floor, following up on the excellent comments of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), lead to an examination of practices of those in this society who, by their actions, really promote obesity; not so much the people that ultimately pay the price of worse health and earlier death, but the fast food chains whose marketing techniques of biggie-size this and biggie-size that encourage especially our young people to drink more high-caloried soda pop and eat more French fries and eat more, ingest more calories.

Look at even the growing obesity of children in places like China, which had no obesity problems until we began to export the fast food industry to countries like that. I would hope that we would examine the practices of those who promote obesity, such as the marketers and the advertisers, who spend billions of dollars to encourage, again, especially children in bad eating habits, to eat unhealthy food.

Imagine on television a marketer writing ads, a marketer who is maybe paid $500,000, using his or her skills to encourage a child to spend $3 at a fast food restaurant. That is not exactly an even match.

Look at even our schools, Mr. Speaker, where now schools in this country, because we underfund schools, they go to the private sector, they go to soft drink companies; and those soft drink companies will pay a fee to those schools so they can bring their pop machines into the cafeteria.

I think we have all been in schoolrooms where we have seen kids with a can of pop on their desk or walking down the hall with a soft drink. Some schools do not allow that, but too many do. When I was in school at Mansfield Senior High School, Mansfield, Ohio, 30 years ago, I remember the only vending machine in the cafeteria was an apple machine. Today we see soft drink machines in the cafeterias, in the halls, near the gyms. Because we underfund our public education, we have to give tax cuts in this institution to the richest people, so we underfund public education and then we force our schools to go out and make contracts with companies to bring pop machines in the schools, so leading those kids to more health problems in the future. That is really one of the reasons we have obesity in this country. It is all pretty tied together.

I hope this resolution in the future, and I plan to support the resolution of my friend, the gentleman from Pennsylvania, I hope it leads to an examination of the real issues surrounding this issue.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 438, expressing the sense of the Congress that improving men's health through fitness and the reduction of obesity should be a priority.

Physical fitness is key towards the prevention and reduction of obesity. As a nation we should encourage all men to continue to live an active life beyond their high school sports and other extra curricula activity years and well into their retirement years.

It's hard to believe that in the age of technological advances there are still very simple steps we can take to improve our health. Experts agree that moderate exercise; just 30 minutes a day, 3 times a week can have a significant impact on health. That's just an extra 15 minutes in the morning and evening. Exercise such as walking can reduce your risk of chronic, disabling and often fatal diseases like diabetes, cardiovascular disease, depression, stroke and cancer. It can reduce and even eliminate dependence on medications resulting in a significant amount of cash savings. Furthermore, exercise improves mental alertness and fosters healthy muscles, bones and joints.

The technology of the 21st century has spoiled us. The World Wide Web has put the world at our fingertips. With our busy schedules we have grown dependent on the Internet for shopping, paying bills and even purchasing groceries. With a push of a button food is delivered directly to our homes.

Obesity is one of the biggest public health challenges in our time. The high number of uninsured individuals, the outrageous prices of prescription drugs and the down turn of the economy have forced us to take initiative and control over our health. The estimated medical cost for physically inactive Americans is $77 billion. We must rely on cost-effective proven practices such as exercise that will contribute to the prevention and reduction of obesity.

That is why I support their resolution. Although technology has advanced by leaps and bounds our health has suffered by many of life's new conveniences. We are eating more, exercising less and becoming obese. H. Res. 438 does not expect our men to become tri-athletes rather it recognizes that physical activity is the key to reducing and preventing obesity.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H. Res. 438. I also encourage families, health professionals, businesses, community leaders, schools and universities to join in an effort to improve physical fitness through innovative approaches. Together we can join forces and conquer obesity and its cruel ramifications.

