

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Monday, May 5, 2008

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SERRANO).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 5, 2008.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOSÉ E. SERRANO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

EMERGENCY FUNDING FOR THE WAR IN IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Despite the fact that America has been at war—we are in the sixth year in Iraq—the President is continuing to attempt to hide the true cost to the American people. He is asking Congress to declare an emergency to pay for the troops' salaries, to provide them with body armor, ammunition, and other needs in the war. It is certainly not an emergency. It certainly could have been anticipated, particularly given the fact that he is so stubborn about not setting any plan to get the U.S. out of that quagmire. But, to add insult to injury, the President says the war in Iraq is an emergency, and \$108 billion is what he wants to borrow but not a penny more for domestic emergencies or needs; not a penny more, the President says. He will veto the bill if any of that money is spent here in the United States of America to help Americans' suffering, high gas prices, to help my counties and schools that are losing their Federal money, to help fishermen who have been deprived of their living this year with emergency closures. Those aren't emergencies in George Bush's book, but the ongoing war in the sixth year in Iraq is.

Unfortunately, it appears that the Democratic leaders of Congress are

going to cave in to Bush's strong-armed tactics and his unreasonable attitude, and will send him a bill that he can sign instead of putting forward Democratic priorities to the President: Extended unemployment benefits, a little bit of energy assistance for the American people who are suffering because they are being gouged by the oil and gas industry, my critical county and school payments, disaster assistance for salmon fishers on the west coast, and others. They appear like they are ready to cave in to the President on this and send him a bill that he can sign. That's wrong.

As Democrats, we are here to defend the priorities and the needs of the American people. We know Bush is there for the corporations. We know he is there for his war in Iraq. Let's demonstrate that. Let's send him a bill.

Now, in terms of the county and school payments, the Republican Congress and the Bush administration allowed the law to expire. That has created a crisis. Last year, we did get emergency spending despite Bush's then veto threat to help the counties and schools through one more year as we worked on a longer term fix. In December, the House did pass a longer term fix. Unfortunately, since the Senate is not a democratic institution, 40 Senators—40 Republican Senators—were able to strip the critical county and school funding out of that bill. So, again, we languish without authorization for payments in the coming year.

So this is an emergency. We are going to see counties that are very large, counties in my district almost the size of New England that are going to be deprived of sheriff's patrols in rural areas. We are going to see jail beds closed and prisoners put out on the streets. We are going to see animal control ended. This is a crisis. These counties have no alternative. They are more than half-owned by the Federal Government. It is the Federal Government's policies that have brought them to this place. That was recognized by the former President as he put in place a plan to make up for the lost revenue from the changes in Federal policies.

It is time for this administration to agree that those counties need some help. I have written to the President. I have asked him to change his mind and allow counties and schools to receive at least some amount of funding this year as a true domestic emergency, not to draw a line in the sand and say he will only borrow money to pursue an open-ended war in Iraq, but he will not

borrow a penny for the American people.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 36 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JACKSON of Illinois) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father of all, here You find in America people whose hearts are open to the message that all human life is sacred and that "each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary."

In a world where some no longer believe that we can distinguish between simple right and wrong, we need to reject any "dictatorship of relativism" and embrace a culture of equal justice and lasting truth.

Since Your very gift of freedom is ever new, Lord, we ask You to challenge this generation to build a world ever more worthy of the human person created in Your image and likeness.

Help us work today for an ever more just and fraternal society where political leaders and those they represent are guided by truth and bring wisdom born of firm moral principle to decisions affecting the life and future of this Nation, we pray, lifting up Your name, now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) come

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. POE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MOTHER GIVES LIFE FOR HER CHILD

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, as Americans across this Nation celebrate Mother's Day this Sunday, there are five children in Crosby, Texas, who mourn the loss of theirs. Tina Davila was murdered as she gave her life to protect her youngest child.

On April 17, Tina left her 4-month-old in the back seat of her car as she quickly ran into a store to pay a bill. But as Tina approached the store, she saw a car pull up beside hers, and a bandit jumped out and tried to steal her vehicle. She fought the outlaw and screamed, "My baby! My baby!" But the carjacker stabbed her, murdering her in front of her child and fled with blood on his hands. All this was caught on video surveillance.

The killer is 22-year-old Timoteo Rios, an illegal trespasser from Mexico. In addition to murdering Tina, Rios and his fellow hijacker, Kennedy Escoto, carjacked four other people. Rios had spent time in jail last year but was never deported.

Rios remains at large. He's believed to be back in the safe sanctuary country for criminals, Mexico, basking in the sun and unaccountable for this murder, while Tina Davila's children are motherless this Mother's Day.

And that's just the way it is.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 2, 2008.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 2, 2008, at 8:54 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3522.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 112.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 340.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 2, 2008.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 2, 2008, at 12:54 p.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5919.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

□ 1415

FOREIGN SERVICE MEMBER REST

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3658) to amend the Foreign Service Act of 1980 to permit rest and recuperation travel to United States territories for members of the Foreign Service.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3658

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. INCLUSION OF UNITED STATES TERRITORIES AS ELIGIBLE FOR REST AND RECUPERATION TRAVEL FOR MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE.

The Foreign Service Act of 1980 is amended—

(1) in section 901(6)(B) (22 U.S.C. 4081(6)(B)), by inserting after "United States" the following: "or its territories, including American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the United States Virgin Islands"; and

(2) in section 903(b) (22 U.S.C. 4083(b)), by striking "its territories and possessions, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico" and inserting "or its territories, including American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the United States Virgin Islands".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from

California (Ms. WATSON) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I want to recognize our colleague from Puerto Rico (Mr. FORTUÑO) and the distinguished chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and the Global Environment, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, for putting forward a very important measure.

H.R. 3658 amends the Foreign Service Act to give the Secretary of State needed authority to ensure that foreign service officers from U.S. territories, including Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands, are provided the same benefits as their colleagues from the 50 States.

Currently, the State Department provides air transportation home from overseas assignments for the purpose of rest and recuperation to all foreign service officers who reside in any of the 50 States. However, current law does not permit the department to provide the same benefit to foreign service officers who reside in any of the territories.

The State Department has informed us that they do not have any objection to this measure. The cost of implementing it would be very small as it would impact very few foreign service officers.

I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution that would rectify an inequity in the treatment of our dedicated foreign service officers.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3658, introduced by my good friend from Puerto Rico (Mr. FORTUÑO).

This bill will make a long overdue clarification to the Foreign Service Act that will allow American foreign service officers to take rest and recuperation travel, commonly referred to as R&R, in American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and, of course, the United States Virgin Islands.

American diplomatic personnel who serve at hardship posts overseas are allowed to take State Department-funded R&R travel either at locations

abroad or locations in the United States. But the phrase "locations in the United States" has been interpreted by the State Department regulation to exclude U.S. territories for some reason. That interpretation has placed a distinctly unfair burden on foreign service officers from those territories who might wish to spend their R&R with families at home.

It also puts U.S. territories at a disadvantage compared to other destinations abroad or in the United States where our diplomatic personnel may want to travel to rest and recuperate.

I want to commend our colleagues who have sponsored this legislation to remove this inadvertent and unfair provision. H.R. 3658 is a worthy bill that deserves our unanimous support.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. FORTUÑO), the author of this bill.

Mr. FORTUÑO. I thank my colleague.

I want to begin by thanking Chairman BERMAN for ushering H.R. 3658 through the committee process. In his short time as chairman, Mr. BERMAN has shown intelligence, generosity and strong bipartisan spirit, the same leadership qualities displayed by his predecessor, the irreplaceable Tom Lantos.

I want to thank my good friend, Ranking Member ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, as well. I continue to marvel at her devotion to her constituents in south Florida and at her tireless efforts to help light the lantern of freedom in dark places around the world.

I also want to thank the representatives from the other U.S. territories, all of whom are original cosponsors of H.R. 3658. And I want to thank you, Ms. WATSON, and you, Judge POE, for your support for this bill. I note that Ms. WATSON served as a U.S. Ambassador to Micronesia and therefore brings a special expertise to this subject.

Mr. Speaker, the specific purpose of H.R. 3658 is to permit Foreign Servicemembers to take rest and recuperation travel, known as R&R, in the five U.S. territories. The broader objective of the bill is to ensure that Federal employees from the U.S. territories enjoy the same rights and privileges as their fellow citizens from the 50 States.

I am pleased that the American Foreign Service Association supports H.R. 3658, and that the State Department does not oppose its passage.

Mr. Speaker, the Foreign Service Act lists the instances in which the State Department may pay the travel-related costs of Foreign Servicemembers. One section of the FSA states that the Department may pay the travel costs incurred by Foreign Service personnel for what is known as home leave. The pur-

pose of the home leave is to ensure that Foreign Servicemembers who have been sent abroad undergo a period of reorientation to the United States. The FSA provides that home leave may be taken in the 50 States and the U.S. territories.

Another section of the FSA states that the Department may pay the costs incurred by Foreign Servicemembers for R&R travel. Unlike home leave, which is granted to all Foreign Servicemembers who serve abroad, R&R is granted only to those stationed at hardship posts. Under the current FSA, R&R may only be taken in locations in the United States. State Department regulations have interpreted this phrase to exclude U.S. territories.

Mr. Speaker, there is no principled basis for allowing Foreign Servicemembers to take home leave but not R&R in the U.S. territories, and H.R. 3658 amends the FSA to eliminate the distinction. Just as they proudly serve in our Nation's Armed Forces, residents of the U.S. territories also represent this great country abroad as diplomats. These men and women from the territories take the same risks and endure the same long absences from their families as their colleagues from the States. Making certain that our laws treat these public servants on equal terms is the only right thing to do.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to consider the case of Mr. Ramon Negron. Mr. Negron is a U.S. citizen born and raised in Puerto Rico, a graduate of West Point, and a lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserve. Mr. Negron currently serves as a political economic officer at the U.S. Interests section in Havana, Cuba, which is a hardship post. Mr. Negron's next posting, to begin this summer, is as the Embassy Office Director in Basra, Iraq. It is neither sensible, nor fair, that under current law the State Department will not cover the cost of airfare so this U.S. citizen, U.S. soldier and U.S. diplomat can travel home to Puerto Rico to be with his family before leaving for the Middle East. H.R. 3658 will correct this disparity.

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

Mr. POE. I would inquire of the gentlewoman if she has any other speakers.

Ms. WATSON. I have no other speakers.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3658, to amend the Foreign Service Act of 1980 to permit rest and recuperation travel to United States territories for members of the Foreign Service, sponsored by my good friend and neighbor, Mr. FORTUÑO of Puerto Rico.

Mr. Speaker, the Foreign Service Act unfortunately is not consistent in the way it treats citizens from the mainland and those from the territories. While it allows for the State Department to pay for Foreign Service members to

return home, to any of the 50 states or U.S. territories, after being posted abroad, it only permits residents of the 50 states who are at hardship posts, such as Iraq and Afghanistan, to be granted R & R for a period of time while posted.

This bill, at its core, is about equal and fair treatment for residents of the U.S. territories. When most of us hear the word home, we have a clear picture in our head of where that is. But for these Foreign Service members, it is not that simple. Under current law, these diplomats must pay their own way if they want to visit their family and friends back home in the territories, while diplomats from the states have their travel costs covered.

Although these members are from a U.S. territory, they are our fellow citizens and commit their lives to the diplomatic causes. They join for the love of their country and risk their safety in dangerous posts.

The bill before us today would eliminate this unequal and unfair treatment between Foreign Service members who reside in the territories and those that reside in the states. I urge my colleagues to support passage of H.R. 3658.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3658.

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. LEWIS of California. 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.

DEVELOPING A COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL STRATEGY IN CHAD AND DARFUR

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1011) calling on the United States Government and the international community to promptly develop, fund, and implement a comprehensive regional strategy to protect civilians, facilitate humanitarian operations, contain and reduce violence, and contribute to conditions for sustainable peace and good governance in Chad, as well as in the wider region that includes the northern region of the Central African Republic and the Darfur region of Sudan, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1011

Whereas since independence in 1960, Chad's political life has been afflicted by a series of internal conflicts and civil wars as well as conflicts with its neighbors;

Whereas Chad has held several legislative and presidential multiparty elections since 1996, although the Department of State reported that the elections were "orderly, but seriously flawed";

Whereas human rights groups and the most recent Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices stated that "the [Chadian] government's poor human rights record deteriorated further";

Whereas the genocide in Darfur, Sudan, continues to affect neighboring countries, especially Chad;

Whereas the United Nations estimates there are more than 240,000 refugees from Darfur and 52,000 refugees from the Central African Republic in Chad, and more than 180,000 Chadians have been displaced from their homes;

Whereas more than 12,000 new refugees from Darfur arrived in Chad in February 2008 due to increasing attacks against civilians by Sudanese Government forces, even as 30,000 Chadians were forced to flee the N'Djamena area to seek refuge in Cameroon;

Whereas the Government of Chad has provided important support to the many refugees from Darfur and the Central African Republic in Chad, despite serious economic and political difficulties;

Whereas the United States considers the Government of Chad an important ally in the war against terrorism;

Whereas a December 2007 report by the United Nations Secretary General stated that "the security situation in eastern Chad has remained volatile and unpredictable [and t]he renewed violence has put the civilian population living in the area at increased risk and will further impede the work of the humanitarian community";

Whereas an armed rebellion in Chad, supported by the Government of Sudan, has led to a serious humanitarian crisis and political instability in Chad;

Whereas on September 25, 2007, the United Nations Security Council passed Security Council Resolution 1778, authorizing a multidimensional presence intended to help create the security conditions conducive to a voluntary, secure, and sustainable return of internally displaced persons and refugees by contributing to their protection, both by facilitating the provision of humanitarian assistance in eastern Chad and the northern region of the Central African Republic and by creating favorable conditions for the reconstruction and economic and social development of those areas;

Whereas on October 15 and 16, 2007, the Council of the European Union agreed to deploy the military component of the multidimensional presence in the Central African Republic and Chad for a period of 1 year from the date that its initial operational capability is declared;

Whereas in late 2007, the Government of Sudan reportedly gathered several Chadian armed groups in Khartoum in order to bring the armed factions under one coalition for the February 2008 offensive;

Whereas in early February 2008, Chadian rebels armed and supported by the Sudanese Government's armed forces launched a major offensive in Chad's capital, N'Djamena, to overthrow the government of President Idriss Deby Itno;

Whereas in late February, the United Nations reported that the European Union

Force began deployment to Chad and that an estimated 400 personnel have been deployed as of late February 2008;

Whereas the United States, the European Union, and the African Union condemn the fighting in Chad and the foreign support for the rebellion; and

Whereas the Department of State issued a press release condemning "the attempt by armed rebels entering from outside the country to seize power extra-constitutionally in Chad": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses concern about the safety and well-being of innocent civilians in Chad, Chadian refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), and refugees from Darfur and the Central African Republic that have taken refuge in Chad;

(2) strongly condemns Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir and the National Congress Party for their support of the armed rebellion and aggressive behavior in Chad and throughout the region;

(3) calls on parties to seek a negotiated settlement;

(4) urges the Government of Chad to—

(A) engage in an inclusive national dialogue with all stakeholders of the current conflict to reach a comprehensive agreement that would address the root causes of the Chadian crisis and strengthen democratic institutions;

(B) protect its civilians from violence and respect and enforce the rule of law in accordance with international norms and standards; and

(C) honor its May 9, 2007, agreement with the United Nations Children's Fund, ensuring its commitment to end all recruitment of persons under the age of 18 and demobilize all children under the age of 18 from its security forces;

(5) urges the Government of the Central African Republic to—

(A) fulfill its obligation under international law to protect civilians; and

(B) engage in constructive and inclusive dialogue with opposition and armed groups;

(6) calls on armed opposition groups to—

(A) renounce violence and respect the rule of law;

(B) engage in political dialogue to resolve the current crisis in their respective countries; and

(C) immediately end cooperation with the Government of Sudan and others that encourage and support armed rebellion;

(7) urges the United Nations Security Council to remain focused on the crises in Chad and the Central African Republic, and to ensure the effective and impartial protection of civilians, including internally displaced persons and refugees, particularly local populations, by preempting, preventing, and deterring attacks on civilians; and

(8) calls on the President to—

(A) continue United States humanitarian assistance to the refugees and internally displaced persons in Chad and the Central African Republic;

(B) provide support to strengthen democratic institutions and respect for human rights and rule of law; and

(C) seek punitive measures against the Government of Sudan by the United Nations Security Council for its aggression and destructive activities in Chad and the region.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) and the gen-

tleman from Texas (Mr. POE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I would first like to thank Representative WOLF and Chairman PAYNE for recognizing the importance of developing and implementing a strategy to resolve the crisis in Chad.

Chad has been politically unstable for over 40 years, suffering from civil wars as well as ethnic and religious tensions. Human rights conditions remain notably poor, and the government lacks transparency and accountability.

In the past 3 years, as fighting between the government and rebels increased, 180,000 Chadians have been displaced, adding to the inflow of 290,000 refugees from the Central African Republic and Sudan's Darfur region. Although the government developed a plan for reform, and signed a peace agreement with rebel groups in 2007, the conflict has not ceased.

In February 2008, rebel forces, supported by the neighboring Sudanese government, sought to remove President Idriss Déby from power, killing hundreds of civilians in the process.

The 16 U.N. refugee camps suffer from water and firewood shortages, as well as periodic attacks on aid workers. New controls imposed by the Chadian government on humanitarian organizations hinder the movement of assistance and personnel.

In September 2007 the U.N. Security Council, followed by the Council of the European Union, approved the presence of a multinational security force to facilitate assistance and create favorable conditions for reconstruction and development.

The United States has provided over \$338 million in humanitarian assistance since 2004 and also provides security assistance to the Chadian Army through the International Military Education and Training funds.

It is imperative that the U.S. work harder to develop and implement a sound strategy to protect and assist Chadians and other refugees and, together with the international community, condemn Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir and the National Congress for their support of the armed rebellion. Further destabilization in

Chad will lead to wider regional instability and hinder the United States' counterterrorism capabilities in a very sensitive region.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this measure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise in support of H. Res. 1011, which calls on the United States and the international community to develop, fund, and implement a regional strategy which addresses the increasing intertwined security and humanitarian crisis in Chad, the Darfur region of the Sudan, and the northern region of the Central African Republic.

Borders in this region of the world are more of a concept than a reality. Ethnic groups straddle lines on a map, and conflict with each other or within one country inevitably spills over into the other countries. While this body has been seized by the horrific situation in Darfur, we have devoted far less attention to the broader regional crisis, particularly as it relates to Chad.

Chad has been plagued by intermittent conflict, both internally and with its neighbors since it gained independence in 1960. The current President of Chad, Idriss Déby, took power after launching a coup across the border in neighboring Darfur, Sudan, with the support of Libya and his fellow ethnic Zaghawas who straddle the border between Chad and Sudan. He has since faced at least five coup attempts, including one just this past February.

The Sudanese government's genocidal campaign in Darfur, which forced hundreds of thousands of Sudanese refugees across the border, has made the tensions within Chad, particularly among Déby's fellow Zaghawas, much worse. These tensions became further inflamed as the relationship between Chad and the Sudan deteriorated, with each government accusing the other of funding and supporting rebel movements within their respective borders, as well as in neighboring Central African Republic.

The spillover of conflict from Darfur into Chad and the Central African Republic, from Chad into Darfur, and from Central African Republic into Chad, has led to the displacement of more than 3.1 million people.

In Darfur, an upsurge in fighting among rebel groups, government forces, militias and armed ethnic groups has led to the displacement of more than 80,000 people since this past January.

In February of this year, 12,000 new refugees from Darfur arrived in Chad, bringing the total number of Sudanese refugees in eastern Chad to 250,000. Chad also is hosting an additional 152,000 refugees from Central African Republic.

At the same time, more than 180,000 people from Chad have been displaced

by internal conflict, and in February, 30,000 people from Chad were forced to seek refuge in neighboring Cameroon after rebels, backed by the Sudanese government, attacked the capital.

□ 1430

As the wars in Chad, Sudan and Central African Republic become increasingly intertwined, and as the massive displacements take on a regional dimension, the United States and the international community must resist the urge to deal with each crisis in a vacuum. This resolution recognizes that reality and calls for a comprehensive strategy to protect civilians, facilitate humanitarian operations, contain and reduce violence, and contribute to conditions for sustainable peace and good governance throughout the region with all nations. This is not only a moral imperative, but also a significant strategy requirement.

I thank the sponsor of this resolution, Mr. WOLF, for introducing this important resolution, and I urge Members to support it.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1011, a resolution I sponsored expressing the concern of the House regarding the crisis in Chad.

I want to acknowledge the support of my colleague and Africa subcommittee Chairman DONALD PAYNE in working together to introduce this resolution, and also thank Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman HOWARD BERMAN and ranking member Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN as well as Africa subcommittee ranking member Congressman CHRIS SMITH for their support in this effort.

Since its independence in 1960, Chad has struggled through civil war and political unrest. Recent fighting in Chad has demonstrated beyond doubt the fragile conditions in the region and the continuing destructive behavior of the Government of Sudan in Chad and Darfur. While Chadian rebel groups and their Sudanese allies who laid siege to the capital in early February have since fled toward the east and Darfur, the fighting claimed the lives of hundreds of civilians and forced tens of thousands more out of the capital city and into neighboring Cameroon.

This resolution calls on the United States government and the international community to promptly develop, fund, and implement a comprehensive regional strategy to protect civilians, facilitate humanitarian operations, contain and reduce violence, and contribute to conditions for sustainable peace and good governance in Chad.

It also calls for a strategy for the wider region that includes northern Central African Republic and the Darfur region of Sudan, as recent developments in Chad illustrate the terrible threat facing civilians and the risk of another major humanitarian disaster in that region.

The resolution acknowledges the concern about the safety and well being of innocent civilians in Chad, Chadian refugees and internally displaced persons, and refugees from Darfur and the Central African Republic that have taken refuge in Chad and strongly con-

demns Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir and the National Congress Party for their support of the armed rebellion and aggressive behavior in Chad and throughout the region.

It also urges the Government of Chad to engage in an inclusive national dialogue with all stakeholders of the current conflict to reach a comprehensive agreement that would address the root causes of the Chadian crisis and strengthen democratic institutions. The resolution also urges the government to work to protect its civilians from violence and to honor its May 9, 2007, agreement with the United Nations Children's Fund, ensuring its commitment to end all recruitment of persons under the age of 18 and demobilize all children under the age of 18 from its security forces.

The resolution further urges the Government of the Central African Republic to fulfill its obligation under international law to protect civilians and engage in constructive and inclusive dialogue with opposition and armed groups.

The resolution also calls on armed opposition groups to renounce violence and respect the rule of law, engage in political dialogue to resolve the current crisis in their respective countries, and immediately end cooperation with the Government of Sudan and others that encourage and support armed rebellion.

Recognizing the importance of the United Nations Security Council in ending this crisis, the resolution urges the Security Council to remain focused on the crises in Chad and the Central African Republic, and to ensure the effective and impartial protection of civilians, including internally displaced persons and refugees, particularly local populations, by preempting, preventing, and deterring attacks on civilians.

The United States also has an important role to play in resolving the situation in Chad, and the resolution calls on the president to continue United States humanitarian assistance to the refugees and internally displaced persons in Chad and the Central African Republic, provide support to strengthen democratic institutions and respect for human rights and rule of law, and seek punitive measures against the Government of Sudan by the United Nations Security Council for its aggression and destructive activities in Chad and the region.

Mr. Speaker, it is important for this House to express its concern about the crisis in Chad and how the political instability and humanitarian crisis there is impacting the entire region. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H. Res. 1011, calling on the United States Government and the international community to promptly develop, fund, and implement a comprehensive regional strategy to protect civilians, facilitate humanitarian operations, contain and reduce violence, and contribute to conditions for sustainable peace and good governance in Chad, as well as in the wider region that includes the northern region of the Central African Republic and the Darfur region of Sudan, introduced by my distinguished colleague from Virginia, Representative WOLF. This timely and important legislation, of which I am proud to be an original cosponsor, not only calls on the governments of Chad and

the Central African Republic to fulfill their obligations under international law to protect civilians, but also calls upon the President of the United States to continue humanitarian assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons in the region.

While regional conflicts have proven substantive and continuous, the internal politics of Chad are by no means a beacon of stability and democracy. Since reaching independence in 1960, Chad has been consistently riddled with internal conflicts and civil wars. Unfortunately, despite American assistance to the government, the State Department reported that the last elections were, "orderly, but seriously flawed," as well as stating in the most recent Department of State Country Report on Human Rights Practices that, "the [Chadian] government's poor human rights record deteriorated further." The situation within Chad is even more precarious when one considers that the United Nations estimates that Chad is home to some 240,000 refugees from Darfur, 52,000 refugees from the Central African Republic, and more than 180,000 internally displaced people. In February 2008 alone, over 12,000 new refugees from Darfur entered the country.

Mr. Speaker, in the past three years, as fighting between the government and rebels increased, 180,000 Chadians have been displaced, adding to the inflow of 290,000 refugees from the Central African Republic (CAR) and Sudan's Darfur region. Although the government developed a plan for reform, and signed a peace agreement with rebel groups in 2007, the conflict has not ceased. In February 2008, rebel forces, supported by the neighboring Sudanese government, sought to remove President Idriss Déby from power, killing hundreds of civilians in the process. Despite the United Nation's Security Council Resolution 1778, authorizing a multidimensional presence intended to help create the security conditions necessary for reconstruction and social and economic development, this has not been the case. While the United States has provided over \$338 million in humanitarian assistance since 2004 and also provides security assistance to the Chadian army through the International Military Education and Training (IMET) funds, there is still much more that needs to be done.

This resolution is both timely and imperative because it calls on the United States to work harder to develop and implement a sound strategy to protect and assist Chadians and other refugees, and, together with the international community, condemn Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir and the National Congress for their support of the armed rebellion. A further destabilization in Chad will lead to wider regional instability and hinder the United States' counter-terrorism capabilities in a very sensitive region.

