

I am grateful to acknowledge the chairman of the Government Reform Committee, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS); and his staff, Melissa Wojciak and Michael Layman; and the ranking member, the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN); and his staff, Tanya Shand and Zahava Goldman; the majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY); the minority leader, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI); and 56 Democrats and Republicans, with cosponsors from 23 States.

We have to understand that today, as was pointed out by the gentleman from Nevada, not only do we have the celebration of the culmination of the reading that lasts for 7 years, but immediately we begin to study the very next page starting the cycle again. This sense of renewal is something that brings the Jewish community together. It is a sense of renewal of our spirit, a sense of renewal of our values, and also it is hopefully the time that we renew our commitment to the next generation; that next year Daf Yomi will be even larger and more populated; we will need more stadia, more office buildings, and even more places to join in the celebration.

This is, of course, a tribute to not only Rav Shapiro, who, as was mentioned, at the first World Jewish Congress at the Agudath Israel in Vienna began this program; but it is frankly a tribute to the Agudath Israel movement throughout the world today.

We join in extending congratulations to all of the participants in this program. We join in acknowledging the work of the Agudath Israel of America in particular, and we join in wishing them all good luck, 120,000 students and teachers all across North America in over 40 United States cities. We in the United States Congress join and offer them congratulations, and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this resolution today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to close for our side.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to join with my colleagues, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. PORTER), the gentleman from New York (Mr. WEINER), and the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER), in support of House Resolution 124, honoring Jewish students and teachers on their 7-year completion of the 11th cycle of the daily study of the Talmud.

Mr. Speaker, the Talmud is considered to be an authoritative record of rabbinic discussions on Jewish law, ethics, customs, legends, and stories. The Talmud is comprised of two components, the Mishnah and the Gemara. It expands on earlier writings in the Torah and it is the basis for all later codes of Jewish law and much of rabbinic literature.

Today, we celebrate the conclusion of the 11th cycle of the Daf Yomi, a Jew-

ish tradition that began over 80 years ago. Daf Yomi was created by Polish Rabbi Meir Shapiro in 1923. He wanted to create a way for Jews across the world to unite and study and pray. Daf Yomi does just that, and it also helps Jewish people to reconnect with their faith and to make it part of their daily lives. In order to complete the Daf Yomi, a person must study the Talmud each and every day for 7 years.

Mr. Speaker, I think that everyone, regardless of their faith and beliefs, can appreciate and respect the profound commitment people must make in order to complete such an impressive task. To celebrate this accomplishment, countless people around the world are expected to gather together and to study in unison in the same manner that those we honor today gathered to study.

In the United States alone, thousands of people are expected to celebrate the occasion. I think that the participants and teachers alike deserve a rousing applause from this body for their shared sense of purpose.

I stand in strong support of this resolution and again want to congratulate each and every person who will participate and all of those for whom it will have meaning.

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

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to strongly urge all my colleagues to support the adoption of H. Res. 124.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to show my strong support for the resolution and to congratulate the members of the Jewish community for completion of their 7-year study of the Talmud. I would like to thank Representatives ANTHONY WEINER and JERROLD NADLER for introducing this bill and I would also like to thank the majority and minority leadership for bringing it to the floor in such a timely manner and on the appropriate day.

Today marks the completion of 7 years of dedication, study, and communal learning. First introduced in 1927 at Agudath Israel's first international Congress in Vienna by Polish Rabbi Meir Shapiro "to enhance the sense of unity of Jews worldwide," this practice has become widespread among Jews around the world. It is estimated that in North America alone 120,000 members of the Jewish community will celebrate completion of their 7-year study on this day.

These individuals have demonstrated great determination, both spiritual and physical, in completing this task and they must be honored for such action. According to Daf Hayomi study program each individual will read one page of the 2,711 page Talmud a day. In completing this task they have demonstrated great perseverance and will.

The Talmud is a collection of Jewish laws, ethics, and stories that have been read for over 1500 years. The Completion of the 7-year study cycle demonstrates the commitment of the Jewish community to remain true to their history and origin and remain steadfast

in their beliefs. For this they truly deserve recognition of their work.

The effects of this communal act of study and learning serves to spiritually unify the Jewish community spread throughout the world and rekindle their sense of union. On this day Jews from around the world will unite in celebration at the completion of this daunting task. The 26,000 that are estimated to celebrate in Madison Square Garden is a testament to the unifying power of the Daf Hayomi study program.

This resolution expresses our veneration of this monumental achievement in study, dedication, perseverance, and persistence. Contemporary society and people of all creeds can appreciate it as a testament to the value of learning. I, once again, would like to thank the distinguished members for introducing this important resolution and voice my strong support.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. PORTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 124.

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.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

House Concurrent Resolution 5, by the yeas and nays.

House Concurrent Resolution 63, by the yeas and nays.

ACCEPTANCE OF STATUE OF SARAH WINNEMUCCA FOR NATIONAL STATUARY HALL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the