

gone, and to illuminate the pervasive and dangerous effects of drug use. The ultimate objective of these eight families is to help ensure that other families will not have to endure the same kind of loss.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the Partnership for a Drug Free America have joined the families in support of this effort to raise awareness about the terrible toll that drugs take not just on families and friends but on society as a whole.

I join my colleagues in saluting these organizations, each of which plays a vital role in our national control strategy, as well as the courageous families and other participants who will attend this important event, which will occur this Thursday, June 8th, at DEA's headquarters in Arlington, Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, as we have observed over the past few years, the meth epidemic has awakened much of America to the rampant devastation that drugs can cause to entire communities. This kind of devastation has long been known to urban centers like my own city of Baltimore—cities that have suffered through successive epidemics of heroin, cocaine and crack.

As a result of the meth epidemic, I believe there is a heightened awareness around the country and in this House that drugs don't just impair and kill individual drug users; they tear apart families and neighborhoods. I am hopeful that Thursday's Vigil will bring about even broader recognition of the fact that this problem affects all Americans and that it requires a strong national commitment to drug prevention, drug treatment, combined with concerted efforts to keep drugs off of our streets and out of the hands of our nation's young people.

Sadly, over the past six years, we have seen this Administration shift funding away from prevention, treatment, and state and local law enforcement in favor of supply reduction efforts beyond our borders. This strategy has resulted in no discernible impact on the availability of drugs on the street, and the number of lives lost to drugs like cocaine, crack, heroin and meth continues to climb.

Mr. Speaker, Congress faces difficult choices and the national preoccupation with preventing potential terror attacks is justified by the lingering shock and damage of the 9-11 attacks. Still, we cannot afford to ignore a drug problem that claims more than two thousand American lives each month. If we lack the political will or resources to make a truly substantial investment in prevention and, most important of all, to make drug treatment accessible to all who seek it, at least let us take other steps to ensure that drug abuse claims as few American lives as possible.

There are steps the government can take to avoid preventable deaths from drug overdose and abuse, as well as from the spread of deadly communicable diseases, including HIV/AIDS and hepatitis, among intravenous drug users.

If we are serious about the goal of saving lives, then let us work together to:

Provide funding to states to establish overdose prevention programs;

Ensure that first responders and law enforcement (including correctional workers) are trained to respond to drug overdoses and save lives;

Increase the availability of naloxone ("nal-OX-own")—a short-acting drug that can re-

verse the effects of a heroin overdose—to first responders, law enforcement, needle exchange programs, drug treatment centers, and other public health facilities;

And, finally, allow federal funds to be used to support needle and syringe exchange programs, which have been proven in scientific study after scientific study to reduce HIV transmission without increasing drug use.

All of these are steps that, if implemented, would save lives, preserve human potential, and reduce the suffering of families and communities across America.

By decrying the terrible impact of drugs and yet failing to take prudent action to avoid preventable drug-related deaths, Congress and the Administration risk sending a mixed message to parents who have lost a child to drugs or who stand to lose a child to drug abuse if we don't do our part.

So, as we commemorate the lives of those whose promise has been extinguished by drugs, let us be equally mindful of those who are still with us—but whose lives are in danger and hang perilously in the balance. Let us commit to helping them to avoid the terrible fate of having their promise needlessly lost and being mourned by those who love and care for them.

Mr. Speaker, I want to close by thanking Mr. DAVIS and Mr. SOUDER for bringing this resolution before us and by again saluting everyone who has worked to make the Vigil for Lost Promise come to fruition. I urge all of my colleagues to support the resolution and, more importantly, to support policies and initiatives that will minimize the number of lives lost to drug abuse from this day forward.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the adoption of H. Con. Res. 422, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 422.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF A NATIONAL CHILDREN AND FAMILIES DAY

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 763) supporting the goals and ideals of a National Children and Families Day, in order to encourage adults in the United States to support and listen to children and to help children throughout the Nation achieve their hopes and dreams, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 763

Whereas research shows that spending time together as a family is critical to raising strong and resilient kids;

Whereas strong healthy families improve the quality of life and the development of children;

Whereas it is essential to celebrate and reflect upon the important role that all families play in the lives of children and their positive effect for the Nation's future; and

Whereas the country's greatest natural resource is its children: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives supports the goals and ideals of a National Children and Families Day to—

(1) encourage adults to support, listen to, and encourage children throughout the Nation;

(2) reflect upon the important role that all families play in the lives of children; and

(3) recognize that strong, healthy families improve the quality of life and the development of children.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 763, which will support the goals and ideals of National Children and Families Day. H. Res. 763, which currently has 54 bipartisan cosponsors, passed the full Government Reform Committee with unanimous consent on May 4, 2006.

Too often we overlook the importance of a strong family in our everyday lives and most importantly its impact on our children. Our children are our country's most vital resource, and we should strive to do everything possible to prepare them to lead healthy, productive lives as they mature into adulthood.

There is nothing more important to any of us, whether we are adult or child, than to have a sense of family and tradition, but most important, to have a feeling of belonging. Too often here in this great country, we hear about the breakdown of the family. A nationally proclaimed family and children's day will be a bridge to our future and will help us restore the Nation's greatness.

