

to resist reform and to finance destabilizing actions, including weapons programs and sponsorship of Islamic jihadists. Therefore, it is especially important for our national security and for the cause of peace worldwide for the United States to stop our dependence on foreign sources of energy.

I thank my good friend and colleague from Maine (Mr. ALLEN) for introducing this Seeds of Peace anniversary resolution. I urge the House to adopt it.

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON), chairperson of the Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.

□ 1430

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Let me thank the Chair and the subcommittee chairs of these committees.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Representative ALLEN in bringing forth this House Concurrent Resolution 337 honoring the Seeds of Peace for its 15th anniversary as an organization.

The importance of peace in the world today is often overlooked due to the severity of constant conflict. As a mother and a lawmaker, the reality of war concerns me for the future of our Nation and the world.

Seeds of Peace is dedicated to empowering young leaders from regions of conflict with the leadership skills required to advance reconciliation and coexistence. I am proud to say that I worked with them here in Washington and in Dallas, and I have partnered with Congressman BARNEY FRANK at times to host them.

Due to its proven impact and success in the Middle East, Seeds of Peace has earned international recognition as an effective model for resolving conflict worldwide, and these are young people who have not been kept away from communication or a part of irritation of Israel.

I firmly support Seeds of Peace because I believe peace ultimately depends upon breaking down barriers and mistrust among people from these regions of conflict. Governments negotiate agreements, but only people can define the quality of peace. Innovative people-to-people programs like Seeds of Peace successfully accomplish this goal on a rather modest budget.

I am proud to support the passage of this resolution and urge my colleagues to support it. I thank Mr. PAYNE for allowing me to make these statements.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 337, "Honoring the Seeds of Peace for its 15th Anniversary as an Organization." I would like to thank my colleague Congressman ALLEN for introducing this important resolution,

which I am proud to cosponsor, as well as the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Congressman BERMAN, for his leadership in bringing this resolution to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, fifteen years ago, in 1993, Seeds of Peace hosted its first international conflict resolution camp. In that first year, amidst regional conflict and fighting a history of hatred, the organization brought together Israeli, Palestinian, Jordanian, and Egyptian youth. Founded by journalist John Wallach, Seeds of Peace initially brought together 46 Israeli and Arab youth. Since that time, Seeds of Peace has offered summer camps for youths from conflict regions around the world and from the United States, involving young people from the initial countries as well as from Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, the Balkans, India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. These summer camps have made enormous strides toward fostering cultural and religious understanding.

Seeds of Peace empowers a new generation of leaders with the tools they need to overcome prejudice and to communicate and negotiate effectively. The summer camps help these youth to develop empathy, respect, and confidence, while giving their "enemies" a human face. The young people who attend these summer camps are the same people who will grow up to build a future of peace and stability. There are now nearly 4,000 young Seeds of Peace leaders who are working to make a positive difference in some of our world's most troubled regions.

As Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, I strongly believe in investing in our children. By doing so, we are investing in our future. Long-term peace between warring parties, including Arabs and Israelis, Indians and Pakistanis, and Afghans and Pakistanis, is dependent on the emergence of a new generation of leaders able and willing to engage in constructive dialogue.

By bringing young people from different backgrounds together in a recreational environment, Seeds of Peace lays a foundation for sustainable peace by facilitating interaction among young leaders before their fears, mistrust, and inherited prejudices have permanently shaped their vision of their "enemy." After spending a summer at camp in Maine, participants and teachers continue to interact through regional and international programming, furthering the dialogue among and across nationalities. Seeds of Peace supports the development of future leaders.

In addition to these summer camps for children from conflict regions, Seeds of Peace now operates a domestic program called "Maine Seeds," addressing ethnic and racial tensions between diverse communities in Maine. Also, in 2004, Seeds of Peace launched its "Beyond Borders" initiative, bringing teens from additional Middle East countries, such as Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait, to participate in a cultural exchange program between American and Arab youth.

