

March on Washington, she sang "I Been 'Buked and I Been Scorned" at Dr. King's request. Dr. King is recalled as having said about Mahalia Jackson, "A voice like this comes, not once in a century, but once in a millennium."

Fittingly, she won a Lifetime Achievement Award Grammy in 1972, was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1997 and was honored with a U.S. Postal Service stamp in 1988.

The gospel music of Mahalia Jackson, as has all gospel music, inspired music of other genres, in particular jazz, blues, and rock and roll. Little Richard, indeed, names her as one of his biggest influences. "She was my inspiration," he says. "She could sing."

Gospel music expresses all that is important in the human experience: our trials, our fears, our faith, our hope for salvation.

Today, the gospel tradition started in New Orleans by Mahalia Jackson continues. Through the inspirational singing and award-winning performances of Bishop Paul S. Morton, Trin-I-Tee 5:7, the Zion Harmonizers, the New Orleans Spiritualettes, Tara Alexander, and many others, God is powerfully glorified.

New Orleans is truly a bedrock of gospel music and gospel music the cornerstone of hope and spirituality for our Nation. Gospel music deserves, Mr. Speaker, and its artists deserve to have the recognition that this resolution affords. And I urge its adoption.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) for 3 minutes.

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, let me join in with my colleagues in expressing support for the designation of September 2008 for Gospel Music Heritage Month. And let me commend the sponsor, Ms. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE, for her initiative to make the gospel music national art form as we've seen with jazz in the past.

And let me thank the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) for his support of this legislation.

Let me say that this resolution certainly recognizes gospel music's contribution in American culture by celebrating its rich heritage and artists for the entire month of September. It is very important that we recognize and celebrate the vital role gospel music has played in music history and also in contemporary times.

Gospel music has been woven into the fabric of American history spanning generations from rock and roll, country, to blues, R&B, and even hip hop. Gospel music roots can be many musical genres, and we love that today. Not only has gospel music entertained the masses, but its spiritual roots have spread the hope to many souls around the world.

As you know, the history of gospel can be traced back to the African

American spirituals that blended diverse elements from traditional music, folk songs, and hymns and ultimately borrowed from other American musical styles including ragtime, jazz, and the blues.

The first Negro spirituals were inspired by the hardship of slavery yet enlightened by the hope and faith of God. They were used to send messages to express personal feelings and uplift broken spirits. They told a story of a generation, and each era's sense of belief, hence the word "gospel."

As traditional Negro spirituals continued to be sung, new spiritual songs were created. The lyrics of these songs were sung and they dealt with the praise of the Lord with personal improvement and with brotherly community life. Many of them were inspired by social problems, segregation, lack of love, and the list goes on and on.

Words from traditional spirituals were slightly changed and adapted to special events. For example, the words of "Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho (and the walls came tumbling down)" was changed into "marching around Selma."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's time has expired.

Mr. CLAY. I yield the gentleman 1 additional minute.

Mr. PAYNE. Instruments would later be infused in the culture influencing some of the most memorable voices, and we heard them, in particular Mahalia Jackson and Roberta Martin, and many, many others. Later we heard Marvin Gaye and Elvis Presley and Aretha Franklin.

But in our local town of Norton, we had people at New Hope Baptist Church where Sissy Houston is still the head of music there, and Sissy Houston came out of our New Hope Baptist Church and Dionne Warwick preceded them, all in the same choir at New Hope Baptist Church.

So therefore without doubt, gospel music deserves national recognition, and that is why I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 370, designating September as National Gospel Music Heritage Month.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I wholeheartedly support House Concurrent Resolution 370. I urge my colleagues to support it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 370.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

EXPRESSING HEARTFELT SYMPATHY FOR THE VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES OF THE RECENT IOWA TORNADO

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1283) expressing heartfelt sympathy for the victims and their families following the tornado that hit Little Sioux, Iowa, on June 11, 2008.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1283

Whereas the Boy Scouts attending the Little Sioux Scout Ranch for the annual Pohuk Pride Junior Leadership training course suffered through a horrific tornado;