By calling on the President of the United States to continue to provide humanitarian assistance to displaced persons in the Chad and the Central African Republic and provide support to strengthen the rule of law, democratic institutions, and respect for human rights, this legislation works to not only alleviate suffering in the short term, but also prevent them from occurring in the long term. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this legislation and urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H. Res. 1011, which calls on the United States and the international community to develop, fund, and implement a regional strategy which addresses the security and humanitarian crisis in Chad, the Darfur region of the Sudan, and the northern region of the Central African Republic.

This timely and important legislation, of which I am proud to be a cosponsor, not only calls on the Governments of Chad and the Central African Republic to fulfill their obligations under international law to protect civilians, but also calls upon the President of the United States to continue humanitarian assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons in the region.

Chad has been plagued by intermittent conflict, both internally and with its neighbors, since it gained independence in 1960. The current President of Chad, Idriss Déby, took power after launching a coup across the border in neighboring Darfur, Sudan. He has since faced at least five coup attempts including one just this past February. Violence spurred by the Sudanese Government has also continued to destabilize Chad and the State Department's most recent Country Report on Human Rights Practices that, "the [Chadian] government's poor human rights record deteriorated further" this past year.

The refugee situation in Chad and the surrounding region continues to worsen. In the past three years, as fighting between the Government and rebels increased and 180,000 Chadians have been displaced, adding to the inflow of 290,000 refugees from the Central African Republic, CAR, and Sudan's Darfur region. The United Nations estimates that Chad is now home to 240,000 refugees from Darfur, 52,000 refugees from the Central African Republic, and more than 180,000 internally displaced people. In February 2008 alone over 12,000 new refugees from Darfur entered the country. We must develop a comprehensive plan to address the refugee crisis as well as the security problems that plague the region.

I visited Darfur and have seen the situation on the ground. Now high-tech GPS satellites and mass media allow everyone to bear witness to the tragedies in Chad, Sudan, and the surrounding areas: the burnt holes where villages used to be, the mass migrations of the internally displaced, starving children, and victims of rape.

With this knowledge comes a duty to act. As the wars in Chad, Sudan, and Central African Republic become increasingly intertwined, and as the massive displacements continue across the region, the United States and the international community must engage the crisis on a regional level.

This resolution recognizes that reality and calls for a comprehensive strategy to protect civilians, facilitate humanitarian operations, contain and reduce violence, and contribute to conditions for sustainable peace and good governance throughout the region with all nations.

I thank the sponsor of this resolution, Mr. WOLF, for introducing this important resolution, and I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H. Res. 1011, 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. LEWIS of California. 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 HOUSE REGARDING REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1166) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding provocative and dangerous statements and actions taken by the Government of the Russian Federation that undermine the territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1166

Whereas, since 1993, the territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia has been reaffirmed by the international community, international law, and 32 United Nations Security Council resolutions;

Whereas the Government of the Republic of Georgia has pursued in good faith a peaceful resolution of territorial conflicts in the regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia since the end of hostilities in 1993;

Whereas, on March 28, 2008, and on April 12, 2008, Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili introduced new and far-reaching peace proposals to resolve the territorial conflict in Abkhazia, including international guarantees of Abkhaz autonomy, broad political representation for the Abkhaz, the right to veto legislation related to the constitutional status of Abkhazia as well as its language and culture, the establishment of a joint Free Economic Zone in the Gali region, and an offer for more active involvement by the international community and Russian Federation to help forge a peaceful resolution to the conflict;

Whereas, for several years, the Government of the Russian Federation has carried out policies that seek to undermine the sovereignty of the Republic of Georgia in Abkhazia and South Ossetia by awarding individuals in these regions with Russian citizenship, Russian passports, economic subsidies, and the right to vote in Russian elections;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation has also detailed Russian officials to take up positions in the separatist

governments, provided military equipment and support to separatists in the regions, and encouraged Russian volunteers to serve in militias in Abkhazia and South Ossetia;

Whereas the announcement from the Government of the Russian Federation on April 16, 2008, that it will establish "official ties" with the regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, recognize their official documents and legal entities, and further involve itself in aspects of their governments appears to be a thinly veiled attempt at annexation;

Whereas, on April 20, 2008, tensions between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Georgia further escalated when an unarmed and unmanned Georgian reconnaissance aircraft was shot down over Georgian territory, reportedly by a Russian MIG-29 fighter jet;

Whereas Russian officials have denied any involvement in the downing of the reconnaissance plane, claiming that Abkhazian rebels were responsible for the incident, although neither Georgia nor Abkhazian defense forces have MIG-29 fighter jets;

Whereas the statements and counter-productive actions of the Government of the Russian Federation in these regions has undermined the peace and security in Abkhazia and South Ossetia, the Republic of Georgia, and the Caucasus region as a whole;

Whereas the consistent effort to undermine the sovereignty of a neighbor is incompatible with the role of the Russian Federation as one of the world's leading powers and with its commitments to international peacekeeping made to the United Nations Security Council and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe; and

Whereas, on April 23, 2008, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice stated that "the United States is firmly committed to the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Georgia, that we support Georgia's efforts to make certain that the people of Abkhazia and South Ossetia feel fully a part of Georgia, and that we are very concerned at the recent move by the Russian Federation, the presidential decree that was issued": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns recent decisions made by the Government of the Russian Federation to establish "official ties" with the regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, a process that further impedes reconciliation between those regions and the Government of the Republic of Georgia and that violates the sovereignty of the Republic of Georgia and the commitments of the Government of the Russian Federation to international peacekeeping;

(2) calls upon the Government of the Russian Federation to immediately revoke its decision to establish "official ties" with the regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia;

(3) strongly supports the restoration of the territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia and a peaceful resolution of the conflicts within Georgia's internationally recognized borders;

(4) encourages the Government of the Russian Federation to work with the Government of Georgia, the peoples of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, and the international community to find a peaceful solution to the conflict;

(5) welcomes the measured reaction of the Government of the Republic of Georgia to recent developments and commends President Saakashvili's latest initiatives to resolve territorial conflicts through peaceful means;

(6) calls on United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to conduct an investiga-

tion of the April 20, 2008, incident in which an unarmed Georgian reconnaissance aircraft was shot down by what reports indicate was a missile launched from a Russian MIG-29 fighter jet;

(7) urges all parties to the conflicts in the Republic of Georgia and governments around the world to eschew rhetoric and actions that escalate tensions and undermine efforts to negotiate a peaceful settlement to the conflicts; and

(8) supports the declaration of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) Bucharest Summit in Romania, which stated that the Republic of Georgia will become a member of NATO, reiterates its support for the commitment to further enlargement of NATO to include democratic governments that are able and willing to meet the responsibilities of membership, and urges the foreign ministers of NATO member states at their meeting in December 2008 to consider favorably the application of the Government of the Republic of Georgia's Membership Action Plan.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I also rise in strong support of this resolution and yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I am pleased to support this resolution that adds the House's voice to the chorus of condemnation from the administration and our European allies to the provocative actions taken in recent weeks by the Russian Federation against the Republic of Georgia.

I commend my distinguished colleague, Representative WEXLER of Florida and chairman of the European Subcommittee, for promptly introducing this important resolution.

For several years, the Russian Government has promulgated policies that have increasingly sought to undermine the sovereignty of the Georgian Government and its territorial integrity over Abkhazia and South Ossetia. Such harmful policies include awarding residents in these regions with Russian citizenship, Russian passports, and even the right to vote in Russian elections.

In addition, the Kremlin has assigned Russian officials to hold positions in the separatist governments in South Ossetia and Abkhazia. It has also provided military equipment and volunteer fighters to support militias active in these regions. Such behavior is

counterproductive to efforts to find a peaceful resolution to these conflicts and contrary to Russia's commitments to international peacekeeping.

Irritated by international recognition of Kosovo's independence despite its objections and incensed by Georgia's clear future in NATO, Russia escalated its dangerous actions towards Georgia in the weeks leading up to and immediately following NATO's Bucharest Summit. On March 6, Russia withdrew from the sanctions regime imposed on Abkhazia in 1996 by the Commonwealth of Independent States thereby eliminating the remaining limits on direct Russian economic relations with Abkhazia.

On March 21, the Russian Duma passed a nonbinding declaration asking the government to consider the "expediency of recognizing the independence of Abkhazia and South Ossetia." On March 25, Dmitry Medvedev, Russia's incoming president, spoke out against NATO membership for Georgia. During the NATO Summit, Russian President Putin sent letters to the separatist leaders of Abkhazia and South Ossetia to express his support for their regimes.

As outlined in this resolution, President Putin instructed his government on April 16 to establish official ties with these separatist regimes. He further ordered his government to recognize legal documents issued by these authorities as well as legal entities registered by them. The tension reached its climax on April 20 when an unarmed and unmanned Russian reconnaissance aircraft was shot down over Georgian territory, reportedly by a Russian MIG-29 fighter. Despite Russian claims of innocence, neither the Georgians nor the Abkhazian rebels have this plane in their fleet.

Last week Russia further strained relations by moving an extra contingent of troops into Abkhazia. The Kremlin claims to be responding to a Georgia military buildup along the border, which the Tbilisi Government denies. Although Russia's troop level remains within the 3,000 soldier limit allowed under the 1994 U.N. ceasefire agreement, NATO has backed Russia's assertion that any increase must be approved by all parties.

Such hostile actions are in stark contrast to the recent attempts made by Georgian President, Mikheil Saakashvili, to find a peaceful and lasting solution to this conflict in the Caucasus. As he rightly stated, "There are no issues that we and the Abkhazians cannot solve through negotiations."

On March 28 and April 12, President Saakashvili introduced new proposals to facilitate a resolution to the conflict. They included international guarantees of Abkhaz autonomy, broad political representation for the Abkhaz, the right to veto legislation related to

the constitutional status of Abkhazia as well as its language and culture, and the establishment of a joint Free Economic Zone in the Gali region. President Putin has turned a deaf ear to these suggestions.

I ask my colleagues to join me in calling on the Russian Federation to revoke immediately its decision to establish official ties with these regions and to support the territorial integrity of Georgia's borders.

Rather than engaging in provocative acts, President Putin should respond favorably to President Saakashvili's call for active involvement by the Russian Federation as well as the international community to forge a peaceful and lasting solution to this conflict.

Furthermore, NATO should uphold its Summit promise to Georgia of a future in the Alliance by considering the extension of a Membership Action Plan at its December meeting. This act would welcome the country into the Euro-Atlantic community and could serve as a deterrent to further Russian aggression. I strongly support this resolution and urge my colleagues to join me.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I believe that there was a time when we could honestly hope that Russia was playing a fair and supportive role with regard to the resolution of the separatist conflicts in the Republic of Georgia. Unfortunately, our optimism in that regard is almost exhausted. It now appears obvious that Russia seeks to play a destabilizing role in Georgia, with the goal of undermining Georgia's political and economic development and, ultimately, its own sovereignty.

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Over several years Russia has reportedly supported the separatist forces with arms and trained personnel. It has applied boycotts on Georgian goods and shut off energy supplies to Georgia. It has broadly granted Russian citizenship and issued Russian passports to people living in Georgia's separatist regions. It has provided economic subsidies to the separatist regions and granted residents of those regions the right to vote in Russian elections. Its so-called "peacekeeping" forces in the separatist regions appeared to have played a biased role in favor, of course, of the separatist regime. More recently, on April 16, the Kremlin issued a decree further expanding its "official" ties with the separatist regions.

Most objective observers would affirm that the Georgian Government has tried to be fair and open-minded in its efforts to negotiate a settlement in the separatist conflicts. One has to wonder, however, if sporadic and mysterious incidents involving small-scale

attacks on Georgian territory and forces are meant to provoke the Georgian Government.

One such incident occurred on April 20. An unmanned and unarmed Georgian reconnaissance aircraft was shot down over Georgian territory, reportedly by a Russian MIG-29 fighter. Since neither Georgia nor the separatist regimes have MIG-29 jets among their forces, it seems difficult for Russia to deny its involvement.

Mr. Speaker, the Georgian people have made tremendous progress since the "Rose Revolution" of 2003. Georgia is not a perfect democracy, but it's heading in the right direction. It certainly compares very well with the trends in Russia, where a totalitarian regime is steadily being constructed once again.

Georgia deserves the support and encouragement of leading states of Europe and the support of the United States. Democracy and reform in Georgia will only succeed if the European Union, the leading states of Europe, and the United States remain engaged and strongly support it.

The resolution calls for the Kremlin to immediately revoke its decision to expand "official ties" with the separatist regions in Georgia. The resolution expresses strong support for the restoration of the territorial integrity of Georgia and for the peaceful resolution of conflicts within Georgia's borders. It also restates the declaration made by the NATO heads of state at the recent summit in Bucharest, Romania, in which they confidently stated their belief that the Republic of Georgia will become a member of NATO some day. And it urges NATO allies to favorably consider Georgia's application for admission in the Membership Action Plan, or MAP, during the NATO Ministers meeting this December, MAP being a program to simply help interested applicants for membership and prepare them to meet the standards required of all NATO allies.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution is intended to support the sovereignty of Georgia and support an end to any irresponsible actions by the Russian Government that undermine its sovereignty and the prospects for a peaceful resolution of the separatist conflicts in that country.

I note again as well that nothing stated in this resolution with regard to NATO and Georgia's interest in membership in that alliance is any different from what was stated at the recent NATO summit.

I support this resolution and urge all my colleagues to do the same as well.

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

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCHWARTZ).

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, as the co-Chair of the Congressional Georgia

Caucus, I rise in support of House Resolution 1166 and to express my strong support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia.

On April 16, 2008, the Russian Government declared that it would establish legal and official ties with Abkhazia and South Ossetia. This is nothing more than a thinly veiled attempt by Russia to extend these regions, which are part of the sovereign nation of Georgia. This action was denounced by the international community, including the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, better known as NATO to all of us. Nonetheless, Russia remained unfazed by international opinion and further escalated tensions in the region just 4 days later by shooting down a Georgian unmanned aerial drone over Georgian territory.

Georgia is one of the strongest allies in the Caucasus region, and it is important for the United States to continue to stand by our allies. I spoke with President Saakashvili on Thursday, and he's very concerned about the situation and, as was mentioned by previous speakers, has offered a number of peace proposals. But he very much appreciates the statements that were made in support of Georgia by our State Department and is grateful for this resolution and the strong bipartisan support it demonstrates from Congress.

Since speaking with the President last week, the situation has become even more difficult for Georgia. The Russian Federation continues to move troops into Abkhazia, and yesterday we heard reports of possibly two more Georgian aircraft being shot down.

Considering our close relationship with Georgia, it is appropriate that the House of Representatives join the international institutions that have condemned Russia's actions and called for a peaceful resolution to the current tensions in the region. This resolution is supported by the chairman and ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, who were original cosponsors of the resolution. And it was introduced by Representative WEXLER, the chairman of the Europe Subcommittee.

I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution and appreciate its bipartisan nature.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1166. The international community has affirmed the territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia many times, and Georgia has sought in good faith a peaceful resolution of the conflicts with its regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. The Georgian Government has made generous proposals regarding internationally guaranteed autonomy, political representation, and the constitutional status of the regions.

I am deeply concerned that the Government of Russia has not responded with equal good faith. It has consistently undermined Georgian

sovereignty over these regions, for example, by giving people in these regions Russian citizenship, passports, voting rights, and even economic subsidies. The Russian Government has provided leaders, volunteers, and arms to separatist movements in these regions, and threatened to establish "official ties" with the Abkhazian and South Ossetian regions. According to reliable reports, the Russian Government has shot down unmanned drones over Georgian territory. It is outrageous for one state to undertake such hostile actions against a neighbor.

Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt that the Secretary of State did the right thing when she recently committed the United States to Georgia's territorial integrity and sovereignty, and that the House will reaffirm American support for Georgia and condemn the Russian Government's unjust and destabilizing actions. Over and over again, we have seen how there are always people who are quick to make excuses for the Russian Government's unjust actions toward the small nations on its border—or toward the Russian people themselves. In the communist era, and since 1991, there have always been people who argued that, if we will just look the other way, allowing the Russian Government to do as it likes in some "sphere of influence," the Russian Government will respond by becoming become kinder, gentler, and more peaceful.

The historical record belies this argument. Alexander Solzhenitsyn, President Reagan, Pope John Paul II, Father Gleb Yakunin, the refuseniks in Russia in the 1970s and 1980s, the brave and beleaguered Russian human rights movement today—these people spoke the truth to and about the Russian Government. They have done more to promote peace and justice in the former Soviet Union than all those who argued for silence and compromise. Mr. Speaker, I am glad that this House is today choosing their road. What the Russian Government is doing to undermine Georgia is wrong, it is outrageous, and it must stop.

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

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1166.

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. LEWIS of California. 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.

CONDEMNING BURMESE REGIME'S UNDEMOCRATIC CONSTITUTION

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 317) condemning the Burmese regime's undemocratic constitution and scheduled referendum, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 317

Whereas in 1974, then-dictator General Ne Win and his regime redrew the 1947 State Constitution and held a referendum for a military-backed constitution, endorsing a civilian front for military rule, known as the Burmese Socialist Program Party;

Whereas in 1988, the people of Burma came to the streets in a massive popular democracy uprising to call for democracy, human rights, and an end to military rule and a single party system;

Whereas the current military regime violently crushed the mass democracy uprising in 1988, killing more than 3,000 peaceful protesters and taking over power from the previous regime;

Whereas the current military regime, officially known as the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), known previously as the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), held multi-party elections in 1990;

Whereas despite the threat and pressure by the military regime to vote for the candidates of the military-backed National Unity Party (NUP), the people of Burma voted 82 percent of Parliament seats for the candidates of the National League for Democracy (NLD) party, led by detained leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and allied ethnic political parties;

Whereas the military regime refused to honor the election results and arrested and imprisoned both democracy activists and elected members of parliament;

Whereas the SPDC over a period of 14 years held a National Convention to draft a new constitution in which the process was tightly controlled, repressive and undemocratic;

Whereas the NLD walked out of the convention in 1995 because participants were not allowed to table alternative proposals or voice disagreement with the military regime;

Whereas in 2005, the leaders of the Shan Nationalities League of Democracy (SNLD) were all arrested on false charges and sentenced to more than 90 years in prison each;

Whereas the people of Burma, led by democracy activists and Buddhist monks in August and September 2007, took to the streets in nationwide peaceful protests demanding the military regime participate in a meaningful tri-partite dialogue with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the elected political parties from the 1990 elections and representatives of the ethnic nationalities for national reconciliation and a transition to democracy;

Whereas according to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights Situation in Burma, Professor Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, leading human rights groups and foreign diplomats based in Burma estimate the death toll from the August and September 2007 peaceful protests is much higher than reported by the regime;

Whereas the military regime brutally crushed the peaceful protests, killing at

least 31 people, leaving nearly 100 missing, and arresting 700 additional political prisoners bringing the number of Burma's political prisoners to approximately 1,800;

Whereas the United Nations Security Council Presidential Statement, issued by unanimous consent of all members of the Council on October 11, 2007, stated that "the Security Council strongly deplores the use of violence against peaceful demonstrators in Myanmar, emphasizes the importance of the early release of all political prisoners and remaining detainees";

Whereas the United Nations Security Council Presidential Statement also stressed "the need for the Government of Myanmar to create the necessary conditions for a genuine dialogue with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and all concerned parties and ethnic groups, in order to achieve an inclusive national reconciliation with the direct support of the United Nations";

Whereas the United Nations and governments around the world also repeatedly called for the SPDC to hold a political dialogue with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, her party, the NLD, and representatives of ethnic nationalities to achieve national reconciliation and democratization and reverse the decades-long misrule by the regime which has resulted in a downward spiral of Burma's economic, educational, social, public health and infrastructure sectors;

Whereas the SPDC has ignored the repeated requests of the United Nations and the international community to release all political prisoners, end attacks against civilians, and engage in a meaningful dialogue with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, her party, the NLD, and representatives of ethnic nationalities;

Whereas at the same time, the SPDC assigned a commission to draft a constitution on October 18, 2007, with 54 hand-picked participants, in an attempt to ignore past election results, to lock in a process that excludes representatives of ethnic nationalities and the NLD from political participation, and to legitimize continued military rule;

Whereas the latest version of the draft constitution seeks to codify military rule by reserving 25 percent of parliamentary seats for military appointees, permits the head of the military to intervene in national politics, and ensures that key government ministries are held by military officers;

Whereas in October 2007, the SPDC appointed Labor Minister U Aung Kyi as liaison minister to engage with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi for possible talks with Senior General Than Shwe, leader of the SPDC, but there has been no true exchange or tangible result from the few talks that were held;

Whereas recently, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi expressed through her party leaders that she is unhappy with the SPDC's unwillingness to establish political dialogue and she even urged the people of Burma to be prepared for the worst;

Whereas on February 9, 2008, the military regime announced that it will hold a constitutional referendum in May 2008 and a general election in 2010;

Whereas on February 12, 2008, the SPDC extended for another year the house arrest of U Tin Oo, Deputy Chairman of the NLD; and

Whereas early reports concerning the referendum voting indicate that Burmese voters were instructed how to vote under supervision of officials, sometimes under threat of physical violence and without an opportunity to read the ballot they were forced to cast: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) denounces the one-sided, undemocratic, and illegitimate actions of the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) that seek to legitimize military rule through a flawed referendum process to adopt a new, undemocratic constitution;

(2) strongly urges that Burma's military regime begin a meaningful tri-partite dialogue with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the 1990 election-winning parties and representatives of ethnic nationalities toward national reconciliation, democracy, freedom of assembly, freedom of movement, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and internationally recognized human rights for all Burmese citizens;

(3) demands the immediate and unconditional release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, detained Buddhist monks, and all other political prisoners and prisoners of conscience;

(4) denounces the SPDC for its failure to comply with the United Nations' recommendations and engage in a meaningful time-bound tri-partite dialogue with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the 1990 election winning parties and representatives of ethnic nationalities;

(5) calls for the SPDC to comply fully and immediately with the recommendations made by the United Nations Security Council Presidential Statement issued on October 11, 2007;

(6) urges the President to call for the United Nations Security Council to condemn the undemocratic referendum process and the SPDC's flawed constitution which will be the outcome of the referendum;

(7) urges the President to call for the United Nations Security Council to pass a binding resolution, which will instruct the regime to fully comply with the recommendations made by United Nations Special Envoy Ibrahim Gambari and the United Nations Security Council Presidential Statement, and strengthen the mandate of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to engage in a meaningful and time-bound dialogue with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the 1990 election winning parties and ethnic nationality representatives towards an inclusive democratic national reconciliation;

(8) urges the President to push for a comprehensive arms embargo against the Burmese military regime at the United Nations Security Council so that weapons produced by foreign countries, including Ukraine, China, and Russia, that currently sell weapons to Burma's military regime, can no longer be used by Burma's military regime against civilians; and

(9) urges the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to involve itself more deeply in reaching out to the Burmese democracy movement and to work with the United Nations Security Council and the Secretary-General to promote meaningful political dialogue.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to thank my colleague Mr. RUSH HOLT for offering this important measure and for his tireless leadership in promoting human rights and democracy in Burma.

For more than a decade, the military regime in Burma has ignored the democratic aspirations of the Burmese people. As we saw in its bloody repression of last September's "Saffron Revolution," the regime continues to trample on human rights. And it is squandering Burma's vast natural resources through spending on the regime and its weapons, while leaving the overwhelming majority of Burma's people in poverty.

Now the regime plans a May 10 referendum to institutionalize these policies through a sham constitution. The referendum attempts to give democratic legitimacy to a process that was designed by the Burmese military, implemented by the Burmese military, and benefits only the Burmese military. As such, it is anything but democratic.

Today, as Burma recovers from a devastating storm that left thousands dead and missing, with many more homeless, our sympathies are with the Burmese people. But it is not natural disasters but rather the yoke of the Burmese military that has left Burma's people impoverished and calling for greater political participation for more than 20 years.

It is especially appropriate that we stand with the Burmese people today as they face not only the devastation of the cyclone but also the continued devastation caused by this regime. Accordingly, I call on my colleagues to join me in condemning the Burmese junta's sham referendum and constitution.

By passing H. Con. Res. 317 today, we call on the administration, the United Nations, and the international community to support a legitimate, inclusive dialogue between the regime and opposition forces. Only such an inclusive tripartite negotiation can put Burma back on the path to peace and prosperity, where it rightfully belongs.

Please join me in support of H. Con. Res. 317 and offering support for restoration of real democracy in Burma.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, which points out that the smoke screen of a sham constitution and a bogus referendum is not a path leading to free Burma.

It seems a particularly callous decision for the Burmese junta to go forward with its planned referendum on May 10, just 1 week after a tropical cyclone devastated the people of that nation. The generals, by ignoring the almost 4,000 dead and 100,000 homeless, are concerned only about their narrow political agenda.

We in Congress offer our heartfelt condolences to those in Burma who lost family and friends in this tragic natural disaster. We urge the junta to immediately lift its irrational restrictions on international humanitarian organizations operating inside Burma. Only then can they provide the emergency relief necessary for the suffering people of this country.

The generals in Rangoon, however, have cynically determined that time is on their side. They are convinced that, while the world's attention turns away from the bloody events of last fall to other crises in other parts of the world, they can carry on business as usual oppressing their people. That business includes implementing plans for the May 10 referendum on their undemocratic constitution. This constitution ignores the will of the people of Burma as expressed in the streets of Rangoon and other cities last fall. This one-sided constitution seeks to legitimize military dictatorship rule. The current junta seized power by crushing a mass democracy uprising over two decades ago. We and the people of Burma will commemorate the 20th anniversary of that uprising on August 8, the very date the Beijing Olympics begins. On that date, advocates of a free Burma will hold activities around the world to remind the Burmese generals and their Beijing allies that the torch of Miss Liberty shines brighter than any Olympic torch.

