

should commend his principled commitment to civil rights.

His support for our Nation's Bill of Rights extended to the second amendment. Indeed, for many of us, Charlton Heston's most memorable contribution may have been his fierce advocacy for our right to keep and bear arms. As president of the National Rifle Association, NRA, Mr. Heston famously rallied millions of Americans by holding a rifle over his head and declaring that the Government would take it only "from my cold, dead hands."

When our rights were threatened by the Federal Government, Charlton Heston—the face of the NRA—inspired millions of us. This legacy is lasting. And it never mattered to him that his stance wasn't fashionable with Hollywood elites.

Not until the onset of Alzheimer's disease did Charlton Heston begin to withdraw from public life.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my heartfelt condolences to the Heston family, especially Lydia, his wife of 64 years. They must be proud of Charlton Heston's life, legacy, and contributions. We all are here.

Mr. CLAY. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1091, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF MOTHER'S DAY

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1113) celebrating the role of mothers in the United States and supporting the goals and ideals of Mother's Day.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1113

Whereas Mother's Day is celebrated on the second Sunday of each May;

Whereas the first official Mother's Day was observed on May 10, 1908, in Grafton, West Virginia, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania;

Whereas 2008 is the 100th anniversary of the first official Mother's Day observation;

Whereas in 1908, Elmer Burkett, a U.S. Senator from Nebraska, proposed making Mother's Day a national holiday;

Whereas in 1914, Congress passed a resolution designating the second Sunday of May as Mother's Day;

Whereas it is estimated that there are more than 82,000,000 mothers in the United States;

Whereas mothers have made immeasurable contributions toward building strong families, thriving communities, and ultimately a strong Nation;

Whereas the services rendered to the children of the United States by their mothers have strengthened and inspired the Nation throughout its history;

Whereas we honor ourselves and mothers in the United States when we revere and emphasize the importance of the role of the home and family as the true foundation of the Nation;

Whereas mothers continue to rise to the challenge of raising their families with love, understanding, and compassion, while overcoming the challenges of modern society; and

Whereas May 11, 2008 is recognized as Mother's Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives celebrates the role of mothers in the United States and supports the goals and ideals of Mother's Day.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, with the annual mother's holiday just a few short days away, I am pleased to join in the consideration of H. Res. 1113, which aims to recognize and celebrate the role of mothers in our country by supporting the goals and ideals of Mother's Day.

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H. Res. 1113 was introduced by JEFF FORTENBERRY of Nebraska on April 16, 2008, and was considered and reported from the Oversight Committee on May 1, 2008, by voice vote. Currently, the bill is cosponsored by 54 Members of Congress and provides us all an opportunity to pay tribute to the importance of mothers and motherhood in general.

It was on May 10, 1908, that our country first officially observed Mother's Day. On this day, church services, organized by Mother's Day founder Anna Jarvis in honor of her own recently deceased mother Ann Marie Reeve Jarvis, were held in Grafton, West Virginia, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Following these services, the notion of celebrating motherhood gained a widespread popularity across the Nation leading to the creation of the Mother's Day International Association, which came into being on December 12, 1912, to promote and encourage

meaningful observances of the role of mothers. However, it wasn't until May 9, 1914, that a presidential proclamation was issued that declared the second Sunday of May was to be observed as Mother's Day in America to honor all mothers.

And now, here we are 100 years later and Mother's Day continues to hold a special place in the hearts of countless Americans as they set aside the second Sunday of every May to show their appreciation, love, and gratitude for the role of mothers.

Mr. Speaker, let's also lift our voices in praise and thanks not only for the role in which our own mothers play, but for the contributions the 82.5 million American mothers make on a daily basis for the betterment of their children and the advancement of our country.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to prove to my mother that I am a better son than the gentleman that I need to yield to, given that it's his resolution, Mr. FORTENBERRY. So he gets the prize of being the best son in the Chamber.

I yield the gentleman from Nebraska such time as he may consume.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Let me add parenthetically before I begin that I am sure the gentleman from Connecticut is a fine son as well. But thank you for your kind introduction.

Mr. Speaker, in 1908, the United States Senator from Nebraska, Elmer Burkett, rose before his colleagues to propose that Mother's Day be recognized as a national holiday. Notably, the Senator's proposal was defeated in a maelstrom of sensitivities concerning the role of women in society and the role of the Federal Government in honoring them. However, despite this setback, most States adopted Mother's Day celebrations 2 year after, and in 1914, due in large part to the unceasing dedication of support of a number of persons around the country, including Mrs. Jarvis that Representative CLAY mentioned, Congress passed a resolution declaring the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

President Woodrow Wilson then issued a proclamation directing the flying of the flag as "a public expression of our love and reverence for the mothers of our country." One hundred years later, I now have the honor of rising to renew Senator Burkett's beginning effort to support the goals and ideals of Mother's Day.

Mothers have been celebrated throughout history in many languages, religions, and cultures, yet the practice remains far from antiquated. Few traditions have withstood the test of time as the social celebration of mothers. From its early Egyptian roots to our modern American holiday, the commemoration of mothers is timeless.

