

Prime Minister has made significant economic progress for the people of India and that has resulted in new business opportunities for American companies and U.S. jobs. In Seattle, the heart of my congressional district, Boeing builds airplanes for a major customer, Air India. That is just one of the examples of the business ties that bind us together.

We also cooperate in science, technology, trade, and education. All of this draws us together in countless ways.

Recently, I joined Her Excellency, Meera Shankar, the Ambassador of India, for the unveiling of a statue of Gandhi at the King County Public Library. And last weekend in Seattle, we celebrated the festival of Diwali.

In the 21st century, the Internet has removed the borders that separated nations, but it will take people to unite us into one world. That is what makes a State visit like this so important. Leaders working in good faith on behalf of the people can bridge any divide no matter how wide and deep. As Nelson Mandela in South Africa once said, "It always seems impossible until it's done."

This resolution is a down payment on the future, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I would like to reserve, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, it's now my pleasure to yield to the distinguished gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the majority leader of the House, 1 elastic minute.

Mr. HOYER. I thank my friend, Mr. ACKERMAN, for yielding, and I thank the ranking member, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for bringing this resolution to the floor.

Next week, as has been said, President Obama will be hosting the first State dinner of his administration, and the guest of honor, appropriately, will be the Prime Minister of the Republic of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh.

Prime Minister Singh visits America at a time when the relationship between our two nations is as strong as it has ever been. In India we see a vital partner on issues of national security to world trade. We see a nation that confronts many of the threats that challenge America, from terrorism to global warming. We see an emerging economic power with a growing middle class. And though our nations are separated by distance, language, and culture, we recognize in one another the democratic values we share; and of course we have a language in common as well, as well as common values, despite its great size and diversity.

And for those who may not know, India will soon be not only the largest democracy, but the most populous nation in the world.

India has remained a democracy since its independence more than 60 years ago. And this year, Prime Minister Singh was returned to power in the world's largest democratic elec-

tion. In fact, India made him the first Prime Minister since Nehru to return to office after completing a full term, a truly remarkable accomplishment.

All of us should be proud, and I know we are, to host the leader of one of America's most vital allies. On behalf of the House of Representatives, Speaker PELOSI, and all of us on both sides of the aisle, and Mr. BOEHNER, I am pleased to have this opportunity to welcome Prime Minister Singh to the United States and rise in strong support of this resolution.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the sponsor of this measure, Mr. MCDERMOTT, and the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) for providing us with an opportunity to recognize this ever-growing tie in the relationship between our democratic nations and to welcome, in an official way, Prime Minister Singh.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 890, which welcomes the Prime Minister of the Republic of India, His Excellency Dr. Manmohan Singh, to the United States, and commends the maturation of the U.S.-India relationship.

That relationship has made remarkable strides in the past 2 decades. And one of the critical elements helping launch our improved ties was the series of economic reforms India initiated in 1991, reforms developed and implemented under the leadership of then Finance Minister, Dr. Singh.

With his rise to Prime Minister in 2004, Dr. Singh provided the leadership required for his country to strike the landmark U.S.-India Civil Nuclear Cooperation Initiative with us, a deal that facilitates nuclear cooperation and offers the bilateral relationship a major strategic opportunity.

After his party's victory in this year's general elections, Dr. Singh became the first full-term Indian Prime Minister to be returned to power since 1962. The particularly strong electoral mandate he received in the recent election is testament to his accomplishment. It also offers our two countries a chance to move our partnership to an even higher level, better positioning us to advance solutions to the key regional and global challenges we confront, from pandemic disease, to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, climate change, and poverty.

Reflecting India's emergence as a major international player and the importance of the U.S.-India relationship, the Prime Minister's visit here next week will be the first official state visit by any foreign dignitary to the Obama White House.

The Prime Minister should know that the United States Congress values his leadership and our bilateral partnership just as much as the new Administration, and so I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 890.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution. I want to thank Mr. MCDERMOTT, my cochairman of the India Caucus.

