

Japan, and newborn mortality is 2½ times higher in the United States than in Finland, Iceland, or Norway. Only Latvia, with six deaths per 1,000 live births, has a higher death rate for newborns than the United States, and Latvia is near the bottom of the list of industrialized nations, tied with Hungary, Malta, Poland, and Slovakia with five deaths per 1,000 births.

□ 1545

Newborn death rates are higher among American minorities and disadvantaged groups. For African Americans, the mortality rate is nearly double that of the United States as a whole, with 9.3 deaths per 1,000 births.

The primary causes of infant mortality are premature birth and low birth weight. A common reason for low birth weight infant mortality includes respiratory distress syndrome, which may involve a collapsed lung, low oxygen absorption, and high carbon dioxide level.

All children, regardless of where they are born and regardless of their race or ethnic group, deserve a healthy start in life. Mr. Speaker, I have always been told that if infant mortality rates are high, it means that the quality of life is low. If infant mortality rates are low, then it means that the quality of life is high.

It is pretty obvious, Mr. Speaker, that we need to do more to deal effectively across the board with the quality of life for people in our country, a great Nation, in an effort to make it even greater.

I strongly support this resolution and urge all of my colleagues to do so.

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

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to my distinguished colleague from Georgia, Dr. GINGREY.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I know I talk slow, but I hope I won't take 3 minutes. But I appreciate the opportunity.

I mentioned just a moment ago that my specialty was gynecology, but there is another part to that, and it is the obstetrical part, the birth and babies part. So it is an honor and a pleasure to be here and to support H. Res. 402; and I want to thank my physician colleague in this House and another OB/GYN, Dr. MIKE BURGESS, Representative BURGESS from Texas, who also practiced OB/GYN for 17 years, for bringing this resolution; and, also, of course, my colleague from Georgia, Representative WESTMORELAND; and my good friend from Chicago, Illinois, Mr. DAVIS.

Mr. DAVIS just said it perfectly. When you lose babies in the first year of life at the rate of 7 per 1,000 live births and we are 28th among industrialized nations and we brag about the fact that we have the greatest health care system in the world, there is something wrong with that picture. And, as he pointed out, it is even worse

for African American minorities; and the big problem, of course, is lack of prenatal care. Deaths occur because of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. We are still struggling to figure out why that occurs, but we clearly know why prematurity occurs, low birth weight babies that Representative DAVIS was talking about, and we can do something about that.

So this resolution is very timely, supporting the goals and ideals of Infant Mortality Awareness Month; and I just want to thank the gentleman for letting me put in my 2 cents worth in regard to this very, very important issue.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the adoption of House Resolution 402, as amended.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 402, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING THE 225TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN AND FRENCH VICTORY AT YORKTOWN DURING THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 748) recognizing the 225th anniversary of the American and French victory at Yorktown, Virginia, during the Revolutionary War.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 748

Whereas at Yorktown, Virginia, on October 19, 1781, General George Washington and the American and French armies received the surrender of Lieutenant General Charles Cornwallis and nearly 7,100 British soldiers and sailors, ending nine days of siege operations against the British army;

Whereas the victory at Yorktown concluded the last major battle of the American Revolution, effectively ending the war and securing for the colonies their independence by providing a military conclusion to the political declaration issued five years earlier;

Whereas Virginia, as the largest and most populous of the original 13 colonies and the home of General Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry, Thomas Nelson, Jr., and other leaders of the American Revolution, is blessed with a rich history of noteworthy contributions to the struggle to secure liberty and democracy;

Whereas in 1983 the Virginia General Assembly designated the 19th day of October of each year to be recognized and celebrated as Yorktown Day throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

Whereas the 2006 observance of Yorktown Day celebrates the 225th anniversary of the American and French victory at Yorktown: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives recognizes the 225th anniversary of the American and French victory at Yorktown, Virginia, during the Revolutionary War and reminds the American people of the debt the United States owes to its armed forces and the important role Yorktown and the Commonwealth of Virginia played in securing their liberty.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTMORELAND. 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 Georgia?

There was no objection.

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

On October 19, 1781, Mr. Speaker, Lieutenant General Charles Cornwallis and nearly 7,100 British soldiers surrendered to General George Washington in Yorktown, Virginia. This surrender almost 225 years ago ended the American and French 9-day siege against the British troops, and it signaled the end of the last major battle of the American Revolution.

This day in history also solidified the political declaration of independence made by the colonies 5 years later, and it opened the door to America becoming the democracy our forefathers envisioned.

We are most fortunate to live in this Nation, and I urge all Members to join me in supporting this resolution recognizing the 225th anniversary of the American and French Victory at Yorktown.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, Yorktown was established by Virginia's colonial government in 1691 to regulate trade and to collect taxes on both imports and exports for Great Britain. Over time, the waterfront with wharves, docks, storehouses, and businesses developed. On the bluff above the waterfront, stately homes lined Main Street. Taverns and shops were scattered throughout the town. By the early 1700s, Yorktown had emerged as a major Virginia port and economic center.

