

women's rights in the U.S., but also in the international arena.

She has touched many lives through her instrumental work on improving child care, housing projects, and career and educational programs that embody the principles of self-reliance.

I want to commend Dr. Height for her work to better people's lives through her commitment to fight for human rights as well as uphold justice, equality, and freedom throughout the world. Thank you Dr. Height for your tremendous work. You are a living legacy.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to join with my colleagues in passing House Resolution 55, honoring Dr. Dorothy Irene Height as an activist and crusader for human rights. Dr. Height has dedicated her life to serving her community. She has affected great change in the areas of women's empowerment, social welfare, economic development, and civil and human rights.

She has been a tireless advocate, working for decades on behalf of socially and economically disadvantaged communities. And she is perhaps most notable because she understands the diversity of this country and our world, utilizing a collaborative leadership style, to bring people of different cultures together for mutual benefit. She is a true leader in the struggle for equality and social justice.

Dr. Dorothy Irene Height is truly an amazing individual, for whom I have a great deal of admiration and respect.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 55.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE MADE BY 28 UNITED STATES SOLDIERS KILLED DURING OPERATION DESERT STORM

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 39) honoring the ultimate sacrifice made by 28 United States soldiers killed by an Iraqi missile attack on February 25, 1991, during Operation Desert Storm, and resolving to support appropriate and effective theater missile defense programs.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 39

Whereas, during Operation Desert Storm, Iraq launched a Scud missile at Dhahran, Saudi Arabia early in the evening of February 25, 1991;

Whereas one Patriot missile battery on a Dhahran airfield was not operational and another nearby battery did not track the Scud missile effectively;

Whereas the Scud missile hit a warehouse serving as a United States Army barracks in

the Dhahran suburb of Al Khobar, killing 28 soldiers and injuring 100 other soldiers;

Whereas the thoughts and prayers of the Congress and the country remain with the families of these soldiers;

Whereas this single incident resulted in more United States combat casualties than any other in Operation Desert Storm and since;

Whereas Scud missile attacks paralyzed the country of Israel during Operation Desert Storm;

Whereas the Patriot missile batteries, which were used in Operation Desert Storm for missile defense, were not originally designed for missile defense;

Whereas the United States and our allies still have not fielded advanced theater missile defenses;

Whereas missile technology proliferation makes missile attacks on United States forces increasingly possible; and

Whereas February 25, 2001, is the 10th anniversary of the Scud missile attack which caused the deaths of these brave soldiers who died in service to their country: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) on behalf of the American people, extends its sympathy and thanks to the families of Specialist Steven E. Atherton, Corporal Stanley Bartusiak, Specialist John A. Boliver, Jr., Sergeant Joseph P. Bongiorno III, Sergeant John T. Boxler, Specialist Beverly S. Clark, Sergeant Allen B. Craver, Corporal Rolando A. Delagneau, Specialist Steven P. Farnen, Specialist Duane W. Hollen, Jr., Specialist Glen D. Jones, Specialist Frank S. Keough, Specialist Anthony E. Madison, Specialist Steven G. Mason, Specialist Christine L. Mayes, Specialist Michael W. Mills, Specialist Adrienne L. Mitchell, Specialist Ronald D. Rennison, Private First Class Timothy A. Shaw, Specialist Steven J. Siko, Corporal Brian K. Simpson, Specialist Thomas G. Stone, Specialist James D. Tatum, Private First Class Robert C. Wade, Sergeant Frank J. Walls, Corporal Jonathan M. Williams, Specialist Richard V. Wolverton, and Specialist James E. Worthy, all of whom were killed by an Iraqi missile attack on February 25, 1991, while in service to their country; and

(2) resolves to support appropriate and effective theater missile defense programs to help prevent attacks on forward deployed United States forces from occurring again.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Concurrent Resolution 39.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, 10 years ago 2 days ago on Sunday, February 25, the largest

loss of American life in military conflict in the last 10 years took place in Desert Storm as a group of American soldiers were involved in setting up an operation to support Operation Desert Storm. Unfortunately, a Scud missile was launched by Saddam Hussein's units into the barracks, and as a result, 28 young Americans were killed and 99 others were seriously injured.

Today we offer this resolution jointly as a bipartisan memorial to these brave individuals. I am pleased to be the original cosponsor with our good friend, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA), whose district half of these brave young Americans resided in.

