

□ 2010

Messrs. McNULTY, HILL, WYNN, LARSON of Connecticut, and Mrs. ROUKEMA changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

So, two-thirds not having voted in favor thereof, the joint resolution was not passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 225 I was inadvertently detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 225 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 225, H.R. Res. 96—Constitutional Amendment Requiring a super majority vote to increase taxes, had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 225, H.R. Res. 96—Proposing a tax limitation amendment to the constitution of the United States, had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

SUPPORTING RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Education and the Workforce be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 442) supporting responsible fatherhood and encouraging greater involvement of fathers in the lives of their children, especially on Father's Day, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SUNUNU). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nebraska?

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, and I do not intend to object, I yield to the gentleman from Nebraska to explain the resolution.

Mr. OSBORNE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, as we approach the upcoming celebration of Father's Day this Sunday, June 16, I am pleased to have this opportunity to speak on behalf of this resolution before us on the importance of fatherhood in this country. H.R. 442, introduced by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. SULLIVAN), urges all Americans to support responsible fatherhood and to encourage greater involvement of fathers in the lives of their children, especially on Father's Day.

Over 36 years in my last profession, I worked with a great many young men who were fatherless. I saw directly the results of that fatherlessness, because if your dad does not care enough to stick around sometimes, even to see what you look like, there is a void in your life and sometimes you try to fill

that void with all the wrong things. The number of children living in households without fathers has tripled over the last 40 years from just over 5 million in 1960 to almost 18 million today, which represents an increase of 350 percent. According to the National Fatherhood Initiative, 24 million children live without their biological fathers at the present time. Nearly one-half of our children will live at least part of their childhood without a father.

The problems associated with fatherlessness are far-reaching. The National Fatherhood Initiative cites numerous studies as it relates the following: a child living in a fatherless home is five times more likely to live in poverty than one who lives in a home with a father.

□ 2015

There is a much higher incidence of teenage pregnancy, suicide rates are much higher, they are two to three times more likely to commit a crime, much more likely to drop out of school, much more likely to get involved with drugs and alcohol, and I think, most importantly, and something that a lot of people miss, a fatherless daughter suffers just as much or more than a fatherless young man. It would appear that daughters are much more likely to be abused or assaulted if they do not have a father. A father acts as a protector for his daughter.

We need fathers to be active in their children's lives to instill values and act as role models. Fathers have a unique role to play in their children's lives to provide affirmation, affection and advice.

We have had a lot of conversation over the last several months about heroes. We hear the term quite often. I would like to point out another aspect, which I think has to do with persons being a hero.

Sometimes it is a person that gets up every morning and goes to work. It is a person who honors their marriage vows. It is a person who honors his commitment to his children. So, sometimes heroism is not something that is done in a moment of great danger, but it is something that is acted out on the stage of life over a long period of time.

We also would like to mention an anecdote here, which I think is accurate. This was kind of interesting. There was a chaplain who worked in a prison for men, and on Mother's Day the chaplain was asked by one of the inmates to get a card for Mother's Day. A greeting card company offered to provide several boxes of cards. So the word got around and nearly all of the inmates picked up a card and sent it to their mother on Mother's Day.

So they thought they would repeat the process on Father's Day. Father's Day came, they had a box of cards, and, strangely enough, according to this story, not one single inmate picked up a card to send to his father. The point was that probably in almost every case the father was absent, the father had abrogated his responsibility.

So I think on this particular occasion, when we look at our Nation, when we look at our Nation's future, if I could really ask for one thing, if I had one wish that could be granted, it would be that our fathers would fulfill their responsibility, that our fathers would be honored truly on Father's Day, because almost all of the social ills that we are looking at in our country today and all of the difficult things our young people are looking at really go back to the fact that our families are not intact, and particularly our fathers are not doing their job.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity.

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, continuing my reservation of objection, let me say that, as you know, I introduced in the first session of this Congress H.R. 1300, the Responsible Fatherhood Act of 2001. It was legislation that sought to prescribe parameters for block grants to States and territories to implement at their option media campaigns promoting responsible fatherhood. It would have required the Secretary of Health and Human Services to contract with a nonprofit fatherhood promotion organization to develop and distribute media campaign literature that addressed the issue of responsible fatherhood to States, local governments, public agencies and private entities.

