

I would also like to thank the gentleman from California (Chairman DOOLITTLE); the gentleman from Alaska (Chairman YOUNG); the Speaker; the majority leader; the majority whip; the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER), the ranking member; and the staffs of those committees and the leadership staff, particularly Tom Pyle in the House majority whip's office; and the gentleman on my staff, Jafar Karim, for the hard work that they have put in making this bill become a reality.

I would also like to recognize, Mr. Speaker, the project sponsors, those community leaders, the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System, who have fought hard and been so persistent in moving this project forward.

It has been a long process. This bill was introduced back in 1994. It has been refined and reworked to where we are today.

Let me just very briefly state why I believe it is so important and why this is important that this bill move at this time. First off, this helps fulfill promises made by the Federal Government to South Dakota in the Flood Control Act of 1944, wherein South Dakota gave up over half a million acres of prime bottom land in exchange for irrigation benefits and other benefits, many of which never materialized.

Secondly, the legislation authorizes construction of a water system that, when built, will meet critical water needs of 22 communities in South Dakota, Iowa, and Minnesota. Over 180,000 people will be served with clean drinking water.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is important because this is a health issue. This is a safety issue, and this is an economic development issue for these communities.

Finally, it is important, Mr. Speaker, that we do this now because of the growing sense of urgency when it comes to the water needs of this area and because this legislation has been around and been refined and reworked over four sessions of Congress. The time for action is now.

I want to express my appreciation to those who have helped us bring it to this point and the opportunity to move this legislation forward, and so I encourage all my colleagues to support the legislation; and on behalf of the people of South Dakota, I thank my colleagues.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the committee amendment to H.R. 297, the bill to authorize the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System.

The Lewis and Clark Rural Water System is designed to provide replacement or supplemental water supplies from the Missouri River to areas in southeastern South Dakota, north-

western Iowa, and southwestern Minnesota serving up to about 180,000 people.

This region has seen substantial growth and development in recent years, and we know that future water needs in the area will be significantly greater than the current available supply. Many residents in the project area have water of such poor quality it does not meet present or proposed standards for drinking water. Many communities rely on shallow aquifers as the primary source of drinking water, aquifers which are very vulnerable to contamination by surface activities, including large hog farms. Why do we not clean up the hog farms?

Lewis and Clark Rural Water System will provide a reliable source for supplemental drinking water. I urge my colleagues to support the authorization of this project with a "yes" vote on H.R. 297.

Mr. Speaker, the committee amendment includes several additional provisions affecting water resource activities of the Bureau of Reclamation in Northern California. I have no objection to these provisions.

In fact, I want to thank the committee for including title 3, the "Treatment of Project Costs For Sly Park Unit," which will provide for the Secretary to exclude these costs in excess to be repaid by the Sly Park Unit beneficiaries from the pooled reimbursable costs of the Central Valley Project until such time as the facilities are integrated into the water supply yield to the Central Valley project.

This will provide a correction of an inadvertent oversight that could prove costly to a number of urban water districts in California. I think that this is a proper resolution of this issue.

Mr. MINGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support H.R. 297, the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System Act, which has been reported out of the House Committee on Resources.

The Lewis and Clark Rural Water System Act will serve a number of communities in Minnesota, Iowa and South Dakota. Currently these communities are served by shallow aquifers that are vulnerable to contamination. Many of these towns have tried repeatedly to dig new wells. Unfortunately, they have had little luck.

The area that would be served by H.R. 297 is currently experiencing a drought with no immediate relief in sight. This bill will not alleviate the current crisis but protect the region from the water level uncertainties associated with shallow aquifers in the future. That certainty not only lends peace of mind to local citizens, but is also crucial to the area's economic development plans. The business climate cannot flourish when the water supply is questionable.

The Senate has already passed legislation authorizing the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System Act. Time is of the essence for this project and it is my hope that any differences with the Senate can be quickly resolved.

Mr. Speaker, I again ask my colleagues to support H.R. 297.