We are also pleased to have the distinguished ranking member of the Committee on Armed Services with us, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON), who is one of the sponsors of this legislation, and our good friend, the gentleman from El Paso, Texas (Mr. REYES).

Mr. Speaker, what a tragedy this was as 28 young Americans were snuffed out in the prime of their lives because of Saddam Hussein's attack on them in a cowardly manner, without any forewarning. In fact, it was 8:40 p.m. on February 25 when parts of a Scud missile destroyed the barracks housing members of the 14th Quartermaster Detachment in the single most devastating attack on U.S. forces during that war. Ninety-nine others were seriously injured. The 14th Quartermaster Detachment from Pennsylvania lost 13 soldiers and suffered 43 wounded. Casualties were evacuated to medical facilities in Saudi Arabia and Germany. The 14th, which had been in Saudi Arabia only 6 days, suffered the greatest number of casualties of any allied unit during Operation Desert Storm. Eighty-one percent of the unit's 69 soldiers had been killed or wounded.

During the ensuing 10 years, Mr. Speaker, a number of significant events have taken place to honor the memory of these brave individuals.

Tonight we pay special recognition on the 10th anniversary to Specialist Steven Atherton, 26 years old; Specialist John Boliver, 27 years old; Sergeant Joseph Bongiorno, III, 20 years old; Sergeant John Boxler, 44 years old; Specialist Beverly Clark, 23 years old; Sergeant Allen Craver, 32 years old; Specialist Frank Keough, 22 years old; Specialist Anthony Madison, 27 years old; Specialist Christine Mayes, 22 years old; Specialist Stephen Siko, 24 years old; Specialist Thomas Stone, 20 years old; Specialist Frank Walls, 20 years old; Specialist Richard Wolverton, 22 years old, all from the 14th Detachment.

From other units: Corporal Stanley Bartusiak, 34 years old; Corporal Rolando Delagneau, 30 years old; Specialist Steven Farnen, 22 years old; Specialist Glen Jones, 21 years old;

Specialist Duane Hollen, Jr., 24 years old; Specialist Steven Mason, 23 years old; Specialist Michael Mills, 23 years old; Specialist Adrienne Mitchell, 20 years old; Specialist Ronald Rennison, 21 years old; Private First Class Timothy Shaw, 21 years old; Corporal Brian Simpson, 22 years old; Specialist James Tatum, 22 years old; Private First Class Robert Wade, 31 years old; Corporal Jonathan Williams, 23 years old; and Specialist James Worthy, 22 years old.

Mr. Speaker, tonight we pay a special tribute to these brave Americans who paid the ultimate price and made the supreme sacrifice on behalf of their country. But Mr. Speaker, the outrage is that 10 years later America still has not yet deployed a highly effective theater missile defense system to protect our troops from further attacks of this type.

Mr. Speaker, that is a national embarrassment and a national disgrace, that 10 years after we had the largest loss of life from the military forces of this country in a Scud attack, a low-complexity Scud attack, we still have not deployed the highly effective system to protect our troops from further attacks of this type.

Mr. Speaker, we must do better. I ask our colleagues to join with us in this battle for effective missile defense.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I do appreciate this, and I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 39. This bill is cosponsored by my two friends, the gentlemen from Pennsylvania, Mr. MURTHA and Mr. WELDON. I compliment the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) on his efforts.

□ 1530

This bill honors the 28 American soldiers who were killed by an Iraqi SCUD missile on February, 25, 10 years ago, 1991, during the Persian Gulf War. This missile attack caused more United States casualties than any other single incident during the conflict, and it is altogether fitting that we pay tribute to those who gave their lives for their country as a result of this attack. It is particularly poignant when nearly all of those killed come from the single unit, from a single geographic region, in a single State, in this case, the State of Pennsylvania.

I might add that those 28 young Guardsmen all left families, all suffered the pain and anxiety of loss of a loved one.

Mr. Speaker, if I may, I well remember experiencing a family going through that same agony. In April of 1941, Fort Hood, Texas, I was present when the parents of a young soldier named Cooper were presented a Silver Star posthumously as this young Co-

oper, as on that same occasion of Desert Storm, threw himself on top of a downed American soldier and incoming artillery shell killed him.

So I understand. My sympathy goes out to the families.

