

excuse to allow further encroachment of government in our lives. Let us seize this moment in time to secure our liberties by limiting our government. More government, more taxes, more spending of the people's money will not solve our challenges. Securing liberty will.

The United States of America is the greatest country on the face of the planet, but liberty, not bigger government, will allow us to prosper.

TAXPAYER DOLLARS MUST BE SPENT WITH ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

(Mr. LEE of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LEE of New York. Madam Speaker, taxpayer dollars must be spent with accountability and transparency. To date, the Troubled Asset Relief Program, commonly known as TARP, has failed to meet the commonsense standard of fiscal responsibility.

TARP was established last fall as an emergency plan to prop up the ailing financial markets, but, today, we have far more questions than answers. Taxpayers have already lost \$64 billion on the first round of investments made through TARP. The new administration has asked this Congress to double down on TARP and rubber stamp another \$350 billion without credible assurance of future results.

With a \$1.2 trillion deficit on the books and a nearly \$1 trillion stimulus package looming, these are resources we cannot afford to spend without responsible oversight.

Western New York's economy is in a perilous state. What we need right now is swift bipartisan action that creates jobs and spurs future economic growth, not another bloated Washington program that overpromises and underdelivers.

I hope my colleagues will reject any attempt to rubber stamp the TARP Program and ensure taxpayer dollars are spent wisely, not wastefully.

CONGRATULATING OUR NATION'S 44TH PRESIDENT, BARACK OBAMA

(Mr. ROE of Tennessee asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join in congratulating our Nation's 44th President, Barack Obama, on his inauguration. This is truly a historic moment for our Nation.

We are all Americans first and, as Republicans, stand ready and willing to work with the President in restoring economic growth, creating jobs, restoring physical integrity and protecting our Nation's security.

In the weeks and months ahead, we will surely have honest differences on what the best direction is for us as a country.

But all of us start this Congress with tremendous hope for President

Obama's success. Madam Speaker, some of us grew up at a time of segregation and division in our Nation. But with President Obama's election and inauguration as President, all of us better understand what Dr. King told us when he said, "Occasionally in life there are those moments of unutterable fulfillment which cannot be completely explained by those symbols called words. Their meanings can only be articulated by the inaudible language of the heart."

WILLING AND READY TO WORK TOGETHER

(Ms. SHEA-PORTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Madam Speaker, yesterday was an absolutely glorious day. We watched the peaceful transfer of power from one President to the next. Standing there, I had the great honor of looking out at millions of my fellow countrymen and women who came together to stand there beside our great memorials to watch this event.

Everything went so beautifully that I felt that I wanted to thank those who were involved in making the process happen. I would like to thank all of the security that came and the men and women here who work every single day as our guards and our fire department and others who committed themselves to such a day.

So it was a day to celebrate and, certainly, we have turned a page in history. And we are willing and ready to work together to move this Nation forward.

DESIGNEE FOR SECRETARY OF TREASURY POSES PROBLEM

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, as Members of the House of Representatives, we don't get a vote on confirmation of Cabinet appointments. But at the same time, that does not absolve us of the responsibility to speak out when we see a problem and, currently, the designee for the Secretary of the Treasury poses an enormous problem for this House and for the Senate.

Now, Madam Speaker, my constituents have trouble with taxes, just as all of our constituents have trouble with taxes, and sometimes they get into real difficulty. But it doesn't, it doesn't absolve them of their obligation to pay their taxes and their interest and their fines because, of course, we have many thousands of people who paid their taxes honestly. I speak to you about that as someone who ran their own business and had to pay payroll taxes.

Whether this was a mistake or an evasion, yesterday, when President Obama spoke about a call to service but also underscored a call to com-

petence, mistake or evasion, it certainly doesn't underscore either.

HONORING DR. DAVID LAND FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY

(Mr. BOOZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Dr. David Land, a gracious contributor to the Third District of Arkansas, who passed away earlier this year.

Dr. Land was the superintendent of Omaha schools for more than 22 years, but he wasn't just an administrator. He was a mentor and a friend to the staff and students who knew him as "Doc." Doc spent his life as an educator and showed that actions do speak louder than words. He fixed tiles in the cafeteria, jump-started students' cars, drove the bus to field trips and wrote grants for the small school district. These actions weren't out of the ordinary for this extraordinary man.