Indian Prime Minister Singh's visit to Washington for an official visit is an important signal of deepening relations between the United States and India. His visit sends a signal to the Indian people that their country is a valued partner. This resolution recognizes this relationship—its past successes, and hopes for its future.

Significantly, Prime Minister Singh's visit will come almost to the day of the horrific terrorist attacks on Mumbai carried out by Islamist militants. On that day 163 people were cut down in a bloody rampage. Our thoughts will be with Indian people on that anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, over the past decade, relations between the U.S. and India have undergone a renaissance. Prime Minister Singh has done much to bring the United States and India together, but perhaps nothing more consequential than signing the landmark civil nuclear cooperation agreement between the two countries.

Indian officials have told me about their ambitious plans to expand nuclear power. India needs additional electricity to fuel its growing economy and nuclear energy is a clean source. With this deal, the Indian nuclear industry is overcoming the international restrictions that have curtailed it since 1974, to reach its full potential. India will still rely on other energy sources, but it is smart policy for any country to diversify. We in the U.S. should learn that lesson. We are expecting U.S. companies to be part of the Indian nuclear industry. We should give them more opportunities at home too.

Official visits should lead to concrete policy improvements. If this relationship is to move ahead, progress must be made on trade. Right now, the signs aren't good. Both countries need to get serious on advancing trade, or we'll both lose.

The U.S.-India relationship has made great strides, but progress can't be taken for granted. We have many common interests: economics, counter-terrorism, energy. While President Obama was in China this week, India is another very important country. The India Caucus will be watching next week's visit in hopes that specific advances will be made.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I urge unanimous support for this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ACKERMAN. I thank the gentleman for her support and endorsement of the resolution and her wonderful comments; and we yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 890.

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.

□ 1430

#### RECOGNIZING ANNIVERSARY OF THE VELVET REVOLUTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 212) expressing the sense of Congress on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of historic events in Central and Eastern Europe, particularly the Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia, and reaffirming the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the United States

and the Slovak and Czech Republics, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 212

Whereas, on September 3, 1918, the United States Government recognized the Czechoslovak National Council as the official Government of Czechoslovakia;

Whereas, on October 28, 1918, the peoples of the present day Czech Republic and the present day Slovak Republic proclaimed their independence in the common state of the Republic of Czechoslovakia;

Whereas between 1939 and 1945, Nazi Germany annexed part of Bohemia, set up a fascist "protectorate" in the rest of Bohemia and in Moravia, and installed a puppet fascist government in Slovakia;

Whereas, on November 17, 1939, in response to widespread student demonstrations, Czech institutions of higher learning were closed by the Nazis, many students were taken to concentration camps, and 9 representatives of the student movement were executed;

Whereas the Moscow-directed Communists took over the Government of Czechoslovakia in February 1948;

Whereas troops from Warsaw Pact countries invaded Czechoslovakia in August 1968, ousted the reformist leadership of Alexander Dubcek, and restored a hard-line communist regime;

Whereas, on November 17, 1989, the brutal break up of a student demonstration commemorating the 50th anniversary of the execution of Czech student leaders and the closure of universities by the Nazis triggered the explosion of mass discontent that launched the Velvet Revolution, which was characterized by reliance on nonviolence and open public discourse;

Whereas the peoples of Czechoslovakia overthrew 40 years of totalitarian communist rule in order to rebuild a democratic society;

Whereas, since November 17, 1989, the people of the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic have established vibrant, pluralistic, democratic political systems based upon freedom of speech, a free press, free and fair open elections, the rule of law, and other democratic principles and practices;

Whereas the people of the United States, the Slovak Republic, and the Czech Republic have maintained a special relationship based on shared democratic values, common interests, and the strong bonds of friendship, mutual respect, and close cooperation; and

Whereas the people of the United States have an affinity with the peoples of the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic and regard them as trusted and important partners and allies: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) recognizes the 20th anniversary of the historic events in Central and Eastern Europe that brought about the collapse of the communist regimes and the fall of the Iron Curtain;