The generals have turned to a sham constitutional provision in an effort to ignore the international call for a genuine dialogue with Aung San Suu Kyi and members of the opposition and minority groups. The goal of that dialogue is to achieve "inclusive national reconciliation." This call for dialogue was contained in the statement released by the U.N. Security Council President on October 11, 2007, with the unanimous consent of all members of the council.

Instead of heeding the urgings of the international community, however, these generals have brazenly continued their roundup of those involved in the Saffron Revolution last fall, including Buddhist monks, and they have put them in jail. They have also refused to release Aung San Suu Kyi and other political prisoners.

The Burmese junta treated the U.N. special envoy to Burma with disdain during his last visit. They refused him access to the top leadership and flatly rejected his offer of independent monitoring of the referendum vote. The

U.N. envoy himself has admitted the visit did not yield any tangible results.

The junta's attitude of brazen indifference following its bloody suppression of the Saffron Revolution cannot stand unchallenged by the world community.

□ 1500

This Congress must raise strong objection to the junta's cynical plan to try to maintain rule through a sham constitution.

I urge that my colleagues stand for a free Burma by voicing vigorous support of this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he might consume to the gentleman from New Jersey, Representative RUSH HOLT.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlelady.

Today all of our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Burma. The deaths and destruction caused by the cyclone Nargis which hit Burma over the weekend are still being discovered. Recent reports indicate that maybe 10,000 were killed and hundreds of thousands left without shelter and clean water. Yet despite this horrific natural disaster, the Burmese junta has announced it will go ahead with the scheduled sham constitutional referendum this Saturday.

Today, we are considering our resolution to condemn the Burmese regime's undemocratic constitution and the scheduled sham referendum to legitimize that constitution. As the sponsor of H. Con. Res. 317, I want to thank Chairman BERMAN and Ranking Member ROS-LEHTINEN, who are both lead sponsors of the resolution, for their support in helping to move this.

We sometimes ask, and our constituents sometimes ask, whether governments are relevant to our daily lives, to their daily lives. Well, certainly here we see a negative example of what a difference a government can make. The ruling junta did not warn the people, so I understand, of the oncoming cyclone. They have done little to provide humanitarian assistance.

I strongly encourage our State Department to heed the calls of the international community and provide whatever emergency humanitarian assistance the Government of Burma will accept. I do recall visiting Burma several decades ago following an earthquake that devastated Pagan, and the willful unwillingness of the military dictatorship then to accept international help.

I have long been interested in Burma and the future of the Burmese people. I first traveled there some decades ago, and I was struck by the amazing damage and destruction that a despotic antidemocratic government can inflict on an economy, on a country and on the people.

Under military rule since 1962, Burma was once called the "rice bowl

of Asia" because of its rich resources, its fertile land and its productive people. But with the ruling junta, its promise and its potential have steadily declined. This promising country's resources have been channeled into supporting the military, and it is now one of the most impoverished countries in the world.

Prior to this week's scheduled sham constitutional referendum, the junta has allowed an election once before. In 1990 the National League For Democracy, the NLD, led by Aung San Suu Kyi, won an election landslide. Yet despite the NLD winning four out of every five parliamentary seats, the regime locked up the NLD winners, and to this day Aung San Suu Kyi remains under arrest. For her bravery, courage and her fight for true democracy in her home country, she has been awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace. Yet 18 years later, this Nobel laureate remains locked away.

Those are among the reasons that this House today is considering, and should pass, this resolution to condemn the Burmese regime's undemocratic constitution and the sham referendum to legitimize it.

The Burmese people are determined to enjoy the same rights and freedoms that so many across the world, take for granted. The heroic efforts of the opposition leader and Peace Prize winner and others have given hope to victims of terrible oppression, and they deserve our support. This resolution sends a strong signal to the people of Burma that we stand with them in their struggle for democracy. The resolution denounces the one-sided totalitarian and illegal act by the junta to try to legitimize military rule through their unilaterally drafted constitution.

The monks who were detained following the September Saffron Revolution and all other political prisoners and prisoners of conscience should be released. The resolution urges President Bush to call on the world community not to accept or recognize the junta's constitution.

When several of us Members of Congress held a meeting here of the Human Rights Caucus on the Saffron Revolution to hear testimony from the monks who stood up in a nonviolent way to one of the most despotic regimes in the world, the monks told a gripping and heart-rending tale. They called on Congress to approve this resolution as soon as possible, and today the House answers that call.

Earlier this year, for a joint session of Congress, I invited a young man, Richard Chio, a refugee from Burma and a resident of my congressional district, to sit as my guest here in the gallery of this House. He sat and watched the State of the Union address, having resettled only months before in the United States with the help of Lutheran Social Services of New

Jersey. He told me that this day in Washington "was like living in a dream." It was the most amazing day in his life to see that a government like ours could exist, because he knew nothing like that in Burma.

Richard's story and the countless others remind us of why now, more than ever, especially following the devastation of this cyclone in Burma, the people of the United States need to stand with the people of Burma and oppose the junta.

This referendum later this week would be a sham, a fake, pretend; it would be bogus, fraudulent, spurious, phony. Use whatever word you want. But it would not be democratic. It would not be to the benefit of the people of Burma who want a true democracy.

I thank the chairman and the ranking member for their support and the many cosponsors of this resolution. I also want to thank Eric Richardson with Mr. BERMAN and Dennis Halpin with the ranking member for their assistance in preparing this resolution. I also want to thank the U.S. Campaign for Burma and Jen Quigley for the excellent work they do every day and have done year in and year out to promote democracy in Burma.

I urge passage of this resolution.

Ms. WATSON. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, it should be well noted that China continues to support this military dictatorship in Burma. And as we approach the Chinese Olympics this year, we should remember that China does not burn the torch for liberty and freedom throughout the world, but they continue to support dictatorships like those in North Korea, Darfur and Burma.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, as the representative in Congress of Fort Wayne, Indiana—home to an estimated 3,000 to 3,500 people from Burma, the greatest population of Burmese in the United States—I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 317.

Over the last year, Indiana's Third Congressional District has seen a marked increase in the number of refugees from Burma, although Burmese have lived in northeast Indiana for some time. To help them immerse as quickly as possible into our community, my office has been working with Federal and State agencies, as well as local resettlement organizations. Over the years, I've had an opportunity to learn about this Southeast Asian country and its diverse, proud, and resilient people.

More than anything, the refugees tell me about the brutal oppression they endured under the military junta in Burma, known as the State Peace and Development Council. Many of these refugees still have loved ones living in destitute, overseas refugee camps, or relatives who have been unable to escape Burma, and they worry greatly about their plight.

They also tell me about Aung San Suu Kyi, the Nobel laureate and democratically elected leader of Burma, who has been under house

arrest for years, barred from assuming the Prime Ministerial post to which she was rightly elected. Her consistent advocacy of nonviolent resistance against the military junta is inspiring, and it was for her strong leadership that the Nobel Committee awarded her its Peace Prize. The United States must unequivocally support Aung San Suu Kyi as the legitimate leader of Burma.

Despite international recognition of its gross human rights violations, Burma's regime continues to use violence and murder to terrorize its own people, most recently during last September's demonstrations. I have spoken in opposition to Burma's military junta for a number of years, and today I am once again condemning it for forcing a referendum that seeks to lend false credibility to an undemocratic constitution. As a cosponsor of H. Con. Res. 317, I am deeply concerned by what the regime will do to retain its tight grip on power.

Today, as the House considers this concurrent resolution, I also join my colleagues in being mindful of the terrible devastation caused by a cyclone that ripped through Burma over the weekend. I offer my condolences to the families of those who lost loved ones in this staggering disaster, and I earnestly hope that the regime in Burma will accept international assistance to help Burma's people recover from this tragedy.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 317: Demanding Burma's Undemocratic Constitutional Referendum, introduced by my colleague Congressman HOLT, which I am proud to cosponsor. I would like to thank the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs for bringing this important legislation to the floor today, as well as his ongoing leadership on this issue.

Last year, we witnessed the biggest protests in Burma since the popular uprising in 1988. Initially triggered by a sharp and unexpected increase in fuel, last September's protests, known as the Saffron Resolution, became a statement against the government attacks on Buddhist monks attending a peaceful protest in early September. Following the government's failure to apologize for these appalling actions, Burma's spiritual and nonviolent monks began protesting in large numbers. Burma's monks are highly revered, and have historically played a prominent role in political protests within the country. They form the social foundation of their nation, and it is extremely significant that tens of thousands of monks participated in the recent demonstrations.

The events of last September illustrated the Burmese military regime's ongoing repression of basic human rights. The military has, for many years, ignored the democratic aspirations of the Burmese people, perhaps best seen in the ongoing restrictions on prominent pro-democracy leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, whose party won a landslide electoral victory in 1990 but has never been allowed to govern. In addition, the regime is squandering Burma's natural resources, with proceeds going to the military and its weapons, instead of to the people of Burma, the overwhelming majority of whom live in poverty.

Military-run enterprises continue to control key sectors of the Burmese economy, which,

in general, is plagued by corruption, severe mismanagement, and a flourishing black market. Burma is the world's largest exporter of teak, as well as a principal source of jade, pearls, rubies, and sapphires. These resources, combined with extremely fertile soil and offshore oil and gas deposits, are spent in ways that only benefit the military elite while the vast bulk of the Burmese people are increasingly destitute.

Mr. Speaker, this repressive government is now planning a May 10th referendum, which will have the effect of institutionalizing these policies through a sham constitution. The military regime in Burma is attempting to give democratic legitimacy to a process, controlled from start to finish by the Burmese military, which is anything but democratic. A true democracy benefits the people; this referendum will only benefit the Burmese military.

The legislation that we are considering today, H. Con. Res. 317, calls on the Administration, the United Nations, and the international community to support legitimate, inclusive dialogue between the regime and opposition forces. It denounces the regime's one-sided, undemocratic attempt to legalize military rule with the constitution and its related referendum, and insists that Burma's military regime begin a meaningful tri-partite dialogue with Aung San Suu Kyi, winners of the 1990 election, and ethnic nationality representatives toward full restoration of democracy and internationally recognized human rights for all Burmese citizens. Further, it urges the President to call for the U.N. Security Council not to recognize the constitution and to pass a resolution instructing the Burmese regime to enter into meaningful dialogue, and to push for a comprehensive U.N. Security Council arms embargo against the Burmese military regime.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is an unambiguous call for truly inclusive, tripartite dialogue. Burma possesses one of the most ancient, rich, and ethnically and religiously diverse cultures on earth. Like the indomitable Aung San Suu Kyi, the opposition leader democratically elected to lead the nation in 1990 but who instead has been imprisoned for 12 of the last 18 years, the people of Burma are resilient and draw strength from their convictions and the diversity of their nation. Only through such international negotiation can we hope to put Burma back on the path to peace and prosperity. I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important and timely legislation.

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

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Con. Res. 317, 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. LEWIS of California. 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.

DITH PRAN

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1109) honoring the memory of Dith Pran by remembering his life's work and continuing to acknowledge and remember the victims of genocides that have taken place around the globe, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1109

Whereas Dith Pran was born on September 23, 1942, in Siem Reap, Cambodia, a provincial town near the ancient temples at Angkor Wat;

Whereas Mr. Dith, a photojournalist and human rights advocate, became the face of the atrocities in Cambodia carried out by the Khmer Rouge;

Whereas Mr. Dith learned French and English in school and became a translator of Khmer for the United States Armed Forces and visiting film crews while he worked as a receptionist at a hotel near Angkor Wat prior to the escalation of the Vietnam War;

Whereas, during much of the early 1970s, Mr. Dith was a guide, interpreter, and friend of Sydney H. Schanberg of the New York Times;

Whereas the friendship and partnership between Mr. Dith and Mr. Schanberg became the basis for the 1984 film, "The Killing Fields", which showed the brutality perpetrated by the Khmer Rouge from 1975 to 1979 under Pol Pot;

Whereas nearly 2,000,000 Cambodians died from 1975 to 1979 at the hands of the Khmer Rouge;

Whereas Mr. Dith saved Mr. Schanberg and other Western journalists from being executed by persuading Khmer Rouge soldiers that they were journalists sympathetic to the Khmer Rouge cause;

Whereas Mr. Dith's wife and children were able to leave Cambodia for the United States through Mr. Schanberg's connections, but Mr. Dith was unable to obtain a passport or visa to leave the country;

Whereas, for four years, Mr. Dith disguised himself as a peasant, worked in rice fields, and endured regular beatings and harsh labor while living on a diet of a tablespoon of rice a day because the Khmer Rouge would often kill anyone who appeared educated or even wore glasses;

Whereas, in November 1978, Mr. Dith returned to his home of Siem Reap, and discovered that 50 members of his family had been killed;

Whereas Mr. Dith fled 60 miles to the border of Thailand and arrived, on October 3, 1979, where Mr. Schanberg flew to greet him;

Whereas Mr. Dith had an emotional reunion with his wife, Ser Moeun Dith, and their four children when he arrived in San Francisco;

Whereas Mr. Dith moved to New York, New York, and was hired in 1980 as a photographer for *The New York Times*;

Whereas Mr. Dith was a tireless activist speaking out about the Cambodian genocide and once stating, "I'm a one person crusade";

Whereas soon after the release of the film "The Killing Fields", Mr. Dith became a United States citizen and a goodwill ambassador for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

Whereas, in 1994, Mr. Dith worked to help pass the Cambodian Genocide Justice Act of 1994, sponsored by former Senator Charles Robb of Virginia, which established an Office of Cambodian Genocide Investigations at the Department of State;

Whereas, on March 30, 2008, Mr. Dith, a resident of Woodbridge, New Jersey, passed away at the age of 65; and

Whereas the Dith Pran Holocaust Awareness Project was established to create awareness about the Cambodian genocide: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) honors the life and legacy of Mr. Dith for his commitment to raising awareness about the atrocities that took place under the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia;

(2) recognizes his courage and his endless pursuit for justice for the victims of the Cambodian genocide and all peoples around the world who have been victims of genocide; and

(3) honors the memory of Mr. Dith by remembering his life's work and continuing to acknowledge and remember the victims of genocides that have taken place around the world.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution, and I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I would like to thank my colleague, Mr. SIREs, for offering this important legislation in memory of a great American, Dith Pran. Through the film "The Killing Fields," Dith Pran is for many Americans the face of the Cambodian genocide. That movie documented Dith Pran's personal struggle, his friendship and cooperation with New York Times reporter Sydney Schanberg, and the larger horror of the Khmer Rouge genocide in Cambodia.

Much as "The Killing Fields" reminded Americans of the Cambodian genocide, Mr. Dith's life work as a photojournalist and U.N. goodwill am-

bassador raised awareness around the world of the atrocities that took place for those in Cambodia under the Khmer Rouge.

This resolution commemorates the work of Dith Pran's life, including his work as a photojournalist for the New York Times, his bravery in surviving the Cambodian genocide and escaping to Thailand in 1979; his advocacy for the Cambodian refugees and victims of genocide around the world after he became a U.S. citizen and a goodwill ambassador for the United Nations in 1994; and his work with former Senator Charles Robb to help pass the Cambodian Genocide Justice Act establishing an Office of Cambodian Genocide Investigations at the State Department.

Mr. Dith's work laid the foundation for ongoing justice and reconciliation tribunals within Cambodia that continue to this day.

For all these reasons, I support this resolution and urge my colleagues to join me as well.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution which serves as yet another reminder of the haunting words inscribed in the Holocaust Museum: "Never again."

The Khmer Rouge-led slaughter of over 1 million innocent people took place more than three decades after the Holocaust ended. Yet the world was again largely silent and indifferent to this tragedy. There was no one person who more embodied the tragic and horrific story of this genocide committed by the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia than Dith Pran. His harrowing personal story of courage, abandonment, struggle, escape and ultimate survival was recorded for all time in the gripping Academy Award-winning film "The Killing Fields."

After escaping from the Khmer Rouge and making his way across a treacherous border laden with mines, Dith Pran reached a refugee camp in Thailand and ultimately came to the United States. Here while continuing his career as a photojournalist, Dith Pran was a firm and clear voice appealing to the world's conscience to remember the genocide which occurred in his homeland. He worked tirelessly to achieve the establishment of an Office of Cambodian Genocide. It was officially called the Office of Cambodian Genocide Investigation in the Department of State.

It is a note of some consolation that Dith Pran lived to see the start of the genocide trial last November of surviving leaders of the Khmer Rouge on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Sadly, it took almost 30 years to bring these architects of the killing fields to justice. There is

thankfully no statute of limitations for those who carry out world genocide.

Without Dith Pran's steadfast determination, however, this aging Khmer Rouge cadre may have escaped their final hour of judgment. This trial now taking place in the Cambodian capital should give solace to Dith Pran's family and his friends at his passing. It also represents his greatest legacy as an advocate on human rights.

The current trial should also remind us to redouble our efforts to ensure that the words "Never Again" are finally realized. The best final tribute for Dith Pran would be for the world community to work together for a swift end to the current genocide in Darfur and the killing fields in North Korea.

I urge my colleagues to give their whole-hearted support to this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1515

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. RUSH HOLT.

Mr. HOLT. I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, in countries all over the world, journalists are assisted, in fact, often dependent on local assistance, such as Dith Pran was to Sydney Schanberg, who was working for *The New York Times*. Such assistance often goes unrecognized.

But Dith Pran did not go unrecognized. His life would be noteworthy if only because of his survival. After the foreign military forces left southeast Asia, and horrific genocide and slaughter enveloped Cambodia, Dith Pran faced a situation that is hard to believe. He would be noteworthy also because of his excellent work as a photographer and photojournalist, but he is most noteworthy and truly admirable because of his work to bring the horrors of the genocide of Cambodia and of genocide anywhere in the world to the attention of the public. It was my honor and good fortune to know Dith Pran.

He covered stories and events in the New Jersey and New York area, and I saw him fairly often. He even accomplished the challenging achievement of sometimes making me look good on film. He was hardly a movie star, but he was always cheerful. In his daily contacts, looking through those smiling eyes, it would be hard to imagine the horrors that were back in his mind.

For months each year, after hours, on weekends, before students, before policymakers, before any audience that would listen, he used his experiences effectively to teach the horrors that humans can do to humans and to work for justice, truth and reconciliation in Cambodia and other countries around the world.

After each mass murder and genocide in history, some have said "Never

again." After the Nazi death camps, after Rwanda, after each genocide, we say never again.

Let us all hope, that the example of Dith Pran and his story will help us take action so that truly never again we will see the kind of horror that Dith Pran saw.

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H. Res. 1109, honoring the memory of Mr. Dith Pran, a constituent of mine from Woodbridge, New Jersey, who passed away on March 30, 2008, at the age of 65. Mr. Dith was a photojournalist for the New York Times and a renowned human rights advocate, who became the face of the atrocities in Cambodia carried out by the Khmer Rouge under Pol Pot. After fleeing Cambodia in 1979, Mr. Dith devoted his life to advocating against genocide and finding justice for victims of genocide through his advocacy.

After working as a translator and receptionist in Cambodia, he was hired in the early 1970s by Sydney H. Schanberg of the New York Times to be a guide and interpreter. The incredible friendship and partnership that developed between the two men became the basis for the 1984 film, "The Killing Fields," which helped bring to light the brutality of the Khmer Rouge regime.

In 1985, Mr. Dith became a U.S. citizen and a goodwill ambassador for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. In 1994, he worked with former Senator Charles Robb to help pass the Cambodian Genocide Justice Act. Mr. Dith was a tireless advocate constantly speaking out about the Cambodian genocide, so that the world would know and never forget.

This resolution is to honor Mr. Dith's commitment to raising awareness about the atrocities that took place in Cambodia, as well as to recognize the strength and courage of an ordinary man who lived an extraordinary life. Mr. Speaker, I would urge all my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1109, 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.

HIGHER EDUCATION EXTENSION

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 2929) to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of the Senate bill is as follows:

S. 2929

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

(a) EXTENSION OF PROGRAMS.—Section 2(a) of the Higher Education Extension Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-81; 20 U.S.C. 1001 note) is amended by striking "April 30, 2008" and inserting "May 31, 2008".

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section, or in the Higher Education Extension Act of 2005 as amended by this Act, shall be construed to limit or otherwise alter the authorizations of appropriations for, or the durations of, programs contained in the amendments made by the Higher Education Reconciliation Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-171) or by the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (Public Law 110-84) to the provisions of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and the Taxpayer-Teacher Protection Act of 2004.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect as if enacted on April 30, 2008.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may insert material relevant to S. 2929 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Senate 2929, a bill to temporarily extend programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965.

At the beginning of February, the House took the next step in the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act in passing H.R. 4137, the College Opportunity and Affordability Act.

Now we find ourselves in the near final phase of completing the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act as we work towards a compromise bill with the Senate to ensure that the doors of college are truly open to all qualified students. It's our goal to ensure that a final bill encompasses the major issues addressed in H.R. 4137, including the skyrocketing college prices and needlessly complicated student-aid application process and predatory tactics by student lenders.

The bill under consideration today, S. 2929, will extend the programs under the Higher Education Act until May 31, 2008, to allow sufficient time for final deliberations on the two bills reported out of the respective chambers. While the process of reauthorizing the Higher Education Act may be coming to a close, I would like to underscore that this does not mean that we will complete work on higher education altogether.

The committee intends to continue to address issues as needed, which include not only overseeing the proper implementation of the College Cost Reduction and Access Act and the rest of the Higher Education Act, but also, for example, ensuring availability of student loans during this challenging credit market, which the House acted on last week in passing H.R. 5715.

It has been nearly 10 years since the Higher Education Act was last reauthorized, and I believe that Members on both sides of the aisle and in both chambers are anxious to complete work on a compromise bill in this Congress, and we believe it can happen.

I look forward to completing this work with the respective Members on behalf of our Nation's hardworking families and students.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2929, a 1-month extension of the Higher Education Act.

Over the past several months, a tremendous amount of progress has been made toward reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. The Education and Labor Committee worked in a bipartisan fashion to produce a bill that received strong support here on the House floor.

Chairman MILLER and Ranking Member MCKEON have been leading our efforts to negotiate a final compromise with the other chamber, and I am pleased to report that our work is nearly done. While I support today's temporary extension of programs under the Higher Education Act, I know members of the committee, along with members of the higher education community, will be pleased to hear our assurances that this will be the final extension we have to pass. We expect conference meetings to wrap up in the next several weeks with a conference report to be brought back in the month of May.

As we move toward finalizing this broad overhaul of Federal higher education programs, our top priority must remain college access and affordability. Bolstering our higher education and student aid programs has long been a priority for Congress.

One of the issues that has received a great deal of attention throughout the reauthorization process has been the rising cost of higher education and the high levels of debt that accompany that education for many students.

As a physician, I am keenly aware of the unique challenges faced by new graduates in the medical field, who often carry hundreds of thousands of dollars in debt, yet make an initial wage that is no more than many individuals with a bachelor's degree. I am particularly concerned that high debt levels among medical graduates may be limiting career choices, and that's why I was pleased to partner with another doctor on the committee, the gentleman from Georgia, Dr. PRICE, to call for a study of indebtedness of medical school graduates. It's important that we closely monitor the impact of student loan debt on all the young people pursuing higher education so that we can ensure the value of that investment is not outweighed by the burdens.

I urge my colleagues to retain the House-passed provisions of the reauthorization bill that will help to address our Nation's looming nursing shortage, which makes health care more expensive for all Americans while delaying access to lifesaving treatment. HHS warns that the Nation's nursing shortage could exceed 1 million nursing vacancies by the year 2020. Congress has a duty to address this problem.

I want to thank my colleagues, Congresswoman MCCARTHY and Congressman MELANCON, for working across the aisle with me on this issue. This authorization is a long time coming, and I am pleased to be here supporting what we expect to be the final extension before this law is finally renewed.

I urge my colleagues to support this extension.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this extension as we finalize our work on the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

I join my colleagues on the other side of the aisle in supporting this measure.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TIERNEY. 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 Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2929, 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.

CONGRATULATING CHARTER SCHOOLS

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1168) congratulating charter schools and their students, parents, teachers, and administrators across the United States for their ongoing contributions to education, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1168

Whereas charter schools deliver high-quality education and challenge our students to reach their potential;

Whereas charter schools provide thousands of families with diverse and innovative educational options for their children;

Whereas charter schools are public schools authorized by a designated public entity that are responding to the needs of our communities, families, and students and promoting the principles of quality, choice, and innovation;

Whereas in exchange for the flexibility and autonomy given to charter schools, they are held accountable by their sponsors for improving student achievement and for their financial and other operations;

Whereas 40 States and the District of Columbia have passed laws authorizing charter schools;

Whereas over 4,300 charter schools are now serving approximately 1,200,000 children;

Whereas over the last 14 years, Congress has provided over \$2,262,257,000 in support to the charter school movement through startup financing assistance and grants for planning, implementation, and dissemination;

Whereas over 365,000 children are on charter school waiting lists nationally;

Whereas charter schools improve their students' achievement and can stimulate improvement in traditional public schools;

Whereas charter schools must meet the student achievement accountability requirements under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 in the same manner as traditional public schools, and often set higher and additional individual goals to ensure that they are of high quality and truly accountable to the public;

Whereas charter schools must continually demonstrate their ongoing success to parents, policymakers, and their communities, some charter schools routinely measure parental satisfaction levels, and all give parents new freedom to choose their public school;

Whereas charter schools nationwide serve a higher percentage of low-income and minority students than the traditional public system;

Whereas charter schools have enjoyed broad bipartisan support from the Administration, Congress, State Governors and legislatures, educators, and parents across the United States; and

Whereas the ninth annual National Charter Schools Week, to be held May 5 through May 9, 2008, is an event sponsored by charter schools and grassroots charter school organizations across the United States to recognize the significant impacts, achievements, and innovations of charter schools: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) acknowledges and commends charter schools and their students, parents, teachers, and administrators across the United States for their ongoing contributions to education and improving and strengthening our public school system;

(2) supports the ninth annual National Charter Schools Week; and

(3) joins the President in calling on the people of the United States to conduct appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities to demonstrate support for charter schools during this weeklong celebration in communities throughout the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may insert material relevant to H. Res. 1168 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, this measure supports the designation of May 5 to May 9, 2008, as National Charter Schools Week and recognizes the growing charter school movement in our Nation.

