



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 155

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, MAY 4, 2009

No. 67

## House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
May 4, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DONNA F. EDWARDS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes and each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

### GUANTANAMO BAY'S UYGHUR DETAINEES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, it is my understanding that President Obama's decision regarding the release into the U.S. of a number of Uyghur detainees held at Guantanamo Bay since 2002 could be imminent.

The New York Times, ABC News and other news outlets have reported that the President will soon release these terrorists into the United States, yet this Congress has not been briefed on this decision.

Let me be clear, these terrorists would not be held in prisons, but they would be released into your neighborhoods. They should not be released into the United States. Do Members realize who these people are?

There have been published reports that the Uyghurs were members of the Eastern Turkistan Islamic Movement, a designated terrorist organization affiliated with al Qaeda.

Releasing the Uyghurs is a matter of grave concern, a matter which prompted me to send a letter to the President last Friday detailing my reservations about any course of action that could pose a threat to the American people.

In my letter I called on the President to declassify all information about the capture and detention of the Uyghur detainees, including a threat assessment for each detainee who would be released in the U.S.

The American people, Madam Speaker, deserve the facts about these detainees and the risk they potentially pose to our communities.

Following the precedent that the administration set in declassifying the Office of Legal Counsel interrogation memos, they have a moral obligation to the American people to declassify all relevant information related to the Uyghur detainees.

This administration has already shown that it has no qualms about releasing selected classified documents. The White House cannot just pick and choose what classified information it deems worthy of releasing. It cannot have it both ways. It shouldn't release information that conveniently makes their case without making information with profound national security implications available to the American people.

After learning that this decision was imminent, I requested briefings from a number of relevant agencies, but all the agencies have told me that our Department of Justice is now preventing

them from speaking to me directly on this issue. So much for being open. So much for disclosure.

Is the Attorney General preventing agencies from answering Members' questions? Is this a political decision being made by Eric Holder, the Attorney General?

This is not the transparency and accountability the President promised, nor is it the open and constructive relationship they claim they want with Congress. This is, at best, a poor judgment and, at worst, a dangerous hypocrisy.

Is the administration intent on keeping Congress and the American people in the dark about critically important national security issues?

Madam Speaker, I have criticized both Republican and Democratic administrations for actions that I believe undermine the safety and the security of the American people.

I have not received responses to two letters to Attorney General Holder on the transfer of Guantanamo Bay prisoners. The first letter was dated March 13. The second letter was dated April 23. And I will submit them for the RECORD. They still have not answered the letters. My office has been told by the White House that some of the questions I have asked cannot even be answered.

When Attorney General Holder appeared before the Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations subcommittee, he poignantly said he would not play hide and seek with the information. What are they now trying to hide from the American people?

The Attorney General is slow-rolling the information as terrorist detainees are potentially going to be released into the United States.

According to an L.A. Times article published last week, "The Homeland Security Department has registered concerns about the plan," among other government agencies.

☐ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., ☐ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H5065

Information I have received indicates that the Uyghurs may be more dangerous than the public has been led to believe.

Just last night, 60 Minutes had a disturbing segment which touched on the radicalization of the Guantanamo Bay detainees. The story indicated that in Saudi Arabia alone, of 117 men returned from Guantanamo, 11 have shown up again on Saudi Arabia's most wanted terrorist list.

Any intelligence assessment of the Uyghurs must take into account not only their previous training at terrorist camps but their potential subsequent exposure to the likes of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the mastermind of 9/11 who took pleasure in the beheading of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl.

I say to this administration, the American people have a right to know all the facts, and I fear personally that expediency is clouding their judgment, which is inexcusable after we saw what took place on 9/11.

The stakes are simply too high for this administration to reasonably think that the American people should simply take their word that these men pose no security threats. I call on the Obama administration to declassify and release all the information that they have available so the American people can make a judgment.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, May 1, 2009.

Hon. BARACK H. OBAMA,  
President, the White House,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: It is my understanding that your decision regarding whether to release a number of Chinese Uyghur detainees held at Guantanamo Bay into the United States is imminent. I have grave concerns about this action, which I believe could directly threaten the security of the American people.

Information I have received indicates that the Uyghurs may be more dangerous than the public has been led to believe. I write today asking that you declassify all intelligence regarding their capture, detention, and your administration's assessment of the threat they may pose to Americans, prior to any decision to release them. The American people deserve to have all the facts about these individuals before they should be expected to tolerate their presence in our communities.

I believe your administration also has an obligation to explain to the American people how you will monitor the Uyghurs' activities should they be released in the U.S. Additionally, all state and local law enforcement should immediately be notified of your intended decision, provided a threat assessment of the released Uyghurs, and informed of the federal government's plans to monitor their activities once released.

Following the precedent you have set in declassifying the Office of Legal Counsel interrogation memos, you have a moral obligation to declassify this critical information. The American people cannot afford to simply take your word that these detainees, who were captured training in terrorist camps, are not a threat if released into our communities.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,  
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, April 23, 2009.

Hon. ERIC H. HOLDER, JR.,  
Attorney General, Department of Justice,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR ATTORNEY GENERAL HOLDER: My letter of March 13 indicated my concerns about bringing enemy combatants from the detention facility at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to the United States. I understand that the president has given you the task of determining the release, transfer or prosecution of these detainees. I noted your recent comments on how this is the most challenging aspect of your job as attorney general and I respect the difficulty of your position.

But as I have learned more about these detainees and received additional information from terrorism experts, I remain extremely concerned that transferring these combatants to locations near large civilian populations would place an overwhelming burden on the court system and endanger public safety.

The detainees currently held at Guantanamo Bay are some of the most dangerous individuals in the world who have openly dedicated their lives to killing Americans. Khalid Sheikh Mohammed was the architect of the 9/11 attacks and took pleasure in beheading Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl. Ramzi Binalshibh was identified as one of the planners of 9/11 and was supposed to be one of the hijackers until he was denied entry into the United States. Walid bin Attash is believed to be the mastermind behind the bombing of the U.S.S. Cole in Yemen in 2000. These individuals are responsible for planning the deaths of thousands of Americans.

Guantanamo Bay also houses combatants who were detained after actively trying to kill U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. From news reports I have read, it appears consideration is being given to allow these detainees rights that go beyond protections offered U.S. military personnel by the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Giving such rights to the men listed above greatly concerns me.

Earlier trials of terrorists in the U.S. demonstrated the necessity for extraordinary security resources that would be needed if some of those at Guantanamo are transferred here. *Newsday* and the *Buffalo News* reported that during the 1995 trial in New York of Omar Abdel Rahman, the mastermind of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, terrorist confederates of El Sayyid Nosair, another World Trade Center bombing planner, were plotting to break him out of Attica State Prison in New York. In the same case, court tapes show that conspirators provided each other assurance that, in the event that some were captured, the others would work to free them. In addition, during the 2000 trial of Mahmud Salim, one of the terrorists accused of the 1998 bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Kenya, he stabbed New York prison guard Louis Pepe in the eye during an escape attempt. Al Qaeda saw the rights given to its members to meet with counsel as an opportunity to carry out a violent escape attempt. Mr. Salim was one of the original followers of Osama bin Laden and the highest ranking al Qaeda member held in the U.S. at the time.

In addition to trying to escape from prison, al Qaeda members have communicated with confederates while in prison. It is my understanding that El Sayyid Nosair was involved in plotting the 1993 World Trade Center bombing while in custody in Attica State Prison. In addition, Osama bin Laden has publicly credited Sheikh Abdel Rahman with issuing the "fatwa" that approved the 9/11 attacks while he was in federal prison, de-

spite the high security confinement conditions imposed on him. It also emerged later that, with the assistance of his lawyer, Rahman was continuing to send instructional messages to the Islamic Group, his Egyptian terrorist organization.

In 2004, NBC News reported that, despite their incarceration in maximum security conditions, convicted World Trade Center bombers were communicating by mail with terrorists in Madrid, Spain. There would certainly be strong reasons to believe that detainees currently held at Guantanamo Bay—who are known to have rioted and grossly abused prison guards—would use their access to counsel and investigators in order to convey messages to their allies.

It took federal prosecutors eight years in the 1990s to try 29 defendants charged with terrorism-related crimes as a result of attacks on U.S. property and interests abroad. The detention facility at Guantanamo Bay currently holds almost 10 times that number. If it took eight years to prosecute 29 individuals, how long will it take to transfer and prosecute over 200?

How is the Justice Department responding to the fact that prosecutors, judges, and juries in recent terrorism trials, and their families, have required government protection measures, sometimes for many years, at great cost in manpower and to our security budget? Has the Justice Department estimated the cost of providing enhanced personal security for trials yet to come?

I am also concerned about the extra costs that will be incurred in preparing prisons and courthouses for possible trials. I understand that the courthouses in which prior terrorism cases were litigated and the prisons where defendants were held had to be "hardened" to accommodate terrorism prosecutions and the attendant threats they entail for participants and the public. Can you provide me with what the cost was for these upgrades? Has the Justice Department considered what the cost will be for upgrading facilities for detainees who may be transferred to the civilian court system.

I am also concerned about the precedent that the standards set in *Boumediene v. Bush*, the Supreme Court case regarding al Qaeda operative Lakhdar Boumediene, which granted habeas corpus rights to Guantanamo detainees, would set for future cases. In his dissent in this case, Justice Antonin Scalia raised the issue that if enemy combatants currently housed at Guantanamo Bay are given habeas corpus rights, the same rights would have to be given to any combatant detained where the U.S. military conducts operations. Recently, Justice Scalia's admonition has proved prescient as a federal judge in Washington ruled that Boumediene's grant of habeas corpus rights now extends to Afghanistan.

The process in deciding where the detainees will ultimately be housed and under what means they will be tried should be transparent so the American people know who is making these important decisions. I believe that the Justice Department should meet with those who lost loved ones in the 9/11 attacks as well as the families of service members who have died in Iraq and Afghanistan and ask for their perspective on the fate of these detainees, especially those who played a lead role in carrying out the attacks.

If you are convinced these combatants must be transferred to the United States, I believe an isolated part of the country away from population centers would be a better choice. As your department continues to consider plans for these combatants, I ask that you please address these issues as well as the questions I asked in my earlier letter. I also have these additional questions:

1. The trial of Zacharias Moussaoui in Alexandria, Virginia, lasted over four years due

primarily to the judge's belief that the due process standards applicable in civilian trials required more disclosure than the Justice Department believed was required and safe to provide. I understand any appeal to the 4th Circuit Court could take up to an additional year per trial. Considering that a federal appeals court in New York just recently decided an appeal in the embassy bombing case—more than a decade after the attack and eight years after the trial—how long does your department envision civilian legal proceedings for Guantanamo detainees taking?

2. Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, Mohammed al Qatani and Ramzi Binalshibh have been linked directly to the September 11, 2001, attacks and appear far more culpable than Zacharias Moussaoui. Will the Justice Department seek the death penalty for detainees such as them? If so, does the Justice Department think seeking the death penalty would lengthen each trial, and, if so, for how long?

3. Will the defense attorneys for these combatants be given access to classified evidence that would inevitably lead to legal challenge and possible consideration by the Supreme Court, adding more time to trials?

4. If terror suspects are brought into the civilian system for trial and they insist on representing themselves, would the Justice Department allow them access to all discovery, including classified national defense information?

5. Will defense attorneys be allowed discovery on all such evidence and be allowed to challenge its admission in court? Would this require allowing defense attorneys to enter combat zones to view evidence?

6. Will U.S. service members who collected evidence on the battlefield be forced to leave their duties in theater and return to the United States to give testimony in open court?

7. Will military personnel be required to have training on how to legally obtain evidence and preserve the chain of command needed to make such evidence admissible in court?

8. Will every combatant be given full legal rights and will these rights also be given to combatants detained in the future?

9. The system of military tribunals for these combatants was designed to avoid the difficulties inherent in civilian trials. If the military is trusted to run a system of justice good enough for members of our armed forces, why is it deemed insufficiently fair for these detainees who have openly stated they are "terrorists to the bone?"

10. If these combatants are transferred to the U.S. Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, how will the trials of other defendants in that court be affected?

11. If regular defense attorneys are not allowed to meet with clients at the jail facility in Alexandria due to increased security associated with these combatants, is the Justice Department concerned that those cases could be delayed to the point where those defendants have grounds for appeal?

12. The Moussaoui trial took a heavy toll on the prosecution team and I would be concerned that extended trials for numerous combatants could overwhelm the legal staffs. Do you have a plan for addressing how prosecution teams will work?

13. Are you concerned about the safety of the legal staff and the jurors who are assigned to these cases and have steps been taken to ensure their safety and the safety of their families?

14. Has the Justice Department considered establishing a separate court similar to the FISA court where judges would be assigned these cases on a rotating basis?

15. Has the Justice Department considered consulting with military experts, U.S. Mar-

shals and other law enforcement officials before determining the safest place to house these detainees?

16. Have you consulted with the families of the victims of 9/11 as well as the families of the service members killed in Iraq and Afghanistan as to how these detainees should be prosecuted? If not, will you direct your staff to do so?

17. Will the Justice Department provide the Appropriations Committee with the costs for the security measures necessitated by the terrorism cases of the 1990s and the Moussaoui case?

18. The Congress has received your FY 2009 supplemental request, seeking \$47 million for some ongoing DOJ activities. But the majority of the funding, \$36.4 million, is for activities related to the closure of the Guantanamo detention facility. Can you tell the Appropriations Committee what exactly the department is doing related to Guantanamo, and what you are proposing to do in the future with the requested supplemental funding?

19. I understand that you have created three task forces to implement the executive orders regarding Guantanamo Bay. How many individual detainee cases must be reviewed and disposed of?

20. Can you provide a list of possible outcomes from these task forces, such as transferring detainees to their home countries or detaining them indefinitely without trial?

21. For any detainees released to third countries, what assurances are you seeking from those governments in order to minimize the risks of recidivism?

22. You have stated that the issues related to closing Guantanamo Bay represent your biggest challenge. If the task forces conclude that the risks associated with civilian trials in the United States are too dangerous and costly, will you recommend to the president that the closure of the detention facility be delayed?

23. Beyond the supplemental request, what other post-Guantanamo requirements will there be?

I realize that your department has numerous issues to address before Guantanamo Bay is closed and all the combatants housed there moved. As the Justice Department continues to consider the disposition of these combatants, I think it is important for Congress to play an active role. As my previous letter stated, I take Congress's oversight role seriously and believe that Congress must be consulted before any of these combatants are moved to the continental U.S.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,  
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, March 13, 2009.

HON. ERIC H. HOLDER, JR.  
Attorney General, Department of Justice,  
Washington DC.

DEAR ATTORNEY GENERAL HOLDER: President Obama recently issued an executive order to close the detention facility at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and decisions must now be made regarding how and where to house the 250 suspected terrorists and enemy combatants held there.

I was particularly concerned to read in the March 7 Washington Post that some of these detainees may be tried in and housed by the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia (Eastern District of Virginia) or the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. Their presence so close to large civilian population centers raises serious questions of security and logistics for any region forced to accept these detainees.

I do not—and would not—support the transfer of any prisoners presently being detained at Guantanamo Bay to any facilities in Virginia and have joined Virginia colleagues Reps. Randy Forbes and Eric Cantor in introducing legislation (H.R. 1186) to prohibit prisoners at the Guantanamo Bay detention facility from being transferred to federal prisons or military bases in Virginia.

I take seriously the responsibility of congressional oversight, especially in matters with national security implications. In 1998 I authored legislation that created the National Commission on Terrorism. Unfortunately, it took the horrific events of September 11, 2001, for the recommendations of the commission to be taken seriously. I have traveled to Sudan five times and seen evidence of the terrorist training camps used by Osama bin Laden in the 1990s.

The first bombing of the World Trade Center in 1993 was treated as a routine criminal case by the Clinton administration when there were clear indications from Sheik Omar Abdel-Rahman that terrorism was the intent of the bombing.

Furthermore, the individuals currently at Guantanamo Bay are members of the same organization that bombed the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania as well as the USS Cole in Yemen.

The March 11 Washington Post detailed how a detainee recently released from Guantanamo Bay is now the operations commander of Taliban forces attacking U.S. and NATO forces in southern Afghanistan. There also have been news reports that 61 of the detainees that were processed and released from Guantanamo Bay were recaptured fighting American forces. If those individuals were deemed safe to release from custody yet returned to terrorist activities and killing Americans, what does that say about how dangerous the detainees still at Guantanamo Bay must be?

I was also troubled to read that five Guantanamo detainees described themselves as "terrorists to the bone," and stated in a court filing that they describe their role in the 9/11 attacks as "a badge of honor." These dangerous individuals simply cannot be transferred anywhere near large civilian populations.

As the ranking member on the House Appropriations Commerce-Justice-Science Subcommittee, I am particularly concerned about the complexities of bringing any of these enemy combatants to any installation, military or civilian, close to U.S. civilian populations. Regardless of where these detainees are confined, I would appreciate your detailed response to the following questions:

1. What steps has the Justice Department taken to assure the security of the surrounding population if such violent combatants are confined and tried in urban areas?

2. What precautions will be taken to ensure that the detainees do not escape?

3. Is the Obama administration concerned that the presence of these detainees will invite attacks from ideological followers in an attempt to set them free and, if so, what precautions are being taken to prevent this scenario?

4. How will the detainees be transported to the courthouses?

5. What type of security cordon will be in place if detainees are transported on local highways?

6. Has the Justice Department considered the traffic disruptions associated with road closures around federal courthouses and local jails during the trials of these individuals?

7. If the detainees are flown to any location, will they use military or commercial airports?

8. If commercial airports are used, will terminals have to be evacuated to ensure security?

9. What will be the security perimeter around federal courthouses and will local residents and businesses be forced to move or close to ensure security? If so, for how long?

10. Will Metrorail stations in close proximity to the U.S. Courthouse in Alexandria be closed?

11. Will the Westin Hotel, approximately 200 feet from the courthouse, and the Patent and Trademark Office, approximately 250 feet from the courthouse be evacuated?

12. Has the Justice Department considered the impact such detainees will have on local prisons, such as the city jail in Alexandria, where federal defendants are often held during trial?

13. Will prisoners in local jails have to be moved to provide a secure location for housing these combatants, and, if so, who will bear the costs associated with their transfer?

14. Will there be an extensive list of rules and regulations given to local and state officials regarding the housing and trial of these suspects? If so, will a copy of the regulations be made available to state and local officials as well as members of Congress?

15. Will state and local law enforcement officers be required to assist federal officials and will the federal government compensate those agencies for the use of those officers' time?

16. What costs will be associated with the trial and what portion, if any, will be borne by state and local governments?

17. Has the Justice Department consulted with the Defense Department regarding its ability or willingness to house these detainees?

18. Do a set of protocols for transferring and housing these individuals exist, and, if so, will you make it available to members of Congress?

19. What discussions regarding these detainees, if any, have administration officials had with the commanders of the Naval Station Brig in Norfolk, Virginia; the Marine Corps Base at Quantico, Virginia, or any other military installation in the contiguous United States, Alaska or Hawaii?

20. Has the administration or the Department of Defense had any discussions with Naval commanders regarding the possibility of transferring detainees to U.S. Naval vessels either in U.S. territorial or international waters?

21. Has the administration had any discussions with the warden of the Administrative Maximum prison facility in Florence, Colorado, regarding the difficulties surrounding the housing of Zacharias Moussaoui and how other prisons might be affected by housing similar detainees?

22. Has the administration had discussions with any of the detainees' country of origin regarding their willingness to accept custody?

While I understand that the Eastern District of Virginia and the Southern District of New York have successfully held the only trials to date of terror suspects, I remain extremely concerned that adequate thought has not been given to the extensive security, financial and logistical costs associated with the transfer of any of these individuals to civilian court districts. State and local officials, as well as the citizens of northern Virginia, will face many challenges and dangers with these combatants housed in the Eastern District of Virginia.

I look forward to receiving your responses to these concerns. Best wishes.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,  
Member of Congress.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair

declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 36 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LARSEN of Washington) at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God and subsistence of all life, though Your people walk in the valley of darkness, they move and act without fear, for You are with them.

You lead us to restful pastures and revive our downcast spirits, and You give us comfort.

Help us to be attentive to Your call and follow in faith, for You are our hope and our strength.

Anoint the leadership of this Nation with the oil of gladness and bring us to Your eternal banquet, where we will dwell in Your house forever.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. FLEMING) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. FLEMING led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, May 1, 2009.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 1, 2009, at 10:04 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S.615.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 104.

Appointments:

Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of the American Latino

With best wishes, I am,  
Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,  
Clerk of the House.

#### DARIUS GOES WEST

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

Mr. BARROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a special group of young men who are making a difference by drawing attention to Duchenne muscular dystrophy. DMD, which is usually detected in small children, is a debilitating and ultimately fatal affliction, usually taking its victims' lives in their early 20s.

Darius Weems was diagnosed with DMD as a small child, and he will be 19 years old later this year. His brother, Mario, died at that age from the same disease.

Because of his condition, Darius never left his hometown of Athens, Georgia, for the first 15 years of his life. But just before Darius' brother, Mario, died, Mario's friend, Logan Smalley, made a promise to Mario to look after Darius when Mario died. After Mario died, Logan did more than that; he made Darius a star.

Four years ago, Logan Smalley and 10 other college friends decided to take Darius on a road trip from Athens, Georgia, to Los Angeles, California. Along the way, they met people who shared Darius' illness, and they documented handicap accessibility throughout the country. Logan directed a documentary film of that trip, "Darius Goes West," starring Darius and the rest of the crew.

Today that documentary is on track to sell 1 million copies, with the lion's share of profits going to fight DMD. I'm pleased to report that there is a copy of "Darius Goes West" in every middle school and high school in the United States.

DMD is not a contagious disease, but the sense of hope and purpose that Darius and his friends possess is infectious, and I'm proud to commend Darius and the rest of the "Darius Goes West" crew for their hard work, and for giving literally millions of people a reason to care.

#### LOUISIANA STUDENTS OF THE YEAR

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate three outstanding students from my district.

Randi Layne Adams of South Beauregard Elementary in Beauregard Parish was named student of the year. She is actively involved in 4-H and community service projects, including efforts targeted at recycling and gardening.

Henri Lin, an eighth grader at Caddo Middle Magnet, was named student of the year. Henri is on the staff of his school newspaper, serves on the student council, is a member of the Builders Club, takes advanced piano and competed with the 2009 U.S. Junior Olympics fencing team.

Nicholas Allen Taylor, a senior at Byrd Math and Science Magnet High School, was named student of the year also. Nicholas is captain of Byrd's Quiz Bowl team, a member of the Mu Alpha Theta math honor society, and a member of the lacrosse team.

All three demonstrated outstanding academic leadership and communication skills and have bright futures ahead of them. Congratulations to all of them on this outstanding accomplishment.

#### SUPPORT MORTGAGE REFORM

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I stand in support of H.R. 1728, the Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act.

This bill will ensure that mortgage lenders make loans that benefit consumers and prohibit them from steering the borrowers into high cost loans, and we know what an impact it has had on our Nation and many individuals who have lost their homes. In addition, this bill encourages the market to move back towards making fixed-rate, fully documented loans.

This legislation also prevents predatory and abusive lending practices, holds creditors responsible for loans they originated and protects tenants who rent homes that go into foreclosure.

I ask you to support this legislation on behalf of those that are right now on the verge of losing their homes and protect those tenants.

#### CONGRATULATING ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY ON ITS CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Arkansas Tech University on 100 years of academic excellence.

Arkansas Tech University was originally established as a Second District Agricultural College by the State legislature and one of four State agricultural schools in 1909. Arkansas Tech University is now one of the fastest-growing universities in the State of Arkansas and has established a reputation as a school that truly serves the Nation.

It is said that an education from Arkansas Tech University is the best of both worlds, big time technology and an education in a friendly, small-town setting.

The school excels in exposing its students to the technology of tomorrow and better preparing students for future endeavors. An excellent faculty and staff provide an outstanding education and educational opportunities.

I am proud to support this fine institution and look forward to the next 100 years of academic excellence.

#### RELEASING TERRORISTS FROM GUANTANAMO BAY

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, the Members of this institution ought to know that this administration and the Justice Department may be very close to releasing terrorists from Guantanamo Bay, the Uyghurs, out into the public, out around the country. And we are calling on the Justice Department to release any of the memos with regard to who these people are on individual cases. If they were members of a terrorist group, I believe the American people need to know.

This administration and Justice selectively released memos but will not tell the full story. So I urge all Members, unless you want them, these Uyghurs, terrorists from Guantanamo Bay, to move to your neighborhood, ask Attorney General Eric Holder, release all this classified information so the American people can know what we are about ready to face.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Persons in the gallery are not to express approval or disapproval of speeches on the floor.