Although I have only been a Member of Congress going into my sixth year, annually I have sponsored a workshop for the Congressional Black Caucus weekend dealing with fatherhood and responsible fatherhood and responsible partnerships. My legislation would have developed a national clearinghouse to assist States in community efforts to promote and support responsible fatherhood by disseminating information under this media campaign.

I introduced also in the first session of the 107th Congress House Resolution 167, a resolution in support of fatherhood and in celebration of Father's Day.

This evening I am here, Mr. Speaker, to support H. Res. 442, which was authored by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. SULLIVAN), on which my staff and his staff worked together to try to figure out how we could best solidify the two measures for the benefit of advancing legislation dealing with fatherhood and responsible fatherhood legislation.

I want to commend all of the responsible fathers who have worked laboriously to raise their children, along with their children's mothers, and who have provided college educations and lifetime opportunities for their children.

There are certainly countless numbers of men who have been engaged in responsible fatherhood and who have been an integral part of the well-being and growing up of their children, and now are involved in the lives of their grandchildren. I think they stand as beacons, as role models in terms of

what this country could in fact do for families if more fathers were responsible and accountable for their children.

My legislation that I offered in no way intended to insult the kind of participation that fathers have with their children. I recognize that there are situations, Mr. Speaker, where the father is unable to be at home in the same household with their children as their children grow up, but under my legislation we intend to try to connect children with their fathers in a very responsible way so that children can enjoy the benefits of having their fathers involved in their lives.

Approximately 50 percent of all children born in the United States spend at least half of their childhood in families without father figures. Three out of four adolescents in the United States report that they did not have adults in their lives that served as positive role models.

Children who are apart from their biological fathers are, in comparison to other children, five times more likely to live in poverty, more likely to bring weapons and drugs into the classroom, to commit other crimes, to drop out of school, to commit suicide, to abuse alcohol or drugs. Girls are inclined sometimes to become pregnant as teenagers.

The Federal Government spends billions of dollars to address social ills, and very little to promote responsible fatherhood. Child support is an important means by which a parent can take financial responsibility for a child, and emotional support is an important means by which a parent can take social responsibility for a child. It is important for the United States Congress as a body to promote responsible fatherhood and to encourage loving and healthy relationships between parents and their children in order to increase the chance that children will have two caring parents in their lives to help them grow up healthy, secure, responsible and accountable.

That is why I believe it is imperative, Mr. Speaker, that we do all that we can to ensure that every human being who is growing up to adulthood have access to two responsible parents in their lives and to ensure that fathers are not inhibited or prohibited through some archaic system from having active involvement in the well-being of their children.

Mr. Speaker, happy Father's Day again.

Mr. Speaker, continuing my reservation of objection, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I simply want to add my voice to that of the gentleman and the gentlewoman in terms of raising the issue, as well as bringing to our attention the importance of fatherhood, especially as we approach Father's Day.

It just happens that in my Congressional district come Saturday we have a full day of activity that is designed to do nothing but promote responsible

fatherhood, beginning early in the morning and going all day. It is a wonderful activity. Many of the individuals we find are looking for ways to reconnect with families, to reestablish relationships with their children. They simply need a little facilitation and a little bit of help.

I think this kind of discussion, this kind of initiative, and this kind of action will go a long ways toward that.

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois for his comments.

Continuing my reservation of objection, I yield to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. SULLIVAN), and I thank the gentleman for his partnership in this effort.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for hers as well.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE). I liked what he had to say.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer H. Res. 442, to honor fathers on Father's Day and commend them for enhancing the lives of their children.

Fathers play a critical role in the development of our youth. In addition to traditionally being the head of the household, these men must serve as both spiritual leaders and protectors of their families. Millions of men throughout this country effectively execute these duties each day. Their children, in return, learn to be confident and productive citizens.

Our active fathers rarely get the recognition they deserve. Many understand that they must not only raise a child physically, but must also meet the emotional needs of their kids. Above all, dads must instill a sense of morality and spirituality in the hearts of their children.