(2) commemorates, with the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic, the 20th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia, which underscores the significance and value of reclaimed freedom and the dignity of individual citizens;

(3) commends the peoples of the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic for their remarkable achievements over the past 20 years in building free, democratic, and prosperous societies;

(4) appreciates the contribution of the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic as

members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the European Union to the promotion and defense of common values of freedom, democracy, and liberty around the world;

(5) reaffirms the bonds of friendship and close cooperation that have existed between the United States and the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic; and

(6) extends the warmest congratulations and best wishes to the people of the Slovak Republic and the people of the Czech Republic for a peaceful, prosperous, and successful future.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

I thank my good friend, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) for introducing this important resolution that recognizes the historic events in Czechoslovakia in 1989 and enables Congress to reaffirm its strong friendship and support for the people of the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic.

Twenty years ago, on November 17, communist riot police broke up a peaceful pro-democracy demonstration in Prague, brutally beating many of the student protesters.

Rather than silencing the students, however, these violent reprisals led to an avalanche of protests between November 17 and December 29 that ultimately led to the fall of the Communist Party in Czechoslovakia.

In the days after the initial protest, a pro-human rights group, known as Charter 77, united with other groups to become the Civic Forum, a strong voice calling for reform, civil liberties, and rights for all citizens.

Led by dissent playwright Vaclav Havel, the Civic Forum succeeded in forcing the communist government to resign, paving the way for Havel's election on December 29 as the President of Czechoslovakia.

Known around the world as the Velvet Revolution, these historic events further cemented the collapse of the communist regimes throughout Central and Eastern Europe, and helped to precipitate the end of the Cold War.

In June 1990, Czechoslovakia held its first democratic election since 1946, bringing into power its first completely noncommunist government in over 40 years. In the 20 years since these momentous events, the Czech Republic

and the Slovak Republic have become strong, vibrant democracies, close NATO allies, and staunch friends of the United States.

They continue to contribute to international peace efforts, including by providing troops and assistance under NATO command in Afghanistan.

Millions of Americans trace their roots to these two great nations, and the United States is strengthened by their rich cultural heritage and their many significant achievements and contributions.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution acknowledges and commemorates the Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia 20 years ago this month. It also reaffirms the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the United States and the Czech Republic.

I urge all of our colleagues to support this important resolution.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 212, which commemorates the 20th anniversary of the historic events that took place in Central and Eastern Europe, particularly the Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia, and also reaffirms the bonds of friendship, the bonds of cooperation between the United States and the Slovak and Czech Republics.

I would like to thank my friend and Florida colleague, and my fellow ranking member, Mr. MICA, for introducing this important and timely resolution.

Mr. Speaker, in 1989, the world witnessed momentous events in which the people of Eastern and Central Europe broke the chains of their communist oppressors. Among the many important events which took place, the trade union Solidarity won its historic victory in Poland; 2 million people living in Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia linked hands to form a human chain almost 400 miles long in a peaceful protest against Soviet rule; and the Berlin Wall fell.

A prominent place among the events of 1989 is held by the so-called Velvet Revolution, which rose spontaneously from protests in Czechoslovakia that led directly to free and democratic elections in that country. That revolution, in what was then Czechoslovakia, began on November 17, 1989, as a peaceful student demonstration to commemorate the murder of Czech students by the occupying Nazi forces 50 years earlier. But riot police severely beat many of these peaceful protesters. Yet the demonstrations grew, and they continued, eventually leading to the abolishment of the communist hold on power and the election of Vaclav Havel, a dissident critic of the communist regime, to the presidency of Czechoslovakia.

After their subsequent peaceful decision to become independent states, the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic have flourished, establishing free

and democratic societies, and becoming members of the NATO alliance and the European Union.

