

shall be in order except pursuant to a subsequent order of the House.

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

There was no objection.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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 incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

#### EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR SHOOTING VICTIMS IN BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 340), expressing sympathy to the victims, families, and friends of the tragic act of violence at the American Civic Association in Binghamton, New York.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 340

Whereas on Friday April 3, 2009, the Nation experienced an appalling misfortune when a gunman entered the American Civic Association in Binghamton, New York, and murdered 13 and wounded 4 innocent people;

Whereas the shooting resulted in the tragic loss of Lan Ho, Parveen Nin Ali, Li Guo, Dolores Yigal, Hong Xiu Mao, Marc Henry Bernard, Maria Sonia Bernard, Maria Zobniw, Jiang Ling, Hai Hong Zhong, Roberta King, Layla Khalil, and Almir O. Alves;

Whereas the attacker wounded Long Huyng, Shirley DeLucia, Sumi Lee, and Liqiao Chen;

Whereas this act of violence created numerous secondary victims, including over 40 people who were in the building at the time, as well as friends and family of the deceased who are struggling to cope with the impact of this tragic act;

Whereas many of the victims of this assault were residents of Binghamton, New York, in Broome County, New York, a close-knit, diverse community with a long history of welcoming people from all backgrounds, nationalities, and religions, as well as immigrants and visitors from abroad;

Whereas the American Civic Association in Binghamton, New York, has proudly served the community since 1935, assisting immigrants and refugees with counseling, resettlement, citizenship, family reunification, language skills, and other critical services that have played a vital role in the effort to secure the dreams of immigrants seeking legal citizenship;

Whereas the law enforcement agencies led by the City of Binghamton Police Department, with support from the Broome County Sheriff's Department, the New York State Police, and neighboring municipalities responded quickly, professionally, and heroically to the crime scene;

Whereas swift action by emergency medical responders addressed the needs of the

wounded and quickly transported them to hospitals;

Whereas the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and others provided swift and invaluable cooperation and resources to assist local efforts and provide additional services to help the community cope with this tragedy;

Whereas the United States State Department quickly offered, and is now providing, assistance with processing visas to expedite the travel of victims' family; and

Whereas, although the effects of this shooting will be felt for years to come, the Binghamton community will overcome this tragedy and re-emerge stronger than before and with renewed sense of unity, cooperation, and understanding: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses its heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of the victims of the April 3, 2009, shooting in Binghamton, New York;

(2) conveys its gratitude to the city, county, State, and Federal officials and agencies whose quick and comprehensive response helped save lives and start the long healing process; and

(3) honors the American Civic Association for the services it provides to assist people from across the world who seek the American dream.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, with House Resolution 340, this Chamber expresses its profound sympathy to the victims of the tragic attack at the American Civic Association in Binghamton, New York, on April 3. Our thoughts continue to be with the families, friends, and the people of Binghamton, and they remain in our prayers. Thirteen men and women were murdered in this attack and four were wounded, shaking the community and the entire Nation.

House Resolution 340 was introduced by our friend and colleague, Representative HINCHEY of New York, and is co-sponsored by over 50 Members of Congress.

Given the tragic events on which House Resolution 340 is based, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform moved quickly to consider a report on the bill, which brings us to today's consideration of the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, we thank the American Civic Association for its continued service over the years as it has helped

immigrants and refugees with counseling, resettlement, citizenship, family reunification, language skills, and other critical services, playing a vital role in the effort to secure the dreams of immigrants seeking U.S. citizenship. We want them to know that they have our prayers and our heartfelt sympathies during this difficult time.

I would also like to commend the City of Binghamton Police Department, the Broome County Sheriff's Department and the New York State Police for their swift response to this attack. In addition, we thank the FBI, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office, and other Federal agencies for their assistance.

We were all deeply saddened to hear of this attack, and it is difficult for us to comprehend such an act of violence. We will feel its effect for years, but we can be sure that in time Binghamton will heal, emerging from this tragedy stronger and more united than ever before.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the passage of this resolution expressing sympathy to the victims, families, and friends of the tragic act of violence at the American Civic Association in Binghamton, New York.

For immigrants in the Binghamton area, the American Civic Association, located on Front Street, is a representation of their ongoing pursuit of the American dream as newcomers from around the world learn English and the skills necessary to obtain United States citizenship. But on April 3, the American Civic Association—a welcoming place serving 60 to 100 people per day—became a killing zone. On that dreadful day, a deranged man, whose own dream of immigrating from Vietnam to America had now come to nothing but despair and senseless turmoil, ended the dreams of one aspiring citizen after another by opening fire on unsuspecting employees, volunteers, and hopeful immigrants, resulting in the loss of 14 lives, including the shooter, and four wounded people.

As we remember the victims, we also commend the efforts of the first responders—local police, fire, emergency medical crews, city and county officials, and the community as a whole—for their rapid and cohesive response to this unfortunate tragedy. In addition, we commend the United States Department of State for quickly offering assistance with processing visas to expedite the travel of the victims' families so they could arrange for the burial of their loved ones.

The memory of this senseless event will not soon be forgotten. However, the strength and determination of the Binghamton community as well as the citizens of New York will help the healing process.