

As to this specific trade agreement, as I have already said, it comes to the floor with the support from the administration and both parties in Congress. While I seriously doubt that free trade with the tiny island nation of Bahrain is going to be the rising tide that lifts our flagging economy, after all, trade with Bahrain accounts for only .03 percent of our total trade activity, I also will not try to stand in the way.

It should be noted, however, that despite its small size, Bahrain runs a trade surplus with the United States, joining most other countries in the world. So, what this agreement does is give us one more country the opportunity to sell more of its goods and services here, even more cheaply than it already does. Maybe one day soon, Mr. Speaker, we will find a country that the United States will run a surplus with, instead of the other way around. One can only hope.

I do have one other very serious concern with Bahrain, Mr. Speaker. Until recently, Bahrain continued to enforce the primary aspect of the Arab League boycott against Israel, which bars imports of Israeli-origin goods.

Simply put, the United States should not trade, and certainly not enter into free trade agreements with, nations that discriminate against America's closest and most trusted Middle East ally.

The kingdom of Bahrain now says they will relent. The kingdom now says that it "recognizes the need to dismantle the primary boycott of Israel and is beginning to achieve that goal."

Let us be crystal clear, Mr. Speaker. This change of heart is purely economic, and it happened just in the last month. I suspect that it has nothing to do with the fact that an economic embargo based on religion is wrong and an affront to basic human rights.

The fact that the country's parliament has rejected, in the last 6 weeks, the lifting of the embargo, and the kingdom has made it clear that it is not normalizing relations with Israel only further proves my point.

Whatever the reason, I am thrilled that Bahrain will work to end the longstanding ostracism of Israel by its neighbors. It is past time.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I would just advise my friend, I appreciate his opening remarks and respect the work that he does in international affairs, but I have no requests for time and I am prepared to yield back if the gentleman is.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Washington, and I yield back the balance of our time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1045

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). 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 later today.

#### HONORING PILOTS OF COMMERCIAL AIR CARRIERS WHO VOLUNTEER TO PARTICIPATE IN FEDERAL FLIGHT DECK OFFICER PROGRAM

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 196) honoring the pilots of United States commercial air carriers who volunteer to participate in the Federal flight deck officer program.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 196

Whereas after the tragic attacks of September 11, 2001, Congress enacted legislation authorizing volunteer pilots of United States commercial air carriers who participate in the Federal flight deck officer program to use lethal force to defend the flight deck of an aircraft against acts of terrorism;

Whereas a volunteer pilot in the Federal flight deck officer program must undergo rigorous psychological screening and a background investigation, as well as complete an intense training curriculum;

Whereas volunteer pilots in the Federal flight deck officer program provide a significant deterrent against potential acts of violence or terrorism in United States airspace, are an essential layer of security for the Nation's flying public, and are a key factor in restoring confidence in the Nation's air transportation system;

Whereas volunteer pilots in the Federal flight deck officer program devote personal time and finances to maintain a high standard of proficiency in the use of firearms and techniques for addressing emergencies in flight; and

Whereas volunteer pilots in the Federal flight deck officer program, at great personal risk and with no compensation or recognition, are dedicated to the protection of the flight deck, thereby providing an additional layer of protection to the aircraft, passengers, and cargo from acts of terrorism, such as the possible use of the aircraft as a weapon of mass destruction against people on the ground: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) recognizes that volunteer pilots in the Federal flight deck officer program are the consummate quiet professionals and embody what is best in our national character;

(2) applauds volunteer pilots in the Federal flight deck officer program for taking a stand against those who would seek to harm the United States through acts of terrorism in the air; and

(3) expresses appreciation to volunteer pilots in the Federal flight deck officer program on behalf of all citizens of the United States for the ongoing contribution of these pilots to the security of the Nation and its air transportation system.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. COSTELLO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Con. Res. 196.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, House Concurrent Resolution 196 recognizes and applauds the volunteer pilots in the Federal Flight Deck Officer program. It is an opportunity to show our appreciation for those brave pilots who are committed to protecting Americans against another act of terrorism not only at huge personal risk but with no compensation or recognition.

I appreciate Chairman MICA's leadership in establishing and supporting this program. I am proud to represent the district where the Federal flight deck officer training occurs. Chairman MICA visited this program with me last year. These are superb assets at Artesia, New Mexico, which include two 727s all lined up and allow real simulated training for the Federal flight deck officers. I also toured the facility with Department of Homeland Security Secretary Chertoff just in the last month.

We should speak for a grateful Nation for the selfless contribution these pilots make to providing a critical layer of protection to the aircraft, passengers, and cargo from acts of terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) control the remainder of my time and that he be allowed to yield time to other Members in consideration of this resolution.

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

There was no objection.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman MICA for introducing this resolution honoring the pilots who participate in this Federal Flight Deck Officer program. As the ranking member of the Aviation Subcommittee and a cosponsor of this resolution, I believe these volunteer pilots deserve to be honored and recognized for their continued and dedicated service.

Ten months after the tragic September 11 attacks, I and over 300 Members of this body voted to authorize volunteer commercial pilots to carry handguns. At the time, arming pilots was a controversial idea, yet the House