Guam was governed by the American Department of the Navy and defined as an unincorporated territory, meaning it is not part of the United States, but is owned by the United States.

After hardships endured during World War I and World War II, Guam remained under American rule, and in 1950, the people of Guam were finally declared American citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I have briefly glossed over almost 100 years of Guam's history. Yet even from what I have mentioned, it is sometimes difficult to discern why there should be a certain ambivalence about American rule. For one thing, I did not mention that Congress, this body and the Senate, are obligated to determine the political status of Guam's native inhabitants. However, even after 100 years, this issue still has not been resolved.

The Guam Centennial Resolution is a form of commemoration, reflection and education. It commemorates the courageous story of a proud people from the pre-European contact period to our existence under the American flag today. It reflects on Guam's path to resolving its political status and calls on the House of Representatives to affirm its commitment for increased self-government for the people of Guam. It educates by detailing Guam's political history and our continued quest for increased self-determination.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Republican and Democratic leadership, both Speaker GINGRICH and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), as well as the leaders of the Committee on Resources, the gentleman from Alaska (Chairman YOUNG) and the gentleman from California (Mr. MILLER), as well as over 50 of my colleagues who have agreed to be cosponsors of the Guam Centennial Resolution. Such strong support for this resolution demonstrates this chamber's ongoing commitment to the people of Guam.

I realize that it is difficult at times to understand the aspirations of a people located 9,500 miles from Washington, D.C., a people whose closest neighbors are Asian and Pacific Nations. However, the introduction of the Guam Centennial Resolution is yet another step in increasing this body's and this Nation's understanding of Guam and its unique role in the American family.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to recognize Senator AKAKA of the other body who has introduced a companion resolution in that other body.

Mr. Speaker, I beg my colleagues in the House to support H.Res. 494.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 297. Concurrent resolution providing for an adjournment of both Houses.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BERLIN AIRLIFT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift, one of the most defining events in world history.

Tomorrow marks the 50th anniversary of the first American flight carrying food and supplies to the communist encircled City of Berlin. Two days earlier, the Soviet Union announced its intention to completely prohibit transportation in and out of the western sectors of Berlin.

Throughout the course of the mission, approximately 600 flights a day brought provisions to a city isolated from the world by the Soviet military. By its conclusion, more than a year later, 2.3 million tons of food and coal for fuel had been delivered to Berlin. ''Operation Vittles,'' as it was called, consisted of nearly 278,000 flights by American, British, and French aircraft. The Soviets eventually submitted to American determination and reopened ground routes into Berlin.

The historical significance of the airlift is that it signaled the United States' resolve to reject communist oppression. In addition, the Berlin Airlift sent a clear message to the world that the United States would not abandon an ally in its time of need.

As we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift, we are reminded that as Americans we must stand up for democracy when it is challenged.

Time and time again, history has taught us that we defend freedom when it is threatened. However, our responsibility carries with it a tremendous price, both in monetary terms and in human life. The Berlin Airlift costs an estimated $200 million, and even more important, it took the lives of 79 individuals, including 31 American servicemen.

Although the airlift occurred between 1948 and 1949, its legacy lives today in the hearts of people around the world. The courage displayed by its participants still serves as a shining example of freedom's triumph over tyranny. Our refusal to submit to Soviet aggression 50 years ago led the groundwork for lifting the Iron Curtain of communist oppression and tearing down the Berlin Wall.

Mr. Speaker, let us perpetuate the legacy of the Berlin Airlift. Congress must honor those whose tremendous acts of courage during the airlift promoted freedom and democracy. As Americans, we must continue to ensure that these principles are cherished throughout the world.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JIM TRAFICANT AND WILLIAM FRANKLIN HANKS, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to pay tribute to two close friends of mine, one here in the Congress and one in my hometown of Knoxville.

The first is the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT), one of the most popular Members of this body on both sides of the aisle. I pay tribute to the gentleman from Ohio tonight because of the bill that we just passed to reform the IRS.

Newsweek Magazine recently had a cover story about the IRS, and on its front cover Newsweek described the IRS as ''lawless, abusive, and out of control.'' But for many years, and probably longer than anyone else presently in the Congress, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) has been speaking out against IRS abuse of ordinary citizens.

In addition, it was the gentleman from Ohio who originally authored the legislation to place the burden of proof in tax cases on the IRS rather than on the taxpayer. In other words, thanks primarily to the gentleman from Ohio, a taxpayer will not now be subjected to the very un-American injustice of being presumed guilty unless or until he proves himself innocent.

Many people seem to be taking credit for this provision now, but I think the primary credit should go to our friend: JIM TRAFICANT.

Mr. Speaker, I think that about 85 to 90 percent of the American people want us to drastically simplify our tax laws. Mr. Speaker, we certainly should, but I doubt that we will any time in the near future. But at least we have passed this IRS reform today and the gentleman from Ohio deserves the most credit for the most significant part of it, and I salute the gentleman for this great accomplishment.

IN TRIBUTE TO BILL HANKS

Mr. Speaker, next I would like to say a few words about a close friend of mine from home, Bill Hanks, who recently retired after a long and successful business career.

William Franklin Hanks, Jr., was born in Raleigh, North Carolina, October 15, 1934. He grew up in Charlotte, North Carolina, where his parents, Sally and ''Tubby'' Hanks moved when he was a year old.

Bill graduated from Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina, in 1957, where he played varsity basketball and was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

It was at Furman that he met Beth Ballentine, a South Carolina girl who stole his heart; and they were married after his graduation.

Bill coached basketball one year at Statesville, North Carolina High School. After 5 years in sales for the Weyerhaeuser Corporation, he joined the sales force of Package Products Company in Charlotte, resulting in his move to Knoxville in 1964.

He has spent 34 years in sales and retired recently as national accounts