Every child deserves the love and attention of their father. This is a simple fact. But we know that simple is not always synonymous with easy. In the chaotic and increasingly busy world, it is important to understand and, more important, to demonstrate that children are their fathers' number one priority. My children, Tommy, Meredith and Sidney, are my number one priority.

The children of today are the promise of tomorrow. With that in mind, the role of our fathers must be to continue to raise a Nation of leaders. We must teach our children to have a sense of optimism about the future and what lies ahead. Their generation will be better than ours. It will build on our wisdom to produce a bright and prosperous world.

Mr. Speaker, tonight I ask my colleagues to join me as we renew our commitment to being good parents. I especially call upon fathers throughout the country to instill those values that will change the lives of children.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important piece of legislation.

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, continuing my reservation of objec-

tion, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for comments he may have in support of this effort.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Oklahoma and the gentlewoman from Indiana for cosponsoring this resolution which expresses, I think, profound thoughts. We do not often express profound thoughts on the floor of this House.

Sunday will be Father's Day, and I will be blessed on Sunday. On Sunday two of my daughters, two of my granddaughters, and one of my grandsons will be at my house, and we are going to have a wonderful time. They are coming on Saturday. They will spend the night there. We will have a good time Saturday night and have dinner together.

My oldest daughter, who lives in Illinois, will not be there, but we will talk on Sunday. She will call and she will say, "Dad, I love you, and I wish you a happy Father's Day," and nothing better will happen to me that day or any day. We lost Mom 5 years ago. Mother's Day was a special day at our house as well.

This resolution, as I say, articulates profound thoughts. As I was in the cloakroom, I heard the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) speaking. TOM OSBORNE is a special person in this body. Few of us, perhaps maybe none, have had the opportunity to be a father figure, not necessarily a biological father, obviously, but a father figure, someone to whom young men looked for guidance, for discipline, for direction, and for a sense of responsibility.

TOM OSBORNE, as all of us know, is one of the great football coaches in the history of America. So it was appropriate that he spoke and leads the effort on this resolution, because I know an awful lot of young men who perhaps did not have a dad at home, or did not have a dad that cared as much about them as we would have hoped he would have, looked to TOM OSBORNE for the growing of character that a father ought to give a son or a daughter.

□ 2030

So I congratulate the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) for the literally scores, hundreds, of young men, whose lives you have made a difference in.

Mr. Speaker, on page 2 of this resolution it says something very important: "Whereas, the promotion of responsible fatherhood should not, 1, denigrate the standing and parenting efforts of single mothers whose efforts are heroic."

That is so true. I know the gentlewoman from Indiana knows that to be the case. Young women, middle-aged women whose partners, in producing the greatest blessing of life, a child, do not participate in the raising of that child. This resolution says that not only is that good for the fathers, but it is absolutely critical for the children. Study after study shows us that there is nothing better for a child in the world than a stable family, than two

parents caring for that child and giving that child direction.

It goes on to say that “this does not in any way lessen the protection of children from abusive parents.” What a tragedy, that God gives to some a child, and they abuse that child and abuse that gift. “Or cause women to remain in or enter into abusive relationships.” Some of us know about that, and it is appropriate that we say that, that certainly a two-parent family that creates an abusive relationship is not a relationship in which children ought to be raised. It is a serious problem confronting our society; and as we consider this resolution, we look to the “responsible” in the reference to “fatherhood,” responsible towards the child and responsible towards the mom.

Lastly, it says that “we do not want to compromise the health and safety of a custodial parent.”

I rise in support of this resolution because of its importance. We can appropriate all the money we want; we can have all the programs we want; we can have Head Start, we can have Chapter 1; we can have the CHIP program for child health; we can do all of those things, and nothing, nothing, nothing will be important, as important as two parents caring for that child they brought into this world.

I doubt, and I hope there is not a parent in this body or in this country that can hear the ballad that is so poignant, so compelling, the “Cats in the Cradle.” Those of my colleagues who remember the “Cats in the Cradle” song about the young man, the young man who asked dad to go out and play ball, the young man who asked dad to read the book, the young man who asked dad to spend a little bit of time with him. Dad is too busy. Dad is probably like some of us. He thinks things are too important, and he will be with his son a little later. And of course as that song continues, as my colleagues will recall, the dad gets older, the son gets older, and the dad says to the son, son, let us spend some time together. Of course by that time the son, like his dad when he was his age, has become preoccupied.