He was named the Arkansas Rural Association's 2005 Northwest Arkansas Superintendent of the Year. Doc spent his life as an administrator, but it wasn't just a job, it was something that he loved.

When a friend talked to him and asked about retirement, Doc said, "What else would I do? This is my life."

Madam Speaker, Doc will certainly be missed. I thank my colleagues for the opportunity to honor and celebrate the life of this wonderful man.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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.

□ 1230

OBSERVING THE BIRTHDAY OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 73) observing the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., and encouraging the people of the United States to observe the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., and the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 73

Whereas Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Junior, was born January 15, 1929;

Whereas Dr. King attended segregated public schools in Georgia, and began attending Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, at the age of 15;

Whereas in February of 1948, Dr. King was ordained in the Christian ministry at the age of 19 at Ebenezer Baptist Church, in Atlanta, Georgia, and became Assistant Pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church;

Whereas Dr. King was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1948 from Morehouse College, a Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1951 from Crozer Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in theology in 1955 from Boston University;

Whereas in Boston, Massachusetts, Dr. King met Coretta Scott, his life partner and fellow civil rights activist;

Whereas on June 18, 1953, Dr. King and Coretta Scott were married and later had two sons and two daughters;

Whereas in 1954, Dr. King accepted the call of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama, and was pastor from September 1954 to November 1959, when he resigned to move back to Atlanta to lead the Southern Christian Leadership Conference;

Whereas Dr. King led the Montgomery, Alabama, bus boycott for 381 days to protest the arrest of Rosa Parks and the segregation of the bus system of Montgomery, during which time Dr. King was arrested and the home of Dr. King was bombed;

Whereas Dr. King responded to arrests and violence with non-violence and courage in the face of hatred;

Whereas the Montgomery bus boycott was the first great nonviolent civil rights demonstration of contemporary times in the United States;

Whereas on December 13, 1956, the Supreme Court declared laws requiring segregation on buses unconstitutional;

Whereas between 1957 and 1968, Dr. King traveled more than 6,000,000 miles, spoke more than 2,500 times, and wrote five books and numerous articles supporting efforts around the country to end injustice and bring about social change and desegregation;

Whereas from 1960 until his death in 1968, Dr. King was co-pastor with his father at Ebenezer Baptist Church;

Whereas on August 28, 1963, Dr. King led the March on Washington, DC, the largest rally of the civil rights movement, during which, from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial and before a crowd of more than 200,000 people, Dr. King delivered his famous "I Have A Dream" speech, one of the classic orations in American history;

Whereas Dr. King was a champion of non-violence, fervently advocated nonviolent resistance as the strategy to end segregation and racial discrimination in America, and in 1964, at age 35, became the youngest man to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition for his efforts;

Whereas through his work and reliance on nonviolent protest, Dr. King was instrumental in the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965;

Whereas the work of Dr. King created a basis of understanding and respect and helped communities, and the United States as a whole, to act cooperatively and courageously to restore tolerance, justice, and equality between people;

Whereas on the evening of April 4, 1968, Dr. King was assassinated while standing on the balcony of his motel room in Memphis, Tennessee, where he was to lead sanitation workers in protest against low wages and intolerable working conditions;

Whereas Dr. King dedicated his life to securing the fundamental principles of the United States of liberty and justice for all United States citizens;

Whereas Dr. King was the leading civil rights advocate of his time, spearheading the civil rights movement in the United States during the 1950s and 1960s and earning worldwide recognition as an eloquent and articulate spokesperson for equality;

Whereas in the face of hatred and violence, Dr. King preached a doctrine of nonviolence and civil disobedience to combat segregation, discrimination, and racial injustice, and believed that people have the moral capacity to care for other people;

Whereas Dr. King awakened the conscience and consciousness of the United States and used his message of hope to bring people together to build the "Beloved Community", a community of justice, at peace with itself;

Whereas in 1968, Representative John Conyers introduced legislation to establish the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. as a Federal holiday;

Whereas Coretta Scott King led the massive campaign to establish Dr. King's birthday as a Federal holiday;

Whereas in 1983, Congress passed and President Ronald Reagan signed legislation creating the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, which is now observed in more than 100 countries;