#### ENFORCE IMMIGRATION LAWS

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, when Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano was nominated to be Homeland Security Secretary, her record showed that she often opposed enforcing immigration laws. So it's not entirely a surprise that she recently told CNN's John King that illegally "crossing the border is not a crime per se. It is civil."

That's just plain wrong.

It is a violation of the criminal code to enter our country illegally. The law has been in effect for decades, and it has been codified in its current form since 1991.

The Obama administration apparently doesn't intend to enforce some of our immigration laws. There are numerous examples, such as delays in implementing a requirement that Federal contractors use E-Verify to ensure that

illegal immigrants don't get Federal jobs.

It's hard to believe that this administration is not only weak when it comes to enforcing immigration laws, but also ignorant of immigration laws themselves.

#### INSIDIOUS TAX

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, you know, there is an insidious tax out there, insidious because we tell the American people that they are not going to have to pay it, that we are going to put it on the greedy corporations.

Well, how do you think a corporation stays in business if it doesn't pass that on to the people, and they don't realize, they think somebody else is paying, and yet it comes right back to their feet?

Some of us talked to CEOs of industries that moved from here to China. Why did you move? I thought maybe the number one answer would be because of labor being cheaper. They said the best labor in the world is right here in the United States, but corporate taxes are less than half of what they are here in the United States, 17 percent there, 35 percent here.

Now we are told today by the administration they are going to hire hundreds of new IRS agents. Well, as JOHN FLEMING said this morning, now we know what it means by green jobs. They are going after your green.

#### 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 incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

#### RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CINCO DE MAYO

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 230) recognizing the historical significance of the Mexican holiday of Cinco de Mayo, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 230

Whereas May 5, or Cinco de Mayo in Spanish, is celebrated each year as a date of great importance by the Mexican and Mexican-American communities;

Whereas the Cinco de Mayo holiday commemorates May 5, 1862, the date on which the Battle of Puebla was fought by Mexicans who were struggling for their independence and freedom;

Whereas Cinco de Mayo has become one of Mexico's most famous national holidays and is celebrated annually by nearly all Mexicans and Mexican-Americans, north and south of the United States-Mexico border;

Whereas the Battle of Puebla was but one of the many battles that the courageous Mexican people won in their long and brave struggle for independence and freedom;

Whereas the French, confident that their battle-seasoned troops were far superior to the almost amateurish Mexican forces, expected little or no opposition from the Mexican army;

Whereas the French army, which had not experienced defeat against any of Europe's finest troops in over half a century, sustained a disastrous loss at the hands of an outnumbered, ill-equipped, and ragged, but highly spirited and courageous, Mexican force;

Whereas after three bloody assaults upon Puebla in which over a thousand gallant Frenchmen lost their lives, the French troops were finally defeated and driven back by the outnumbered Mexican troops;

Whereas the courageous and heroic spirit that Mexican General Zaragoza and his men displayed during this historic battle can never be forgotten;

Whereas many brave Mexicans willingly gave their lives for the causes of justice and freedom in the Battle of Puebla on Cinco de Mayo;

Whereas the sacrifice of the Mexican fighters was instrumental in keeping Mexico from falling under European domination;

Whereas the Cinco de Mayo holiday is not only the commemoration of the rout of the French troops at the town of Puebla in Mexico, but is also a celebration of the virtues of individual courage and patriotism of all Mexicans and Mexican-Americans who have fought for freedom and independence against foreign aggressors;

Whereas Cinco de Mayo serves as a reminder that the foundation of the United States is built by people from many nations and diverse cultures who are willing to fight and die for freedom;

Whereas Cinco de Mayo also serves as a reminder of the close spiritual and economic ties between the people of Mexico and the people of the United States, and is especially important for the people of the southwestern States where millions of Mexicans and Mexican-Americans make their homes;

Whereas in a larger sense Cinco de Mayo symbolizes the right of a free people to self-determination, just as Benito Juarez once said, "El respeto al derecho ajeno es la paz" ("The respect of other people's rights is peace"); and

Whereas many people celebrate during the entire week in which Cinco de Mayo falls: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives recognizes the historical struggle for independence and freedom of the Mexican people and requests the President to issue a proclamation recognizing that struggle and the importance of Cinco de Mayo.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PAYNE. 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 under consideration

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

There was no objection.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Let me begin by thanking our colleague from the great State of California, JOE BACA, for introducing this resolution.

H. Res. 230 recognizes the historical struggle for independence and freedom of the Mexican people and requests that the President issue a proclamation recognizing that struggle and the importance of Cinco de Mayo. This is a celebration we should all join in.

Cinco de Mayo commemorates May 5, 1862, on which the Battle of Puebla was fought by Mexicans who were struggling for their independence and freedom, along with their comrades and against the French soldiers.

This is a celebration of the virtues, courage and patriotism of all Mexicans and a point of pride for Mexican Americans, who have fought for freedom against foreign forces. Cinco de Mayo has become one of Mexico's most famous national holidays. It is a unique reminder that both Mexicans and Mexican Americans, north and south of the United States-Mexico border, observe in honor.

Grand celebrations take place in cities and towns all across the United States of America, the biggest being in western and southwestern cities such as Los Angeles. Festivities often include sporting events, parades, mariachi music, Mexican food and dancing. Sometimes the celebration goes on for weeks.

□ 1415

In a larger sense, Cinco de Mayo serves as a reminder to all Americans that the foundation of our great country was built by people from many nations with diverse cultural backgrounds who were willing to fight and to die for their freedom.

Cinco de Mayo can be understood both as a moment to celebrate the significant Mexican roots that have grown in the United States, as well as to symbolize more generally the right of all people to self-determination. It was a valiant struggle. They fought brilliantly. We urge our colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I certainly at this time reserve the balance of my time.

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

This Tuesday marks Cinco de Mayo, a regional holiday in Mexico that commemorates Mexico's unlikely defeat of French forces at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862. For generations, however, Cinco de Mayo has also been recognized throughout the United States.

The strong ties between our two nations are demonstrated around the country as family and friends join together to celebrate Mexico's culture

and experiences. Through efforts like the Merida Initiative and NAFTA, these ties continue to grow—only stronger.

Our mutual commitment to democracy and security in the region will prove increasingly important as some in the hemisphere work to advance their illicit agendas. Already, we have seen the transnational impact of the drug cartels and organized crime groups operating in Mexico. Joint efforts by our countries to thwart criminal activities within Mexico have sent these criminals north into the United States and south into Central America.

We must continue to work with our democratic partners and allies to present a united front against those who pose a threat to U.S. interests, security, and values.

So, as many throughout the United States and Mexico celebrate Cinco de Mayo this week, I hope that they are reminded not only of Mexico's proud past, but also of her ongoing shared commitment to independence, democracy, and security.

I thank Congressman BACA for introducing this timely resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PAYNE. I yield 5 minutes to the sponsor of the resolution, the gentleman from California (Mr. BACA).

Mr. BACA. First of all, I would like to thank the Congressman from New Jersey for his leadership on bringing this resolution, and also as the chair of the Subcommittee on Africa. I would like to thank the gentleman from Arkansas for bringing up the resolution that is important to a lot of us. Also, I would like to thank the ranking members; the ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, HOWARD BERMAN, and then, of course, Ms. ROSS-LEHTINEN, as well, for their leadership and support in bringing this bipartisan effort to the floor.

I rise today in support of H. Res. 230, a resolution recognizing the historical significance of the Mexican holiday of Cinco de Mayo. This resolution recognizes the Cinco de Mayo holiday, which honors the spirit and the courage of the Mexican people involved in the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862.

In that battle, General Ignacio Zaragoza led the Mexican forces against the well-trained French Army, which vastly outnumbered the Mexicans. After only 4 hours, General Ignacio Zaragoza was able to claim victory. As a result of General Zaragoza's tremendous victory, the French foreign forces sustained heavy losses and were forced to withdraw from the area.

Along with Mexican Independence Day on September 16, Cinco de Mayo has become a time to celebrate Mexican heritage and culture with pride and dignity. While Cinco de Mayo commemorates the Mexican Army's victory over the French in this battle, it was one of many battles that the Mexican people won in the long and brave struggle for independence and freedom. And this is what they fight for today in comprehensive immigration.

Today, Cinco de Mayo is celebrated not only in recognition of the defeat of the French Army, but it also celebrates the virtues of individual courage and patriotism of all Mexican Americans—all Mexicans who have fought for their freedom and independence. Today, we will also celebrate Cinco de Mayo in the White House with President Obama.

However, it also serves as a reminder to all of the wonderful culture and characteristics that Latinos have brought to this country. I am an example in terms of what I am wearing right now.

Latinos are the fastest-growing minority population in this country, accounting for over 45 million people—49 million, if you include Puerto Rico. It represents about 17 percent of the total population.

The contributions made by Latinos to our American culture are countless—ranging from business, to art, to sports, to science, you name it. You see all kinds of figures everywhere around the United States.

Latinos have fought hard and are willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for this country. They have fought in every major war since the Revolutionary War. You have seen them fight for this country.

We have served with honor to defend this great country, and we will do that because we believe in it. That is why people come to the United States—for the freedom that we have.

Today, there are 30 Latino Members in the United States Congress—bipartisan. Also, we have Secretary Ken Salazar at the Department of the Interior, and Secretary Hilda Solis at the Department of Labor, who are both of Latino origin. This number points to what a driving force Latino communities have become in our country economically, socially, and politically.

Cinco de Mayo also serves as a reminder of our wonderful and long-standing relationship with our great neighbors to the south. Last year, over \$367.5 billion of goods were traded between the United States and Mexico. That makes Mexico our Nation's third leading trading partner.

Cinco de Mayo provides us with a great opportunity to look back at our own heritage as Americans—and I say as Americans. Our ancestors all came from diverse cultures and different homelands. Yet, they banded together to fight against oppression and tyranny, helping to form this great country that we have today.

While Latino culture has come a long way, we all must come together to make sure we recognize the inequities that exist right now in our communities, and that we deal with social and economic disadvantage that affect a lot of us.

My colleagues and I in the Congressional Hispanic Caucus share a common purpose—working to break down those walls and increase opportunities in areas such as education and health

care so that we all have equity, regardless of who we are, where we come from, for that same kind of justice and equality.

This past February, I was proud to give my support to the Recovery Act. As a great number of Hispanic families, as well as many other families, are struggling mightily during this recession, this act helps to create jobs for millions of Americans, invest in health care, education, and energy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

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

Mr. BACA. With that, I say let's support H. Res. 230, and ask for your support.

Mr. BOOZMAN. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PAYNE. I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON).

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 230, introduced by my good friend and colleague, Representative JOE BACA, to recognize the historical significance of the widely celebrated Mexican holiday, Cinco de Mayo.

On May 5, 1862, while outnumbered almost two to one at the Battle of Puebla, Mexican General Ignacio Zaragoza Seguín led the Mexican Army and defeated a much larger and well-equipped French Army that had not been defeated in nearly five decades.

The battle would also prove to be significant because this would mark the last time an army from a foreign country invaded the Americas.

As many of you know, this holiday is not only commemorated in the United States and Mexico, but brings together cultures from all over the world to join in the celebration—even people in far-away lands such as the Island of Malta in the Mediterranean join in this festival.

The holiday is a chance for us to set aside our differences and support the Mexican people for the bravery shown by those men who fought at the Battle of Puebla 147 years ago.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the historical significance of Cinco de Mayo and the bravery shown that day in 1862.

Mr. BOOZMAN. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PAYNE. It is my pleasure to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. PIERLUISI).

Mr. PIERLUISI. I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 230, which has been introduced by my friend and colleague, Mr. BACA, and recognizes the historical significance of Cinco de Mayo.

For the people of Mexico, Cinco de Mayo is an important symbol of freedom, liberty, and self-determination. In our country, Cinco de Mayo is a celebration of the rich history and culture that Mexican Americans have brought to the United States.

Hispanics are the fastest-growing minority group in the United States.

There are 30 Hispanic Members of Congress, including many Mexican Americans, representing constituencies from all around the country.

Tomorrow, millions of Americans will join our neighbors to the south in celebrating Cinco de Mayo. This day serves as an important reminder of Mexico's proud history and of the many contributions that Mexican Americans have made to this country.

I urge my colleagues to help recognize Cinco de Mayo, and to support House Resolution 230.

Mr. BOOZMAN. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PAYNE. At this time I yield 10 minutes to the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALÉOMAVAEGA).

Mr. FALÉOMAVAEGA. I do want to thank my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from New Jersey, as our distinguished chairman also of our House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 230, to recognize the historical significance of the Mexican history of Cinco de Mayo. I commend my colleague, the gentleman from California, for introducing this legislation, as it truly does serve as a reminder that all the people of our great Nation, regardless of their race, color, or even gender, have enriched our diversity in our cultures and are worthy of respect as a Nation.

Mr. Speaker, Cinco de Mayo commemorates the battle of Puebla. On May 5, 1862, outnumbered and outgunned Mexican forces, determined to protect their land, successfully defended the town of Puebla against French soldiers and its transferred ruler by the name of Ferdinand Maximilian, who was an archduke from Austria and a puppet of Emperor Napoleon III of France.

For Mexico, this day has come to represent a symbol of Mexican unity and patriotism in the history of Mexico. It is a celebration of the virtues of individual courage and patriotism of all Mexicans and Mexican Americans whose ancestors are from Mexico and are part of the rich diversity of our Nation.

It also serves as a reminder of the cultural, spiritual, and economic ties between the people of Mexico and our great country.

Mr. Speaker, I want to share with my colleagues the life and history of a particular leader who, in my humble opinion, is the greatest hero in Mexico's history—a true statesman whose name is inextricably linked with the name Cinco de Mayo. His name is Don Benito Juárez, President of Mexico from 1862 to 1863, and 1867 to 1872.

□ 1430

President Juárez led the Mexican people in their fight for independence during this crucial period of their history. President Juárez was the first Mexican President of indigenous Indian descent—indigenous Indian descent.

His parents were members of the Zapotec tribe, prevalent in the provinces of the State of Oaxaca in Mexico. An orphan at age 3, young Benito Juarez worked in the cornfields and as a shepherd until the age of 12. When he went to Oaxaca City at the age of 13 to attend school, he could not read, could not write or couldn't even speak Spanish. He was adopted by lay members of the Franciscan Order who taught the young Juarez reading, writing, arithmetic and Spanish grammar. He later entered the Franciscan seminary in Oaxaca and studied Aquinas and other great Catholic philosophers, eventually turning his attention instead to the study of law. President Juarez was educated in the law in preparation for a political career.

Mr. Speaker, in his first political position as a city councilman, he was noted as a strong defender of indigenous Indian rights. He participated in the revolutionary overthrow of Santa Anna in 1855, becoming the minister of justice and instituting reforms that were embodied in the constitution of 1857. During the Reform War of 1858 to 1861, President Juarez led the liberals against the conservative faction of Mexico's Government. The liberals succeeded only through popular support and the unwavering determination of President Juarez, and he was elected President in 1861.

Mr. Speaker, to fully understand the quality of the leadership of Mexico at the time in the person of President Don Benito Juarez, one can compare him to, arguably perhaps, the greatest President in our own country's history, President Abraham Lincoln. Both leaders, in fact, presided over their countries in times of crisis, demonstrating great courage and perseverance in the fight for freedom. Both grew up in poverty and studied law. Both fought against bigotry and racism. In fact, President Lincoln and President Juarez were contemporaries who held each other in high regard. In fact, in 1858, upon hearing of Juarez's struggles in Mexico, President Lincoln sent him an encouraging message expressing hope "for the liberty of your government and its people." Even in the midst of our own Civil War, President Lincoln provided arms and munitions to President Juarez to support the Mexican people in their fight against France. When the U.S. Confederacy sent an emissary to Mexico to enlist support for their cause, President Juarez jailed the man for 30 days before sending him away, a clear sign of support for President Lincoln's cause at the time.

Mr. Speaker, today, the United States and Mexico share close ties. We also share the ideals of freedom and democracy. Because of our shared values and the tremendous contributions made by Mexican Americans, I think it is fitting and most proper for us in Congress to recognize the historical struggle of the Mexican people for independence against French colonial rule.

It is ironic, Mr. Speaker, that we have the gentleman by the name of Lafayette whose portrait is right over here who came here as a French patriot to help us fight against British colonialism, and the only foreigner here with the patriot right next to our Founding Father, George Washington. It is ironic that in the history of Mexico, Napoleon, being the ruler that he was, sent Maximilian to continue French colonial rule in Mexico, and so now we had to kick the French out in order to give the Mexican people their freedom.

Again I thank the gentleman from California, former chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, my good friend, for his leadership and initiative for introducing this bill.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 230, resolution honoring the significance and impact of Cinco de Mayo. I would like to begin by applauding the efforts and leadership of the author of the resolution, Congressman JOE BACA, as well as the rest of my colleagues in the Congressional Hispanic Caucus for bringing this bill before us today.

Mr. Speaker, since 1862 the holiday has traditionally commemorated the victory of a poorly armed Mexican militia over a larger, better equipped French army at the Battle of Puebla. Today, however, Cinco de Mayo in the United States has become a celebration of Hispanic heritage not unlike Saint Patrick's Day for Irish-Americans.

To be sure, Mr. Speaker, Irish-Americans and Hispanic-Americans have much in common. We are bound together by Catholic, working-class experiences. Our relatives came and continue to come to this country from largely rural, uneducated backgrounds. Our struggles were, are and continue to be twin struggles for equality, as well as political and cultural recognition.

From Bernardo de Gálvez to Admiral David Farragut to César Chávez, Hispanic-Americans have made significant contributions to the development of our nation. In just the last election, Latinos represented 9 percent of the electorate and provided the margin of victory in large swaths of the country, voting for President Obama by a margin larger than 2-to-1.

And because Hispanics constitute the majority of our nation's newest Americans, Madam Speaker, I cannot speak here without at least mentioning the subject of immigration. As Mr. Fareed Zakaria affirms in his acclaimed book, *The Post-American World*:

Foreign students and immigrants account for almost 50 percent of all science researchers in [our] country. In 2006 they received 40 percent of all PhDs. By 2010, 75 percent of all science PhDs in [our] country will be awarded to foreign students. When these graduates settle in the country, they create economic opportunity. Half of all Silicon Valley start-ups have one founder who is an immigrant or first generation American. The potential for a new burst of American productivity depends not on our education system or R&D spending, but on our immigration policies.

Immigrants are America's great strength. If we remain true to our history; if we remain the most open and flexible society the world; if we continue to absorb cultures, devour ideas and

feed off the energy of poor immigrants we will thrive. This is America's genius.

Hispanics are another great chapter in the larger history of our immigrant country. They make America more American.

I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 230 "Recognizing the historical significance of the Mexican holiday of Cinco de Mayo" and I would like to thank my colleague Representative BACA for introducing this resolution in the House.

May 5, or Cinco de Mayo in Spanish, is celebrated each year as a date of great importance by the Mexican and Mexican-American communities. This holiday commemorates May 5, 1862, the date on which the Battle of Puebla was fought. However, Cinco de Mayo is not "an obligatory federal holiday" in Mexico, but rather a holiday that can be observed voluntarily.

Cinco de Mayo has become one of Mexico's most famous national holidays and is celebrated annually by many Mexicans and Mexican-Americans, north and south of the United States-Mexico border. In the United States, Cinco de Mayo has taken on significance beyond that in Mexico. The date is perhaps best recognized in the United States as a date to celebrate the culture and experiences of Americans of Mexican ancestry, much as St. Patrick's Day, Oktoberfest, and the Chinese New Year are used to celebrate those of Irish, German, and Chinese ancestry respectively. Similar to those holidays, Cinco de Mayo is observed by many Americans regardless of ethnic origin.

Cinco de Mayo is a regional holiday in Mexico, primarily celebrated in the state of Puebla, with some limited recognition in other parts of Mexico. The holiday commemorates the Mexican army's unlikely defeat of French forces at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862, under the leadership of Mexican General Ignacio Zaragoza Seguín.

Cinco de Mayo's history has its roots in the French Occupation of Mexico. The French occupation took shape in the aftermath of the Mexican-American War of 1846-48. With this war, Mexico entered a period of national crisis during the 1850's. Years of not only fighting the Americans but also a civil war, had left Mexico devastated and bankrupt. On July 17, 1861, President Benito Juarez issued a moratorium in which all foreign debt payments would be suspended for a brief period of two years, with the promise that after this period, payments would resume.

The English, Spanish and French refused to allow President Juarez to do this, and instead decided to invade Mexico and get payments by whatever means necessary. The Spanish and English eventually withdrew, but the French refused to leave. Their intention was to create an Empire in Mexico under Napoleon III.

The French, confident that their battle-seasoned troops were far superior to the almost amateurish Mexican forces, expected little or no opposition from the Mexican army. The French army, which had not experienced defeat against any of Europe's finest troops in over half a century, sustained a disastrous loss at the hands of an outnumbered, ill-equipped, and ragged, but highly spirited and courageous, Mexican force.

After three bloody assaults upon Puebla in which over a thousand gallant Frenchmen lost their lives, the French troops were finally defeated and driven back by the outnumbered Mexican troops. Although the Mexican army was victorious over the French at Puebla, the victory only delayed the French invasion on Mexico City; a year later, the French occupied Mexico. The courageous and heroic spirit that Mexican General Zaragoza and his men displayed during this historic battle can never be forgotten.

While Cinco de Mayo has limited significance nationwide in Mexico, the date is observed in the United States and other locations around the world as a celebration of Mexican heritage and pride. However, a common misconception in the United States is that Cinco de Mayo is Mexico's Independence Day, which actually is September 16, the most important national patriotic holiday in Mexico. The Cinco de Mayo holiday is not only the commemoration of the rout of the French troops at the town of Puebla in Mexico, but is also a celebration of the virtues of individual courage and patriotism, which all Americans can appreciate. Cinco de Mayo also serves as a reminder of the close spiritual and economic ties between the people of Mexico and the people of the United States, and is especially important for the people of the southwestern States where millions of Mexicans and Mexican-Americans make their homes. In a larger sense Cinco de Mayo symbolizes the right of a free people to self-determination and should be recognized and honored by this Congress.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, as a native of southern California, Cinco de Mayo celebrations have been a part of my life as long as I can remember. It is a day to celebrate our southern neighbors and the cause of Mexican independence. The historic battle at Puebla, Mexico on the fifth of May, 1862, is a David versus Goliath story that demonstrates that man can overcome any obstacle in the pursuit of freedom. On Cinco de Mayo we remember the brave stand at Puebla and we celebrate the cause of freedom around the world.

Mr. BOOZMAN. I want to thank Mr. BACA for bringing this forward, and I urge my colleagues to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 230, as amended.

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. PAYNE. 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.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 61ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF ISRAEL

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the con-

current resolution (H. Con. Res. 111) recognizing the 61st anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

#### H. CON. RES. 111

Whereas on May 14, 1948, the State of Israel declared its independence;

Whereas the United States was one of the first nations to recognize Israel, only 11 minutes after its creation;

Whereas Israel has provided the opportunity for Jews from all over the world to reestablish their ancient homeland;

Whereas Israel is home to many religious sites sacred to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam;

Whereas Israel provided a refuge to Jews who survived the unprecedented horrors of the Holocaust;

Whereas the people of Israel have established a pluralistic democracy which includes the freedoms cherished by the people of the United States, including freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of association, freedom of the press, and government by the consent of the governed;

Whereas Israel continues to serve as a shining model of democratic values by regularly holding free and fair elections, promoting the free exchange of ideas, and vigorously exercising in its Parliament, the Knesset, a democratic government that is fully representative of its citizens;

Whereas Israel has bravely defended itself from terrorist and military attacks repeatedly since independence;

Whereas the rocket attacks that have occurred in Israel in recent years have caused hundreds of casualties and have destroyed homes, schools, buildings, roads, power lines, and other significant infrastructure;

Whereas Israel has signed landmark peace treaties and successfully established peaceful bilateral relations with neighboring Egypt and Jordan;

Whereas despite the deaths of over 1,000 innocent Israelis over the last several years at the hands of murderous, suicide bombers and other terrorists, the people of Israel continue to seek peace with their Palestinian neighbors;

Whereas Iran, which rejects Israel's right to exist as a nation, is a continued threat to Israel's safety and security, both through its support of terrorist groups like Hamas and Hezbollah and through its ongoing efforts to acquire nuclear weapons;

Whereas the United States and Israel enjoy a strategic partnership based on shared democratic values, friendship, and respect;

Whereas the people of the United States share an affinity with the people of Israel and view Israel as a strong and trusted ally;

Whereas Israel has made significant global contributions in the fields of science, medicine, and technology; and

Whereas Israel's Independence Day on the Jewish calendar coincides this year with April 29, 2009: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) recognizes the independence of the State of Israel as a significant event in providing refuge and a national homeland for the Jewish people and in establishing a democracy in the Middle East;

(2) commends the bipartisan commitment of all United States administrations and United States Congresses since 1948 to stand by Israel and work for its security and well-being;

(3) congratulates the United States and Israel for the strengthening of bilateral rela-

tions in recent years in the fields of defense, diplomacy, and homeland security, and encourages both nations to continue their cooperation in resolving future mutual challenges; and

(4) extends warm congratulations and best wishes to the people of Israel as they celebrate the 61st anniversary of Israel's independence.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, 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 New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 111, recognizing the 61st anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel, and yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Since its founding 61 years ago, the modern State of Israel has been a strong ally of the United States, Israel has established itself as a dynamic, pluralistic and democratic nation with a booming economy, a thriving culture and intellectual life. Contemporary Israelis have contributed to world civilizations as scholars, inventors, artists and educators, and Israeli citizens have been awarded the Nobel Prize. Israel is the home to many outstanding scientists, engineers, doctors, musicians and other hardworking people. This is an impressive record for a country of barely 7 million people.

