

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.

Life insurance is too often thought of only when it is too late. Over half of adult Americans do not have a life insurance policy, and among those who do have life insurance, the amount is often too small to safeguard the financial futures of their loved ones. Life insurance can provide financial security for every American family that incurs the untimely death of a loved one.

This September, during Life Insurance Awareness Month, I will join my colleagues and many life insurance organizations and advocates to encourage Americans to seek out information about the benefits of life insurance so that if the premature death of a loved one does occur, they will be spared the economic hardships that often accompany tragedy.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the goals and ideals of National Life Insurance Awareness Month, September 2005.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 181, which expresses the sense of Congress regarding the importance of life insurance.

Life insurance provides financial security for families in the event of a premature death by helping surviving family members to meet immediate and long-term financial obligations and objectives.

Fifty million Americans say they lack the life insurance coverage needed to ensure a secure financial future for their loved ones. Yet the need for life insurance is well documented.

Recent studies have found that when a premature death occurs, insufficient life insurance coverage on the part of the deceased often results in the surviving family members being placed under an insurmountable burden, forcing family members to take on extra jobs, work longer hours, borrow money, and spend less time with their families. This takes place at a time when spending time with loved ones is important to healing and recovering from the tragedy of losing a family member.

By designating a month each year as Life Insurance Awareness Month, we are establishing just how important it is to families to learn and educate themselves about life insurance. As a society, we must take steps to make sure that our children are provided for and are safe.

By supporting Life Insurance Awareness Month, we are signaling to the American people that this is an important issue that they should consider in their financial planning.

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

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

I urge all of my colleagues to support the adoption of House Concurrent Resolution 181 that emphasizes the significance of life insurance. I support this resolution. Today as many as 50 million Americans currently lack life in-

urance coverage. This reality puts countless families at risk of losing their assets in the event of a wage-earner's unexpected death.

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my thoughts about House Concurrent Resolution 181, which I helped to introduce with my colleague, the gentlelady from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT). House Concurrent Resolution 181 would designate September as National Life Insurance Awareness Month.

Life insurance is a financial planning tool that all families should explore. It can provide security in the event of an untimely death. In families where a premature death occurs, surviving family members are often required to work additional jobs or longer hours, borrow money, withdraw money from savings and investment accounts, and, in too many cases, move to smaller, less expensive housing.

By designating September as National Life Insurance Awareness Month, we will hopefully highlight the importance of this financial instrument for the nearly 50 million Americans who presently lack the life insurance coverage needed to meet the long-term financial needs of their families.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution to promote financial literacy.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 181, 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.

HONORING FORMER PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 59TH BIRTHDAY

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 329) honoring former President William Jefferson Clinton on the occasion of his 59th birthday.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 329

Whereas former President William Jefferson Clinton was born in Hope, Arkansas, on August 19, 1946;

Whereas William Jefferson Clinton attended Georgetown University as an undergraduate and received a Rhodes Scholarship in 1968;

Whereas William Jefferson Clinton received a law degree from Yale University in 1973;

Whereas William Jefferson Clinton established a record of public service as Attorney General of Arkansas, Governor of Arkansas, and Chairman of the National Governors Association;

Whereas William Jefferson Clinton campaigned for and won the Democratic nomination for President in 1992;

Whereas William Jefferson Clinton was elected the 42d President of the United States in 1992 and was reelected for a second term in 1996;

Whereas during William Jefferson Clinton's time in office the United States experienced 8 years of economic expansion, job growth, and the transformation of a budget deficit into a budget surplus;

Whereas William Jefferson Clinton rallied the members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to put an end to ethnic cleansing in the Balkans and to depose the murderous regime of Slobodan Milosevic, actions which eventually led to the signing of the Dayton Peace Accords;

Whereas William Jefferson Clinton played a major role in the Good Friday Peace Accords which finally brought peace to war-torn Northern Ireland;

Whereas William Jefferson Clinton and former President George H. W. Bush were appointed to lead the United States effort to provide private aid to the victims of the devastating tsunami that struck southeast Asia on December 26, 2004; and

Whereas, in the words of President George W. Bush, William Jefferson Clinton "showed a deep and far-ranging knowledge of public policy, a great compassion for people in need, and the forward-looking spirit the Americans like in a President": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives honors former President William Jefferson Clinton on the occasion of his 59th birthday on August 19, 2005, and extends best wishes to him and his family.

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 distinguished author of House Resolution 329, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY), and the entire House of Representatives, I wish President William Jefferson Clinton a happy 59th birthday.

House Resolution 329 would honor President Clinton on the occasion of his 59th birthday on August 19th. It would furthermore commend President Clinton's continued commitment to public service and world leadership. Since the House will be out of session in August, I would like to thank the House leadership for scheduling this resolution for early consideration today and support the resolution's adoption.

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, as someone who grew up, went to school, and still have strong family ties in the State of Arkansas, it is with great pride that I stand to celebrate and honor the life of a man who epitomizes the American dream: President William Jefferson Clinton.