Since their inception in 1991, charter schools have grown by leaps and bounds to address various needs of our Nation's public school students. Diverse charter schools across the country offer innovative instruction.

With site-based control and flexibility, charter schools can make timely decisions about how to structure the school day, which curriculum best suits the needs of their students and, additionally, charter schools may form important partnerships with parents and the surrounding community.

This week charter schools across the country will celebrate the ninth annual National Charter Schools Week. This year's theme, "Growing Excellence," encourages charter schools to share their successes as part of the effort to reform public education in our country.

Today there are almost 4,300 public charter schools operating in 40 States. Their combined force serves over 1.2 million students, and 61 percent of charter schools report significant waiting lists. These waiting lists of nearly 365,000 students nationally are enough to fill over 1,100 new charter schools. Between 300 and 400 new public charter schools open each year, and nearly 150,000 new students enroll in charter schools annually.

The growing charter school movement is said to be providing opportunities for many historically underserved communities. Nationally, it is said

that charter schools disproportionately serve minority and low-income students. It is reported that 58 percent of charter school students are minorities, and 52 percent qualify for free and reduced-price lunch, and many charter schools are able to achieve impressive academic results.

H. Res. 1168 expresses support for National Charter Schools Week and recognizes the charter school movement's 16-year history providing public education options based on innovation, flexibility and community partnerships.

The committee urges our colleagues to pass this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1168, congratulating charter schools and their students, parents, teachers and administrators across the United States for their ongoing contributions to education.

This week has been designated as the ninth annual National Charter Schools Week, and it is entirely appropriate that we take a few minutes to recognize the contributions that charter schools make every day in the lives of millions of children. Charter schools are innovative public schools with a simple interest in providing a quality education to children in their community. They explore new educational approaches, such as longer school days or an extended school year, and are free from most rules and regulations governing conventional public schools. Every day, however, charter schools face unarguable facts of free-market pressures.

□ 1530

Unlike traditional public schools, charter schools must demonstrate the success of their students' academic achievements to parents, policy-makers, and their communities or they face closure. From the time the first charter school opened its doors, they have risen to the challenge.

For example, charter schools made an important contribution to rebuild and strengthen Louisiana after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, particularly in New Orleans.

More often than not, charter schools meet the student achievement and accountability requirements under No Child Left Behind in the same manner as traditional public schools, but often set higher individual goals to ensure that they are of high quality and truly accountable to the public. Yet despite these innovative approaches and promising reports of parental satisfaction, charter schools across the country have struggled through a myriad of obstacles to create successful schools.

We should support the \$272.6 million included in the President's fiscal year

2009 budget request for the public charter school programs authorized under No Child Left Behind. These programs provide key points in the development of charter schools, helping cover the extraordinary costs of launching successful charters, disseminating their successful innovations to other public schools, and providing financial incentives to State governments and private lenders that help enable schools to build and renovate facilities. These programs have been a tremendous success helping to create public charter schools all across the country that work to improve academic achievement for low-income students.

It is my hope that the charter community will continue to build on its 15-year history of providing a high-quality option in public education that is based on innovation, freedom from red tape, and partnership between parents and educators, an option that is giving new hope to disadvantaged and minority families across the country.

I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt that the faculty and staff employed in America's charter schools are working hard to educate their students and give them the tools needed to succeed, I respect their efforts, as well as the overall goal of charter schools to pursue innovative approaches to education that will allow children throughout our Nation to reach their potential. However, in an era when the funding shortfalls under No Child Left Behind have created a burdensome unfunded mandate on public schools and property taxpayers, I am extremely concerned about any diversion of funds, to charter schools or otherwise, from public schools across the country that are already struggling to maintain a diverse curriculum and serve their students. I voted present on H. Res. 1168 in order to make sure that this concern was acknowledged.

Mr. TIERNEY. 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 Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1168, 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.

HONORING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE EL DORADO PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1155) honoring the recipients of the El Dorado Promise scholarship, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1155

Whereas the 2000 United States Census determined that El Dorado, Arkansas, had a significantly lower percentage of residents with degrees from institutions of higher education and significantly higher percentage of families who fell below the poverty line than the national average;

Whereas it is increasingly important for students to obtain a college education in order to keep up with the demands of the modern workforce and global economy;

Whereas the El Dorado Promise scholarship is a tuition scholarship, created and funded by Murphy Oil Corporation, which enables all eligible high school graduates of the El Dorado Public School District in El Dorado, Arkansas, to attend any accredited 2- or 4-year, public or private, college or university;

Whereas school enrollment in the El Dorado Public School District has significantly increased since the El Dorado Promise scholarship program was established, despite a 15-year trend of decreasing enrollment;

Whereas the El Dorado Promise scholarship program increased the number of El Dorado High School students who chose to attend college after graduation by 20 percent; and

Whereas on April 30, 2008, El Dorado High School students who received El Dorado Promise and other academic scholarships sign academic letters of intent for the colleges they will be attending upon graduation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates the recipients of the El Dorado Promise scholarship for choosing to further their education;

(2) observes that April 30, 2008, is the second academic signing day for graduating El Dorado High School students receiving El Dorado Promise and other academic scholarships;

(3) acknowledges that the El Dorado Promise scholarship program is important for the revitalization of southern Arkansas; and

(4) recognizes the organizations and corporation involved in this program for their efforts to ensure that children from southern Arkansas, who might otherwise struggle in financing a college education, are able to attend college.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may insert material relevant to H. Res. 1155 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the recipients of the El Dorado Promise scholarship.

The El Dorado Promise scholarship is a tuition scholarship which allows all students who graduate after attending all 4 years of high school in the El Dorado Public School District to attend any accredited 2- or 4-year college or university. While the enrollment in the El Dorado Public School District has decreased over 15 consecutive years, the establishment of this scholarship has seen enrollment in the district significantly increase. This scholarship program has also increased the number of students going to college after graduating high school by 20 percent.

Mr. Speaker, these numbers are very impressive and I commend the students who have taken advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

As you know, many students are struggling to pay the rising costs of tuition across the country. Additionally, students are graduating with more debt than ever before, and are working harder and harder to pay back their college loans. This growing college crisis has serious implications not just for students and families, but also for our Nation's economic future. In order to maintain our economic leadership in the world, we must make aggressive investments in our current and future workforce.

Scholarships and grants similar to the El Dorado Promise scholarship, such as Georgia's Hope Scholarship, and California's CAL Grant continue to help students achieve their goal of going to college and alleviate the debt burden they carry after college.

Once again, I congratulate the recipients of the El Dorado Promise scholarship, and I thank the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. ROSS) for offering this resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1155 which honors the recipients of the El Dorado Promise scholarship.

On April 30, 2008, El Dorado High School students who received the El Dorado Promise scholarship signed their academic letters of intent for the colleges and universities they will be attending upon graduation.

Thanks to funding provided by the Murphy Oil Corporation, the Promise scholarship gives El Dorado students an additional opportunity to pursue higher education. The scholarship provides up to 5 years of tuition and mandatory fees for undergraduate post-secondary education for students entering

college immediately following high school.

To be eligible for the program, students must have attended local schools for at least 4 years. The annual scholarship is limited to the highest yearly rate charged by an Arkansas public university, currently \$6,010, but the oil company has factored inflation into the program, and plans to be in place for 20 years.

In this era of global competitiveness, it is increasingly important for students to obtain a college education in order to keep up with the demands of the modern workforce. We know how important higher education is both to individuals and to our Nation. A college degree can be a ticket to the middle class. It helps individuals prepare for good jobs, and it allows them to pursue new skills in a changing economy. Higher education also has important societal benefits. College-educated citizens are healthier, more civically involved, have lower unemployment rates, and use fewer government benefits.

The El Dorado scholarship program has increased the number of high school students who choose to attend college after graduation by 20 percent, so it is my pleasure to acknowledge the El Dorado Promise scholarship program for its important role in the revitalization of southern Arkansas; and to recognize Murphy Oil Corporation for its efforts to ensure that children from southern Arkansas who might otherwise struggle in financing a college education are able to attend college. I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TIERNEY. 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 Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1155, 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.

CHARLTON HESTON

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the reso-

lution (H. Res. 1091) honoring the life, achievements, and contributions of Charlton Heston and extending its deepest sympathies to the family of Charlton Heston for the loss of such a great generous man, husband, and father, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1091

Whereas the United States of America has lost a great patriot with the passing of Charlton Heston;

Whereas Charlton Heston first became beloved by the Nation as a great actor and portrayed many heroic figures, including Moses, Michelangelo, Andrew Jackson, John the Baptist, Mark Antony, and El Cid in epic movies of the 1950s and 1960s, and won the 1959 Best Actor Oscar for the lead character in "Ben-Hur";

Whereas Charlton Heston was a leader in many areas of life outside of acting, including serving as President of the Screen Actors Guild, which he helped to integrate with Ronald Reagan and was Chairman of the American Film Institute;

Whereas Charlton Heston was an active supporter of the civil rights movement, including protesting the showing of his film at a segregated movie theater in Oklahoma City and participating in and leading the Arts Group in the 1963 civil rights march on Washington;

Whereas in the last major public role of his life, Charlton Heston was President of the National Rifle Association from June 1998 until April 2003;

Whereas as President of the National Rifle Association, Charlton Heston was a stalwart advocate of the position that the 2nd Amendment gave citizens the right to keep and bear arms;

Whereas Charlton Heston was an active promoter of wildlife management through hunting;

Whereas, in 2003, Charlton Heston was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Nation's highest civilian honor;

Whereas Charlton Heston was born in Illinois on October 4, 1923, and his parents moved to St. Helen, Michigan, where he grew up;

Whereas, in 1943, Charlton Heston enlisted in the Army Air Force and served as a radio-gunner in the Aleutian Islands of Alaska, and in 1947, he was discharged from the Army;

Whereas, in 1944, Charlton Heston married the love of his life, Lydia Clarke, to whom he had been married 64 years at his death;

Whereas the Hestons were the parents of two children, Fraser Heston and Holly Heston Rochell; and

Whereas Charlton Heston passed away on April 5, 2008, and the contributions he made to his family and his Nation will not be forgotten: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) honors the life, achievements, and contributions of Charlton Heston; and

(2) extends its deepest sympathies to the family of Charlton Heston for the loss of such a great generous man, husband, and father.

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, on behalf of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I present for consideration H. Res. 1091, which seeks to recognize the life of Charlton Heston for his accomplishments both and off the big screen. Not only did Heston command an overwhelming presence in theaters, but his actions in support of the civil rights movement during the 1960s and on behalf of other social causes throughout his life deserve recognition. For example, Charlton Heston joined Martin Luther King, Jr., in the march on Washington, D.C. in 1963, and was an early civil rights activist long before Hollywood found it fashionable.

H. Res. 1091 was introduced by Representative DON YOUNG of Alaska on April 8, 2008, and was considered by and reported from the Oversight Committee on April 16, 2008, by voice vote after being amended by the panel.

The measure has the support of well over 100 Members of Congress and is evidence of a wide, national appreciation for the enduring legacy that this great American citizen left behind.

Heston was born on October 4, 1923, in No Man's Land, Illinois. In 1944, Heston enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, spending 2 years of his life as a B-25 radio operator and gunner in the Alaskan Aleutian Islands.

In August of 2002, after a long and illustrious acting career, Heston publicly announced that he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. In 2003, Mr. Heston was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in commemoration of the positive impact he has had on our culture and country.

In memory of his life of greatness and activism, I urge swift passage of H. Res. 1091.

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

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, rather than my making a statement, I would like to yield to the sponsor of the resolution, our very distinguished veteran, Mr. YOUNG from Alaska, and just advise him I am going to yield him such time as he may consume, letting him know that the former chairman of the Rules Committee would like some time as well.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I thank my chairman of the subcommittee and Mr. SHAYS and the chairman of the full committee.

It is indeed an honor that I will speak on Charlton Heston today. We have already heard some of the roles that he played in "Planet of the Apes," "Julius Caesar," "Antony and Cleopatra," "Omega Man," and I can go on down the line. His famous roles, of course, were Moses, Michelangelo, Andrew Jackson, John the Baptist, Mark Antony, El Cid, and Ben Hur.

Some people may not remember his role in politics. He became very active as president of the Screen Actors Guild. Before every actor in the world got involved politically, he was involved in the Screen Actors Guild. He was also very active and involved, as mentioned by the chairman, in civil rights. He marched with Martin Luther King. And one of my interests was that he enlisted in the Army Air Force in World War II and served 2 years as a B-25 gunner in the Aleutian chain, a God-awful place it was, but part of my great State of Alaska, and defended against the enemy at that time with great honor.

He had two children. He married the love of his life, Lydia Clarke, in 1944, and was married to her for the rest of his life.

He was the president of the NRA from June 1998 until April 2003, and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Bush.

I have to say I knew him personally. I never called him Chuck or Charles, it was always Mr. Heston or Mr. President because he was president of an organization which I am very proud of, and that is the NRA, the National Rifle Association. He probably did more to protect the freedoms of America in his actions as president of that organization than any other individual. And that may not be proper with certain people in this body, but he did guarantee us, through the second amendment, the right to protect ourselves, the right to protect the castle which we live in, the right to be able to protect those that we love against those who would do us harm. He believed in it, as I believe in it. It is very, very important.

If America were to recognize one individual who probably contributed most to our individual freedoms, it would be Charlton Heston.

□ 1545

Not his movie and acting career, not his Guild presidency, but his action as the NRA president, National Rifle Association of America; his role in being able to assure that each person could carry, on his hip, if necessary, against those that invade our domicile. And for that alone, we should recognize his great contribution. His civil rights, yes, his activities willing to speak out, and his great acting capability, yes, but the ability, and what he has left us in the legacy under the second amendment, because it will be under attack.

Let's not kid ourselves. It's under attack by those that would like to have the government do everything for you. They want to give you all your health care. Of course you won't have health care. They would like, in fact, to have you taken care of from the birth until the death, and they might decide when you will die and even when you will be born.

And they definitely don't want the American citizen to be armed. They don't want the American citizen to be able to protect themselves from those who would do you harm. It will be under attack.

But he left a great legacy. We have 37 States in the Union today who have the "Right to Carry Law," and it's all because of Charlton Heston, because he saw the need to protect the United States of America against those who would take away the great nation that we know.

So, with great honor, I was able to take and introduce this legislation to just recognize him and his family for what he contributed to those he leaves behind, the freedom of the great United States of America.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve my time.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the former chairman of the Rules Committee, now its ranking member, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER).

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by expressing my appreciation to Messrs. CLAY and SHAYS for their leadership on this and, most important, to our good friend, DON YOUNG, for having stepped forward to author this resolution.

And I want to say that as I listened to our friend, DON YOUNG, talk about Charlton Heston, I was struck by a story. DON began by taking the acting career, which, since I represent Los Angeles, I'm particularly proud of people who have great acting careers, and Mr. Heston was certainly one of those. I was struck by the fact that DON YOUNG drew from that to the fact that he focused on reality.

And as he was saying that, Mr. Speaker, I'm reminded of a story that Mr. Heston used to enjoy telling with regularity. When he was in the midst of rehearsals for that famous movie, Ben Hur, he would regularly say to people around him, I really want to make sure that I do this right because I want to make sure that I win this race. And he was constantly assured that he was going to win the race because the outcome was clearly predetermined.

But he understood full well that there was a great disparity between the roles that he played, as a great actor, and the fact that the reality of life is something that is much different, and it does take a great deal of vigilance and hard work.

Now, all of my colleagues have spoken about the role that he played as a civil rights leader. Mr. YOUNG has talked about the fact that he played such an important role in preservation of second amendment rights, which was very important.

He was always involved, Mr. Speaker, in public policy issues. Again, as a Representative from Los Angeles, I had the opportunity to regularly discuss with him issues, and he exercised his first amendment rights with me with great regularity. He would call. And I will say that even though he was ill, I had the privilege of talking with him about, I think it was a year and a half, 2 years ago. And I knew that he had been ill, but he still was asking me questions about things that were going on here in this institution, making sure that we were staying on the right path.

And so it's difficult to imagine a greater patriot than Charlton Heston. And I have to say, Mr. Speaker, that still, to this day, our thoughts and prayers are with Lydia and the wonderful Heston family. And I know that at this moment he's probably up there playing tennis, which was one of his great loves, and looking down and working to make sure that we, as Members of the United States Congress, and as leaders in our great Nation, do everything that we can to preserve these very, very precious liberties that he loved so dearly.

I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. CLAY. I continue to reserve, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, may I ask how much time we have left.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Connecticut has 13 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Missouri has 18 minutes remaining.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) such time as he may consume.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding. And I want to thank Mr. YOUNG from Alaska for offering this resolution. I'm certainly proud to support this resolution honoring Charlton Heston's iconic life.

Charlton Heston has done much for this country in many, many different areas of public involvement and public service. He appeared in over 100 films during 60 years, but he's best remembered by me as Moses. To many Americans, Moses died on April 5, 2008.

As a kid, I actually thought Heston was Moses. I can remember sitting in a Sunday school class as a young kid when the teacher asked me if I'd ever read about Moses and the 10 Commandments in the Bible. And I said no, but I saw the movie version.

Charlton Heston brought Moses to life in a way that no one else could. As Moses, Heston lifted his staff in the 10 Commandments to rally the Israelites. But in his personal life he lifted his

musket to rally millions of Americans. The second amendment was his tablet of stone, proclaiming the right to bear arms.

Heston was quite the intense actor, and wonderful patriot. Heston once said, "It's been quite a ride. I loved every minute of it." And his life was certainly extraordinary.

So, Mr. Speaker, I thank "Moses Heston" for bringing life to history and for being a great American during his life.

Mr. CLAY. I continue to reserve, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I rise today in support of this resolution honoring the life of one of the great American personalities in the century, the late Charlton Heston.

Truly, a man of legends, whether from his epic contributions as an actor, to his passionate and momentous involvement in our politics and society, Mr. Heston touched us all.

Born in 1923 in Evanston, Illinois, John Charles Carter spent his childhood in Michigan. Following his parents' divorce in the 1930s, his mother remarried to Chester Heston, and the family moved to the Chicago suburb of Winnetka. It was here that his acting career took flight.

After enrolling in the theater program at his new high school, he earned a drama scholarship to attend Northwestern University. It was here that he met another aspiring thespian, future wife, and "the queen of his heart," Lydia Clarke.

Enlisting in the Army Air Forces in 1942, he spent 2 years serving as a radio gunner in the Aleutian Islands during World War II.

After experiencing limited success on Broadway after the war, Heston emerged on the big screen in 1950. He captivated audiences with his statuesque appearance and his historic epic roles. He scaled Mt. Sinai as Moses in the 10 Commandments, rebelled against the Romans in his Oscar winning performance in Ben Hur, remained loyal to his king at all costs in El Cid, and masterfully decorated the Sistine Chapel as Michelangelo.

Who can forget his gritty performance in such noir classics as Touch of Evil, and groundbreaking science fiction classics like Planet of the Apes?

Though he spent more than 60 years on camera and appeared in over 100 movies, he is also known by many for his passion for politics and commitment to a life outside of Hollywood.

A staunch supporter of civil rights in the early 1960s, Heston called Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the "20th century Moses for his people."

A vocal participant in a number of marches and protests, he demonstrated his support long before Hollywood found it fashionable.

Like his friend, Ronald Reagan, Heston's political views gradually

began to align more with the Republican Party, and by the late 1980s, he had become a prominent orator on behalf of conservative politicians and against the debasement of American culture.

In 1998, the passionate Heston, well in his 70s, was elected president and spokesman of the NRA, a position he held until his resignation in 2003.

After a bout with prostate cancer, Heston announced in August 2002 he had been diagnosed with symptoms consistent with Alzheimer's. On April 5, 2008, at the age of 84, Charlton Heston passed away.

He once joked, "I have played three presidents, three saints, and two geniuses. If that does not create an ego problem, nothing does." But arrogance does not describe this humble man, who pursued life as he did each of his roles, a constant pursuit of unattainable perfection.

Despite numerous accolades, including an Oscar, a Kennedy Center Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the loving husband, devoted father of two and grandfather of three, believed that his family was his proudest achievement.

In his August 2002 announcement regarding his declining health, he emotionally stated that, "For an actor there is no greater loss than his audience. I can part the Red Sea, but I can't part with you."

Though he may have left us in body, his spirit and legacy live on, a lifetime of passionate commitment to freedom in the truest sense.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution honoring a man who was as much a hero on the big screen as he was a hero in life.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back my time.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I want to first thank my friend, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), for bringing this resolution, and urge my colleagues to honor this great American by voting in favor of the resolution.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in supporting H. Con. Res. 1091 and honoring the life and contributions of the late Charlton Heston.

A larger than life figure, Charlton Heston was a World War II veteran, president of the Screen Actors Guild, and chairman of the American Film Institute. He was celebrated—as an Academy Award-winning actor and a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Throughout his life, when he saw injustice, Charlton Heston did not hesitate to take action. It did not matter to him whether his position was popular. He protested segregation, marching alongside the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King during his campaign for civil rights, and described Dr. King as a "20th century Moses for his people."

Never shy to take a stand, Charlton Heston picketed a segregated movie theater premiering one of his own movies. All of us

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.

□ 1600

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;

Whereas teachers help students cultivate the knowledge and principles necessary to be successful in life;

Whereas teachers are held to high expectations, while often receiving little compensation;

Whereas teachers help instill civic responsibility among students in the United States;

Whereas teachers deserve annual national recognition for their knowledge, selfless dedication to their profession, compassion, and sacrifice; and

Whereas the Tuesday of the first full week of May of each year is an appropriate day for the establishment of National Teacher Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) there should be established a National Teacher Day to honor and celebrate teachers; and

(2) the President should issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe such a day with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities.

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 have 5 legislative days 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, at this time I would like to yield as much time as my friend from Florida (Mr. KLEIN) may consume.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res 952, legislation calling for the establishment of a National Teacher Day. Few professionals touch as many lives as teachers do. They provide us with the knowledge and skills that we need to succeed in life, and their compassion, sacrifice, and dedication to their profession deserves national recognition.

As the son of an elementary school teacher, I was proud to introduce this resolution calling for the establishment of a national day of recognition for our Nation's teachers. My mother and so many other teachers across the country spend their lives working to inspire children and open their minds to new ideas so that they can grow up to be successful in whatever path they choose.

I am sure that each and every one of our colleagues can identify a teacher from their past who left a significant mark on their lives. I know that I would not be here where I am today without the motivation and encouragement of teachers from my past who challenged me to aspire to greater things and pursue my dreams of public service.

For me, the teacher who provided the greatest impact of my life is Dr.

Leatrice Rabinsky, a teacher at Cleveland Heights High School in Ohio. She was one of the pioneers of Holocaust education. Her teaching and experience left an indelible mark on me and led me to introduce legislation, as a State Senator in Florida, requiring the teaching of the Holocaust in all of Florida's public schools. Florida was one of the first States to pass and implement this policy which is now considered a model for Holocaust education across this country, and I attribute that effort to Dr. Leatrice Rabinsky.

I believe it is important to recognize the hard work of our Nation's teachers who prepare our students to build a stronger America. The education of our children is critical to the success of our country, and despite limited compensation, in many cases, and increasingly high expectations, our teachers rise to the challenge each and every day.

In Florida, the average teacher earns about \$43,000 per year, and nationally, teacher salary growth continues to lag behind inflation. This day of recognition is critical for bringing national attention to the pressing need to invest more in our teachers and our public schools. By providing teachers with the support, professional development, and compensation they deserve, we will retain more teachers in the profession and see significant gains in our public schools. No longer can we ask our teachers to increase their workload and raise academic achievement without providing them with the resources they need to do so.

Teachers are a critical component to our increasing global competitiveness, and once again establishing our country as a world leader in the global economy, teachers will play a central role.

I'm proud to have voted for the passage of legislation that invests in our Nation's math and science teachers this year providing roughly 25,000 teachers with assistance in pursuing graduate degrees, summer training, and other types of professional development. I am confident that this is just the beginning of new Federal support investing in science, technology, engineering, and math education and providing incentives to teachers who wish to engage in these specialty areas.

Our teachers are charged with a very difficult task as the pressure continues to grow across the country to increase student achievement. However, they have taken on the challenge with incredible perseverance and determination, and their dedication to our students and their profession deserves thanks and recognition.

I'm hopeful with the passage of this resolution, every American will take time from their day to acknowledge the teachers in their lives, both past and present, for their commitment to this important profession.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank my distinguished colleague, Congressman ROSKAM, for joining me in introducing this legislation, and I thank the overwhelming number of Members who have joined me in support of the establishment of a National Teacher Day.

I urge passage of this important legislation.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, we've heard from the Democratic sponsor of the bill. I would like to yield to the Republican sponsor of the bill, Mr. ROSKAM, who is from Illinois and close to Chicago, such time as he may consume.

□ 1615

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Connecticut. I, like many of us, come to the floor and want to congratulate Mr. KLEIN for his leadership on this issue and bringing us together actually in an area that I think most folks, if you reflect back, you can think of a favorite teacher. Let me tell you a little bit about one of my favorite teachers.

My fourth grade teacher was Lillian Anderson. Lillian Anderson was 65 years old and I was in the last class. Maybe I caused her to retire, but I was the last class that Ms. Anderson had. Ms. Anderson was one of those people at Ben Franklin School in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, that began to open up our eyes, myself and my classmates, to the State of Illinois, and that's a tradition that we have in Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, as a fine product of the public schools in Illinois, you know that fourth graders in Illinois begin to learn about the State. We learn the State flower, the violet. We learn the State song, which I will not sing for you. We learn the State bird, the cardinal, and all of these things.

And what happened to me was in Ms. Anderson's class, beginning to learn about the three branches of government, in all of those things, suddenly this was a whole new area that was revealed to me.