As a political refugee from Cuba's communist regime, Mr. Speaker, I view the events that took place in Europe in 1989 as a source of tremendous inspiration. They truly provided me with the hope that the freedoms now enjoyed in Central and Eastern Europe will soon reach the oppressed people of Cuba, where a brutal communist dictatorship still rules. As its fellow Communists did in Eastern Europe, until they were overthrown by their oppressed people, the Cuban communist regime engages in gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms; detains, tortures and disappears anyone who disagrees or dares to challenge the regime; engages in corrupt activities that enrich its leaders; conducts espionage against the United States and its citizens; and engages in activities that threaten U.S. security interests and global peace and stability.

Still, we can and we must hope that the events of 1989 show us what the future could hold for Cuba, and hopefully soon. I would like to again thank my good friend and colleague, Congressman MICA, for introducing this important and so timely resolution. I strongly support its passage. I urge my colleagues to do the same.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ACKERMAN. I continue to reserve.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA), the ranking member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the author of this important resolution.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I have to thank the ranking member, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for having this resolution come before the House this afternoon, as well as Mr. ACKERMAN and Mr. BERMAN, and I thank the staff on both sides of the aisle.

I have been here 17 years, and I have never had a resolution with my name on it. This is an historic occasion. It is historic for me personally for several reasons. First, I have never had a resolution with my name on it; and, secondly, because of my personal ethnic background. Many people know the name John Mica and think it is Italian. And actually, my mother's side is Italian, but Mica is not an Italian name; it is a Slovak, a Czech-Slovak name. John Mica, my great-grandfather, came to the United States about 100 years ago this year, a century ago, and settled in upstate New York.

Some of you know, the Mica family has a unique place in the history of the Congress. My brother, Dan Mica, was a Member of Congress from 1978 to 1988, some 10 years. He was a Democrat Member, and I am a Republican Member. We are the only brothers to serve since 1889 from different political parties. Maybe that is part of our rich Slovak American, Italian American herit-

age. But it is kind of neat to bring this resolution.

I would venture to say most Americans probably even today couldn't find the Slovak Republic or the Czech Republic on a map. But there are, as Mr. ACKERMAN pointed out, millions of Americans, many in Congress, too, who have roots and heritage with what is today the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic.

The Czech and Slovak people for centuries, actually millennia, lived under somebody else's rule or oppression. I appreciate the comments of the ranking member, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. She and her family only lost their country for the last half a century or so; but these people in Europe, some of my ancestors lost their freedom and independence and were dominated by someone else for millennia. Maybe that is why they appreciated so much the opportunity, some 20 years ago, when students came out in commemoration of a slaughter that had taken place some half century before; 20 years ago yesterday they came out into the streets of Prague, led by students.

I have to tell you, that sounds like not much, but I have been there. The first time I traveled to what was Czechoslovakia was in the 1960s, and then again in the 1980s. I went through the barbed wire, the dogs, and the landmined areas to get to the area where my grandparents came from. When I got there, everything was gray. Everything was dark. It was one of the most depressing things I had ever seen. People when they walked down the street would not look you in the eye; they looked down. The repression under several regimes, under the Communist, was one of the worst in the world and the worst in Europe. The economic situation was deplorable. The rape of the beautiful landscape of Czechoslovakia—the Communists polluted the streams and destroyed the landscape and the economy.

Before that, they had the misfortune of being dominated by the Nazis. I saw some villages where they took the Jews out, and nobody still lived there. They loaded them into boxcars and they loaded them into trucks and trucked them off, and in 1980, no one lived in those homes, because they had taken the people and destroyed them and their lives. All that was left was the vacant houses. I still remember that.

These people, led by students 20 years ago, came out into the street. After the students came out, then the average citizens came out. They came out by the tens of thousands, and they filled the streets. They basically said they had had enough.

And you know, people weren't killed in 1989. There weren't the killings that they had had over their history. That is why it is called the Velvet Revolution. Most people don't understand that. But in the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic, they had had enough. And within no time at all, they had cast their communist bonds aside.