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 438, a sense of the House that improving men's health through fitness and reduction of obesity should be a priority. Obesity is a neglected public health problem in the United States. This disease affects approximately 51 million Americans and more than one quarter of all adults. The number of overweight and obese Americans has continued to increase since 1960. Unfortunately, this trend is not slowing down. Today, 61% of adult Americans (about 120 million) are categorized as being overweight or obese. While this resolution is focused solely on men's fitness and obesity issues, this epidemic transcends gender. While the prevalence of being overweight is higher for men (59.4%) than women (50.7%), the prevalence of obesity is higher for women (25.0%) than men (19.5%). Fitness and physical activity should be a priority for all Americans, regardless of gender.

Obesity is the second leading cause of unnecessary deaths. Each year, obesity causes at least 300,000 excess deaths in the U.S., and healthcare costs of American adults with obesity amount to approximately $100 billion. Obesity increases the risk of illness for about 30 serious medical conditions, including cancer, birth defects, cardiovascular disease, and stroke. Yet despite this correlation, obesity has not received the attention it deserves. Research is severely limited by a shortage of funds, and inadequate insurance coverage limits access to treatment.

Weight loss of about 10% of excess body weight is proven to benefit health by reducing many obesity related risk factors. Research has documented that physical activity is a key part of maintaining weight loss. Exercise can lower one's risk of heart disease and heart attack, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol. A decrease in the amount of daily activity related to work, transportation and personal chores is believed to contribute to the high percentage of overweight and obesity today. By adding moderate physical activity, progressing to 30 minutes or more on most or preferably all days of the week to one's daily routine, we can start to reverse the upward trend of obesity.

Mr. Speaker, we should applaud those who live a healthy lifestyle and encourage our public health system to recognize obesity and inactive lifestyles as a true health care epidemic. Finally, as of this past fiscal year, the IRS announced a new policy stating that ''obesity is medically accepted to be a disease in its own right.'' For taxpayers, this means that treatment specifically for obesity can now be claimed as a medical deduction. I hope that this promotion of healthy lifestyles will continue as we try to curb this epidemic, and that a tax deduction for individuals who choose to stay healthy will be considered seriously by the IRS.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 438.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. FOSSELLA. 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 are postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF 19TH CENTURY ITALIAN-AMERICAN INVENTOR ANTONIO MEUCCI

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 269) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives to honor the life and achievements of 19th century Italian-American Inventor Antonio

Meucci, and his work in the invention of the telephone.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 269

Whereas Antonio Meucci, the great Italian inventor, had a career that was both extraordinary and tragic;

Whereas, upon immigrating to New York, Meucci continued to work with ceaseless vigor on a project he had begun in Havana, Cuba, an invention he later called the ''teletrofono'', involving electronic communications;

Whereas Meucci set up a rudimentary communications link in his Staten Island home that connected the basement with the first floor, and later, when his wife began to suffer from crippling arthritis, he created a permanent link between his lab and his wife's second floor bedroom;

Whereas, having exhausted most of his life's savings in pursuing his work, Meucci was unable to commercialize his invention, though he demonstrated his invention in 1860 and had a description of it published in New York's Italian language newspaper;

Whereas Meucci never learned English well enough to navigate the complex American business community;

Whereas Meucci was unable to raise sufficient funds to pay his way through the patent application process, and thus had to settle for a caveat, a one year renewable notice of an impending patent, which was first filed on December 28, 1871;

Whereas Meucci later learned that the Western Union affiliate laboratory reportedly lost his working models, and Meucci, who at this point was living on public assistance, was unable to renew the caveat after 1874;

Whereas in March 1876, Alexander Graham Bell, who conducted experiments in the same laboratory where Meucci's materials had been stored, was granted a patent and was thereafter credited with inventing the telephone;

Whereas on January 13, 1887, the Government of the United States moved to annul the patent issued to Bell on the grounds of fraud and misrepresentation, a case that the Supreme Court found viable and remanded for trial;

Whereas Meucci died in October 1889, the Bell patent expired in January 1893, and the case was discontinued as moot without ever reaching the underlying issue of the true inventor of the telephone entitled to the patent; and

Whereas if Meucci had been able to pay the $10 fee to maintain the caveat after 1874, no patent could have been issued to Bell: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that the life and achievements of Antonio Meucci should be recognized, and his work in the invention of the telephone should be acknowledged.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 269.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the House consider House Resolution 269, important legislation introduced by my distinguished colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA).

