

sympathy to the families of Filipino victims of terrorism. H. Con. Res. 273 also affirms the commitment of the United States to the Republic of the Philippines pursuant to the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty, signed on August 30 1951. It is important that we reaffirm our support for that agreement as we work to root out terrorism around the globe, including the operations in the Philippines. This will require our continued recognition of the economic and military needs of the Philippines, and a continued commitment to assist in addressing those needs.

Since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States, the Philippines has been among the most steadfast friends of the United States during a time of grief and turmoil, offering heartfelt sympathy and support. When the United States launched its war of self-defense in Afghanistan on October 7, 2001, Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo immediately announced her Government's unwavering support for the operation, calling it "the start of a just offensive." The Government of the Philippines has made all of its military installations available to the United States Armed Forces for transit, refueling, resupply, and staging operations. This assistance provided by the Philippines has proved highly valuable in the prosecution of the war in Afghanistan as acknowledged by the Commander-in-Chief of United States Forces in the Pacific.

Time and again, the Filipino people have stood with us against enemies of freedom. Not only were they critical allies in World War II, but they provided nearly 400,000 brave and patriotic men for the U.S. military campaign. Filipino Scouts were called into active duty of the United States military, and they defended democracy with honor and courage. They answered the call of duty, fighting side by side with U.S. troops in our hour of need. Many Filipino citizens have since joined the ranks of our military, and served with honor. As we recognize the contributions of the Filipino government today, we must also recall the critical contributions that its people have made to our nation throughout its history. And one way we can do that is by providing Filipino veterans of World War II the benefits available to the U.S. veterans of that conflict. Last year, we made the first major stride in that direction, by providing Filipino veterans who fought with the U.S. disability benefits and access to health care. But we have a long way to go to ensure full benefit equity for these veterans. Time is running out.

One of my top priorities since coming to Congress has been to provide Filipino veterans the benefits they are due for their sacrifice, and I will continue that fight until the job is done. This resolution, which enjoys the overwhelming, bipartisan support of the House, urges continued U.S. assistance for the economic and military needs of the Philippines. I fully endorse that. But I believe that we would be sending a very mixed message if we were to provide that assistance while continuing to ignore the real health care needs of Filipino veterans who served with U.S. forces. History has shown that we pay a heavy price when we enlist the support of allies when we need them, but ignore their needs and challenges in the aftermath. I call

on my colleagues to pass this resolution and to expedite passage of legislation authorizing full veterans' benefit equity for Filipino veterans of World War II.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for H. Con. Res. 273.

Each of these bills sends a strong message. H. Con. Res. 273 appropriately thanks the Philippines our strong ally, for their unwavering support in the current war on international terrorism.

And H.R. 3169, the International Disability and Victims of Landmines, Civil Strife and Warfare Act of 2001 sends a message to Muslims around the world that the United States cares about the people of Afghanistan and want to help in rebuilding their lives.

Landmines have killed more people than nuclear, chemical and biological weapons combined. Today, innocent civilians are threatened by up to 80 million landmines buried in over 80 countries. More than 100,000 Americans have been killed or maimed by these inhumane weapons. The majority of landmine survivors are civilians, often women and children.

In Afghanistan, there are 4–8 million landmines buried throughout the country. Sadly, last Sunday, three U.S. Marines learned about the danger of landmines first hand. They were all wounded when one of them stepped on a mine.

Last September, I, along with 50 of my colleagues, sent a letter to Chairman Regula urging him to restore the \$5 million in funding for the landmine victim assistance partnership between the landmine Survivors network and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

I was happy to learn that \$12 million has been restored and this program will now be able to reach the 26,000 casualties that will happen in just this year alone.

Innocent civilians are threatened by landmines each day. While our Government has worked to help those victims, much more needs to be done.

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, H. Con. Res. 273, reaffirming the important relationship that the United States and the Philippines have shared for more than a century.

