

it is supported by our two countries' common democratic and humanitarian values. In 2009, both Japan and the U.S. ranked among the top five nations providing foreign aid. In honoring what this alliance has done for both our great nations, we are also reiterating our commitment to provide needed humanitarian relief in the Asian-Pacific region and all over the world.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to support this resolution honoring our alliance with Japan and expressing our heartfelt thanks to the government of Japan and the Japanese people.

Mr. MCMAHON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support H. Res. 1464, a Resolution recognizing the 50th anniversary of the United States-Japan Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security and expressing appreciation to the Government of Japan and the Japanese people for enhancing peace, prosperity, and security in the Asia-Pacific region.

For over 50 years, Japan has served as one of our most dependable and consistent allies. The nation has hosted over 36,000 members of the United States Armed Forces, promoting regional stability and security in the Asia-Pacific region. Japan has been a staunch supporter in our efforts to denuclearize North Korea. The nation has recently emerged as a proactive force in rebuilding third world countries in efforts to curtail the influence of terror cells. In November of 2009, Japan pledged over six billion dollars in economic assistance to Pakistan and Afghanistan in support of our missions in those countries. This special alliance has allowed Japan to establish a prominent role in the global community, further contributing to regional and global stability.

The U.S.-Japan alliance has bolstered both nations, making them two of the world's largest and most influential economies. Mutual cooperation has made Japan our fourth-largest trading partner. Apart from strengthening trade with the U.S., Japan has aided our international initiatives as well. Japan provided over six billion dollars to Guam to develop infrastructure and facilities. This valuable ally supports not only our economy, but those of our allies as well.

I am pleased with what Japan has grown to represent. Japan is a beacon of democratic thought and practice in the Asia-Pacific region. The Japanese government shares our ideals, values, and commitment to civil liberties. Despite the constant challenges facing the international community and the region, Japan has held steadfast in her commitment to egalitarian values and world peace.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me today in recognizing and supporting our continuing alliance by supporting this Resolution.

Mr. MANZULLO. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of recognizing the 50th anniversary of the U.S.-Japan Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security. This agreement laid the cornerstone for reintegrating Japan into the community of free nations and helped insure Japan's long-term security and prosperity. It also resulted in formerly establishing an alliance that facilitates the forward deployment of about 36,000 U.S. troops and other U.S. military assets in the Asia-Pacific to undergird U.S. national security strategy in the region. Too many times, we take our friends for granted. It wasn't obvious 50 years ago that this agreement would pass the Japanese Diet. But on June 19, 1960, this agreement became operational after much boisterous opposition.

Thus, it is appropriate that the House recognize and thank our Japanese friends for the role this agreement has played in advancing peace, prosperity, and security in the Pacific Rim. It allowed a country devastated by war to eventually become the fourth largest economy in the world and the fourth largest export market for U.S. products.

I deeply appreciate and value our strategic and economic relationship with Japan. Despite the change in the Japanese government, this agreement still remains as a cornerstone of our relationship. I was greatly honored that the Japanese Ambassador paid a visit to northern Illinois last April where we saw first-hand the role that Japanese foreign investment played in saving many jobs in this region, such as the Nissan forklift manufacturing facility in Marengo. We also examined possible new opportunities for trade and investment.

I want to commend my ranking Member, Representative ROS-LEHTINEN, for bringing this resolution to the floor today. I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 1464.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATSON. Madam 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 gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1464.

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. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

REAFFIRMING FRIENDSHIP AND ALLIANCE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND COLOMBIA

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1465) reaffirming the longstanding friendship and alliance between the United States and Colombia.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1465

Whereas nearly 15,000,000 Colombians participated in the first round of Colombia's presidential elections on May 30, 2010;

Whereas no candidate received an outright majority of the vote, thereby requiring a runoff election between Juan Manuel Santos and Antanas Mockus, the two candidates with the highest vote totals;

Whereas Juan Manuel Santos, of the National Unity Party, received 46.7 percent of

the votes and Antanas Mockus, of the Green Party, received 21.5 percent of the votes;

Whereas in the second round on June 20, 2010, Juan Manuel Santos received 69 percent of the votes and was thereby declared President-elect of Colombia;

Whereas Colombia has overcome tremendous challenges to build their democracy; and

Whereas Colombia remains a vital ally and friend of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) reaffirms the longstanding friendship and alliance between the United States and Colombia;