Whereas Dr. King's wife and indispensable partner, Coretta Scott King, was a woman of quiet courage and great dignity who marched alongside her husband and became an international advocate for peace and human rights;

Whereas Coretta Scott King, who had been actively engaged in the civil rights movement as a politically and socially conscious young woman, continued after her husband's death to lead the United States toward greater justice and equality, traveling the world on behalf of racial and economic justice, peace and non-violence, women's and children's rights, gay rights, religious freedom, full employment, health care, and education until her death on January 30, 2006;

Whereas the values of faith, compassion, courage, truth, justice, and non-violence that guided Dr. and Mrs. King's dream for America will be celebrated and preserved by the Martin Luther King, Jr., National Memorial on the National Mall between the Lincoln Memorial and the Jefferson Memorial and in the new National Museum of African American History and Culture that will be located in the shadow of the Washington Monument;

Whereas Dr. King's actions and leadership made the United States a better place and the American people a better people;

Whereas 45 years after Dr. King delivered his historic "I have a dream" speech, millions of United States citizens gathered on the National Mall on January 20, 2009, to witness the historic Inauguration of the 44th President of the United States, Barack Obama, the first African-American President of the United States; and

Whereas the historic Inauguration of President Barack Obama dramatized the change that Dr. King helped to usher in for the creation of a more perfect union: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) observes the 80th birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.;

(2) pledges to advance the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to—

(A) observe the 80th birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., and the life of Dr. King;

(B) commemorate the legacy of Dr. King, so that, as Dr. King hoped, "one day this Nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be

self-evident; that all men are created equal"; and

(C) remember the message of Dr. King and rededicate themselves to Dr. King's goal of a free and just United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CONYERS. I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days 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 Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. CONYERS. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Members of the House, last Thursday, January 15, marked the 80th birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who was born in 1929. On Monday, January 19, the Dr. King Federal holiday was observed. I commend my colleague, the gentleman from Georgia, Mr. JOHN LEWIS, for introducing again this bipartisan House Resolution that calls upon all Americans on this occasion "to advance the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr."

I also acknowledge the many colleagues of the Judiciary Committee on both sides of the aisle that have joined us in supporting this resolution; in particular, the ranking member from Texas, our friend, Mr. SMITH.

For over 40 years now, we have commemorated the life and work of the Nation's greatest civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Since 1986, we have recognized Dr. King with a Federal holiday in his honor, a holiday that I and others here have worked so hard to achieve.

Last year, we paid tribute to Dr. King upon the 40th anniversary of his assassination. Today, we once again celebrate Dr. King on the event of his birthday. On these anniversaries, the Congress has called upon the Nation's citizens to practice justice, equality, and peace in all aspects of his life, the very principles that Dr. King stood for.

Today, we make the same request of not just our colleagues, but of our citizens, recognizing that today is very different. We advance Dr. King's legacy by realizing that some of Dr. King's dream has been achieved.

Just yesterday, our Nation witnessed the first African American in history to take the oath of office for President of the United States. Our 44th President, President Obama, is a testament to Dr. King's pursuit and struggle for equality. And in his short life, Dr. King laid the foundation for a society that would guarantee that all men are created equal. It is on the shoulders of Dr. King and Rosa Parks and Andrew Young and Harry Belafonte, all close colleagues of Dr. King, who were in the

forefront of the civil rights movement. And that is why we stand here today, witnesses to history, with our first African American President.

President Obama spoke movingly yesterday when he asked that we mark his inauguration in remembrance of who we are and how far we have traveled; why men and women and children of every race and every faith can join in celebration across the magnificent Mall; and why a man whose father, less than 60 years ago, might not have been served at a local restaurant, can now stand before you to take the most sacred oath that was given to him yesterday.

In celebrating the great legacy of Dr. King's work, we must recognize that his legacy does not end here. Continuing his mission of justice means bringing an end to racial and economic injustices, like those we have seen in so many aspects of the current financial and fiscal crisis that we are confronted with.

Advancing his mission of equality means eliminating the disparities that exist in so many aspects of our society; health care, housing, education, employment. And so pursuing his mission of peace means bringing an end to the wars that still persist and allowing our Nation to be an example of a peaceful democracy.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, the first thing I want to say is that it's good to be on the House floor with the chairman of the Judiciary Committee to talk about the subject at hand. This bill commemorates the 80th anniversary of the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. King was the leader of a historic nonviolent revolution in the United States. Over the course of his life, he fought for equal justice and led the Nation toward racial harmony.