We now honor all mothers without debate as to their role in politics or the

Federal justification in doing so because they are mothers and thus make an immeasurable contribution to the very core of our society. Mothers sustain and strengthen our Nation through their leadership in the family and community. Despite the dynamic nature of society, the ability of mothers to rise to the challenge of raising their families, with love and understanding and compassion, remains constant.

As we commemorate mothers for the integral role they play in shaping the course of our Nation's past, present, and future, we also revere and emphasize the importance of the role of the family and the home as the true and ever-present foundation of America.

Each day in Congress, we tirelessly debate the challenges and nuances of maternity with limited time for appropriate philosophical reflection. So, Mr. Speaker, it is refreshing today that we have a resolution as this before us now. This Sunday, I and millions of Americans will thank our mothers who have shaped our lives and our country.

Mr. Speaker, I wish your mother and all mothers a Happy Mother's Day.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume and rise in support of H. Res 1113 supporting the goals and ideals of Mother's Day and to celebrate its 100th anniversary.

This Sunday, May 11, many Americans will take a moment to remember the estimated 82 million mothers for their immeasurable contributions towards building strong families, thriving communities, and frankly, a strong country.

The first Mother's Day was celebrated in Grafton, West Virginia, on May 10, 1908. From there, the custom caught on, quickly spreading to 45 other States. In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson declared the first national Mother's Day as a day for American citizens to show the flag in honor of those mothers whose sons had died in war.

Today, this holiday has grown to include all mothers in times of war and peace. Traditionally, mothers have represented the backbone of families in every culture throughout the world. Mothers are called upon to nurture, teach, and provide guidance to those that have been entrusted in their care. It is their responsibility to raise productive citizens of their communities and ultimately, the world.

As Washington Irving said, "A mother is the truest friend we have, when trials heavy and sudden, fall upon us; when adversity takes the place of prosperity; when friends who rejoice with us in our sunshine desert us; when trouble thickens around us, still will she cling to us, and endeavor by her kind precepts and counsels to dissipate

the clouds of darkness, and cause peace to return to our hearts."

It is that very peace in our hearts which brings us to honor the women we hold dear and to show steadfast support of our mother's love that helps shape us throughout our lives.

For this reason, I urge the passage of H. Res 1113. I thank all mothers, and I thank my mother, Margaret Oliver Shays.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) for bringing this timely resolution to the floor. And also let me wish all of the sisters, mothers, aunts, nieces, grandmothers, and friends Happy Mother's Day this Sunday.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker. I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1113, "Celebrating the Role of Mothers in the United States." I would like to thank my colleague, Congressman JEFF FORTENBERRY of Nebraska, for introducing this heartfelt legislation.

Mr. Speaker, as a Mother myself, I am extremely proud to stand before you on a day recognizing mothers. Mothers are the strongest link in the family chain. She holds the family together, nurturing both child and husband.

I want to thank my own mother and grandmother for their support over the years. I also want to thank all of the mothers who take care of not only their natural children but also the children in the community, the children in foster care, and children overseas.

The annual number of Texas children in foster care has risen steadily in recent years. In November 2003, there were about 16,000 children in foster care and an additional 5,000 in other care, such as kinship care; 2,146 children were served in emergency shelters and homes; 671 children were served in placements outside the foster care system, such as nursing homes, mental health/mental retardation facilities, hospitals and juvenile justice facilities.

In a study by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, which oversees the Department of Family and Protective Services, they stated that Black children stay in foster care significantly longer, are less likely to be reunited with their families, and wait longer for adoption than white or Hispanic children.

They are everybody's children, and nobody's children. They are the forgotten children in the Texas foster care system. Black, White, Hispanic, Asian—they all need the love of a mother, the nurturing of a family, and the support of their community. Some of them find homes with caring foster parents, or in treatment centers with experienced and caring providers. And some do not.

Some foster children have been moved among 30, 40, or even more all-too-temporary "homes." Some have been sexually, physically, and emotionally abused while in the system; some have run away and joined the ranks of the missing. A few have even died at the hands of those entrusted with their care.

The mission of the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services, DPRS, now called the Department of Family and Protective Services, is to protect the unprotected—children,

the elderly and people with disabilities—from abuse, neglect and exploitation. The system responsible for protecting our foster children sometimes is little better than the homes from which they were taken.

Many of these children are not safe, and their futures are uncertain. They didn't ask to be put in foster care, and many endured great suffering before entering the system.

These children need mothers too. They need families. At a time when we are celebrating all that mothers bring, all that grandmothers bring, and all that a real family brings to the upbringing of healthy and successful children; we must remember the children who do not have mothers and we must reach out.

As we near Mother's Day, let me say thank you to all the mothers near and far, in Congress, in my district, and even working in my office. I celebrate you and your children celebrate you. Thank you for all that you do for your children and for the community.

I urge my colleagues to remember not only their mothers but the other women they called mother in their schools, and in their communities. Let's celebrate mothers and H. Res. 1113.

Mr. CLAY. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1113.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL TEACHER DAY

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 952) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that there should be established a National Teacher Day to honor and celebrate teachers in the United States.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 952

Whereas the education of children in the United States is the foundation of the future success of the United States;

Whereas education is critical for the creation of an innovative workforce and for increasing the global competitiveness of the United States;