The Filipino people have been our friends for many years, and in today's war against terrorism they are one of our most steadfast allies. The Filipino government immediately voices its support for our efforts in Afghanistan and, more importantly, has allowed our armed forces to use its military installations for transit, refueling, resupply, and staging operations that are vital to our success.

Further more, the Filipino people are keenly aware of the destructive nature of terrorism and the necessity of routing this evil from our world. For years, they have lived with the danger of terrorist threats from many groups, including the Communist Party of the Philippines, the New People's Army, and the National Democratic Front. But, no threat is as great as that which they face from the radical Abu Sayaff group, which has ties to Osama bin Laden and the al-Qaeda network.

Abu Sayaff has engaged in bombings, arson, kidnapping, and hundreds of other acts of terrorism with increasing frequency. Earlier this year, in fact, they kidnapped three Amer-

ican citizens along with several Filipinos. They murdered one of those Americans, and the other two remain in captivity to this day. Our Filipino friends have stood by us since the attacks of September 11th, and we should stand by them as they face this same threat.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a friend of the Filipino-American community and I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 273.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEASURES TO BE CONSIDERED UNDER SUSPENSION OF THE RULES ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2001

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the notice requirements of House Resolution 314, I announce that the following measures will be considered under suspension of the rules on Wednesday, December 19, 2001: H.J. Res. 75; H.R. 2739; H.R. 3275; S. 1714; H.R. 2657; H.R. 2199; S. 1762; S. 1793; H. Con. Res. 279; H.R. 3507; and H.R. 1432.

#### HONORING RICK MORGAN

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

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a constituent of mine, Mr. Rick Morgan. I have the pleasure of knowing Rick personally, and I am proud to recognize him because tonight Rick will be carrying the Olympic torch and lighting the cauldron in Charleston, West Virginia.

In service to our country, Rick Morgan has sacrificed much. While attempting to save the life of a Marine during the Vietnam War, he was caught in a land mine explosion that took his left hand and left leg. After the war, Rick returned to his hometown of Charleston, West Virginia, and has worked for the brokerage firm of Salomon Smith Barney for the past 32 years, very successfully. Today, he is the senior vice president of sales.

Rick is an avid swimmer. He bikes, he sails and he skis. His very active life is proof that Rick has the ability to overcome any challenge and any obstacle with which he is faced.

Rick is a steadfast rock of our community. He goes out of his way to help others, serves as an inspiration to his fellow West Virginians. His determined

approach to life is impressive and truly embodies the Olympic spirit.

I cannot imagine anyone more deserving of this privilege of carrying the Olympic torch to our home State of West Virginia. I am honored to commend Rick Morgan and wish him all of the best tonight.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BROWN of South Carolina). 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.

#### TRIBUTE TO SETON HALL COLLEGE NATIONAL EDUCATION CENTER FOR WOMEN IN BUSINESS

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

Mr. MASCARA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the National Education Center for Women in Business at Seton Hall College for 10 years of dedicated service to women entrepreneurs in southwestern Pennsylvania and across this Nation.

The center, located in Greensburg, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, began in the late 1980s as a resource for women launching their own businesses. It offered advice, assisted with business plans and connected aspiring entrepreneurs with small business development centers.

Over the last 10 years, the center has evolved into a nationally recognized one-stop clearinghouse, complete with research, online resources and educational programs for budding entrepreneurs as young as 14.

The center's initiatives include Camp Entrepreneur, which brings together teenagers for a week-long session on entrepreneurial skills; ATHENA PowerLink, which links business professionals with new women-owned businesses; and e-magnify, an on-line business resource center. Since it was launched 20 months ago, more than 1 million visitors from 25 countries have used the e-magnify Web site.

Mr. Speaker, I have some interesting statistics as they relate to the impact women have made on business. Women make up 46.5 percent of the U.S. labor workforce. More than 49 percent of managers and professionals are women, and 12.5 percent of Fortune 500 corporate officers, 4.1 percent of Fortune 500 top earners and 1.2 percent of Fortune 500 CEOs are women.