While advancing this great movement, Dr. King's home was bombed and he was subjected to relentless personal and physical abuse. Despite this violence, Dr. King responded in peace and with strong conviction and sound reason.

As a pastor, Dr. King's religious beliefs were essential to the success of his nonviolent efforts. It is doubtful that such a long and enduring movement could have survived without the power of religious inspiration behind it.

From 1957 to 1968, Dr. King traveled over 6 million miles and spoke over 2,500 times about justice and equal freedom under the law. During that time, he led large protests in Birmingham, Alabama, that drew the attention of the world.

On August 28, 1963, Dr. King led a peaceful march of 250,000 through the streets of Washington, D.C. And it is here in this city where he delivered a speech that spoke for all Americans, regardless of the color of their skin. In

his "I Have a Dream" speech, Dr. King called the march the "greatest demonstration for freedom in the history of our Nation."

"I have a dream," he said, "that my four little children will one day live in a Nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character." Dr. King opened the door of opportunity for millions of Americans. He lived for the causes of justice and equality.

On the evening of April 4, 1968, while standing on the balcony of his hotel room in Memphis, Tennessee, Dr. King was assassinated. But a single vicious act could not extinguish Dr. King's legacy, which endures to this day. Because of him, America is a better, freer Nation.

I urge all my colleagues to join us in celebrating and honoring the life of Dr. King on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of his birth.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the gentleman from Georgia, who I met before he became a Member of this distinguished body. As a matter of fact, before I became a Member of this distinguished body, I am pleased now to recognize the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) for such time as he may consume.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the chairman and the ranking member for supporting this resolution.

Madam Speaker, yesterday, the American people shared and participated in a historic moment, the inauguration of Barack Obama as the 44th President of the United States. What the American people witnessed yesterday would not have been possible without the leadership and the vision of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The teaching and philosophy that Dr. King believed in and lived by brought us to this moment in history. Without Martin Luther King, Jr., there would be no President Barack Obama.

Martin Luther King, Jr. was a man I knew personally, and regarded as a brother, a friend, a colleague, a prophet, my hero, and just a simple human being, filled with love, peace, and compassion for all humankind.

I will never forget my first impression of him. As a black child growing up in the heart of rural Alabama, I tasted the bitter fruits of segregation and racial discrimination, and I didn't like it. I saw those signs that said, "White Men, Colored Men; White Women, Colored Women; White Waiting, Colored Waiting." I used to ask my parents, my grandparents, and my great grandparents, Why segregation? Why racial discrimination? They said, That's the way it is. Don't get in trouble. Don't get in the way.

But one day, when I was only 15 years old, I heard the voice of Martin Luther King, Jr. on an old radio. He was talking about the discipline and the philos-

ophy of nonviolence; he was talking about the Montgomery bus boycott and the ability of a committed and determined people to make a difference in our society. I felt like he was talking directly to me, saying, John Lewis, you too can make a difference in our society.

In 1958, at the age of 18, I traveled from Troy to Montgomery to meet with him and Reverend Ralph Abernathy, and that was the beginning of a long and beautiful relationship. After that, our paths, which would cross often, in the sit-ins; during the Freedom Rides in 1961, the year that Barack Obama was born; as a board member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, his organization; organizing the 1963 march on Washington, and in Mississippi during the summer of 1964; in the march from Selma to Montgomery in 1965; at the Riverside Church in New York City in 1967, Mr. Chairman, when you spoke out against the war in Vietnam; and in preparation for its ultimate course, the Poor People's Campaign in 1968, when he was planning to come to Washington.

As I grew to know Dr. King and the life of the movement, my admiration for the man also grew. He was a spokesperson not just for blacks, but for all of those who had been left out and left behind. He spoke to the hearts and consciences of all of us who believed nonviolence and love offer a more excellent way.

This good man, this God-fearing man, gave us hope in a time of hopelessness. This good man, this man of God, this son of America, this citizen of the world, produced light in dark places. Martin Luther King, Jr. had the ability to bring the dirt and the filth from under the American rug, out of the cracks and the corners, into the open light, in order for us to deal with it.