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

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EWING). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. DOOLITTLE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 297, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. 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.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 297, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

#### SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING RAISING OF UNITED STATES FLAG IN AMERICAN SAMOA

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 443), expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with regard to the centennial of the raising of the United States flag in American Samoa, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

##### H. RES. 443

*Whereas the people of American Samoa have inhabited Tutuila and the Manu'a Islands for at least 3,000 years and developed a unique and autonomous seafaring and agrarian culture, governing themselves through their own form of government;*

*Whereas in 1722, Dutch explorer Jacob Roggeveen became the first European to sight—but not land on—the shores of the Samoan Islands, islands which remained isolated for another 46 years because Roggeveen miscalculated their location;*

*Whereas in 1768, French explorer Louis Antoine de Bougainville, the second European to sight the Samoan islands, became so impressed with the sailing skills of the natives he named the islands "L'Archipel des Navigateurs," and for generations thereafter the entire Samoan island group was known to the Western World as the "Navigator Islands";*

*Whereas in 1787, Frenchman Jean Francois La Perouse landed on the shores of these islands and thus began the "opening" of Samoa to the West, with American whalers as the principal group to engage the people of Samoa in trade and commerce, followed from 1830 on by English missionaries;*

Whereas in 1839, as part of a congressionally authorized trip to the Pacific, United States Navy commander Charles Wilkes visited the island of Tutuila and later reported favorably in support of establishing a structured relationship between the island and the United States;

Whereas on March 2, 1872, Richard Meade, commander of the U.S.S. Narragansett, visited Pago Pago, and, on his own responsibility, made an agreement with High Chief Mauga entitled "Commercial Regulations, etc.," which was submitted to, but never ratified by, the Senate;

Whereas on February 13, 1878, a "treaty of friendship and commerce with the people of Samoa" was proclaimed ratified;

Whereas on June 14, 1889, a treaty known as the General Act of 1889, between the United States, Germany, and Great Britain, and assented to by the Samoan Government, "to provide for the security of the life, property and trade of the citizens and subjects of their respective Governments residing in, or having commercial relations with the Islands of Samoa," was concluded and later ratified;

Whereas on December 2, 1899, a tripartite treaty between the United States, Germany, and Great Britain, which provided for the division of the several islands of Samoa, was signed by the three parties in Washington, D.C.;

Whereas on April 17, 1900, by treaty of cession, the traditional chiefs of the South Pacific Islands of Tutuila and Aunu'u agreed to become a part of the United States in return for protection of their land and culture, and the United States flag was raised on what is now known as the United States Territory of American Samoa;

Whereas on July 14, 1904, by treaty of cession, His Majesty the King of Manu'a and his traditional chiefs from the Islands of Ta'u, Ofu, and Olosega, agreed to become part of the United States in return for the protection of their land and culture;

Whereas since that time, the residents of American Samoa have been proud of their affiliation with this great Nation and have demonstrated their loyalty and patriotism in countless ways;

Whereas April 17 is known as Flag Day in American Samoa and is the biggest holiday in the territory, and is celebrated not only in American Samoa, but throughout the United States wherever there is a sizable Samoan community;

Whereas American Samoans in Hawaii, California, Nevada, Utah, Alaska, Washington, and other parts of the United States pause each year on this important date to celebrate this monumental occasion in American Samoa's history;

Whereas the per capita rate of enlistment in the Armed Forces among American Samoans is among the highest in the United States, with hundreds of American Samoans enlisting annually;

Whereas for decades American Samoa served as a Naval coaling station for United States ships in the Pacific, providing the Nation with what is commonly referred to as the best deep-water harbor in the entire Pacific—a harbor where American ships are protected from severe and sudden tropical storms by natural, high, sloping mountains—a harbor which, in the Nation's youth, served as a critical and crucial refueling and replenishing port for military and commercial interests, enabling the United States to pursue its foreign and commercial policies, logistically unrestrained, throughout the Asian Pacific region;