I grew up in a family that wasn't active when it came to politics. My mom and dad would vote, but that was pretty much it. So here I was a young student, a young boy in Ms. Anderson's class, and a seed was planted by that dear woman. The seed was later watered for me when I was in eighth grade and took the Constitution test, and I was one of those kids in eighth grade that couldn't get enough of it, absolutely loved it.

My point is that there were teachers along the way that encouraged and nurtured me, and I have a strong suspicion that, as we reflect, every one of us can point to somebody along the way, in addition to those people in our immediate families, but somebody along the way that encouraged us, that saw a little something in us, moved us

along, took the time to pull us aside and give us an important word. I think that that legacy is the great benefit of the teaching profession today because they don't know all of the ways in which they've influenced people.

So I want to thank Mr. KLEIN. I want to thank him for bringing this resolution to the floor, for having the Congress today pause and to reflect on those people who were influential in bringing us here today, and I know he's worked very hard to reach out to folks on both sides of the aisle.

I want to thank my friend from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) for yielding.

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.

I rise today in support of this resolution urging the establishment of a National Teacher Day. Every day, thousands of men and women in this country wake up in the morning with a tremendous responsibility, this stressful and sometimes daunting task of educating our Nation's youth. We entrust these special people with our most precious resource, our children.

Devoted teachers make a difference in the lives of students from every age and background. Every one of us can point to so many exceptional educators whose impact allowed us to get where we are today.

Support for a national day honoring the hard work of teachers has been brewing since 1944 when an Arkansas schoolteacher, Maddie White Woodridge, began corresponding with education leaders about the need for a teacher's day. In 1953, Eleanor Roosevelt convinced the 81st Congress to establish the first National Teacher Day. Finally, in 1985, the National Parent Teacher Association declared the first week in May as National Teacher Appreciation Week.

Through their dedication and passion for service, teachers bridge the gap between the resources available and the vital need for a strong education, with sometimes too little compensation. They provide the tools necessary for success, and their sacrifice deserves national recognition.

So, in recognition of the crucial role teachers play in trying to make sure every child receives a quality education, it is appropriate we pass this important resolution.

Given the incredible teachers I have been fortunate to have over my life, it is appropriate for me to recognize and thank them. I am extraordinarily grateful for every teacher that I have had. They saw in me opportunities for growth—there sure was—but more important, they helped me to dream and to imagine I could be someone I wanted to be. I thank them for the skills they taught me and for helping me grow in the right direction. And I thank them for their love and care of me.

With that, I yield back my time.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I'd like to thank my friend from Florida (Mr. KLEIN) for bringing this resolution and to say that, after hearing the speakers today, it made me think about the impact some of my teachers had on my learning throughout my life. In the words of a famed historian and author, Henry Adams, he said, Teachers affect eternity because they can never tell you where their influence stops.

So, today, let us stand in support and recognition of the timeless influence of our country's teachers and educators by passing H. Res. 952, which expresses the sense of the House that there should be established a National Teacher Day to honor and celebrate teachers in the United States, and I urge passage of the bill.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, as the only former state schools' chief serving in Congress, I rise today in appreciation of the lasting impact that teachers make on the lives of all Americans.

Each of us in the House have benefited from the care and guidance of a talented educator. Each of us knows, from personal experience and reports from our district, many of the amazing success stories in our schools today. These successes would not be possible without our dedicated teachers who lend their skills, experience, and passion to the task of educating our children.

I am profoundly thankful to all of my teachers, who pushed me to succeed and taught me valuable lessons. Ms. Flossie Barber, who taught me at the Cleveland School, was the personification of teaching. Stern and tough, but always caring with each and every student, her early lessons enabled me to achieve my goals and more. Coach Bruce Coats taught me what it meant to be a member of a team and how to contribute to the greater good. I hope that everyone has the privilege of great teachers like these, and remembers to give them thanks for their hard work and inspiration.

Too often, we do not give our teachers the respect and esteem that they deserve. This day, and really this whole week, is an opportunity to stop and remember the professional educators who work every day to build a bright future for our children and our Nation. Their efforts shape the world of tomorrow, and they deserve our support every day throughout the year.

Mr. Speaker, with your leadership, the New Direction Congress is ensuring that our teachers get the support they need to continue their work to educate our children. We have committed to fully funding No Child Left Behind and other federal mandates that have been shortchanged by the current administration. We also must pass new teacher training and staff development initiatives to help our educators hone and maintain the skills they need to teach our children well. We have made great strides in recent years to improve our schools, and, on this National Teacher Day should recommit to build on that record of success.

Improving education in this country is about creating a classroom environment where chil-

dren can learn. My colleagues and I have crafted bipartisan legislation to provide critical investments in school construction and modernization across the country. The RANGEL-RAMSTAD-ETHERIDGE America's Better Classrooms Act will provide \$25 billion in interest-free bonds for local schools. This bill will make a real difference for our communities, our children, and their teachers. I have also introduced legislation to ensure that students and teachers have a safe place to learn that is equipped to respond to any disaster. The Schools Empowered to Respond Act will support schools in their efforts to keep children safe and implement robust emergency management plans. On this National Teacher Day, I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this important legislation.

The work of our dedicated teachers inspires our students every day, and I have been inspired by so many educators who give much to our communities. I thank them for their work, and do so every day.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the establishment of a National Teacher Day to honor and celebrate teachers.

Teachers are the cornerstone of our Nation's schools. We ask them to be educators and mentors. We ask them to work long hours, keep order in crowded classrooms, and respond creatively to individual student needs. They consistently rise to meet the challenge.

We should recognize their contributions, but we should also take tangible steps to assist them. And that means funding for our schools, high quality training, and fair pay. It means making sure that every teacher is prepared to walk into the classroom and every teacher has support through the school day.

We trust our Nation's teachers with our most important task—caring for and educating our children. National Teacher Day will remind us to honor their commitment and support that mission.

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, this week (May 4–May 10) we celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week, and Tuesday, May 6, as National Teacher Day. These days have been set aside as a time for honoring teachers and recognizing the lasting contributions they make to our lives.

Last year, the National Education Association (NEA) conducted an online poll asking teachers what kind of gift would most make them feel appreciated. The answer? A simple “thank you,” according to nearly half (48 percent) of all respondents.

Such humility comes as no surprise. My mother was a public school teacher, so I know firsthand how many sacrifices teachers make both with their own money, their time and their heart. They work long hours and are often underappreciated. Yet, few other professionals touch as many people as teachers do. I bet many of us learned life lessons that we carry with us today because of a special teacher. I don't know that we can ever say “thank-you” enough times to teachers who have made a difference in our lives. This week, I hope we'll all take a minute to tell a special teacher “thank you”—a simple thank you card, a quick phone call—it means a lot.

I recognize that these are small ways to honor teachers, and that we have to put our money where our mouth is. Teachers give so

much to support Kansas students—it's high time that Congress repays the favor. Here are some of the ways I have made a commitment to helping teachers:

Providing tax relief for teachers. I co-sponsored H.R. 549, the Teacher Tax Relief Act to increase and make permanent a tax deduction of up to \$400 for elementary and secondary school teachers. I am also a co-sponsor of H.R. 3605, introduced after H.R. 549, which will increase the deduction to \$500. This deduction would help teachers recoup expenses when they use their own money to buy classroom supplies.

Funding Continuing Education for Teachers. I voted for the America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education and Science (COMPETES) Act, which became law in August, 2007. The act provides professional development for teachers, ensures more highly qualified classroom teachers in mathematics, science, engineering, and technology, and provides funding to improve laboratory equipment and facilities.

Student Loan Assistance. The College Cost Reduction and Access Act, which I voted for and was signed into law by the President in September, 2007, includes a tuition assistance program for public school teachers who commit to working in impoverished areas or in high-need subjects.

Public schools are at the heart of any community and I believe we all have to work together to make our schools the best that they can be. That means everyone in the community—parents, business owners, retirees, local government and students must pitch in.

This week is an opportunity for all of us to get involved. That apple on the desk or a thank you card is an important first step. But, let's use this week to learn about and advocate for high standards for our public schools and appropriate compensation for teachers. A community's active support of the work that teachers do, combined with that "thank-you," can make changes that will last for generations to come.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 952, to honor and recognize our Nation's teachers. I want to thank my colleague and good friend, Congressman RON KLEIN for sponsoring this resolution. Today marks the beginning of National Teacher Appreciation Week, but America's teachers deserve more than a week of recognition for their investment in our country's most precious resource, our children.

Too often teachers are overworked and underpaid. They spend long hours in the classroom, many hours after the school day coaching our kids and leading their extracurricular groups, and then go home to spend more time grading papers. They invest their own lives in the lives of our children, and every day they empower young people with the knowledge and tools they need to be successful and confident. America's future is in the hands of our children, and we owe our teachers a universe of thanks for their hard work.

Mr. CLAY. 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 Missouri (Mr.

CLAY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 952.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. 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.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE JOHN A. BOEHNER, RE-PUBLICAN LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable JOHN A. BOEHNER, Republican Leader:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 13, 2008.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, U.S. Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI: Pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 2702, I am pleased to appoint Mr. Jeffrey W. Thomas of Ohio to the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress. Mr. Thomas has expressed interest in serving in this capacity and I am pleased to fulfill his request.

Sincerely,
JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Republican Leader.

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 4 o'clock and 22 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 (Mr. MCINTYRE) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO OFFER MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 2419, FOOD AND ENERGY SECURITY ACT OF 2007

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, under rule XXII, clause 7(c), I hereby announce my intention to offer a motion to instruct on H.R. 2419.

The form of the motion is as follows:

Mr. Flake moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 2419 (an Act to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2012) be instructed not to recede to the provisions

contained in subtitle A of title XII of the Senate amendment (relating to a permanent agriculture disaster assistance program).

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:

H. Res. 952, by the yeas and nays;

H. Res. 1011, de novo; and

H. Res. 1109, de novo.

Postponed votes on remaining motions to suspend will be taken later in the week.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL TEACHER DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 952, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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. 952.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 368, nays 0, not voting 63, as follows:

[Roll No. 240]

YEAS—368

Abercrombie	Boyd (FL)	Costa
Ackerman	Boyda (KS)	Courtney
Aderholt	Brady (PA)	Crenshaw
Akin	Brady (TX)	Crowley
Alexander	Braley (IA)	Cubin
Allen	Broun (GA)	Cummings
Altmire	Brown (SC)	Davis (CA)
Arcuri	Brown, Corrine	Davis (KY)
Baca	Brown-Waite,	Davis, David
Bachmann	Ginny	Davis, Tom
Bachus	Burgess	Deal (GA)
Baird	Buyer	DeFazio
Baldwin	Calvert	DeGette
Barrett (SC)	Camp (MI)	Delahunt
Barrow	Cannon	DeLauro
Bartlett (MD)	Cantor	Dent
Barton (TX)	Capito	Diaz-Balart, L.
Becerra	Capps	Diaz-Balart, M.
Berkley	Capuano	Dingell
Berman	Cardoza	Doggett
Berry	Carnahan	Donnelly
Biggart	Carney	Doyle
Bilbray	Carter	Drake
Bilirakis	Castle	Dreier
Bishop (GA)	Castor	Duncan
Bishop (NY)	Chabot	Edwards
Blackburn	Chandler	Ellison
Blumenauer	Clarke	Ellsworth
Blunt	Clay	Emanuel
Boehner	Cleaver	Emerson
Bonner	Clyburn	Engel
Bono Mack	Coble	English (PA)
Boozman	Cohen	Eshoo
Boren	Cole (OK)	Etheridge
Boswell	Conaway	Everett
Boucher	Conyers	Fallin
Boustany	Cooper	Farr

Fattah
 Feeney
 Ferguson
 Filner
 Flake
 Forbes
 Fortenberry
 Foster
 Foxx
 Frank (MA)
 Franks (AZ)
 Frelinghuysen
 Gallegly
 Garrett (NJ)
 Giffords
 Gillibrand
 Gingrey
 Gohmert
 Gonzalez
 Goode
 Goodlatte
 Granger
 Graves
 Green, Al
 Green, Gene
 Grijalva
 Gutierrez
 Hall (NY)
 Hall (TX)
 Hare
 Harman
 Hastings (FL)
 Hastings (WA)
 Hayes
 Hensarling
 Herger
 Herseth Sandlin
 Higgins
 Hill
 Hinchey
 Hinojosa
 Hirono
 Hobson
 Hodes
 Holden
 Holt
 Honda
 Hooley
 Hoyer
 Hunter
 Inglis (SC)
 Israel
 Issa
 Jackson (IL)
 Jackson-Lee
 (TX)
 Jefferson
 Johnson (GA)
 Johnson, E. B.
 Johnson, Sam
 Jordan
 Kagen
 Kanjorski
 Kaptur
 Keller
 Kennedy
 Kildee
 Kind
 King (IA)
 Kingston
 Kirk
 Klein (FL)
 Kline (MN)
 Knollenberg
 Kucinich
 Kuhl (NY)
 LaHood
 Lamborn
 Lampson
 Langevin
 Larsen (WA)
 Larson (CT)
 Latham
 LaTourette
 Latta
 Lee
 Levin
 Lewis (CA)

Lewis (GA)
 Lewis (KY)
 Linder
 LoBiondo
 Loeb sack
 Lofgren, Zoe
 Lowey
 Lucas
 Lungren, Daniel
 E.
 Lynch
 Mack
 Mahoney (FL)
 Manzullo
 Markey
 Matheson
 Matsui
 McCarthy (CA)
 McCarthy (NY)
 McCaul (TX)
 McCollum (MN)
 McCotter
 McCrery
 McDermott
 McGovern
 McHugh
 McIntyre
 McKeon
 McMorris
 Rodgers
 McNeerney
 McNulty
 Meek (FL)
 Meeks (NY)
 Melancon
 Mica
 Michaud
 Miller (FL)
 Miller (MI)
 Miller (NC)
 Miller, Gary
 Miller, George
 Mitchell
 Moore (KS)
 Moran (KS)
 Moran (VA)
 Murphy (CT)
 Murphy, Patrick
 Murphy, Tim
 Musgrave
 Myrick
 Nadler
 Napolitano
 Neugebauer
 Nunes
 Obey
 Oliver
 Ortiz
 Pallone
 Pascrell
 Pastor
 Pearce
 Pence
 Perlmutter
 Peterson (MN)
 Petri
 Pickering
 Pitts
 Platts
 King (IA)
 Poe
 Pomeroy
 Porter
 Price (GA)
 Price (NC)
 Putnam
 Rahall
 Westmoreland
 Whitfield (KY)
 Wilson (NM)
 Wilson (OH)
 Wilson (SC)
 Wittman (VA)
 Woolsey
 Reynolds
 Richardson
 Rodriguez
 Rogers (AL)
 Rogers (KY)

NOT VOTING—63

Andrews
 Bean
 Bishop (UT)
 Buchanan
 Burton (IN)
 Butterfield
 Campbell (CA)
 Carson
 Costello
 Cramer
 Cuellar
 Culberson
 Davis (AL)
 Davis (IL)
 Davis, Lincoln

Dicks
 Doolittle
 Ehlers
 Fossella
 Gerlach
 Roybal-Allard
 Royce
 Ruppertsberger
 Ryan (OH)
 Ryan (WI)
 Salazar
 Sali
 Sanchez, Linda
 T.
 Sanchez, Loretta
 Sarbanes
 Schakowsky
 Schiff
 Schmidt
 Schwartz
 Scott (GA)
 Scott (VA)
 Sensenbrenner
 Serrano
 Sestak
 Shadegg
 Shays
 Shea-Porter
 Sherman
 Shimkus
 Shuster
 Simpson
 Sires
 Skelton
 Slaughter
 Smith (NE)
 Smith (NJ)
 Smith (TX)
 Snyder
 Solis
 Souder
 Space
 Spratt
 Stearns
 Stupak
 Sullivan
 Sutton
 Tancredo
 Tanner
 Tauscher
 Taylor
 Thompson (CA)
 Thornberry
 Tiahrt
 Tierney
 Towns
 Tsongas
 Turner

□ 1905

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to reconsider the vote.

MOTION TO TABLE OFFERED BY MR. HASTINGS OF FLORIDA

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to lay the motion to reconsider on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to table.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 202, noes 168, not voting 61, as follows:

[Roll No. 241]

AYES—202

Abercrombie
 Ackerman
 Allen
 Altmire
 Arcuri
 Baca
 Baird
 Baldwin
 Barrow
 Becerra
 Berkley
 Berman
 Berry
 Bishop (GA)
 Bishop (NY)
 Blumenuer
 Boren
 Boswell
 Boucher
 Boyd (FL)
 Boyda (KS)
 Brady (PA)
 Braley (IA)
 Brown, Corrine
 Capps
 Capuano
 Cardoza
 Carnahan
 Carney
 Castor
 Chandler
 Clarke
 Clay
 Cleaver
 Clyburn
 Cohen
 Conyers
 Cooper
 Costa
 Courtney
 Crowley
 Cummings
 Davis (CA)
 DeFazio
 DeGette
 Delahunt
 DeLauro
 Dingell
 Doggett
 Donnelly
 Doyle
 Edwards
 Ellison
 Ellsworth
 Emanuel
 Engel
 Eshoo
 Etheridge
 Farr
 Fattah
 Filner
 Foster
 Frank (MA)
 Giffords
 Gillibrand
 Gonzalez
 Green, Al
 Green, Gene
 Grijalva
 Gutierrez
 Hall (NY)
 Hare
 Harman
 Hastings (FL)
 Herseth Sandlin
 Higgins
 Hill
 Hinchey
 Hinojosa
 Hirono
 Hodes
 Holden
 Holt
 Honda
 Hooley
 Hoyer
 Israel
 Jackson (IL)
 Jackson-Lee
 (TX)
 Jefferson
 Johnson (GA)
 Johnson, E. B.
 Kagen
 Kanjorski
 Kaptur
 Kennedy
 Kildee
 Kind
 Klein (FL)
 Kucinich
 Lampson
 Langevin
 Larsen (WA)
 Larson (CT)
 Lee
 Levin
 Lewis (GA)
 Loebsack
 Lofgren, Zoe
 Lowey
 Lynch
 Mahoney (FL)
 Markey
 Matheson
 Matsui
 McCarthy (NY)
 McCollum (MN)
 McDermott
 McGovern

McIntyre
 McNeerney
 McNulty
 Meek (FL)
 Meeks (NY)
 Melancon
 Michaud
 Miller (NC)
 Miller, George
 Mitchell
 Moore (KS)
 Moore (WI)
 Moran (VA)
 Murphy (CT)
 Murphy, Patrick
 Nadler
 Napolitano
 Obey
 Oliver
 Ortiz
 Pallone
 Pascrell
 Pastor
 Perlmutter
 Peterson (MN)
 Pomeroy
 Price (NC)
 Rahall
 Rangel
 Reyes
 Richardson
 Rodriguez
 Ross
 Rothman
 Roybal-Allard
 Ruppertsberger
 Ryan (OH)
 Salazar
 Sanchez, Linda
 T.
 Sanchez, Loretta
 Sarbanes
 Schakowsky
 Schiff
 Schwartz
 Scott (GA)
 Scott (VA)
 Serrano
 Sestak
 Shea-Porter
 Sherman
 Sires
 Skelton
 Slaughter
 Snyder
 Solis
 Space
 Spratt
 Stupak
 Sutton
 Tanner
 Tauscher
 Taylor
 Thompson (CA)
 Tierney
 Towns
 Tsongas
 Udall (CO)
 Udall (NM)
 Van Hollen
 Velázquez
 Visclosky
 Walz (MN)
 Wasserman
 Schultz
 Waters
 Watson
 Watt
 Waxman
 Welch (VT)
 Wilson (OH)
 Woolsey
 Wu
 Wynn
 Yarmuth

NOES—168

Aderholt
 Akin
 Alexander
 Bachmann
 Bachus
 Barrett (SC)
 Bartlett (MD)
 Barton (TX)
 Biggert
 Bilbray
 Bilirakis
 Blackburn
 Blunt
 Boehner
 Bonner
 Bono Mack
 Boozman
 Boustany
 Brady (TX)
 Broun (GA)
 Brown (SC)
 Brown-Waite,
 Ginny
 Burgess
 Buyer
 Calvert
 Camp (MI)
 Cannon
 Cantor
 Capito
 Carter
 Castle
 Chabot
 Coble
 Cole (OK)
 Conaway
 Crenshaw
 Cubin
 Davis (KY)
 Davis, David
 Davis, Tom
 Deal (GA)
 Dent
 Diaz-Balart, L.
 Diaz-Balart, M.
 Drake
 Dreier
 Duncan
 Ehlers
 Emerson
 English (PA)
 Everett
 Fallin
 Feeney
 Ferguson
 Flake
 Forbes
 Fortenberry
 Foxx
 Franks (AZ)
 Frelinghuysen
 Gallegly
 Garrett (NJ)
 Gingrey
 Gohmert
 Goode
 Goodlatte
 Granger
 Graves
 Hall (TX)
 Hastings (WA)
 Hayes
 Hensarling
 Herger
 Hobson
 Hunter
 Inglis (SC)
 Issa
 Johnson, Sam
 Jordan
 Keller
 King (IA)
 Kingston
 Kirk
 Kline (MN)
 Knollenberg
 Kuhl (NY)
 LaHood
 Lamborn
 Latham
 LaTourette
 Latta
 Lewis (CA)
 Lewis (KY)
 Linder
 LoBiondo
 Lucas
 Lungren, Daniel
 E.
 Mack
 Manzullo
 McCarthy (CA)
 McCaul (TX)
 McCotter
 McCrery
 McHugh
 McKeon
 McMorris
 Rodgers
 Mica
 Miller (FL)
 Miller (MI)
 Miller, Gary
 Moran (KS)
 Murphy, Tim
 Musgrave
 Myrick
 Neugebauer
 Nunes
 Pearce
 Pence
 Petri
 Pickering
 Pitts
 Platts
 Porter
 Price (GA)
 Putnam
 Ramstad
 Regula
 Rehberg
 Reichert
 Renzi
 Reynolds
 Rogers (AL)
 Rogers (KY)
 Ros-Lehtinen
 Roskam
 Royce
 Ryan (WI)
 Sali
 Schmidt
 Sensenbrenner
 Shadegg
 Shays
 Shimkus
 Shuster
 Simpson
 Smith (NE)
 Smith (NJ)
 Smith (TX)
 Stearns
 Sullivan
 Tancredo
 Terry
 Thornberry
 Tiahrt
 Turner
 Upton
 Walberg
 Walden (OR)
 Walsh (NY)
 Weller
 Westmoreland
 Whitfield (KY)
 Wilson (NM)
 Wilson (SC)
 Wittman (VA)
 Young (AK)
 Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—61

Andrews
 Bean
 Bishop (UT)
 Buchanan
 Burton (IN)
 Butterfield
 Campbell (CA)
 Carson
 Costello
 Cramer
 Cuellar
 Culberson
 Davis (AL)
 Davis (IL)
 Davis, Lincoln

Dicks
Doolittle
Fossella
Gerlach
Gilchrist
Gordon
Heller
Hoekstra
Hulshof
Inslee
Johnson (IL)
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kilpatrick
King (NY)
Lipinski

Maloney (NY)
Marchant
Marshall
McHenry
Mollohan
Murtha
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Paul
Payne
Peterson (PA)
Pryce (OH)
Radanovich
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rush

Saxton
Sessions
Shuler
Smith (WA)
Souder
Speier
Stark
Thompson (MS)
Tiberi
Wamp
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Wexler
Wolf

Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Fox
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Giffords
Gillibrand
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinche

King (IA)
Kingston
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Lampson
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Loeb
Loeb
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel
E.
Lynch
Mack
Mahoney (FL)
Manzullo
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mitchell
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neugebauer
Nunes
Obay
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Pearce
Pence
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kennedy
Kildee
Kind

Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sali
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sestak
Shadegg
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Space
Spratt
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tierney
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Welch (VT)
Weller
Westmoreland
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)

Woolsey
Wu
Andrews
Bean
Bishop (UT)
Buchanan
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Campbell (CA)
Carson
Costello
Cramer
Cuellar
Culberson
Davis (AL)
Davis (IL)
Davis, Lincoln
Dicks
Doolittle
Fossella
Gerlach
Gilchrist

Wynn
Yarmuth
Gordon
Heller
Hoekstra
Hulshof
Inslee
Johnson (IL)
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kilpatrick
King (NY)
Lipinski
Maloney (NY)
Marchant
Marshall
McHenry
Mollohan
Murtha
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Paul

Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Payne
Peterson (PA)
Pryce (OH)
Radanovich
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rush
Saxton
Sessions
Shuler
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stark
Thompson (MS)
Tiberi
Wamp
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Wexler
Wolf

NOT VOTING—60

□ 1912

Mr. CHABOT changed his vote from “aye” to “no.”

So the motion to table was agreed to. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

DEVELOPING A COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL STRATEGY IN CHAD AND DARFUR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 1011, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1011, 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.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 371, noes 0, not voting 60, as follows:

[Roll No. 242]

AYES—371

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Altmire
Arcuri
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggett
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blackburn
Blumenauer

Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boya (KS)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite,
Ginny
Burgess
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano

Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carter
Castle
Castor
Chabot
Chandler
Chandler
Clay
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Tom

Hinojosa
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kennedy
Kildee
Kind

Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neugebauer
Nunes
Obay
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Pearce
Pence
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kennedy
Kildee
Kind

[Roll No. 243]

AYES—199

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Altmire
Arcuri
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd (FL)
Boya (KS)
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown, Corrine
Capps
Capuano

Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Castor
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Doggett
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Ellsworth

Emanuel
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Foster
Frank (MA)
Giffords
Gillibrand
Gonzalez
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinche
Hinojosa
Hirono

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1921

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to reconsider the vote.