(2) recognizes Colombia's commitment to the democratic process as demonstrated by the free and fair nature of these multiparty, internationally recognized elections; and

(3) congratulates President-elect Juan Manuel Santos on his recent victory in Colombia's June 20, 2010, presidential election.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days 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 gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

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Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, last month, Colombia held the first round of their presidential elections. In an outcome that surprised many observers, the Green Party and the National Unity Party both failed to receive an outright majority of the votes, so a runoff was required this past Sunday. Over 13 million Colombians participated in the second round, with former Defense Minister Juan Manuel Santos receiving 69 percent of the vote and becoming the President-elect of Colombia.

With this resolution, the House of Representatives honors the Colombian people and their commitment to democracy. Since gaining its independence from Spain in 1819, Colombia has remained democratic, sometimes as an outlier in this region. We applaud the free and fair nature of these multiparty, internationally recognized elections.

Colombia is not without problems, some of them significant. The human rights situation in Colombia leaves much to be desired, and Colombia has over 3 million internally displaced people, second in the world only to Sudan as a result of its long struggles with armed groups that the United States and most of the world considers terrorists. While these issues must remain on

the front burner of our common agenda, it is important to recognize that Colombia remains an important friend and ally of the United States, and their resilience in the long hemispheric battle against narcotrafficking is worthy of respect and admiration.

As we congratulate President-elect Juan Manuel Santos on this victory in Colombia's June 20, 2010, presidential election, we have every expectation that he and his new administration will continue the tradition of a strong relationship with the United States.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to my good friend, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART), a member of the Budget, Science and Technology, and Transportation Committees.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. I thank the ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee from my Florida delegation, Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, for yielding.

I rise to strongly support this important resolution. This past Sunday, as we have just heard, 20 million of Colombia's citizens turned out to the polls and elected former Defense Minister Juan Manuel Santos as President with a resounding 69 percent of the vote. And yet the true champion and the true winners of this presidential election were who? The Colombian people and democracy as a whole were the winners and, yes, the United States of America, because the Colombian people not only elected someone who I know will lead them with brilliance, but also a person who understands the special ties between Colombia and the United States of America.

Madam Speaker, words are important, but so are actions. It is now also time—yes, we have to pass this important resolution, but we also have to bring forward to this House the free trade deal with Colombia that has been lingering and just waiting for congressional action.

Colombia is a strong ally, they've done everything right. The people have once again spoken—with huge numbers—and supported a person who again has been pushing for the free trade deal just like his predecessor, the current President of Colombia, President Uribe, who again has demonstrated great leadership.

It's time that we bring up the free trade deal, it's time that we passed the free trade deal, it's time that not only do we shower Colombia with kind words, but that we show with our action, this Congress, that we do care for democracy, that we understand that we have to support our allies, none more important than Colombia. It's time to pass the free trade deal with Colombia, and in the meantime, I urge your support of this important resolution.

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the ranking member on the Agriculture Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. I thank the gentlewoman from Florida for yielding.

I traveled to Colombia in April of 2008 to see our U.S.-Colombia partnership at work. Colombia has overcome many, many challenges and more remain, and it's essential that the United States continue a positive relationship with this critical ally in South America.

While it's good we're here today to discuss and pass this nonbinding resolution in support of Colombia, the better way to show our support for the Colombian people is to approve a still pending—4 years now—trade agreement. It has been nearly 4 years since the FTA, the free trade agreement, was signed, and yet Congress has failed to act. The longer we wait to approve the free trade agreement, the more we alienate this important ally and harm the American economy.

Currently, over 90 percent of Colombian goods enter our country duty free, but U.S. goods, including wheat and other agriculture commodities, are assessed at significant tariffs upon their entry to Colombia. If the Colombian Free Trade Agreement was approved, duties on U.S. wheat would immediately be eliminated, creating new opportunities for wheat exports.

It's harvest time in Kansas, and new market access is critical for Kansas wheat farmers who are encountering growing wheat supplies and declining prices. Unable to move wheat on the world market, grain elevators are dropping cash prices paid to our local farmers.

I support this resolution, but it is not a substitute for what we ought to be doing, approving the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I am so honored to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY), the ranking member on the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade who has been a proud proponent of passing the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I thank the gentlelady for her leadership and for yielding.