Mr. Speaker, while the Arab/Israeli peace process has moved forward haltingly since 1993, Seeds of Peace has grown into a major organization that continues to foster interaction among thousands of young leaders and educators from around the world. It continues to build upon the basic premise the prejudices

dispelled during youth will be prejudices dispelled for life.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution, honoring Seeds of Peace for its fifteen years of promoting reconciliation, coexistence, and peace among youth of the Middle East and other conflict areas.

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

Mr. PAYNE. 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 concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 337.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING THE SACRIFICES AND CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Con. Res. 336) honoring the sacrifices and contributions made by disabled American veterans.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 336

Whereas the people of the United States have a sincere appreciation and respect for members of the Armed Forces who suffered disabling wounds while serving in the United States military;

Whereas there are approximately 2,800,000 veterans receiving benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs for disabilities incurred while defending our Nation;

Whereas the current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have resulted in 30,000 disabled American veterans as a direct result of combat operations, and even more so from conditions simulating war, instrumentalities of war, and hazardous duty in combat-related training;

Whereas families throughout every State in America have been affected by loved ones returning disabled from their service to their Nation;

Whereas the American public supports the brave men and women who have defended the freedom of all in America;

Whereas America owes its very integrity to her sons and daughters in uniform, who risk the most for the least, and who epitomize the extraordinary meaning of service, sacrifice, and, most importantly, freedom; and

Whereas Americans should remember and honor our men and women in uniform who incurred disabilities while defending our Nation with a Disabled American Veterans Week: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) recognizes the great sacrifices made by disabled veterans and their families;

(2) calls on the people of the United States to honor all disabled American veterans and the freedom for which they sacrificed;

(3) encourages local, State, and national organizations and governmental institutions to participate in the effort to honor the sacrifices of America's disabled veterans; and

(4) supports the goals and ideals of Disabled American Veterans Week.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

With House Concurrent Resolution 336, we honor the sacrifices and contributions made of our disabled veterans. The current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have added well over 30,000 of our sons and daughters to the roles of veterans disabled in defense of our Nation, with the number continuing to grow.

Collectively, there are approximately 2.8 million veterans receiving compensation for disability incurred in the line of duty. This resolution calls for the establishment of a single week dedicated annually to each and every one of our Nation's disabled veterans.

What better time would there be for groups large and small, national and local, private and public, to come together and remember in their own way the sacrifices of the Nation's heroes? Those great Americans gave the most for the least. They have earned our lasting remembrance and much more.

It is far too easy for many to forget the true costs of war, to forget the deaths of our servicemen and to ignore the wounds of those who return. It is too easy for too many of us to think that the cost of war ends when the last soldier returns.

Our disabled veterans continue to serve our country in so many ways, bearing their wounds as a reminder to all that freedom and liberty are not free. The men and women who return wounded and disabled from combat, and service to our Nation, remind us of the terrible price we pay, not only in costs measured in dollars, but the costs measured in lives lost and changed.

It is therefore right and proper that we remember the service and sacrifice of our disabled veterans and pay tribute and honor to them during this week of Disabled American Veterans Week.

When called, they answered. When needed, they served. All Americans owe them a debt of gratitude and a heartfelt remembrance for their sacrifice and service. I am reminded of the words of the first President of the United States, George Washington, whose words are worth repeating at this time. "The willingness with which our people are likely to serve in any

war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportioned as to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their country."

It is part of my service and duties to visit the veterans' hospitals and clinics in the areas I travel to. I recently visited the medical center in Puerto Rico, dedicated a new clinic in Orange City, Florida, and, before that, the Medical Center in New Orleans.

We have been funding the VA and veterans health care at record levels, giving the VA the largest increase in funding in the history of the United States. It is our duty to oversee the VA to make sure that they are spending the money properly in the best interests of our brave men and women who defend the rights and freedom of our great Nation.

