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REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2506, FOREIGN OPERATIONS EXPORT FINANCING AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

Mr. DIAZ-BALART, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 107-146) on the resolution (H.Res. 199) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2506) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

ON THE FREEDOM SHIP AMISTAD

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

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, a year ago the Mystic Seaport, which is located in my district, constructed and launched a replica of the freedom schooner Amistad. Today, I rise to salute some of the craftsmen and the contractors who participated in the construction of that craft and helped to make it seaworthy.

Most of us know the story of the ship and of its history, which was the subject of a movie by Steven Spielberg. The Amistad was a Spanish schooner traveling the coast of Cuba in 1839 with a cargo of 53 men and women on board, men and women of African origin who had been enslaved. Under the leadership of Joseph Cinque, they rose up against their captors, seized the ship, and attempted to sail back to Africa.

The ship eventually made landfall off of Long Island and was brought to new London, Connecticut, where the Africans were taken prisoner. They eventually went on trial and won their freedom after John Quincy Adams argued their case before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Today, a replica of the Amistad, constructed by the Mystic Seaport, is a living museum of this part of our Nation's history; but we would not have this replica, we would not have this educational tool, if it were not for the hard work of many individuals who donated their time and resources to the enterprise programs, among others.

A notable example of this cooperation are the members of the South eastern Connecticut chapter of the Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors Association who donated over $100,000 of time and resources to install the plumbing, heating and cooling systems as the ship sailed for Mystic Seaport. Under the leadership of Walter Woycik, more than 20 volunteers from 11 Connecticut firms made sure that all the heating, cooling and plumbing equipment was installed and up to the stringent Coast Guard standards. This, in turn, assured that the Amistad can put to sea as a living, working, sailing classroom to teach this important story of our people's struggle for freedom.

What these individuals constructed is more than simply a replica of a ship. The Amistad is a symbol of the struggle for human rights and human dignity, and it is a reminder that all people deserve to be and want to be free. Most importantly, after the Amistad incident, this replica is a symbol of America's values, as spelled out in our Declaration of Independence and in our Constitution, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, and that these include life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

As we celebrate our freedom, let us also thank those volunteers who made possible the construction of this replica of the freedom schooner Amistad.

DEBT RELIEF

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

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I am here tonight to address the issue of debt relief for Africa, particularly as we are on the cusp of considering the fiscal year 2002 foreign operations appropriations bill.

There are many reasons why debt relief is important and critical to the United States. I believe we not only have a moral obligation but an economic imperative to ensure that we share a world that is economically prosperous, educated and healthy. As we have seen in recent years, health and financial problems are not constrained by regional boundaries. That is why I, and many of my colleagues, worked to increase funding in the foreign operations bill for HIV/AIDS and infectious disease programs, debt relief, basic education, child survival, and micro-enterprise programs, among others.

Although details have not been provided, I am pleased to note that President Bush is thinking about innovative ways to address the issue of poverty and debt relief. It was reported he intends to push the World Bank to extend more grants instead of loans to developing countries in a way to reduce their debt burden. I believe this effort is a step in the right direction. However, it demands we remain committed in word and deed to ensuring...
that additional resources are provided to assist in any effort to provide debt relief to countries most in need.

Mr. Speaker, I am a strong advocate for providing resources to developing countries so that the residents will be afforded the same opportunities that we have here in America. Unfortunately, despite our efforts to provide development assistance and debt relief, many countries are crushed under the weight of debt burdens, a burden that profoundly affects the everyday health care and education needs of millions of families and children.

It is heartbreaking to know that approximately seven million children die each year as a result of the debt crisis. Further, more than 2.5 million children died in the year 2000 because debt repayments have diverted money away from lifesaving health care. According to a recent report released by Oxfam International entitled “G–8: Failing the World’s Children,” poor countries are saving $1 billion a year for schools and education, but 16 of the 22 countries that get debt relief still spend more on debt than on health care for their citizens.

The report further emphasizes the role debt burdens have played in exacerbating the education crisis in developing countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. Of the 22 countries who have received debt relief under the Highly Indebted Poor Countries initiative, over half will spend more on debt than on primary education; and two-thirds will spend more servicing their debt than they spend on basic health care.

The report also highlighted the problem in Tanzania, where high school fees are preventing primary aged students from attending school. Although the country would like to get rid of the school fees and provide free universal primary education, they are hindered by their debt.

That is why I am pleased to be here to show my support and emphasize the change that can take place if my colleagues to support the economic livelihood and social well-being of our world’s families and children.

LAUNCH OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE "ATLANTIS"

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, soon after I was appointed the only freshman member of the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics of the Committee on Science, I determined to tour the Kennedy Space Center and witness the launch of a manned mission to space.

Just before dawn on Thursday, July 12, I fulfilled that goal and was left not only with a profound appreciation for those who make our space program work, but also with an enhanced sense of pride in being an American.

We arrived at Cape Canaveral at midnight in the company of 9-year veteran NASA Administrator Daniel Goldin. On the way to the launch site, our group of seven Members of Congress and their staffs was confronted with the sight of the Shuttle Atlantis, just one mile away. The shuttle and booster rockets stood straight up, steaming in the darkness, illuminated by billion-watt searchlights.

With its 18 million pounds of hardware, fuel, and payload, the bright white craft stood, as Astronaut Edward Lu told me that evening, “creaking and steaming like an animal waiting to leap into space.”

Moments later, shortly after 1 a.m., an attack helicopter appeared, Mr. Speaker, and searched the sky for a small white craft that seemed a pillar holding heaven and earth. Flashing red lights and flying guns sweeping the road between the astronauts’ residence building and the A Launch site.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate being afforded this opportunity to speak on this very important issue. I look forward to seeing this bill move through the House so that the positive changes can be made. As such, I urge my colleagues to support the economic livelihood and social well-being of our world’s families and children.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the sound with all its earthshaking force struck our location like a hurricane. The bright blue sky seemed a pillar holding heaven itself. When the vehicle jettisoned its temporary booster rockets the crowd broke into applause, relief and tears. The shuttle climbed, leaving in its wake a sycamore-like column of smoke that seemed a pillar holding heaven itself. When the vehicle jettisoned its temporary booster rockets the crowd broke into applause, relief and tears.

Mr. Speaker, after a burst of light appeared before the gantry way. The moment the main orbiter engines reached the top of the tower, Mr. Speaker, the humid Florida night sky turned as bright as day. The same instant, the sound with all its earthshaking force struck our location like a hurricane. The bright blue sky seemed a pillar holding heaven itself. When the vehicle jettisoned its temporary booster rockets the crowd broke into applause, relief and tears.

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As the light faded and the sky returned to the darkness of night, Atlantis appeared as a red dot disappearing into the Northeast sky. Still visible in the sky, the words “main engine cutoff” on the public address system. The entire crowd broke into applause, relief and tears.

Later that morning I had the honor of speaking to over 100 mission specialists in the Firing Room. I would have called it mission control, but I learned that title belongs in Houston.

I made a few comments to those Purdue graduates on hand and then told all the heroes wearing headsets how the words of the national anthem that morning had struck me. I thanked them for their professionalism, for another safe launch, and for the inspiration which their teamwork and their