

As a private organization, the Boy Scouts may exclude individuals from membership based on their sexual orientation, religion, or gender. I disagree with that decision, but it is their right.

But I oppose a resolution commending any part of our government—even the Department of Defense—for supporting the Boy Scouts or any other organization that promotes active discrimination.

The author of this resolution may be concerned that courts are calling into question the appropriateness of the support the Department of Defense provides to the Boy Scouts. I hope the courts do move forward to end this explicit government support of discrimination. We should do that here in Congress, but instead my Republican colleagues are trying to hinder the courts from enforcing civil rights.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, today I voted against H. Con. Res. 6, because I am disappointed with the Boy Scouts of America's exclusionary policies that prevent gay boys and teens from participating in scouting. While the Boy Scouts' positive work within our Nation's communities is notable, the message that the organization sends to gay youth by shutting them out diminishes its greater goals of teaching respect, personal honor, and service.

It is important to encourage and support all of our children and by excluding gay youth the Boy Scouts of America is preventing some young men from experiencing the positive benefits Scouting can offer.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I have long admired the services of the many Boy Scout volunteers and have benefited from the organization myself. It is sad that their good works have been clouded by a policy that governs who can participate in the organization. Until the organization changes that policy, I do not feel comfortable voting for resolutions such as this.

I look forward to the day the Boy Scouts of America can better represent their communities by extending membership to all persons who abide by the Boy Scout creed.

Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 6—Sense of Congress that the Department of Defense should continue its support of the Boy Scouts of America.

I rise as a life-long member of the Scouts, and a proud Eagle Scout.

This week marks the 95th anniversary of the incorporation of the Boy Scouts of America. Madam Speaker, the Boy Scouts stand for something—they stand for what we want all young Americans to be.

To be Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful and Friendly.

There are not many organizations, Madam Speaker, that stand for the same values and principles today that they did at the time of their founding or incorporation. The Boy Scouts of America are not an organization that has changed its core values in order to maintain a sense of political correctness in an age of vanishing values.

There are not many organizations that exist today, like the Boy Scouts of America that are willing to stand up and tell young men that they should strive to be:

Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful,

Thrifty, Brave, Clean and Reverent.

Those are the principles of the Boy Scout Law. And it is my sense, and I believe the sense of my constituents and those of the rest of America, that Congress continue to support the Boy Scouts of America.

The Boy Scouts will be gathering this summer at Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia, and Congress should resolve to encourage in strong terms that the Department of Defense continue its support of the Scouts today, for the coming national jamboree, and in the future.

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Boy Scouts of America and their right to congregate in facilities such as military bases. It has been a long tradition within the organization that the Scouts work hand in hand with local communities which includes cooperation with agencies such as the Armed Forces. The Boy Scouts of America have been promoting courage, self-reliance, and family virtues throughout this country for almost a century.

The Boy Scouts have always held a special place in my heart because in 1951, my father started Boy Scout Troup 108—the first Boy Scout organization in Westminster, SC. As a matter of fact, one of the first service projects of this troop was to raise the American Flag over the Westminster Post Office. We see Boy Scout troops perform similar patriotic acts throughout the country yet some have threatened to deny them the right to come together on our military bases. That just doesn't make sense.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in showing support for an organization that has done countless good deeds in each of our communities and pass H. Con. Res. 6.

Mr. HEFLEY. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and encourage everyone to support this resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 6.

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. HEFLEY. Madam 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.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 74) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 74

Resolved, That the following named Members and Delegates be and are hereby elected

to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

(1) COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET.—Ms. Schwartz of Pennsylvania (to rank immediately after Mr. Cuellar).

(2) COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY.—Mr. Smith of Washington, Mr. Van Hollen.

(3) COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY.—Ms. Loretta Sanchez of California, Mr. Markey, Mr. Dicks, Ms. Harman, Mr. DeFazio, Mrs. Lowey, Ms. Norton, Ms. Zoe Lofgren of California, Ms. Jackson-Lee of Texas, Mr. Pascrell, Mrs. Christensen, Mr. Etheridge, Mr. Langevin, Mr. Meek of Florida.

(4) COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT.—Mrs. Jones of Ohio, Mr. Gene Green of Texas, Ms. Roybal-Allard, Mr. Doyle.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 26) honoring the Tuskegee Airmen for their bravery in fighting for our freedom in World War II, and for their contribution in creating an integrated United States Air Force.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 26

Whereas the United States is currently combating terrorism around the world and is highly dependent on the global reach and presence provided by the Air Force;

Whereas these operations require the highest skill and devotion to duty from all Air Force personnel involved;

Whereas the Tuskegee Airmen proved that such skill and devotion, and not skin color, are the determining factors in aviation;

Whereas the Tuskegee Airmen served honorably in the Second World War struggle against global fascism; and

Whereas the example of the Tuskegee Airmen has encouraged millions of Americans of every race to pursue careers in air and space technology: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that the United States Air Force should continue to honor and learn from the example provided by the Tuskegee Airmen as it faces the challenges of the 21st century and the war on terror.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Con. Res. 26.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.