At this time, though, I would add, Mr. Speaker, that recognizing those specific ones that are mentioned here, or the ones that I mentioned, in no way diminishes the honor or the reverence that we hold for the other service members who were killed or were wounded during Operation Desert Shield or Operation Desert Storm.

I publicly extend the same sympathy and thanks to all the families of those who lost loved ones during the Persian Gulf War. This is not just a commemoration, Mr. Speaker. By adopting this resolution, we resolve to support appropriate and effective theater missile defense so American forces deployed forward will not be vulnerable to similar missile attacks in the future.

Improving our theater missile defense capability is and should be an integral part of our weapons modernization effort.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to report that since the Persian Gulf War, we have fielded the next generation of Patriot missiles known as PAC-3, and we are rapidly developing the Medium Extended Air Range Defense System which is known as MEADS. As a result, our forces today are far better prepared to defend against the theater missile attack than it was during the 1991 conflict.

These efforts have enjoyed strong support on both sides of the aisle. This is a good bill. It honors outstanding Americans. It proposes a sound policy.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) and I thank the gentleman for yielding the time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of this.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES).

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) for yielding me the time and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON).

Mr. Speaker, it is with a great sense of loss that I rise to remember the 28 U.S. soldiers who sacrificed their lives on the evening of February 25, 1991 when a Scud missile hit and destroyed the converted warehouse where they were housed.

These men and women, most from the 14th Quartermaster Detachment, an Army Reserve unit from Greensburg, Pennsylvania, had answered the call and were serving their Nation when and where they were needed.

Although our air defenders tried valiantly to use the Patriot system to protect our soldiers and our allies during the Gulf War, that system was simply not designed for missile defense.

Since then, however, we have made great strides in the Patriot program and are nearly ready to deploy the advanced Patriot system called PAC-3. The PAC-3 system is proven to engage and destroy ballistic missiles like Scuds. If this missile system had been in our inventory 10 years ago, it could have prevented this Scud missile tragedy.

Mr. Speaker, while we still have a long way to go to ensure the safety, both here and abroad, from short-range ballistic missiles like Scuds and from the expanding threat of longer-range ballistic missiles like the No Dong missile. I believe we must continue to field the PAC-3 system throughout the Patriot force as quickly as possible.

We must continue our support for programs like THAAD, MEADS, and our Navy theater missile defense program.

While in war-time, no system guarantees security. This, I find, would be one of the best tributes to these 28 U.S. soldiers that we would never run that risk again, simply by paying tribute to them through prudent and careful exercising of deployment of the PAC-3 system.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to rise and acknowledge and support the comments of my colleagues and say that we are making progress. I fully support the PAC-3, the MEADS program which we are doing cooperatively with Italy and Germany is moving along.

We have had tremendous success with the Arab program with Israel, and we are now beginning discussions with our European friends and even our Middle Eastern friends and our Far East Asia friends on how to promote effective missile defense.

But I have to underscore the fact, Mr. Speaker, that missiles are the weapon of choice of tyrants and dictators. Many of our colleagues talk about the threats coming from a weapon of mass destruction or coming from the illegal use of computer systems, and my colleagues and I have been the first to acknowledge that they are real threats, the threats of chemical, biological or nuclear attacks or the threats posed by a cyberattack on our SMART systems. But the fact remains that the weapon of choice of tyrants is the missile.

When Saddam Hussain chose to rain terror in Israel, he did not pick suitcase bombs. He did not pick chemical or biological agents. He picked the missiles to rain terror in Israel to which they could not properly defend themselves against.

When Saddam Hussain decided to take out American soldiers, it was a Scud missile he chose, a low-complexity Scud missile. He snuffed out 28 young lives, 6 days after they arrived.

These were young people who were mothers and sisters and sons and fathers. They were volunteer firefighters, and they were local businesspeople who were called up as reservists to serve the country. Yet America was not able to provide the level of protection against those missiles.

Today, Mr. Speaker, over 70 nations in the world have missiles that pose direct threats to our troops, our allies, and the people of America.

Over 22 Nations today, Mr. Speaker, are building missiles and have the capability of building enhanced missiles. In fact, Mr. Speaker, that Scud missile that was used 10 years ago has been enhanced three and four times by the North Koreans, by the Iranians, and by the Iraqis. In fact, Iran is now working on a medium-ranged missile that will soon threaten all of Israel.