One of the most incredible experiences I have ever had, I wasn't a Member of Congress, but I sat up in the gallery across from me as a citizen, and I heard Vaclav Havel, the just-elected President of the Czechoslovakia Republic, Mr. Speaker, come up and speak from just below where you are, and I will never forget his words. Here are his words, The last time they arrested me on October 27 last year, I didn't know whether it was for 2 days or for 2 years.

Here was someone who had been in jail just weeks and months before speaking before the House of Representatives in a joint session. He went on to say, Today, less than 4 months later, I am speaking to you as the representative of a country that has set out on the road to democracy, a country where there is complete freedom of speech, which is getting ready for free elections and which wants to create a prosperous market economy and its own foreign policy.

He said that to us here.

□ 1445

So thank you for bringing this resolution up to commemorate the Velvet Revolution. Thank you for recognizing that people, no matter how much you repress them, whether it's in Cuba, whether it's in Myanmar or Burma, as they call it, whether it's in China, Tibet, somewhere in the heart of mankind is a quest, a yearning to be free and independent. And that's what this resolution today recognizes is that 20 years ago people stepped up and they'd had enough. They wanted to be free. And they have turned into two of the most incredible allies, the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic, great economies, some of the strongest of the former Eastern bloc, productive citizens, incredible citizens, and not only of their country but of the world community, and great allies to the United States.

So I thank you for allowing me to have the opportunity along with many of my colleagues to bring to the floor this special resolution with that little name on it.

And for those who were interested in linguistics, "Mica" there its pronounced "Meecha." It has a caret over, like, the "c."

I'm very proud to have this resolution offered today in the House in commemoration of my grandparents and those that came before them and those who on the 17th of November 1989 and today we celebrate the 20th anniversary of that occasion yesterday to recognize their freedom.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MICA. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I congratulate you for this resolution. It speaks to the heart of every freedom-loving American in this Chamber, which is each and every one of us. So, Mr. "Meecha," I believe that we should have a roll call

vote because a legislative virgin no more.

Mr. MICA. Thank you. And I think that would be very fitting, too, to show the people again and the House and the Senate that have their roots there and across the great country that we remember all they did to become free and independent.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, it's now my pleasure to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota, the distinguished chairman, JIM OBERSTAR.

Mr. OBERSTAR. I thank the distinguished Chair, Mr. ACKERMAN, for the time and compliment my colleague.

Hvala lepa, moj Slovaski prijatelj, and we're all together. What I said simply was thank you. And I'm Slovene, you're Slovak, and we're all together in the spirit of the Slovak peoples yearning for freedom after conquest by foreign powers, domination by other governments, subjection to cultures and language of other peoples. I recall my grandmother who emigrated from Sodrazica in Slovenia telling me that in her youth they were required in the morning to study in German because it was the Austro-Hungarian empire, and only in the afternoon could they speak their native language, Slovene.

This sense of Congress on the occasion of the 20th anniversary particularly of the Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia is one that we must pay attention to, that we must address. As the distinguished gentleman from Florida so warmly, thoughtfully, with deep spirit, a deep personal sense of understanding so well expressed, the freedom that peoples of formerly Eastern Europe felt in their heart, the courage they took, the courage it took for them to stand up against oppression.

It's not just the Velvet Revolution. A hundred sixty-one years ago was the great Prague Revolution. The Prague Spring of 1848 when the people of this great historic cultural center, Prague, marched to the streets, led by the students, to proclaim a time of freedom and democracy and liberty and opening and were suppressed.

In 1939, the Nazis closed the Czech institutions of higher learning and those of the Slovak people as well. Many were sent off to concentration camps. Student leaders were executed. And 50 years later, students again led the way. On November 17, they took to the streets to mark the anniversary of the execution of Czech student leaders and the closure of universities by the Nazis. The government used violence once again to move in, break up this peaceful gathering of students.

So we have the Prague Spring, the 1939 suppression, the Velvet Revolution, suppression once again. Those 42 days of the Prague-Velvet Revolution were momentous, popular demonstrations, public outpouring, people taking to the streets.