Today, Yorktown is best known as the site where the British army under General Charles Lord Cornwallis was forced to surrender on October 19, 1781, to General George Washington's combined American and French army. Upon hearing of their defeat, British Prime Minister Frederick Lord North is reputed to have said, "Oh, God, it's

all over." And it was. The victory secured independence for the United States and significantly changed the course of world history.

H. Res. 748 recognizes the 225th anniversary of the American and French victory at Yorktown, Virginia, during the Revolutionary War; and I strongly support its passage.

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

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to my distinguished colleague from the Commonwealth of Virginia, Mrs. DAVIS.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my resolution, H. Res. 748, recognizing the 225th anniversary of the American and French victory at Yorktown, Virginia, during the Revolutionary War.

I am very proud to represent America's First Congressional District. While next year my district will be host to the 400th anniversary celebration of the founding of Jamestown, this month marks another significant anniversary in our Nation's history: the victory at Yorktown.

It is a privilege every year on October 19 to celebrate Yorktown Day. The Revolution secured independence for the United States and significantly changed the course of world history. The American Revolution took place from Maine to Florida and as far west as Arkansas and Louisiana, but it was Yorktown battlefield that saw the final battle of the American Revolution, with the surrender of General Cornwallis's British army to General George Washington's American-French allied army in October, 1781.

By the end of September, 1781, Washington's army of 17,600 Continental soldiers and French allies had surrounded Cornwallis' 8,300 British, German, and Loyalist troops and laid siege to Yorktown, leading to the surrender of Cornwallis on October 19, 1781. And my colleague from Illinois said it best when he quoted Prime Minister Frederick Lord North when he said, "Oh, God, it's all over." The allied victory at Yorktown effectively ended the war.

In 1931, Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, Secretary of the Interior, commented, "To declare independence is one thing; to achieve it is another. Here it was actually achieved . . . The victory at Yorktown gave us that independence which the American patriots had boldly proclaimed to the world."

Mr. Speaker, it is that independence that we so cherish and enjoy here in the United States of America today. It is our freedoms that our wonderful men and women in the military continue to fight for today, and it started back in 1781 with the victory at Yorktown.

Mr. Speaker, with that, I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution honoring a significant historical event in our Nation's history.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 748.

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.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL PREGNANCY AND INFANT LOSS REMEMBRANCE DAY

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 222) supporting the goals and ideals of National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 222

Whereas each year, approximately one million pregnancies in the United States end in miscarriage, stillbirth, or the death of a newborn baby;

Whereas it is a great tragedy to lose the life of a child;

Whereas even the shortest lives are still valuable, and the grief of those who mourn the loss of these lives should not be trivialized;

Whereas during the past 3 years, Governors of all 50 States have signed proclamations designating October 15 as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day;

Whereas the legislatures of the States of Arkansas, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, New York, Rhode Island, and South Dakota have passed concurrent resolutions recognizing October 15th of each year as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day;

Whereas the observance of Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day may provide validation to those who have suffered a loss through miscarriage, stillbirth, or other complications;

Whereas recognizing Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day would enable the people of the United States to consider how, as individuals and communities, they can meet the needs of bereaved mothers, fathers, and family members, and work to prevent the causes of these deaths; and

Whereas October 15th of each year is an appropriate day to observe National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such day with appropriate programs and activities.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTMORELAND. 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 Georgia?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, it is an enormous tragedy to lose the life of a child, and it is a sad statistic that each year approximately 1 million pregnancies in the United States end in miscarriage, stillbirth, or the death of a newborn baby.

As this resolution states, even the shortest of lives are of great value, and the grief of the parents who lose their children cannot be underestimated. The Governors of all 50 States have joined together in designating October 15, 2006, as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day; and I hope all Members will join me in supporting the goals and ideal of this day as well.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, when any baby or child dies, there is deep grief for the hopes, dreams, and wishes that will never be. Left behind are a sense of loss and a need for understanding.

Every year, many lives are touched by miscarriage or the death of an infant or child. According to a 1996 study by the Center for Disease Control, 16 percent of the more than 6 million pregnancies that year ended in either a miscarriage or a stillbirth, and 26,784 births ended in infant death.

Pregnancy and Infant Loss Day, which will be held on October 15, will assist in bringing the process of healing to families and will help to heal families who are coping with and recovering from a miscarriage, stillbirth, or the loss of an infant.

Families will always struggle to cope with the devastating crisis of a miscarriage or loss of an infant child. Parents often cry, feel ill or depressed, or have other emotional responses for months or years after a death. The pain is a normal part of grieving. Parents often want to talk about their pain and are pleased when others take the time to listen. People who come into contact with a grieving family have a role in helping to resolve the family's grief. The role of each person will be determined by his or her relationship with the family and the family's stage of grief. As a community, we should remember that no one can take the pain away from a grieving family. We can, however, provide comfort, sympathy, and understanding.

There will always be the need for compassionate support for grieving families, and I hope that all Americans will take the time on October 15 to show their compassion for families that have experienced the loss of an infant or a child.