

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. On July 24, 1998, at 3:40 p.m., Officer Jacob J. Chestnut and Detective John M. Gibson of the United States Capitol Police were killed in the line of duty defending the Capitol against an intruder armed with a gun.

Later today the Chair will recognize the anniversary of this tragedy by observing a moment of silence in their memory.

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

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

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS
WITH RESPECT TO COMMEMORATION
OF WOMEN SUFFRAGISTS

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 59) expressing the sense of Congress with respect to the establishment of an appropriate day for the commemoration of the women suffragists who fought for and won the right of women to vote in the United States, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.J. RES. 59

Whereas one of the first public appeals for women's suffrage came in 1848 when Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton called a women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York, on July 19, 1848;

Whereas Sojourner Truth gave her famous speech titled "Ain't I a Woman?" at the 1851 Women's Rights Convention in Akron, Ohio;

Whereas in 1869, suffragists formed two national organizations to work for the right to vote: the National Woman Suffrage Association and the American Woman Suffrage Association;

Whereas these two organizations united in 1890 to form the National American Woman Suffrage Association;

Whereas in 1872, Susan B. Anthony and a group of women voted in the presidential election in Rochester, New York;

Whereas she was arrested and fined for voting illegally;

Whereas at her trial, which attracted nationwide attention, she made a speech that ended with the slogan "Resistance to Tyranny Is Obedience to God";

Whereas on January 25, 1887, the United States Senate voted on women's suffrage for the first time;

Whereas during the early 1900s, a new generation of leaders joined the women's suffrage movement, including Carrie Chapman Catt, Maud Wood Park, Lucy Burns, Alice Paul, and Harriot E. Blatch;

Whereas women's suffrage leaders devoted most of their efforts to marches, picketing, and other active forms of protest;

Whereas Alice Paul and others chained themselves to the White House fence;

Whereas the suffragists were often arrested and sent to jail, where many of them went on hunger strikes;

Whereas almost 5,000 people paraded for women's suffrage up Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, DC; and

Whereas on August 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution granted women in the United States the right to vote: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That it is the sense of Congress that women suffragists should be revered and celebrated for working to ensure the right of women to vote in the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA).

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

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Committee on Government Reform, I rise in support of House Joint Resolution 59. This legislation, introduced by the distinguished gentlewoman from Las Vegas, Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY) recognizes women's suffrage as a great milestone in our Nation's history.

The resolution specifically intends to commemorate the struggle waged by suffragists such as Sojourner Truth, Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Susan B. Anthony as a culmination in women's earning the right to vote. Many people reviled social reformers like these women leaders in the mid-19th Century. Today, however, they rightfully celebrate the fight to end this injustice.

I appreciate the gentlewoman from Nevada's work in further recognizing the legacy of the American civil rights movement.

From the women's rights meeting called by Mott and Stanton in Seneca Falls, New York in 1848 until the ratification of the 19th amendment in 1920, the determination of these women was as strong and has endured as any in our history. To earn the right to vote, these women chained themselves to the White House gates. They went on hunger strikes. They participated in marches and often were arrested and jailed for their disobedient action.

Despite the difficult obstacles and resistance they faced, suffragists remained committed to giving women the equal voice in American politics. Their victory was finally secured when Secretary of State Colby certified the ratification of the 19th amendment to the United States Constitution on August 26, 1920. The joint resolution under consideration marks the 19th amendment's upcoming 85th anniversary on August 26.

The 19th amendment reads: "The rights of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex." This single, timeless sentence ensured that our democracy would never again restrict women from voting for their leaders.

Mr. Speaker, the story of the women suffragists included many excruciating chapters, but its tumultuous activities and its conclusion is a credit to democracy and the ability to adapt and improve.

For all these reasons, I strongly urge my colleagues to support the adoption of this measure.

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, I am pleased to join with my colleague in consideration of H.J. Res 59, expressing the sense of Congress with respect to the establishment of an appropriate day for the commemoration of the women suffragists who fought for and won the right of women to vote in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, the women's rights movement began in the mid-1800s when women such as Sarah Grimke, Angelina Grimke, Lucy Stone, Abby Kelly, Lucretia Mott, and Sojourner Truth found it necessary to speak out for women's rights because they were not allowed to participate equally with men in anti-slavery and temperance reform movements.

The right to vote was not their original focus. A convention held in Seneca Falls, New York in 1848 changed that. It was at that historic event that the women's suffrage movement formally began.

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The movement culminated with the passage of the 19th amendment to the Constitution in 1920.

Suffragists employed a variety of arguments to press their case. Some argued from the basis of natural law, arguing equality for all. Some argued on the grounds that women were compelled to pay taxes on the property they owned and, therefore, should not be subject to the injustice of taxation without representation.

Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Lucretia Mott were among the most well-known suffragettes who pushed for a constitutional amendment. These women emerged as the leaders of the movement and helped to secure the right to vote for all women in America.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend my colleagues, and specifically the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY), for bringing this bill to the Floor today. We should never forget how our country has emerged to being a representative democracy, knowing full well that we have not totally achieved everything that we want to achieve, but we are continuing to try and form a more perfect Union.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for this bill.

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

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers at this time, and I urge adoption of House Joint Resolution 59.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor all the women, particularly the African-American women who participated in the suffrage movement, in the 19th and 20th centuries.