But by December 10, the Czechoslovak President Gustav Husak ap-

pointed the first largely noncommunist government since 1948. And in 1990, Czechoslovakia held its first democratic elections and then split into both the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic.

It has very special meaning for me both at the Prague Spring, the 1939 events, closing of the universities and the Prague student Velvet Revolution. In 1956, I was a student at the College of Europe in Brugge, Belgium.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RAHALL). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. ACKERMAN. I'm happy to yield an additional minute.

Mr. OBERSTAR. I was a student at the College of Europe in Brugge, Belgium, when Hungarian students took to the streets to rise up against the Soviet occupation and oppression of their homeland, and they too were suppressed brutally as tanks rolled down the street and machine-gunned students. We were only 600 miles away from those momentous events in Brugge, Belgium. And students of the College of Europe organized a grand bal des etudiants du College de L'Europe, raised a scholarship to bring a Hungarian student to the College of Europe to study with us. And when he arrived, we asked him, What was your first reaction on coming into the West? And his comment was, The ability to walk up to a policeman on a street corner and ask direction without fear of being put in prison.

That's what freedom means. So simple. That's what the gentleman from Florida was talking about. That's what this resolution recognizes. A revolution is not simply a continuous movement in one direction to come back where you started but an opportunity to change direction and move the human spirit ahead, and that is what we recognize in this 20th anniversary recognition of the Velvet Revolution.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased at this time to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SESTAK).

Mr. SESTAK. Mr. Speaker, I'm rising today in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 212.

Twenty years ago this week, the brutal crackdown occurred on the student-led demonstration in Prague. The students were commemorating the 50th anniversary of the execution of Czech student leaders and closure of universities by the Nazis, it turned out, would be silenced no longer by the repressive Soviet-backed regime. A mere 8 days after the fall of the Berlin Wall, they set events in motion which would culminate in the dissolution of the politburo and which would lead to the peaceful establishment of independent Czech and Slovak states in 1993.

As a son of a Slovakian immigrant, these bonds that join us together are so strong. I can remember in the midst of my 30-year naval career going over to see Czechoslovakia in the mid 1980s. Lots of top secret clearances and spe-

cial access programs I had, and I had to get special permission to go there, but I wanted to see my father's hometown.

I went through Prague. What a city. So beautiful that the movie "Amadeus" about the great composer Mozart was filmed there because it was kept so whole in its beauty as Vienna had been. And then to Bratislava and the small village outside where my father grew up. I spoke English, not Slovak, so we conversed. And I had a wonderful dinner and evening and breakfast the next day. And to this day, I'm still not sure they were my relatives. But what a great homecoming I felt I had in that land. I think that's because the backbone of revolutions, both of theirs and ours, was against the greatest empires of the time. A mere spontaneous gathering in the case of Slovakia, like ours, but theirs was of workers, students, and common citizens, not unlike ours, able to shrug off decades of Soviet oppression.

When enough people realize their God-given right to liberty is within reach, they just can't be stopped. Victor Hugo, that great chronicler of revolution, said it best: "Nothing can resist an idea whose time has come."

I can remember the evening in Bratislava walking to the border and overlooking the barbed wires into Austria, and the man I walked there with said, "Some day."

If there is anything to be called a march of history, it must be this struggle between power and justice, between violence and the endurance of human dignity, the steady triumph of those who meet brute force with the power of a self-evident ideal. Justice, the prerequisite to equality.

Americans of Slovakian descent, such as football player Chuck Bednarik; Tom Ridge, former Governor of my home State of Pennsylvania; Andy Warhol; Stefan Banic, inventor of the parachute; the inventor of the radio, Jozef Murgas; Paul Newman; Michael Strank, the one who raised the American flag on Iwo Jima, have contributed greatly through their wonderful thread in this great national security fabric of the United States of America to our future. I'm proud to honor them today for the revolution so similar to ours.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to note at this time that all of us here in the House bask in the obvious and well-felt pride that has been expressed especially from our Czech and Slovak colleagues that are here. Congratulations to them as well as in a few moments we pass this resolution.