Since Israel's founding, the United States has had no greater friend in the Middle East. The close bond is based on shared values, including a commitment to democracy and respect for human rights. The United States and Israel also share a common history as a nation of immigrants, many of whom fled persecution from other parts of the world. The United States and Israel have worked to welcome people in their borders.

Israel declared its independence on May 14, 1948, providing opportunity for Jews from all over the world to reestablish their ancient homeland. Israel remains the home of many religious sites which are sacred to Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Israelis continue to serve as a model of democracy and democratic values by holding free and fair elections, promoting free and fair exchange of ideas, having open press, open media and vigorously exercising in its Parliament, the Knesset, a democratic government that is fully representative of all its citizens. As a matter of fact, in the Knesset, just about every small group may be represented, and it is considered to be for Israel, as compared to

other nations, the most democratic by the manner in which it is created. I am certainly convinced that America and Israel will remain and retain their very strong and special relationships for years to come.

H. Con. Res. 111 reaffirms these bonds of friendship and cooperation and expresses a commitment to strengthen them as we move forward.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this resolution commending the 61 years of Israel's existence as a beacon of democracy and hope in the Middle East. I look forward to future anniversaries and to the day when Israel and her civilians can live in true peace and true security.

I strongly support this resolution, and I strongly urge that all my colleagues do the same.

For thirty-one years, not one of Israel's Arab neighbors recognized the Jewish State. Finally, in 1979 and 1994, in respectively, visionary Arab leaders Anwar Sadat of Egypt and King Hussein of Jordan embraced the path of co-existence and signed peace treaties with Israel. I am convinced that someday the other Arab states will follow suit.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, as we, today, commemorate 61 years of Israeli independence, we commemorate and celebrate so much more. We celebrate 61 years of the exercise of vibrant liberty, democracy and opportunity for those of all faiths. We celebrate over six decades of the revitalization of the Jewish homeland where Jewish culture, literature and philosophy have flourished. We celebrate 61 years of Israeli achievements in science and technology and business, achievements defined by continual innovation and entrepreneurship, and we celebrate the hard work, determination and love of peace displayed by the people of Israel, a people with whom we share our deepest values.

In short, Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate a quintessentially American story, an example of what other countries in the Middle East and beyond can achieve if they unleash the power of human freedom.

But as we celebrate, we cannot and must not ignore the continued and growing threats to Israel's survival. At the United Nations, Israel, like the United States, is singled out for bogus criticism and judged by double standards. Most recently at the Durban II conference in Geneva, speaker after speaker lambasted Israel for supposed racism, and the assembled nations passed a declaration that criticized Israel alone among nations. Of course, the most memorable and infamous moment from the Durban II was Iranian leader Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's speech where he savagely attacked the State of Israel and advanced anti-Semitic conspiracy theories that could have been taken verbatim from the Protocols of the Elders of Zion. Ahmadinejad has repeatedly called for Israel's de-

struction, and given the Iranian regime's pursuit of nuclear, chemical, biological and missile capabilities, he and his ilk may soon have the wherewithal to make good their threats. The prospect of an emboldened nuclear Iran is a threat to Israel, a threat to the United States, and a threat to us all, and we cannot stand idly by in the face of this danger.

Likewise, to Israel's north, Syria's dictator has threatened Israel with violence and brags of his support for the violent Islamist group Hezbollah, which continues to increase its capabilities to diminish Israel. Southern Israel continues to endure the nearly 9,000 rocket missiles and mortars that have been fired into Israel since 2001, more than 6,000 of them since Israel withdrew entirely from the Gaza Strip in November 2005. The result has been numerous Israeli deaths, physical and psychological wounds, and unceasing panic in the towns and cities within range of Hamas's artillery.

As we witnessed in the recent conflict in Gaza, Hamas's capabilities continue to expand; thus, as we celebrate the anniversary of Israeli independence, and with it the creation of a bastion of democracy in a sea of autocracy, we must remain mindful of the challenges that she faces. In short, the bond between our Nations and our people have never been stronger. The United States could not ask for a better friend and ally in the region, and I assure the Israeli people that they will always be able to depend on the United States and the American people.

I would like to extend my best wishes and congratulations to the people of the State of Israel on their 61st independence day.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PAYNE. At this time, I yield 5 minutes to the delegate from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA).

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, again, I thank my good friend from New Jersey for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 111, the legislation which expresses the sense of Congress recognizing and extending warm congratulations to the State of Israel for the 61st anniversary of its independence. First, I want to commend the chief sponsor, Mr. SCOTT GARRETT of New Jersey, for introducing this important resolution celebrating this occasion on Israel's 61st birthday. I also want to recognize the cosponsors for their strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 111.

Mr. Speaker, on May 14, 1948, the State of Israel was founded when Israel declared independence and was extended diplomatic recognition by the United States. We must acknowledge the importance of the actions made by the United Nations in the 1940s in creating the Jewish State soon after the horrific atrocities committed by the

Nazis during World War II where they killed some 6 million Jews and imprisoned and viciously tortured many more in concentration camps.

□ 1445

Mr. Speaker, this legislation honors the anniversary of the reestablishment of the sovereign and independent modern State of Israel and commends the leaders and the people of Israel for their remarkable achievements in building a strong and thriving democracy in the Middle East, while being threatened constantly with terrorism and war. The United States shares an affinity with the people of Israel, where we have a strong partnership based on democratic values that emphasize the importance of inalienable rights through the protection of the rights of individuals, maintaining the freedom of the press, providing for freedom of religion, having open and fair elections and, importantly, maintaining the rule of law. As the only democracy in the Middle East, we must commend Israel for their steadfast commitment to upholding democratic principles.

Mr. Speaker, Israel is at the forefront of modern technology, and has continued to expand its advancements in energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies. I want to acknowledge Israel's efforts in preventing and combating diabetes in the Pacific Islands. This is an epidemic which has drastically impaired the people of the Pacific Island nations. Israel has continued to work with the people of the Pacific Island nations either through direct or technical assistance, and I must recognize them for their support of the least fortunate in this part of the world. This resolution reiterates Israel's significant global contributions.

Mr. Speaker, I want to praise the efforts of President Obama and his administration for making the Israeli Middle East peace process a high priority of this administration. This was reaffirmed when President Obama appointed Senator George Mitchell as Special Envoy for the Middle East process in his second day of office. Like President Obama, I believe that it is critical that Israel share a lasting peace with its neighbors in the Middle East and that a two-state solution, an Israeli state and a Palestinian state, will provide for peace and security in this important region of the world.

Mr. Speaker, I want to end on an important note. At the National Prayer Breakfast held this year, former British Prime Minister Tony Blair who is now the Quartet's Special Envoy to the Middle East, gave the most remarkable keynote address. In his speech, Prime Minister Blair mentioned a conversation he had with his Palestinian tour guide during his tour of Israel. At the Mount of Temptation in Jericho, and this is meant in humor, Mr. Speaker, his Palestinian tour guide said, "Moses, Jesus and Mohammed, why did they all have to come here?" This

speaks volumes of the importance of this region when three of the most important religions of the world have a common cultural and religious history with the great city of Jerusalem.

I believe today, as did the late prime minister and a great hero of mine, Yitzhak Rabin, that there will be a resolving and lasting peace between the Palestinians and Israelis who are in fact direct descendants of Father Abraham.

I keep telling my Arabic and Israeli friends: You guys are first cousins, why do you keep fighting each other? You are all sons and daughters of Father Abraham.

I want to convey my personal congratulations to the people of Israel in celebrating their 61st anniversary, and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT), a member of the Budget and Financial Services Committees and the author of the resolution.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. I do now rise to commemorate this important event, the 61st anniversary of the founding of the modern State of Israel. As indicated, it was less than a century ago when most Jewish people were scattered throughout the world, often suffering from unjust persecution. Yet today, Israel is an independent, flourishing country that is vibrant as it goes forward day by day.

Just as the Jewish people celebrated Passover recently, the time when God delivered the Israelites out of captivity, I believe it is fitting and proper for us to celebrate the establishment of the only truly free country in the Middle East.

I have long been a strong advocate for Israel during my tenure here in Congress. During my very first term in office, I had an opportunity to visit Israel and to learn more about its people and the Jewish government. I also had the opportunity to establish a Jewish Advisory Committee in my district, to meet with Israeli and Palestinian officials.

Last year I introduced H. Res. 951, which condemned the rocket attacks on Israel, and I was pleased to see that this resolution passed the House overwhelmingly with bipartisan support.

So today, I come to the floor and am honored to speak on H. Con. Res. 111 because Israel has been one of our strongest allies, and our two countries have so very much in common. Israel and America have both faced so many wars. But we have also endeavored throughout it all to preserve the peace. And we continue now to promote freedom despite the ongoing resistance.

Earlier this year I joined with many of my constituents at a solidarity rally to remember Israel's efforts during Operation Cast Lead. I sympathized with the families of the victims who were injured and killed there.

This recent conflict served as a sobering reminder that liberty comes with a great price and a great responsibility. Yet Israel has not allowed challenges to suspend its progress. Israel was little more than a barren desert back in 1948. And, amazingly, this wilderness has been transformed into a center of thriving agricultural production. Not only has Israel been the source of innovative techniques, but it has also shared those techniques and that knowledge with countries across the world.

My own State of New Jersey is called the Garden State. Our State has directly benefited from the irrigation practices first developed by the people in Israel.

So I come to the floor right now grateful to how Israel has so freely shared their lessons that they have learned. By illustrating the virtues of liberty and the benefits of innovation, Israel today serves as a model for other developing nations.

This 61st anniversary is truly indeed a cause for celebration. I urge my constituents and colleagues to join me in recognizing this achievement of our friend and ally, Israel.

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to my final speaker, Mr. GOHMERT, a distinguished member of the Judiciary, Resources and Small Business Committees.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my friend from Arkansas yielding me this time.

On the 61st anniversary of the creation of Israel, we should stop to congratulate them. But I have a couple of points that I want to make sure that everyone understands.

Number one, there was a Holocaust. Number two, there could be another holocaust.

Now today, we are told that the Taliban is near Islamabad. If Pakistan falls to the most radical Islamic terrorists, then the world is in trouble. We need to protect our friends.

We know that Israel is a democracy, a great democracy; so we are and should be friends. We know that Israel believes in the value of human life and human rights. We are and should be friends.

Someone once referred to Israel as the miner's canary for the world because when Israel suffers, the world is about to suffer.

That's the kind of friend we need to hold close and work together with. I want to make clear these radical Islamic terrorists, they are such a tiny, tiny fraction of the Islamic believers in the world. But they are a dangerous, dangerous part that needs to be understood and dealt with.

Congratulations to Israel. They are our friend. They should be our friend, and we need to make sure another holocaust never happens.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today in support of H Con.

Res. 111, recognizing the 61st anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel. I would like to thank my colleague, Representative SCOTT GARRETT, for introducing this act of solidarity. I would also like to thank my fellow cosponsors.

On May 14, 1948—61 years ago—the Jewish people of Palestine declared their independence as a sovereign state. Across the world, the Jewish people saw a new opportunity to reestablish their ancient homeland—the possibility of living, not as eternal outsiders, but as a nation.

Eleven minutes after this declaration, the United States became the first country to recognize the new state. This began a long, strategic partnership based on shared democratic values, friendship, and respect. To this day, Americans share an affinity with the people of Israel and view their country as a strong and trusted ally.

The new nation provided a refuge to millions who had survived one of the most glaring examples of man's greatest inhumanity to man. These survivors helped to found a democracy that made use of all the freedoms, we, as Americans hold dear ourselves, including freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of association, freedom of the press, and government by the consent of the governed.

Israel continues to serve as a shining model of democrat values by regularly holding free and fair elections, promoting the free exchange of ideas, and vigorously exercising, in the Knesset, a democratic government that is fully representative of its citizens. The leaders in this parliament have, as the times have required, led Israel as the nation defended itself from repeated military and terrorist attacks.

Likewise, when they saw the opportunity, the democratically elected leaders of Israel have worked for peace, as they did with the neighboring governments of Egypt and Jordan to establish peaceful, bilateral relations. These efforts continue to this day—despite the deaths of over 1,000 innocent Israelis over the last several years at the hands of suicide bombers and other terrorists—as the people of Israel continue to seek peace with their Palestinian neighbors, I will continue to work for a two-state solution and the saving of lives in Palestine and in Israel.

This is all to say nothing of the country's many other accomplishments, including significant global contributions in the fields of science, medicine, and technology.

That is why I stand here today—to recognize this simple truth—that the independence of the State of Israel is more than a single event—it is the stabilization of a region, it is the lasting friendship of a like-minded country—and it is the bond of sovereign friendship. That is what this resolution does.

To the administrations and Congresses that have, since its creation, stood by the people of Israel, working for their security and well-being, we give our praise. We further commend our allies who have helped us to strengthen our bilateral relations in recent years in the fields of defense, diplomacy, and homeland security. We also encourage them to continue their cooperation in resolving future mutual challenges, as we resolve, today and always, to continue ours. For that is also in this resolution.

Finally, I extend the warmest congratulations and best wishes to the people of Israel as they celebrate the 61 years of their noble

nation's independence and sovereignty. May they know many more, and thrive as a country.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, for the past 61 years, the United States and Israel have enjoyed a strategic partnership based on shared democratic values, commitment to freedom, friendship, and respect. I rise today to recognize that relationship and congratulate the people of Israel on the 61st anniversary of Israel's independence.

In addition to congratulating the people of Israel as they celebrate their independence, H. Con. Res. 111, recognizes important events and people who have shaped this nation's history. While Israel's history is marked by proud accomplishments and successes, it is also peppered by instances when Israeli's had to defend their country from outside threats. Sadly, many threats still remain. As Americans join Israeli's in celebrating their country's independence, we should take notice of those threats and renew our commitment to addressing them.

No bigger, more challenging threat exists to Israel than that posed by Iran. Continuing to enrich uranium, Iran now has enough low enriched uranium that if further processed could produce a nuclear bomb. Such a development would be an existential threat to Israel. As one of Israel's closest friends and allies, the United States should take appropriate action to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons. Congress can begin by approving H.R. 1327, the Iran Sanctions Enabling Act, and H.R. 1985, the Iran Diplomatic Enhancement Act.

By standing with Israel against Iran, we demonstrate the strength of the ties that bind our two nations. Again, Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the people of Israel on the 61st anniversary of their independence and call on my colleagues in Congress to show their support for Israel by passing legislation that will pressure Iran into abandoning its pursuit of nuclear weapons.

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 111 recognizing the 61st anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel.

This resolution enjoys bipartisan support, because Americans from across the political spectrum agree that the State of Israel is a great friend of the United States, and we all celebrate the anniversary of its founding today.

As we mark this anniversary, it is fitting that we also note a new American tradition. May 1st of this year marked the beginning of the 4th annual Jewish American Heritage Month, during which we celebrate the many contributions that American Jews have made to the society in which we live and thrive. When the first Jewish settlers came to this land, they sought a place of promise where they could practice their faith in freedom and live in liberty.

The history of Jews in the United States includes the earliest days of the Republic, when in 1790, a member of the oldest synagogue still standing in the United States—the Touro Synagogue in Newport, Rhode Island—wrote to George Washington, expressing his support for Washington's administration and good wishes for the first President. President Washington sent a letter in response, which read in part:

... the Government of the United States ... gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecu-

tion no assistance . . . May the children of the Stock of Abraham, who dwell in this land, continue to merit and enjoy the good will of the other Inhabitants; while every one shall sit in safety under his own vine and figtree, and there shall be none to make him afraid. May the father of all mercies scatter light and not darkness in our paths, and make us all in our several vocations useful here, and in his own due time and way everlastingly happy.

These many years later, I encourage all Americans to stop and think about the great gains in medicine, literature, journalism, law, entertainment, and fine arts that have been made due in no small part to the role of our Jewish friends and neighbors have played in American society.

I will also note that as a nation of immigrants, our culture has been enriched by the traditions that settlers from across the globe have been able to incorporate into their daily lives as Americans. In the Jewish culture, the phrase "tikkum olam" directs believers to live their lives to heal the world. There is no better guiding principle in these challenging times, and our shared American culture is stronger because of it.

On the occasion of Israel's 61st anniversary, and as we celebrate the contributions of Jewish Americans in our daily lives, I look forward to the future of our friend and ally, the State of Israel, and to the prospects for peace in the Middle East.

I will remain steadfast in my support of an independent Jewish state, and I am hopeful that we will soon reach the day when children will have to turn to the history books to learn that there ever was conflict in the Middle East.

President Obama has begun the vital work of reengaging the United States in the quest for peace in the Middle East by appointing George Mitchell as Special Envoy for Middle East Peace. As we commemorate the 61 historic years since the founding of the State of Israel, we must also look to the future, and I believe the future for Israel is bright.

I congratulate the State of Israel on its 61st anniversary, and I urge adoption of this Resolution.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 111, a resolution recognizing the 61st anniversary of the founding of the modern state of Israel. I believe it is important on this occasion to highlight the close bond between the United States and Israel. Just as the U.S. is a symbol of hope and freedom around the globe, Israel stands as a symbol of freedom and democracy in an area historically rampant with violence and oppression.

On May 14, 1948, Israel declared its independence, with the United States being the first country to formally recognize the new nation. Since that historic day, the United States and Israel have shared a close relationship of friendship and cooperation that serves as an example to the rest of the world. This relationship is strengthened with each successive year.

One critical aspect of the U.S.-Israeli relationship is the role Israel plays in the pursuit of peace in the Middle East. Indeed, Israel has worked hard to develop friendly working relationships with its neighbors, Egypt and Jordan, setting an example of leadership and peace even as many around them spread hatred and terror. And while recent years have unfortunately been marked by escalating armed con-

flict between Israel and Hamas, the United States will stand steadfast in its commitment to a free Israel as the Middle East comes to embrace the liberties and freedoms of democratic societies.

Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor of this resolution, it is my honor to recognize and congratulate the success of Israel on its 61st Anniversary. It is vital the United States continue to develop its strong relationship with Israel so that other countries around the world still oppressed and ruled by terror can see the true value of a free and democratic society.

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on May 14, Israel will celebrate its 61st anniversary as a sovereign and independent nation. Only eleven minutes after its creation, the United States recognized Israel and was one of the first nations to do so. In these intervening 61 years, the people of Israel have established a unique, pluralistic democracy that includes the freedoms cherished by Americans.

Today, the United States House of Representatives voted on and approved House Concurrent Resolution 111 that states that Congress recognizes the independence of the State of Israel as a significant event in providing refuge and a national homeland for the Jewish people; commends the bipartisan commitment of all United States administrations and United States Congresses since 1948 to stand by Israel and work for its security and wellbeing; congratulates the United States and Israel for the strengthening of bilateral relations in recent years in the fields of defense, diplomacy, and homeland security, and encourages both nations to continue their cooperation in resolving future mutual challenges; and extends warm congratulations and best wishes to the people of Israel as they celebrate the 61st anniversary of Israel's independence.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of House Concurrent Resolution 111 and I have consistently supported efforts to strengthen the relationship between the United States and Israel. As a senior member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I will continue to work with members on both sides of the aisle to ensure that our country remains steadfast in our support for Israel and its people.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, as many have said before, friendship is found and tested through adversity. The friendship between the United States and Israel has certainly been tried and proven true. Both our nations confront challenges that are rooted in extremism and terrorism. While America formerly found some comfort in distance, Israel stands as a true testament to freedom and democracy in the Middle East—but Israel does not stand alone. The commitments between Israel and the United States are not born out of mere necessity, but out of mutual respect and the common belief that all of mankind deserves to live in peace and freedom.

On the 61st Anniversary of the Independence of the State of Israel, I offer my gratitude and congratulations to a steady ally and friend.

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this very important resolution, and thank the gentleman from New Jersey for bringing it forward. Again, I urge all of our House Members to vote in the affirmative, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 111.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. 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 MALARIA AWARENESS DAY

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 103) supporting the goals and ideals of Malaria Awareness Day, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

#### H. CON. RES. 103

Whereas April 25 of each year is recognized internationally as Africa Malaria Day and in the United States as Malaria Awareness Day;

Whereas despite malaria being completely preventable and treatable and the fact that malaria was eliminated from the United States over 50 years ago, more than 40 percent of the world's population is still at risk of contracting malaria;

Whereas, according to the World Health Organization, nearly 1,000,000 people die from malaria each year, the vast majority of whom are children under the age of 5 in Africa;

Whereas malaria greatly affects child health, roughly every 30 seconds a child dies from malaria, and more than 3,000 children die from malaria every day;

Whereas malaria poses great risks to maternal health, causing complications during delivery, anemia, and low birth weights, with estimates by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention that malaria infection causes 400,000 cases of severe maternal anemia and from 75,000 to 200,000 infant deaths annually in sub-Saharan Africa;

Whereas HIV infection increases the risk and severity of malarial illness, and malaria increases the viral load in HIV-positive people, which can lead to increased transmission of HIV and more rapid disease progression, with substantial public health implications;

Whereas in malarial regions, many people are co-infected with malaria and one or more of the neglected tropical diseases, such as hookworm and schistosomiasis, which causes a pronounced exacerbation of anemia and several adverse health consequences;

Whereas the malnutrition and consequent chronic illness that result from childhood malaria leads to increased absenteeism in school and perpetuates cycles of poverty;

Whereas an estimated 90 percent of deaths from malaria occur in Africa and the Roll Back Malaria Partnership estimates that

malaria costs African countries \$12,000,000,000 in lost economic productivity each year;

Whereas the World Health Organization estimates that malaria accounts for 40 percent of health care expenditures in high-burden countries, demonstrating that effective, long-term malaria control is inextricably linked to the strength of health systems;

Whereas heightened efforts over recent years to prevent and treat malaria are currently saving lives;

Whereas progress and funding to control malaria has increased ten-fold since 2000, in large part due, to funding under the President's Malaria Initiative (a United States Government initiative designed to cut malaria deaths in half in target countries in sub-Saharan Africa), the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the World Bank, and new financing by other donors;

Whereas the President's Malaria Initiative has purchased almost 13,000,000 artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACT), protected over 17,000,000 people through spraying campaigns, and distributed over 6,000,000 insecticide-treated bed nets, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria has distributed 7,000,000 bed nets to protect families from malaria and provided 74,000,000 malaria patients with ACTs, and the World Bank's Booster Program is scheduled to commit approximately \$500,000,000 in International Development Association funds for malaria control in Africa;

Whereas public and private partners are developing effective and affordable drugs to treat malaria, with more than 23 types of malaria vaccines in development;

Whereas according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, vector control, or the prevention of malaria transmission via anopheles mosquitoes, which includes a combination of methods such as insecticide-treated bed nets, indoor residual spraying, and source reduction (larval control), has been shown to reduce severe morbidity and mortality due to malaria in endemic regions;

Whereas the impact of malaria efforts have been documented in numerous regions, such as in Zanzibar, where malaria prevalence among children shrank from 20 percent to less than 1 percent between 2005 and 2007, and in Rwanda, where malaria cases and deaths appeared to decline rapidly after a large-scale distribution of bed nets and malaria treatments in 2006; and

Whereas a malaria-free future will rely on consistent international, national and local leadership, and a comprehensive approach addressing the range of health, development, and economic challenges facing developing countries: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Malaria Awareness Day, including the achievable target of ending malaria deaths by 2015;

(2) calls upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities to raise awareness and support to save the lives of those affected by malaria;

(3) reaffirms the goals and commitments to combat malaria outlined in the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008;

(4) commends the progress made during the last year by anti-malaria programs including the President's Malaria Initiative and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria;

(5) recognizes the work of the Roll Back Malaria Partnership and affirms United States support for and contribution toward the achievement of the following targets:

(A) Achieve universal coverage for all populations at risk with locally appropriate interventions for prevention and case management by 2010 and sustain universal coverage until local field research suggests that coverage can gradually be targeted to high-risk areas and seasons only, without risk of a generalized resurgence.