Whereas during World War II, American Samoa was the staging point for 30,000 United States Marines involved in the Pacific theater, with American Samoans serving both as hosts and as fellow soldiers to these Marines via the revered Fita Fita Guard;

Whereas American Samoa was the first land astronauts from numerous Apollo missions came to upon returning to Earth—including astronauts from Apollo 10, Apollo 12, Apollo 13, Apollo 14, and Apollo 17;

Whereas American Samoa produces more National Football League players per capita than any other State or territory of the United States, with approximately 15 Samoans currently playing professionally;

Whereas April 17, 2000, will mark the 100th anniversary of American Samoa joining in political, military, and economic union with the United States;

Whereas local government leaders in American Samoa have been preparing for this centennial celebration for the last three years; and

Whereas although 100 years have elapsed since the formation of this mutually beneficial relationship, American Samoans today—as did their forebears in 1900—remain deeply thankful and appreciative of the benefits they have received and continue to receive as a result of the unique relationship American Samoa shares with this great Republic, and they are proud that in return for the benefits received under this relationship, they actively contribute economically, militarily, and culturally to the health and well-being of this great Nation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the historical significance of the centennial of the raising of the American flag over the United States Territory of American Samoa;

(2) acknowledges 100 years of American Samoa's loyalty and service to the United States; and

(3) reaffirms its commitment to the United States citizens and nationals of American Samoa for improved self-governance, economic development, and the expansion of domestic commerce, consistent with the desires of the people of American Samoa.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. DOOLITTLE) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. DOOLITTLE).

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

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the resolution offered by the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA), which commemorates the centennial of the raising of the United States flag over our South Pacific territory. The resolution also memorializes the long-term United States-American Samoa relationship and reaffirms the United States support for improved self-governance and economic self-sufficiency.

The people of American Samoa have been loyal to the United States for the past century. I believe this resolution is one way to recognize their consistent loyalty, and I urge all Members to approve the resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. DOOLITTLE) for his

management of this legislation. Mr. Speaker, April 17, 2000 marked the 100th anniversary of the first raising of the U.S. flag in the territory that has since become known as American Samoa. As best we can determine, it was some 3,000 years ago that my ancestors first set foot on the Samoan Islands. As you know, Polynesian navigators did not use satellite navigation, or even sextants to guide them.

They found their way across the vast Pacific by following the stars, the winds, and the seas. In 1768, the French explorer by the name of Louis Antoine de Bougainville, the second European to sight the Samoan Islands, became so impressed with the sailing skills of the Samoans that he named the islands L'Archipel des Navigateurs. For generations thereafter, the entire Samoan Island group was known to the Western world as the "Navigator Islands."

Captain Cook once made the remark that he had never been more impressed with the fact that from as far North as the Hawaiian Islands, and as far south as Aotearoa, New Zealand, and as far East as Rapa Nui or the Easter Islands that the settlements were made by Polynesians. I might also note, Mr. Speaker, with all due respect, Columbus got lost trying to find the new world and mistakenly named the native inhabitants of the Islands of the Caribbeans as Indians, because he thought he landed in India. At the time of Columbus, we were transversing the islands of Oceania—islands that are thousands of miles apart but that form the base of our culture and our traditions.

We had to be good navigators, Mr. Speaker, because Samoa is truly in the middle of the South Pacific Ocean. It is so remote that Europeans did not sight the islands until 1722. It is said that the Dutch explorer, Jacob Roggeveen, first sighted the Samoan Islands. I note here, Mr. Speaker, he did not discover the islands. He just sighted the islands because we were there already. Ironically, though, he miscalculated the location of the islands and they were not seen by another European for another 40 years. Even still, the experts did not believe it was possible for my ancestors to sail the great distances needed to travel between Samoa, the islands of Tahiti, the islands of Tonga, and the islands of Hawaii. But, as so often happens, the experts were proven wrong.

