

□ 1230

MARKING THE 225TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TREATY OF PARIS OF 1783

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1063) marking the 225th anniversary of the Treaty of Paris of 1783, which ended the Revolutionary War with the Kingdom of Great Britain and recognized the independence of the United States of America, and acknowledging the shared values and close friendship between the peoples and governments of the United States and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1063

Whereas the United States will celebrate this year the 225th anniversary of its relationship with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland since the September 3, 1783 signing of the Treaty of Paris, which formally ended the American Revolutionary War between the Kingdom of Great Britain and the United States of America;

Whereas both the United Kingdom and the United States are free and democratic nations with a common commitment to human rights and the rule of law;

Whereas the United Kingdom is a major ally of the United States and 2008 marks the 50th anniversary of the US-UK Mutual Defense Agreement that was signed in Washington, DC, on July 3, 1958, and renewed in Washington, DC, on June 14, 2004;

Whereas both the United Kingdom and the United States are founding members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), having been party to the North Atlantic Treaty signed in Washington, DC, on April 4, 1949;

Whereas the United Kingdom is a major partner in the worldwide fight against terrorism, supporting the United States in many key armed struggles;

Whereas the United Kingdom is the second largest contributor to the multinational force in Iraq;

Whereas the United Kingdom plays a significant role in the military effort to bring lasting stability to Afghanistan and is the second largest contributor to NATO's International Security Assistance Force;

Whereas the United Kingdom and the United States share a steadfast alliance and a long tradition of opposing extremism, which included fighting the forces of nazism and communism in the 20th century;

Whereas the United Kingdom is the sixth largest trading partner of the United States, and the United States is the largest trading partner of the United Kingdom;

Whereas the United States and the United Kingdom share the world's largest foreign direct investment partnership, with American investment sustaining over a million jobs in the United Kingdom and British investment sustaining over a million jobs in the United States;

Whereas approximately 675,000 British citizens reside in the United States, and 155,000 Americans reside in the United Kingdom, with both communities contributing to the fabric of life in their host countries;

Whereas approximately 8,400 British students are currently studying at universities

in the United States, and 32,000 American students are studying at universities in the United Kingdom; and

Whereas the relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom is one of unity and strength, and has been proven to be of mutual benefit: Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) marks the 225th anniversary of relations between the United States and the Kingdom of Great Britain;

(2) recognizes that the Kingdom of Great Britain's recognition of the United States was an important event in the history of the Nation;

(3) reaffirms the value of the deep friendship that has developed between our two Countries since the signing of the Treaty of Paris; and

(4) looks forward to a continued and strengthened relationship between the British and American people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROSLEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I 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 marks 225 years since the Treaty of Paris concluded the Revolutionary War with Great Britain and that acknowledges the close friendship enjoyed by our two countries ever since.

I commend our distinguished colleague, Representative WU of Oregon, and Vice-Chair of the British-American Parliamentary Group, who introduced this measure. It is important that the House marks this anniversary and celebrates such a vital bipartisan partnership, bilateral partnership also.

The Treaty of Paris was signed on September 3, 1783, formally ending the Revolutionary War between the 13 original colonies and the Kingdom of Great Britain. The settlement of the war and the recognition of our young Nation by Great Britain was a moment of great significance in the infancy of our Nation.

Two hundred twenty-five years later, the United Kingdom remains one of our closest allies by virtue of our shared history and values. Both the United States and the UK have proud histories of representative democracy and respect for the rule of law.

They have also encouraged and helped many people around the world

secure the freedoms and rights their own citizens enjoy. During World War I, the United States and the United Kingdom fought together as a part of the allied forces against autocratic imperialism.

During World War II, again, against the Axis, our countries stood together against the scourge of Nazism and fascism. Our brave troops helped to liberate European countries from Nazi occupation, and innocent civilians from the horrors of concentration camps. We talked about the greatest generation, our World War II veterans, that we today still admire and respect.

Throughout the 20th century, the United Kingdom has stood side-by-side with the United States on critical issues concerning liberty and human rights. Most recently the United Kingdom has strongly supported the United States' effort in South Asia and the Middle East. British soldiers are the second largest contributors to NATO's International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan and the multinational force in Iraq.

The United States and the United Kingdom share long histories of industrialization, being among the first nations to develop technologically. Both nations have a culture of intervention and curiosity, as evidenced by the innumerable number of scientific discoveries and inventions. This work has enhanced the frequent collaboration between American and British researchers. We have a tremendous bilateral system going.

Indeed, such links are often developed at an early stage as young people take advantage of educational opportunities in each others' countries. There are currently 8,400 British students attending American universities and 32,000 American youth staying in the UK. These young people know all too well the extensive cultural links between our countries as British and American arts, music, literature, cinema, are enjoyed on both sides of the Atlantic.

In recognition of the close bilateral relations shared by the United States and the United Kingdom, I strongly support this resolution and urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, while the positive relationship enjoyed by the United States and Great Britain is certainly historic, enduring and merits recognition, and it merits nurturing, we should also be focusing our time and debating policies to address the rising energy costs that are facing our Nation.