This resolution expresses the sense of the House of Representatives in honoring the life and achievements of the 19th century Italian-American inventor, Antonio Meucci. We have all grown up believing that Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone. However, history must be rewritten if justice is to be done to recognize Meucci as the true inventor of the telephone.

□ 1445

Bell was issued a patent for the telephone in 1887. However, 17 years earlier, in 1860, it was Meucci who successfully demonstrated his electronic communications link in his Staten Island, New York home, an invention he later called the teletrofono. Meucci was a poor man who never learned English and was unable to navigate the business world. He did not have the $10 needed to apply for a patent for his invention and was never able to get the financial backing needed to pursue a patent. Later, following a tragic accident in which Meucci was severely burned, the laboratory where he worked on his invention supposedly lost his working models needed to get a patent. Just a few years later, Bell who worked in the same laboratory, earned the patent for the telephone.

The story of Antonio Meucci is not well known. While he has not received credit for his invention in our history books, the House of Representatives will today honor the genius of the Italian American inventor Antonio Meucci.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members to support this resolution.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, Antonio Meucci was born in Florence, Italy in 1808. He was fond of chemistry and at the age of 17 conceived an improved powerful propeller to be used in fireworks, so powerful that his little rockets lost control, caused damage to properties in the vicinity. This was the beginning of a life filled with experiments and discoveries.

Meucci spent the first 27 years of his life in Florence, Italy, 15 years in Havana, Cuba, and 39 years in Clifton, New York. While in Havana, Meucci discovered the latest discoveries in electricity, electrochemistry and electrotherapy in his laboratory which was next to his apartment. In 1865 Meucci wrote, ''At Havana, by means of some little experiments, I came to discover that with an instrument placed at the ear and with the aid of electricity and a metallic wire, the exact word could be transmitted holding the conductor in the mouth . . . ''. Meucci had discovered electrical speech transmission.

Meucci and his wife, Esther, moved to New York in 1850 where he established a very successful candle business. However, in 1854, his wife aggravated her rheumatoid arthritis to the point where she could seldom leave her bedroom in the third floor of the house.

Esther's illness stimulated the resuming of Meucci's speaking telegraph, as it allowed her to communicate with him and others from her bedroom. Meucci established a telephone link from Esther's room to the basement as well as to a larger laboratory in the yard. To call attention, a mechanical call bell was used, its wires running parallel to those of the telephone. Only one instrument was used at each end, that was alternately brought to the ear or mouth of the user. Meucci received little credit for the invention he later called the teletrofono.

This resolution recognizes his work, the importance of his efforts, and I am pleased to not only support it, but I also want to commend the gentleman for bringing it to the attention of all of the Members of this House and to the American people.

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

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA), the chief sponsor of this bill.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me time. I thank Members on both sides, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), as well as the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL) for supporting this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, it is my strong belief that Italian Americans have contributed greatly to the United States and continue to contribute proudly as well. We know Columbus discovered America. Two Italians signed the Declaration of Independence. Enrico Fermi split the atom, and Captain Don Gentile, the fighting ace, was described by General Dwight Eisenhower as a ''one-man force.'' He, like so many other Italian-Americans, did and were willing to give their life in defense of freedom and liberty and supporting these great United States.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to spend a few minutes today to honor an Italian American and former Staten Island resident who is often overlooked, as announced already, and his name was Antonio Meucci.

The 19th century was a time of great technological innovation, as its birth heralded the beginning of the Industrial Revolution. However, unlike the century just ended and the new one we are beginning to explore, the rough-and-tumble of our young Nation had yet to develop information exchange to the extent we enjoy today.