In 1987, Mr. Speaker, I played a small part in demonstrating how my ancestors traveled between the island groups when I sailed on the voyaging canoe Hokule'a. Our navigator for this voyage was a native Hawaiian by the name of Nainoa Thompson, probably our first Polynesian navigator in about 300 to 400 years. Mr. Speaker, he led us unerringly from French Polynesia to the islands of Hawaii using no modern navigational equipment. We were guided only by the winds and the seas and

the stars. We ate the fruits of the sea and drank what the good Lord provided through rain.

Today, Mr. Speaker, the experts have reconsidered and Polynesia is once again experiencing a renewal of culture and tradition. You might be interested in knowing that the first real links between Samoa and the United States began as early as 1839, when, as part of a congressionally authorized trip, a U.S. Naval lieutenant by the name of Charles Wilkes visited the island of Tutuila and later reported favorably in support of an establishment of a structured relationship between the islands of Tutuila and the United States.

It was 39 years later before a treaty of friendship and commerce with the people of Samoa was proclaimed ratified. For the next 20 years, there were disagreements between the United States, Germany, and Great Britain over the administration of the Samoa Islands. The three countries tried a condominium approach of administrations set forth in the treaty known as the General Act of 1889, but the effort failed miserably.

In December 1899, a tripartite treaty between these same three countries divided the several islands of Samoa and the agreement was signed in Washington, D.C. Four months later, on April 17, 1900, by treaty of cession, the traditional chiefs of the islands of Tutuila and Aunu'u agreed to become a part of the United States in return for protection of their land and culture, and the United States flag was raised on what is now known as the United States Territory of American Samoa.

□ 1130

In 1904, again by treaty of cession, His Majesty, the King of Manu'a, and his traditional chiefs from the islands of Ta'u, Ofu, and Olosega agreed to become part of the United States in return for the protection of their land and their culture.

The United States has honored its end of these agreements, and the Samoan culture remains vibrant and strong in Samoa today. The United States has also protected the territory from foreign invasion when it was threatened in World War II. In fact, Samoa was a major staging area during World War II for U.S. troops.

Samoans have also been active participants in this U.S.-Samoan relationship. In the early years of the relationship, American Samoa served as a naval coaling station for the United States ships in the Pacific. For decades, American Samoa served as a critical refueling and replenishing port for military and commercial interests, enabling the United States to pursue its international and commercial policies.

During World War II, when foreign powers were aggressively expanding spheres of influence in the Pacific, American Samoa was a staging area for

some 30,000 Marines, and American Samoans served also as fellow Marines during World War II. To this day, I continue to receive warm letters from World War II veterans trying to look up a Samoan friend from that period and reminiscing about the warm welcome Samoans provided for them.

American Samoans not only participated in World War II, but in every other conflict the United States has been involved in since World War I, with enlistment rates as high as any State or territory in our Nation.

Our remote location has at times, even in recent decades, been of value to our Nation. Before the space shuttle, astronauts from Apollo 10, 12, 13, 14, and 17 all first set foot on soil in American Samoa before returning home. Our clean air has even been beneficial to our Nation. NASA has conducted laser tests between Earth and the moon from American Samoa, and the National Weather Service maintains in American Samoa one of four stations in the world used to establish how clean air really can be.

Culturally, our songs and dances are known throughout the United States, and our local artists are developing their own following. Athletically, I feel we are up to the best. With a population of only 64,000 people, there are approximately 16 Samoans playing professional football in the United States. I see a growing number of talented teenagers, boys and girls, becoming successfully diverse in a number of sports throughout our country.

Over the last 100 years, American Samoa has moved from a decentralized form of government. Now we have an elected governor and a congressional representative in this great body.

House Resolution 443 recounts the history of American Samoa's historical relationship with our Nation. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Chairman of the Committee on Resources, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), and the senior democrat on the committee, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER), for their support on this legislation and all those colleagues who agreed to be cosponsors.