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 New York (Mr. ACKERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 212, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. 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.

#### FIRE GRANTS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2009

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 909 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 3791.

□ 1459

#### IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 3791) to amend sections 33 and 34 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974, and for other purposes, with Mr. SERRANO (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole House rose earlier today, amendment No. 5 printed in part B of House Report 111-340 by the gentleman from California (Mr. CARDOZA) had been disposed of.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in part B of House Report 111-340 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 2 by Mr. PERLMUTTER of Colorado.

Amendment No. 3 by Mr. FLAKE of Arizona.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR.

##### PERLMUTTER

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

#### RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 358, noes 75, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 899]

AYES—358

Abercrombie	Alexander	Austria
Ackerman	Altmire	Baca
Aderholt	Andrews	Bachmann
Adler (NJ)	Arcuri	Baird

Baldwin	Fleming	Matheson
Barrow	Fortenberry	Matsui
Bean	Poster	McCarthy (NY)
Becerra	Frank (MA)	McCaul
Berkley	Frelinghuysen	McCollum
Berman	Fudge	McCotter
Berry	Galleghy	McDermott
Biggert	Garamendi	McGovern
Bilbray	Giffords	McHenry
Bilirakis	Gingrey (GA)	McIntyre
Bishop (GA)	Gonzalez	McKeon
Bishop (NY)	Gordon (TN)	McMahon
Blackburn	Granger	McNerney
Blumenauer	Graves	Meek (FL)
Blunt	Grayson	Meeks (NY)
Boccieri	Green, Al	Melancon
Bono Mack	Green, Gene	Mica
Bordallo	Griffith	Michaud
Boren	Grijalva	Miller (MI)
Boswell	Guthrie	Miller (NC)
Boucher	Gutierrez	Miller, Gary
Boyd	Hall (NY)	Miller, George
Brady (PA)	Hall (TX)	Minnick
Braley (IA)	Halvorson	Mitchell
Bright	Hare	Mollohan
Brown, Corrine	Harman	Moore (KS)
Brown-Waite,	Harper	Moran (KS)
Ginny	Hastings (FL)	Moran (VA)
Buchanan	Hastings (WA)	Murphy (CT)
Burton (IN)	Heinrich	Murphy (NY)
Butterfield	Heller	Murphy, Patrick
Calvert	Herger	Murphy, Tim
Camp	Herstein Sandlin	Murtha
Cao	Higgins	Nadler (NY)
Capito	Hill	Napolitano
Capps	Himes	Neal (MA)
Capuano	Hinchey	Norton
Cardoza	Hinojosa	Nye
Carnahan	Hirono	Oberstar
Carney	Hodes	Obey
Carson (IN)	Holden	Olson
Cassidy	Holt	Olver
Castle	Honda	Ortiz
Castor (FL)	Hoyer	Owens
Chandler	Hunter	Pallone
Childers	Inslee	Pascarella
Christensen	Israel	Pastor (AZ)
Chu	Jackson (IL)	Paulsen
Clarke	Jackson-Lee	Payne
Clay	(TX)	Perlmutter
Cleaver	Jenkins	Perriello
Clyburn	Johnson (GA)	Peters
Coble	Johnson, E. B.	Peterson
Coffman (CO)	Jones	Pierluisi
Cohen	Jordan (OH)	Pingree (ME)
Cole	Kagen	Pitts
Connolly (VA)	Kanjorski	Platts
Conyers	Kaptur	Polis (CO)
Cooper	Kennedy	Pomeroy
Costa	Kildee	Posey
Costello	Kilpatrick (MI)	Price (NC)
Courtney	Kilroy	Putnam
Crenshaw	Kind	Quigley
Crowley	King (NY)	Rahall
Cuellar	Kirk	Rangel
Culberson	Kirkpatrick (AZ)	Rehberg
Cummings	Kissell	Reichert
Dahlkemper	Klein (FL)	Reyes
Davis (AL)	Kline (MN)	Richardson
Davis (CA)	Kosmas	Rodriguez
Davis (IL)	Kratovil	Roe (TN)
Davis (KY)	Kucinich	Rogers (KY)
Davis (TN)	Lance	Rogers (MI)
DeFazio	Langevin	Rooney
DeGette	Larsen (WA)	Ros-Lehtinen
Delahunt	Larson (CT)	Roskam
DeLauro	Latham	Ross
Dent	LaTourette	Roybal-Allard
Diaz-Balart, L.	Latta	Ruppersberger
Diaz-Balart, M.	Lee (CA)	Rush
Dicks	Lee (NY)	Ryan (OH)
Dingell	Levin	Sablan
Doggett	Lewis (GA)	Salazar
Donnelly (IN)	Lipinski	Sanchez, Linda
Doyle	Loeb sack	T.
Driehaus	Lofgren, Zoe	Sanchez, Loretta
Edwards (MD)	Lowey	Sarbanes
Edwards (TX)	Lucas	Schakowsky
Ehlers	Luetkemeyer	Schauer
Ellison	Lujan	Schiff
Ellsworth	Lynch	Schmidt
Emerson	Mack	Schrader
Engel	Maffei	Schwartz
Eshoo	Maloney	Scott (GA)
Etheridge	Marchant	Scott (VA)
Fallin	Markey (CO)	Serrano
Farr	Markey (MA)	Sestak
Fattah	Marshall	Shea-Porter
Filner	Massa	Sherman