Whereas, on June 11, 2008, the tornado hit the Little Sioux Boy Scout Ranch near Little Sioux, Iowa, at 6:35 p.m., killing 4 youths and injuring 43 other people at the camp;

Whereas Little Sioux Boy Scout Ranch, which spans 1,800 acres, is located in the Loess Hills in western Iowa, close to the border with Nebraska, about 40 miles north of Omaha;

Whereas the tornado caused a giant rock chimney to collapse in the bunkhouse where the Boy Scouts were seeking shelter;

Whereas the devastation of the tornado resulted in the deaths of Sam Thomsen, Josh Fennen, Ben Petrzilka, and Aaron Eilerts;

Whereas Sam Thomsen of Omaha, Nebraska, was 13 years old and the son of Sharon and Larry Thomsen;

Whereas Sharon Thomsen referred to Sam as the family's "miracle" baby, as he was born more than 3 months premature, but luckily had no lasting health problems;

Whereas Sam Thomsen, who loved camping, Jesus, football, and the Nebraska Cornhuskers, as a member of Troop 26 and wanted to eventually become an Eagle Scout;

Whereas Sam was about to turn 14 years old on June 16, 2008, and he had asked his parents for tickets to the College World Series as his birthday present;

Whereas Josh Fennen of Omaha, Nebraska, was 13 years old, had just finished the 8th grade, and was the son of Charles and Dorothy Fennen;

Whereas Josh Fennen, a member of Troop 331, was confident and inquisitive, with natural leadership abilities;

Whereas according to Josh Fennen's middle school principal, Josh was a "good student, a hard worker, and he was always trying to be creative";

Whereas Ben Petrzilka of Omaha, Nebraska, was 13 years old and the son of Bryan and Arnell Petrzilka;

Whereas Ben Petrzilka had just finished 7th grade at Mary Our Queen Catholic School and often spent time fishing and hunting with his father;

Whereas Ben Petrzilka had been a member of Troop 448 for 3 years and had reached First Class rank, 3 steps below Eagle, and was assistant leader of the Ninja Patrol of Troop 448;

Whereas Aaron Eilerts of Eagle Groove, Iowa, was 14 years old and a member of Boy Scout Troop 108;

Whereas Aaron Eilerts was always doing things for others, whether it was creating

brightly colored pillowcases for patients at local hospitals, making fleece blankets for dogs at the Humane Society, or making table centerpieces for the senior citizen dining center in Eagle Grove;

Whereas Aaron Eilerts, an aspiring chef with an obsession with Elvis, was very involved in his community, as he often performed "The Star Spangled Banner" at local sporting events, participated in football, ran cross country, and was involved in both band and choir;

Whereas Sam Thomsen, Josh Fennen, Ben Petrzilka and Aaron Eilerts all lived by the Scout Oath, "On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and obey the Scout law, to help other people at all times, to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight";

Whereas all the Boy Scouts exhibited extraordinary leadership by executing techniques they had recently been taught in a mock emergency drill just a day before the tornado hit;

Whereas the Boy Scouts removed stones that had fallen onto fellow Scouts, tied tourniquets around the limbs of the wounded, helped pull the injured out of the rubble, carried the injured on stretchers, and kept their composure in the face of disaster;

Whereas the 43 injured people were taken to 5 hospitals: Creighton University Medical Center in Omaha; Mercy Medical Center in Sioux City, Iowa; Burgess Health Center in Onawa, Iowa; Community Memorial Hospital in Missouri Valley, Iowa; and Memorial Community Hospital in Blair, Nebraska;

Whereas the majority of those injured and sent to area hospitals received treatment and were released;

Whereas first responders and officers of the Little Sioux Volunteer Fire Department, Monona County Emergency Management, Decatur Volunteer Fire Department, Fort Calhoun Volunteer Fire Department, Monona County Sheriff's Department, Harrison County Sheriff's Department, Iowa State Patrol, Iowa National Guard, Red Cross, and Mercy Air Care arrived at the Little Sioux Boy Scout Ranch within 10 minutes and walked through the rain on a muddy road to reach the campers, as fallen trees in the heavily timbered park blocked their vehicles;