Martin Luther King, Jr., more than any other American of the 20th century, had the power to bring people together, more people together, to do good; black and white, rich and poor, young and old, Protestant, Catholic, and Jews. His message was love, his weapon was truth. His message was creative nonviolence. His goal was the beloved community, a community of justice, a community at peace with himself.

This man that I marched with, worked with, and went to jail with, this man that I got to know, was so sensitive and so caring. He personified the very best of humankind. He was a gentle man who used the teaching of the Great Teacher and the tools of Gandhi. In a sense, he spoke a strange language, the philosophy of passive resistance to evil and the use of nonviolence in a struggle for good.

In a sense, he was a radical, far too advanced in his concepts of love and peace for the violent times in which he lived.

Dr. King taught us that the method of nonviolence was the key to building

a Beloved Community, a society based on simple justice that values the dignity and the worth of every human being.

I say to you, my friends, 41 years ago, Martin Luther King was taken from us by an assassin's bullet. But murder could not kill the dream of peace. It could not kill the dream of an open society. It could not kill the dream of a Beloved Community. The movement that Martin Luther King, Jr. led, the movement that he sustained, was too necessary, too noble, too right to ever die.

We know that his voice is stilled today, but perhaps today more than ever before we know that his message still rings in the hearts of America.

Forty years later, we must rededicate ourselves to the struggle that was his struggle and continue to seek the goals that were his goals.

□ 1245

I want to close, Madam Speaker, by saying, as we assemble here we must understand that his dream has not yet been fulfilled. We have come a distance, but we still have a distance to go before we build a beloved community in America.

If Dr. King were here today, I believe he would have said that the election of Barack Obama is not an end, it is not even a beginning, it is a significant down payment on making his dream a reality.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, this bill came up a little earlier than we expected and we are waiting for additional speakers to arrive on the floor, so I will reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. How much time is left?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas has 17 minutes, and the gentleman from Michigan has 8½ minutes.

Mr. CONYERS. I yield 4 of those 8½ minutes to the distinguished gentlelady from Texas, SHEILA JACKSON-LEE.

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

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, this is a moment to pause as we speak on the floor of the House in this enormously symbolic year, a very special time to honor Dr. Martin Luther King.

I would like to thank my chairman, JOHN CONYERS, for the role he has played, both in the fact that Dr. King saw fit to endorse him in his first run for Congress out of the great city of Detroit; he probably envisioned a man that would be a fighter for justice, and he has not been disappointed. My colleagues have just listened to JOHN LEWIS, who remains the conscience of this Nation and of this Congress. Oh how he must have felt yesterday as he saw the continuum of a dream.

I stand here as a former staffer of the Southern Christian Leadership Con-

ference, having had the opportunity to work under the tutelage of the soldiers, the foot soldiers of Dr. Martin Luther King, being reminded of traveling up and down Auburn, and finding that almost storefront building that represented and embodied all of the cerebral thought, all of the brain power, all of the love, all of the courage, all of the strength of those who found guidance in Dr. King. And so this is a particularly important resolution, for many have asked those of us who look like me whether or not the dream has been completed.

I will say that there is a man that now sits in the White House who holds the dream, and he has given us our roadmap. And that roadmap is that we are in this together, that we are the wind beneath his wings, that America has always been and should be a One America. And we are reminded of Dr. King's words in 1963, where he talked about not looking at anyone for their color or their religion. Isn't this great and wonderful that we have now come full circle to have the words and his dreaming come to a point where we are now comfortable with not looking at each other by the color of our skin or our ethnicity.

And so, yes, the dream is continuing. But Dr. Martin Luther King, and the reason I rise today, was a prophet in his time. For many, they are not used to using that term. He told us about economic hard times and the desire to give everyone an opportunity for education and their day in the sun and the economic opportunity, and look at us today. Our President is now trying to lead us in the message of Dr. King; that as long as anyone suffers, any of our brothers and sisters are not able to have food on the table or a job, to look into the bright future, to give a child a chance to be an astronaut or a president or a teacher, then Dr. King's dream must continue.

And as I have talked to Martin Luther King III and visited with the sister of Dr. King and the daughter of Dr. King, they agree that we are in this fight together; that the Judiciary Committee has its role in this Congress to ensure that the rule of law is followed, that we torture no more.