Nevertheless, we have this resolution before us marking the 225th anniversary of the Treaty of Paris of 1783 between the United States and the

United Kingdom. The great British Prime Minister Winston Churchill was the first to refer to the alliance between the United States and the United Kingdom as a special relationship. In a speech he delivered in 1946, he was right to use that term.

The American British relationship is, indeed, special, with its foundation lying in the common values of freedom, democracy and human rights. Our mutual commitments to those principles have led the United States and Great Britain to stand side by side on the beaches of Normandy, at the Berlin wall, in the mountains of Afghanistan, and in those the parts of Iraq where the challenges today are greatest.

The murderous terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, in America, and on July 7, 2005, in Britain, have bound America and Britain even closer together in our determination to defeat extremism.

During his recent visit to the United States, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown reaffirmed our strong relationship saying, "I continue to stand shoulder to shoulder [with the US] in the fight where freedom and justice are at risk."

By adopting the resolution before us, we will again recognize the history of our special relationship with Britain, a relationship that ironically began with the revolution of one against the other, but that came into its full strength because of the values and the ideals that our two people have continued to share.

Now, 225 years after the treaty of peace, in which Britain recognized the independence of the United States of America, that alliance between our two countries takes its guidance from the speech in 1946 in which Mr. Churchill noted our special relationship, and here is what he said then:

If there is to be a fraternal association . . . with all the extra strength and security which both our countries can derive from it, let us make sure that that great fact is known to the world, and that it plays its part in steadying and stabilizing the foundations of peace. There is the path of wisdom.

I encourage my colleagues to join supporting this resolution which follows Mr. Churchill's advice and lets the world know that the United States and the United Kingdom, indeed, have a strong and continuing relationship. I am not sure what Winston Churchill would say about today's high energy costs, but I bet that he would have a detailed plan to help us bring our costs down.

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the author of this resolution, Mr. DAVID WU of Oregon, chairman of the Subcommittee on Science and Technology.

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for his many kindnesses.

Thomas Jefferson once said that "no two countries upon Earth have so many points of common interest and friendship" as the United States and the United Kingdom. Indeed, our two nations share values, traditions and a common commitment to democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

I introduced House Resolution 1063 to mark the 225th anniversary of our diplomatic relationship with the United Kingdom, which began with the signing of the Treaty of Paris of 1783. This treaty formalized the peace between the United States and Great Britain following our Revolutionary War.

In September of 1782, Benjamin Franklin, along with fellow peace commissioners John Adams and John Jay, began formal negotiations for an end to hostilities between Great Britain and the de facto independent United States of America.

After 2 months of negotiation, Britain and France and the United States reached a preliminary peace agreement. The following September, the parties met in Paris and signed what would become known as the Treaty of Paris of 1783. Since that time, Britain and the United States have come to be friends, allies and economic partners, a relationship that advances, enriches and inspires both sides of the Atlantic.

As with all old sayings, it is the exception which proves the rule. For the old saying that great powers have only interests, not friends, the relationship between the United States of America and the United Kingdom is the exception which proves the rule.

Recently I joined several of my colleagues in Congress and with members of the British Parliament for extensive discussions. It was a productive and thought-provoking exchange of ideas. I believe we can learn much from the experience of our British counterparts. One example would be dealing with the challenge of global climate change.

I also believe our own knowledge and expertise can be of continued value to our friends in the United Kingdom. One example of that would be their expressed interest in the Death with Dignity Law which we passed in the State of Oregon.

After two centuries, we can still learn from each other, prosper together, and jointly promote a better world.

So it is fitting that we should mark with special approbation the 225th anniversary of the treaty that began our relations with the United Kingdom as independent States. For over two centuries, our two nations have stood together in peace and war, in prosperity and hardship. Together we have faced two world wars, the Great Depression, the Cold War, terrorism, and triumphs and tragedies too numerous to recount.

Please join me in marking the genesis of our diplomatic relationship with

the United Kingdom by supporting House Resolution 1063. I thank the Speaker of the House for the House consideration of this resolution today, and I urge swift passage of H. Res. 1063.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, in order to close, I would like to yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I would like to note that this 225th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Paris, the declaration in that treaty of the intention of both the U.S. and the United Kingdom to forget all past misunderstandings and differences and to secure perpetual peace and harmony, over 200 years later these goals remain a cornerstone to our strong relationship.

I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution and reaffirm our close ties to our dear ally, Great Britain.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, let me, once again, say what a great occasion it is marking the 225th anniversary of the Treaty of Paris of 1783.

As has been indicated, we are close allies. Many of our organizations, as a matter of fact, the YMCA, which was founded in Great Britain in the late 1840s to take people who were coming into London because of the Industrial Revolution in London and England found a place where they could have a wholesome relationship. Twenty-five years later, that organization was brought to the United States of America. Still we have relations between them, just another example of close ties between the United States and the United Kingdom.

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 gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1063.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. 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.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order: ordering the previous question on House Resolution 1253; adopting House Resolution 1253, if ordered; and suspending the rules and passing H.R. 6028.