For those of us who have lived for some period of time who were very active when our children were young, who thought our lives were very important then, we perhaps look back and lament that we did not spend the time with our children that we should have. It is important not only that all of us urge fathers to be responsible, urge them to be engaged, but as well to urge ourselves to be the best possible parents we can, for nothing, nothing can be more positive for this country than that.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here tonight in support of House Resolution 442 which calls upon fathers around the country to use this Father's Day to reconnect and rededicate themselves to their children's lives.

This coming Sunday, June 16th, 2002, millions of Americans will celebrate Father's Day.

As a nation we set aside this day to recognize the tremendous impact that fathers have

on the lives of children, as well as the stability of families.

As the father of three lovely and intelligent women, I know first hand the remarkable challenge, work and dedication it requires to be a good father.

It is through fatherhood that I live my most valued, joyful and reward moments.

On Father's Day, I would like to commend those who have fulfilled their responsibility as a father by providing materially for their families, as well as playing vital roles in the lives of their children, such as nurturer, moral instructor and mentor.

However, it is important for our society to take note that many children will face a void on Father's Day because they have no one with which to celebrate the occasion.

Today, an estimated 17 million children are living in households without a father. This makes the United States the world leader in fatherless families.

Children, on average, achieve more when they have involved, responsible, and committed fathers. A study released in May 2001, by the U.S. Department of Education, clearly shows how a father's active involvement in their child's education is particularly important for academic achievement, as measured by receiving mostly A grades and not having to repeat a grade.

In fact, research shows that children with absentee fathers are twice as likely to drop out of school, to commit a crime and to abuse alcohol and drugs. And, they have a five times greater chance of living in poverty and are more likely to become pregnant as a teenager.

The social implications of this reality are staggering. Action is needed to stop these vicious cycles of poverty and teen pregnancy.

I believe it is important to reinforce the values that all Americans share: hard work, self-discipline, and personal and family responsibility.

I support meaningful legislation that will help make both parents responsible for taking care of their children, such as improvements to the interstate enforcement of child support, as well as media awareness campaigns to promote responsible fatherhood skills.

It is important for society to send a clear and strong message to parents—especially teenage parents—that they must be responsible for their children—and I will continue to support and promote such initiatives.

It is my great pleasure to stand here tonight with my colleagues to reinforce the importance of responsible parenting and to commend fathers who have had a positive and lasting influence on the lives of their children.

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, continuing under my reservation of objection, let me thank the gentleman very much for those very vital points that the gentleman inserted into this dialogue. It forces us to rethink our position in terms of the configuration of the family when we reflect on 9/11, as responsible fathers went to work to ensure that their families had economic well-being, only to be interrupted in terms of their life and being unable to go back.

So when we talk about fatherhood and partnerships and responsible fatherhood, we do consider that there are circumstances beyond the control of the biological father which would pro-

pel us into action to ensure that children do, in fact, have a connection with a responsible fatherhood figure, if you will, in their lives.

Mr. Speaker, under my reservation of objection, I yield to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATKINS).

Mr. WATKINS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time, and I appreciate her allotting me the time to say a few words on this, I think, very important issue. I want to say a special thanks to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. SULLIVAN) and also to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE), who has been a tremendous role model and friend, who understands the need to have a role model and, truly, the gentleman from Nebraska has been a role model for many young men.

I, like many others, have lived trying to make sure, trying to be the kind of father that my children would like. I was raised in a broken home, and there were lots of nights I went to bed thinking about, hoping and praying that God would let me be a father one of these days and maybe I could be a father to my children and also my grandchildren, because I do know the meaning. My mother raised me outside of a small farming community of less than 200 population, and I always look back and think how my mom, as a single parent, how she did it. We all worked. We all worked three part-time jobs and we were able to make it. But that small town was like a father, so to speak. It just consumes itself in trying to make sure that we as young people followed certain standards and values, et cetera; and I am just thankful to have been raised in that small community.