The Founding Fathers made America a guarantor of unprecedented and, to this day, unmatched liberty. This liberty included again an unprecedented appreciation for intellectual property rights. Today with our study of historical records and ability to examine many disparate sources of information, we now know it is likely the invention of what we know today as a telephone took place in the middle of the 19th century rather than its end, and its creator is believed to be Antonio Meucci. He worked for years to develop a new system of electronic communication. However, poor and sick, he was unable to keep the patents enforced and died before the courts could decide with finality whether he or Alexander Graham Bell was the true inventor of the telephone.

It is known that Meucci demonstrated his device in 1860, that a description appeared in New York's Italian language newspaper, and that Western Union received working models from Meucci but reportedly lost them.

It is also known that Meucci, due to his limited means, settled for a caveat, a one-year renewable notice of an impending patent, first filed in 1871, but which he was unable to pursue after 1874, while Alexander Graham Bell was not granted a patent until 1876.

Finally, it is known that the Supreme Court of the United States directed the case to proceed to trial but Meucci died a short time later, rendering the case moot.

So with these facts before the House today, I ask for the passage of this resolution to honor the life and achievements long overdue of Antonio Meucci, a great Italian American and a former great Staten Islander.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL), one who represents the feisty tradition of Italians and of Italian Americans, and a great spokesman not only for Italy and Italian Americans, but a great spokesman for all of America.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, first I want to commend my good friend, the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA). How refreshing it is to talk about an Italian American out of the Hollywood spotlight and an Italian American not recognized. If only we took the time in this society to deal with all ethnics, people of all racial persuasions in fairness, and that is what this resolution is all about: Fairness, honesty, breaking the stereotypes that many of us have learned; in fact, probably, taught without our even knowing.

We recognize today the life and achievements of Antonio Meucci. He was a pauper. He had nothing. He came here with nothing. He could not even put $10 up for a patent application. And yet his life is one of brilliance in science, particularly. He is only a footnote in our history books. We all know those great publishers that steer the education process of America. He earns, if he is lucky, a footnote. Indeed, many local libraries, if you search for his name in a card catalog, you may come up empty. Yet, substantial evidence exists that he indeed developed the first telephone. It is Alexander Graham Bell who is most commonly given credit. After all, it was he, and not Meucci, who was awarded one of the most valuable patents in American history. But the fact remains that Meucci's scientific discoveries concerning human voice transmission as well as his tangible teletrofono preceded those of Bell.

In fact, when you examine, Mr. Speaker, how this all happened in a place where Meucci heard an exclamation of a friend who was in another room over a piece of copper wire running between them, he realized immediately that he had something that was more important than any discovery he had ever made. But that realization also came with the understanding that to succeed as an inventor, he would need an environment that truly fostered his inquisitive mind and his vibrant spirit.

I believe that it is proper to honor the far-reaching contributions that Antonio Meucci made to our society, and I am not the only one. The Government of the United States and the Supreme Court agree with me. In this Supreme Court document, Mr. Speaker, it is very clear in the many pages laid out across the record that this is no ordinary young man in his struggle. In 1887 the Government moved to annul the patent issued to Bell on the grounds of misrepresentation, an indication that the Supreme Court found viable and remanded for retrial. This is only one of many published documents during the time, the late 1800s that outlined the case being made for Meucci, indeed, the case we are making today on both sides of the aisle. In 1860 a description of his first telephone model was published, as the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) pointed out, in an Italian language newspaper in New York City, 16 years before Bell's patent.

Indeed, Meucci's extraordinary career flourished upon immigrating to New York in 1850. His poor finances, his limited English, his grasp of the language was not very good. It plagued him throughout his life. Yet, he worked tirelessly to bring long distance communication to a practical stage.

When his wife fell paralyzed in 1855, Meucci set up a telephone system which joined several rooms of his house with his workshop in another building. This was the first such installation anywhere; anywhere. Unfortunately, Meucci was unable to raise those funds to pay his way through the arduous patent application process. Instead, he had to settle for a caveat, which is a one-year renewable notice of an impending patent. He first filed this on December 28, 1871. Three years later his finances were absolutely zero.