MOTION TO TABLE OFFERED BY MR. HASTINGS OF FLORIDA

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to table the motion to reconsider.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to table.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 199, noes 168, not voting 64, as follows:

[Roll No. 243]

AYES—199

Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kind
Klein (FL)
Kucinich
Lampson
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Loeb sack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Mahoney (FL)
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCormack (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney

McNulty
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mitchell
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sanchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz

Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Snyder
Solis
Space
Spratt
Stupak
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Tierney
Towns
Tsongas
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velazquez
Visclosky
Walz (MN)
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Welch (VT)
Wilson (OH)
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth

NOES—168

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Bachmann
Bachus
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite,
Ginny
Burgess
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Castle
Chabot
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Crenshaw
Cubin
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson
English (PA)

Everett
Fallin
Feeney
Ferguson
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fox
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Blunt
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Hall (TX)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hensarling
Herger
Hobson
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Issa
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Keller
King (IA)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel
E.
Mack
Manzullo
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul (TX)

McCotter
McCrery
McHugh
McKeon
McMorris
Rodgers
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Murphy, Tim
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Nunes
Pearce
Pence
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Porter
Price (GA)
Putnam
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Sali
Schmidt
Sensenbrenner
Shadegg
Shays
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Souder
Stearns

Sullivan
Bean
Tancredo
Terry
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Turner

Upton
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Weller
Westmoreland

Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—64

Andrews
Bishop (UT)
Buchanan
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Campbell (CA)
Carson
Costello
Cramer
Cuellar
Culberson
Davis (AL)
Davis (IL)
Davis, Lincoln
Dicks
Dingell
Donnelly
Doolittle
Fossella
Gerlach
Gilchrest

Gohmert
Gordon
Heller
Hoekstra
Hulshof
Insee
Johnson (IL)
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kilpatrick
King (NY)
Lipinski
Maloney (NY)
Marchant
Marshall
McHenry
Mollohan
Moran (VA)
Murtha
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Paul

Payne
Peterson (PA)
Pryce (OH)
Radanovich
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rush
Saxton
Sessions
Shuler
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stark
Thompson (MS)
Tiberi
Wamp
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Wexler
Wolf

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Less than 2 minutes remain in this vote.

□ 128

So the motion to table was agreed to. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to attend to several votes today. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on 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 National Teacher Day; "yea" on H. Res. 1011—Calling on the United States Government and the international community to promptly develop, fund, and implement a comprehensive regional strategy to protect civilians, facilitate humanitarian operations, contain and reduce violence, and contribute to conditions for sustainable peace and good governance in Chad, as well as in the wider region that includes the northern region of the Central African Republic and the Darfur region of Sudan; and "yea" on H. Res. 1109—Honoring the memory of Dith Pran by remembering his life's work and continuing to acknowledge and remember the victims of genocides that have taken place around the globe.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, May 5, 2008, I missed recorded votes. Had I been present, the record would reflect the following votes:

H. Res. 952 Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that there should be established a National Teacher Day. "Aye."

H. Res. 1011 Calling on the United States Government and the international community to promptly develop, fund, and implement a comprehensive regional strategy to protect civilians, facilitate humanitarian operations, contain and reduce violence, and contribute to

conditions for sustainable peace and good governance in Chad, as well as the wider region that includes the northern region of the Central African Republic and the Darfur region of Sudan. "Aye."

H. Res. 1109 Honoring the memory of Dith Pran by remembering his life's work and continuing to acknowledge and remember the victims of genocides that have taken place around the globe. "Aye."

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Ms. Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker pro tempore, Mr. HOYER:

H.R. 493. An act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of genetic information with respect to health insurance and employment.

H.R. 1195. An act to amend the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users to make technical corrections, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5715. An act to ensure continued availability of access to the Federal student loan program for students and families.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to adjourn offered by the gentleman from New York.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. WALSH of New York. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 199, noes 168, not voting 64, as follows:

[Roll No. 244]

AYES—199

Abercrombie	Clarke	Garrett (NJ)
Ackerman	Clay	Giffords
Allen	Cleaver	Gillibrand
Arcuri	Clyburn	Gonzalez
Baca	Cohen	Green, Al
Baird	Conyers	Green, Gene
Baldwin	Cooper	Grijalva
Barrow	Costa	Gutierrez
Becerra	Courtney	Hall (NY)
Berkley	Crowley	Hare
Berman	Cummings	Harman
Berry	Davis (CA)	Hastings (FL)
Bishop (GA)	DeFazio	Herseth Sandlin
Bishop (NY)	DeGette	Higgins
Blumenauer	Delahunt	Hill
Boren	DeLauro	Hinchev
Boswell	Doggett	Hinojosa
Boucher	Doyle	Hirono
Boyd (FL)	Edwards	Hodes
Boyda (KS)	Ellison	Holden
Brady (PA)	Emanuel	Holt
Bralley (IA)	Engel	Honda
Brown, Corrine	Eshoo	Hooley
Capps	Etheridge	Hoyer
Capuano	Farr	Israel
Cardoza	Fattah	Jackson (IL)
Carnahan	Feeney	Jackson-Lee
Carney	Filner	(TX)
Castor	Foster	Jefferson
Chandler	Frank (MA)	Johnson (GA)

Johnson, E. B.	Moore (WI)	Sherman	Westmoreland	Wilson (NM)	Wittman (VA)
Kagen	Murphy (CT)	Sires	Whitfield (KY)	Wilson (SC)	Young (FL)
Kanjorski	Murphy, Patrick	Skelton			
Kaptur	Nadler	Slaughter			
Kennedy	Napolitano	Snyder			
Kildee	Obey	Solis			
Kind	Olver	Space			
Kirk	Ortiz	Spratt			
Klein (FL)	Pallone	Stupak			
Lampson	Pascrell	Sutton			
Langevin	Pastor	Tanner			
Larsen (WA)	Perlmutter	Tauscher			
Larson (CT)	Peterson (MN)	Taylor			
Lee	Pomeroy	Thompson (CA)			
Levin	Price (NC)	Tierney			
Lewis (GA)	Rangel	Towns			
Loebsack	Reyes	Tsongas			
Lofgren, Zoe	Richardson	Udall (CO)			
Lowey	Rodriguez	Udall (NM)			
Lynch	Rogers (AL)	Van Hollen			
Mahoney (FL)	Ross	Velázquez			
Matheson	Rothman	Viscolsky			
Matsui	Roybal-Allard	Walz (MN)			
McCarthy (NY)	Ruppersberger	Wasserman			
McCollum (MN)	Salazar	Schultz			
McDermott	Sánchez, Linda	T. Waters			
McGovern	T. Sanchez, Loretta	Watson			
McIntyre	Sarbanes	Watt			
McNerney	Schakowsky	Waxman			
McNulty	Schiff	Welch (VT)			
Meek (FL)	Schwartz	Wilson (OH)			
Meeks (NY)	Scott (GA)	Woolsey			
Melancon	Scott (VA)	Wu			
Michaud	Sensenbrenner	Wynn			
Miller (NC)	Serrano	Yarmuth			
Miller, George	Sestak	Young (AK)			
Mitchell	Shea-Porter				
Moore (KS)					

NOES—168

Aderholt	Fallin	Mica
Akin	Ferguson	Miller (FL)
Alexander	Flake	Miller (MI)
Altmire	Forbes	Miller, Gary
Bachmann	Portenberry	Moran (KS)
Bachus	Foxx	Murphy, Tim
Barrett (SC)	Franks (AZ)	Musgrave
Bartlett (MD)	Frelinghuysen	Myrick
Barton (TX)	Galleghy	Neugebauer
Biggert	Gingrey	Nunes
Bilbray	Gohmert	Pearce
Bilirakis	Goode	Pence
Blackburn	Goodlatte	Petri
Blunt	Granger	Pickering
Boehner	Graves	Pitts
Bonner	Hall (TX)	Platts
Bono Mack	Hastings (WA)	Poe
Boozman	Hayes	Porter
Boustany	Hensarling	Price (GA)
Brady (TX)	Herger	Putnam
Broun (GA)	Hobson	Rahall
Brown (SC)	Hunter	Ramstad
Brown-Waite,	Inglis (SC)	Regula
Ginny	Issa	Rehberg
Buchanan	Johnson, Sam	Reichert
Burgess	Jordan	Renzi
Buyer	Keller	Reynolds
Calvert	King (IA)	Rogers (KY)
Camp (MI)	Kingston	Ros-Lehtinen
Cannon	Kline (MN)	Roskam
Cantor	Knollenberg	Royce
Capito	Kucinich	Ryan (WI)
Carter	Kuhl (NY)	Sali
Castle	LaHood	Schmidt
Chabot	Lamborn	Shadegg
Coble	Latham	Shays
Cole (OK)	LaTourette	Shimkus
Conaway	Latta	Shuster
Crenshaw	Lewis (CA)	Simpson
Cubin	Lewis (KY)	Smith (NE)
Davis (KY)	Linder	Smith (NJ)
Davis, David	LoBiondo	Smith (TX)
Davis, Tom	Lucas	Souder
Deal (GA)	Lungren, Daniel	Stearns
Dent	E.	Sullivan
Diaz-Balart, L.	Mack	Tancredo
Diaz-Balart, M.	Manzullo	Terry
Drake	McCarthy (CA)	Thornberry
Dreier	McCaul (TX)	Tiahrt
Duncan	McCotter	Turner
Ehlers	McCreery	Upton
Ellsworth	McHugh	Walberg
Emerson	McKeon	Walden (OR)
English (PA)	McMorris	Walsh (NY)
Everett	Rodgers	Weller

NOT VOTING—64

Andrews	Heller	Peterson (PA)
Bean	Hoekstra	Pryce (OH)
Bishop (UT)	Hulshof	Radanovich
Burton (IN)	Inslee	Rogers (MI)
Butterfield	Johnson (IL)	Rohrabacher
Campbell (CA)	Jones (NC)	Rush
Carson	Jones (OH)	Ryan (OH)
Costello	Kilpatrick	Saxton
Cramer	King (NY)	Sessions
Cuellar	Lipinski	Shuler
Culberson	Maloney (NY)	Smith (WA)
Davis (AL)	Marchant	Speier
Davis (IL)	Markey	Stark
Davis, Lincoln	Marshall	Thompson (MS)
Dicks	McHenry	Tiberi
Dingell	Mollohan	Wamp
Donnelly	Moran (VA)	Weiner
Doolittle	Murtha	Weldon (FL)
Fossella	Neal (MA)	Wexler
Gerlach	Oberstar	Wolf
Gilchrest	Paul	
Gordon	Payne	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
 The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Two minutes remain in this vote.

□ 1945

So the motion to adjourn was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, May 6, 2008, at 10:30 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6371. A letter from the FEMA OCC Attorney Regulations & Policy, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket No. FEMA-B-7772] received April 25, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6372. A letter from the FEMA OCC Attorney, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations — received April 25, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6373. A letter from the OCC (FEMA) Attorney, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Proposed Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket No. FEMA-B-7773] received April 25, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6374. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations — received April 25, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6375. A letter from the FEMA OCC Attorney Regulations & Policy, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Proposed Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket No. FEMA-B-7771] received April 25, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6376. A letter from the Attorney, FEMA OCC Regulations & Policy, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations — received April 29, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6377. A letter from the General Counsel, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Standard for the Flammability of Clothing Textiles — received April 29, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6378. A letter from the Director, Office of Management, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's report on the amount of the acquisitions made from entities that manufacture the articles, materials, or supplies outside of the United States in fiscal year 2007, pursuant to Public Law 109-115, section 837; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6379. A letter from the Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's report to Congress for Fiscal Year 2007, pursuant to Section 6034 of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6380. A letter from the Secretaries, Departments of Agriculture and Health and Human Services, transmitting the Departments' report on Thefts, Losses, or Releases of Select Agents or Toxins for the period February 7, 2003 to December 31, 2006, as required by the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002, Pub. L. 107-188; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6381. A letter from the Legal Advisor, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — In the Matter of Amendment of Parts 1, 21, 73, 74 and 101 of the Commission's Rules to Facilitate the Provision of Fixed and Mobile Broadband Access, Educational and Other Advanced Services in the 2150-2162 and 2500-2690 MHz Bands [WT Docket No. 03-66 RM-10586] received April 15, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6382. A letter from the Deputy Chief, CGB, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — In the Matter of Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities E911 Requirements for IP-Enabled Service Providers [CG Docket No. 03-123 WC Docket No. 05-196] received April 15, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6383. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — In the Matter of Advanced Television Systems and Their Impact Upon the Existing Television Broadcast Service [MB Docket No. 87-268] received March 26, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6384. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Interlocutory Review of Rulings on Requests by Potential Parties for Access to Sensitive Unclassified Non-Safeguards Information and Safeguards Information (RIN: 3150-A108) received April 15, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6385. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary For Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Technical Corrections to the Export Administration Regulations based upon a Systematic Review of the CCL [Docket No. 080307395-8515-01] (RIN: 0694-AE32) received April 29, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6386. A letter from the District of Columbia Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled, "Audit of Child and Family Services Agency's Congregate Care Contract Expenditures," pursuant to D.C. Code section 47-117(d); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6387. A letter from the District of Columbia Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled, "Audit of Child and Family Services Agency's Contracting and Quality Assurance Procedures," pursuant to D.C. Code section 47-117(d); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6388. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting in accordance with Section 647(b) of Division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004, Pub. L. 108-199, and the Office of Management and Budget Memorandum M-08-02, the Department's report on competitive sourcing efforts for FY 2007; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6389. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's annual report for FY 2007 prepared in accordance with the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002, Public Law 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6390. A letter from the Director, Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, transmitting two reports on the 2007 Activities of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts and the 2007 Judicial Business of the United States Courts, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 604(a)(4); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6391. A letter from the Chairman, Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting the Commission's report entitled, "Reinvigorating the Nation's Civil Rights Debate: The Strategic Plan of the United States Commission on Civil Rights for Fiscal Years 2008-2013"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6392. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's report on the growth of violent street gangs in suburban areas, in reference to the Commerce, Justice, Science, and related Agencies Appropriations Bill for 2008; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6393. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting a letter concerning grants made during FY 2007 under Section 2806(b) of the Paul Coverdell National Forensic Science Improvement Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-561) to improve forensic science services; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6394. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's report on the STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program, as required by Section 2004(b) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6395. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Labor, transmitting a copy of a

draft bill to "authorize the retention by the Secretary of Labor of fees collected to process applications for temporary agricultural employment certification for non-immigrant aliens in the United States, and for other purposes"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6396. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Report on Denial of Visas to Confiscators of American Property for the period of April 1, 2007 through March 31, 2008; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6397. A letter from the Secretaries, Departments of Defense, State, Energy and Commerce, transmitting a legislative proposal for Presidential authority to waive Section 1083 of the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act for states that have been removed from the list of state sponsors of terrorism; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6398. A letter from the Acting Chief, Trade & Comm'l Regs. Branch, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Import Restrictions Imposed on Archaeological and Ethnological Material of Iraq [CBP Dec. 08-17] (RIN: 1505-AB91) received April 25, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6399. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Tier 1 Issue — Backdated Stock Options Directive #2 [LMSB Control No. 4-0308-017] received April 23, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6400. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's report entitled, "National Coverage Determinations for Fiscal Year 2006," pursuant to Public Law 106-554 section 522(a); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

6401. A letter from the Program Manager, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Conditions for Coverage for End-Stage Renal Disease Facilities [CMS-3818-F] (RIN: 0938-AG82) received April 8, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. CONYERS: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 4279. A bill to enhance remedies for violations of intellectual property laws, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 110-617). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. CONYERS: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 1512. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for compensation to States incarcerating undocumented aliens charged with a felony or two or more misdemeanors; with an amendment (Rept. 110-618). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 5830. A bill to create a voluntary FHA program that provides mortgage refinancing assistance to allow families to stay in their homes, protect neighborhoods, and help stabilize the

housing market; with an amendment (Rept. 110-619). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. CONYERS: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 5690. A bill to exempt the African National Congress from treatment as a terrorist organization for certain acts or events, provide relief for certain members of the African National Congress regarding admissibility, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 110-620 Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the Committee on Foreign Affairs discharged from further consideration, H.R. 5690 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. ROYCE:

H.R. 5957. A bill to reduce subsidies for agricultural commodity programs; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. MCNERNEY (for himself and Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California):

H.R. 5958. A bill to make permanent the increases made by the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 in the loan limits for the Federal National Mortgage Association, the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, and the FHA; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. REYES:

H.R. 5959. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2009 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select).

By Mr. ALTMIRE (for himself and Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 5960. A bill to amend the Trade Act of 1974 to provide for a limitation on presidential discretion with respect to actions to address market disruption; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GINGREY (for himself, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, Mr. HERGER, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. WESTMORELAND, and Mr. DEAL of Georgia):

H.R. 5961. A bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to place a general eligibility ceiling of 250 percent of the poverty level on gross income for eligibility for benefits under Medicaid and SCHIP; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida (for himself, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. PAUL, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, and Mr. TURNER):

H.R. 5962. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide temporary housing related tax relief for individuals, and for

other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ELLISON (for himself, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, and Mr. CAPUANO):

H.R. 5963. A bill to protect the interests of bona fide tenants in the case of any foreclosure on any dwelling or residential real property, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GONZALEZ (for himself and Mr. UPTON):

H.R. 5964. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to extend the compliance period for persons subject to the renewable fuel mandate in the years 2008, 2009, and 2010; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 5965. A bill to encourage small businesses to provide continuing financial education to their employees by providing a credit against income tax to cover a portion of the costs of providing that education and by giving such businesses and corporations providing such financial education preferential status when applying for Federal contracts, loans, and other assistance; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Small Business, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. KAPTUR (for herself and Mr. LATOURETTE):

H.R. 5966. A bill to target housing counseling funding based upon levels of residential mortgage foreclosures and delinquencies; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. WEINER:

H.R. 5967. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for reallocation of abandoned private activity bond volume cap; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia:

H.R. 5968. A bill to require assurances that certain family planning service projects and programs will provide pamphlets containing the contact information of adoption centers; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia:

H.R. 5969. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to make service-disabled veterans eligible under the 8(a) business development program; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. STUPAK (for himself and Mr. COBLE):

H. Con. Res. 341. Concurrent resolution celebrating 75 years of effective State-based alcohol regulation and recognizing State lawmakers, regulators, law enforcement officers, the public health community and industry members for creating a workable, legal, and successful system of alcoholic beverage regulation, distribution, and sale; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MATSUI (for herself, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. PLATTS, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina):

H. Res. 1173. A resolution recognizing AmeriCorps Week; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 139: Mr. CULBERSON and Mrs. MYRICK.
H.R. 643: Mr. PRICE of Georgia.

H.R. 661: Mr. SESTAK and Mr. BROWN of South Carolina.

H.R. 914: Mr. PITTS.

H.R. 992: Mr. SHAYS.

H.R. 1032: Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.

H.R. 1072: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 1078: Ms. BERKLEY.

H.R. 1188: Mr. CARSON.

H.R. 1283: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. CARSON, and Mr. DICKS.

H.R. 1392: Mr. GONZALEZ.

H.R. 1536: Mr. CARSON.

H.R. 1542: Mr. SARBANES.

H.R. 1606: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.

H.R. 1643: Mr. ABERCROMBIE.

H.R. 1772: Mr. SHAYS.

H.R. 1776: Mr. DOYLE, Mr. LIPINSKI, and Mr. ALLEN.

H.R. 1843: Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina.

H.R. 1957: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 1983: Mr. CONYERS and Mrs. SCHMIDT.
H.R. 2032: Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. SERRANO, and Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 2049: Mr. CARSON, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. ESHOO, and Ms. LEE.

H.R. 2092: Mr. LATOURETTE and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 2189: Ms. BALDWIN.

H.R. 2361: Mr. CARSON.

H.R. 2392: Mr. CARSON.

H.R. 2477: Mr. FORTUÑO.

H.R. 2552: Mr. WEXLER and Mr. PASTOR.

H.R. 2632: Ms. LEE.

H.R. 2676: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 2712: Mr. THORNBERRY.

H.R. 2812: Mr. CONAWAY and Mr. HINOJOSA.

H.R. 2859: Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 2894: Mr. BACHUS.

H.R. 2942: Mr. ANDREWS.

H.R. 2990: Mr. CARSON.

H.R. 2994: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 3047: Mr. SALI.

H.R. 3063: Mr. SERRANO.

H.R. 3089: Mr. SALI, Mr. ROYCE, and Mr. NEUGEBAUER.

H.R. 3164: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 3257: Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. OLVER, Mr. BISHOP of New York, and Mr. ANDREWS.

H.R. 3267: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H.R. 3309: Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 3480: Mrs. LOWEY and Mr. CARSON.

H.R. 3543: Mr. BACA and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 3544: Mr. WEXLER and Mr. DICKS.

H.R. 3636: Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 3870: Mr. ALTMIRE and Mr. WAXMAN.

H.R. 3896: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.

H.R. 4071: Mr. SHULER.

H.R. 4081: Mr. DOGGETT and Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 4105: Ms. SOLIS, Mr. SIRES, Mr. WELCH of Vermont, Mr. PLATTS, and Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida.

H.R. 4114: Mr. SESTAK and Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 4141: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 4206: Mr. KUHL of New York and Mr. YARMUTH.

H.R. 4236: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. SPACE, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND.

H.R. 4296: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 4318: Mr. CHABOT and Mr. TURNER.

H.R. 4335: Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 4790: Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 4900: Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. FORBES, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. BACHUS.

H.R. 4990: Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 5106: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 5174: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.

H.R. 5180: Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 5265: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. ANDREWS, and Mrs. TAUSCHER.

H.R. 5315: Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. REYES, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND.

H.R. 5401: Ms. LEE.

H.R. 5442: Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 5447: Mr. CAPUANO and Mr. MCNULTY.

H.R. 5450: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa and Mr. REHBERG.

H.R. 5461: Mr. FORTUÑO.

H.R. 5464: Mr. CARSON.

H.R. 5465: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina and Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas.

H.R. 5496: Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 5515: Mr. REYNOLDS.

H.R. 5532: Ms. BALDWIN.

H.R. 5534: Mr. SHAYS.

H.R. 5561: Mr. HIGGINS.

H.R. 5568: Mrs. BLACKBURN and Mr. HULSHOF.

H.R. 5586: Mr. ABERCROMBIE.

H.R. 5595: Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mrs. LOWEY, and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 5604: Mr. SOUDER, Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, and Mr. MICHAUD.

H.R. 5605: Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 5606: Mr. KING of New York and Mr. ROYCE.

H.R. 5609: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 5611: Ms. FOXX.

H.R. 5626: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 5635: Mr. ALTMIRE.

H.R. 5664: Mr. WALZ of Minnesota.

H.R. 5672: Mr. BERRY.

H.R. 5696: Mr. FILNER.

H.R. 5716: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 5717: Mr. FEENEY.

H.R. 5723: Mr. MCKEON.

H.R. 5731: Mr. FEENEY.

H.R. 5734: Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 5740: Mr. LYNCH, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. WILSON of Ohio, Mrs. BONO MACK, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. FALDOMAEGA, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Ms. CASTOR, and Ms. BEAN.

H.R. 5752: Mr. SHAYS.

H.R. 5753: Ms. BALDWIN.

H.R. 5762: Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SESTAK, and Mr. KLEIN of Florida.

H.R. 5765: Mr. PORTER and Mr. HERGER.

H.R. 5766: Mr. RUSH and Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.

H.R. 5784: Mr. RENZI.

H.R. 5798: Mr. ALTMIRE.

H.R. 5824: Mr. TAYLOR, Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas, Ms. CLARKE, and Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.

H.R. 5825: Mr. CARNAHAN.

H.R. 5826: Mr. BILIRAKIS and Mr. WALZ of Minnesota.

H.R. 5831: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. BOREN, and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.

H.R. 5837: Mr. ISRAEL.

H.R. 5847: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 5854: Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 5857: Mr. CAMP of Michigan, Mr. FORTUÑO, Mr. SOUDER, and Mrs. MUSGRAVE.

H.R. 5869: Mr. UDALL of Colorado.

H.R. 5895: Mr. SESTAK.

H.R. 5898: Mr. JEFFERSON.

H.R. 5904: Mr. TERRY and Mr. REGULA.

H.R. 5911: Mr. RADANOVICH.

H.R. 5912: Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 5914: Mr. MCKEON.

H.R. 5916: Mr. CROWLEY.

H.R. 5934: Mr. ELLSWORTH.

H.R. 5954: Mr. FILNER.

H. Con. Res. 267: Mr. ALTMIRE.

H. Con. Res. 276: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.

H. Con. Res. 295: Mr. SALI.

H. Con. Res. 299: Mr. ENGEL, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. LOBIONDO, and Mr. BACHUS.

H. Con. Res. 332: Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, and Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California.

H. Con. Res. 334: Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. LATTA, and Mr. WALDEN of Oregon.

H. Con. Res. 337: Mr. CONYERS.

H. Con. Res. 338: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H. Res. 68: Mr. CONYERS.

H. Res. 227: Mr. CONYERS.

H. Res. 353: Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. FORTUÑO, Mr. KUCINICH, and Ms. SUTTON.

H. Res. 356: Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut and Mr. KNOLLENBERG.

H. Res. 369: Mr. TOWNS.

H. Res. 374: Mr. CONYERS.

H. Res. 757: Ms. SUTTON.

H. Res. 779: Ms. BALDWIN.

H. Res. 937: Mr. BOREN, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. LATTA, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

H. Res. 977: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. MAHONEY of Florida, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. BOUCHER, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. LAMPSON, Mr. HILL, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. JEFFERSON.

H. Res. 1008: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H. Res. 1011: Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania.

H. Res. 1022: Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. SUTTON, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.

H. Res. 1026: Mr. MOORE of Kansas and Mr. BOREN.

H. Res. 1048: Mr. MCCOTTER.

H. Res. 1069: Mr. LINDER.

H. Res. 1075: Mr. CALVERT.

H. Res. 1086: Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. GINGREY.

H. Res. 1090: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. WATT, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CLYBURN, Ms. CLARKE, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. CLAY, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CARSON, Mr. WYNN, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. WATSON, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. LEE, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. DINGELL, Ms. WATERS, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. RICHARDSON, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. CONYERS.