The growth in the threat of these missiles has been unbelievably aggressive. In fact, just since last September, when President Clinton made a decision on our National Missile Defense Program, September 21, Iran tested a brand-new Shehab 3 missile. The Shehab 3 missile is a couple of steps above the Scud missile that killed our troops in Desert Storm.

On September 24, Libya received its first 50 Nodongs. The Nodong is an enhanced version of the Scud missile. Now Libya has at least 50 of these missiles. In October, Russia tested mobile and silo-based TOPOL MICBMs with a 6200 nautical mile range. In November, China conducted tests, their second tests of the DF31. That test also included decoys in the warhead.

In January, India conducted a second Agni test, another theater missile.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, around the world, the threat of offensive missiles remains very real and very dangerous.

As we honor these brave Americans tonight, as we honor and pay respects to not only what they did, but to their families for the sacrifice that they made in having one of their loved ones stand up for America at a time of need, and have their life snuffed out in the process, it is absolutely essential that this House go on record as saying with their votes that we want our government and our military to continue the work that people like the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA) and Members on our side have been proposing.

Aggressive theater missile defense systems that can protect our troops and moving forward with missile defense programs that can protect America and our allies, that is the least we can do, Mr. Speaker, on this the anniversary of the loss of these brave Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for joining with us. I thank the gen-

tleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) for his outstanding leadership on behalf of the Nation's warriors and patriots.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, first I want to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) for working so well and putting this bill before us. It is a fitting tribute to those young Americans that died 10 years ago in Desert Storm. I hope it is some solace to those families and not just to those families but to the other families who lost loved ones in that conflict. America is great, as Tocqueville once wrote, because America is good. And America was there in the Persian Gulf because we stood for good values.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) for offering this resolution, because it does reflect the best that comes from America.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my genuine sympathy to the families of U.S. service members killed in Saudi Arabia in 1991.

I too honor their sacrifice. The greatest tribute we could provide to these brave men and women is to work for nuclear disarmament and world peace.

Nuclear proliferation is a real danger today. That is why I believe it is imperative that the United States abide by its own treaties and the principles of nonproliferation.

The proposed missile defense systems will increase the nuclear threats we face, not diminish them.

We should not spend billions of dollars on an unworkable missile system, when we have real security needs that must be met, when we have soldiers on food stamps, when we have gulf-war veterans denied badly needed medical care, and when we face such serious healthcare, educational, and housing problems here at home that undermine both the general welfare of the country and our common defense.

I join my colleagues in expressing our sympathy to the families of those killed in 1991. My hope is that we do not put any more men and women in harm's way. I must oppose any missile system that makes the world a more dangerous place.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 39, a bill to honor the sacrifices of Operation Desert Storm. I urge my colleagues to join in supporting this worthwhile legislation.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of Operation Desert Storm, a military operation undertaken by a United States-led coalition to drive Saddam Hussein's Iraqi Army out of Kuwait. This objective was achieved decisively with a minimum of allied casualties.

Regrettably, however, no military action occurs without some losses, and while the number of United States deaths during Desert Storm was low, that does nothing to detract

from the 299 servicemembers who gave their lives in defeating Iraq.

One incident in particular stands out from the conflict. On February 25, 1991, Iraqi forces launched a Scud missile at the city of Dhahran in Saudi Arabia. The missile struck a warehouse which was serving as a U.S. Army barracks in the suburb of Al Khobar, killing 28 soldiers and injuring 100 others. This incident resulted in more U.S. combat casualties than any other in Operation Desert Storm, or in subsequent operations.

This concurrent resolution expresses the sense of Congress on behalf of the American people extending its sympathy and thanks to the families of the 28 soldiers who were killed in that attack. It further resolves to support appropriate and effective missile defense programs to help prevent a similar unnecessary loss of lives from occurring again. Had a more effective missile defense system been in place on that February night in 1991, in all likelihood those 28 Americans would have survived.

It is fitting that we honor those soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country, as we are doing today. The best way for us to honor their sacrifice is to ensure that history does not repeat itself in any future war. For this reason, we should rededicate ourselves to the task of developing and deploying an effective theater missile defense system. Once this has been accomplished, future generations of young Americans will be safer in regional military conflicts.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to join in supporting this resolution.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 39.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. WELDON. 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.

CONTINUATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY RELATING TO CUBA AND OF EMERGENCY AUTHORITY RELATING TO THE REGULATION OF THE ANCHORAGE AND MOVEMENT OF VESSELS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 107-47)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee