

Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

**SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL SALUTE TO HOSPITALIZED VETERANS WEEK**

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 963) supporting the goals and ideals of National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 963

Whereas February 11–15, 2008, has been designated by the President as National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week;

Whereas the National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans week each year is an opportunity to thank a special group of men and women, the more than 98,000 veterans of the United States Armed Forces, who are cared for every day in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical centers, outpatient clinics, domiciliarys, and nursing homes;

Whereas at the 155 VA hospitals across the Nation, there are veterans who face the physical and mental wounds of combat every day, long after their military service has been completed;

Whereas we can never fully repay our debt of gratitude to the veterans, but will thank and support them with our words and deeds;

Whereas Mike Vogel, motion picture actor and star of the newly-released "Cloverfield", will lead the VA's annual patient recognition program as the national spokesperson, inviting the public to visit and honor hospitalized veterans during National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week; and

Whereas Mike Vogel will be the youngest celebrity to lead the National Salute, bringing youthful energy to the program at a time when the number of young combat veterans under the care of the VA is growing, and as the VA is looking to younger generations of Americans to replenish an aging volunteer force: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Program and its efforts to pay tribute to and express appreciation for hospitalized veterans, to increase community awareness of the role of VA medical centers, and to encourage citizens to visit hospitalized veterans and become involved as volunteers;

(2) encourages citizens who live near a VA hospital or clinic to take time this week to visit and thank our veterans; and

(3) will continue to work with veterans service organizations to support our veterans with words, actions, and financial assistance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RODRIGUEZ) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

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

Mr. Speaker, throughout the Nation's history, we have relied on the patriotism, valor, courage and unself-

ishness of those who wear the uniform of the Armed Forces. With this service comes the real possibility of receiving an injury in answering the call to duty. The global war on terrorism is no exception. To date, over 31,000 servicemen and -women have been wounded in action and nearly 4,000 killed.

For 30 years, the Department of Veterans Affairs has designated the week of February 14 as the National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week. The goals of the program are to pay tribute and express appreciation to hospitalized veterans, to increase community awareness, and to encourage individuals to become involved at their local VA as volunteers.

The VA's Voluntary Service is the largest volunteer program in the Federal Government. Over the past 60 years, VA volunteers have donated more than 689 million hours of service worth an estimated \$12.9 billion. In fiscal year 2007, 85,428 active volunteers contributed a total of more than 11.6 million hours of service, equal to 5,574 full-time employees, worth \$218 million.

Let's not forget those who have fought for this country in their time of greatest need. Join me in recognizing and paying tribute to the hospitalized veterans. I challenge each and every person to go visit their local VA medical center and brighten the smile on a veteran's face.

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

I also rise today in support of H. Res. 963, supporting the goals and ideals of National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week, and for other purposes. I would like to thank my colleagues Mr. RODRIGUEZ and Mr. MILLER of Florida for sponsoring this timely piece of legislation.

The President has designated this week, February 11 through 15, as National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week. This week provides the American people the opportunity to thank a special group of men and women, the more than 98,000 veterans of the United States Armed Forces, who are cared for every day by the Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers, outpatient clinics, domiciliarys, and nursing homes across this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution specifically shows the support of the United States House of Representatives for the National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Program and its efforts to pay tribute to and express appreciation for these hospitalized veterans. The resolution also seeks to increase community awareness of the role of VA medical centers, and to encourage citizens to visit hospitalized veterans and become involved as volunteers. The resolution also encourages citizens who live near a VA hospital or clinic to just take time to visit and thank our veterans personally.

During my visits with veterans at the Gainesville, Florida VA Medical Center

and my trip this past year to Ramstein to visit the troops at the hospital, I have also been inspired by the courage and honor that is displayed by these heroes. You will walk away feeling a whole lot better than when you came in, because you're so proud of what they've done.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, this resolution assures our Nation's veterans that we in Congress will continue to work with veterans service organizations to support our veterans with words, actions, and financial assistance.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 963.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, let me conclude and extend my thanks to Chairman FILNER and Ranking Member BUYER for not just bringing this resolution to the House floor but also the two previous bills. These reinforce Congress' commitment to serving America's veterans.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. 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 H. Res. 963.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of the National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week.

The Department of Veterans Affairs facilities care for over 98,000 veterans every day.

The veteran organizations in my district are extremely active in visiting and volunteering to help hospitalized veterans being treated in the surrounding medical facilities.

I would like to recognize the contributions of our local Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, and Disabled American Veterans posts, as well as the Korean War Veterans, Vietnam War Veterans, the Polish Legion of American Veterans and the Brooksville Elks Lodge. The efforts of these groups pay tribute and express the appreciation of a grateful nation, not only to hospitalized veterans but to every man and woman that has ever worn the uniform.

The contributions of volunteers go a long way, but we in Congress need to reaffirm our commitment to providing veterans with the facilities they need to get the care they deserve.

I am pleased to see that in this year's budget the President included \$120 million for the new VA Medical Facility in Orlando, FL, on the Lake Nona site. This new facility will provide acute care, complex specialty care and advanced diagnostic services through a hospital, an outpatient clinic, a 118-bed nursing home, and a 60-bed domiciliary.

I was also pleased that the President's budget included funding for the expansion of the Tampa Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center.