Samoans are a proud people, and American Samoans are very proud to be part of the United States. We hope we have given to our Nation as much as we have received. The resolution we are considering today recognizes that unique 100-year relationship between the two parties. I am honored to be American Samoa's representative here in the House of Representatives, and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER).

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague for yielding me this time, and I join with my colleagues in congratulating the people of American Samoa.

I support the passage of this resolution, which expresses the sense of the House on the occasion of American Samoa's centennial celebration of the raising of the U.S. flag in their territory. I am delighted to be a cosponsor, and I know many of our colleagues express their support for this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for all of the work that he does in the Congress, not just on behalf of the people of American Samoa and this resolution and so many other activities that he has engaged in, but he also shoulders a large responsibility in our Committee on Resources, both on many, many Native American issues and on our public lands issues, and I thank him for bringing this resolution to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to greet the people of American Samoa with a warm Talofa and offer my support for the passage of H. Res. 443 which expresses the sense of the House of Representatives on the occasion of American Samoa's centennial celebration of raising the U.S. flag in their territory. I am delighted to be a cosponsor to this resolution and congratulate people of American Samoa on their continuing relationship with the United States.

One hundred years ago, the flag of the United States of America was raised on the South Pacific Islands of Tutuila and Aunu'u, what is now widely known as American Samoa. It was an act of friendship and understanding on behalf of the traditional chiefs of those islands that a new relationship with America would be beneficial for their people. For America, the sentiment was mutual.

The warmth and charm of American Samoa was not first witnessed however by Americans. Archeologists estimate that the settlement of the islands that comprise American Samoa occurred six hundred years before Christ. And for the next three thousand years, the inhabitants became stewards of the land and masters of the seas. In 1768, a French explorer was so impressed with the sailing skills of the natives that he named the islands "L'Archipel des Navigateurs" or the Navigator Islands.

In 1785, French navigator Jean Francois La Perouse commanded an expedition to explore the Pacific. Two years later, in 1787, he landed on the shores of the northern coast of Tutuila. This is the first recorded landing of foreigners on the islands of American Samoa. This encounter marked the "opening up" of American Samoa to the outside world and they became regular stops along trade routes of whale products, sandalwood, and beche-de-mer to China.

In 1839, the U.S. began to formally acknowledge the need for a relationship with the islands of Samoa. Recommendations from Navy Commander Charles Wilkes, who visited Samoa, to have a structured relationship with Samoa gave rise to increased visits from the U.S. military. Eventually, in 1878, a "treaty of friendship and commerce" with the people of Samoa was ratified by the U.S. Senate. Thus, the beginnings of America's connection with the people of Samoa were rooted in peace, friendship, and an interest towards improving their economy.

One hundred years ago, on April 17, 1900, this relationship deepened. It is why we are on this floor today—to recognize and celebrate this anniversary with the people of American Samoa. Through a treaty of cession, American Samoa was brought into the American family and has remained a valuable asset to this nation. Their service, sacrifice, and contribution to the continuing experiment of democracy is to be commended. In turn, our nation continues to assist the development of their economy while always being mindful of the importance of tradition and culture to their people.

American Samoan society of years past remains, much as it is today, with the leadership and affairs of the island and people entrusted to elders and high chiefs. They are the politicians and the negotiators for the people. The respect and trust accorded to their elders is an aspect of their culture that has stood the test of time. Despite the influence of westernization, the wisdom and leadership of their elders has kept their culture, traditions, and language intact.

As members of our American family, men and women of American Samoa have served in our military, contributed to the cultural diversity of our American community, and they continue to play a part in the political discourse of our nation. As much as American Samoa has enjoyed its relationship with the U.S., we should be equally grateful for their participation in our democracy. Surely, America would not be who she is today without the contributions made from the people of American Samoa.

It is an honor and a personal privilege to join the people of American Samoa in their centennial celebration and I commend them for their demonstrated patriotism throughout the past one hundred years.