(B) Reduce global malaria cases from 2000 levels by 50 percent in 2010 and by 75 percent in 2015.

(C) End malaria deaths by 2015.

(6) encourages fellow donor nations to maintain their support and honor their funding commitments for Malaria programs worldwide;

(7) urges greater integration between United States and international health programs that target malaria, HIV, Tuberculosis, neglected tropical diseases, and basic child and maternal health; and

(8) commits to continued United States leadership in efforts to reduce global malaria deaths, especially through strengthening health care systems that can deliver effective, safe, high-quality interventions when and where they are needed, and assure access to reliable health information and effective disease surveillance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, H. Con. Res. 103, supporting the goals and ideals of Malaria Awareness Day.

April 25 of each year is recognized internationally as Africa Malaria Day and in the United States as Malaria Awareness Day.

I introduced this resolution with my colleague and Congressional Malaria Caucus co-Chair, Congressman JOHN BOOZMAN of Arkansas, a true partner in the fight against malaria and so many other good causes, and I would like to thank him for his partnership and his continued commitment to ending malaria, and to so many other important issues pertaining to Africa.

We introduced this resolution to remind the Congress, the country, and the world that malaria is preventable and is treatable.

Malaria was eliminated from the United States over 50 years ago, yet more than 40 percent of the world's population is still at risk of contracting this disease. The World Health Organization reports that malaria claims the lives of nearly 1 million people each year, the vast majority of whom are children under the age of 5 in Africa.

I ask you to reflect on the statistics: malaria takes the life of a child roughly every 30 seconds. This is simply astounding and unconscionable in 2009. Malaria also causes a great risk to maternal health, causing complications during delivery, anemia, and low birth weight, with estimates by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that malaria infection causes 400,000 cases of severe maternal anemia and from 75,000 to 200,000 infant deaths annually in sub-Saharan Africa.

An estimated 90 percent of the deaths from malaria occur in Africa. Malaria also perpetuates poverty. The Roll Back Malaria Partnership estimates that malaria costs African countries \$12 billion annually in lost economic productivity.

The malaria burden also weakens governments' abilities to provide services. The World Health Organization estimates that malaria accounts for 40 percent of health care expenditures in high-burden countries, demonstrating that effective, long-term malaria control is inextricably linked to the strength of the health systems.

However, there is good news. Heightened efforts by our own government and by other partner nations have made significant progress in the fight against malaria.

The President's Malaria Initiative has purchased almost 13 million artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACT), which will protect over 17 million people through spraying campaigns, and has distributed over 6 million insecticide-treated bed nets.

□ 1500

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria has distributed 7 million bed nets to protect families from malaria and provided 74 million malaria patients with ACTs. As the World Bank's booster program is scheduled to commit more than \$500 million in International Development Association funds for malaria, this will help to move forward the control of malaria; approximately \$500 million by the International Development Association.

Public and private partnerships are developing effective and affordable drugs to treat malaria, with more than 23 types of malaria vaccines in development. Years ago, there were virtually no vaccines in development. And so we have seen that the world has taken a real look at this dread disease and we are moving forward to its elimination.

This resolution calls our attention to Malaria Awareness Day which the Congressional Malaria Caucus marked by holding briefings, a roundtable with African health officials, and will conclude with Special Orders this evening. The resolution also reaffirms the goals and commitments to combat malaria outlined in the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008 which provided critical funding, \$6 billion, to fight malaria and tuberculosis.

Let us remain committed to ending malaria for the health and wealth of the entire world. I strongly support this resolution and I urge my colleagues to do likewise.

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

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

As co-Chair with Chairman PAYNE of the Congressional Malaria Caucus and an original cosponsor of this resolution brought forth by Chairman PAYNE, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 103, which supports the goals and ideals of Malaria Awareness Day.

It is widely known that malaria was eradicated in the United States more than a half century ago. Less known is the fact that malaria still affects as many as half a billion people in 109 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America, and that malaria kills approximately 1 million to 3 million people per year.

Africa has been particularly hard hit. Ninety percent of all malaria deaths occur in Africa. It is the leading cause of death of children under the age of 5, claiming the lives of an estimated 3,000 African children per day. And because even mild cases of malaria can be debilitating, many businesses have been forced to hire two or more employees to fill a single position due to absenteeism. It is estimated that Africa loses \$12 billion in productivity each year—all because of a wretched mosquito. But with the commitment of host countries and generous donor support—including through the President's Malaria Initiative; the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; the World Bank; private donors and nongovernmental organizations, including Malaria No More—we are starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Mass distributions of mosquito nets, indoor residual spraying, and the development and distribution of safe, effective and inexpensive drugs to treat malaria have yielded sharp declines in malaria-related deaths in a number of African countries. According to U.S. Malaria Coordinator, Admiral Tim Ziemer, "These efforts are bringing newfound hope that malaria is not an intractable problem and giving children a fighting chance to improve their quality of life and build better futures."

But we still have a long way to go.

Malaria Day serves as a call to arms—a day to mobilize resources and recommit ourselves to the fight against this preventable disease. It reminds us that with the steadfast commitment of donors, host governments, local leaders and the countless heroes who are fighting to roll back this scourge on the ground each and every day, we may live to see the elimination of malaria from the developing world.

I thank the sponsor, and my fellow co-Chair of the House Malaria Caucus, Mr. PAYNE, for introducing this important measure and for agreeing to mod-

est, though critically important changes which enabled us to move the resolution directly to the House floor today. I appreciate the chairman's hard work and leadership combating this disease but also for his chairmanship of the Africa Subcommittee of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

Mr. PAYNE. At this time I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALÉOMAVAEGA).

Mr. FALÉOMAVAEGA. I thank the gentleman for yielding and for this opportunity to speak out in full support of this proposed legislation. Not only am I a cosponsor but I want to commend especially my colleague and friend, the chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health.

Mr. Speaker, this issue is serious. Forty percent of the world's population, some 6 billion people living in this world, are still impacted and affected by this serious disease—malaria. On top of that, some 800 million people living on the continent of Africa, 90 percent of the people living in Africa, are also affected by this serious disease.

I want to thank the gentleman from New Jersey for his initiative and leadership in proposing this legislation and sincerely hope that in our efforts in working through the authorizing committees that we will build on what the gentleman, the chairman of our subcommittee, has done to bring to the attention of our colleagues and to the American people the importance of what we need to do as a country to help get rid of this serious disease.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. PAYNE. I yield the gentleman 30 additional seconds.

Mr. FALÉOMAVAEGA. I want to commend my good friend from New Jersey for working quietly and patiently but with tremendous effort in working with our colleagues in addressing the serious problems of malaria.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I want to again thank my good friend from New Jersey for his leadership and for the work that he has done in trying to get rid of this dreaded disease.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 103, "Supporting the goals and ideals of Malaria Awareness Day" and I would like to thank my colleague Representative PAYNE for introducing this resolution.

Every year, April 25 is recognized internationally as Africa Malaria Day and in the United States as Malaria Awareness Day. Although, malaria is a completely preventable and treatable disease which was eliminated from the United States over 50 years ago, more than 40 percent of the world's population is still at risk of contracting malaria. According to the World Health Organization, nearly 1,000,000 people die from malaria each year,

the vast majority of whom are children under the age of 5 in Africa. I feel that the target of ending malaria deaths by 2015 is an achievable goal that the United States must aid in accomplishing.

As chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, this resolution is important to me because roughly every 30 seconds a child dies from malaria, and more than 3,000 children die from malaria every day. The malnutrition and consequent chronic illness that result from childhood malaria leads to increased absenteeism in school and perpetuates cycles of poverty. In addition to threatening the lives of children this disease also takes a great toll on women as well. Malaria poses great risks to maternal health, causing complications during delivery, anemia, and low birth weights, with estimates by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention that malaria infection causes 400,000 cases of severe maternal anemia and from 75,000 to 200,000 infant deaths annually in sub-Saharan Africa.

An estimated 90 percent of deaths from malaria occur in Africa and the Roll Back Malaria Partnership estimates that malaria costs African countries \$12,000,000,000 in lost economic productivity each year. The World Health Organization estimates that malaria accounts for 40 percent of health care expenditures in high-burden countries, demonstrating that effective, long-term malaria control is inextricably linked to the strength of health systems.

Fortunately, the heightened efforts over recent years to prevent and treat malaria are currently saving lives. Progress and funding to control malaria has increased ten-fold since 2000, in large part, due to funding under the President's Malaria Initiative (a U.S. Government initiative designed to cut malaria deaths in half in target countries in sub-Saharan Africa), the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the World Bank, and new financing by other donors. The President's Malaria Initiative has purchased almost 13,000,000 artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACT), protected over 17,000,000 people through spraying campaigns, and distributed over 6,000,000 insecticide-treated bed nets, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria has distributed 7,000,000 bed nets to protect families from malaria and provided 74,000,000 malaria patients with ACTs, and the World Bank's Booster Program is scheduled to commit approximately \$500,000,000 in International Development Association funds for malaria control in Africa.

At the moment, public and private partners are developing effective and affordable drugs to treat malaria, with more than 23 types of malaria vaccines in development. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, vector control, or the prevention of malaria transmission via anopheles mosquitoes, which includes a combination of methods such as insecticide-treated bed nets, indoor residual spraying, and source reduction (larval control), has been shown to reduce severe morbidity and mortality due to malaria in endemic regions. The impact of malaria efforts have been documented in numerous regions, such as in Zanzibar, where malaria prevalence among children shrank from 20 percent to less than 1 percent between 2005 and 2007, and in Rwanda, where malaria cases and deaths appeared to decline rapidly after a large-scale distribution of bed nets and malaria treatments in 2006.

A malaria-free future will rely on consistent international, national and local leadership, and a comprehensive approach addressing the range of health, development, and economic challenges facing developing countries. It is important that this Congress commits to continued leadership in efforts to reduce global malaria deaths, especially through strengthening health care systems that can deliver effective, safe, high-quality interventions when and where they are needed, and assure access to reliable health information and effective disease surveillance.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 103, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### HONORING RABBI CHARLES H. ROSENZVEIG

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 283) honoring the life, achievements, and contributions of Rabbi Charles H. Rosenzveig, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 283

Whereas Rabbi Charles H. Rosenzveig, Holocaust survivor, scholar, teacher, and founder of the Nation's first free-standing Holocaust Memorial Center, passed away on December 11, 2008, which corresponds to the 14th of Kislev, 5769 of the Hebrew calendar, and was buried in Jerusalem, Israel;

Whereas Rabbi Charles H. Rosenzveig was beloved by friends, family, and congregants and is survived by his wife Helen and four children, Martin Rosenzveig, Rabbi Ely Rosenzveig, Judy Rosenzveig, and Adina Novogrodsky, and ten grandchildren;

Whereas Rabbi Charles H. Rosenzveig was born on November 13, 1920, in Ostrovitz, Poland, to Yente and Eliezer Lipka Rosenzveig;

Whereas Rabbi Charles H. Rosenzveig was educated in the Jewish cheder and prestigious Bialystok Yeshiva, and studied the laws of his faith concerning the importance of good deeds and social justice, and developed exceptional knowledge of the Talmud, the rabbinic interpretation of Jewish Law;

Whereas Rabbi Charles H. Rosenzveig endured and bore witness to the horrific atrocities of the Holocaust, the Shoah, and members of his immediate and extended family perished at the hands of the Nazis;

Whereas Rabbi Charles H. Rosenzveig managed to escape his Nazi persecutors, fled from Poland to the Soviet Union before immigrating to the United States, settling at first in New York City in 1947;

Whereas Rabbi Charles H. Rosenzveig attended the world-renowned Yeshiva University in Manhattan and was ordained in 1951

as a rabbi, leader, and teacher in the Jewish community;

Whereas, upon receiving the rabbinic designation, Rabbi Charles H. Rosenzveig led Congregation Mt. Sinai in Port Huron, Michigan, where he served as spiritual leader until 1993, when he left the pulpit to devote his entire energy and spirit to the Holocaust Memorial Center, a project he had envisioned since his escape from Europe;

Whereas the Holocaust Memorial Center, established in 1984 at the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield, Michigan, became the Nation's first free-standing Holocaust Memorial Center;

Whereas the Holocaust Memorial Center is a monument to the memory of the victims of the Holocaust, and an educational institution with a mission to teach the lesson of tolerance to future generations, welcoming millions of visitors from around the world wishing to learn about the horrors of the Holocaust in order to prevent such a tragedy from occurring again;

Whereas other Holocaust centers around the country have been built, many modeled on Rabbi Charles H. Rosenzveig's original Holocaust Memorial Center;

Whereas Rabbi Charles H. Rosenzveig traveled and spoke extensively to raise awareness and grow the Holocaust Memorial Center, allowing the Holocaust Memorial Center to move from its original home in West Bloomfield, Michigan, to a large, state-of-the-art museum in Farmington Hills, Michigan, that also houses the Museum of European Heritage and the International Institute of the Righteous;

Whereas it was Rabbi Charles H. Rosenzveig's vision for the new center to enlighten future generations about the horrors of the Holocaust and nourish a social consciousness whereby the "righteous acts of the few become the standard of the many"; and

Whereas Rabbi Charles H. Rosenzveig succeeded in providing the tools necessary for the message of "Never Again" to be understood by future generations: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) mourns the passing of Rabbi Charles H. Rosenzveig and pauses to remember the 6,000,000 Jews killed in the Holocaust and the more than 11,000,000 people murdered in World War II; and

(2) honors the life and accomplishments of Rabbi Charles H. Rosenzveig as a scholar, teacher, rabbi, and Founder and Director of the Holocaust Memorial Center.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PAYNE. 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 under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H. Res. 283, a resolution offered by Mr. PETERS of Michigan, honoring the life, achievements, and contributions of Rabbi Charles H. Rosenzveig. Although Rabbi Rosenzveig passed away last December, I think it is extremely and particularly appropriate that the House honor him now after having recently marked Holocaust Remembrance Day.

While Rabbi Rosenzveig will always be remembered as a loving husband and father with a wife, Helen, and four children, one of whom followed in his father's footsteps into rabbinat and became a rabbi, many of us knew him as a path-breaking educator about the Holocaust and the founder of an important Holocaust museum and memorial.

His life story of survival, escape and renewal serves as a model for all of us. Though he escaped the clutches of the Nazis who invaded his native Poland, Rabbi Rosenzveig lost much of his family in the Holocaust. After making his way east through the Soviet Union, he found refuge in the United States in 1947. After attending Yeshiva University in New York City, he became the spiritual leader of Congregation Mount Sinai in Port Huron, Michigan. In 1984, Rabbi Rosenzveig founded the Holocaust Memorial Center, a national free-standing memorial to the horrors of the Holocaust, in Farmington Hills, Michigan. In 1993, he left the pulpit to devote his energies full time to the center. The center serves not only as a memorial to those who perished at the hands of the Nazis but as a Jewish history museum and an educational institution dedicated to tolerance to future generations.

While it is fitting that Rabbi Rosenzveig's memory and his many accomplishments be noted here today, the Nation's other Holocaust museums, many modeled after the center he founded in Farmington Hills, form perhaps the most enduring tribute to his achievements. We mourn the loss of Rabbi Charles H. Rosenzveig and pay our respects to his family and to those who knew him well.

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

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

I rise today in support of H. Res. 283, honoring the life, achievements and contributions of Rabbi Charles Rosenzveig. Rabbi Rosenzveig was a Holocaust survivor, scholar, teacher and founder of the first freestanding Holocaust Memorial Center in the United States. Rabbi Rosenzveig passed away on December 11, 2008, but his lifelong efforts to keep alive the memory of the atrocities committed during the Holocaust and his commitment to teaching the lessons of tolerance to future generations will live on.

After surviving the horrors of the Holocaust, he immigrated to the United States in 1947 where he was ordained as a rabbi, became a respected teacher in the Jewish community and spoke extensively to raise awareness

about the Holocaust. Rabbi Rosenzveig made it his personal mission to teach new generations of the lessons of the Holocaust, and he led the efforts in establishing the Holocaust Memorial Center in West Bloomfield, Michigan, the first of its kind in the United States.

The original Holocaust Memorial Center which Rabbi Rosenzveig helped establish in West Bloomfield, which was later moved to a large state-of-the-art museum in Farmington Hills, served as a model for many other Holocaust centers later built throughout the United States.

I would like to thank my colleague from Michigan, Congressman PETERS, for introducing this measure which commemorates those who perished at the hands of the Nazi regime and honors the life and accomplishments of Rabbi Charles Rosenzveig as a scholar, teacher, rabbi, and founder and director of the Holocaust Memorial Center.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this important resolution.

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

□ 1515

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the sponsor of the resolution, the gentleman from Michigan, Representative PETERS, as much time as he may consume.

Mr. PETERS. I would like to thank the gentleman from New Jersey for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 283, a resolution that I authored to honor the life, achievements and contributions of Rabbi Charles H. Rosenzveig.

The late Rabbi Rosenzveig, who passed away in December, was a scholar, teacher, Holocaust survivor, and a founder of the Nation's first free-standing Holocaust Memorial Center in Oakland County, Michigan, the county which I have lived my whole life and now have the honor to represent here in Congress.

This resolution is important to the people of Michigan and has been sponsored in a thoroughly bipartisan fashion by Representatives LEVIN, CAMP, DINGELL, EHLERS, HOEKSTRA, UPTON, KILDEE, MCCOTTER, MILLER, ROGERS, STUPAK, and SCHAUER.

I would like to commend and thank Chairman BERMAN, Ranking Member ROS-LEHTINEN, and Vice Chairman ACKERMAN for their sponsorship of this resolution and their leadership in moving it through the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Rabbi Rosenzveig lost his mother, father, brother and sister in the Holocaust before fleeing to Poland and then the Soviet Union before immigrating to New York City in 1947. He led his class at the prestigious Yeshiva University in Manhattan and was ordained in 1951 as a rabbi.

He served his congregants at Congregation Mt. Sinai in Port Huron, Michigan, for decades before leaving

the synagogue to devote his entire energy and spirit to the Holocaust Memorial Center of West Bloomfield, Michigan, which he founded in 1984.

Rabbi Rosenzveig traveled and spoke extensively to raise the awareness of resources needed to grow the Holocaust Memorial Center, allowing the center to move from its original home in West Bloomfield to a large state-of-the-art museum in Farmington Hills, Michigan, that also houses the Museum of European Heritage and the International Institute of the Righteous.

The Holocaust Memorial Center, which has educated millions of visitors, stands to enlighten future generations about the horrors of the Holocaust and nourish a social consciousness whereby, as Rabbi Rosenzveig used to say, the "righteous acts of the few become the standard of the many."

Rabbi Rosenzveig was an extraordinary American who devoted his life to serving others. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to meet him, and I was taken by his wisdom, vision, sincerity, and deep sense of caring for all people.

Please join me in paying tribute to a great teacher, scholar, leader, and the founder and director of the Holocaust Memorial Center. I am pleased that the House is considering this bipartisan resolution, and I urge my colleagues to support the passage of House Resolution 283.

Mr. BOOZMAN. I ask my fellow Members to support this resolution commemorating Rabbi Rosenzveig. I also appreciate Chairman PAYNE and the staffs on both sides of the aisle for their hard work in bringing forth several measures today.

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend and express my appreciation to the gentleman from Arkansas who has worked very closely in a very bipartisan manner on many issues. It is a pleasure to work with him as we continue to move forward the needs of the people, not only of our country, but of the world.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 283.

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.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 19 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. HALVORSON) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Notes will be taken in the following order:

H. Res. 230, by the yeas and nays;

H. Con. Res. 111, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The second electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CINCO DE MAYO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 230, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 230, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 395, nays 0, not voting 38, as follows:

[Roll No. 229]

YEAS—395

Abercrombie	Boustany	Conaway
Ackerman	Boyd	Connolly (VA)
Aderholt	Brady (TX)	Cooper
Adler (NJ)	Bright	Costa
Akin	Broun (GA)	Costello
Alexander	Brown (SC)	Courtney
Altmire	Brown-Waite,	Crenshaw
Andrews	Ginny	Crowley
Arcuri	Buchanan	Cuellar
Austria	Burgess	Culberson
Baca	Burton (IN)	Cummings
Bachmann	Butterfield	Dahlkemper
Bachus	Buyer	Davis (AL)
Baird	Calvert	Davis (CA)
Baldwin	Camp	Davis (IL)
Barrow	Campbell	Davis (KY)
Bartlett	Cantor	Davis (TN)
Barton (TX)	Cao	DeGette
Becerra	Capito	Delahunt
Berkley	Capps	DeLauro
Berman	Cardoza	Dent
Berry	Carnahan	Diaz-Balart, L.
Biggert	Carney	Diaz-Balart, M.
Bilbray	Carson (IN)	Dicks
Bilirakis	Carter	Dingell
Bishop (GA)	Cassidy	Doggett
Bishop (NY)	Castle	Donnelly (IN)
Bishop (UT)	Castor (FL)	Doyle
Blackburn	Chaffetz	Dreier
Blumenauer	Chandler	Driehaus
Blunt	Clarke	Duncan
Boccheri	Clay	Edwards (MD)
Boehner	Cleaver	Edwards (TX)
Bonner	Clyburn	Ehlers
Bono Mack	Coble	Ellison
Boozman	Coffman (CO)	Ellsworth
Boren	Cohen	Emerson
Boswell	Cole	Engel

Eshoo	Levin
Etheridge	Lewis (CA)
Fallin	Lewis (GA)
Farr	Linder
Fattah	LoBiondo
Filner	Loeb sack
Flake	Lofgren, Zoe
Fleming	Lowe
Forbes	Luetkemeyer
Fortenberry	Luján
Foster	Lummis
Fox	Lungren, Daniel
Frank (MA)	E.
Franks (AZ)	Lynch
Frelinghuysen	Mack
Fudge	Maffei
Garrett (NJ)	Manzullo
Giffords	Marchant
Gingrey (GA)	Markey (CO)
Gohmert	Markey (MA)
Gonzalez	Marshall
Goodlatte	Massa
Gordon (TN)	Matheson
Granger	Matsui
Graves	McCarthy (CA)
Grayson	McCarthy (NY)
Green, Al	McCaul
Green, Gene	McClintock
Griffith	McCollum
Guthrie	McCotter
Gutierrez	McDermott
Hall (NY)	McGovern
Hall (TX)	McHenry
Halvorson	McHugh
Hare	McIntyre
Harman	McKeon
Harper	McMahon
Hastings (FL)	McMorris
Hastings (WA)	Rodgers
Heinrich	McNerney
Heller	Meek (FL)
Hensarling	Meeke (NY)
Herger	Melancon
Herseth Sandlin	Mica
Higgins	Michaud
Hill	Miller (FL)
Himes	Miller (MI)
Hinche	Miller (NC)
Hinojosa	Miller, Gary
Hirono	Miller, George
Hodes	Minnick
Hoekstra	Mitchell
Holden	Mollohan
Holt	Moore (KS)
Honda	Moore (WI)
Hoyer	Moran (KS)
Hunter	Murphy (CT)
Inlee	Murphy (NY)
Issa	Murphy, Patrick
Jackson (IL)	Murphy, Tim
Jackson-Lee	Myrick
(TX)	Nadler (NY)
Jenkins	Neugebauer
Johnson (GA)	Nunes
Johnson, E. B.	Nye
Johnson, Sam	Oberstar
Jones	Obey
Jordan (OH)	Olson
Jordan	Olver
Kagen	Ortiz
Kanjorski	Pallone
Kaptur	Pastor (AZ)
Kennedy	Pastor (AZ)
Kildee	Paul
Kilroy	Paulsen
Kind	Payne
King (IA)	Pence
King (NY)	Perlmutter
Kingston	Perriello
Kirk	Peters
Kirkpatrick (AZ)	Peterson
Kissell	Petri
Klein (FL)	Pingree (ME)
Kline (MN)	Pitts
Kosmas	Platts
Kratovil	Poe (TX)
Kucinich	Polis (CO)
Lamborn	Pomeroy
Lance	Posey
Langevin	Price (GA)
Larsen (WA)	Putnam
Larson (CT)	Quigley
Latham	Radanovich
LaTourette	Rahall
Latta	Rangel
Lee (CA)	Rehberg
Lee (NY)	Reichert

Reyes	Richardson
Richardson	Rodriguez
Roe (TN)	Rogers (AL)
Rogers (AL)	Rogers (KY)
Rogers (KY)	Rogers (MI)
Rogers (MI)	Rooney
Roskam	Ros-Lehtinen
Ross	Roskam
Rothman (NJ)	Roybal-Allard
Roybal-Allard	Royce
Rupp	Ruppberger
Rush	Ryan (OH)
Ryan (OH)	Ryan (WI)
Salazar	Salazar
Sanchez, Loretta	Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes	Scalise
Scalise	Schakowsky
Schauer	Schiff
Schiff	Schmitt
Schock	Schrader
Schwartz	Schwartz
Scott (GA)	Scott (VA)
Scott (VA)	Sensenbrenner
Serrano	Sessions
Sessions	Sestak
Sestak	Shadegg
Shea-Porter	Sherman
Sherman	Shimkus
Shimkus	Shuster
Shuster	Simpson
Simpson	Sires
Sires	Skelton
Slaughter	Smith (NE)
Smith (NE)	Smith (NJ)
Smith (NJ)	Smith (TX)
Smith (TX)	Snyder
Snyder	Souder
Souder	Space
Space	Speier
Speier	Spratt
Spratt	Stearns
Stearns	Stupak
Stupak	Sullivan
Sullivan	Sutton
Sutton	Tanner
Tanner	Tauscher
Tauscher	Taylor
Taylor	Teague
Teague	Terry
Terry	Thompson (CA)
Thompson (CA)	Thompson (MS)
Thompson (MS)	Thompson (PA)
Thompson (PA)	Tiahrt
Tiahrt	Tierney
Tierney	Titus
Titus	Tonko
Tonko	Tsongas
Tsongas	Turner
Turner	Upton
Upton	Van Hollen
Van Hollen	Velázquez
Velázquez	Visclosky
Visclosky	Walden
Walden	Walz
Walz	Wamp
Wamp	Wasserman
Wasserman	Schultz
Schultz	Watson
Watson	Watt
Watt	Waxman
Waxman	Weiner
Weiner	Welch
Welch	Wexler
Wexler	Wilson (OH)
Wilson (OH)	Wilson (SC)
Wilson (SC)	Wittman
Wittman	Wolf
Wolf	Woolsey
Woolsey	Wu
Wu	Yarmuth
Yarmuth	Young (AK)
Young (AK)	Young (FL)
Young (FL)	

NOT VOTING—38

Barrett (SC)	Grijalva	Price (NC)
Bean	Inglis	Rohrabacher
Boucher	Israel	Sánchez, Linda
Brady (PA)	Johnson (IL)	T.
Braley (IA)	Kilpatrick (MI)	Shuler
Brown, Corrine	Lipinski	Smith (WA)
Capuano	Lucas	Stark
Childers	Maloney	Thornberry
Conyers	Moran (VA)	Tiberi
Deal (GA)	Murtha	Towns
DeFazio	Napolitano	Waters
Gallegly	Neal (MA)	Westmoreland
Gerlach	Pascrell	Whitfield

□ 1859

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, on Monday, May 4, 2009, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 229. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 230—Recognizing the historical struggle for independence and freedom of the Mexican people and request the President to issue a proclamation recognizing that struggle and calling upon the people of the United States to observe Cinco de Mayo with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN REMEMBRANCE OF MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES AND THEIR FAMILIES

The SPEAKER. The Chair now asks that the House observe a moment of silence in remembrance of our brave men and women in uniform, who have given their lives in the service of our Nation in Iraq and Afghanistan and their families, and of all who serve in our Armed Forces and their families.

