinese we knew was "Ding How"—"good"). Inside my jacket I had the Chinese and American flag and I took it off to show them.

There were at least fifty men all with a lantern with candles in them and each had a gun of some kind. I have never seen as many old guns, some were blunderbusses even.

In a few minutes they acknowledged that we were Americans and friendly. They took a good look at our planes and saw the U.S. Air Force identification.

In another twenty minutes, a Chinese Buddha monk arrived from a monastery that was atop the mountain just above us. He could speak some English and asked us to follow him up the mountain for shelter for the night (800 ft).

The monk offered us some food and we decided to eat some of their duck eggs.

After a fairly comfortable night and assured by the monks that we were east of Ipin

the Col. flew with me west to Ipin and to gas up (50 miles). We then flew back to assure Van Sickle that he could follow us home. We transferred the gas from the wrecked plane to Van Sickle's and flew on home with no further trouble. This time we all three navigated!

The above summary is indicative of the courage of our veterans in China and it is with deep appreciation that I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 360.

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 360, a resolution commemorating the 60th Anniversary of V-J Day and the end of World War II in the Pacific.

On Friday, September 2, 2005, a ceremony was held on the USS *Missouri* in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, commemorating the September 2, 1945 signing of the final surrender of Japan on her deck. Although I was in Iraq on that day, I made the following statement:

On this very ship, six decades ago, the greatest conflagration our world has ever known and, pray God, will ever know, came to a merciful end. As we stand here today, we feel acutely, and with the living, breathing spirit of history around us, that range of emotions coming to us through these lengthening years: the depth of treachery by some to the human spirit; the magnitude of suffering; the breadth of bravery and sacrifice; the exhilaration of triumph and victory; the sorrow of loss; and the faith and abiding promise of democracy and freedom.

I so regret that I cannot be with you personally for this moment, but I am with our troops in still another war on the other side of our world. But please know that I am here in spirit as we pause to remember all of this and to recommit ourselves that we shall forever heed the lessons of World War II.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, World War II marked a great pivot point for our Nation and the world. The Allies' great victory against the forces of oppression endures today as a testament to the determination and will of freedom's progress over oppression. The end of the war in the Pacific was a triumph for liberty in the world, and though many lives were lost, the memories of their valiant sacrifice will never be forgotten.

As we mark the 60th anniversary of the end of the war in the Pacific, we must also remember the sacrifices and hardships faced by the only Americans to be occupied during the war, the Chamorro people of Guam.

For the island of Guam, the war in the Pacific was a dark time indeed. Thirty-two months of oppressive occupation caused hardship and suffering, necessitating sacrifice and perseverance by the Chamorro people. Today we honor those whose lives were lost during this period. Though the scars of the occupation remain today, the liberation of the island is remembered as a seminal moment in the history of the Chamorro people.

The brave men of the 3rd Marine Division, the 77th Army Infantry Division, and the 6th Marine Provisional Brigade on July 21, 1944, fought tirelessly to liberate the Chamorro people and end the occupation. The people of Guam would like to acknowledge the enduring memory of these men who risked their lives on our behalf. Those who perished in this noble effort are today memorialized in solemn remembrance and will be for generations to come.

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 360.

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. STEARNS. Mr. 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.

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CALLING UPON THE PRESIDENT  
TO ISSUE A PROCLAMATION  
RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNI-  
VERSARY OF THE HELSINKI  
FINAL ACT

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate joint resolution (S.J. Res. 19) calling upon the President to issue a proclamation recognizing the 30th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

S.J. RES. 19

Whereas August 1, 2005, is the 30th anniversary of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), renamed the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in January 1995 (hereafter in this resolution referred to as the "Helsinki Final Act");

Whereas the Helsinki Final Act established a new framework for relations among countries in Europe and the North Atlantic region that recognized that respect for human rights is a fundamental principle in regulating international relations;

Whereas, during the Communist era, members of nongovernmental organizations, such as the Helsinki Monitoring Groups in Russia, Ukraine, Lithuania, Georgia, and Armenia and similar groups in Czechoslovakia and Poland, sacrificed their personal freedom and even their lives in their courageous and vocal support for the principles enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act;

Whereas Congress contributed to advancing the aims of the Helsinki Final Act by creating the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe to monitor and encourage compliance with provisions of the Helsinki Final Act;