Whereas, on June 12, 2008, Iowa Governor Chet Culver and Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman met with families of the victims, expressed their condolences, and thanked those who helped during the disaster;

Whereas Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff toured the camp on June 12, 2008, and said it appeared that the Boy Scouts "didn't have a chance" and that the tornado came through the camp "like a bowling ball"; and

Whereas the Boy Scout community will grieve the loss and celebrate the lives of those who died in this horrific natural disaster for months and years to come: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses its heartfelt sympathy for the victims and their families of the tornado in Little Sioux, Iowa, on June 11, 2008; and

(2) conveys its gratitude to the city and county officials, police, fire department, sheriff, volunteer, and emergency medical teams who responded swiftly to the scene to treat the wounded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

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

As a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I rise in support of House Resolution 1283 which expresses our heartfelt sympathy for the victims and the families following the tornado that hit Little Sioux on June 11.

At 6:35 p.m. on June 11, a tornado touched down at the Little Sioux Boy Scout Ranch near Little Sioux, Iowa. The tornado, which tore through the ranch with the greatest force of nature, caused a rock chimney to collapse into the bunkhouse where the Scouts sought shelter. In the aftermath of the tornado's destruction, 43 individuals were injured, and four, Sam Thomsen, Josh Fennen, Ben Petrzilka, and Aaron Eilerts, were tragically killed.

Mr. Speaker, the Boy Scout community and America at large will grieve the loss of the four Scouts whose lives ended so suddenly. With this bill, we have the opportunity to commemorate the lives of these individuals and to convey our gratitude to all those who so swiftly responded to the disaster, and I urge the adoption of this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, June 12, a vicious cluster of tornadoes ripped through the Midwest ending lives and destroying homes in Minnesota, Nebraska, Kansas, and Iowa. Though the storms devastated families everywhere they touched down, one storm in particular that touched down at the Little Sioux Scout Ranch in Loess Hills, Iowa, wounded the heart of our Nation a little more. And in a moment, I will recognize some of our colleagues who were directly involved and are here to share their thoughts on this tragedy.

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

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker I continue to reserve.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I now yield to my colleague from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY) such time as he may consume.

□ 2045

Mr. TERRY. I appreciate you yielding me the time.

I rise today to pay tribute to four boys who lost their lives after a tornado destroyed their Boy Scout camp near Little Sioux, Iowa, on Wednesday, June 11. And as the gentlelady from North Carolina mentioned, it was a string of storms all the way from Iowa through Omaha, Nebraska, all the way down into Manhattan, Kansas.

The boys were at this camp in Little Sioux, Iowa, Boy Scout camp, learning

leadership skills and were definitely on the right path to be leaders in their future endeavors. Unfortunately, their lives were cut short by a fierce and destructive storm, an F-3 tornado.

Interestingly, it was just the day before where the Scouts practiced how to react to a disaster like a tornado, and we can be very proud of the Scouts and how they acted after the storm.

This tornado killed four boys, injured almost 50 others. Killed in the storm was 13-year-old Ben Petrzilka, 13-year-old Sam Thomsen, and Josh Fennen. Those three boys were all from Omaha. Ironically, all three of them were only a few miles from where my wife and my family live.

Ben Petrzilka has been described as a caring and a natural leader. He was a member of Boy Scout Troop 448 and earned more than 20 merit badges, truly amazing.

Sam Thomsen was born more than 3 months premature, adopted by a caring and loving family. They called Sam their "miracle boy." His pastor said he was "great kid" and always had a smile on his face.

Josh Fennen, a great student and hard worker as he was described by his school principal, had a knack for exploring and was a natural leader.

Aaron Eilerts was a member of Boy Scout Troop 108 in Humboldt, Iowa, loved music, especially Elvis. For merit badges, he created pillowcases for local hospitals and made blankets for the humane society. He truly lived the Boy Scout Oath of: "On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help others at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight."