Shuler	Terry	Wasserman
Shuster	Thompson (CA)	Schultz
Sires	Thompson (MS)	Waters
Skelton	Thompson (PA)	Watson
Slaughter	Tiahrt	Watt
Smith (NE)	Tiberi	Waxman
Smith (NJ)	Tierney	Weiner
Smith (TX)	Titus	Welch
Smith (WA)	Tonko	Wexler
Snyder	Towns	Whitfield
Space	Tsongas	Wilson (OH)
Speier	Turner	Wolf
Spratt	Upton	Woolsey
Stark	Van Hollen	Wu
Stupak	Velázquez	Yarmuth
Sutton	Visclosky	Young (AK)
Taylor	Walz	Young (FL)
Teague	Wamp	

#### NOES—75

Akin	Gohmert	Paul
Bachus	Goodlatte	Pence
Bartlett	Hensarling	Petri
Barton (TX)	Hoekstra	Poe (TX)
Bishop (UT)	Inglis	Price (GA)
Boehner	Issa	Radanovich
Bonner	Johnson (IL)	Rogers (AL)
Boozman	Johnson, Sam	Rohrabacher
Boustany	King (IA)	Royce
Brady (TX)	Kingston	Ryan (WI)
Broun (GA)	Lamborn	Scalise
Burgess	Lewis (CA)	Schock
Buyer	Linder	Sensenbrenner
Campbell	LoBiondo	Sessions
Cantor	Lummis	Shadegg
Carter	Lungren, Daniel	Shimkus
Chaffetz	E.	Simpson
Conaway	Manzullo	Souder
Deal (GA)	McCarthy (CA)	Stearns
Dreier	McClintock	Sullivan
Duncan	McMorris	Thornberry
Flake	Rodgers	Walden
Forbes	Miller (FL)	Westmoreland
Fox	Myrick	Wilson (SC)
Franks (AZ)	Neugebauer	Wittman
Garrett (NJ)	Nunes	

#### NOT VOTING—7

Barrett (SC)	Gerlach	Tanner
Brown (SC)	Moore (WI)	
Faleomavaega	Rothman (NJ)	

□ 1529

Messrs. WALDEN, DEAL of Georgia, RYAN of Wisconsin, CANTOR, GOODLATTE, BOOZMAN, WITTMAN, CHAFFETZ, BUYER, MANZULLO, HOEKSTRA, DREIER, STEARNS, SIMPSON, BACHUS and LOBIONDO and Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts and Ms. FALLIN changed their vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. FLAKE

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

#### RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 371, noes 63, not voting 6, as follows: