UDALL; the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. Tom UDALL); and the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), I formed the Congressional Working Group for Parkinson's Disease. The working group strives to ensure that the Nation's decisionmakers remain ever aware of the needs of the more than one million Americans struggling with the devastating disease of Parkinson's.

Four years ago this Monday, Senator WELLSTONE was successful in adding the Morris K. Udall Parkinson's Research Act as an amendment to the Senate Labor-HHS Appropriations bill. Not surprisingly, the amendment was approved by a vote of 95 to 3.

Named for Arizona Representative Mo Udall to honor his legacy, the Morris K. Udall Parkinson's Research Act was originally introduced on April 9 of 1997. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) were the bill's lead sponsors in the House, and Senator MCCAIN and Senator WELLSTONE were the Senate sponsors. In the 105th Congress, this bill had over 255 cosponsors, and I was proud to be an original cosponsor.

The Udall Act expanded basic and clinical research in Parkinson's disease. It established Udall Centers of Excellence around the country and set up the Morris K. Udall Awards in Parkinson's. One of the 11 Udall Centers is located in the City of New York. The New York group is doing innovative research, including identifying new genes, that when either expressed or suppressed, contribute to the degeneration of key nerve cells. They are investigating gender and ethnic differences in people with Parkinson's disease.

Notably too, Columbia University's Dean of Medicine is the former director of NINDS. We must wholeheartedly support Parkinson's research. The groundbreaking research at the Udall Centers, as well as centers across the country, is leading to a better understanding of the brain and how this disease affects it. The ground-breaking research is the basis on which our nation's public and private sector research efforts will lead to better treatments and, hopefully, a cure for Parkinson's.

In this Congress, I will proudly join the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. MARK UDALL) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. Tom UDALL) and members of the Congressional Working Group for Parkinson's Disease. The Udall Centers could be used as a model for collaboration and coordination of the scientific progress being made. We are very close to a cure for this disease.

As my colleagues may know, this is a personal issue for many of us. Some of my colleagues are struggling with Parkinson's or have family members who are living with this terrible disease. My own father has been afflicted by Parkinson's, and I have seen the impact of this disease firsthand and have spoken to the experts. Professionals at NIH have said that this disease is curable within as little as 15 years. I hope that our government will be part of making this research happen.

Mr. Speaker, an important part of curing Parkinson's disease depends on stem cell research and allowing that research to go forward.

WELCOMING OUTSTANDING WOMEN FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. MILLENGER-MCDONALD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MILLENGER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome 24 outstanding women who represent eight countries on the continent of Africa who have come to the request of the League of Women Voters, which I chair, and of the women of the House, do in order to empower ourselves and empower the women throughout this country.

I am so pleased to welcome my friends from Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. These women represent non-governmental organizations, but are interested in the political process and how they can better serve the people of their respective countries upon their return.

As we all recognize, the League of Women Voters encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. These women have come in that role as advocates to take back with them how we, the 62 women who make up the House of Representatives, function; the types of policies that we pass out of this House.

I happen to serve as the co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues, and I simply told them that to empower themselves is part of the democratic process, and that is to vote, to encourage all of the folks within their countries to vote, to be participatory in the election process, and then to seek the needs of women and families so that they can address those through an advocacy program to follow the needs of those respective constituents, and certainly it will help them to build the base that is necessary to run for office.

Those of us who see women here in the House have not sought to get these seats initially. We were teachers and nurses and social workers and other types of fields of endeavor. But when the need came and when folks in our communities told us that the education systems were broken, that there were so many children who were not insured with health insurance, then we took up the gauntlet, and we began to build a base to run for office.

We encourage not only the women who are here who see this floor, who see this House, the House that receives people from around the globe. Earlier today we welcomed the President of Mexico, Mr. Vicente Fox. We are welcoming them today. We welcome all who come to seek out what we do in the House, the people's House, a House where we pass laws to make the quality of life better for all people.

It has been my pleasure to host them today with the members of the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues, and with women and men Congresspersons who came to welcome them to the House.

Mr. Speaker, I welcome them to this House.

UNITED STATES DECISION TO PULL OUT OF THE UNITED NATIONS WORLD CONFERENCE AGAINST RACISM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Under a previous order of the