The historic women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, NY, in 1848 first brought the issue of women's suffrage to the forefront of the women's rights movement. This conference ignited passion for women nationwide to pursue a right they have previously been denied for far too long.

A second convention held in Akron, OH, in 1851, not far from my district in Cleveland, was equally historic for the powerful speech given by Sojourner Truth, entitled "Ain't I a woman?" Her rousing oratory and trying personal experiences provided a unique perspective to both women's rights as well as the institution of slavery.

Another historic female figure, Harriet Tubman, spoke of her desire for women's rights while she was a slave runaway. Ms. Tubman, as many other African-American women, correctly recognized the hypocrisy in the patronage of women even after the abolition of slavery. The shackles of subservience still weighed down on African-American women at that time.

Although the 19th amendment, which extended voting rights to include women, was not passed until 1920 the indispensable contributions from African-American women helped usher in the long overdue law. With the passage of this amendment came a big step toward the gradual deterioration of a system of patronage that has made the battle for gender equality an uphill climb.

It gives me great pride to rise with the my fellow congressional colleagues to honor the women who fought tirelessly for this amendment.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.J. Res. 59 introduced by my friend and colleague, Congresswoman SHELLEY BERKLEY, and I commend her for introducing this bill.

The battle for suffrage began in earnest in 1848, when Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton organized a convention in Seneca Falls, NY, to advance women's rights. Their struggle continued for 72 years, until August 18, 1920, when ratification of the 19th amendment to the United States Constitution finally gave women the right to vote.

Like other civil rights campaigns, the fight for suffrage required strong and principled individuals who risked health, wealth, and societal denigration. Susan B. Anthony and her fellow activists were fearless in their efforts to win the right to vote in the 19th century. Their courage inspired a new generation of suffragists, including Carrie Chapment Catt, Maud Wood Park, Lucy Burns, and Alice Paul, and Harriott E. Blatch, who would not allow themselves to be silenced despite harassment and arrest. Their efforts resonated nationwide, and in 1920 they achieved their goal: political equality for women.

We must not forget their struggle or undervalue their achievement. The 19th amendment makes for a more equitable society and for a more truly representative government. In fact, the number of women serving in national, State and local elected office has steadily increased. The 109th Congress has 83 female Members, including House Democratic Leader NANCY PELOSI. Leader PELOSI is a role model

for all those aspiring to public service, and I am hopeful and confident that in my lifetime there will be full parity between men and women in this legislative institution.

Commemorating these brave suffragists reminds us of the hard fight for gender equality and the ongoing struggle today. Women continue to face discrimination in the workplace, where women make less money and are promoted less frequently. In government, women, despite great gains, are underrepresented in every branch and at every level.

By passing this resolution, the House not only honors the women who won passage of the 19th amendment, but it also sends a clear message that we are committed to eliminating the inequalities that women face today. I urge my colleagues to support H.J. Res. 59.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KOLBE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 59, as amended.

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. ISSA. 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.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 181) supporting the goals and ideals of National Life Insurance Awareness Month, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 181

Whereas life insurance is an essential part of a sound financial plan;

Whereas life insurance provides financial security for families in the event of a premature death by helping surviving family members to meet immediate and longer-term financial obligations and objectives;

Whereas nearly 50,000,000 Americans say they lack the life insurance coverage needed to ensure a secure financial future for their loved ones;

Whereas recent studies have found that when a premature death occurs, insufficient life insurance coverage on the part of the insured results in three-fourths of surviving family members having to take measures such as working additional jobs or longer hours, borrowing money, withdrawing money from savings and investment accounts, and, in too many cases, moving to smaller, less expensive housing;

Whereas individuals, families, and businesses can benefit greatly from professional insurance and financial planning advice, including the assessment of their life insurance needs; and

Whereas the Life and Health Insurance Foundation for Education (LIFE), the Na-

tional Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors (NAIFA), and a coalition representing hundreds of leading life insurance companies and organizations have designated September 2005 as "Life Insurance Awareness Month", the goal of which is to make consumers more aware of their life insurance needs, seek professional advice, and take the actions necessary to achieve the financial security of their loved ones: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Life Insurance Awareness Month; and

(2) calls on the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, other entities, and the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate programs and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA).

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT), the author of this bill.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support House Concurrent Resolution 181, which supports the goals and ideals of National Life Insurance Awareness Month, September of 2005.

I want to thank my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KANJORSKI), the Ranking Member of the Committee on Financial Services Subcommittee on Capital Markets, Insurance, and Government Sponsored Enterprises, and a member of the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus, for introducing this resolution with me for a second year, and for his support on this issue.

I also want to thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS) for expeditiously moving this resolution through the Committee on Government Reform. In addition, I would like to thank Senator CHAMBLISS for working with us on this side of the Capitol to craft identical resolutions with both bipartisan and bicameral support.

Mr. Speaker, House Concurrent Resolution 181 calls on the Nation to observe the month of September as Life Insurance Awareness Month. A number of associations, including the Life and Health Insurance Foundation for Education, the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors, the American Council of Life Insurers, and a coalition representing hundreds of leading life insurance companies and organizations have designated September 2005 as Life Insurance Awareness Month.

Our collective goal for the month is to make consumers more aware of their life insurance needs, seek professional advice, and take the actions necessary to achieve financial security for their families.