Oh what a great day yesterday was and the day before, the commemoration of Dr. King's birthday. But isn't it greater now that America stands one and united, not off in the shopping centers on his birthday, but now understanding what it truly meant that those who suffered and bled did not do so for themselves, but honestly did so, so that all of my friends, from Texas and Georgia and New York and Mississippi and Washington State, Michigan and Illinois, and the deep parts of Georgia and, yes, Texas could look at each other as friends, brothers and sisters, even our sisters and brothers who yet have not learned the English language but they are striving to become a great part of this great Nation. So I am celebrating this resolution that recounts the history of Dr. King.

Madam Speaker, isn't it great that we end that this is one Nation, one America, and Dr. King told us so.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution supporting the observation of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and encouraging the people of the United States to observe the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. I thank my colleague Representative JOHN LEWIS for authoring this resolution. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution also.

Madam Speaker, a few days ago, the Nation observed for the 21st time the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. Each year this day is set aside for Americans to celebrate the life and legacy of a man who brought hope and healing to America. The Martin Luther King holiday reminds us that nothing is impossible when we are guided by the better angels of our nature. We must continue to recognize the life and legacy of Dr. King. We must continue to honor his legacy by serving on the day that we have set aside to observe his life.

Dr. King's inspiring words filled a great void in our Nation, and answered our collective longing to become a country that truly lived by its noblest principles. Yet, Dr. King knew that it wasn't enough just to talk the talk; he knew he had to walk the walk for his words to be credible. And so we commemorate on this holiday the man of action, who put his life on the line for freedom and justice everyday.

Every January 19th, this Nation honors the courage of a man who endured harassment, threats and beatings, and even bombings. We commemorate the man who went to jail 29 times to achieve freedom for others, and who knew he would pay the ultimate price for his leadership, but kept on marching and protesting and organizing anyway.

Dr. King once said that we all have to decide whether we "will walk in the light of creative altruism or the darkness of destructive selfishness. Life's most persistent and nagging question, he said, is 'what are you doing for others?'"

When Martin talked about the end of his mortal life in one of his last sermons, on February 4, 1968, in the pulpit of Ebenezer Baptist Church, even then he lifted up the value of service as the hallmark of a full life. "I'd like somebody to mention on that day Martin Luther King, Jr. tried to give his life serving others," he said. "I want you to say on that day, that I did try in my life . . . to love and serve humanity."

Madam Speaker, during these difficult days when the United States is bogged down in a misguided and mismanaged war in Iraq; calamities on Wall Street—Main Street—and in the American automobile industry; we should also remember that the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who was above all, a person who was always willing to serve to help his fellow man.

This year thousands of Americans across the country will celebrate the national holiday honoring the life and work of Martin Luther King, Jr. by making the holiday "a day on, not a day off."

The King Day of Service is a way to transform Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life and teachings into community service that helps solve social problems. That service may meet a tangible need, such as fixing up a school or senior center, or it may meet a need of the spirit, such as building a sense of community

or mutual responsibility. On this day, Americans of every age and background celebrate Dr. King through service projects that:

Strengthen Communities—Dr. King recognized the power of service to strengthen communities and achieve common goals. Through his words and example, Dr. King challenged individuals to take action and lift up their neighbors and communities through service.

Empower Individuals—Dr. King believed each individual possessed the power to lift himself or herself up no matter what his or her circumstances—rich or poor, black or white, man or woman. Whether teaching literacy skills, helping an older adult surf the Web, or helping an individual build the skills they need to acquire a job, acts of service can help others improve their own lives while doing so much for those who serve, as well.

Bridge Barriers—In his fight for civil rights, Dr. King inspired Americans to think beyond themselves, look past differences, and work toward equality. Serving side by side, community service bridges barriers between people and teaches us that in the end, we are more alike than we are different.

These ideas of unity, purpose, and the great things that can happen when we work together toward a common goal—are just some of the many reasons we honor Dr. King through service on this special holiday. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation and the man who epitomized community service—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Just yesterday, January 20, 2009, this Nation witnessed a historic moment. We stood in awe and watched the inauguration of this Nation's first African American President. We have come a long way since Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech. Yesterday, we have seen another part of the "dream" fulfilled. I am hopeful and expectant that America's future will be bright, and that it will be even brighter under the helm and leadership of President Barack Obama. President Obama has taught us that yes we can! I am delighted to be living the dream.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan, Congressman VERN EHLERS.

