

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, we continue to reserve.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, Mr. CAO, for introducing this piece of legislation, and I urge my fellow Members to support the passage of H. Res. 342.

Mr. Speaker, in 1975, after the Vietnam War, a mass immigration to the United States of Vietnamese people began. These early Vietnamese immigrants were fleeing persecution by the Communists in power in that region of the world. They came to America, sometimes with barely the clothes on their back, seeking asylum and a better life.

Many of them can recount harrowing experiences in having to flee their homelands, some by boat, and others by land across Cambodia, Laos and Thai borders into refugee camps. In fact, over 2 million Vietnamese boat people and other refugees are now spread across the world, in the United States, Australia, Canada, France, England, Germany, China, Japan, Hong Kong, South Korea, the Philippines and other nations.

And yet despite these harrowing escapes from oppressive regimes, Vietnamese-Americans have made significant contributions to the rich culture and economic prosperity of the United States. Vietnamese-Americans have distinguished themselves in the fields of literature, the arts, science and athletics. In fact, just a few months ago, the people of Louisiana's Second Congressional District, elected the first Vietnamese-American and sent the author of this piece of legislation, Representative ANH "JOSEPH" CAO, to Congress.

According to Census Data, as of 2006, 72 percent of foreign-born Vietnamese are naturalized U.S. citizens. When combined with the 36 percent of Vietnamese born in America, a full 82 percent of Vietnamese are American citizens. Over half of all overseas Vietnamese are Vietnamese-Americans. What's more, there are well over 1 million people in the U.S. who identify themselves as Vietnamese alone or in combination with other ethnicities, ranking fourth among the Asian American groups.

According to 2006 Census Data, the Vietnamese American population has grown to 1.6 million and remains the second largest Southeast Asian American subgroup.

In light of the civic achievements of Vietnamese-Americans, I am pleased to support, and urge my colleagues to support this resolution, designating May 2, 2009 as "Vietnamese Refugees Day" in order to commemorate the arrival of Vietnamese refugees in the United States, to document their harrowing experiences and subsequent achievements in their new homeland, to honor the host countries that welcomed the boat people, and to recognize the voluntary agencies and nongovernmental organizations that facilitated their resettlement, adjustment, and assimilation into mainstream society in the United States.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to congratulate Mr. CAO on his leadership in sponsoring this resolution. I want to thank the gentleman from Georgia for his leadership as well.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 342 and the designation of May 2, 2009 as "Vietnamese Refugees Day."

Millions of Boat People and other Vietnamese refugees endured harrowing voyages

to escape the tyranny and depravation of communist Vietnam. Hundreds of thousands of those refugees reached the United States, and we are all better for it. Like so many immigrants before and since, they came seeking freedom, and in turn became valuable members of their new communities. I have the privilege of representing many Vietnamese-Americans in San Jose, California, and can attest to this first-hand.

Unfortunately, I cannot speak with the same warmth about the situation inside Vietnam. To this day, the Vietnamese government refuses to respect the basic human rights of its own citizens. Reports by the State Department, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, and non-governmental and Vietnamese American organizations document egregious abuses of free speech and expression, religious liberty, and many other fundamental freedoms.

So today I rise to honor the experiences of Vietnamese refugees, and to commend the Vietnamese Americans who have successfully rebuilt their lives in the United States while fighting for the rights of those left in Vietnam.

Mr. LYNCH. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 342.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. CON. RES. 13, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

Mr. MCGOVERN (during consideration of H. Res. 357), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 111-90) on the resolution (H. Res. 371) providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 13) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2010, revising the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2009, and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2011 through 2014, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

SUPPORTING FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 357) supporting the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month 2009, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 357

Whereas personal financial literacy is essential to ensure that individuals are prepared to make informed financial choices, as well as manage money, credit, debt, and risk and become responsible workers, heads of households, investors, entrepreneurs, business leaders, and citizens;

Whereas personal financial management skills and lifelong habits begin to develop during childhood, making it all the more important to support youth financial education;

Whereas a 2008 survey of high school seniors conducted by the Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy revealed that students in 2008 answered correctly only 48.3 percent of the survey's questions, a decline from those posted by students in 2006, who correctly answered 52.4 percent of the questions;

Whereas 84 percent of undergraduates had at least one credit card in 2008, up from 76 percent in 2004, with the average number of cards increasing to 4.6 according to Sallie Mae's National Study of Usage Rates and Trends 2009 entitled "How Undergraduate Students Use Credit Cards";

Whereas personal saving as a percentage of disposable personal income was 4.2 percent in February, compared with 4.4 percent in January, and up from a 12-month average of 1.7 percent in 2008, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis;

Whereas the average baby boomer has only \$50,000 in savings apart from equity in their homes, according to the Federal Reserve Board's Survey of Consumer Finances for 2007;

Whereas studies show that as many as 10,000,000 households in the United States are "unbanked" or are without access to mainstream financial products and services;

Whereas public, community-based, and private sector organizations throughout the United States are working to increase financial literacy rates for Americans of all ages and walks of life through a range of outreach efforts, including media campaigns, websites, and one-on-one financial counseling for individuals;

Whereas bankers across the United States taught savings skills to young people on April 21, 2009, during Teach Children to Save Day, which was started by the American Bankers Association Education Foundation in April of 1997 and has now helped more than 72,000 bankers teach savings skills to nearly 3,200,000 young people;

Whereas staff from America's credit unions are making presentations to young people at local schools on financial topics such as student loans, balancing a checkbook, and auto loans during National Credit Union Youth Week, April 19-25, 2009;

Whereas more than 100 Federal agencies have collaborated on a website, www.consumer.gov, which helps consumers shop for a mortgage or auto loan, understand and reconcile credit card statements and utility bills, choose savings and retirement plans, compare health insurance policies, and understand their credit report and how it affects their ability to get credit and on what terms;

Whereas Members of the United States House of Representatives established the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus (FELC) in February 2005 to provide a forum for interested Members of Congress to review, discuss and recommend financial and economic literacy policies, legislation, and programs, collaborate with the private sector, and nonprofit and community-based organizations, and organize and promote financial literacy legislation, seminars, and events, such as "Financial Literacy Month"