Living with the aid of public assistance and unable to get a 7–A loan, which today we have available through small business, Meucci was forced to allow the caveat to lapse at the end of that year. Two years after the expiration of his caveat, Alexander Graham Bell performed experiments in the same laboratory that Meucci worked, and he took out a patent for his own voice-transmitting device. The same laboratory.

It is possible that sometimes several inventors have the same idea at roughly the same time. In this case, what has mattered is not who had the idea for the telephone first, but who first turned the idea into a viable commercial enterprise. Let us not forget that if Antonio Meucci could have paid the $10 fee to maintain his caveat, the Bell patent could not have been granted. Ten dollars.

□ 1500

Let us not forget that the Supreme Court of the United States found that Meucci's case was viable and warranted a trial at a circuit court. It is unfortunate that Meucci died before his case could even be continued and before a resolution could be reached as to who truly invented the telephone; but most importantly, let us not forget that Antonio Meucci's great contributions to science have had a profound impact on our modern society.

Mr. Speaker, many people from many different nations have contributed to this greatest of all democracies. Antonio Meucci was one such person. He is a reflection of our brothers and sisters from all over the world who came to this country with nothing and worked hard to make this a better place for mankind. Some heralded, some not even a footnote in the library.

It is fitting that his efforts are recognized here today, and I thank the gentleman from New York for allowing me to work with him on this important resolution.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

We have no further requests for time, and I would just like to close by thanking both the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL) for this tremendous depiction of history that they have given us this afternoon, which reinforces my desire to be a strong supporter of this resolution; and it also reinforces how great and how much opportunity there is that exists in this country. Every time we pass one small measure, in this instance, it might have been a microbusiness loan that could have changed the history of our understanding of telecommunications.

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

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA).

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to add and commend the two gentlemen, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and especially the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL) for a very strong and passionate defense in support of the life of a great American and great inventor and merely add to the course, so to speak, that he was emblematic and remains so as a representative of all those who have come to this country to seek a better life and an opportunity and, in particular, to those Americans of Italian descent who have and will continue to make this the greatest country in the history of the world and in a small way and a long overdue way but in a small measure. I would ask my colleagues to support it.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, the story of Antonio Meucci is a tragic one, and although he successfully demonstrated his electronic communication years before Alexander Graham Bell received a patent for the telephone, Meucci has been all but forgotten.

This resolution attempts to remedy this oversight and give credit to one of history's great inventors. Meucci should be remembered with other innovators, like Edison, the Wright Brothers, and Marconi, whose vision and tenacity changed our lives for the better.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this resolution.

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great New Yorker and a great inventor, Antonio Meucci. As the first member of the House to join with our colleague from New York, Mr. Fosella, on this resolution, I am gratified that it is coming before us today.

House Resolution 269 honors the life and achievements of Antonio Meucci, who came to New York in 1950. Born in San Frediano, near Florence, Italy in April 1808, he was an inventor through and through. He constantly read scientific tracts and conducted experiment after experiment. He went to Havana in 1835 to work as a stage technician. It is there that he had the first inkling of his greatest invention.

Meucci developed a type of electro-shock treatment for the ill. While preparing to administer one of his treatments, Meucci heard his patient say something from the next room over the piece of copper wire running between them. This was the event that sparked his breakthrough.

Meucci spent the next ten years bringing the idea of voices being transmitted over wire to a practical stage. With this goal, he left Cuba for New York in 1850. There he found many other Italians who had left their native land, including the great revolutionary Garibaldi, who stayed in Meucci's Staten Island home.

During his time in New York he had success with his invention. After his wife became ill in 1855, he installed a kind of intercom system in his house, the first installed anywhere in the world. Five years later, he was arranging demonstrations to attract financial backing. Unfortunately, nothing came of this, and he spent a considerable time in poverty. His poverty forced him to sell rights to his inventions to others, and he never filed for a patent on a telephone. After an accident left the inventor hospitalized, his wife sold all of his inventions, including the telephone prototype, to help pay for his treatment. The ''secondhand dealer'' resold the items to an ''unknown young man.'' To this day, we do not know the identity of this unknown young man.