Mr. EHLERS. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

It is a great honor to speak about Martin Luther King. I don't have a prepared statement because I was not aware this resolution was coming up, but over the years I have just been tremendously impressed by him, by his talent, by his ability, and particularly the way in which he handled himself and his movement. And I use the term "his movement" advisedly, because he became the leader of it, the right man, at the right time. I am always amazed at how the Lord seems to provide the right leader at the right time for good causes such as this.

Monday morning, I went to the annual breakfast in Grand Rapids, Michigan where we honor Martin Luther King. The room was filled with people honoring him and just joyous about his contributions to our Nation and its future. That evening, close to 3,000 people joined in another celebration. You may think this is a little surprising in the frozen North, which was not heavily in-

involved in the Civil Rights program, but we feel very strongly about it in our community. We have an excellent community in Grand Rapids, Michigan. In particular, Mr. Walter Brame, who heads the Urban League in our area, has been a strong leader for years in providing equal opportunity for minorities in the workplace, in schools and other places.

Martin Luther King started something wonderful, which ended up being even more wonderful, and for that I am grateful to him. I am also grateful to God for sending us the right man at the right time to resolve a major national crisis.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Michigan for his heartfelt comments.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The point that I would like to make in closing on our side is that one of the most important things that President Obama made to me was something I had never heard a President say before, and that was that he wanted all of the people that voted and that may or may not have supported him to continue to advise him. Normally, Presidents get elected and say, "Well, I am grateful to my supporters," and then remove to inside the Beltway with the Cabinet and the Capitol and the people in the three branches of government, and that's it. He asked for continuing advice. Some said, he did not have to make that statement because he was going to get that anyway, but others have said, "This is wonderful and this is great." And I think it ties in with the people's moment that undergirded the King civil rights legacy; that is, that everybody has a continuing responsibility to perfect this democratic system of constitutional government that we have.

It is so important that we all feel we have a role to play over and above voting, and it is that King-like theory that the President now publicly extols that is so very important. And, I think, we embark here in the second day of this new administration on a new path that encourages citizen participation; I think it brings us all here in government closer together, and I think that it augurs well for the challenges that we all face here in the 111th Congress and a new President currently in his second day in office.

And so in this moment of remembering Dr. King and his legacy, celebrate his life and contributions, I am very pleased that this resolution is brought at this highly opportune moment. I thank the author of this legislation.

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support for H. Res. 73, a resolution that promotes the observance of the birthday, life and, legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.

It is a historic time in our Nation's Capital with yesterday marking the swearing-in of

Barack Obama, our Nation's first African-American President.

As we listened to President Obama's inaugural address we were all reminded of how far our Nation has come. This resolution is also a reminder that without Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., there would be no President Obama.

Dr. King was a beacon of change on whose shoulders we all stand. His leadership, courage, and conviction helped pave the road for all of us.

He understood government has a fundamental responsibility to meet the needs of all Americans regardless of race or economic class.

He gave people the faith and courage to work peacefully for change to stop racial discrimination, and promote equality and opportunity across America.

Most importantly, Dr. King called upon each of us to truly commit ourselves to changing and working to bring about change for all Americans.

President Obama reminded us of that call yesterday when he said that we each have a responsibility to rebuild our country and get us out of this storm. Let us heed this call to action and work hand-in-hand to help bring prosperity back. Together we can do it. Yes we can! I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 73.

Mr. CONYERS. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 73.

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.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Mr. LOEBSACK. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 39) honoring the contributions of Catholic schools.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 39

Whereas America's Catholic schools are internationally acclaimed for their academic excellence, but provide students more than a superior scholastic education;

Whereas Catholic schools ensure a broad, values-added education emphasizing the lifelong development of moral, intellectual, physical, and social values in America's young people;

Whereas the total Catholic school student enrollment for the 2007-2008 academic year was nearly 2,300,000 and the student-teacher ratio was 14 to 1;

Whereas Catholic schools teach a diverse group of students;

Whereas more than 25 percent of school children enrolled in Catholic schools are from minority backgrounds, and over 14 percent are non-Catholics;

Whereas Catholic schools produce students strongly dedicated to their faith, values, families, and communities by providing an