But I would like for my colleagues to know that I lay awake at night and I wonder how in the world do we save the inner city kids? How do we save those kids who many of them do not know who their father is? Sometimes they do not know either parent, and they find there is no role model. I know the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) and I have talked about role models. I think each and every one of us in life is a role model in one way or the other, one way or the other. I think it behooves us to try to get that message across, that we are responsible to try to help raise the children in some way so that they can be responsible and so that they can enter their fatherhood somewhere along the way.

As the gentleman from Maryland was talking about, statistics prove it out. I know I have been on the selection team of the top 10 students at Oklahoma State University for about 15 years; and over that period of time, it has been amazing to me to see the outstanding students, and most of them had both parents. Let me say this to any young person who may come from a broken home, a divorced home, you can use it as an excuse, or you can use it as a building stone, a stepping stone. Because it is easy for us to say, well,

because I did not have a parent is the reason why I did not do this or maybe I turned out bad.

I am so thankful that the good Lord blessed me along the way. I stand in support of H. Res. 442, because I think we cannot do too much in trying to reach a lot of people and trying to make sure we provide for them that opportunity to be a father and be a role model as a father.

So I thank the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. SULLIVAN) and especially my friend, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE), who I am just thankful that he will be coming to Oklahoma to be the presenter for my entry into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame; and I really and sincerely mean that, because as I have told my friend, as the Nebraska coach, we owe him a whole lot. I really want him to come because I want the people of Oklahoma to know the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) whom I have grown to love and respect as a fellow human being. But to the gentleman from Nebraska, we thank him so much for being part of our family here. I want to thank the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. SULLIVAN) and look forward to having him in Oklahoma. I thank the gentleman for what he has meant to the delegation in bringing this to our attention.

As I go through life, and as some here know, I am going home after this year, and people ask me what I am going to do, and I say I am going home to try to be the best father I can be, to be a papa, and to make memories.

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, continuing my reservation of objection, I thank the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATKINS).

I too want to add accolades to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) and certainly for the kind words from the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATKINS) and also to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

As we continue this dialogue in terms of these measures that are before us, I think that the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATKINS) brought up a very valuable point, and I want to insert a very invaluable point, I believe. All children in the inner city are not the stereotypical kind that one would believe. I myself came from an urban area and was born to a teen-age single mother, and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATKINS) made a good point that people can make choices about what it is that they want to be, and it is kind of difficult for us to muscle ourselves through life being branded as bastards, illegitimate, and coming from inner city areas. When you look back at some of the national episodes that occurred perpetuated by children that came from two-parent families, I think we have to stress the importance of building on the morals of an individual rather than classifying an individual by environment or by neighbor-

hood or by all of these other systemic kinds of situations.

Continuing to reserve my right to object, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE), whose oratory is almost as good as mine, but it is a joy to have him in the delegation. I was just with him the other night at a dinner. He would not want anybody to know that, but I have to tell that, and I do have a lot of appreciation for the good work that my colleague, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE), does; and it is a pleasure to yield to him.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for those kind words and, more to the point, for her original sponsorship of this important resolution tonight and to its author, one of the newest Members of this institution, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. SULLIVAN), who has already begun to make a tremendous impression on all of his colleagues on issues important to the family. And to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE), my thanks to him for his leadership on this issue as well.

My father was Ed Pence, who raised a family of four boys and two girls that were the passion of his life until he passed away in 1988 at the young age of 58, leaving all of us to this day heartbroken. And let me say that my father was tough as a father with a drill instructor background. He was at times completely unfair. His punishments were unjustifiable and without appeal, but my father was there, and that privilege for me is one of the greatest evidences of God's grace in my life. And my father's presence in my life and the lives of my brothers and sisters I have tried to emulate and replicate in the lives of Michael and Charlotte and Audrey who sit at our home at this hour watching this important conversation. It is one of the sublime privileges of my life to be their daddy and to try to live up to the high standards of my father. But it was a standard that was set simply by the idea that we really celebrate tonight in the gentleman from Oklahoma's resolution, and that is it is about being there for dads.

Sometimes I wonder in my heart if in the sitcom culture that we have invented today we have not raised the bar too high for fathers, creating some standard where if dad is not there at the end of the day at school talking through every single problem conversation that their child had that somehow that father is not living up to the modern standard of a touchy-feely dad.