This funding will help to improve the facilities and the scope of services available to our severely wounded veterans at the Tampa Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center.

I hope my colleagues will join me in voicing their commitment for the future funding needs of these important projects.

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 963, supporting the goals and ideals of National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week.

February 11–15, 2008, has been designated by the President as National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week. In over 155 VA hospitals across the Nation, we have suffering veterans who face the physical and mental wounds of combat every day. As a veteran myself, I understand the real-life sacrifices an individual does through while on duty. Living far away from family and loved ones is a sacrifice that hospitalized veterans continue to face every day.

As President's Day approaches, let us not forget those veterans that are the real-life examples of the courage and service our Nation was founded on. These veterans are our heroes—and now they need a hero of their own to thank them for their service and sacrifice.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this most dignified and deserving honor for our hospitalized veterans.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 963, supporting the goals and ideals of National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week.

National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week this year is February 11th to 15th, and so it is appropriate that we are here today to pay tribute to those who have put their lives on the line for our Nation's freedom.

H. Res. 963 supports the National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Program and the program's efforts to express appreciation to hospitalized veterans for their efforts and increase awareness of the importance of Veterans' Affairs medical centers throughout the country. The resolution also supports the program's work to encourage citizens to visit hospitalized veterans and volunteer their services.

Mr. Speaker, for centuries our brave service men and women have given their utmost to ensure our liberty here at home. We owe our soldiers an eternal debt of gratitude, and giving our support to hospitalized veterans and recognizing their service as we are doing today is one important step toward paying that debt.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to unanimously support H. Res. 963, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RODRIGUEZ) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 963.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

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.

#### SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF AMERICAN HEART MONTH AND NATIONAL WEAR RED DAY

Mrs. CAPPs. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 972) supporting the goals and ideals of American Heart Month and National Wear Red Day.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 972

Whereas diseases of the heart are the Nation's leading cause of death and stroke is the third leading cause of death in both men and women;

Whereas nearly 2,400 American men, women, and children die of cardiovascular disease each day, an average of one death every 37 seconds;

Whereas many people do not recognize that heart disease, stroke, and other cardiovascular diseases are the number 1 killer of American women, claiming the lives of almost 460,000 American women each year or about one per minute;

Whereas we as a Nation have made great progress in reducing the death rates for coronary heart disease, but this progress has been much more modest in women and minorities, resulting in cardiovascular disease disparities;

Whereas many minority women, including African-American, Hispanic, Native-American and some subgroups of Asian-American women, have a greater prevalence of risk factors or are at a higher risk of death from heart disease, stroke, and other cardiovascular diseases, but they are less likely to know of this risk;

Whereas cardiovascular diseases cost the Nation more than any other cause of death, with direct and indirect costs estimated to reach \$448.5 billion in the United States in 2008;

Whereas the research is clear that there are tools available to prevent heart disease, stroke, and other cardiovascular diseases and to improve survival rates from cardiovascular disease;

Whereas Congress, by Joint Resolution approved on December 30, 1963, requested that the President issue an annual proclamation designating February as "American Heart Month";

Whereas the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health, the American Heart Association, and many other organizations celebrate "National Wear Red Day" during February by "going red" to increase awareness about heart disease as the leading killer of women; and

Whereas every year since 1964 the President has issued a proclamation designating the month of February as "American Heart Month"; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of "American Heart Month" and "National Wear Red Day";

(2) commends the efforts of States, territories and possessions of the United States, localities, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and other entities, and the people of the United States who support "American Heart Month" and "National Wear Red Day";

(3) recognizes and reaffirms our commitment to fighting heart disease and stroke by promoting awareness about its causes, risks, and prevention, supporting research, and expanding access to medical treatment; and

(4) encourages each and every American to learn about their own personal risk for heart disease.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPs) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAPPs. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of H. Res. 972 which I am proud to have introduced with Congresswomen FALLIN, SCHAKOWSKY, MCMORRIS RODGERS, CHRISTENSEN, and CUBIN. This diverse group of lead sponsors is testament to the importance of raising greater awareness about heart disease, and especially heart disease in women.

The resolution recognizes both Heart Month and National Wear Red Day, both of which occur in February. Heart Month was first designated 45 years ago and has served as a launching pad to spur advocates into action around the country.

In my hometown of Santa Barbara, there will be a Go Red for Women luncheon in the coming weeks. This event provides opportunities for women to learn more about heart health for themselves and also for the role they often play as the health decisionmaker in their families.

The importance of community events like Go Red for Women lunches cannot be overstated. Heart disease is the number one killer of both women and men. But now, in fact, more women than men die of heart disease each year. Unfortunately, there is still an existing knowledge gap both in terms of public awareness and professional awareness.

Despite the fact that almost 460,000 American women die of heart disease every year, women are still grossly underrepresented in clinical trials, as one example. The numbers are even worse for minority women who are at an even greater risk for developing heart disease and who have many more barriers to accessing care.

So today, as we pass this resolution to recognize the importance of Heart Month and Wear Red Day, let us use this opportunity to discuss the real changes we can make to improve women's heart health.

My colleague, BARBARA CUBIN, and I have introduced H.R. 1014 the HEART for Women Act. This act takes crucial steps to address women's heart health. It ensures that research is stratified by gender. In other words, that we recognize that women need to have research