IN HONOR OF JACK KEMP, FORMER MEMBER OF CONGRESS

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

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, it is my duty to inform the House of the death of our friend and former colleague Congressman Jack Kemp.

Madam Speaker, Jack Kemp served in this House for 18 years. Subsequent to that he served in the Cabinet of President Bush. And prior to all that, he played for 13 years as a professional quarterback, achieving the status of All Pro on a number of occasions, being the AFL MVP in 1965, and to this day holds many lifetime records as a quarterback in the AFL.

But Jack Kemp went beyond being a football player, beyond being a congressman, and beyond being a Cabinet Secretary. To all those who knew him, he was an inspiration. He was a man of tremendous energy and enthusiasm and vibrancy. As a Republican, I can say that he revolutionized our party, and,

indeed, his economic policies were the heart and soul of the Reagan Revolution.

But his influence and his friendship went across party lines. He was a man who was beloved by those of his own party and those in the opposition, even though I don't think he ever called them the "opposition."

I was fortunate enough to know Jack Kemp for more than 30 years. I'm proud to have considered him a friend. His passing will be mourned by all of us. He was really a truly outstanding American. And certainly my thoughts and prayers go out for his wife, Joanne, and his children, all of whom loved him the way all of us who knew him loved him and cherished him.

And with that I yield to the dean of the New York delegation, Mr. RANGEL.

Mr. RANGEL. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I would just like to join in by saying those who knew Jack Kemp, you couldn't help but admire and respect him. He wasn't just a quarterback for the Buffalo Bills, but he was a quarterback for America and what's good for America.

It wasn't really working across the aisle when working with him; it was working with someone that was trying to improve the life conditions of people in this country no matter what color or what religion they had. I worked with him on the empowerment zones. I got all the credit; he did all the work. I worked with him on the African Growth and Economic bill. He was one of the first to testify not because of Africa but because it was the right thing to do.

When he became Secretary of HUD, everybody in public housing knew him as the "godfather." He would visit when he was running for Vice President, and in Democratic districts, they would come out to pay respect to a guy that respected people regardless of their color. So he was one of those people that when they asked, "What can I do for you? What do you need from me?" it wasn't just an expression. Jack Kemp really meant it.

His wife, Joanne, was a partner. He's got a great family. I know he's in heaven because he lived a straight life. He was a great guy. We all will miss him, especially the New York delegation and those who were honored to work with him and respect the work that he has done.

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, I ask for a moment of silence for Congressman Jack Kemp.

The SPEAKER. Members will please rise to observe a moment of silence in honor of our colleague, the Honorable Jack Kemp.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 61ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF ISRAEL

The SPEAKER. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 111, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. HALVORSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 111, as amended.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 394, nays 0, not voting 39, as follows:

[Roll No. 230]

YEAS—394

Abercrombie	Chandler	Gonzalez
Ackerman	Clarke	Goodlatte
Aderholt	Clay	Gordon (TN)
Adler (NJ)	Cleaver	Granger
Akin	Clyburn	Graves
Alexander	Coble	Grayson
Altmire	Coffman (CO)	Green, Al
Andrews	Cohen	Green, Gene
Arcuri	Cole	Griffith
Austria	Conaway	Guthrie
Baca	Connolly (VA)	Gutierrez
Bachmann	Cooper	Hall (NY)
Bachus	Costa	Hall (TX)
Baird	Costello	Halvorson
Baldwin	Courtney	Hare
Barrow	Crenshaw	Harman
Bartlett	Crowley	Harper
Barton (TX)	Cuellar	Hastings (FL)
Becerra	Culberson	Hastings (WA)
Berkley	Cummings	Heinrich
Berman	Dahlkemper	Heller
Berry	Davis (AL)	Hensarling
Biggett	Davis (CA)	Herger
Bilbray	Davis (IL)	Hereth Sandlin
Bilirakis	Davis (KY)	Higgins
Bishop (GA)	Davis (TN)	Hill
Bishop (NY)	DeGette	Himes
Bishop (UT)	DeLauro	Hinches
Blackburn	Dent	Hinojosa
Blumenauer	Diaz-Balart, L.	Hirono
Blunt	Diaz-Balart, M.	Hodes
Bocciari	Dicks	Hoekstra
Boehner	Dingell	Holden
Bonner	Doggett	Holt
Bono Mack	Donnelly (IN)	Honda
Boozman	Doyle	Hoyer
Boren	Dreier	Hunter
Boswell	Driehaus	Inslee
Boustany	Duncan	Israel
Boyd	Edwards (MD)	Issa
Brady (TX)	Edwards (TX)	Jackson (IL)
Bright	Ehlers	Jackson-Lee
Broun (GA)	Ellison	(TX)
Brown (SC)	Ellsworth	Jenkins
Brown-Waite,	Emerson	Johnson (GA)
Ginny	Engel	Johnson, E. B.
Buchanan	Eshoo	Johnson, Sam
Burgess	Etheridge	Jones
Burton (IN)	Fallin	Jordan (OH)
Butterfield	Farr	Kagen
Buyer	Fattah	Kanjorski
Calvert	Filner	Kaptur
Camp	Flake	Kennedy
Campbell	Fleming	Kildee
Cantor	Forbes	Kilpatrick (MI)
Cao	Portenberry	Kilroy
Capito	Foster	Kind
Capps	Fox	King (IA)
Cardoza	Fox	King (NY)
Carnahan	Frank (MA)	Kingston
Carney	Franks (AZ)	Kirk
Carson (IN)	Frelinghuysen	Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Carter	Fudge	Kissell
Cassidy	Garrett (NJ)	Klein (FL)
Castle	Giffords	Kline (MN)
Castor (FL)	Gingrey (GA)	Kosmas
Chaffetz	Gohmert	Kratovil

Kucinich	Murphy (NY)	Schwartz
Lamborn	Murphy, Patrick	Scott (GA)
Lance	Murphy, Tim	Scott (VA)
Langevin	Myrick	Sensenbrenner
Larsen (WA)	Nadler (NY)	Serrano
Larson (CT)	Neugebauer	Sessions
Latham	Nunes	Sestak
LaTourette	Nye	Shadegg
Latta	Oberstar	Shea-Porter
Lee (CA)	Obey	Sherman
Lee (NY)	Olson	Shimkus
Levin	Olver	Shuster
Lewis (CA)	Ortiz	Simpson
Lewis (GA)	Pallone	Sires
Linder	Pastor (AZ)	Skelton
LoBiondo	Paulsen	Slaughter
Loeback	Payne	Smith (NE)
Lofgren, Zoe	Pence	Smith (NJ)
Lowey	Perlmutter	Smith (TX)
Luetkemeyer	Perriello	Snyder
Lujan	Peters	Souder
Lummis	Peterson	Space
Lungren, Daniel	Petri	Speier
E.	Pingree (ME)	Spratt
Lynch	Pitts	Stearns
Mack	Platts	Stupak
Maffei	Poe (TX)	Sullivan
Manzullo	Polis (CO)	Sutton
Marchant	Pomeroy	Tanner
Markey (CO)	Posey	Tauscher
Markey (MA)	Price (GA)	Taylor
Massa	Putnam	Teague
Matsui	Quigley	Terry
McCarthy (CA)	Radanovich	Thompson (CA)
McCarthy (NY)	Rahall	Thompson (MS)
McCaul	Rangel	Thompson (PA)
McClintock	Rehberg	Tiahrt
McCollum	Reichert	Tierney
McCotter	Reyes	Titus
McDermott	Richardson	Tonko
McGovern	Rodriguez	Tsongas
McHenry	Roe (TN)	Turner
McHugh	Rogers (AL)	Upton
McIntyre	Rogers (KY)	Van Hollen
Hall (NY)	Rogers (MI)	Velázquez
McKeon	Rooney	Viscosky
McMahon	Ros-Lehtinen	Walden
McMorris	Rodgers	Roskam
Rodgers	McNerney	Ross
Meek (FL)	Meek (FL)	Rothman (NJ)
Meeks (NY)	Meeks (NY)	Roybal-Allard
Melancon	Melancon	Royce
Mica	Mica	Ruppersberger
Michaud	Michaud	Rush
Miller (FL)	Miller (FL)	Ryan (OH)
Miller (MI)	Miller (MI)	Ryan (WI)
Miller (NC)	Miller (NC)	Salazar
Miller, Gary	Miller, Gary	Sanchez, Loretta
Miller, George	Miller, George	Wilson (OH)
Minnick	Minnick	Sarbanes
Mitchell	Mitchell	Wilson (SC)
Mollohan	Mollohan	Scalise
Moore (KS)	Moore (KS)	Schakowsky
Moore (WI)	Moore (WI)	Schauer
Moran (KS)	Moran (KS)	Schiff
Murphy (CT)	Murphy (CT)	Schmidt
		Schock
		Schrader
		Young (AK)
		Young (FL)

#### NOT VOTING—39

Barrett (SC)	Inglis	Rohrabacher
Bean	Johnson (IL)	Sánchez, Linda
Boucher	Lipinski	T.
Brady (PA)	Lucas	Shuler
Braley (IA)	Maloney	Smith (WA)
Brown, Corrine	Marshall	Stark
Capuano	Matheson	Thornberry
Childers	Moran (VA)	Tiberi
Conyers	Murtha	Towns
Deal (GA)	Napolitano	Waters
DeFazio	Neal (MA)	Westmoreland
Gallely	Pascrell	Whitfield
Gerlach	Paul	
Grijalva	Price (NC)	

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1914

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, on Monday, May 4, 2009, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 230. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 111—Recognizing Israel's independence as a significant event in providing refuge and a national homeland for the Jewish people and congratulates Israel's people as they celebrate the 61st anniversary of Israel's independence.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, due to events in my congressional district, I was unable to vote today. If I were present, I would have voted "yea" to H. Res. 230, recognizing the historical significance of the Mexican holiday of Cinco de Mayo and "yea" to H. Con. Res. 111.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I was not present for votes on Monday, May 4, 2009, due to health reasons. If I was present I would have voted: "yea" on rollcall 229, H. Res. 230—Recognizing the historical significance of the Mexican holiday of Cinco de Mayo and "yea" on rollcall 230, H. Con. Res. 111—Recognizing the 61st anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel.

#### REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1214

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to be removed as a cosponsor from H.R. 1214.

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

There was no objection.

#### NUCLEAR POWER VITAL TO ENERGY FUTURE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, the recently passed budget and the upcoming climate change legislation take a direct shot at the strained budgets of South Carolina families. Under an ill-advised cap-and-tax proposal, families will see their electricity bills, gas bills and grocery bills go up.

Meanwhile, South Carolina is the leader in the production of clean, viable and safe alternative nuclear energy. For over 30 years, South Carolina has benefited with over 50 percent of electrical generation by nuclear energy.

President Obama's own Secretary of Energy, Dr. Steven Chu, agrees that nuclear energy "is going to be an important part of our energy mix." Unfortunately, some in Washington still continue to ignore this proven technology.

I hope my colleagues in Congress will listen to Secretary Chu. In the meantime, South Carolina families and citi-

zens throughout our Nation cannot afford a spike in their utility bills, their gas bills or their food budgets.

I am grateful that Santee Cooper and SCE&G are proceeding with two new reactors at Jenkinsville, South Carolina, which will produce clean energy.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

#### HEALTH CARE FOR ALL

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, 50 million Americans have no health insurance. Another 50 million are underinsured.

And instead of creating a program that would provide insurance for all Americans, the great debate in Washington is how we can continue to keep the insurance companies in business. Think about it.

America spends \$2.4 trillion a year on health care, but 1 out of every \$3, \$800 billion a year, goes for the activities of the for-profit health insurance companies, corporate profits, stock options, executive salaries, advertising, marketing costs and paperwork.

Now, isn't it time that we took away the profit-making incentive in health care and created a system where there is health care for all, where everything is covered? We have the money to do it.

The question is whether we are going to have health care for the people or whether we are going to have insurance care using our money and our tax dollars to keep the insurance companies in their profits.

#### NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

(Mrs. BACHMANN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of H. Res. 391, which recognizes May as National Foster Care Month.

Today there are over 500,000 children in foster care across the United States, and my husband and I were privileged to have raised 23 foster children in our home.

Madam Speaker, as a foster mother, I know too well the challenges. And I am dedicated to changing public policy and to raising awareness related to the very special and individual needs of foster children, so that families who support these children receive the resources they need to help these really great kids receive adequate support to help them to reach adulthood in a positive way.

#### SAFE ENERGY

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, since the Nation has no official energy policy, we continue to discuss what shall we do about energy for the future.

The cynics and the critics don't want us to use fossil fuels such as clean coal or oil. They don't want us drilling for even natural gas.

We can never build enough of those gangly windmill eyesores to make much of a difference. Solar energy technology is still lagging behind in development, and we are learning that the corn-based ethanol that was to save us all is too much of a pollutant and a poor use of our own land.

So what are we to do? Are we going to freeze in the dark or bake in the global heat, depending on whether one believes global warming is fact or fiction?

Today I visited the North Anna nuclear power plant in Virginia. I was impressed with their pride for safety, security and competence. This plant, along with 63 others, safely produces 20 percent of our Nation's electricity. But France gets 80 percent of its electricity from nuclear power.

So we should defy the cynics and the critics and produce energy from all safe sources, including actively pursuing more clean nuclear power, or we will eventually be left behind in the darkness of the winter night.

And that's just the way it is.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

#### WILDERNESS BATTLE—MAY 5-7, 1864

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, May 5, tomorrow, 145 years ago this day, May 5, 1864, 90 miles from where we are today and tonight, Madam Speaker, there were 160,000 troops assembled on one battlefield. Over 100,000 from the North and about 25,000 from the South, and they participated in the 3-day battle called the Battle of the Wilderness.

Madam Speaker, this battle was so intense that the wilderness itself, the woods, caught on fire during the battle and many from both sides burned to death. Casualties were about 30,000.

And if you take the number of men and women we have in Afghanistan and Iraq tonight, 160,000 is approximately the number that we have in those two theatres of war. They were assembled on one battlefield in the great Civil War.

Madam Speaker, during the Civil War there were over 600,000 killed. If we took that and brought it into today's numbers, that would be about 5 million killed.

Today I had the honor to be with my good friend, PETER WELCH of Vermont, and actor Robert Duvall, on this sacred hallowed ground. We were there for several reasons, but the primary reason was to preserve this battlefield.

During the Battle of the Wilderness, Vermonters had especially high casualties. Of the 3,500 that went into battle, 1,234 were killed.

PETER WELCH of Vermont and myself had the privilege to go and see that location, that small area where they were protecting the crossroads. This was the highest percentage of casualties in Vermont history. Most of those that were killed were from the small community of Woodstock.

On the first day of battle, the Union troops were able to push the Southern troops away. On the second day of battle, a Texas brigade, led by General Longstreet, had arrived at the battle after marching all night, 26 miles, at about 6:30 in the morning.

General Robert E. Lee was excited to see the Texas brigade, and he said the Texans always moved them and, yes, they did, they moved the Union forces back a great distance. The general for the Texas Army said that "the eyes of General Lee are upon you," and Lee rode with Texas. About 60 percent of those Texans who went into battle that day were killed.

Madam Speaker, all of the southern States participated in this battle. Eighteen of the northern States participated in this battle, and there are stories like that from all States, this sacred ground, where the Battlefield of the Wilderness, took place.

But today we are faced with another battle, Madam Speaker, because the giant corporation Wal-Mart wants to build a Wal-Mart on that sacred ground. You see, during the battle, blood was spilled so much that one soldier said you can't tell whose blood it was, and that's exactly right, Madam Speaker. Every one of those troops that were killed that day, that fought that day and bled that day, whether North or South, were all Americans.

And that's why PETER WELCH and myself and Robert Duvall were there today to get the attention of Wal-Mart to not build on this sacred ground. Yes, they have the legal right to do so, but they should move down the street, down the road a bit and build the Wal-Mart that they want to build.

Because, you see, this ground is consecrated by the blood of Americans, and we don't want Wal-Mart to pour asphalt over the graves that are known only to God himself. So they should be a good corporate neighbor and build down the street.

You know, they need to put respect for history over love for money. They need to put dignity for the dead over lust for profit, because those that try to destroy history will be tried and convicted by history.

Wal-Mart has got more money than anybody. They can put their store anywhere they wish. So we are asking them

to be good patriots rather than those who seek the profit motive and go somewhere else.

PETER WELCH and I are good friends. We probably disagree on everything except this one thing, that this land is consecrated by the lives of Americans who stood for some principle and died for that principle.

He said it best today when numerous people were there. He said the land, the Battlefield of the Wilderness, is the cathedral of sacrifice.

I agree with my good friend from Vermont. It is the cathedral of sacrifice, and we want to remember and preserve our history. We owe the dead that right, and Wal-Mart needs to move away.

And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### RISING FORECLOSURES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, as unemployment in community after community rises to double digits, and foreclosures similarly rise, Wall Street is at it again, milking both ends of the foreclosure debacle.

As many of the banks who volunteered to do foreclosure moratoriums, along with Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae, have ended those moratoriums, foreclosures are rising again and expected to continue to rise even with administration programs up and running. Between the first of this year and April 22, in my home county of Lucas, the major county I represent, 442 foreclosed properties have been sold.

Now, would you think that's good? Who do you think is buying those homes? The very same institutions that made the liars' loans and subprime loans in the first place, Deutsche Bank, followed by Citigroup, by Wells Fargo, by U.S. Bank, Fifth Third and JPMorgan Chase, HSBC, you know the names, or their subsidiaries.

So, they foreclose, they buy, then they sell, pulling profit each step of the way, while destroying neighborhood after neighborhood, community after community in their wake.

When are we going to stop letting Wall Street make money coming and going while people lose their homes and our communities are destroyed?

□ 1930

Now, who do they sell to? That's interesting. All to absentee investors who don't care or don't even know where we reside. Absentee investors across our country and, in many cases, across the world.

Of the 442 properties sold—get ready for this—93 percent—93 percent—were sold to banks or to absentee investors. I don't call that community reinvestment. I call that community disemboweling, community disinvestment.

These buyers have no connection to Ohio or our community. They have no tie to our people. They merely seek to make more profit off the anguish of places such as where we reside, through the foreclosure process, as unemployment skyrockets. Communities do not have the tools to defend themselves from this predatory pillage.

Realtors from our district are telling us that the same banks purposely are slowing down short sales of properties, pushing off sellers, and leaving properties vacant. Why? To make more money again.

Federal policy should support Main Street families regaining equity and hope. Wall Street is rigging every transaction to laden their pockets—at the expense of the very taxpayers that supported them when they were crashing, and continue to support them as they stabilize. Business as usual for Wall Street—never doing for others, but profiting at everyone else's expense.

Foreclosures weaken communities. Absentee investors do the same. We see home prices fall, which leads to more foreclosures as communities weaken and mortgages go underwater. People in communities are drowning across this country. To jump in and save them will require creative, big picture-thinking that goes beyond the gains of these big banks or the silos of governmental programs and goes beyond the benefit of one institution over another.

We must let the FDIC and SEC deal with troubled banks and their ledgers and our financial system as they are designed to operate. Any Federal agency that deals with housing and foreclosures and jobs must join forces in designing funding mechanisms to radically transform the most hard-hit communities across our country. I would start with those that are now at double-digit in unemployment and foreclosures. Saving them will save more than just those communities. It will begin to breathe life back into our Nation's economy.

It's time Main Street was put ahead of Wall Street. And it's time that this Congress paid attention to what is happening coast-to-coast.

I will place in the RECORD material from the New York Times of this week.

[From the New York Times, May 4, 2009]

AS FORECLOSURES SURGE . . .

The Obama administration sat by last week as 12 Senate Democrats joined 39 Senate Republicans to block a vote on an amendment that would have allowed bankruptcy judges to modify troubled mortgages.

Senator Obama campaigned on the provision. And President Obama made its passage part of his anteforeclosure plan. It would have been a very useful prod to get lenders to rework bad loans rather than leaving the modification to a judge.

But when the time came to stand up to the banking lobbies and cajole yes votes from reluctant senators—the White House didn't. When the measure failed, there wasn't even a statement of regret.

Mr. Obama's plan to keep struggling Americans in their homes now relies on lenders to voluntarily rework bad loans. The plan provides ample incentives, including payments to servicers who successfully modify loans and, in some cases, payments to mortgage investors who agree to modifications. Whether that will be enough remains to be seen.

The administration estimates that its plan will prevent three million to four million foreclosures, but it will take several months before there is enough data to evaluate. In the past, however, voluntary modifications have failed to curb the rise in foreclosures. The number of foreclosure filings in March was very high, with estimates between 290,000 and 341,000.

Even if lenders do agree to modify loans, many Americans will still be in trouble. That's because nearly 14 million homeowners are "under water"—they owe more on their mortgages than their homes are worth.

In a bankruptcy, such homeowners would likely have their loan principal reduced, lowering their payments and helping them to rebuild equity. In a typical voluntary loan modification, however, the monthly payment is reduced, but not the principal. That puts under-water borrowers at high risk of re-default, because there is no equity to fall back on if a financial setback leaves them unable to make mortgage payments.