□ 2045

Today in this resolution we simply call on fathers to reconnect; to be promise-keepers, to live out the commitment that is not just biological but begins there and remains spiritual and relational through their lives.

Fatherlessness, as the gentleman from Nebraska said, is an epidemic in America. Forty percent of children who live in fatherless households in the

United States have not seen their fathers in a year. Fifty percent of such children have never visited their father's homes. Nearly four out of 10 children born in America today are born in homes where their father will never live. It breaks my heart.

But I think that the leadership that the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON) is providing on this issue tonight is even more important, because if fatherlessness is an epidemic in America as a whole, it breaks my heart to say that in the last 25 years, fatherlessness has become a crisis in black America; that, for whatever reasons, whether they are a consequence of social welfare policies or trends or urbanization, black America, and particularly black American young men, have been growing up increasingly in a generation without their fathers at home. Six out of 10 black Americans today will be born and raised in a home where their fathers are not present, and it breaks my heart.

When we look at the statistics of what happens when dad is not around, children are five times more likely to end their lives in poverty, multiple times to become involved in crime and drugs and premarital sex and gang violence.

We must today come together, Christians and Jews, people of every race and every creed and every background and every party in this country, and declare war on fatherlessness, because it is, as the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) said with great passion and eloquence a moment ago, it is something about which the survival of our Nation is tied up.

With this I close. The Bible talks of a time of renewal in the world, when the hearts of the fathers would be turned back to their children. It seems to me that the resolution offered tonight by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. SULLIVAN), by the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON), and the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE), is all about doing just that, in whatever small way we can in this institution to do our part to turn the hearts of the fathers of America back to their children; to sear their consciences as this Father's Day approaches, and maybe even begin the process in this place of turning Father's Day not into a day where you get a new pair of slippers, a new subscription to Sports Illustrated, some new homemade chiseled gifts and nailed boards, but maybe it is a day when fathers do not receive but they decide to give.

Those of us who have the privilege to call ourselves fathers or to be called daddy by somebody special in the world will recognize this holiday as a day when we can renew, as the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. SULLIVAN) suggests, renew and reconnect and rededicate ourselves to our children's lives.

Again, I commend the gentlewoman from Indiana for her passion, her leadership, her testimony, and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. SULLIVAN).

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Continuing to reserve my right to object, Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Indiana very much for his input, and I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentlewoman from Indiana for her early and constant leadership on this issue, and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. SULLIVAN) for his leadership on this issue.

Two reasons, or more than two reasons, I rise to support this resolution: First of all, to pay tribute to America's fathers, many of whom are serving in the front lines of our war against terrorism, many of whom will not be with their children on Father's Day because of that.

I also would like to acknowledge my father, my late father, Ezra C. Jackson, who certainly represented a major force in my life; and then to pay tribute to my husband, Dr. Elwyn C. Lee, who plays a major role, not only in his children's lives, but that of his community.

That is why this resolution is so vital, because it emphasizes the importance and the very vitality of a man's love for his children. It indicates that that steady hand is needed, and the resolution calls for action. It literally asks fathers, wherever they may be, whether they are united with their families or they are not, it asks fathers to make an effort to be united with their children on Father's Day, and for the children to make an effort to be united with their fathers.

It is well known that this resolution also says that 40 percent of children who live in fatherless households in the United States have not seen their fathers in at least 1 year, and 50 percent of such children have never visited their father's homes.

As chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, I see the poverty of children. When I see that, I am not only talking about the physical poverty, the financial poverty, but also the spiritual and social poverty of children; that when children do not have the steady hand of the dad, we can see the difference; that firm hand, that hand that either plays the local sports, that sits on the front row of that school ceremony, that visits that teacher, that waves you off to school.

There is something about the bonding between father and child, girl or boy, and I am gratified that this House would rise today on the eve of Father's Day to be able to acknowledge the importance of Father's Day.

I am affiliated with an effort called the U.S. Dream Academy. Senator ORRIN HATCH and the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA), Senator HILLARY CLINTON, Senator CORZINE, and many others have offered their support for this operation sponsored by Wintley Phipps. The idea of it is to work with children of incarcerated parents, those parents that are in prison.