Mr. Speaker, this day can serve to be a reminder to all of us to encourage children everywhere to achieve their hopes and dreams.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, families teach children the lessons they must learn to be happy and to prosper. They also care for children by giving them love and warmth and providing food, shelter and financial support.

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While families may handle problems differently, families can develop the following traits to become strong and to improve the quality of life and the development of children. Families learn how to show love and affection towards each other. And no matter what children say or do, children need to know that their parents love them. Children must know that they are loved even though they have different strengths or weaknesses. And when children make mistakes, parents can let them know they are loved as they help them to discover how to learn from mistakes.

Strong families build trusting relationships by demonstrating commitment to all the members of the family. This includes following through with promises, working as a team, and talking to one another about important decisions and daily plans.

All families experience crisis, but strong families use these experiences to learn and to grow. Family members should spend time together talking, reading, playing games, and taking walks. They should encourage each other and be involved in their neighborhoods and community.

A National Families and Children's Day will encourage families to embrace these traits and will highlight the important role all families play in the lives of children and their positive effect for the Nation's future.

It is so unfortunate that there are millions of children in our country who don't have the ability to experience on a daily basis, on a regular basis, on an ongoing basis the love and care of a stable family relationship; children who are institutionalized or children who move from one foster situation to another. Hopefully, as we continue to learn how to enhance and improve the quality of life, we will better learn how to strengthen and develop family structures and the reality that strong families help make for a strong Nation.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 763.

This resolution passed out of my committee with unanimous consent on May 4th and has support from Members on both sides of the aisle.

This resolution supports the goals and ideals of a national children and families day to encourage adults to support and listen to their children to help them achieve their hopes and dreams.

Being a parent is the toughest job an individual will ever have, but it is important to recognize that strong, healthy families improve the quality of life and the development of children.

In today's fast-paced society, and with so many demands placed on adults and children alike, it is important to take the time out and recognize the basic necessity of encouraging our Nation's youth as they are the future of this great Nation.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, I urge passage,

and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 763.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMENDING AMERICAN CRAFT BREWERS

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 753) commending American craft brewers.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 753

Whereas American craft brewers are a vibrant affirmation and expression of American entrepreneurial traditions, operating as community-based small businesses and providing employment for more than 33,000 workers;

Whereas the United States has craft brewers in every State and more than 1,300 craft brewers nationwide;

Whereas American craft brewers support American agriculture by purchasing barley, malt, and hops grown, processed, and distributed in the United States;

Whereas American craft brewers promote the Nation's spirit of independence through a renaissance in hand-crafted beers like those first brought to colonial shores by European settlers and produced here by the Nation's founding fathers, including George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, for the enjoyment of the citizenry;

Whereas American craft brewers strive to educate legal drinking-age Americans about the differences in beer flavor, aroma, color, alcohol content, body, and other complex variables, as well as historic brewing traditions, beer history, and gastronomic qualities of beer;

Whereas American craft brewers champion the message of responsible enjoyment to their customers and work within their communities to prevent alcohol abuse and underage drinking;

Whereas American craft brewers produce more than 100 distinct styles of flavorful beers, the quality and diversity of which have made the United States the envy of every beer-drinking nation in the world, thereby contributing to balanced trade by reducing American dependence on imported beers, supporting American exports, and promoting United States tourism;

Whereas American craft brewers are vested in the future, health, and welfare of their communities as employers providing a diverse array of quality local jobs, as contributors to the local tax base, and as committed sponsors of a broad range of vital community institutions and philanthropic causes, including parent-teachers' associations, Junior ROTC, children's hospitals, chambers of commerce, humane societies, rescue squads, athletic teams, and disease research; and

Whereas, in 2006, American craft brewers recognize the week of May 15–21 as American Craft Beer Week and mark it as a time to educate Americans about craft beer and celebrate the contributions that American craft brewers have made to the Nation's communities, economy, and history: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the establishment of American Craft Beer Week as a celebration of the contributions that American craft brewers have made to the Nation's communities, economy, and history; and

(2) commends American craft brewers for providing jobs, improving the balance of trade, supporting American agriculture, and educating Americans about the history and culture of beer while promoting the responsible consumption of beer as a beverage of moderation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT).

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding, and I rise today to recognize and congratulate America's craft brewers, one of the most vibrant and fast growing class of small businesses in America.

Craft brewers are entrepreneurs and hobbyists who create distinctive beverages in small independent breweries across the country. They represent the best in American ideals by combining a spirit of industrious entrepreneurship with a commitment to quality and civic responsibility. The result is a unique product that continues an enduring American tradition of home brewing that can be traced back to George Washington and Thomas Jefferson.

Craft brewers have come a long way since then. Today, there are over 1,300 independent breweries throughout the country, and their numbers are continuing to grow. For the second straight year, craft beer is the fastest growing segment of the U.S. alcoholic beverage industry. In 2005, craft beer experienced a 9 percent increase in volume, nearly triple that of the growth experienced in the wine and spirits industry.

This industry occupies an important niche in our economy and its continued growth is beneficial to our communities. Not only do craft brewers provide over 33,000 of our constituents with quality jobs, they also support our agricultural economy by purchasing barley and malt and hops grown, processed, and shipped domestically. Furthermore, with over 100 diverse and flavorful beverages, craft brewers' beverages have attracted an international following that has strengthened and increased U.S. beer exports.