Meucci tried to reconstruct his invention, but unable to raise the $250 needed for a patent, a considerable sum in 1871, he filed a ''notice of intent'' on December 28, 1871, which he renewed for two years, but not after. He tried to sell his ''Talking Telegraph'' to the newly established Western Union Telegraph Company, asking permission to demonstrate it over their wires. That test never got set up, and in 1876, Alexander Graham Bell filed a patent.

Meucci instructed his lawyer to protest to the U.S. Patent Office, but his lawyer failed to do so. A friend did contact the office, only to learn that all the documents filed by Meucci had been lost. Later investigation produced evidence of illegal relationships linking certain employees of the Patent Office and officials of Bell's company.

Antonio Meucci was a brilliant inventor but a poor businessman. Despite his lack of success in business, he most certainly invented the telephone. He is honored in my district with a road named for him in Copiague. I am proud that we, the entire House of Representatives, today will honor this man who has been overlooked by history for too long.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I add my voice to the praise and honor of Antonio Meucci who, through his work toward the invention of the telephone, has brought the world together as few others have. Through his ingenuity and perseverance, this Italian-American changed the way the world communicates, although as a newcomer to America, he was often thwarted by his own inability to communicate with those who could have, and should have given him the recognition he deserved.

Antonio Meucci came to America, pursuing his dream of introducing his ''Talking Telegraph'' to the world, and hoping to make a living doing so. Instead, he struggled against his own meager beginnings—not having the money or verbal skills he needed to protect his intellectual property. He also struggled against the incompetence and greed of others. Tragically, this extraordinary man's decade-long struggle for justice ended in poverty and frustration. I am pleased that we are finally helping him attain his rightful place in history.

I strongly support H.R. 269, honoring a man who embodies the travails of the American Immigrant experience—Antonio Meucci, the true inventor of the telephone.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DAN MILLER of Florida). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 269.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMEMORATING AND ACKNOWLEDGING DEDICATION AND SACRIFICE MADE BY MEN AND WOMEN KILLED OR DISABLED WHILE SERVING AS PEACE OFFICERS

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 406) commemorating and acknowledging the dedication and sacrifice made by the men and women killed or disabled while serving as peace officers, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 406

Whereas the well-being of all people of the United States is preserved and enhanced as a direct result of the vigilance and dedication of law enforcement personnel;

Whereas more than 700,000 law enforcement personnel, at great risk to their personal safety, serve their fellow citizens as guardians of peace;

Whereas peace officers are on the front line in preserving the right of the children of the United States to receive an education in a crime-free environment, a right that is all too often threatened by the insidious fear caused by violence in schools;

Whereas 70 peace officers died at the World Trade Center in New York City on September 11, 2001, the most peace officers ever killed in a single incident in the history of the Nation;

Whereas more than 220 peace officers across the Nation were killed in the line of duty during 2001, which represents 57 percent more police fatalities than the previous year and makes 2001 the deadliest year for the law enforcement community since 1974;

Whereas every year, 1 out of every 9 peace officers is assaulted, 1 out of every 25 peace officers is injured, and 1 out of every 4,400 peace officers is killed in the line of duty;

Whereas section 136 of title 36, United States Code, requests that the President issue each year a proclamation designating May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day in honor of Federal, State, and local officers killed or disabled in the line of duty; and

Whereas on May 15, 2002, more than 15,000 peace officers are expected to gather in Washington, D.C. to join with the families of their recently fallen comrades to honor those comrades and all others who went before them: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House—

(1) honors Federal, State, and local peace officers killed or disabled in the line of duty;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of Peace Officers Memorial Day; and

(3) calls upon the people of the United States to observe such a day with appropriate ceremonies and respect.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that