

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA).

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, it is with pride I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 473, supporting the goals and ideals of Gynecologic Cancer Awareness Month and particularly the Gynecologic Cancer Foundation.

This marks the 15th anniversary in 2006 of the Gynecologic Cancer Foundation. It is that foundation that has such a long and proud history of serving women in America through educational programs and to provide up-to-date information on the prevention and early detection and treatment of these reproductive cancers, cancers that will affect over 77,000 American women this year alone.

It was in 1999 that September was first declared Gynecologic Cancer Awareness Month, and each September since then the Gynecologic Cancer Foundation has embarked on an intensive education program to reach women with an important message:

First, get to know your family history. Second, conduct a cancer-risk assessment. Third, ask questions, educate yourself about these deadly cancers. Last, make an appointment for an annual gynecologic cancer screening test.

Mr. Speaker, every 7 minutes a woman is diagnosed with gynecologic cancer. In 2006, over 77,000 women will be diagnosed with gynecologic cancer; and, unfortunately, over 27,000 women will die, many of them because they didn't have early diagnosis. Too many women are dying because of the lack of early diagnosis. Education and early detection are the keys to saving women's lives and reducing this terrible statistic. If diagnosed in the early stages, the 5-year survival rates for these cancers are over 95 percent.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important awareness program. We have done a wonderful job throughout the years as Americans in shedding light on other deadly diseases, including breast cancer; but this remains a silent killer.

I thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND), I thank the Speaker of the House, and urge passage of this bill.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend Dr. GINGREY 1 minute.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Georgia for yielding.

I just wanted to come down quickly and support Representative ISSA and H. Con. Res. 473, this resolution regarding gynecologic cancer.

I spent a lot of years in my former life as a practitioner of the specialty of gynecology and obstetrics, and that dreaded fear of the big C-word, cancer, for women, particularly ovarian cancer that is so deadly. That is why it is so important that this resolution be brought forward to the Congress and bring some recognition to this dreaded disease.

Mr. ISSA and I were talking earlier today about ovarian cancer, in particular, and how difficult it is to detect. It is commonly thought you can do a blood test, but it is not a good screening test for ovarian cancer. There are other things that we can do, and we need to make sure that the American public and our colleagues in the Congress are aware of that. It costs money, certainly, but it saves lives.

I wanted to drop in for a few seconds, and I appreciate the gentleman yielding to me, and I urge Members to support this very, very important resolution.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the adoption of House Concurrent Resolution 473, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 473.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF INFANT MORTALITY AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 402) supporting the goals and ideals of Infant Mortality Awareness Month, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 402

Whereas infant mortality refers to the death of a baby before it reaches its first birthday;

Whereas the United States ranks 28th among industrialized nations in the rate of infant mortality;

Whereas in the United States, infant mortality increased in 2002 for the first time in more than four decades;

Whereas in 2002 the rate reached 7 deaths per 1,000 live births, which was the first increase since 1958;

Whereas the recent increase is a significant and troubling public health issue, especially for African American families, Native American families, and Hispanic families;

Whereas the infant mortality rate among African American women is more than double that of Caucasian women, according to a report produced by the National Healthy Start Association and by a related group supported by the health department of Allegheny County, in the State of Pennsylvania;

Whereas the Secretary of Health and Human Services has designated 2010 as the year by which certain objectives should be met with respect to the health status of the people of the United States;

Whereas such objectives, known as Healthy People 2010, include an objective regarding a decrease in the rate of infant mortality;

Whereas September 1, 2007, is the beginning of a period of several months during which there will be several national observances that relate to the issue of infant mor-

tality, including the observance of October as Sudden Infant Death Awareness Month and November as Prematurity Awareness Month; and

Whereas it would be appropriate to observe September 2007 as Infant Mortality Awareness Month; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives supports the goals and ideals of Infant Mortality Awareness Month in order to—

(1) increase national awareness of infant mortality and its contributing factors; and

(2) facilitate activities that will assist local communities in their efforts to meet the objective, as established by the Secretary of Health and Human Service in Healthy People 2010, that the rate of infant mortality in the United States be reduced to a rate of not more than than 4.5 infant deaths per 1,000 births.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, in 2002 infant mortality rates increased in the United States for the first time in more than four decades. There are approximately seven deaths per every 1,000 live births, and this recent increase is absolutely a troubling development.

The Secretary of Health and Human Services has designated 2010 as a year by which several health objectives should be met, including objectives to decrease infant mortality rates.

Mr. Speaker, the Nation currently observes the month of October as Sudden Infant Death Awareness Month and November as Prematurity Awareness Month. It is fitting to observe September of 2006 as Infant Mortality Awareness Month, and I urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 402, as amended, to do just that.

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, the term "infant mortality rate" is given to the number of infant deaths during the first 12 months of life for every 100,000 births. In the United States, infant mortality increased in 2002 for the first time in more than four decades. The rate reached seven deaths per 1,000 live births, which was the first increase since 1958.