All of these boys lived the Scout Oath, something their family, friends and fellow Scouts can be extremely proud of. I know I am.

I'm proud of all the Scouts and how they reacted. The stories of heroism from these four fallen boys' colleagues are truly moving.

So God bless them, their families and Scouts everywhere.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I rise to support this legislation of Mr. TERRY and to offer my deep sympathy.

I serve on the board of the Boy Scouts in the Houston-Galveston area and have worked with the Boy Scouts for a very, very long time. And so I want to offer to the families of those who lost their life the deepest sympathy of those from Texas and to be able to express my appreciation for the organization of Boy Scouts that teaches character and leadership and empathy.

And listening to the testimonies of those who survived and listening to the testimony of those boys who then

helped others survive, I know that even in the loss of these young heroes other young boy Scouts will learn the lessons even better of leadership and challenge.

I'd like to add my sympathy to the families and to the community. As we look over the Midwest, this has been an enormously tragic time. Families have lost their homes. They've lost loved ones, but this was particularly heart-wrenching, and many of us know the service that Boy Scouts give across America.

And so I ask my colleagues, along with the Members who have come to the floor today to support H. Res. 1283, to recognize the great loss that we've experienced. We have to champion the organization of Boy Scouts that teaches leadership and service, but also begins to build the building blocks that allows those young men to be courageous as they were to help others in their time of need.

Mr. Speaker, I ask support of the legislation.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to my colleague from Iowa (Mr. LATHAM).

Mr. LATHAM. I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina for the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my sympathy to the families who lost their boys in the tornado in Little Sioux, Iowa, earlier this month.

As a parent, I know that no words uttered on this floor will ease the pain of losing a child. I only hope today's statements will serve as a timeless reminder that America's heart broke upon the news of this tragic loss. As a Nation, we are all so very sorry for your loss.

I'd like to take a moment to talk about Aaron Eilerts of Eagle Grove, Iowa. Aaron was 14 years old. He was the only son of Bob and Carol Eilerts. He was a dedicated member of Boy Scout Troop 108.

Although I didn't have the honor of knowing Aaron, many people in the town of Eagle Grove were touched deeply by this outstanding young man. After reading the many tributes to Aaron Eilerts, I was struck by what a special person he was.

Aaron had taken it upon himself to make pillowcases for children who were sick and confined in hospitals. He made dozens of colorful pillowcases, including one for his cousin who was recovering from losing his leg serving our country in Iraq.

Aaron will be remembered for his generosity and his big heart. He enjoyed making people happy and had a special gift for making folks smile.

It should be noted that Aaron was a distinguished member of Scouting's National Honor Society, The Order of the Arrow. Aaron was elected to the Order by his peers because he best exemplified the Scout Oath and Law in his daily life.

I will recite the Scout Oath and Law in Aaron's memory, and I hope it will

give people a sense of what kind of a person he was and what we should all aspire to be.

The Scout Oath reads: "On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight."

The Scout Law requires each Boy Scout to be trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

We should all follow Aaron Eilerts' example. He lived a good life, doing good things for people in need.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to my colleague from Iowa (Mr. KING).

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlelady from North Carolina for yielding.

I rise with my colleagues this evening to pay tribute to the Scouts who were lost in that storm of June 11, 2008, and to those also who survived and set such a fine example for Scouts everywhere and for all time to follow.

The location of the tragedy is a few miles west of where I live, I suppose about 25 miles as the crow flies over our beloved Loess Hills, some of us call them the bluffs, yet a unique soil type that exists in only one other place in the world.

And in those Loess Hills is an 1,800-acre wilderness park, the Boy Scout camp, where sometimes there are as many as 8- to 900 Scouts camping. On that fateful evening of June 11, there were about 93 Scouts on the location, along with about 25 leaders.

And in this disaster, as I have been on the site the second morning after the tragedy, as well as went over it last Saturday morning to take a look at that from the air to try to make sense of it and put it in a concept where I can at least explain it, this tornado came across the Missouri riverbottom, and it ripped through a small treeline down on the flat part of the riverbottom and then over an irrigation system and flipped it over and went directly to the ranger's house, the ranger who lives into the first finger valley in the bluffs in his home with his wife and three small children.