The negative feedback loop—foreclosures beget falling home prices, which beget foreclosures, further weakening the banks—is well under way. We hope the president's plan can break the loop, but without bankruptcy reform it is going to be a lot harder.

In fact, last week we lost what one can say was a final hope for some Americans. With their mortgage completely underwater, credit card bills unpaid, home heating or cooling bills unpaid, healthcare bills unpaid and less food on the table . . . they turn to bankruptcy. This is the last chance and last hope for people who have tried everything else humanly possible to crawl out from under their debt. The decision is hard. Their hearts and souls demoralized, they turn to bankruptcy.

Currently, bankruptcy does not include dealing with one's primary residence. The House passed bill H.R. 1106 included "cramdown" provisions. Not ideal. Not what anyone wants to do, but a tool to help some of the most desperate Americans settle debts and begin again.

No such luck . . . the amendment in the Senate to achieve such a path was defeated. The New York Times editorial harkens this to a negative feedback loop. . . .

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, Sunday, May 3, was World Press Freedom Day. Three years ago, in conjunction with World Press Freedom Day, Congressman MIKE PENCE, Senator CHRIS DODD, Senator DICK LUGAR, and I established the Congressional Caucus for Freedom of the Press.

Since then, this bipartisan, bicameral caucus has sought to highlight the importance of free expression around the world. The caucus is a forum where Members of Congress can come together to combat and condemn media censorship and the persecution of journalists worldwide. Our caucus works to send a strong message that Congress will defend democratic values and human rights wherever they are threatened.

We have hosted panel discussions with press freedom experts, journalists, and victims of press freedom crimes; written to leaders of countries which jail journalists, impose censorship, and allow harassment, attacks, and threats to occur with impunity. We have spoken out here on the House floor and in the media to call for reforms in countries that seek to censor freedom of speech and expression.

Just recently, Representative PENCE and I introduced the Daniel Pearl Freedom of the Press Act, H.R. 1861. This bill is named in honor of former Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl, who was kidnapped and murdered by terrorists in Pakistan just 4 months after the September 11 attacks.

This legislation will establish annual State Department reports on the status of press freedom in every country in the world and create a grant program aimed at broadening and strengthening the independence of journalists and media organizations.

Our government must promote freedom of the press by putting on center stage those countries in which journalists are killed, imprisoned, kidnapped, threatened, censored—and this will do just that.

A free and independent media provides the nourishment for democracies to thrive and grow. Citizens rely upon credible, accurate information from the media to make informed decisions and hold their leaders accountable. Information is power, which is precisely why many governments attempt to control the press to suppress opposition and preempt dissent.

Far too often, the reporters and editors who demand reform, accountability, and transparency find themselves at risk. The censorship, intimidation, imprisonment, and murder of these journalists are not only crimes against these individuals, but they also impact those who are denied access to their ideas and information.

In 2008, the Committee to Protect Journalists reported that 41 journalists

were killed in connection with their work. Another 125 were falsely imprisoned for their reporting. Unfortunately, 2009 is shaping up to be a similarly dangerous year, having already seen 11 journalists murdered.

For Americans, this should spur us to consider the role that journalists play in our society and to ponder what our Nation would be like if this cornerstone of our liberty were to be curtailed. Many Americans take the concept of a free press for granted and don't realize that an unfettered press is vital to America's national security and to our democracy here at home.

But much of the world's population is not as fortunate as we are when it comes to access to independent news. Recent national news accounts have highlighted American journalists being detained on trumped-up charges in Iran and North Korea.

However, there are dozens of cases like these across the globe that don't get attention. That is why each year, as co-Chairs of the caucus, we host a Special Order hour to highlight countries whose abuses of press freedom are particularly egregious.

In 2007, we focused on Russia, profiling the 18 journalists murdered in Russia during the administration of Vladimir Putin. Last year, we focused on China and its incarceration of more journalists than any other country.

Later this month, we will host another Special Order hour where we will focus on growing press freedom abuses in Sri Lanka. Threats, attacks, imprisonment, and murders of journalists are becoming all too common in Sri Lanka.

This week is a particularly noteworthy week for press freedom in Sri Lanka. J.S. Tissainayagam, a contributor and editor for a number of print and online publications, will stand trial on Wednesday, and he faces a possible 20-year sentence if he is convicted. He is being prosecuted for allegedly inciting communal disharmony related to articles that he wrote as early as in 2006.

In March of 2008, J.S. was arrested under emergency regulations and held without habeas corpus for more than 5 months before being charged. His trial is set to resume on May 6, but it is our hope the Sri Lankan government will drop these baseless charges and release J.S. before the trial resumes.

So today, Madam Speaker, we recognize World Press Freedom Day and call on nations like Sri Lanka to stop the persecution of innocent journalists. We use this day as an occasion to pay tribute to journalists and to reflect upon their role in advancing fundamental human rights.

I want to thank all journalists around the world, especially those who work in harm's way, for doing all they do to foster democracy and promote freedom. Your work does not go unrecognized, and we appreciate your dedication to this noble profession.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. INGLIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. INGLIS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MCHENRY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

### BIG THREE AUTOMAKERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. CARTER. I think most people know I spent a little time in the courts of this country. I am going to start off this conversation by saying that I'm not a bankruptcy judge, nor a bankruptcy litigant. And, in fact, I do not claim any expertise whatsoever in the area of bankruptcy. But I have some serious concerns that bother me about some things that are going on, and I would hope at least that the American people have these same concerns, because I really believe that the third branch of our government, the Judiciary, is there for recourse for all citizens, big and small. I think they are the fallback position, where politics should not interfere, but due process should prevail.

I believe that the protection of the minority interests of whatever we may be doing, it is best protected in the courts of our country.

I look at what is going on tonight and have been trying to figure out—and, I'm going to tell you, you're going to hear me ask a lot of questions tonight that I would like someone to give answers to, because I don't understand where things are going. But I'm looking at what is going on with the automobile industry in this country.

You know, the big three automakers in this country have been symbols of corporate greatness for my entire lifetime. We all can have a debate about who made the best car, what is the best car ever made, but most Americans would argue for some form of a GM car or Ford or a Chrysler as the best car they ever drove. Our grandfathers and our fathers have owned these vehicles and they have worked with these companies, and they have been respected and honored across this Nation.

Now, these companies are in trouble. At least two of them seem to be in a lot of trouble—Chrysler and General Motors. At least it has been indicated through the media that Chrysler is going to be seeking recourse in the bankruptcy courts.

The reason I say it has been indicated is because, in the normal course of things, what you normally see is that the board of directors, through its chief executive officer, will have a vote or will discuss the economic situation of the company and will come up with the fact that it's just not going to be viable. That at least they need the reorganization and the cancellation of some of their debts to be able to maintain order within the company and be a viable company.

But, in the case of Chrysler, the announcement was made by President Barack Obama to the media in a speech that he made announcing Chrysler would go into bankruptcy—at least it's my personal opinion that I don't believe at that time Mr. Obama held any position in the corporate structure of Chrysler to speak on their behalf, other than he is the President of the United States and he may have more knowledge than some of the rest of us, but it would be normal for Chrysler to make that announcement.

But then it would be normal for the board of directors of Chrysler to fire the executives of their company if they are not doing a good job, and it would be normal for the board of directors of General Motors to do the hiring and firing of executives that they have hired to manage their company.

March 29 of this year, President Obama forced the CEO of General Motors, Rick Wagoner, to resign from his post. As far as anyone can tell, this marks the first time in American history that a United States President has directly intervened in the daily running of an American business.

So we start with that announcement. The CEO, Mr. Wagoner, is fired by the President. Then, the President announces—not the CEO of Chrysler, but the President—announces the bankruptcy of Chrysler.

This bankruptcy, under normal circumstances, would go before a bankruptcy judge. And we have a set of laws that are established in this country—they are called creditors' rights. And we have creditors that stand in different positions when it comes to being repaid on debts, depending on whether they are secured or unsecured creditors, and we have a battery of laws that make that determination, and the bankruptcy court, doing a way more complicated analysis than I just did, comes up with who gets paid what and when and where and how and what happens; what assets are sold, all or part, and these are laws that are on the books that pretty well anybody can go see, and they are from time-to-time changed by the legislative body.

□ 1945

But we understand now from what the newspapers tell us that the Obama

administration has announced the deal they expect to be rubber-stamped by the bankruptcy court. That deal is, according to the papers, a 55 percent ownership of Chrysler will be owned by the UAW, United Auto Workers. So the laborers of that company will be owning 55 percent of Chrysler. Then, 35 percent of Chrysler will be owned by Fiat, a foreign company out of Italy, and other places, I am sure. Then, 8 percent of Chrysler will be owned by the United States Government, and 2 percent of Chrysler will be owned by the Canadian Government.

I suppose, if we look at who is normally involved in corporate structure, you would have stockholders and preferred stockholders that are probably in there someplace; and, it looks like, to me, that they are divested of any interest in this trade.

Now, let me say that this should be something that the court makes a decision based upon creditors law, but it seems to be this is being shoved into the hands of the court, with an announcement by the White House saying: This is a settlement these people have agreed to, and you will do it this way.

I wonder, who is looking out for the stockholder? I don't own any Chrysler stock, but if I owned a share of Chrysler stock I would think that at one point in time I owned a portion of the Chrysler Corporation, that I was one of the owners of the business. Because we can cut through all the mystique of a corporate structure, the mystique that many call the bad guys, the big corporations. But big corporations are nothing more than a gathering of people who are called shareholders who invest their hard-earned money into a company, expecting that company to make profits and, in turn, return that value to them by an increase in stock price and possibly a dividend. It is Americans and others investing in America. That is what a corporation is all about.

Now, whether it is a small corporation that is in Round Rock, Texas, where I come from, that maybe has 20 shareholders, or whether it is a giant corporation like the Chrysler Corporation that probably has, who knows, a million shareholders, those people have invested their money and they have some interest in that business, and through their representatives that they elect to the board, they supposedly have a voice in what is going on. Yet, if this deal is the deal we are talking about, I don't see where these shareholders, whether they be preferred or whether they be ordinary stock shareholders, I don't see where they are accommodated at all.

You can hear some criticize and say that the Federal Government is taking over the automobile industry. Of course, I am sure that they would argue: Well, certainly not in the case of Chrysler, because we are not going to own but 8 percent of Chrysler. But their agent, the group that donates 99

percent, by the last report, of their political donations to the Democratic Party, the UAW, owns a controlling interest, 55 percent.

There seems to be an assumption that when this is announced by the White House that this is the deal, even though it seems that some of these preferred creditors have actually stood up a little bit and said, wait a minute, we didn't make this deal. But it seems that these people are then, by the White House, called not cooperative or other things.

In fact, it was reported in the newspapers that they twisted the arms of these preferred creditors to a point where they felt like they were being threatened and not being able to look out for the interest of their people. And, of course, the finger was pointed to them as the big rich preferred creditors, the big rich bondholders, when, in reality, these companies were stepping up and saying: We are not going to be threatened by the administration. We are going to stand firm. Because it is not just the couple of great big rich folks. They have got lots of people, including other people's pension funds, that are invested in their hedge funds and their groups that own this interest.

According to Thomas Lauria, Global Practice Head of the Financial Restructuring & Insolvency Group at White & Case, said that Perella Weinberg Partners was directly threatened by the White House and, in essence, compelled to withdraw its opposition to the Obama Chrysler restructuring deal under the threat that the full force of the White House press corps would destroy its reputation if it continued to fight.

That statement should concern us all. The White House press corps is supposed to be a press corps that is gathering news and making inquiries, not becoming an arm of the White House or the White House's restructuring force that they are putting together to restructure this deal for Chrysler. It should concern every American that the White House is threatening the use of those people who sit in those press conferences supposedly asking the tough questions of the President, they are threatening that they can use them to harm these individual bondholders, these bondholder companies. I think there is something tragically wrong with that.

One of the questions I ask is where are our courts in this situation. I mean, the stockholders are being left with their interests basically dissolved in the Chrysler Corporation. The bondholders are being threatened by the press corps of the White House to the detriment of their shareholders to take possibly 25 cents or less on the dollar as part of the deal, when there are creditors' rights laws that should be looked to by the bankruptcy court. And if you are not getting good recourse from the bankruptcy courts, there are other courts you can go to.

I am very disappointed that there seems to be some weakness that the

courts are not standing up for what could be, and in my estimation would be, a large body of people whose defined rights are being forced away from them by the heavy hand of the White House. And the White House heavy hand is a dangerous place to be.

I will remind you that President Harry Truman seized the Nation's steel mills during the Korean war in order to avoid a shutdown during a strike. He could have sought an injunction barring the strike under the Taft-Hartley law, but instead he chose to seize based on his powers as Commander in Chief. He specifically notified Congress of the right to reverse or endorse his action, but Congress chose not to act. The Supreme Court overturned Truman's Executive order.

The legal questions were: Has the Congress granted the President the power to take possession of the property? The answer was "no." Does the Constitution grant the President the power to take possession of the property? The answer was "no." Is Truman's Executive order in compliance with the Constitution? And the answer was "no."

The opinion written by Justice Black said: All powers of the Presidency are contained in the Constitution or in subsequent acts of Congress granting specific powers to the Executive. The contention that the aggregate power of the Constitution and acts of Congress create new, more far-reaching powers was rejected by the Court. Under the Taft-Hartley Act of 1947, Congress has addressed the precise issue of labor strikes and national security, and has chosen not to grant the President the right to break a strike.

Likewise, nowhere in the Constitution is the Executive granted the right to seize power. An evaluation says Youngstown was instrumental in reaffirming that the President cannot legislate, only execute legislation passed by the Congress.

Black wrote: The Constitution limits his function in the lawmaking process to recommending of laws he thinks wise and the vetoing of laws he thinks bad. The ruling limits the nature of the Executive order to carrying out the limitation of laws already established by Congress.

Now, I guess the question that we would have in what is going on in the Chrysler case, and to some extent the General Motors case, which we will get to in a little while: Has Congress granted the President the power to take control of the negotiations of a private corporation and attempt to make a settlement to go before the bankruptcy court? I would certainly argue that the Congress has not given the President that power, nor do I think that the Constitution grants President Obama the power to take control of the negotiations to be submitted to a bankruptcy court and to threaten those who choose not to enter into these negotiations with abuse by the White House press corps that would harm their busi-

ness. I don't think the Constitution in any way, form, or fashion grants that power to the President of the United States. And I think what is going on with the White House and its heavy-handed manipulation of the duties and responsibilities of the bankruptcy court is nowhere granted by Congress or by the Constitution of the United States.

I think Americans ought to be looking at this, and Americans ought to be concerned about this. These are private businesses owned by private people who borrowed money from other groups of people who either are shareholders or lenders in some form or fashion whose rights are defined by law. And for the President of the United States and the White House to intervene to force a settlement to be submitted to the court and then ask the court to basically rubber-stamp that settlement without looking to the protection of these other rights of the other individuals that are involved, to me, these raise questions that we need to be asking; because if the government can do this to the Chrysler Corporation and the millions of stockholders that own Chrysler Corporation, who else could they do it to that stood in the way of their negotiations? And where does the Constitution or the Congress authorize the President of the United States to heavily-handedly negotiate in this private situation? And where does it authorize the turning over of 55 percent of the business to the laborers who work there in the form of the ownership by their union? And why isn't it quid pro quo, when you look at what that union had done?

In 2008, according to reporting that has been done, according to Open Secrets, the UAW gave 99 percent of its political contributions to the Democrats in the 2008 cycle. If you give 99 percent, then you own 55 percent of the company. Is that the way it is supposed to work? Shouldn't some court somewhere ask that question? Shouldn't some courageous litigant somewhere stand up for the rights of the stockholder, stand up for the rights of the bondholders, speak out for those preferred creditors? Shouldn't someone be going to court and speaking out on these people's behalf?

□ 2000

I have real concerns because I start from the premise that I believe that that third branch of government that I served in for 20 years is there for the protection of all Americans. That is what our court system is about. And if we are going to politicize—and as we look now to an appointment of a new Supreme Court Justice—if we are going to so politicize our court system as to take away the ability for the weaker party to have a voice through politics, then there is something wrong.

We, as Americans, need to be asking that question, and I would challenge my colleagues to start thinking about this: At what point in time does the

President have to follow the Constitution, or at least does the Congress have to grant him powers before he can do these things?

That is just Chrysler. Now, the GM deal, President Obama hasn't announced yet that they are going to the bankruptcy court. But they are trying to work out a settlement.

Oh, going back to the Chrysler deal, doesn't it bother anyone that the deal we are making is taking control away from the American stockholders and from the board of directors of Chrysler and giving ownership to the labor union? I don't see any indication that the labor union is making the assumption of any of these debts or contributing any money to this project. They are just being rewarded for being a labor union. Now where is the logic in that? And then what are they going to do? Thirty-five percent of that is going to be Fiat. I have nothing against Fiat. I actually owned one at one time. So let me lay my cards on the table. It was a neat little yellow convertible, and my wife told me I couldn't keep it, but I owned one for a while, and it was fun and a good car.

But now we are basically turning Chrysler over to a foreign company. I don't have anything against foreign companies. We are in an international world. But let's get a reality check here. The President of the United States is putting together a deal to turn Chrysler over to a foreign company in a foreign country. And you can bet your boots that one of these days the word "Chrysler" won't be in our vocabulary anymore. I hope and I wish Fiat all the best, but realize that it will be the "Fiat Company of North America," or at least logic would seem to make one think so.

All of this is to make sure that we meet a pledge that the President of the United States made to the UAW that he would protect their benefits and pensions. The government didn't protect the benefits and pensions of the Delta pilots when Delta went bankrupt. So why, all of a sudden, is the government going into ownership of this company and taking direct direction of this company to make sure that it benefits this labor union rather than another labor union? It is a question that we ought to be asking. It is a question some court ought to be looking into. This concerns me.

Before I go any further, I do want to go ahead and lay the supposed GM deal that the White House is telling us looks like this is what they are recommending, and I read this one on the front page of *The Wall Street Journal*. Fifty percent of General Motors will be owned by the United States Government; 39 percent of General Motors will be owned, again, by the UAW; 10 percent of the company would be owned by the bondholders, so at least the bondholders of General Motors are going to end up with 10 percent ownership. And the stockholders are going to do all right, too. They are going to go from at

least more than 1 percent, they are going to go from some percentage of GM down to 1 percent. So if you're the proud owner of GM stock, then all of the stock that is out there is going to be worth 1 percent of General Motors.

One of our Members was telling me that he owned, I forgot what he said, 1,000 shares of General Motors or something like that. The diluted price is estimated to be somewhere between two cents and a nickel a share for General Motors stock—General Motors, that great icon of American industrial might. Many pension funds, teachers' retirement funds and other people invested in them because they were like the American flag. They were American industry at its best. And now all those people and all those funds that invested in stock are going to own 1 percent of a company where they used to own most of the company.

They are going to take the burden, the great burden, of the mistakes made by General Motors and, I would argue, that overwhelming pressure put on by the United Auto Workers to maintain, at all costs, their right of contract. There are written and unwritten contracts, but the contract is sacred in America, and the unions certainly stand up for the rights under their contract. But under creditors' rights, there are rights, too, that are created by law. And a person who does something and buys stock or invests in a bond, those people have the right to rely upon the law to protect them, just like a contract. But it seems that every day as we go forward in the Obama administration, the sanctity of contracts seems to be of less and less importance, and, truthfully, that will be terrible for this Nation.

I am very pleased and blessed to have my friend, a good friend from Iowa, STEVE KING, to be here with me tonight. I will yield to him such time as he may wish to consume.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the gentleman and judge from Texas for taking the lead and coming here to the floor to help convey this message across the country as he addresses you and as I address you, Madam Speaker. As I listen to this, the transition goes, the segue handoff goes to AIG. I happened to look at the AIG story that is there today. "AIG nears sale of headquarters in Japan for \$1 billion." We look at the AIG, the big Federal bailout that is there, the effort to block, after the fact, the bonus packages, the retention bonuses that were paid under the contract, the sanctity of the contract, as the judge said. And what happened was this process here in this Congress raced too far too fast. And there was a big TARP bill that passed last fall before the Presidential election. Half of it, \$350 billion of that, was made available pretty close to right away. Another \$350 billion had to go to the next Congress. Most of that money was going to be spent by a Secretary of the Treasury to be named later by a President to be elected later, Madam Speaker, and that is what happened.

So those \$700 billion went forward, the \$787 billion on the stimulus plan and the \$410 billion on the omnibus spending bill, 1,222 pages stacked up that high. They arrived at 11 o'clock at night and were brought to the floor the following morning. We were asked to read 1,222 pages, or have staff read all that, and figure out what was in it, and then figure out what was not in it and draw a good judgment on all of this. This was pushed through, shoehorned in and rammed through quickly for political reasons, I believe, Madam Speaker.

The AIG loophole was actually written into the bill. We don't quite know yet whether it was the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee or whether it was the White House that actually had the most influence in that. We know there was communications going back and forth between the White House and the Chair of the Finance Committee and the Senate, and they wrote language in there that was a loophole that allowed for major, major bonuses to be paid. First it was \$165 million. Then it went up to \$200 million. Then it got up to about \$240 million that went into bonuses for people who had led a company into disastrous ruin.

So now we are watching some of the spin-offs. This is some of the effort, some of the nationalization that goes on. Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac were nationalized. They were organizations, companies, that should have been capitalized and regulated. We tried to do that on the floor of the House of Representatives, Madam Speaker, and we were blocked at every turn by some effort on the part of Republicans and a big effort on the part of Democrats. They argued, especially right now the chairman of the Financial Services Committee came to this floor and argued, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are not in trouble. They don't need to be capitalized. They don't need to be regulated. I don't see any problem there. I'm going to oppose any efforts. The gentleman who is now the Chair undersells his persuasive ability. But many of us tried during that period of time.

This thing unfolded with Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac being nationalized, AIG effectively being nationalized and spinning off the headquarters in Japan for \$1 billion or so. And then we heard the gentleman from Texas, the judge, talk about Chrysler, well, formerly Daimler Chrysler, now Chrysler, and this push merger that goes on with Chrysler and Fiat—I never owned a Fiat. I want to make that clear to the gentleman from Texas. But I probably would have enjoyed it if I had had one—and the de facto nationalization of General Motors Company.

Now, that should alarm Americans. It alarms me that there was a poll that went out about 1 month ago that found that only 53 percent of Americans said they believe in capitalism. Now I didn't see the exact text of the question. I

think they have to believe in free enterprise in a bigger number. They might think capitalism is something not quite as clean and pure as free enterprise, but we have got to believe in our market system.

This free enterprise capitalistic system that we have in the United States of America is the engine that defeated the Soviet Union in the Cold War. For 45 years, we fought a Cold War, and we were playing chess and Monopoly on the same board. And the question was, will the Soviet Union checkmate the United States militarily with their ICBM missile endeavor before we bankrupt them economically? On that board, chess and Monopoly on the same board, this American free enterprise system defeated the Soviet Union and won the Cold War without technically firing a shot because our economy has been, and remains, the strongest in the world, the most robust in the world, the most resilient in the world and the most adaptable in the world because it rewards entrepreneurs better than any other in the world and because we have created a favorable tax arrangement and a favorable regulatory arrangement compared to, let's just say, European socialism.

But our President, Madam Speaker, has drawn a different message. He has drawn a different message from the New Deal in the 1930s. The message that he has drawn is that the failed New Deal actually would have succeeded if FDR had not lost his nerve and spent a lot more money. And this President has not lost his nerve. He has spent a lot more money. He has spent so much money that I look for the vibrations and reverberations down there. I would just think that FDR would be rolling over in his grave right now watching the trillions of dollars that have unfolded.

I have expressed this before that when we say "trillions of dollars," these trillions are being discussed across America in the coffee shops as we used to talk about, well, let's just say millions, \$1 million here, \$1 million there, and pretty soon you have some real money. But trillions work out this way. I don't know how much corn they raise in Texas, but I can tell you how much we raise in Iowa. We will raise about 2¼ billion bushels this year for 2009. And if it is worth a little better than 4 bucks, which it probably is not going to be in this economy, it is about \$10 billion worth of corn. That is about what that crop is worth.

Now, if all of our producers took all of their input costs and put all their labor, all their land prices away and they swallowed all that and just gave that corn crop at market prices to help pay down the deficit, let's just say to help pay down \$1 trillion, they could take the 2009 crop, the 2010 crop, the 2011 crop, all the corn we raise, give it to the government to pay down \$1 trillion, and when they paid down the \$1 trillion in real present value, the 2108 crop, 100 years would be how long it

takes to accumulate \$1 trillion with all the corn that Iowa can raise, an entire century of corn for \$1 trillion. And now we can think in these terms: dollars, corn.