American babies are three times more likely to die during their first month of life than children born in

Japan, and newborn mortality is 2½ times higher in the United States than in Finland, Iceland, or Norway. Only Latvia, with six deaths per 1,000 live births, has a higher death rate for newborns than the United States, and Latvia is near the bottom of the list of industrialized nations, tied with Hungary, Malta, Poland, and Slovakia with five deaths per 1,000 births.

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Newborn death rates are higher among American minorities and disadvantaged groups. For African Americans, the mortality rate is nearly double that of the United States as a whole, with 9.3 deaths per 1,000 births.

The primary causes of infant mortality are premature birth and low birth weight. A common reason for low birth weight infant mortality includes respiratory distress syndrome, which may involve a collapsed lung, low oxygen absorption, and high carbon dioxide level.

All children, regardless of where they are born and regardless of their race or ethnic group, deserve a healthy start in life. Mr. Speaker, I have always been told that if infant mortality rates are high, it means that the quality of life is low. If infant mortality rates are low, then it means that the quality of life is high.

It is pretty obvious, Mr. Speaker, that we need to do more to deal effectively across the board with the quality of life for people in our country, a great Nation, in an effort to make it even greater.

I strongly support this resolution and urge all of my colleagues to do so.

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

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to my distinguished colleague from Georgia, Dr. GINGREY.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I know I talk slow, but I hope I won't take 3 minutes. But I appreciate the opportunity.

I mentioned just a moment ago that my specialty was gynecology, but there is another part to that, and it is the obstetrical part, the birth and babies part. So it is an honor and a pleasure to be here and to support H. Res. 402; and I want to thank my physician colleague in this House and another OB/GYN, Dr. MIKE BURGESS, Representative BURGESS from Texas, who also practiced OB/GYN for 17 years, for bringing this resolution; and, also, of course, my colleague from Georgia, Representative WESTMORELAND; and my good friend from Chicago, Illinois, Mr. DAVIS.

Mr. DAVIS just said it perfectly. When you lose babies in the first year of life at the rate of 7 per 1,000 live births and we are 28th among industrialized nations and we brag about the fact that we have the greatest health care system in the world, there is something wrong with that picture. And, as he pointed out, it is even worse

for African American minorities; and the big problem, of course, is lack of prenatal care. Deaths occur because of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. We are still struggling to figure out why that occurs, but we clearly know why prematurity occurs, low birth weight babies that Representative DAVIS was talking about, and we can do something about that.

So this resolution is very timely, supporting the goals and ideals of Infant Mortality Awareness Month; and I just want to thank the gentleman for letting me put in my 2 cents worth in regard to this very, very important issue.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the adoption of House Resolution 402, as amended.

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 Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 402, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING THE 225TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN AND FRENCH VICTORY AT YORKTOWN DURING THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 748) recognizing the 225th anniversary of the American and French victory at Yorktown, Virginia, during the Revolutionary War.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 748

Whereas at Yorktown, Virginia, on October 19, 1781, General George Washington and the American and French armies received the surrender of Lieutenant General Charles Cornwallis and nearly 7,100 British soldiers and sailors, ending nine days of siege operations against the British army;

Whereas the victory at Yorktown concluded the last major battle of the American Revolution, effectively ending the war and securing for the colonies their independence by providing a military conclusion to the political declaration issued five years earlier;

Whereas Virginia, as the largest and most populous of the original 13 colonies and the home of General Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry, Thomas Nelson, Jr., and other leaders of the American Revolution, is blessed with a rich history of noteworthy contributions to the struggle to secure liberty and democracy;

Whereas in 1983 the Virginia General Assembly designated the 19th day of October of each year to be recognized and celebrated as Yorktown Day throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

Whereas the 2006 observance of Yorktown Day celebrates the 225th anniversary of the American and French victory at Yorktown: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives recognizes the 225th anniversary of the American and French victory at Yorktown, Virginia, during the Revolutionary War and reminds the American people of the debt the United States owes to its armed forces and the important role Yorktown and the Commonwealth of Virginia played in securing their liberty.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

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

On October 19, 1781, Mr. Speaker, Lieutenant General Charles Cornwallis and nearly 7,100 British soldiers surrendered to General George Washington in Yorktown, Virginia. This surrender almost 225 years ago ended the American and French 9-day siege against the British troops, and it signaled the end of the last major battle of the American Revolution.

This day in history also solidified the political declaration of independence made by the colonies 5 years later, and it opened the door to America becoming the democracy our forefathers envisioned.

We are most fortunate to live in this Nation, and I urge all Members to join me in supporting this resolution recognizing the 225th anniversary of the American and French Victory at Yorktown.

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, Yorktown was established by Virginia's colonial government in 1691 to regulate trade and to collect taxes on both imports and exports for Great Britain. Over time, the waterfront with wharves, docks, storehouses, and businesses developed. On the bluff above the waterfront, stately homes lined Main Street. Taverns and shops were scattered throughout the town. By the early 1700s, Yorktown had emerged as a major Virginia port and economic center.

Today, Yorktown is best known as the site where the British army under General Charles Lord Cornwallis was forced to surrender on October 19, 1781, to General George Washington's combined American and French army. Upon hearing of their defeat, British Prime Minister Frederick Lord North is reputed to have said, "Oh, God, it's