H. Res. 1109: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.

H. Res. 1111: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas.

H. Res. 1122: Mr. WALDEN of Oregon.

H. Res. 1124: Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. WEXLER, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. SAXTON, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Ms. BEAN, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. ROSS, Mr. HODES, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr.

DOGGETT, Mr. HALL of New York, Ms. DELAURO, Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. WELCH of Vermont, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.

H. Res. 1132: Mr. STUPAK and Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.

H. Res. 1134: Ms. DELAURO, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. SERRANO, and Mr. SESTAK.

H. Res. 1146: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Mr. EHLERS.

H. Res. 1155: Mr. MATHESON, Mr. BARROW, Mr. NUNES, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. WEINER, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. BOSWELL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. BOYD of Florida, Mr. TANNER, Mr. BOREN, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. ARCURI, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. COOPER, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. SHULER, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee, and Mr. ELLSWORTH.

H. Res. 1160: Mr. ETHERIDGE.

H. Res. 1164: Ms. BORDALLO.

H. Res. 1170: Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. PENCE, Mr. SOUDER, and Mr. BUYER.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING CHAD EVAN DALE ROBERTS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Chad Evan Dale Roberts, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 135, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Chad has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Chad has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Chad Evan Dale Roberts for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SALLIE AIJALEN MARX

HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mrs. McCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to say congratulations to Sallie Marx on the occasion of her Bat Mitzvah.

In Judaism, Bat Mitzvah celebrates the coming of age of a Jewish girl. According to Jewish law, when Jewish children reach the age of majority (twelve for girls) they become responsible for their actions, Jewish ritual law, tradition, and ethics and are privileged to participate in all areas of Jewish community life. The celebrant is asked to perform a mitzvah project, providing a service to the greater community.

Sallie Aijalen Marx, 12 years old, from Bainbridge Island, Washington will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah on May 17th, 2008 along with Grandmother Ruth Marx, Grandparents Gary and Phyllis Marx, Grandparents Mary Ellen and Andy Mendelsohn, Parents Josh and Stacey Marx, and lots of friends and relatives. As a mitzvah project she has raised \$5,500 for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and traveled across the state to run in the 5 K "Race for a Cure" in Spokane in April. Sallie raised more money than any other individual and all but two groups for the April event.

The Susan G. Komen for the Cure was founded in 1982 and launched the global

breast cancer movement. Today, Komen for the Cure is the world's largest grassroots network of breast cancer survivors and activists fighting to save lives, empower people, ensure quality care for all and energize science to find the cures. Thanks to events like the Komen Race for the Cure, they have invested nearly \$1 billion to fulfill their promise, becoming the largest source of nonprofit funds dedicated to the fight against breast cancer.

For the past 25 years, Komen for the Cure has played a critical role in every major advance in the fight against breast cancer—transforming how the world talks about and treats this disease and helping to turn millions of breast cancer patients into breast cancer survivors. Their contributions include more early detection, more hope, more research and more survivors.

On her web page Sallie said "One of the things that inspires me is that my grandma has had breast cancer since 1982. Unfortunately, I know many others who have been affected by breast cancer as well." Raising money for the Komen for the Cure Foundation and running in the Race for a Cure was the perfect mitzvah project given her sensitivity to breast cancer issues, her fund raising talent, and her athleticism.

Sallie is a bright young woman who excels in soccer, basketball, and lacrosse. Her middle name, Aijalen, means happiness in a Chilean indigenous language; a product of her parents' service in the Peace Corps in Chile. She enjoys cooking, loves to read Sports Illustrated, rooting for the Red Sox, and is an outstanding student. Sallie's mother Stacey joined her in the Race for a Cure while her father Josh and younger brother Nate cheered them on.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing Sallie and her family on her important day.

HONORING PAUL CODY JAMESON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Paul Cody Jameson, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 135, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Paul has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Paul has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Paul Cody Jameson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of

America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

COMMENDING JOCKEY KENT DESORMEAUX FOR WINNING THE 134TH KENTUCKY DERBY

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, this past Saturday afternoon, with more than 157,000 people watching from the stands and millions watching from their homes, Big Brown won the 134th Kentucky Derby at Louisville, Kentucky's Churchill Downs. Ridden by Louisiana-native Kent Desormeaux, Big Brown proved his ability yet again, as the favorite became the seventh undefeated horse to win horse racing's most prestigious prize. Big Brown's trainer and owners now look ahead to the Preakness, the second leg of the Triple Crown.

Leading his third horse to the red roses of a Kentucky Derby win, Kent Desormeaux is no stranger to winning. Born in Maurice, Louisiana, Kent's first race was at Evangeline Downs with his first win coming aboard Miss Tavern on July 13, 1986. At 25 years old, the jockey became the youngest ever to notch 3,000 career wins. His successful career is a testament to hard work, determination and a love of his sport.

I know I join Kent's family and many in Acadiana in congratulating him on this most recent win and wishing him the best for continued success. Louisiana has a well-established record of producing winning jockeys and Kent certainly continues our legacy.

Unfortunately, Saturday's race did have sadness as second place, Eight Belles, was euthanized on the track. The filly, who ran an impressive race, collapsed after crossing the finish line. It was a tragic scene that reminds us all of the dangers of the sport.

The story Saturday though was Big Brown's big win. Desormeaux shepherded the horse from the outside gate through a crowded field and dictated the pace to give Big Brown the best shot at victory. As the lead pack rounded the final turn of the mile and a quarter race, Desormeaux gave Big Brown the signal, and the horse's effort left his competitors in the dust.

Again, congratulations to Kent Desormeaux, winning jockey of the 134th Kentucky Derby.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

HONORING THE THIRTIETH QUAD-
RENNIAL CONVENTION OF THE
SLAVONIC BENEVOLENT ORDER
OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the Thirtieth Quadrennial Convention of the Slavonic Benevolent Order of the State of Texas (SPJST), which will be held on June 8–11, 2008. For 111 years, SPJST has served as a fraternal organization and an educational tool for Czech immigrants to learn the democratic process, the value of free speech, and the importance of voting in their newly adopted homeland.

Today, there are more than 47,000 members of the SPJST in 120 lodges throughout the state of Texas. In recent years, SPJST has expanded to include youth activities and community service programs. As a result, many SPJST projects and members have been recognized by the Texas Fraternal Congress for their service and contribution to communities throughout Texas. SPJST has provided its members with identity and support throughout the years. In lodges all over the state of Texas members are committed to helping those in need by working in hospitals, providing scholarships, and supporting drug abuse programs and other charities. The members of SPJST have upheld the tradition of helping people to care for their families and their communities.

With its great commitment to its members, communities, and organizations that it serves, SPJST embodies the value and tradition of the great state of Texas.

HONORING JOSEPH K. JOHNSEN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joseph K. Johnsen, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 135, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joseph has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Joseph has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Joseph K. Johnsen for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

A TRIBUTE TO RIO LINDA UNION
SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the staff and volunteers of the Rio Linda Union School District and the services they provided to local students. For 94 years, the dedicated staff of the Rio Linda Union School District has carefully selected fully credentialed teachers, involved the community in the education process and worked tirelessly to meet the needs of students. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring some of Sacramento's finest educators.

Established in 1914 as a one-room school house, the district has grown into a 22 school, K–6 district. This award winning district is now Sacramento County's largest elementary school district, teaching 10,500 elementary students in the northern Sacramento area. These communities include Rio Linda, Foothill Farms, North Natomas, North Highlands, and McClellan Park.

Rio Linda Union School District offers rigorous educational programs for all students and aligns their curriculum and textbooks to state standards with the integration of arts and sciences into the classroom. The district prides itself on sustaining a quality learning environment, maintaining school grounds and ensuring a safe place for children to learn. Students have succeeded due to improved special education classes, expanded summer school, Reading Recovery program, family outreach workers, and before and after school activities to keep the children engaged in learning.

This district is made of a diverse population of students, bridging ethnicities and backgrounds. More than 36 different languages are spoken in this district and 26 percent of students have a limited proficiency in English. This is a challenge facing educators across our Nation, and the Rio Linda Union School District has met the challenge head on.

Rio Linda Union School District is driven by community volunteers. The efforts of the volunteers that help this district run are truly admirable. Approximately 3,000 parents volunteer each year to work in classrooms, chaperone field trips and serve on committees. Two annual events that showcase the dedication of volunteers in this district are the Volunteer Luncheon and the Principal for a Day program. More than 400 parents attend the annual Volunteer Luncheon where a "Volunteer of the Year" from each school is chosen. Their Principal for a Day program attracts community leaders making the program a state model.

This school district will soon be seeing a change due to the passage of Measure B which consolidates four northern Sacramento County school districts. In July of 2008, Rio Linda Union School District, Grant Joint Union High School, North Sacramento School District, and Del Paso Heights School District will merge to become Twin Rivers Union School District. Frank Porter, who is currently the Superintendent for Rio Linda Union School Dis-

trict has been hired as Interim Superintendent for this new district. Mr. Porter has worked as Superintendent for more than 6 years, during which eight Rio Linda schools received California Distinguished School Awards.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the Rio Linda Union School District's commitment to education and our community. Over the past 90 years, their success stories have been truly inspiring. As members of the Sacramento community gather at the Aerospace Museum, I ask my colleagues to come together and honor the tireless dedication shown by the Rio Linda Union School District's staff and volunteers in providing quality education for our children.

CONGRATULATING THE 2008
AMERICAN JUNIOR CURLING TEAM

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate the American Junior Curling Team for winning the 2008 World Junior Curling Championship in Osterlund, Sweden on March 9, 2008. The Plys Team, named after its captain, Chris Plys, had previously won the United States Junior National Championship to qualify to be the American team in the world championship.

Despite strong competition from the other teams at the championship, including Canada, Norway, Switzerland, Germany, Denmark, China, Scotland, Czech Republic and Sweden, which had home-field advantage, the American team persevered and took the title, the first for an American team since 1984. They defeated Sweden 7–5 for the title.

I want to commend Coach Phil Drobnick, Captain Chris Plys, Danny Plys and Aanders Brorson, of Duluth, Minnesota, Matt Perushek of Eveleth, Minnesota, and Matt Hamilton of McFarland, Wisconsin for their outstanding accomplishments. They bring great credit upon themselves, their communities, the United States and the sport of curling. I wish them well in their future endeavors.

HONORING MICHAEL ANDREW
GORSKI

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Michael Andrew Gorski, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Michael has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Michael has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Michael Andrew Gorski for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

U.S.-TAIWAN ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, for the past 60 years, the United States and Taiwan have enjoyed a unique and vital relationship. Forged during a period of mutual confrontation with communism, our ties have flourished over the years. Indeed, what began as primarily a security-focused partnership has become one based on a wide range of mutual interests.

The growth of our relations was in no way a coincidence. Instead, the common values of freedom, democracy and prosperity have guided both our peoples over the years. During the past two decades in particular, America's support has helped Taiwan develop a vibrant democratic government and strong economy, which in turn have provided hope and inspiration to others in the region and around the world.

Today, as Taiwan prepares for yet another milestone in its democratic progression—the inauguration of a new President later this month—I would like to recognize some of the successes we have had together under the leadership of its outgoing President, Chen Shui-bian.

From President Chen's first months in office, the United States and Taiwan worked to advance its rightful role in the international community. This began with cooperative efforts to first call for and later secure Taiwan's entry into the World Trade Organization.

Our governments also worked closely together during this period of increasing global health awareness and activity. Over the past several years, America has consistently pushed to have Taiwan included in international forums where it can convey lessons learned from its experience with SARS and the Avian flu. In addition, our senior diplomats—backed by strong congressional direction in 2003—have sought a meaningful role for Taiwan in the World Health Organization.

Our security interests have also been closely aligned during President Chen's tenure. The tragedy that befell the United States on September 11, 2001 was met with a swift response by Taiwan, which assisted with resources for coalition efforts in Afghanistan, cooperative efforts to track and shut down terrorist financial networks, participation in our government's Container Security Initiative, and many other joint efforts. Taiwan even contributed generously to the Pentagon Memorial Fund, in recognition of those who lost their lives on 9/11.

The partnership we have built with Taiwan has also served both governments well as we have been compelled to respond to hostile Chinese gestures in recent years. Perhaps the starkest example of this during President

Chen's time in office occurred in December 2004, when China unveiled and subsequently enacted its Anti-Secession Law, a measure providing legal authority for the People's Liberation Army to invade Taiwan without provocation. A steady and determined response by President Chen was matched by strong statements of concern from the international community, signaling to China that hostile action would be met with strong resistance.

America has also sought ways to counter a wide range of other Chinese measures that seek to isolate Taiwan:

Militarily, China has noticeably increased its threat to Taiwan's security through the steady deployment of missiles targeting Taiwan, in numbers that have grown by more than 100 per year and now far exceed 1,000 in number.

Diplomatically, China has attempted to block at every turn Taiwan's efforts to participate in the global community. It opposed Taiwan's recent application to join the United Nations as a full member, and has repeatedly thwarted Taiwan's attempts to join the UN and its affiliate organizations—such as the World Health Organization—even as an observer.

Economically, China has sought to prevent Taiwan from expanding its role in international markets—using the dependence created by their over \$80 billion in annual bilateral trade as a means to advancing unification. At the same time, it has been working to build bilateral and regional free trade agreements (FTAs) that deliberately exclude Taiwan.

Politically, China's authorities refused to communicate with Taiwan's elected leadership during President Chen's tenure, despite repeated offers by him to engage in open dialogue.

As evidenced by the constructive efforts cited earlier, the United States and Taiwan have worked closely to address each of these threats as they have arisen. And we will continue to do so when President Ma Ying-jeou assumes office on May 20th, building on the record of achievement that our governments have amassed in just the first years of this new century. I look forward to working with President Ma's government as we seek to further advance our common values and interests.

PULLMAN HIGH SCHOOL COMPETES IN NATIONAL SCIENCE BOWL

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join with the Pullman community in congratulating the Pullman High School Science Bowl team on being selected to compete in the 18th annual U.S. Department of Energy National Science Bowl.

The U.S. Department of Energy National Science Bowl is a nationwide academic competition that tests students' knowledge in all areas of science. Much like Jeopardy, the students put their science knowledge to the test as they are quizzed in a fast paced question-and-answer format.

Led by their coach, Barbara Harding, the Pullman High School team includes Randy Xun, Shashank Dwivedi, Suman Jandhyala, Xingyu Zhang, and Prastuti Singh. These outstanding students won their regional tournament and now join 66 other teams from throughout the nation to compete for the opportunity to travel to the International Youth Science Forum in England and a trip to visit nuclear power generation facilities in France.

The accomplishments of the Pullman High School team bring attention to the great need we have in our country to continue to encourage high school students to pursue careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. In order for our country to remain competitive, we need more young, bright students like these who will grow up to be our future doctors, scientists and engineers. I am certain these students would agree that a career in science is one that holds infinite potential.

Madam Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in commending the Pullman High School Science Bowl team for their commitment to academic excellence and for their exceptional performance in the National Science Bowl.

HONORING WILLIAM S. ROBBINS III

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize William S. Robbins III, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

William has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years William has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending William S. Robbins III for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, May 14th marks the 60th anniversary of the modern State of Israel. For six decades, America has stood by Israel's side as her partner in peace and defended her as a beacon of democracy in a region dominated by war, authoritarian regimes, and religious conflict.

In 1948, the United States became the first country to welcome Israel into the community

of nations, and we have stood with and supported her as she has defended herself from those who seek her destruction each and every day.

Israel has been our staunchest ally in the Middle East, as well as a full partner in the global war against radical jihadists—individuals who attack our Nation, our children, our values, and the very existence of Western civilization.

The Old Testament teaches us the foundation of Israel's storied past. For three thousand years, the Jewish people have created a cultural, religious, and national identity, a connection rooted in their unbroken ties to the Holy Land. When the modern State of Israel was created 60 years ago, that Jewish heritage was renewed.

Madam Speaker, Israel has a legal, moral, and historical right to exist in peace with secure and defensible borders.

Make no mistake, Israel's challenges are vast. Each day Israelis face the verbal and physical threat of annihilation looming on the horizon. From Tehran, Damascus, and Hebron come unrelenting calls for the destruction of the State of Israel. Meantime, rockets from Gaza rain down on the homes and schools of Sderot, Ashkelon, and other Israeli cities, all the while the United Nations sits idle and echoes anti-Israel, anti-Semitic proclamations. Israel remains a nation under siege.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, today I come to this floor, our own altar of democracy, to celebrate a nation that has turned adversity into triumph and took a dispersed population and made them whole. Like America, Israel is a country of immigrants and has opened its doors to every Jewish immigrant to become a citizen. This story has now united people from over 70 countries and has turned Israel into a society of multi-ethnic communities living side by side with one another.

As the world's oldest democracy, today we celebrate the success of a democratic relative. Israel exists in a part of the world that knows little democracy, yet Israel has displayed the hope and dignity that accompanies rule by the people and personal freedom. Although blessed with few natural resources, this young nation has seen the fruits of its labor pay off through an incredible amount of economic prosperity and cultural creativity.

Yet as Israel works for peace with security, we must not forget that peace can never be achieved by asking Israel to put at risk its sovereignty and the safety of its people.

We must constantly reaffirm our own ties to this democratic society in a part of the world so desperately in need of democracy. This is vitally important to our own security. And we must all realize this.

Thus, I will continue to support Israel and pray she one day will live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force.

I am honored to come to the floor today to celebrate the 60th anniversary of our ally, the nation of Israel.

IN RECOGNITION OF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH HONOREES

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the everyday heroes in Sacramento whose commitment in the areas of business, education, and community involvement are unparalleled. The men and women being honored this afternoon are dedicated to a diverse Sacramento and their tireless efforts have made a substantial difference in our neighborhoods. As they gather to celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring these fine Sacramentans.

With the month of May being Asian Pacific American Heritage month, it is important that we take time to honor individual members of the Asian Pacific Islander Community who go above and beyond in their commitment to community service. One such individual is a Moses Auwae, a retired Army serviceman. Upon his departure from the military, Mr. Auwae dedicated himself to improving the lives of future generations. Mr. Auwae's work with developmentally disabled children at the Laurel Ruff School helped him win the Outstanding Service to Children and Adults with Developmental Disabilities Award in 1991 from the Association for Retarded Citizens. Additionally, Mr. Auwae has been an active community volunteer, making a difference in many lives.

Over the last few decades, Tom Fujimoto has been a diligent advocate for preserving the heritage of Japanese Americans. Working as the trustee to the Wakamatsu Tea & Silk Colony, Mr. Fujimoto has been instrumental in safeguarding this historical landmark, one of the first Japanese settlements in the United States. In addition to his efforts in ensuring Japanese American's proper place in history, Mr. Fujimoto has lent his expertise and knowledge to numerous Sacramento groups. He has served on the Board of the Sacramento Regional Historical Project, the National Japanese American Historical Society, the Tule Lake/Linkville Cemetery Project and was President of the Sacramento Japanese American Citizens League. Mr. Fujimoto has served the community admirably and his efforts have made significant strides for the betterment of our region.

Throughout the years, Ms. Aeyon Lee has been a leader in the Sacramento community helping to promote healthy living to ensure that the concerns of the neediest among us are heard by policymakers. From her work encouraging civic participation to her volunteering at the WIND Youth Services, Ms. Lee recognizes the importance of giving back to the community. Serving on the board for the Placer County American Cancer Society and currently as the President of the Sacramento Korean American Cancer Support Group, Ms. Lee has been a fundamental link in connecting community organizations with the resources they need to succeed.

Ms. Linda Ng has actively worked to ensure the civil rights of all Sacramentans and has

strived to end discrimination in our neighborhoods. From her work with the Satendar Singh Justice Coalition to her appointment by Governor Schwarzenegger to the Fair Employment and Housing Commission, Ms. Ng has provided a steady and unwavering voice for every ethnicity. As President of the Organization of Chinese Americans, Sacramento, Ms. Ng organized Chinese New Year celebrations and the Pacific Rim Street Festival, both which have helped raise cultural awareness and encouraged community participation. Ms. Ng's leadership also accounted for a very successful OCA National Convention this past summer in Sacramento.

As the only Vietnamese American to attain the rank of captain in all law enforcement in California, Captain Trang Tro has been an inspiration to Asian Pacific Americans everywhere. As a community leader and member of the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department, Captain Tro understands the need to protect and serve all of Sacramento's neighborhoods. Working as a public safety liaison, Captain Tro has been involved in many worthy endeavors such as OCA's Hate Crime Conference and the District Attorney's Citizens Academy. I thank Captain Tro for his efforts to strengthen the ties between law enforcement and Sacramento's diverse neighborhoods.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize these worthy honorees who have worked tirelessly and often behind the scenes to ensure that Sacramento is a better place to live. As we celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, I applaud the spirit embodied by these local heroes. On behalf of the people of Sacramento and the Fifth Congressional District of California, I ask all my colleagues to join me in acknowledging the efforts and important role these individuals have played in helping Sacramento flourish.

HONORING DAVID JAMES KING

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize David James King, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 900, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

David has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years David has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending David James King for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF DR. THELMA EVELYN GOODRICH-HILL, PHD

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise with great sadness as I pay tribute to Dr. Thelma Evelyn Goodrich-Hill, an outstanding daughter of Harlem who recently passed away at the age of 85. As I speak with profound sorrow, I ascend to celebrate a life well lived and to remember with fondness the accomplishments of a remarkable woman who, over her many years and under much adversity, was a leader in the sphere of business.

Thelma was born on April 19, 1923, in the City of New York. She was one of four daughters born to James E. Daniel Goodrich. Thelma was a lifelong resident of Harlem and was a product of New York City's public school system, graduating from Wadleigh High School. She received her professional training at the Harlem Academy of Business, City University of New York's Baruch School of Business, and the College of Insurance.

As a daughter of a real estate entrepreneur, Thelma inherited her father's interest in the world of business, becoming one of the first women in Harlem to own and operate her own brokerage firm, Thelma E. Goodrich Real Estate & Insurance Inc.

In January 1960, she united with Lawrence Dudley Hill in holy matrimony. Their marriage was a loving and committed union, lasting 45 years until his passing in September 2005.

Over the years, Thelma emerged as a stabilizing force in the Harlem community in addition to blazing many new trails as a female entrepreneur. In 1982, after many years of the company's growth, Thelma E. Goodrich Inc., merged with the firm of Ernest E. Johnson Insurance Inc., forming Goodrich Johnson Brokerage. This company, a full service insurance brokerage business, continues to effectively handle the needs of businesses and churches throughout the State of New York.

Throughout her busy and involved career, Thelma shared her knowledge of the insurance business by serving on corporate boards and in corporate leadership positions. In 1988 she was elected chair of the board of directors of the United Mutual Life Insurance Company, the first African-American woman to hold that position. She was also the first woman to serve as president of the Council of Insurance Brokers of Greater New York, Inc.

Thelma was also involved with many different organizations. She was an active member of the Iota Phi Lambda Sorority and a lifelong member and past president of the New York Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs Inc., a former chair of the board of the Greater Harlem Real Estate Board, and a founding member and past president of the Harlem Business Alliance. In April 1986 she was elected to the board of trustees at Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina, and in 1998, she was awarded a Doctorate of Humane Letters by Shaw University.

Over the years, Thelma was recognized by the business and religious communities for her

professional achievements and volunteer work to improve the quality of life for others, including the NAACP, United Insurance Brokers of Greater New York, Harlem Commonwealth Council, Shaw University School of Divinity, The YWCA, and most recently, the Council of Insurance Brokers of Greater New York, Inc.

Thelma leaves behind a wealth of family and friends to honor her memory. She will be greatly missed by her sister, Irene McKenzie; 2 nephews, 1 niece, and a blessed abundance of cousins, friends and colleagues.

Madam Speaker, rather than mourn her passing, I hope that my colleagues will join me in celebrating the life of Dr. Thelma Goodrich-Hill by remembering that she exemplified greatness in every way.

HONORING CHERYL PETTY

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, this weekend at its State convention, Alpha Delta Kappa, an international honorary organization of women educators dedicated to educational excellence, honored my dear friend Cheryl Petty with its Distinguished Teacher Award. I ask my colleagues to please join me in extending sincere congratulations.

Cheryl is a native of Franklin, Tennessee, and has given back to that community by educating its children—first at Johnson Elementary for 21 years, and now at Moore Elementary for the past 18. Cheryl began her teaching career after receiving a bachelor's degree in education from Vanderbilt University. She would later add a master's in education from Middle Tennessee State University.

Not content with her service to the Franklin Special School District and raising a family, Cheryl has become a cornerstone of our community through her membership in not only Alpha Delta Kappa, but also the Williamson County Cultural Arts Commission, Williamson County Republican Career Women, the Women's Club of Nashville, the Professional Educators of Tennessee and the Heritage Foundation.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the accomplishments of my friend Cheryl Petty and congratulating her and her family on this wonderful occasion.

HONORING CHRISTOPHER SAVING

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Christopher Saving, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Christopher has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities.

Over the many years Christopher has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Christopher Saving for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO DALLAS COMMUNITY MOTHERS AND THE LEGACY THEY LEAVE BEHIND

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to eight beloved mothers of the Dallas community who passed away this year. These women made a lasting impact not only in the lives of their own families but in their churches, neighborhoods and throughout the Dallas community.

Mrs. Bessie Nash will be remembered as the full-fledged "church mother." She was active in driving the church bus, in charge of the primary Sunday school and primary choir. Children were truly her heart. She devoted her life to children not only in her actions but in her words by offering her wisdom and guidance to make sure they stayed on the right path in life.

Mrs. Lillie Fuller will be remembered as the "neighborhood mother." Known for being kind, gentle, and generous, her love extended beyond her own children to anyone in need. Her heart and door were always open to help others. She especially loved children, and her life reflected it well.

Mrs. Ruby Page will be remembered as the "feisty mother." As the unofficial neighborhood crime watch captain, she kept a watchful eye on crime. She also looked out for her guests. When anyone visited, her culinary skills not only produced food for their body, but the warmth and care she prepared it with was food for the soul.