I encourage full support from my colleagues for the passage of H. Res. 443.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), the chairman of the House Committee on International Relations, and I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) for his kind comments.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from American Samoa for yielding me this time, and I am pleased to rise in support of the gentleman's resolution celebrating the independence of American Samoa and the raising of the flag, the American flag, over 100 years ago.

American Samoa has been an important outpost for our Nation in many ways. Too often we forget about our Pacific friends as we concentrate on some of the European problems and some of the problems in other parts of the world. The gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) hosted our congressional delegation not too long ago when we all visited, and we had a very warm visit to American Samoa, my first visit, and he helped to educate a number of our Congressmen with regard to the importance of American Samoa.

So I am pleased to join with the gentleman in his resolution, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I certainly would like to thank my colleague, the gentleman from New York, for his kind comments.

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

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DOOLITTLE. 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 H. Res. 443.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EWING). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, permit me to take this opportunity to express my thanks to the gentleman from Alaska, Chairman DON YOUNG, and the gentleman from American Samoa, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, for bringing H. Res. 443, the Centennial Raising of the American Flag in American Samoa, to the floor of the House of Representatives today.

The United States first made contact with the Samoan Islands in 1839 as a part of a congressionally authorized naval expedition to the South Pacific, led by Commander Charles Wilkes. From this expedition a number of agreements and treaties were formed that resulted in President McKinley issuing an executive order on February 19, 1900 placing the Eastern Group of Samoan Islands under the control of the Department of the Navy, establishing the authority of the United States to give the islands protection.

On April 17, 1900 the leaders of the Islands of Tutuila and Anunu'u signed instruments of cession to the United States, and the United States flag was raised at the United States naval station. Roughly four years later the King of Manu'a and the chiefs of the Manu'a Islands that now comprise the easternmost islands of American Samoa signed the last instrument of cession. In 1929 Congress recognized these acts of cession in law and delegated the authority for the administration of the islands to the President of the United States.

As Japan began emerging as an international power in the mid-1930's, the U.S. Naval Station on Tutuila began to acquire new strategic importance. By 1940, the Samoan Islands had become a training and staging area for the U.S. Marine Corps. It was this massive influx of Americans that gave Samoans a sudden taste of the benefits of a modern western society.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 443 recognizes the historical significance of the centennial raising of our flag over the United States Territory of American Samoa and reaffirms our commitment to improved self-governance, economic development and expansion of domestic commerce for the United States citizens and nationals of American Samoa.

One-hundred years later, the flag of our nation remains a beacon of hope to the troubled countries of the South Pacific and stands as a symbol of freedom and justice in the world.

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I

yield back the balance of my time, and urge the Members to support the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. DOOLITTLE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 443, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. 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.

#### POPE JOHN PAUL II CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3544) to authorize a gold medal to be awarded on behalf of the Congress to Pope John Paul II in recognition of his many and enduring contributions to peace and religious understanding, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3544

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Pope John Paul II Congressional Gold Medal Act".

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that Pope John Paul II—

(1) is the spiritual leader of more than one billion Catholic Christians around the world and millions of Catholic Christians in America and has led the Catholic Church into its third millennium;

(2) is recognized in the United States and abroad as a preeminent moral authority;

(3) has dedicated his Pontificate to the freedom and dignity of every individual human being and tirelessly traveled to the far reaches of the globe as an exemplar of faith;

(4) has brought hope to millions of people all over the world oppressed by poverty, hunger, illness, and despair;

(5) transcending temporal politics, has used his moral authority to hasten the fall of godless totalitarian regimes, symbolized in the collapse of the Berlin wall;

(6) has promoted the inner peace of man as well as peace among mankind through his faith-inspired defense of justice; and

(7) has thrown open the doors of the Catholic Church, reconciling differences within Christendom as well as reaching out to the world's other great religions.

#### SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold medal of appropriate design to Pope John Paul II in recognition of his many and enduring contributions to peace and religious understanding.