I want to congratulate the Colombian people and President-elect Santos on a successful and democratic election. Madam Speaker, I would like to enter into the RECORD this editorial from The Washington Post calling on the administration and congressional Democrats to support the incoming Santos administration by acting on the U.S.-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement.

President-elect Santos will continue the great work done by President Uribe to strengthen the rule of law and improve the lives of all Colombians. Co-

lombian workers are safer now than ever before. Despite this progress, Colombia faces real challenges. Venezuela has imposed a trade embargo because of Colombia's strong support for the United States, severely damaging the Colombian economy. We have a powerful tool to help Colombia weather the embargo, the U.S. Free Trade Agreement with Colombia. With this agreement, the United States would provide both economic and political support for a truly democratic government and a longstanding ally. Unfortunately, Democrats in Congress have denied us even the opportunity for a simple up-or-down vote on the agreement. But other countries aren't standing still. They are reaching agreements with Colombia, racing ahead to put their workers and their businesses ahead of ours. Just yesterday, the Canadian Legislature ratified the Canada-Colombian Trade Agreement. That agreement could go into effect in just a few months. Colombia is negotiating agreements with Europe, Panama, and South Korea, as a result, American workers are falling behind.

There is no credible reason to oppose the U.S.-Colombia Trade Agreement. It levels the playing field for American workers, creating over \$1 billion in new U.S. sales to Colombia. The bill imposes stronger labor protections for Colombian workers, which is why thousands of union workers in Colombia support the agreement. And it demonstrates America's commitment to a valuable and longstanding ally.

The administration says it wants to increase U.S. exports, create jobs, and ensure strong U.S. foreign policy, but none of this is credible while it ignores the U.S.-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement and does not make it ready for a vote in Congress.

[From the Washington Post, Tuesday, June 22, 2010]

WILL WASHINGTON TREAT COLOMBIA'S SANTOS AS AN ALLY?

Juan Manuel Santos has demonstrated that pro-American, pro-free-market politicians still have life in Latin America. Mr. Santos, who romped to victory in Colombia's presidential runoff on Sunday, has no interest in courting Iran, unlike Brazil's Luiz Ignácio Lula da Silva. He has rejected the authoritarian socialism of Venezuela's Hugo Chávez. A former journalist with degrees from the University of Kansas and Harvard, he values free media and independent courts. His biggest priority may be ratifying and implementing a free-trade agreement between Colombia and the United States.

So the question raised by Mr. Santos's election is whether the Obama administration and Democratic congressional leaders will greet this strong and needed U.S. ally with open arms—or with the arms-length disdain and protectionist stonewalling to which they subjected his predecessor, Alvaro Uribe.

Mr. Uribe will leave office in August as one of the most successful presidents in modern Latin American history, though you would never know it from listening to his critics in Washington. He beefed up Colombia's army and economy, and smashed the terrorist FARC movement; murders have fallen by 45 percent and kidnappings by 90 percent during

his eight years in office. Though most Colombians wanted him to remain in power, he bowed to a Supreme Court ruling against a referendum on a third term—which means that unlike Mr. Chávez, he will leave behind a strong democratic system.

Colombia has nevertheless been treated more as an enemy than friend by congressional Democrats, who have steadily reduced U.S. military aid and worked assiduously to block the free-trade agreement Mr. Uribe negotiated with the Bush administration. The Obama administration, which has courted Mr. Lula and sought to improve relations with Venezuela and Cuba, has been cool to Colombia, recommending another 11 percent reduction in aid for next year and keeping the trade agreement on ice.

Mr. Santos's election offers an opportunity to revitalize the relationship. As defense minister, he demonstrated a commitment to addressing the human rights concerns that troubled some in Congress. He has pledged to seek better relations with both Venezuela and Ecuador, despite the material support those countries have provided to the FARC.

Ratification of the free-trade agreement would serve the administration's stated goal of boosting U.S. exports while bolstering a nation that could be an anchor for democracy and political moderation in the region. It would also allow the administration and Congress to demonstrate that friends of the United States will be supported and not scorned in Washington.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today as the proud author of the resolution before us, House Resolution 1465, which reaffirms the longstanding friendship and the deep alliance between the United States and Colombia.

□ 1350

Furthermore, it recognizes our shared commitment to democracy, and it congratulates Juan Manuel Santos as President-elect of Colombia.