Whereas, in the 1990 Charter of Paris for a New Europe, the participating States in the OSCE (hereafter in this resolution referred to as the "participating States") declared that "[h]uman rights and fundamental freedoms are the birthright of all human beings, are inalienable and are guaranteed by law" and that "[t]heir protection and promotion is the first responsibility of government";

Whereas, in the 1991 Document of the Moscow Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE, the participating States "categorically and irrevocably declare[d] that the commitments undertaken in the field of the human dimension of the

CSCE are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all participating States and do not belong exclusively to the internal affairs of the State concerned";

Whereas, in the 1990 Charter of Paris for a New Europe, the participating States committed themselves "to build, consolidate and strengthen democracy as the only system of government of our nations";

Whereas the pro-democracy revolution in Serbia in 2000, the Rose Revolution in Georgia in 2003, the Orange Revolution in Ukraine in 2004, and the popular revolution in Kyrgyzstan in 2005 demonstrate the primacy of popular sovereignty and the importance of OSCE commitments on free and fair elections;

Whereas the OSCE and the participating States have undertaken a series of measures aimed at combating anti-Semitism, racism, xenophobia, and discrimination and should report on related progress during the OSCE Conference on anti-Semitism and on Other Forms of Intolerance in Cordoba, Spain, in June 2005;

Whereas the 1999 Istanbul OSCE Charter for European Security and the November 19, 1999, Istanbul Summit Declaration note the particular challenges of ending violence against women and children as well as sexual exploitation and all forms of trafficking in human beings, and commit the participating States to strengthen efforts to combat corruption, eradicate torture, and end discrimination against Roma;

Whereas the main challenge facing the participating States remains the implementation of the principles and commitments contained in the Helsinki Final Act and other OSCE documents adopted on the basis of consensus;

Whereas the participating States have recognized that economic liberty, social justice, and environmental responsibility are indispensable to prosperity;

Whereas the participating States have committed themselves to promoting economic reforms through enhanced transparency for economic activity, with the aim of advancing the principles of market economies;

Whereas the participating States have stressed the importance of respect for the rule of law and vigorous efforts to fight organized crime and corruption, which constitute a great threat to economic reform and prosperity;

Whereas OSCE has expanded the scope and substance of its efforts, undertaking a variety of preventive diplomacy initiatives designed to prevent, manage, and resolve conflict within and among the participating States;

Whereas the politico-military aspects of security remain vital to the interests of the participating States and constitute a core element of OSCE's concept of comprehensive security;

Whereas the OSCE has played an increasingly active role in civilian police-related activities, including training, as an integral part of OSCE's efforts in conflict prevention, crisis management, and post-conflict rehabilitation; and

Whereas the participating States bear primary responsibility for raising awareness of violations of commitments contained in the Helsinki Final Act and other OSCE documents: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress calls upon the President—*

(1) to issue a proclamation—

(A) recognizing the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe;

(B) reasserting the commitment of the United States to full implementation of the Helsinki Final Act;

(C) urging all participating States to abide by their obligations under the Helsinki Final Act; and

(D) encouraging the people of the United States to join the President and Congress in observance of this anniversary with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities; and

(2) to convey to all signatories of the Helsinki Final Act that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democratic principles, economic liberty, and the implementation of related commitments continue to be vital elements in promoting a new era of democracy, peace, and unity in the region covered by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. CHANDLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. 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 S.J. Res. 19.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in very strong support of Senate Joint Resolution 19, as amended, calling on the President to issue a proclamation in recognition of the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Helsinki Final Act.

The resolution urges the 55 states of North America, Europe and Eurasia which comprise the Organization For Security and Cooperation in Europe to abide by their obligations under the Helsinki Final Act. The Congress further calls on the President to reiterate the United States' agreement that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democratic principles and economic liberty are vital elements in promoting a new era of democracy, peace and unity in this region of the world.

For all of the history that we make here, Mr. Speaker, it is not too often that we in this body have the opportunity to celebrate and honor an event that has so conspicuously marked such a turning point in human affairs. Too often the history of international relations is one of false starts and missed opportunities. The victories, when they do happen, are more often ones of prevention, disasters averted or crises ended. Or if not that, then the results are realized too far into the future to be judged with any clarity. This is not the case with the Helsinki Final Act signed on August 1, 1975.

With that historic event, what we saw was a recognition not just by the United States or even the West, but