

Carolina as the Keith D. Oglesby Station, introduced by the gentleman from South Carolina, Mr. DEMINT, I would have voted "yea."

On H.R. 3018, to designate the U.S. postal office located at 557 East Bay Street in Charleston, South Carolina as the Marybelle H. Howe Post Office introduced by the gentleman from South Carolina, Mr. CLYBURN, I would have voted "yea."

On H.R. 1827, the Government Waste Corrections Act, introduced by the gentleman from Indiana, Mr. BURTON, I would have voted "yea."

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 979

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove my name as a cosponsor of H.R. 979.

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

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas or nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules.

CONGRATULATING LITHUANIA ON THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS INDEPENDENCE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 91) congratulating the Republic of Lithuania on the tenth anniversary of the reestablishment of its independence from the rule of the former Soviet Union.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. CON. RES. 91

Whereas the United States had never recognized the forcible incorporation of the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania into the former Soviet Union;

Whereas the declaration on March 11, 1990, of the reestablishment of full sovereignty and independence of the Republic of Lithuania led to the disintegration of the former Soviet Union;

Whereas Lithuania since then has successfully built democracy, ensured human and minority rights, the rule of law, developed a free market economy, implemented exemplary relations with neighboring countries, and consistently pursued a course of integration into the community of free and democratic nations by seeking membership in the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; and

Whereas Lithuania, as a result of the progress of its political and economic reforms, has made, and continues to make, a significant contribution toward the maintenance of international peace and stability by, among other actions, its participation in

NATO-led peacekeeping operations in Bosnia and Kosovo: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) congratulates Lithuania on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the reestablishment of its independence and the leading role it played in the disintegration of the former Soviet Union; and

(2) commends Lithuania for its success in implementing political and economic reforms, which may further speed the process of that country's integration into European and Western institutions.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OSE). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

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

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 91 congratulating Lithuania on its 10th anniversary of the reestablishment of its independence.

Mr. Speaker, it is hard to believe that 10 years have now passed since the Lithuanian nation took their courageous step of declaring independence from the Communist dictatorship of the former Soviet Union. And despite the passage of these last 10 years, many of us who served in the Congress at that time still vividly remember the struggle that Lithuania had to undertake in order to make that declaration a reality.

We recall the thousands of Soviet troops who were then garrisoned in Lithuania. We also recall the Soviet armored columns rolling through the capital of Vilnius in the dead of night some 10 years ago. We also remember the economic boycott that was imposed on Lithuania by the Soviet regime in Moscow. We remember too how Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev insisted that, if Lithuania were to secede from the Soviet Union, it would have to compensate the Soviet government for all its investments in Lithuania since 1940, the year when the Soviet Union invaded and occupied that country.

What an ironic demand that was, given the fact that Lithuania never asked to be part of the Soviet Union, and given the fact the Soviet Union's so-called legacy to Lithuania and to its neighbors, if not a curse, was a very questionable legacy at best.

In fact, it has taken all of the strength that the Lithuanian people could muster to overcome the so-called blessings of that legacy bestowed by the former Soviet regime, including all of the dilapidated industries, their environmental damage, and the lack of trading and preparation that was needed by the Lithuanians to succeed in any market-oriented economy.

Now, Mr. Speaker, some 10 years later, in spite of that so-called legacy, Lithuania is now looking to its future and building on the progress it has made in the decade since the Soviet Union broke up.

Today, thousands of Soviet troops are gone. Today, Lithuania is a member of NATO's alliance's Partnership For Peace program and is looking forward to the day when it may become a full member of that alliance. And, today, Lithuania is actively seeking membership in the European Union.

Lithuania has implemented market reforms despite the tremendous difficulties associated with the economic transformation from a Communist system of control of workers and resources to the system of private enterprise and free markets. In short, Lithuania is working to return to its rightful place in Europe and in the world.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that our Nation has played a strong role in helping Lithuania, not just since it gained its independence but during the many years when it refused to recognize the Soviet Union's illegal incorporation of that country into its Communist dictatorship.

The passage of this resolution, Mr. Speaker, congratulates Lithuania and its people on the 10th anniversary of their independence, recognizing the role that Lithuania played in the breakup of the Soviet Union, and noting the reforms that Lithuania has struggled to implement. Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of this worthy resolution.

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

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

(Mr. GEJDENSON asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that, at the conclusion of my remarks, the remaining control of the time be yielded to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), and the distinguished Senator from Illinois, Mr. DURBIN, who authored this resolution in the Senate, in recognition of a decade of great success and change by my mother's homeland, Lithuania.

This year, I had the opportunity to drive from my mother's Lithuania to my father's Belarus, and it exposes the incredible difference between the situation in Lithuania where they have engaged freedom and democracy. I had been to Vilnius in 1982, and what a change in these last 16, 17 years, from that time to my most recent trip. I could see it on the people's faces, the freedom, the opportunity to express themselves without fear of retribution