What they have determined is that a child whose parent is in prison, and in particular, in many instances, it is the male parent, that child is doomed to the cycle of incarceration or imprisonment. The father, again, not in their lives. In many instances, this effort is to boost the child's self-esteem, but also to find ways to ensure that if there can be a relationship, even with that incarcerated parent, and there can be a support system on the outside that bolsters that child's ability to achieve, it is an important program.

This resolution applauds such efforts to create the opportunity for parent and child to be together, and that is for children to be with their parents. It promotes responsible fatherhood, so that fatherhood or the idea of being a father would not denigrate the standing or parenting efforts of single mothers whose efforts are heroic.

We are not trying to condemn or to criticize those individuals who have to raise their children alone, but we are saying to the fathers, wherever they are, they can make a holistic family by coming to those children and raising themselves up as a person to be admired, respected, and someone who wants to nurture and love their children.

We believe, of course, that putting fathers in the lives of children does not condone being abusive. We know there are circumstances where we must separate the children from the family; and, as well, we do not want to keep children or families, rather, or women in abusive relationships. That is not the intent of this resolution. Nor do we want to compromise the health or the safety of a custodial parent. Many times there are restraining orders.

To put all of that aside, we are not attempting to change situations where there is any jeopardy, but what we are saying is that in this Father's Day, this third Sunday in June, we want to make sure that children and fathers have an opportunity to come together.

So we urge in this resolution an understanding, we urge in this resolution love, we urge in this resolution bonding and friendship. I might simply say that we as a Nation understood the principles of motherhood and fatherhood; we have Mother's Day, we have Father's Day. We understand the toiling and the hard work.

We made efforts to ensure that when we built towns to the West, when we said, go west, young man and young woman, we would put together towns around families. The first thing that would be built would be the little schoolhouse.

We even know that the tragedy of slavery unfortunately undermined family systems. There was a great impact on that. We have to continue to mend that psychological crack, if you will. In all of that, we have come full circle to understand the value of fatherhood.

So, Mr. Speaker, I am very honored to join the leaders of this resolution. Again, I want to add my accolades to

the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON), because she has been preaching this unity, this message about fatherhood, for many, many years. I am just delighted that she has brought this message to the United States Congress to be able to not only honor our fathers, to pay tribute to them, but also to challenge them to find their children, wherever they might be, and bring them close to them, and they will find great reward in the idea of fatherhood, both for themselves and for their children.

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Continuing to reserve my right to object, Mr. Speaker, certainly I would like to do a premature congratulations to Alex Nock, who has worked very hard with the staff, and who in October will become a father. So I want to be the first one to tell him congratulations, and certainly to Ms. Nock. We look forward to this explosion of the population, and for him to move into the role that he has so aptly described in this resolution, along with the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. SULLIVAN).

Continuing to reserve my right to object, Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KENNEDY).

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Indiana for yielding to me, and I thank and commend the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. SULLIVAN) for bringing this, along with the gentlewoman from Indiana, to our attention and to the floor. I would recognize also the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) for his leadership on this very important issue.

Mr. Speaker, we have many titles, many things we are called over the course of our lives. During school we have a lot of nicknames, and during my time in business I had a lot of fancy titles, and today we are called Congressmen or Congresswomen. But there is nothing more important than to be called "dad." It is the most important title that I have.

I have had the opportunity to invest in many things that are valuable to me, whether it be my home, buying a car every now and then, or other things. But as my father would always say, my assets sit around the table, and they are the most important, most valuable things that we have.

We have many jobs. I have had many jobs in my life during my 20-year career in business, and I have an important job here serving the people in the Second District of Minnesota.

But there is no more important job that I have, no more important job that any father has, than in being a father to their children. That is really what this resolution talks about, is the importance of that, and the need to really reach out and honor that, thank those that do a good job, and encourage those fathers out there to take a more active role in their lives.

I have had the example in my life, as many have, and unfortunately, some have not, of having a great father to

guide me in this path. I can fondly remember the nights when he would tuck me in at night and come over to my bed and say my prayers.

Every night when I am home, which in our role is not often enough, but I always try to take time at the end of the night to go to each child's bedroom, and I am very blessed to have four children, along with my wife, Debbie, and spend time with them talking about their day, saying our prayers, giving them the sign of the cross on their forehead to keep them safe through the night and keep them strong in their faith, and help them grow in their lives.