That tornado went directly at his home, which had no basement, slab on-grade, about the same kind of architecture as the shelter house that the Boy Scouts were in, and took his house and tore it to shreds. They huddled in an interior closet and ended up underneath the rubble from their fireplace, trapped there, the ranger, his wife and the three children. And they were all trapped and laying underneath the blocks and the stones.

And the tornado then went on up the valley and just jumped over a little ridge and dropped right down on the shelter house where 40 to 50 of the Scouts had gone to for shelter.

And I want to emphasize, Mr. Speaker, that there's nothing more the Scouts could have done, no place that they could have gone that was better than where they went, with 93 of them scattered out in these finger valleys, and they were living in small pup tents that were pitched along the valley. As I came in there, many of those tents were crushed underneath the trees. If they had stayed in their tents they would not have survived.

Some of them didn't get into the shelter house and had to lay on the ground. Those that survived, the tornado miraculously sucked the air out of their lungs, but 40 to 50 went into the shelter house, Mr. Speaker. And they did the only thing they could do which is get the kind of shelter that they could.

The velocity of the wind was such that it picked up a pick-up truck that was sitting about 100 feet on the one side of the building and blasted that vehicle through the building, through the fireplace, through the chimney. And that vehicle landed about 150 feet the other side of what was left of the building, which wasn't much at all. And the Scouts that we lost were lost underneath the rubble that was knocked down by that pick-up truck that was blown through.

This lasted about 8 seconds. Scouts being always prepared, one of them punched the stopwatch on his wristwatch and timed the storm while it was there and shut the stopwatch off. Eight seconds was how long the terror lasted.

And immediately after that was over, some of the Scouts rose up from the rubble and began to help the others and triage and do as their first aid training had taught them.

Some of them ran down not quite a half a mile to the ranger's home, where they began frantically tearing the rubble off of the ranger and his three children and his wife and who were trapped underneath there and would have eventually suffocated. They pulled them all out, and they all walked away, the ranger and his family.

Some of the Scouts ran up to another location on the wilderness campsite and went into a building and got a couple of small ATVs and all the chainsaws they could get their hands on. By the time the emergency personnel arrived—that was within 7 minutes—they were sawing logs out of the way to make room for the emergency workers.

These Scouts not only had trained the day before, but 2 years and 2 months earlier, they had trained in April for a similar kind of a drill. They were surprised at 5 o'clock in the morning by the Scout leaders and the local EMT workers who had set up this training drill. They had issued the Scouts first-aid kits, light boxes or clear plastic boxes, with gauze and other type of first-aid equipment in those kits. These Scouts who had trained 2 years earlier and 1 day earlier

for a similar disaster, found themselves with the first-aid kits that they had been issued, giving first aid to their fellow Scouts and some to their Scout leaders.

As I walked that site on the Friday morning following the Wednesday afternoon, some of these first-aid kits were scattered out around the site where they had been used up helping each other. It's a powerful example of the training that the Scouts had gone through and how they used that training.

Mr. Speaker, they did everything they could have done from a training standpoint. They did everything they could have done from a reaction standpoint. They did all of the right things in the aftermath of the tornado, and I believe that this tragedy of losing the four Scouts, as sad as it is—and we pay tribute to them and their lives and we offer our prayers and our shared grief to their families and the families of all of those who feel this pain—as sad as that is, I believe that there is a silver lining to this cloud.

First, I'm confident that there will be a memorial built on that location for those four Scouts.

□ 2100

And I believe that there will be a day soon where the training drills of the Scouts will incorporate the things that they learned there, the things that they did there, and I believe there will be Scouts that come to this camp, this 1,800-acre wilderness camp, from all over the United States over time who will train on the very location where we lost the four Scouts.