Furthermore, figures released in April of 2001 show that women-owned firms totaled 5.4 million and generated more than \$819 million in receipts.

Mr. Speaker, I know the entire House of Representatives joins me in com-

mending the National Education Center for Women in Business for helping to increase the number of women business owners.

#### THE IMPORTANCE OF AN ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from California (Mr. Royce) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I will not take 60 minutes in order to lay out my argument for the importance of a stimulus package, but I did want to take a few minutes in order to explain to the Members of this body and to the people of the Nation that the attacks on September 11 were also an attack on our economy. It hit our economy hard.

According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, they do a report, and they found that the U.S. economy constricted in the third quarter after that attack by .4 percent. That is the biggest constriction of economic output in more than a decade. In addition to that, household consumption grew hardly at all and business investment plummeted as a consequence, and most of the data before the September 11 attacks and the fourth quarter could prove to be quite a challenge for the United States unless preventive and decisive action is taken now by this body of Congress.

Congress needs to pass legislation to stimulate the U.S. economy, and it needs to address the issue of providing needed help for those displaced workers who have frankly lost their jobs as a result of this economic contraction. How many Americans have lost their jobs? The latest estimate was 800,000. Eight hundred thousand Americans have lost their jobs since President Bush called for an economic stimulus package, and we heeded that call on the House of Representatives side.

We passed an economic stimulus bill quickly over to the Senate in order to promote job creation, in order to help displaced workers, and since that time, the other body has failed to act.

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According to the Council of Economic Advisers, the bipartisan framework that we are trying to push for the stimulus bill would save 300,000 American jobs that otherwise would be lost. For months important legislation, however, over in the Senate has been stalled. It has been delayed. It has been sidetracked. The holidays are upon us now; time is running out. A majority of the Senate, frankly, is on record saying that they support the President's bipartisan framework for job creation and displaced worker assistance, but it is time for the Senate leadership to act.

There have been some new concessions last week from the White House, and I think that indicates that President Bush is willing to go a long way in compromising with the Senate, and the reason he is willing to do that I believe is because he wants to help our economy. In the meantime, what is the Senate leadership doing?

There on the other side of this building we see a push for simply more and more spending. Earlier this week the President proposed to break through the logjam over the economic stimulus bill. Key elements of the bipartisan framework proposed by the President include the following: tax cuts for low- and middle-income workers; providing tax rebate payment of up to \$600 to low-income families struggling to make ends meet; lowering the 27 percent tax rate to 25 percent because that would provide 36 million hard-working American taxpayers with tax relief, and that would create more economic activity.

Lowering the 27 percent tax rate, as a matter of fact, would provide relief to 10 million small business owners, and that would help in business expansion. Allowing all businesses to immediately deduct 30 percent of the cost of new investments for 3 years, in other words, speeding up that depreciation that businesses are able to take if they buy new equipment, well, that significantly reduces the cost of new business investment. It creates a climate where businesses go out and purchase new equipment. So particularly in capital-intensive sectors such as in manufacturing and in telecommunications, this provision is very important.

So we have in that bill a lot of provisions that would create economic activity, would create jobs. At the same time, the bill has relief for displaced workers. It provides an additional 13 weeks of unemployment assistance to workers who have been laid off since the recession began last March.

These extended benefits would be financed completely by the Federal Government, and the Federal Government basically would turn over to the States \$4 billion in Federal aid to expand benefits to additional displaced workers such as part-time workers, and it would provide \$3 billion in national emergency grants. Because they would go through an existing program, these funds would be available immediately to help workers. It would be done in a matter of weeks, if we could get the Senate leadership to move this bill.

Helping unemployed workers keep their health insurance by providing an innovative new tax credit up to \$3,500 a year would also be helpful. Workers would be able to keep their health insurance regardless of whether or not they have COBRA under the bill. And the bill would be speeding relief to workers by cutting red tape. Unlike some proposals considered by the Senate, the President's framework does