Put it in another term here, that is only \$1 trillion. I said that into the RECORD, Madam Speaker. All the corn that Iowa can raise in 100 years is only \$1 trillion, and it is only compared to a \$9.3 trillion deficit approved by this budget that was just passed out of here the other day, 9.3 trillion. Now, how long does it take to pay off \$9.3 trillion at present value? That would be—I have to round this a little bit so I can do the math in my head. That would be 1,000 years of all the corn that Iowa can raise with no expenses deducted from it, the gross value of that crop as it comes out of the field and will be delivered, 1,000 years of all the corn Iowa can raise just to offset the deficit created by the budget that was proposed by this White House and passed by this Congress.

□ 2015

And then if we thought we were going to pay off the national debt, that is another \$11.5 trillion or \$11.8 trillion, and you add that to the \$9.3 trillion deficit, and these numbers I am looking at are \$20.8 trillion to \$23 trillion depending on who you ask for that number. But let us say \$20 trillion, the downside, that would be all of the corn at present value and at present yields that we could raise in Iowa for the next 2,000 years. Or if you want to back up, take it back to the birth of Christ. That is what it would take to pay off the national debt and pay off Obama's deficit by his budget. President Obama, I should say.

On top of that, what we have, Madam Speaker, is the nationalization of great American companies. Great companies, companies that grew right out of the entrepreneurship of the can-do spirit of receiving a reward for value invested, invest some dollars and put some investors together, and put together some shareholders, crank out a company that is going to start making cars and sell to the market. And sometimes even go out and create the market, which Henry Ford did. Henry Ford actually created a market for him to sell to.

You have heard the numbers from Judge CARTER.

Today, well, 50 percent of General Motors is owned by President Obama. And representing the United States of America, representing the disenfranchised taxpayers that will be paying off the debt and not receiving any return on this particular investment, 39 percent, you heard the number right, from the UAW, the union, own shares in the company. And what did they pay for those? Maybe they actually did, if the shares are down to a couple of cents, but I don't know those numbers. And the bondholders are reduced down to 10 percent, and the stockholders 1 percent.

This is a nationalized company. Isn't anybody alarmed about this? Didn't anybody see the image down in Central America when we saw the glad-handing and the extra hand up there on the arm of Hugo Chavez, the happiness that showed the big, grinning faces that came from President Obama and Hugo Chavez, sending an image to the world that they are good buddies.

I see two things when I see that image. One of them is Hugo Chavez, standing at the podium at the United Nations the day after President George W. Bush spoke to the United Nations and calling our President in Spanish the devil, El Diablo, and saying there is a stench that still lingered at the podium, to snickers of laughter from the people sitting in the United Nations funded by Americans.

And what is the message that the world gets, glad-handing, big grins, President Obama, President Hugo Chavez? They get the message that there is no penalty for insulting the United States or declaring the United States to be your enemy. There is a reward for it. There is a happy image to send around the world.

The second thing, the second message is the one that I get, and that is two leaders of their representative countries, one of them, the leader of the free world, standing side by side grinning at the cameras, each of them had nationalized at least one important company in their country within a 30-day period of time. And in President Obama's case, he way out did Hugo Chavez when it comes to the socialization of major corporations. He nationalized General Motors and he nationalized Chrysler all in the same day; and he stepped up and took credit for it.

This free enterprise country, this country that forged freedom and settled a continent because we had entrepreneurs that could go out and struggle and receive on their investment for their labor and brains and for their intuitiveness, that is how we settled this country. And now we are to the point where we have the radical nationalization of major American companies, General Motors, Chrysler, on the same day. And you would think if a President thought that he needed to do that in order to save a company, that he would have at least been wise enough to keep his fingerprints off it, but he took credit for it. He took credit for it. He did the press conference. He did the nod. He did the smile.

I am sitting there appalled that there could be such a thing taking place in this country, and with a disregard for what made this a great nation. And one of the central pillars of American exceptionalism is free enterprise capitalism, and you cannot deny that from a historical perspective. But he did that. And he said, I will work to protect your benefits, to the unions.

And NANCY PELOSI, the formal Speaker of this House, said she is not going to give the automakers bargaining leverage over the unions. When

you see the unions are stepping in on ownership, I have to take you back to a Web site that everybody in America should visit, and it is the Democratic Socialists of America, DSA.org. And on that Web site, you can read some things.

One says, "We are not communists." Okay. Well, I need to understand that distinction. So I read that carefully. It says we are not communists because communists believe in the nationalization of everything. They think that they should own all of the properties and all of the companies and tell everybody what to do and what to make and what they are going to make. And socialists are not really like that. They recognize there is merit to have little mom-and-pop shops running around making donuts, probably not selling gas anymore, but running the barber shop and the flower boutique. So they say, we don't want to nationalize everything; we just think that the major corporations should be run for, get this, "the benefit of the people affected by them."

What does that tell you? Running major corporations for the benefit of, which is it, the unions or the customers? It sure in the world is not the shareholders and the bondholders. But it is for the unions, the labor unions, the employees, one might say, or the customers.

And so we have now national socialism in America. The nationalization, socialization of these major companies, 50 percent of General Motors to the Federal Government, deemed by the President, 39 percent to the UAW, 10 percent to the bondholders, 1 percent to the stockholders. And watching this happen is a sad, sad tragedy that is not bringing the alarm in this country that I think it ought to bring.

I am greatly disturbed by what I see, and these are not speculations; these are the facts. These are after-the-fact facts that are there. History can't write it any other way unless somehow they wake up tomorrow morning and decide they are going to start selling shares off to some private interest so that the stockholders can start to run the company again, and maybe they can decide whether they want to fire the CEO rather than the President of the United States. And the President of the United States has also decided what people can collect for a salary and what they can't.

And they have put money into the banks, and some of the banks are resisting it. They want to give the money back. The President doesn't want to take the money back. He doesn't want to denationalize the nationalized banks.

That sounds like I might be impugning his motives. And I tell you, I look at the facts. Here is how I draw this conclusion, Madam Speaker. This is the 12 of 14 rule. With the mortgage-backed securities, the toxic mortgage debt that is out there, the proposal that came out about 3 or so weeks ago,

it was on a Monday, we get these proposals on a Monday. Work on them all weekend long, Monday morning you get a new idea, and another new idea, and it comes at you over and over again like a cannon going off every Monday morning, sending shock waves through our economy.

But this rule, 12 of 14 rule works out to be like this: If an investor will partner with the President in picking up this toxic debt on these mortgage-backed securities, a regular investor, like Judge CARTER, for example, could lay \$1 down on the table and then the Federal Government will match it with one of your tax dollars. So there are \$2 on the table. And then there are loan guarantees that are guaranteed for the balance. And this is a \$14 package, \$12 worth of loan guarantees, guaranteed by President Obama, your tax dollars. So there is \$12 worth of skin on the table from the taxpayers that are loan guarantees. There is another dollar on the table from the taxpayer that is matching the \$1 that Judge CARTER introduced for his investment. The individual has a 7 percent investment, and the taxpayers will have a 93 percent investment. And so how do you think you might split some kind of an investment like that?

I would think, okay, I will give you 7 percent of the profits for your 7 percent of the investment. But President Obama says no, no, no. I want you to have half of the profit, Judge. You can take half the profit for your 7 percent investment, and the Federal Government, the taxpayers, will take 93 percent of the risk and even that wasn't good enough. Then the President says, why would we want to tax the people who are our partners? So now they don't want to tax 50 percent of the profit that you get for 7 percent of your investment, they want to waive the tax on that.

Now, if we were in desperate condition and we needed to figure out something to do with these toxic debts and mortgage-backed securities, maybe that would be an act of desperation where you put together a package like that, and you can say, I am partnering with the private sector. This really isn't the nationalization of the mortgage industry; I really didn't follow along on what we did to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. No, this is a free enterprise endeavor.

Well, it doesn't work out this way. Some of us, and I introduced legislation to do this, would suspend the capital gains tax on those investments that pick up the toxic debt. But we couldn't suspend those. That idea was off the table in a heartbeat. The chairman of the Financial Services Committee swept those things off the table immediately. So we couldn't give a tax break to willing investors, but we would give a tax break if you partner with the Federal Government. We can't suspend income tax on the profits made by most who pick up mortgage-backed securities because that would be, what,

free enterprise capitalism that had a favorable tax situation that could come in and rescue this situation with willing investors.

That confirms for me that this President is determined to nationalize, nationalize, nationalize until we become nationally socialized big business in America, exactly verbatim within the model plan that is on the Democratic Socialists of America Web site, dsa.org, where it says we just want to nationalize the big companies and run them for the benefit of the unions and the benefit of perhaps the customers, but not for the benefit of the shareholders.

That is the scenario today. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and appreciate him leading this Special Order.

Mr. CARTER. I thank the gentleman. I want to point out a couple of things so we don't get off into this magic world that has been created by our Democrat friends and the media, that stockholders are some sort of exotic, wealthy billionaires that own all of these companies.

The teachers retirement system of Texas probably owns General Motors stock. I don't know, I haven't looked into it. But back when General Motors was \$60 or \$70 a share and everybody was proud to be an American, I am sure that pension funds for our teachers around this country invested. So those people would be looking at a 2-cent value or a 3-cent value or a nickel value for stock that they paid \$60 or \$70 a share for. So don't get into this magic myth that is created by those who would like to socialize this country that we are talking about fat cats. We are not talking about fat cats. We are talking about the ladies down at the Catholic church that got together and decided they would have an investment club. And they all put a little bit of their egg and butter money, as my grandmother used to say, in a little pot and said, now let's sit around and study the stock page in the newspaper and let's buy ourselves some stock.

A lot of them made a whole lot of money and lost a whole lot of money during the dot-com boom of the 1990s. But those were not fat cat investors. Those were little old ladies at the Catholic church, okay, or at the Methodist church or at the Baptist church or the bridge club or whatever. They are your neighbors. They are the people who live next door to you. They are the people your children go to school with, their parents; and even the kids' college funds are invested in things like General Motors and Chrysler.

So when we nationalize these industries, when we take it out of the hands of the people who own it, which is the stockholders, and we don't give them, defend their rights as stockholders, we make a deal through the pressure of the White House.

□ 2030

You know, interesting statement, this is one of the lawyers talking about what happened to the bondholders in

the Chrysler deals. He said, "One of my clients was directly threatened by the White House and in essence compelled to withdraw his opposition to the deal under threat that the full force of the White House press corps would destroy his reputation if he continued to fight. That was Perella Weinberg," Tom Lauria, the head of the bankruptcy department for the top New York City law firm of White & Case, told a WJR 760 radio host.

He goes on to say down here, "Some of the critics charged that the administration used leverage to provide TARP funds to force banks to comply with this deal. In other words, investors like JPMorgan Chase, who also were bondholders in this Chrysler deal—the old TARP fund deal that we've been talking about now for months—was all of a sudden the twist to make them get in line. And what happened was this group that Mr. Perella Weinberg was involved in, they didn't take any TARP funds, so they didn't have the twist. And they stood up. And what did they do? They threatened them with the White House press corps. I'm sorry, when I was a kid, this doesn't sound like the America that we grew up with. This sounds like the people we used to fight. This sounds like Joe Stalin and some of those people that threatened their way to power.

I am telling you, we ought to be worried about this. And I am deeply worried—although I am happy to see that this New York law firm is involved. I would hope that good litigants—because I believe in the justice system—would use the justice system to protect the rights of these creditors. I would hope they would do that.

I would hope that we would realize that neither this Congress nor the Constitution of the United States has given the White House or the President of the United States the kind of power and authority that he is executing and utilizing on these two car companies. And then we find out that we've got some folks that—they have already said that they would take common stock in the banks, so they want to be stockholders when it comes to the banks. They want to vote that stock and control those banks. They want to take majority interest in our large banks. That is another nationalization of an industry.

And so some of the banks said, you know what? We see the handwriting on the wall. We see that freight train coming down the track right at us. Here's your money back. We don't want your TARP money, take it back. And they are refusing to take the money back and threatening to charge massive penalties if the banks return the money that the American taxpayers provided to bail out banks in this TARP program. If they don't need the money and they want to give it back, what in the world is wrong with that? Except you no longer control the bank when they give the money back. You no longer can control the deals that are made

with Chrysler by twisting the arms of the banks. You no longer can control American industry. And that is the kind of thing that these trillions of dollars that we're spending, we, as Americans, should be deathly afraid of, that there are people who would control our Nation with the money that we give them out of our pocket and we permit them to borrow in our name that we are going to have to pay back.

I remember what I told my children as soon as they could understand English: the United States Government, nor any other government, never made a dime; they took it from you.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CARTER. I yield.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the gentleman from Texas.

It just brings to me a number that was reported in the aggregate, the union contributions, political contributions for the last election cycle, 45 billion dollars. And now we see a President and a Speaker of the House, and others, who have decided that they are going to make sure that there are shares in the hands of the workers without a transfer of wealth? But just simply—apparently they are good workers, all right. They think they are good campaign workers, that's what I hear.

This question now troubles me, as I listened to the gentleman discuss this, with the teachers' salary, Teachers Union salary, and perhaps as invested in General Motors and Chrysler. And a big part of that portfolio perhaps is spiraling downward—has spiraled downward. Now, if you take the position that the President has, "I will protect your benefits," and the position that the Speaker is taking, "I am not going to let the automakers get bargaining leverage over the unions," and if that turns it into, Here are some stock shares, and the union can have controlling interest in the company—or at least to break even, half the interest—and broker it, if they can get together with the stockholders that have 51 percent, if that can be the case, this is a Federal Government bailout of a situation where they are setting up jobs for people, not jobs for production for profit. But if that happens—and it has happened—and the taxpayers are there, what happens if the retirement funds for the Teachers Union meet the same end as the value of the stock shares for General Motors and Chrysler? How do you go in and nationalize a retirement fund for a union? I think you don't, except to put the capital in there and just say we are going to guarantee it, just like we will with Social Security or any other entitlement.

By great, huge gulps, this government is swallowing up the private interests, large corporations swallowing up one after another after another and nationalizing them and taking on obligations in the process that are implicit, that go on down the line. If you remember Fannie Mae and Freddie

Mac, they didn't have a guarantee from the Federal Government. They just had the implicit full faith and credit of the Federal Government. And we came through, \$100 billion here, \$100 billion there, \$5.5 trillion in contingent liabilities. This can happen with these retirement funds, too. And when they get nationalized, pretty soon everything is government except the barber and the shopkeeper and the little ones. And it is right off the Web page, [dsa.org](http://dsa.org).

Mr. CARTER. And then we have national socialism, which is something we should fear.

Mr. KING of Iowa. We would have national socialism.

Mr. CARTER. Something that we have fought against a lot of time.

I think we are about to wrap this up. I want to thank my friend for coming in here tonight. I want to thank the Speaker for her patience. We are raising questions that we think everybody and Members of this House should be asking each other and should be asking on the floor of this House and in committee and around this town. We didn't sign on to get on the slippery slope to socialism, and it is time for us all to stand up and say so.

#### CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to be here to host this hour on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus. And we want to talk about health care this evening.

Before the votes, I attended a District of Columbia Black AIDS Leadership Mobilization Summit; it was a town meeting held at the Kaiser Family Foundation. I want to commend the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, the Black AIDS Institute, the Kaiser Foundation, NAACP, National Urban League, the YWCA, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the National Council of Negro Women, Us Helping Us, The Women's Collective, Balm in Gilead, the National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, Phi Beta Sigma, the National Medical Association, and all of the associations which came together to address the epidemic in the District of Columbia and around the country.

On March 16 of this year, the D.C. AIDS Office released its latest HIV surveillance report. And what it showed was that the HIV rate in the Nation's capital is the highest in the country, and that an estimated 3 percent of the population is affected with AIDS. One percent would make it an epidemic, so it is of epidemic proportions here in the District.

The D.C. rate of infection is higher than 28 African countries. The infection rate puts Washington, D.C. on a par with Uganda. So this is an issue

that really must be addressed. This is our Nation's capital. The Congress has responsibility for the capital, Madam Speaker. I made a commitment while I was there that the Congressional Black Caucus would work to ensure that this Congress takes that responsibility seriously and addresses this serious epidemic that exists in the Nation's capital.

I wanted to mention a couple of things this evening, Madam Speaker. Yesterday, Nicholas Kristof wrote a column in the *New York Times* that ought to give us all pause. In it he addresses an issue that many of us on the Committee on Homeland Security have raised many times—and I am sure Chairman BENNIE THOMPSON continues to work to address—and that is the deficient public health system in this country, especially in rural communities, in poor communities, and communities of color. I raised the issue at the H1N1 hearing in the Health Subcommittee on Energy and Commerce last week. I just want to share a few quotes from the article.

Nicholas Kristof says, "The flu crisis should be a wake-up call, a reminder that one of our vulnerabilities to the possible pandemic is our deeply flawed medical system." And he quotes from Deborah Burger, the co-president of the California Nurses Association, the National Nurses Organizing Committee, who says, "From SARS to avian flu to the current escalating outbreak of swine influenza, it has become increasingly clear that we are risking a major catastrophe unless we act to restore the safety net."

Mr. Kristof continues, "Think of the 47 million Americans who lack insurance. They are less likely to receive flu vaccines—which might or might not help," he says—"less likely to receive prompt care when they get sick, and less able financially to stay home from work. And, thus, they are more likely to both die and spread the virus inadvertently."

He also goes on to say—which is something that we have brought to the attention of the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Homeland Security—"hospitals lack spare beds, ventilators, and staff to cope with an epidemic. One study found that a flu epidemic would mean that 10 million Americans would need to be hospitalized compared with a total of nearly 1 million beds in America, about two-thirds of them occupied."

"Last year, Chairman Waxman ordered a review of surge capacity," reports Mr. Kristof, "in hospitals available for a terror attack. What was the surge capacity? He found that more than half of the emergency rooms studied were already operating above capacity."

The last quote that I want to bring to your attention from this op-ed is a quote that he uses from Dr. Redlener, the director of the National Center for Disaster Preparedness at Columbia

University's Mailman School of Public Health. And Dr. Redlener says, and I agree, "If a severe pandemic materializes, all of society would pay a heavy price for decades of failing to create a rational system of health care that works for us all."

A few years ago, we had a Dr. Stephen Wolf from Virginia Commonwealth University come and talk to us about a report that he did on health care and the discrepancies, the disparities, the gaps in health care that the poor rural Americans, Americans of color face. I would like to use this quote and share it with you. He says, "In the end, however, it all comes down to priorities. Perhaps we have reached a point when progress in providing good care when needed, with compassion and skill and without errors, would impress the public as a more meaningful medical advance than the rollout of the latest device or pill." He says, "failing to establish systems to ensure that everyone receives recommended care is causing greater disease and deaths at levels that can rarely be offset by medical advances."

So as we look at the spread of H1N1, this is a call to action to really fix the public health system in this country and make sure that every community has the kind of infrastructure it needs to address not only epidemics, but the everyday illnesses that the people in those communities suffer from.

But we do have an opportunity to address this health care system and to address health disparities. The Congressional Black Caucus—which has always had the elimination of health disparities as one of its main priorities—really welcomes the new political and policy dynamics that are currently shaping health care in this country. Because after all of the years and money spent on disease entities, we have only made slight progress. And even where improvements have been made, the gaps between people of color and the white majority have either remained the same or the gaps have widened.

According to testimony given at the Health Subcommittee on Energy and Commerce by Dr. Brian Smedley of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, he says, "Access to high-quality health care is particularly important for communities of color because deep-held status gaps persist among U.S. racial and ethnic groups." He goes on to say, "While the Nation has made progress in lengthening and improving the quality of life, racial and ethnic health disparities begin early in the life span and exact a significant human and economic toll." He gives us some examples: "The prevalence of diabetes among American Indians and Alaskan natives is more than twice that for all adults in the United States. Among African Americans, the age-adjusted death rate for cancer is approximately 25 percent higher than for white Americans."

Although infant mortality, he said, "decreased among all races during the

1980 to 2000 timed period, the black and white gap in infant mortality widened.

□ 2045

"While the life expectancy gap between African Americans and whites has narrowed slightly, African Americans can still expect to live 6 to 10 fewer years than whites and face higher rates of illness and mortality."

He goes on to say, "In terms of lives, this gap is staggering. A recent analysis of 1991 to 2000 mortality data concluded that had mortality rates of African Americans been equivalent to that of whites in that time period, over 880,000 deaths would have been averted."

So we welcome and intend to be a part of shaping health care reform. And, of course, it does start with universal coverage because here are some other statistics:

Racial and ethnic minorities, although we account for about one-third of the U.S. population, account for more than half of the uninsured. Racial and ethnic minorities are more likely than whites to report not seeing a specialist when it was needed, foregoing needed health care because of the costs, and not being insured, they don't have a usual source of care. More than five of 10, 55 percent, Hispanics, four in 10 African Americans were uninsured for all or part of 2007 and 2008, compared with just two in 10, or 25 percent, in whites. In total, more than three in every four people of color, 76 percent, were uninsured for 6 months or more in 2007 and 2008. That data, I believe, comes from Families USA.

So the Congressional Black Caucus is looking at how we would like to see universal coverage provided. Of course, we feel that everyone must have coverage, and we insist that there be a public option. We have joined the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and the Asian Pacific Caucus in calling for a public option, and we will support a bill if it has a public option.

But also, and this is a concern that I have, we also need to ensure that we don't end up with the same kind of two-tiered system that we have today, one for the poor and one for everyone else, even when we have a public system. So we either need to figure out a way that that public system serves the poor and everyone else where the government may pay in for those who are at a certain level of poverty and the others pay in through subsidies that are done on a sliding scale or pay for it fully, or we need to fix the Medicaid program because the care that patients who have Medicaid who actually have access to health care is not equal and the outcomes are poorer than those who are insured, and in some cases it's the same or poorer than even the uninsured.

So ensuring that everyone is covered is critically important. It's critically important for African Americans and other people of color, who bear a disproportionate burden of disease in this

country, but it's important to every American because to the extent that so many people in this country remain uninsured, it adversely affects health care for everyone.

But insurance is just the beginning of what needs to be done to close the health disparities gap. For example, insured African American patients are less likely than insured whites to receive many potentially lifesaving or life-extending procedures such as high-tech care like cardiac catheterization, bypass graft surgery, or even kidney transplantation. And the IOM report of 2002 showed us that even when everything else is equal, educational level, economic level, and insurance, African Americans and other people of color get less care. Black cancer patients fail to get the same combinations of surgical and chemotherapy treatments that white patients with the same disease presentation received. African American heart patients are less likely than white patients to receive diagnostic procedures, revascularization procedures, and thrombolytic therapy, even when they have similar incomes, insurance, and other patient characteristics.

Even routine care suffers. Black and Latino patients are less likely than whites to receive aspirin upon discharge following a heart attack; to receive the appropriate care for pneumonia; and to have pain, such as the kind resulting from broken bones, appropriately treated. Minorities are more likely to receive undesirable treatment than whites, such as limb amputation for diabetes.

To so begin to address these, the TriCaucus, which includes the Congressional Black Caucus, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and the Congressional Asian and Pacific Island Caucus, will be reintroducing the Health Equity and Accountability Act, which we have introduced in the last three Congresses and for which we had hearings held in both the subcommittees of Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce last year. The bill takes a comprehensive approach and will have budget impact, but we are talking about reforming a broken health care system, one which many call a "sick care system." And I really think it needs more than reforming; it needs a transformation.

Among the provisions, the bill includes those that would bolster efforts to ensure culturally and linguistically appropriate health care and remove language and cultural barriers to health care. It would improve workforce diversity, strengthen and coordinate data collection, ensure accountability and improve evaluation, and improve health care services especially for those diseases that are causing the disparities.

But today, after the limited progress we've made in eliminating these disparities, we know that in addition to doing all of those things, collecting data, increasing the diversity of our workforce, increasing accountability,

providing for comprehensive programs of care to address some of those diseases that cause the gaps and cause people to die prematurely from preventable causes, we know that in addition to addressing the gaps in the many disease entities that we also have to turn our country's focus to disparities in its broader context to the pervasive, persistent social determinants or primordial determinants of the poor health of our communities. If we don't address these, the root causes, the totality of the environments in which we live and suffer from this ill health, we will never achieve wellness. So if we are to be healthy and achieve our optimal health, it's here also that change must occur. That is to ensure that the environments in which we live support the elimination of health disparities and support good health and our overall well-being.