Before I conclude, Mr. Speaker, I do want to read the list of the local volunteer organizations that I know are at least on this list—and I'm convinced it cannot be all of them—the Little Sioux, Iowa, Volunteer Fire Department on the site quickly, along with the Monona County Emergency Management people, the Decatur Volunteer Fire Department of Decatur, Nebraska, Fort Calhoun, Nebraska Volunteer Fire Department, Monona County Sheriff's Department, Harrison County Sheriff's Department, the Iowa State Patrol, Iowa National Guard, Red Cross, Mercy Air Care, and the Little Sioux Boy Scout Ranch. They all began to arrive there within 7 minutes of the time that this tornado concluded.

I congratulate them for their courageous response, for the example that they've set, for the inspiration that they are. I hope to be there to dedicate the memorial when that day comes. I offer my prayers and sympathy to the Scouts and their families. May God continue to bless the Boy Scouts of America.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of this resolution and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, from our darkest trials, Americans consistently display their true heroism. The horrible events on the night of June 11

were no different. No one is surprised to learn that the Scouts themselves displayed leadership skills and composure in the face of danger above and beyond their years. Had these courageous young men not lived up to their motto, "Always Be Prepared," it is likely that this tragedy would have been magnified.

I pray that all involved with Scouting will be inspired by the examples of the Scouting community shown through this tragedy, and that our benevolent God grant a sense of peace to all those affected by the tragedy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H. Res. 1263.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1283.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING A NATIONAL DYSPHAGIA AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 195) expressing the sense of the Congress that a National Dysphagia Awareness Month should be established.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 195

Whereas dysphagia, or difficulty with swallowing, is a medical dysfunction that affects as many as 15,000,000 Americans;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has estimated that 1,000,000 people in the United States annually are diagnosed with dysphagia;

Whereas the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality has estimated that 60,000 Americans die annually from complications associated with dysphagia;

Whereas based on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention mortality data, this is more than the total number of Americans dying from all forms of liver disease, kidney disease, and HIV/AIDS combined—and nearly as many as those dying from diabetes, the number 6 killer of Americans;

Whereas the most common complication arising from dysphagia is aspiration pneumonia—caused by food or saliva entering the windpipe and into the lungs;

Whereas one in 17 people will develop some form of dysphagia in their lifetime, including 50 to 75 percent of stroke patients and 60 to 75 percent of patients who undergo radiation therapy for head and neck cancer;

Whereas as many as half of all Americans over 60 will experience dysphagia at some point;

Whereas complications due to dysphagia increase health care costs by resultant hospital readmissions, emergency room visits, extended hospital stays, the necessity for long-term institutional care, and the need

for expensive respiratory and nutritional support;

Whereas the cost of managing a patient with a feeding tube, which for many has been the primary treatment option for this condition, is reported to average over \$31,000 per patient per year;

Whereas the total annual cost to Medicare just for enteral feeding supplies for outpatients was more than \$670,000,000 in 2003, nearly 6 percent of the total Medicare budget for that year;

Whereas including the monies spent in hospitals, the total cost of dysphagia to the health care system is well over \$1,000,000,000 annually;

Whereas the condition of dysphagia is a vastly underreported condition and not widely understood by the general public; and

Whereas observing June 2008 as National Dysphagia Awareness Month would raise public awareness about dysphagia and the need for early detection and treatment: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that a National Dysphagia Awareness Month should be established.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am proud to join my colleagues in the consideration of H. Con. Res 195, which expresses the sense of Congress that a National Dysphagia Awareness Month should be established.

Dysphagia, or difficulty swallowing, is a medical disorder currently afflicting nearly 15 million Americans, with another million Americans diagnosed each and every year. Moreover, among those over 60 years of age there is over a 50 percent probability of experiencing dysphagia at some point. Unlike many other medical disorders, dysphagia has not gathered the national attention that it deserves, despite the fact that more than 60,000 American deaths occur annually from dysphagia-related complications.

Mr. Speaker, I urge swift passage of H. Con. Res 195, as it will shed national attention on dysphagia, which is afflicting so many of our fellow Americans and costing us over \$1 billion to treat annually.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague from Missouri for his excellent presentation on this resolution. I also