Mrs. Barbara Hogg will be remembered as the "mother whose love traveled across great distances." Despite the many miles between her and her children, her love went beyond borders and boundaries to the hearts of those that loved her most. Her compassion for her children could not be contained. Her love knew no limits.

Mrs. Ruthie Davis will be remembered as the "mother that held out hope in the midst of impossible odds." The love she exhibited exemplified the biblical scripture "love covereth all things." Whether it was her children or anyone else's, her motherly eyes saw beyond the crust of contrary behavior, to the core of humanity.

Mrs. China Randle will be remembered as the "gentle-hearted mother." Although gentle, her resilience allowed her heartstrings to be stretched by those she loved the most, yet still return to original shape. Her love never failed. Her gentleness was her strength.

Mrs. Peggy Washington will be remembered as the "mother who forged a path through life

for her children to follow." She led by example in hopes that her children would follow. Along the way, she planted seeds of values and principles. May the seeds that she planted bring a fruitful harvest.

Mrs. Florine Anderson will be remembered as the "mother with enduring strength." The love she had for her children endured throughout her lifetime. Through the stresses and strains of motherhood, her strength and love were steadfast and unmovable. Her life reflected the quote that true character is shown under pressure. Her strength stands as a pillar for all to see.

On behalf of the 30th Congressional District of Texas, I am honored to pay respect to these honorable women. Individually, they were invaluable members of the Dallas area.

HONORING AARON PAUL PRICE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Aaron Paul Price, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 205, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Aaron has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Aaron has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Aaron Paul Price for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING ALESIA HAMILTON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ms. Alesia Hamilton, an exemplary individual and first grade teacher at Edison Elementary in St. Joseph, Missouri.

In 2004, Ms. Hamilton, in accordance with her character of compassion and service, invited Mr. Alferd Williams, 70, into her class of 25 students in order that he may finally learn to read. Her generous nature and commitment to the task of working with Mr. Williams demonstrates her willingness to go above and beyond what is required as a public school teacher. Ms. Hamilton was also recently recognized as the St. Joseph School District Teacher of the Year.

In accordance with my Resolution to recognize the roles and contributions of America's teachers through National Teacher Appreciation Week, I would like to take a moment to individually recognize Ms. Hamilton as an educator selflessly committed to the development of our Nation's students.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Alesia Hamilton for her service to America's students and for her efforts put forth in working with Mr. Williams. It is an honor to serve both of these individuals in the United States Congress.

IN HONOR OF ELEANOR GELFAND

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Eleanor Gelfand as she and her family celebrate her 90th birthday.

Eleanor Gelfand, the daughter of immigrants from Hungary, was born in Cleveland, Ohio, on May 2, 1918. She grew up along with her two siblings in the Glenville neighborhood of Cleveland during the great depression. Her parents, Zigmund and Mary Adler, worked as a union baker and a homemaker and were active in the Glenville community. Their activism and ability to work with fellow community members on social issues during a time of economic strife instilled a strong sense of social consciousness in their young children.

Mrs. Gelfand attended Glenville High School and later went on to earn her degree in cosmetology, becoming a licensed beautician. She continued to work in local salons until World War II. Shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor, she married Ernest Gelfand who was drafted into the Navy after U.S. involvement in the war. Mrs. Gelfand left her career as a beautician and began working at the Fisher Body plant in Cleveland making airplanes for the war. Shortly after her husband returned from serving his country in the war, they started a family and she stayed home to raise their 3 children. In 1969, she returned to her first career in cosmetology, where she would continue to work until her retirement in 1980. She and her husband were active together in the Jewish War Veterans Post 44. She continues to work closely with them by raising money to help other veterans in the community. Just as her parents instilled strong values of social activism in her, she too continues to serve as an example to her 3 children, 6 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of Eleanor Gelfand as she celebrates her 90th birthday party. May her story and continued activism in the Greater Cleveland community serve as an example for all of us to follow.

COMMEMORATING THE 93RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the survivors of the Armenian Genocide and their descendants. This year marks the 93rd anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

The genocide of the Armenian people by the Ottoman Empire during World War I represents a major tragedy of the modern age. Carried out between 1915 and 1923, the Armenian Genocide was a systematic and deliberate campaign by the Turkish Ottoman Empire to destroy its Armenian minority. While there is no consensus as to how many Armenians lost their lives, there is general agreement among western scholars that between 500,000 and 1,500,000 Armenians died and that nearly all Armenians were exiled from their homeland.

The date of the onset of the genocide is conventionally held to be April 24, 1915, the day that Ottoman authorities arrested some 250 Armenian intellectuals and community leaders in Istanbul. These Armenian political, religious, educational, and intellectual leaders were arrested, deported, and mercilessly put to death. Over the next few years, many Armenians were murdered outright or were deported via forced marches under such agonizing conditions that they died from exhaustion or starvation before they reached their destination.

At that time, the word "genocide" had not yet been coined. Nonetheless, many governments decried the mass murder of the Armenians as extermination of a people, a crime against humanity, and the murder of a nation.

We must honor the truth of the past because denial makes it more likely that genocide will happen again. We must recognize and condemn the atrocities that took place against the Armenian people. The time has come to pass the Armenian Genocide Resolution. I urge my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation and give the Armenian people the respect and recognition they deserve.

KOREAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I am proud to represent the Eighth District of Washington State, which is the most trade dependent state in the Nation. We have a growing and vibrant economy based on technology and small business. Opening new global markets gives these businesses incentives to improve their products, produce more goods, and ultimately employ more American workers.

The Korean Free Trade Agreement will benefit Washington State. We cannot afford to lose South Korea as a trade partner; in Washington State, one in three jobs relies on trade. In these uncertain economic times, we need to open markets, not reduce them. Congress must act now to preserve our trade relations and preserve American jobs. I respectfully submit the following article from the Seattle Times for the RECORD:

[From the Seattle Times]

KOREAN FREE-TRADE PACT IMPORTANT FOR WASHINGTON

(By Kathleen Connors)

Two years ago, government and business leaders from across the state welcomed U.S.

and Korean officials to Seattle for a week of trade negotiations. Seattle was chosen for a reason: Washington is the most trade-dependent state in the country, and there are already strong ties between Washington state and Korea.

The U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement is now signed and awaits congressional consideration. Last week, President Bush welcomed to Washington, D.C., for the first time, newly elected South Korean President Lee Myung-bak, who brought with him an important present: an agreement to fully reopen the Korean market to U.S. beef.

South Korea had been the third-largest export market for U.S. beef until 2003, when U.S. producers were effectively shut out of the market. Washington state exported \$50 million of beef products to Korea that year, so the resumption of exports beginning in May will be a welcome boon to local producers.

Lee's visit comes at a time when American trade policy is again at a crossroads. Our continued ability to open foreign markets and expand trade opportunities through trade agreements is seriously at risk.

There has been a long debate about the impact of trade on America's economy. Despite political challenges, presidents of both parties—supported by Congress—have consistently promoted trade.

Despite 95 percent of America's potential customers being outside our borders, the era of trade cooperation may be over. Trade has become a presidential campaign issue, with candidates suggesting they would consider pulling the United States out of the North American Free Trade Agreement. And congressional leaders are threatening to defeat all pending trade agreements, including agreements with Colombia, Panama and Korea.

Does the Korea agreement matter? It does for Washington state. The Korea agreement is part of a broader Asia-Pacific strategy for Washington, and Asian nations welcome their relationship with the state. In 2007, Korea was Washington's fifth-largest export market. The U.S.-Korea FTA would allow nearly 95 percent of U.S. consumer and industrial exports to become duty free within the first three years of the agreement, and two-thirds of U.S. agricultural products will become duty free immediately.

Microsoft and Washington's many high-tech companies will benefit from Korea's eliminating duties on all products in this sector, as well as Korea's commitment to treat digital products equally regardless of whether they are transmitted in physical form or electronically. The agreement locks in and improves an open trade regime for technology-related services, such as telecommunications, computer and related services, and audiovisual and recreational services. It also strengthens protections for intellectual property by deterring piracy and unauthorized sharing of music, video, software and other content over the Internet.

Korea is a long-term customer for Boeing. In April 2005, Korean Air placed an order for up to 20 Boeing 787 Dreamliners in a deal worth approximately \$2.6 billion at list prices.

For Starbucks, this agreement will reverse a very bad trend. Coffee exporters had been excluded from previous trade agreements, including NAFTA and the Central American Free Trade Agreement. Under the Korea agreement, the bound tariff of nearly 30 percent will go immediately to zero.

Many of these products will be shipped through the ports of Seattle and Tacoma,

which already benefit from strong relationships with Korean shippers Hanjin and Hyundai.

But it's not just large businesses and their workers that will benefit. In 2005, 89 percent of U.S. companies exporting to Korea were small or medium-sized. Washington beneficiaries include companies like Kaiser Aluminum in Spokane, and Trinity Glass International in Tacoma.

For Washington's farmers, the current 24-percent tariff on cherries would be immediately eliminated in the industry's top overseas growth market. The state's wine producers would finally have a fair chance to compete for Korean consumers. And Washington potato growers would immediately benefit from an 18-percent tariff reduction in a market that generated \$23 million in sales in 2006.

So what's next? This agreement will not pass without our active support. And we simply cannot take for granted the votes of our congressional delegation. Those who oppose trade have consistently been louder and more organized. And now they use a stagnant economy as their latest argument for voting down any trade agreement, despite export figures being the bright spot in our current economic data.

Washington state knows better. This agreement will have clear benefits for our region. But we must overcome a tough political season and an effective opposition to make this agreement a reality.

For Washington state, the agreement is a clear winner.

IN HONOR OF THE U.S. CHAMPION
MOORPARK HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC
DECATHLON TEAM

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Moorpark High School Academic Decathlon Team as the United States Academic Decathlon Champions.

This is the third time in 9 years that Moorpark High School's team has won this premier scholastic contest. Prior to its win in 1999, no team from Ventura County, California, had even competed in the nationals.

This year's team made history, scoring 53,119 points, the highest ever scored in the decathlon's 40-year history. In winning the national title, the Moorpark team broke the record it set as California champions by 240 points.

Team members Angela Chen, Jonah Buck, Christie Calle, Colin Calle, Anaamika Campeau, Justine Levan, Chrissa Rutkai, Kris Sankaran, and Paul Watanabe are now recognized as the best and the brightest in the country. They are the pride of their school, their community and their country.

These youngsters won by literally dedicating their lives to the challenge. For 9 months they put in up to 40 hours a week beyond their school days to study and hone their skills. They gave up weekends, vacations, part-time jobs, and time with their families.

Their hard work paid off. Moorpark came home with more medals than any of the other 41 teams from throughout the country, including 36 for individual subjects.

Special honors go to Colin Calle, the top-scoring varsity student; Chrissa Rutkai, top scorer in the scholastic division; and Kris Sankaran, the second-highest individual scorer in the honors division.

Their coach, Larry Jones, worked as hard, if not harder, than his students and is as deserving of high praise. Coach Jones has coached all three U.S. Championship teams. He is a man of outstanding strength, patience, and perseverance.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in applauding nine outstanding students who made history while achieving a very prestigious goal—Angela Chen, Jonah Buck, Christie Calle, Colin Calle, Anaamika Campeau, Justine Levan, Chrissa Rutkai, Kris Sankaran, and Paul Watanabe—the 2008 U.S. Champion Moorpark High School Academic Decathlon Team.

WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, April 28, 2008, was Workers Memorial Day. The day is dedicated to remembering those who have lost their lives or have been injured as a result of unsafe health and safety conditions. However, it is also a day for us to recommit to the fight for safer working conditions for all who go to work every day.

On April 23, 2008, the Workforce Protections Subcommittee, which I chair, held a hearing on strengthening OSHA enforcement at companies with multistate facilities. Specifically, we examined the tragedies that have occurred at the Cintas industrial plants across the country and focused on the heartbreaking and preventable death of Eleazar Torres-Gomez, a 46-year-old washroom employee in Cintas's Tulsa, Oklahoma plant. His son, Emmanuel Torres, testified at the hearing about his father and his senseless death.

OSHA has fined Cintas \$2.78 million for the tragedy in Tulsa, the largest OSHA fine ever assessed in the service sector. And Cintas has also been cited by OSHA for hazards at a handful of their other facilities in Columbus, Ohio, Central Islip, New York, and Mobile, Alabama.

However, as Randy Rabinowitz, one of our witnesses, testified, OSHA fails to address these hazards on a "company-wide" basis. In addition, she said that: "These large companies have the organizational resources to make health and safety improvements." Sadly, many companies choose not to make such improvements.

What we discovered at the hearing is that Cintas as a company has failed to address deadly hazards that it was aware of, and OSHA has failed to adequately enforce safe working conditions beyond the facility level until after a terrible tragedy occurs.

The subcommittee will be following up our hearing with actions to ensure that no other families have to go through what the Torres-Gomez family did. We must end these tragic and preventable accidents.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I regrettably missed a number of votes to attend to a family emergency. Had I been present for these votes I would have voted as follows:

On rollcall No. 224, Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 1079, I would have voted "yea".

On rollcall No. 225, Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H.R. 4332, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall No. 226, Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to S. 2739, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall No. 227, Ordering the Previous Question for H.R. 5522, the Combustible Dust Explosion and Fire Prevention Act, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall No. 228, Providing for the consideration of H.R. 5522, the Combustible Dust Explosion and Fire Prevention Act, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall No. 229, Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to the Senate Amendment to the SAFETEA-LU Technical Corrections Act, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall No. 230, the George Miller of California Amendment, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall No. 231, the Wilson of South Carolina Substitute Amendment, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall No. 238, the Flake Motion to Instruct Conferees, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall No. 239, to Suspend Rules and Agree to Senate Amendments, I would have voted "yea."

CINCO DE MAYO

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Cinco de Mayo, a date which is celebrated by Americans, Mexicans, and many others around the world.

The victory of the Mexican army over the French at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862, came to represent unity and patriotism for the Mexican people, which is now celebrated today as Cinco de Mayo. That same spirit of unity and patriotism exists in this country, and sharing it with as many as possible is an honorable and notable goal.

Millions of Hispanic Americans thrive and contribute in our country, with over 18 million residing in the Western United States, 65 percent of them of Mexican descent. These citizens bring their unique culture to communities throughout the United States. This is the epitome of what this Nation is all about—having the freedom to come together and celebrate so many different cultures.

On Cinco de Mayo, we reflect on the contributions of the country of Mexico, the battle

for unity and patriotism, and that our freedom to celebrate is not something we can take for granted.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I was not present on April 30, 2008. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on the following rollcall votes: rollcall 227, rollcall 228, rollcall 229, rollcall 230, rollcall 233.

I would have voted "nay" on the following: rollcall 232.

HONORING JENNIFER AND JAMES GRIFFIN ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR MARRIAGE

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor two of my constituents who were married Saturday, March 8, 2008. Jennifer Lewis Fowlkes and James Sean Griffin celebrated their commitment to each other at a wedding ceremony held at the Griffin home in Land O'Lakes, Florida. A couple firmly dedicated to the Pasco County region, Jennifer works for Verizon and James is an entrepreneur.

As George Eliot once said, "What greater thing is there for two human souls than to feel that they are joined together to strengthen each other in all labour, to minister to each other in all sorrow, to share with each other in all gladness, to be one with each other in the silent unspoken memories?" Having known the Griffin family for many years, Jennifer and James will have a lifetime of wedded joy ahead of them. I can only hope that their marriage is as long-lasting and full of love as that of James' parents, Danielle and Jeff Griffin.

Madam Speaker, we should all be jealous of newlyweds like Jennifer and James. Their life-long journey began with the first step of a marriage ceremony, and they have yet to see the ups and downs and joys and sorrows that come with every union of man and woman. Their commitment to each other is one to be celebrated and commended and one in which I offer my congratulations and wish them well as they begin their new life together.

HONORING RYAN HOPKIN AND JAMES ETIER

HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mrs. CUBIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ryan Hopkin and James Etier, Wyoming's State Honorees for the Pru-

dential Spirit of Community Awards. These students were selected in a highly competitive, nationwide program, recognizing their outstanding acts of volunteerism.

Ryan Hopkin, a senior at Powell High School, installed crosswalk flags for younger children at dangerous intersections around the town's elementary schools. This innovative idea placed canisters on either side of the street, with cans provided for picking up and depositing the flag after use. That way, each student has a neon orange flag to carry, alerting drivers of their presence, and increasing their safety on the trip to school.

James Etier, an eighth-grader at Rock Springs East Junior High School, did a variety of volunteer activities at an after-school program. He helped out at the Humane Society shelter, worked at an elementary school with young children, and volunteered with the Salvation Army. James also assisted a group of senior citizens with yard work, in addition to visiting the local nursing home to meet residents.

Volunteerism is a community activity that is important to instill in our youth and these two individuals embody the spirit of service. I applaud them for their hard work and dedication to helping others. I hope they serve as role models for their fellow students, leading by example.

In addition, I would like to recognize Wyoming's Distinguished Finalists, Elizabeth Whetstone of Cheyenne, Wyoming, and Walter Wilson of Albin, Wyoming, for their commendable efforts.

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE: RAYBURN "RAY" KNABE PASSES AT AGE 90

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, death pulls hard at our heartstrings, whether it comes after a long, full life or one cut tragically short. Rayburn "Ray" Knabe lived a life mature in length and rich in contribution.

Ray Knabe embodied the values and ambition of his generation, commonly referred to as the greatest in our Nation's history. His hard work, military service, and the large, loving family that survives him are testaments to a remarkable life.

Born and raised in Mackinaw, Illinois, with his five siblings, Ray married Lucille Hermann. The couple lived in Illinois, California, and finally Idaho, and produced three children—one of whom, Don, is a dear friend and Los Angeles County supervisor. The couple celebrated their 67th anniversary in November.

Ray served admirably in the United States Navy during World War II.

Ray had a knack for precise craftsmanship, a skill he honed during his career which began at the J.I. Case Tractor Company in Illinois through his tenure at Western Gear Corporation in Southern California, where he ultimately retired. Ray was a registered professional engineer, mason, and member of the American Society of Manufacturing Engineers.

In his later years, Ray finally decided to relax, and dedicated more time to golf, travel, and the occasional trip to the casino with Lucille. Sunday mornings in Idaho were spent at the Eagle Christian Church, where the pews now feel a little emptier.

My heart goes out to Lucille, Don, and the rest of Ray's wonderful family.

SUNSET MEMORIAL

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I stand once again before this House with yet another Sunset Memorial.

It is May 5, 2008, in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before the sun set today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand. That's just today, Madam Speaker. That's more than the number of innocent lives lost on September 11 in this country, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 12,887 days since the tragedy called Roe v. Wade was first handed down. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million of its own children. Some of them, Madam Speaker, died and screamed as they did so, but because it was amniotic fluid passing over the vocal cords instead of air, no one could hear them.

And all of them had at least four things in common. First, they were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone, and each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each one of their mothers, whether she realizes it or not, will never be quite the same. And all the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever. Yet even in the glare of such tragedy, this generation still clings to a blind, invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own silent genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims, those yet unborn.

Madam Speaker, perhaps it's time for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves of why we are really all here. Thomas Jefferson said, "The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government." The phrase in the 14th Amendment encapsules our entire Constitution; it says, "No State shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law." Madam Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here.

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is the clarion declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and endowed by their Creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Every conflict and battle our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our commitment to this core, self-evident truth.

It has made us the beacon of hope for the entire world. Madam Speaker, it is who we are.

And yet today another day has passed, and we in this body have failed again to honor that foundational commitment. We have failed our sworn oath and our God-given responsibility as we broke faith with nearly 4,000 more innocent American babies who died today without the protection we should have given them.

Madam Speaker, let me conclude in the hope that perhaps someone new who heard this Sunset Memorial tonight will finally embrace the truth that abortion really does kill little babies; that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express; and that 12,887 days spent killing nearly 50 million unborn children in America is enough; and that the America that rejected human slavery and marched into Europe to arrest the Nazi Holocaust is still courageous and compassionate enough to find a better way for mothers and their unborn babies than abortion on demand.

So tonight, Madam Speaker, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are also numbered and that all too soon each one of us will walk from these Chambers for the very last time.

And if it should be that this Congress is allowed to convene on yet another day to come, may that be the day when we finally hear the cries of innocent unborn children. May that be the day when we find the humanity, the courage, and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect these, the least of our tiny, little American brothers and sisters from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

It is May 5, 2008, 12,887 days since Roe versus Wade first stained the foundation of this Nation with the blood of its own children, this in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY, JR., TO INTELLECTUAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL DISCOURSE

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, last month the Senate of Alabama including Alabama Senators Pittman, French, Griffith, Brooks, Marsh, Glover, Butler, Waggoner, Bedford, Mitchem, Barron, Bishop, Lindsey, Benefield, McClain, Preuitt, Orr, and Mitchell, passed a resolution recognizing the contributions of William F. Buckley, Jr., to intellectual and philosophical discourse.

Today, I rise to ask that this resolution be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in its entirety:

Whereas, the death of William F. Buckley, Jr., on February 27, 2008, brings to a close a public career of enormous productivity and significance in the United States and around the world; and

Whereas, educated by private tutors in Connecticut, in European Catholic schools, and at Yale University, he was an intellectual giant with an intimidating vocabulary, finely tuned debating skills, and a fearless pen; he was at the forefront of the coales-

cence of a conservative movement in the 1960s, introducing a rhetoric still relevant today; and

Whereas, Mr. Buckley founded a magazine, the National Review; wrote some 55 books, both fiction and nonfiction; authored editorials published around the country and abroad; entered into debate on the public stage; and hosted Firing Line, a long-running television interview and debate program; and

Whereas, as chief spokesman for a conservative philosophy which found favor with such political figures as presidential candidate Barry Goldwater and then-California Governor Ronald Reagan, Mr. Buckley rode the wave of public support to prominence at home and around the globe, luring converts in his wake; and

Whereas, described by his son, the novelist Christopher Buckley, as not leaving any stone unturned, Mr. Buckley also directed his attention to religion where he applied his conservative mind-set to the tenets of Anglican and Roman Catholicism, writing expositions in defense of a traditionalistic theology; and

Whereas, rarely does an individual of the modern era succeed in being heralded as a philosopher of immense influence in his lifetime; Mr. Buckley's prolific work will continue to bear scrutiny as western thought evolves; now therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the Legislature of Alabama, that we recognize and applaud the contributions of William F. Buckley, Jr. to the intellectual and philosophical discourse of the twentieth century, and we offer this resolution in tribute to an accomplished and distinguished American.

RECOGNIZING TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

HON. BILL SALI

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mr. SALI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Teacher Appreciation Week, May 4-10, 2008.

This week we take a moment to thank educators who are committed to enriching the lives of the children they teach.

I want to thank the teachers in Idaho dedicated to paving the road for the next generation's success. Educators have a unique opportunity to play a vital role in the lives of Idaho students and provide a powerful role model through their patience, dedication and knowledge.

Several teachers from my youth left a lasting impression that has shaped who I am today. I want to express my gratitude to those teachers who taught me lifelong lessons. I am in debt to them for their wisdom and vision.

Benjamin Franklin once said, "Genius without education is like silver in the mine." I'm confident in the ability of Idaho educators to cultivate the minds of our youth and inspire them to greatness.

Idaho teachers face a unique challenge in that the Gem State includes 63 percent Federally administered land and this has left many of our counties and schools without an adequate tax base. In light of this, I will continue to dedicate my time in Congress to ensure Idaho's rural counties get a fair shake and the

Federal Government meets its responsibilities to them fully.

It is through the innovation and hard work of parents, teachers, local administrators and the community as a whole that the educational needs of all children will be served. I remain confident that Idaho's students will reap all the benefits that our teachers have to offer.

THE ABOLISHMENT BY THE CITY OF EDCOUCH, TEXAS, OF A 1931 CITY ORDINANCE "ESTABLISHING A LINE SEPARATING RESIDENTS OF MEXICAN OR SPANISH ORIGIN FROM AMERICAN RESIDENTS"

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, on this Cinco de Mayo, it is quite appropriate that the City of Edcouch, in my Congressional district, is repealing a 1931 city ordinance that should have never been approved. This ordinance segregated the city into two portions based

strictly on racial and national origin. It was this type of prejudice, sanctioned by local government, which created fear and insecurity among the residents of Edcouch and the surrounding region. It was this type of discrimination that caused my family to move from Edcouch to Mercedes, Texas.

I recall how my brothers and I had to attend segregated schools in Edcouch. It did not matter that my parents and family were upstanding citizens of Edcouch or that my father started and ran a business. It didn't matter that we were hardworking and wanted to help the community grow, and it did not matter that we were U.S. citizens. No, it was our last name and family lineage that defined who we were and where we could live. That type of treatment stays in your mind forever. That is why this Nation has to constantly strive to improve civil rights for everyone in 2008 and beyond.

The struggle for civil rights by Mexican-Americans and other Hispanics throughout the southwest is well documented. In my district, it was the 1968 Edcouch-Elsa high school walkouts that sent a loud message that justice had not yet been achieved for all. Those walkouts eventually led to a Federal court declaring the ban on Spanish speaking in schools to be unconstitutional. That demonstration and

legal action led to the establishment of bilingual education in public schools.

Back in the 1930s and 1940s, little did anyone expect that a Mexican-American, born in Edcouch, would one day be the U.S. Congressman representing the Edcouch community. But, we should not focus completely on the past. We must look forward, because many challenges remain.

The ugly head of prejudice still shows itself, especially against immigrants. My parents were immigrants and many others like them are greatly responsible for much of the Nation's economic growth. That is why comprehensive immigration reform is so important.

At the local level, much remains to be done to help Edcouch and the surrounding Delta region reach its potential. Projects such as the Mercado Delta and the future Gran Parque will raise the quality of life in this community to another level.

I congratulate the City of Edcouch for being a full partner in these projects and for seeing a greater future for itself. Today, it has taken a very symbolic and significant step to correct an injustice from its past. For that, I commend the community and its city leaders and am confident that Edcouch will become a model of success in the Rio Grande Valley region.