In Colombia, we have seen the impossible become possible. Once under siege by extremist groups and drug cartels, the people of Colombia and its government have transformed a dark past into a promising bright future. The recent Presidential elections in Colombia are a testament to this progress and demonstrate the confidence that the people of Colombia have in President-elect Santos. Receiving 69 percent of the vote, President-elect Santos has a clear mandate to continue much of the progress seen under President Uribe.

Following his victory on Sunday, President-elect Santos said, "Colombia is leaving its nightmare. The FARC's time has run out. No more useless confrontations, no more divisions. The time has arrived for union. The time has arrived for work, employment and entrepreneurialism."

Juan Manuel Santos' professed commitment to the values of freedom and demonstrated ability to stand up to extremists stands in stark contrast to the tyrannical and destabilizing agendas of dictators in the region. Further, the free and fair nature of the multiparty, internationally recognized Presidential election in Colombia serves as an important reminder to

some in the region of what a real and genuine democratic electoral process really looks like.

With elections scheduled soon in Venezuela and Nicaragua, we have already seen both Hugo Chavez and Daniel Ortega pulling out all the stops to question their opposition. From the media to the courts, Chavez and Ortega have no shame in their abject dismissal of the democratic processes in their countries. However, as critical as it is to call out those who affront the principles of a democratic society, it is equally important to recognize those who embrace them, which is why we are here today, Madam Speaker, standing in support of House Resolution 1465.

Colombia represents to many the light at the end of the tunnel. Colombia shows that, with hard work, determination and a commitment to fundamental freedoms, a democracy can flourish no matter what the odds. Instead of falling into a deep division, Colombia is ascending the peak of freedom and democracy. I have no doubt that the vital alliance between our country and Colombia is poised to become ever closer and more successful than ever under the leadership of President-elect Santos, and I remain ever hopeful that this alliance will soon include the passage of the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement.

Colombia has enormous potential for U.S. businesses, especially in my home State of Florida. Miami had nearly \$6 billion in total trade with Colombia last year alone. Signed nearly 4 years ago, the FTA is one of the easiest, most obvious steps that Congress can take to expand these important economic ties.

We can ask for no better partner or trusted ally than the people of Colombia. Its commitment to the democratic process, as demonstrated by this weekend's free, fair, and transparent election, shows what can be accomplished when the basic tenets of liberty are afforded to the people of a nation.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate President-elect Santos on this momentous occasion, and once again, I would like to recognize the unbreakable ties between the people of the United States and Colombia.

I am so pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas—they only come that way in Texas—Judge POE, an esteemed member of our Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mr. POE of Texas. I thank the gentleman from Florida for yielding some time.

Madam Speaker, this is an important resolution. It puts the United States on record as to where we stand in our part of the world when it comes to democracy and in supporting our allies. Colombia is an ally of the United States.

When I was in Colombia in April, down in the jungle with the narcotics police—with General Patino—helping and watching how they fight the cartels and FARC, I learned from the Co-

lombians that they like Americans, not just their government but the people of Colombia. Yet that is not universally true in South America. There are a lot of folks who don't care much for the United States, but the Colombian people are our allies, not only politically, but also, they like Americans for who we are. They support us, and we should support them.

It was a good day for democracy when President Santos was elected this past weekend. We should show Colombia and the rest of the world that we support this democracy in South America. We should also support the Colombian-American Free Trade Agreement. This is an important agreement to show that we mean business in supporting another democracy. Rather than talking about trading with the Chinese, we ought to talk about trading with democracies. This is one of those democracies, and it is being stalled for political reasons.

We need to support this. We need to pass it through this House and to make sure that the Colombians know that we mean, in word and deed, that they are our ally, especially our ally in free trade. So I commend this resolution. We must make sure that we support democracy anywhere it occurs in the world, and we must support freedom as well. Let's move a step forward, and let's move forward with the free trade agreement with our friends, our allies, and our neighbors in Colombia.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend from Texas.

I have no further requests for time, Madam Speaker, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1465.

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.

CALLING FOR RELEASE OF ISRAELI SOLDIER BY HAMAS

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1359) calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit held captive by Hamas, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1359

Whereas Congress previously expressed its concern for missing Israeli soldiers in Public Law 106-89 (113 Stat. 1305; November 8, 1999), which required the Secretary of State to raise the status of missing Israeli soldiers