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

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 336, a measure to honor the sacrifices and contributions made by America's disabled veterans. Throughout our Nation's history, the men and women of our Armed Forces have gone bravely into battle, risking their lives and livelihoods, sacrificing their safety to defend our freedom.

When their duty is done, many return home to life as it was.

Sadly, for veterans seriously injured in the line of duty, leaving the battlefield does not mark the end of conflict. These permanently disabled soldiers often carry home life-changing disabilities, harsh reminders of the price of freedom.

By supporting H. Con. Res. 336, we will recognize the great sacrifices made by disabled veterans and their families. We will call upon the people of the United States to honor disabled American veterans and the freedoms for which they sacrificed. We will encourage local, State and national organizations and governmental institutions to participate in the effort to honor the sacrifices of America's disabled veterans, and we will support the goals and ideals of Disabled American Veterans Week.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill and reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ALTMIRE).

Mr. ALTMIRE. I thank the gentlewoman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this resolution establishing Disabled American Veterans Week.

I introduced this resolution to express my gratitude and to allow the entire Nation to express our gratitude to those brave men and women who have given so much in the name of freedom.

I would especially like to thank Congressmen BILIRAKIS, BOOZMAN, LYNCH

and the over 100 other original cosponsors who joined me in support of this resolution.

Over 2.8 million men and women who fought for our country have sustained injuries that have forever changed their lives. It is my hope that by establishing Disabled American Veterans Week we will increase awareness of the struggles that America's heroes face every day and encourage more support for our brave wounded warriors.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the great sacrifices made by disabled American veterans and their families. These heroes epitomize the meaning of service and sacrifice, and this is the very least we can do to honor our Nation's disabled veterans.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlelady from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE), the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of H. Con. Res. 336, a commonsense resolution that expresses support for one of the greatest segments of the American population, the disabled American veteran.

Back home in Florida, I represent nearly 110,000 veterans, the second highest number of any Member of Congress. As you might guess, many of these brave men and women are disabled, either injured in battle or in the course of their service in the United States military.

Disabled veterans are cared for by military professionals at the VA. They also band together in veterans organizations like the Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America, or Blinded Veterans Association.

However, there was no Federal recognition in place for Americans specifically to remember the deeds and heroism of disabled veterans.

The concurrent resolution before us today calls for the establishment of a Disabled American Veterans Week and shows all disabled veterans that Congress does not forget their bravery and actions in service to our great Nation.

You know, every weekend I returned home to Florida to meet with my constituents and hear their needs and concerns and what I can do to serve the men and women who live in the Fifth Congressional District.

I often hear words of thanks for voting in support of drilling in ANWR and in the Outer Continental Shelf, or get asked what Congress is going to do to stop the outrageous increase in the cost of gasoline that we have seen since our colleagues across the aisle took over the House and Senate.

However, the most poignant and heart-wrenching stories I hear are oftentimes from veterans. As you might expect, I attend dozens of veterans

events throughout the eight counties in my district. It is, indeed, at these events that I hear stories of courageous deeds, heroic actions and lives forever changed by the ravages of war.

Disabled veterans have given so much to this Nation with their blood, sweat and tears, lying on the battlefields from Germany, to Korea, to Vietnam, to Iraq and Afghanistan.

This resolution calling for a Disabled American Veterans Week shows the thousands of men and women who served with honor and distinction that Congress will see that their memories and deeds are never forgotten.

I thank my colleague, Mr. ALTMIRE, for introducing this resolution. I would hope that all Members of this body can support such a worthy passage for disabled veterans.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH).

Mr. LYNCH. Firstly, I would like to thank Representative BROWN for graciously yielding me time for speaking on this important resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 336 a resolution which honors the sacrifice and contributions made by America's disabled veterans. The brave men and women currently serving in our Armed Forces, and the veterans who have put on the uniform before them, deserve our utmost appreciation for their continued commitment to the protection of this Nation.

Regrettably, millions of these veterans have been wounded and disabled while defending the rights and freedoms that uniquely define our country. According to the latest statistics provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, there are approximately 2.9 million disabled veterans now receiving services from the VA. Of the 2.9 million disabled veterans, a total of 30,000 have served in either Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

The great sacrifice that these men and women have made on behalf of the American people cannot go unnoticed. American veterans have earned our undying gratitude and our continued support. During last year's appropriation process, we began to head in the right direction, in my opinion, when Congress allocated \$87.59 billion to the Department of Veterans Affairs, an \$8 billion increase from the previous year.

□ 1445

Of this total, \$37.2 billion was provided the Veterans Health Administration, with \$3.6 billion allocated to post-traumatic stress disorder funding, and \$189.25 million for traumatic brain injury funding, and \$500 million for medical and prosthetic research. Our commitment to America's disabled veterans is exemplified by honoring these

men and women in the present and continuing to invest in their future.

I thank Mr. ALTMIRE for introducing this thoughtful resolution and urge my colleagues to join me in supporting House Concurrent Resolution 336.

Mr. SCALISE. I yield 3 minutes to the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN).

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, as a Nation we are blessed with many things. We have a Constitution that sets the standard for freedom around the world. We have a land that provides us with bountiful food and superb scenery. But most importantly, America is blessed to have sons and daughters willing to put themselves in harm's way to protect the 99 percent of Americans who do not serve.

Unfortunately, that feeling of patriotism and sacrifice way too often results in disability that affects the veteran for the rest of their life. Often, the disability is small. But sometimes the injury, whether physical or mental, has a significant impact on the veteran's quality of life and their ability to support their families. In such situations, the disability has affected more than just the veteran. As a part of our debt to these men and women, taxpayers compensate them for their injuries and provide a range of benefits unmatched in any other country. But we can and should do something more symbolic of disabled veterans' service to the Nation, and that is to designate a week that will remind Americans that disabled veterans are with them every day.

By giving disabled American veterans the recognition of a week named in their honor, we demonstrate to the American people the importance of the sacrifices made by disabled veterans and their families. This is a way to honor our disabled veterans, and I certainly urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCALISE. I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER), the ranking member of the committee.

Mr. BUYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

As the ranking member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I have an obligation to help ensure that veterans and their families have access to the benefits and services they so richly deserve. More importantly, I have been an advocate for military members and veterans almost my entire life. I have been in uniform for 28 years while I served the last 16 years in Congress. It is a great part of who I am.

We have before us this House resolution to create a disabled veterans week. Now we should pause for a mo-

ment and say why is Congress bringing this bill to the floor at this time? You see, I view this bill on the floor at this time as an inoculation. It is an inoculation because the Democrats who control this Congress want to bring a bill to the floor where it will cut a monthly pension to wartime elderly disabled and indigent veterans in the amount of a billion dollars. So before the Democrats take a billion dollars away from disabled veterans, they want to stand and say I put my arms around disabled veterans, and we are going to create a week for America to celebrate them.

I am going to blow the whistle on you. I believe that it is a matter of principle that the Nation should not be taking money from one group of deserving veterans to fund benefits for others. However, you should also know that last month the Senate approved a bill that would cut \$912 million in pension benefits for wartime elderly indigent severely disabled or housebound American veterans. A portion of the funding saved by this unprecedented cut in veterans' benefits would be used to fund oversized pensions for noncitizen, non-resident World War II Filipino veterans and for other veterans' programs.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the country is probably shocked hearing me say something like this. But, Mr. Speaker, we are here on the floor to ask for a designation that the country support the ideals for which men and women fought for and are now disabled, while in the same stroke this very Congress wants to cut veterans' benefits from those very same people when they are asking the country to celebrate their ideals.

The bill that was in the Senate is Senate 1315. There was a bill here in the House, H.R. 760. That bill was voted out of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee on a party-line vote. That hardly ever happens. A party-line vote hardly ever happens in the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

They voted to eliminate a special monthly pension for severely disabled veterans over 65 who are receiving pensions for wartime services. The special monthly pension provides an additional payment of up to \$2,200 per year to the most severely disabled veterans. In 2006, the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims overturned the Department of Veterans Affairs decision that denied the special monthly pension to an 86-year-old legally blind World War II veteran, Robert A. Hartness, who was also receiving a VA pension granted to low-income, disabled veterans.

The court reversed the VA's denial of benefits to Mr. Hartness and required them to begin paying this special monthly pension. The court held that the United States law requires an award of a special monthly pension to a veteran eligible for VA nonservice-connected disability pension if, in addition to being at least 65 years old, the

veteran has a disability rating of at least 60 percent or is permanently housebound.

The Senate bill, S. 1315, would override the court decision legislatively, and it is also what H.R. 760 sought to do. According to the VA, more than 20,200 veterans could be affected by this unprecedented cut in veterans' benefits.

This cut in veterans' benefits that goes to the disabled is opposed by the American Legion, AMVETS, the National Association of Uniformed Services, and other veterans' service organizations. The following excerpt is from an April 25, 2008, letter to all Members of Congress from the American Legion: "The American Legion believes the sacrifice of these heroes warrants relief. Balancing the books on the backs of the very patriots that protected and defended this Nation is unconscionable. Don't make a grave mistake in the name of fairness, equality, or even fiscal responsibility. Do what is right."

I wholeheartedly agree. Congress has an obligation to protect those veterans who are the most vulnerable. They have no voice; and, indeed, many of them are so severely disabled they are housebound and require aid and attendants. I personally find appalling the notion of taking benefits from these disabled veterans to create a new benefit for other veterans, especially those of a foreign nation.

There are better ways to fund new entitlements than to cut benefits from aging veterans who need us most, violating the principle of honor that defined their service and our obligation to both them and the Nation they served.

I believe that our veterans are our country's most precious asset. I also believe that those are the ideals for which you seek to recognize in the bill that is before us. I would remind every Member who votes in support of this bill, please recognize that when you come to the floor and there is presented to you a Senate amended bill that would repeal the special monthly pension for the Nation's most vulnerable veterans, those of whom are wartime elderly, indigent, disabled and homebound, that you remember the vote you cast this day. Because if you embrace to defend these disabled veterans who sacrificed for the ideals and the heritage of this country, do not cut their veterans' benefits.

It was done in committee. It was done in the Senate. We have to defend the most vulnerable and those who do not have a voice.

I support what is in front of us, but I do not support the rationale of inoculation before you bring a bill to this floor that will cut a billion dollars from these wartime elderly, disabled indigent veterans.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, for thousands of our Nation's soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines, the sacrifices of war far outlast the war itself. There are more than 2 million veterans with service-connected injuries or illnesses, including thousands who have returned from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Thanks to advances in medical science, the vast majority of American servicemembers wounded in combat survive traumatic events that would have proven deadly in previous wars.

Previous generations of veterans have come home wounded from battlefields in Europe, the Korean peninsula, and the jungles of Vietnam. They have returned to America with permanent damage to limb or spirit.

Today's veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom are suffering tragic injuries from IED attacks and other hazards that are filling our military hospitals with victims who have lost limbs, with severe burns, and with head injuries.

We owe a debt of gratitude to all of these veterans whose physical or psychological well-being was permanently damaged in service to their country.

In my own district, disabled veterans have also had to endure the closing of the Southeast Louisiana VA Hospital due to damage from Hurricane Katrina. As a result, approximately 212,000 veterans in a 23-parish area in southeast Louisiana have to travel up to 4 hours to go to other VA hospitals just to receive basic care. And as we all know, gas prices are now topping \$4 a gallon, which further adds to the cost our disabled veterans are facing when they travel to and from VA facilities for their health care.

I want to express as well how gravely concerned I am at the high cost of fuel and how it is affecting their ability to stretch their limited pension and compensation dollars. I call on the Democratic leadership in Congress to step forward and join us to help these disabled veterans by addressing this problem and enacting a strong national energy policy that increases supply to lower gas prices.

I want to thank my colleagues in the House for passing the VA Medical Facility Authorization and Lease Act authorizing \$625 million for Southeast Louisiana VA Hospital that was closed down due to damage caused by Hurricane Katrina. And I want to specifically recognize the leadership of Chairman BOB FILNER and Ranking Member STEVE BUYER in passing this critical legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank our disabled veterans for their sacrifice and contributions to the cause of freedom. The intent of this bill is to express America's eternal gratitude to these courageous heroes, and I urge all of my

colleagues to support it. America's disabled veterans have honored us with their service and selfless duty. We should honor them by passing this resolution.

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

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. I want to be clear, Mr. Speaker and Members of the House, House Concurrent Resolution 336 honors the sacrifices of the disabled veterans, and I urge all Members to support it.

I am very proud of the fact that we have just passed the largest VA budget in the history of the United States of America. Now a lot of times people talk the talk, but we as Members of this body need to walk the walk for the veterans. And when I said that I have visited the facilities in Puerto Rico and St. Thomas, I have also visited the facilities in Louisiana, and I made sure that we put the money into the budget so we could rebuild that facility for veterans in that area.

I urge my colleagues to unanimously support H. Con. Res. 336.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 332, which recognizes the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. On December 10, 1948, the United Nations General Assembly came together to pass the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which serves as a set of standards for all people and all nations of the world to strive toward.

Drawing upon principles from both the U.S. Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognizes the fundamental human rights bestowed to each person on this Earth regardless of race, religion, or ethnicity. Ronald Reagan once described the U.S. Constitution as "a kind of covenant. It is a covenant we've made not only with ourselves but with all of mankind." The Universal Declaration of Human Rights shines light in the darkest corners of the world and reminds those in the most desperate of situations that every person is entitled to respect and dignity.

It has been my distinct privilege to serve as co-chair of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus for the past 7 years. The Caucus was founded in 1983 by the late Congressman Tom Lantos and former Congressman John Porter for Members of Congress to work to defend the rights of individuals worldwide as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

With the passage of this important resolution, I reaffirm my commitment to serve as a voice for the voiceless and continue to ensure that human rights remains a priority in the U.S. Congress.

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I am submitting this statement to record my strong and enthusiastic support of the House Resolution honoring the sacrifices and contributions made by disabled American veterans.

Today I wish to recognize these men and women for their patriotic contribution in our armed services; who have given so much to defend our Nation.

The brave men and women who defend this country under threat of that ultimate sacrifice

truly are our guardian angels. They fight with passion and dedication for an ideal that we all cherish, the notion that this is the land of opportunity, the land of the free. Unfortunately, that freedom comes at a price and too often our guardian angels come home wounded and disabled. They defend us and are willing to throw themselves in harms way before us, and we must not forget that.

These wounded warriors are an inspiration to all of us, and we owe them so very much. It is our duty to them that we always remember what they have fought and sacrificed for. We must always remember the sacred agreement we made with these servicemen, if they go off and fight for us we will forever be in their debt and we must provide for them and their loved ones.

My praise and thanks fall well short of equaling the gift of freedom our veterans bestowed on all of us. They bare the scars that remind us all how costly freedom can be, and all I have to offer in return is my eternal gratitude.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 336. There is no greater American hero than the military veteran, and I am proud to join my fellow colleagues today in honoring the sacrifices and contributions of our disabled American veterans.

The American soldier is the embodiment of hard work, patriotism, and service, and the soldier who has sacrificed his body for the freedom and liberty of others around the world deserves our utmost respect. The blood spilled on our own soil and abroad is a lasting reminder of the commitment that our soldiers have sacrificed for us all, and every citizen owes a deep and lasting gratitude to these brave warriors.

Mr. Speaker, our departed soldiers must never be forgotten, and those injured veterans from wars past and those just returning from the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan should receive our Nation's and this Congress's unwavering support and reverence. It is an honor to rise today and praise the bravest of all Americans—the disabled military veteran. America will never forget your valor during our most trying times, and we are forever grateful for your dedicated service and selfless sacrifice to our Nation.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 336.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. 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 Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 336.

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. CORRINE BROWN 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.

□ 1500

NATIONAL D-DAY REMEMBRANCE DAY

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1235) expressing support for the designation of National D-Day Remembrance Day, and recognizing the spirit, courage, and sacrifice of the men and women who fought and won World War II.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1235

Whereas June 6, 2008, marks the 64th anniversary of D-Day, the day of the beginning of the Allied assault against the Axis forces at Normandy, France, during World War II;

Whereas the D-Day assault, codenamed Operation Overlord, was the most extensive amphibious invasion ever to occur, and involved 5,000 ships, over 11,000 sorties of Allied aircraft, and 150,000 American, British, and Canadian troops on the first day of the operation;

Whereas the D-Day assault was among the most important events of World War II, as the success of the Allied landings in Normandy provided the foothold for the liberation of France and the eventual Allied advancement into Germany, leading ultimately to the Allied victory in Europe;

Whereas the brave men and women of our armed services who participated in the D-Day assault forever changed the course of history by starting the liberation of occupied Europe from Nazi Germany;

Whereas 5 separate beaches were assaulted, with American forces under the command of Lieutenant General Omar Bradley attacking Omaha and Utah beaches, and British and Canadian forces under the command of General Miles Dempsey attacking Gold, Juno, and Sword beaches;

Whereas according to General Dwight D. Eisenhower, American troops would "accept nothing less than full victory";

Whereas American troops displayed tremendous heroism, dedication, and strength in storming the beaches of Normandy against a heavily fortified enemy;

Whereas American troops suffered significant losses during the assault, including over 6,500 casualties;

Whereas June 6, 1944, is one of the most significant dates in the history of the United States;

Whereas the National D-Day Museum was dedicated on June 6, 2000, in New Orleans, Louisiana;

Whereas Congress designated the museum as "America's National World War II Museum" in 2003;

Whereas the museum has welcomed 1,800,000 visitors since its opening, and currently sees an average of 17,000 visitors a month;

Whereas the National World War II Museum is the only museum in the United States that exists for the exclusive purpose of interpreting the American experience during World War II on both the homefront and battlefield and, in doing so, covers all the branches of the Armed Forces and the Merchant Marines;

Whereas the museum interprets the American experience during World War II, celebrates the American spirit, recognizes the teamwork, optimism, courage, and sacrifice of the men and women who won World War II, and promotes the exploration and expression of these values by future generations; and

Whereas it would be appropriate to designate June 6, 2008, as National D-Day Remembrance Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives supports the designation of National D-Day Remembrance Day, recognizes and honors the veterans who served on D-Day, and thanks them for their spirit, courage, and sacrifice.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair now recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, last week, on June 6, we celebrated the anniversary of one of our greatest military accomplishments and an historic event that changed the face of our Nation and the world.

On June 6, 1944, the largest seaborne invasion in history began the 2-month Battle of Normandy. The D-day invasion began during the night, and continued with air and naval attacks and an amphibious attack in the early morning hours.

The D-day operation of June 6, 1944 brought together the land, air and sea forces of the Allied armies in what become known as the largest invading force in human history. Operation Overlord landed five naval assault divisions to the beaches of Normandy, code-named Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword.

The invasion force included 7,000 ships and landing craft manned by 195,000 Navy personnel from eight Allied countries. Almost 133,000 troops from England, Canada and the United States landed on D-day. Casualties during the landing was over 10,000.

New Orleans is the home of a wonderful museum, the National World War II Museum. This museum opened its doors on June 6, 2000, and paid tribute not only to the D-day but all of the efforts in World War II. One of the reasons it is located in New Orleans is it was the home of Andrew Jackson Higgins.

The historian, Steven Ambrose, reported that General Eisenhower once