I think the country is fortunate, and I know the country also understands how fortunate it is, and I'm blessed to work with the Congressional Black Caucus, where 42 diverse individuals with expertise and focus in many different areas such as health, education, economic development, job creation, workers' rights, environmental justice, housing, and all of the factors that are the underpinnings of our health, as a group, we work as a cohesive unit to improve the well-being of our communities and of all Americans. So I look at our entire Congressional Black Caucus agenda as a health agenda because we work on the broad agenda that is critical to closing the health gap and ensuring that all Americans have access to wellness.

And it's critical that we do this because the real things, the things that underlie our poor health, the things that are really killing us are factors like an overabundance of liquor stores in black and Latino and poor communities; the flooding of everything we see, read, and hear with tobacco advertising; intractable poverty and the way it fosters depression, drug abuse, and crime, creating neighborhoods where it's impossible to go outdoors and exercise, as we know we must; the refusal of businesses, including grocery stores and really medical entities as well, to come into poor and communities of color, where pharmacies that are there stock and dispense less pain medicine, regardless of how much pain the individual is having just because we're in a poor neighborhood that is made up mostly of racial and ethnic minorities; the profiling by the criminal justice system that makes some people wrong just because of the color of their skin or puts the mentally ill into the criminal justice system rather than into treatment; the racism and discrimination that denies racial and ethnic minorities the same quality of health care that I spoke about earlier that others take for granted and that pays less in our neighborhoods and so provides a strong and effective disincentive for hospitals and the other pro-

viders we need to come into our communities and stay there; the fact that too many of those providers that we do have don't understand our culture or our language; and all of the many assaults on our very humanity that weakens the well-known strength of spirit and the will to do the things that we know will improve our health and our quality of life. All of this is still not fully on the radar screen of most who set and implement policy, and this is something else that we must change.

Yet communities around the country, with or without our help, are taking on some of these issues and creating miracles and making dramatic changes in people's lives. We intend to help these communities and other communities become agents of change and to develop not just a better system of health delivery but an entire culture and environment of wellness.

Today I introduced the Health Empowerment Zone bill, through which we plan to give these communities the resources and the technical assistance that they need to improve their health and well-being. Through this bill communities can apply. The Department of Health and Human Services would provide the technical assistance and some resources to help that community form a community coalition to identify their health care challenges, to do a community assessment and to develop a strategic plan. Then the community would apply for designation as a health empowerment zone, and if they're so designated, they would have the opportunity to be a priority for programs that already exist in our government.

So this bill will not be a costly bill. We're talking about a little bit of startup money to these communities and, more than that, technical assistance to help them to do their community assessment and do their plan, and the help that they will get to implement that plan and turn around their community and make it a place where people can be well would come from programs that already exist. These communities would just have priority, and this is an attempt for us to address the social determinants of health, which we all know are critical if we are going to eliminate disparities and create healthy communities and a more healthy country. So we intend to help these and other communities, as I said, and we introduced that bill today.

Last week we held our Spring Health Brain Trust with the National Minority Quality Forum, and the messages that came from that meeting were very clear: Our health care system needs not just reform; it needs transformation. It will require an investment that goes beyond providing universal coverage because we have seen through many reports, the IOM and many more research papers, that minorities, people who speak a different language, people of color, even when they are insured, don't get the kind of care that the rest of the population gets. The message

came loud and clear that we need to reform Medicaid and ensure that that access really provides quality health care.

And, lastly, I would say that the message that we'd like to send out of that is that we know that it will cost a fair amount of money, but it's our health that we are talking about. We know that many people think or many of the pundits say that perhaps our President is trying to do too much, but we say we need all of it. And we stand with our President as he calls on us to reform our health care system or, rather, transform our health care system and ensure that quality health care is accessible, available to each and every American.

I just want to close with another quote from the Closing the Gap Report that was written in 2005 that addresses the issue of health inequities, and the quote says: "Inequities within the health care system and within larger social, environmental, and economic structures persist not because of a dearth of solutions but because of a failure of political will." And I call on my colleagues to let us develop that political will. Let us eliminate disparities that are causing the premature death of people of color, poor, and rural Americans in this country, and let's transform our health care system so that everyone has access to quality, comprehensive health care.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CAPUANO (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and May 5 on account of illness.

Mr. DEFAZIO (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of official business in the district.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of official business in district.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Mr. STARK (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and the balance of the week on account of illness.

Mr. WESTMORELAND (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of illness.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SCHIFF, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. POE of Texas) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. POSEY, for 5 minutes, May 6.

Mr. FORBES, for 5 minutes, May 6.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes, May 5 and 6.

#### SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 615. An act to provide additional personnel authorities for the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs; in addition to the Committee on Armed Services for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

#### SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced her signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 735. An act to ensure States receive adoption incentive payments for fiscal year 2008 in accordance with the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008.

#### BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House reports that on April 30, 2009 she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills.

H.R. 1626. To make technical amendments to laws containing time periods affecting judicial proceedings.

H.R. 586. To direct the Librarian of Congress and the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution to carry out a joint project at the Library of Congress and the National Museum of African American History and Culture to collect video and audio recordings of personal histories and testimonials of individuals who participated in the Civil Rights movement, and for other purposes.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, May 5, 2009, at 10:30 a.m., for morning-hour debate.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of Rule XXIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1564. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting an addendum to a certification, transmittal number: DDTC-009-09, of a proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services, pursuant to Public Law 110-429, section 201; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1565. A letter from the Equal Employment Opportunity Director, Farm Credit Adminis-

tration, transmitting the Administration's annual report for fiscal year 2008 on the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1566. A letter from the Acting Chairman, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's annual report for fiscal year 2008 on the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1567. A letter from the President, Inter-American Foundation, transmitting the Foundation's annual report for fiscal year 2008 on the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1568. A letter from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's annual report for fiscal year 2008 on the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1569. A letter from the Acting Director, Peace Corps, transmitting the Corps' annual report for fiscal year 2008 on the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1570. A letter from the Acting EEO Director, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's annual report for fiscal year 2008 on the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1571. A letter from the Acting Administrator, Small Business Administration, transmitting the Administration's annual report for fiscal year 2008 on the Notification and Federal Employee Anti-Discrimination and Retaliation Act; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1572. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Fireworks Displays, Anacostia River, Washington, DC [Docket No.: USCG-2008-0338] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received April 16, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1573. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Main Street Oceanside, Fireworks Display; Oceanside, CA. [Docket No.: USCG-2008-0270] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received April 16, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1574. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Temporary Safety Zone; Wrecho of the M/V NEW CARISSA, Pacific Ocean 3 Nautical Miles North of the Entrance to Coos Bay, OR [Docket No.: USCG-2008-0915] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received April 16, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1575. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Milwaukee River Challenge, Milwaukee River, Milwaukee, WI [Docket No.: USCG-2008-0914] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received April 16, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1576. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety

Zone; Neptune Festival, Atlantic Ocean, Virginia Beach, VA [Docket No.: USCG-2008-0860] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received April 16, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1577. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone: Robert Mosses Causeway Bridge State Boat Channel, Captree, New York [Docket No.: USCG-2008-0844] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received April 16, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1578. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone: Founder's Day Fireworks Event, Chesapeake Bay, Hampton, VA. [Docket No.: USCG-2008-0463] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received April 16, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1579. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Paradise Point Resort 4th of July Display; Mission Bay, San Diego, CA. [Docket No.: USCG-2008-0449] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received April 16, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1580. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone: Ambrose Light, Offshore Sandy Hook, NJ, Atlantic Ocean [Docket No.: USCG-2008-0373] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received April 16, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1581. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone: Edenton 4th of July Celebration Firework Display, Edenton Bay, Edenton, NC [Docket No.: USCG-2008-0395] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received April 16, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1582. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone: 31st Annual Virginia Lakes Festival Fireworks Event, John H. Kerr Lake, Clarksville, VA. [Docket No.: USCG 2008-0471] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received April 16, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1583. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone: LST-1166 Safety Zone, Southeastern Tip of Lord Island, Columbia River, Rainier, Oregon. [Docket No.: USCG-2008-0755] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received April 16, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1584. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Washington Township Summerfest, Ottawa River, Toledo, OH. [Docket No.: USCG-2008-0492] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received April 16, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1585. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Shoreacres Country Club Fireworks, Lake Bluff, Illinois [Docket No.: USCG-2008-1055] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received April 16, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1586. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Policy, Import Admin, Department of

Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Steel Import Monitoring and Analysis System [Docket No.: 0809261282-9117-02] (RIN: 0625-AA82) received March 23, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1587. A letter from the Program Manager, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — State Parent Locator Service; Safeguarding Child Support Information; Proposed Delay of Effective Date (RIN: 0970-AC01) received April 15, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1588. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — New clean renewable energy bonds application solicitation and requirements [Notice 2009-33] received April 8, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1589. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Request for Comments on Revenue Procedure for 403(b) Prototype Plans [Announcement 2009-34] received April 16, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1590. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Update for Weighted Average Interest Rates, Yield Curves, and Segment Rates [Notice 2009-39] received April 16, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. OBERSTAR: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 1178. A bill to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the use of Civil Air Patrol personnel and resources to support homeland security missions, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 111-93 Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 1728. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to reform consumer mortgage practices and provide accountability for such practices, to provide certain minimum standards for consumer mortgage loans, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 111-94). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. CONYERS: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 1748. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to enhance the investigation and prosecution of mortgage fraud and financial institution fraud, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 111-95 Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

#### DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform and Financial Services discharged from further consideration. H.R. 1748 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed.

#### TIME LIMITATION OF REFERRED BILL

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the following action was taken by the Speaker:

H.R. 1178. Referral to the Committee on Homeland Security extended for a period ending not later than June 3, 2009.

#### PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. TURNER (for himself, Mrs. SCHMIDT, and Mr. BOEHNER):

H.R. 2226. A bill to rescind certain funds; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. COSTA, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WALZ, and Mr. TERRY):

H.R. 2227. A bill to greatly enhance America's path toward energy independence and economic and national security, to conserve energy use, to promote innovation, to achieve lower emissions, cleaner air, cleaner water, and cleaner land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, Science and Technology, Transportation and Infrastructure, Education and Labor, the Budget, Rules, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BOOZMAN:

H.R. 2228. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to allow States to count certain students formerly identified as limited English proficient as being within the limited English proficient subgroup, and certain students formerly identified as students with disabilities as being within the students with disabilities subgroup; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. BOOZMAN:

H.R. 2229. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to allow States to adopt alternate and modified standards for students with disabilities; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. BOOZMAN:

H.R. 2230. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax credit for teachers and principals who work in certain low income schools; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. CAPPS (for herself, Ms. DEGETTE, and Mr. GRJALVA):

H.R. 2231. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to ensure that victims of public health emergencies have meaningful and immediate access to medically necessary health care services; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CAPUANO (for himself, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. OLVER, Mr. TIERNEY, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. GONZALEZ, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PASCRELL, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, and Mr. WU):

H.R. 2232. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish national tunnel

inspection standards for the proper safety inspection and evaluation of all highway tunnels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. CHRISTENSEN (for herself, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. WATT, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. WATSON, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. RUSH, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. PIERLUISI, and Mr. CONYERS):

H.R. 2233. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to designate health empowerment zones, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ENGEL (for himself and Mr. BARTLETT):

H.R. 2234. A bill to enhance the energy security of the United States, reduce dependence on imported oil, improve the energy efficiency of the transportation sector, and reduce emissions through the expansion of grid supported transportation; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Science and Technology, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts:

H.R. 2235. A bill to amend part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to limit the penalty for late enrollment under part B of the Medicare Program to 10 percent and twice the period of no enrollment, and to exclude periods of COBRA and retiree coverage from such late enrollment penalty; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. HALVORSON:

H.R. 2236. A bill to prohibit health insurance companies from denying individual health insurance coverage or from discriminating in benefits under such coverage because of the receipt of grief counseling; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 2237. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Defense to carry out a pilot program to determine the feasibility and desirability of equipping turbojet aircraft in the Civil Reserve Air Fleet with a missile defense system; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 2238. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to issue an order regarding secondary cockpit barriers; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. LOEBSACK (for himself and Ms. MATSUI):

H.R. 2239. A bill to award competitive grants to eligible partnerships to enable the partnerships to implement innovative strategies at the secondary school level to improve student achievement and prepare at-risk students for postsecondary education and the workforce; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. MEEK of Florida:

H.R. 2240. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a nonrefundable

credit for mentoring and housing young adults; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SESTAK:

H.R. 2241. A bill to provide for the settlement of certain claims against Iraq by victims of torture and terrorism; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SPACE (for himself and Mr. BLUMENAUER):

H.R. 2242. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend certain expiring provisions relating to education; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CULBERSON:

H. Con. Res. 117. Concurrent resolution commemorating the 40th Anniversary of humanity's first landing on the Moon, celebrating the success of the United States human space flight program, and recognizing the accomplishments of NASA's human space flight centers; to the Committee on Science and Technology.

By Mr. CULBERSON (for himself, Mr. PAUL, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. HELLER, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. BILBRAY, Ms. FOX, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. ISSA, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. JONES, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, and Mr. MORAN of Kansas):

H. Res. 394. A resolution expressing disapproval by the House of Representatives of the totalization agreement between the United States and Mexico signed by the Commissioner of Social Security and the Director General of the Mexican Social Security Institute on June 29, 2004; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York:

H. Res. 395. A resolution supporting efforts to raise awareness, improve education, and encourage research of inflammatory breast cancer; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CARDOZA (for himself, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. NUNES, Mr. BACA, Mr. RADANOVICH, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. COSTA, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. SHULER, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. ARCURI, Mr. MICHAUD, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. PERRIELLO, Ms. HARMAN, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. HONDA, Mr. FARR, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. ESHOO, Mrs. BONO MACK, and Mr. BRIGHT):

H. Res. 396. A resolution honoring the graduating Class of 2009 at the University of California, Merced; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. FORBES (for himself, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. AKIN, Mr. LATTA, Mr. JORDAN of Ohio, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. FOX, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. JONES, Mr. WOLF, Mr. TURNER, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. WAMP, Mr. KLINE of Minnesota, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, and Mr. BISHOP of Utah):

H. Res. 397. A resolution affirming the rich spiritual and religious history of our Nation's founding and subsequent history and expressing support for designation of the first week in May as "America's Spiritual Heritage Week" for the appreciation of and education on America's history of religious faith; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. FORTENBERRY (for himself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. INGLIS, and Mr. BACHUS):

H. Res. 398. A resolution recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift's success; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H. Res. 399. A resolution honoring the sacrifice of members of the Armed Forces who are also mothers and the support provided by mothers of members of the Armed Forces and mothers who are the spouse of members of the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 22: Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. DEGETTE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. TSONGAS, and Mrs. MYRICK.

H.R. 43: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 55: Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 104: Mr. MICHAUD.

H.R. 197: Mr. MINNICK and Mr. RODRIGUEZ.

H.R. 265: Mr. FATTAH, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. SERRANO, and Mr. HINCHEY.

H.R. 270: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia and Mr. PASTOR of Arizona.

H.R. 295: Mr. POSEY.

H.R. 303: Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. LATTA, and Mr. HOLDEN.

H.R. 327: Mr. TAYLOR.

H.R. 391: Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mrs. BACHMANN, and Mrs. MYRICK.

H.R. 413: Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. DRIEHAUS, Mr. WAXMAN, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. ROSS, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. DOYLE, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. PETRI, Mr. GRAYSON, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. BERRY, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. SHULER, Mr. CARDOZA, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Mr. UPTON, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 444: Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. HODES, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. PETERSON, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, and Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 466: Mr. HALL of New York.

H.R. 481: Mr. MASSA.

H.R. 503: Mrs. BIGGERT.

H.R. 560: Mr. THORNBERY.

H.R. 574: Mr. HARPER, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. WELCH, and Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.

H.R. 606: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland, and Mr. KUCINICH.

H.R. 626: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 668: Mr. PETERSON and Mr. SCHRADER.

H.R. 706: Mr. ANDREWS.

H.R. 745: Mr. FOSTER, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. OLVER, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. CALVERT, and Mr. BOCCIERI.

H.R. 775: Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. MOLLOHAN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. KIND, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. HARE, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. LATHAM, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Ms. BEAN.

H.R. 805: Mr. FILNER.

H.R. 823: Mr. KUCINICH.

H.R. 824: Mr. KUCINICH.

- H.R. 840: Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan.  
 H.R. 847: Mr. ANDREWS.  
 H.R. 855: Mr. LATHAM.  
 H.R. 874: Mr. WEINER and Mr. ALEXander.  
 H.R. 914: Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.  
 H.R. 948: Ms. TITUS and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.  
 H.R. 980: Mr. WEXLER, Mr. TANNER, and Mr. HOLT.  
 H.R. 998: Mr. POSEY.  
 H.R. 1021: Mr. WELCH, Mr. JONES, Mr. WAMP, and Mr. PIERLUISI.  
 H.R. 1032: Mr. CARTER and Mr. PETERSON.  
 H.R. 1074: Mr. ROSS, Mr. BOREN, Mr. MINNICK, Mr. FLEMING, and Mr. KLINE of Minnesota.  
 H.R. 1103: Mr. MCINTYRE.  
 H.R. 1147: Mr. MCNERNEY and Mr. GUTIERREZ.  
 H.R. 1177: Mr. BOREN.  
 H.R. 1180: Mr. LATTI.  
 H.R. 1205: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. MASSA, Mr. COURTNEY, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.  
 H.R. 1207: Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. HENSARLING, Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. LOBIONDO, and Mr. MCHUGH.  
 H.R. 1209: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.  
 H.R. 1210: Ms. WOOLSEY and Mr. THOMPSON of California.  
 H.R. 1230: Mr. PLATTS.  
 H.R. 1238: Mr. SCHOCK.  
 H.R. 1240: Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, and Ms. MATSUI.  
 H.R. 1285: Mr. SCHOCK.  
 H.R. 1310: Mr. MASSA and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.  
 H.R. 1335: Ms. SUTTON, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. KOSMAS, Mr. MICHAUD, and Mr. COURTNEY.  
 H.R. 1337: Mr. GRIJALVA.  
 H.R. 1339: Mr. WAMP, Mr. JONES, and Mr. GERLACH.  
 H.R. 1346: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.  
 H.R. 1362: Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. ROSS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. COHEN, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. FILNER, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. COBLE, Mr. FORBES, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.  
 H.R. 1392: Mr. SARBANES.  
 H.R. 1400: Ms. DEGETTE.  
 H.R. 1422: Mr. PAULSEN and Mrs. TAUSCHER.  
 H.R. 1441: Mrs. MYRICK.  
 H.R. 1443: Mr. SIRES, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. CLAY, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BOSWELL, and Ms. NORTON.  
 H.R. 1454: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. BERKLEY, and Mr. PUTNAM.  
 H.R. 1458: Mr. LATHAM.  
 H.R. 1460: Mr. CALVERT and Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS.  
 H.R. 1485: Mr. SHADEGG and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.  
 H.R. 1509: Mr. SCHOCK.  
 H.R. 1521: Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. STUPAK, and Mrs. BIGGERT.  
 H.R. 1526: Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. FILNER, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SOUDER, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. HOLT, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. GRAYSON, Ms. FUDGE, and Mr. MASSA.  
 H.R. 1547: Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.  
 H.R. 1548: Mr. MELANCON.  
 H.R. 1560: Ms. FOXX.  
 H.R. 1605: Mr. KUCINICH.  
 H.R. 1646: Mr. FILNER, Mr. KLINE of Minnesota, Mr. WAMP, and Mr. PETERSON.  
 H.R. 1670: Mr. KING of New York, Mr. FILNER, and Mr. KILDEE.  
 H.R. 1678: Mr. BISHOP of Utah.  
 H.R. 1680: Mr. SHULER and Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.  
 H.R. 1690: Mr. GRIJALVA.  
 H.R. 1700: Mr. FILNER.  
 H.R. 1701: Mr. LATHAM.  
 H.R. 1705: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania and Mr. WU.  
 H.R. 1708: Mr. WELCH, Mr. KILDEE, and Mr. COSTELLO.  
 H.R. 1712: Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS.  
 H.R. 1716: Mrs. BIGGERT.  
 H.R. 1728: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.  
 H.R. 1739: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.  
 H.R. 1740: Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. BONNER, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. ROSS, Mr. AUSTRIA, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. LEE of New York, and Mr. KING of New York.  
 H.R. 1742: Mr. MCNERNEY.  
 H.R. 1760: Mr. GRIJALVA.  
 H.R. 1763: Mr. HARPER and Mr. LAMBORN.  
 H.R. 1776: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.  
 H.R. 1802: Mr. WAMP and Mr. MCCAUL.  
 H.R. 1829: Mr. LATHAM and Mr. MURTHA.  
 H.R. 1844: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. ISRAEL, and Mr. MEEKS of New York.  
 H.R. 1855: Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. MICHAUD, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.  
 H.R. 1870: Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. ENGEL, and Mr. WEXLER.  
 H.R. 1872: Mr. DRIEHAUS and Mr. BLUMENAUER.  
 H.R. 1894: Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.  
 H.R. 1941: Mr. SHADEGG and Mr. GRIJALVA.  
 H.R. 1960: Mr. LAMBORN.  
 H.R. 1977: Mr. YOUNG of Florida and Mr. ROONEY.  
 H.R. 1985: Mr. COBLE.  
 H.R. 1987: Mr. BOREN.  
 H.R. 2000: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey.  
 H.R. 2006: Mr. WU and Mr. LATOURETTE.  
 H.R. 2017: Mrs. BIGGERT and Mr. DAVIS of Alabama.  
 H.R. 2022: Mr. CRENSHAW.  
 H.R. 2035: Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. DRIEHAUS, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.  
 H.R. 2060: Mr. REYES.  
 H.R. 2076: Mr. STARK, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. FILNER, and Mr. POLIS of Colorado.  
 H.R. 2083: Mr. CHAFFETZ.  
 H.R. 2090: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.  
 H.R. 2093: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina and Mr. GRIJALVA.  
 H.R. 2101: Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. KISSELL, and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.  
 H.R. 2118: Mr. LEE of New York and Mr. GERLACH.  
 H.R. 2119: Mr. LEE of New York and Mr. GERLACH.  
 H.R. 2141: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.  
 H.R. 2144: Mr. HENSARLING.  
 H.R. 2156: Mr. BOCCIERI.  
 H.R. 2184: Mr. STARK.  
 H.R. 2194: Mr. KLEIN of Florida and Ms. HARMAN.  
 H.R. 2201: Mr. SPACE.  
 H. Con. Res. 16: Mrs. MYRICK, Ms. FOXX, and Mr. WAMP.  
 H. Con. Res. 84: Ms. BORDALLO, Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. INGLIS, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. BISHOP of New York, and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.  
 H. Con. Res. 87: Mr. CAO.  
 H. Con. Res. 89: Mr. HODES.  
 H. Con. Res. 103: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. COHEN, Mr. BOCCIERI, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.  
 H. Con. Res. 107: Mr. GRIJALVA.  
 H. Con. Res. 111: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. KOSMAS, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. FOXX, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. KLINE of Minnesota, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. AUSTRIA, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. SCALISE.  
 H. Con. Res. 116: Mr. SOUDER, Mrs. BACHMANN, and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.  
 H. Res. 55: Mr. THOMPSON of California.  
 H. Res. 111: Mr. PALLONE, Mr. SPACE, and Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois.  
 H. Res. 192: Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. GUTHRIE, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. STARK, Mr. KAGEN, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. BURGESS, Ms. BERKLEY, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts, Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. DENT, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARROW, Mr. ROSS, Mrs. BONO MACK, Mr. MCMAHON, Mr. EDWARDS of Texas, and Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.  
 H. Res. 193: Mr. WAMP, Mr. JONES, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, and Mr. MOORE of Kansas.  
 H. Res. 225: Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, and Mr. MANZULLO.  
 H. Res. 236: Mr. HONDA.  
 H. Res. 291: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Mr. ROONEY.  
 H. Res. 300: Mr. HIMES.  
 H. Res. 309: Mr. LEE of New York, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. POE of Texas, and Mr. MICHAUD.  
 H. Res. 314: Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. POLIS of Colorado, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, and Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky.  
 H. Res. 338: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut and Mr. CALVERT.  
 H. Res. 349: Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts, and Mr. WAMP.  
 H. Res. 353: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.  
 H. Res. 366: Mr. YOUNG of Florida.  
 H. Res. 370: Mr. KUCINICH and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona.  
 H. Res. 377: Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. BUYER, Mr. REYES, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado, Mr. MCHUGH, and Mr. FORBES.  
 H. Res. 378: Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Mr. PITTS.  
 H. Res. 387: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. POSEY, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. CAO, and Mr. TAYLOR.  
 H. Res. 388: Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. CARTER, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. JONES, Mr. JORDAN of Ohio, and Mr. COBLE.  
 H. Res. 391: Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, and Mr. COOPER.

#### DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 1214: Mr. ELLISON.