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But there are 24 million kids that do not have a father to come and talk to them at night or during the day or anytime. And it is those that we really our hearts go out to them and we should do everything we can to support them in our own way in role models. But the best thing that could happen for them is if their father was more involved. And that is what we are trying to do today, to encourage current fathers and future fathers to play a very important role in their children's lives.

As we celebrate Father's Day, we want to encourage them to remember, all fathers to remember that they have a role not just in bringing your child to life, but in teaching them, teaching them and working with them in their school work, working with them in terms of imparting your faith with them, working with them in helping them learn how to play sports, how to deal with some of the tough issues they face in life and dealing with young kids in their challenges that are giving them a hard time and sharing their stories as the struggles you went through.

So I would just commend and thank all fathers who are doing that today and commend them to redouble their efforts. I would encourage fathers that maybe have not really focused on that as much to really make a resolution this Father's Day to do that more. And I would also speak to the young men of the world that are not yet fathers to say, listen, if you are going to do that, you ought to take that act responsibly and you ought to have a commitment to those children that you bring into this world to bring them up as someone that you would be as happy to say that this is someone I have invested a lot of my life in and I am very pleased how they turned out.

So thanks to the fathers. Thanks again to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON). Thanks to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. SULLIVAN) for bringing this forward, as well as to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE).

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I thank the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KENNEDY). Let me say before I release my right to object, to the

coach, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE), in particular, because I know what an impact coaches have on the lives of young men, and even though I do not know the gentleman personally, I have observed him, and just his style suggests that he has touched many lives of young people who have been guided in a very positive way.

In Indiana we have Coach Dungy, who is head of the coaches, who is an incredible father himself to his biological children. But he has reached out and embraced other children who did not have the benefit of having the love of a father that he gives to his children. We have Mike Davis, an incredible coach at Indiana University, who has reached out and embraced other children who did not have the benefit of a personal father in their own life.

We have Emil, who just left to coach and went to the Oakland Raiders, who has created an incredible program for the benefit of children, particularly young men who did not have fathers. We have Tim Harris, who is a millionaire, African American, all of the men I have mentioned, African American men who are reaching out doing what they can do for the benefit of young men who are not so fortunate to have a father in their home. But to coaches in particular, they do have a very special segment in the lives of kids.

Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to tell the gentleman how much I appreciate him and the many numerous lives that he has touched along the way in his profession.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FLAKE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nebraska?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 442

Whereas 40 percent of children who live in fatherless households in the United States have not seen their fathers in at least 1 year, and 50 percent of such children have never visited their fathers' homes;

Whereas approximately 50 percent of all children born in the United States spend at least half of their childhood in families without father figures;

Whereas 3 out of 4 adolescents in the United States report that they do not have adults in their lives that serve as positive role models;

Whereas children who are apart from their biological fathers are, in comparison to other children, 5 times more likely to live in poverty, and more likely to bring weapons and drugs into the classroom, commit other crimes, drop out of school, commit suicide, abuse alcohol or drugs, and become pregnant as teenagers;

Whereas the Federal Government spends billions of dollars to address these social ills and very little to promote responsible fatherhood;

Whereas the promotion of responsible fatherhood should not—

(1) denigrate the standing or parenting efforts of single mothers, whose efforts are heroic;

(2) lessen the protection of children from abusive parents;

(3) cause women to remain in, or enter into, abusive relationships; or

(4) compromise the health or safety of a custodial parent;

Whereas children with fathers at home tend to do better in school, to be less prone to depression, and to have more successful relationships;

Whereas boys and girls alike demonstrate greater self-control and ability to take initiative when fathers are actively involved in their upbringing;

Whereas promoting responsible fatherhood can help increase the chances that children will grow up with two caring parents;

Whereas a broad array of America's leading family and child-development experts agree that it is in the best interests of children, and the Nation as a whole, to encourage more two-parent, father-involved families;

Whereas in a study of fathers' interaction with their children in intact two-parent families, nearly 90 percent of the fathers surveyed said that being a father is the most fulfilling role a man can have;

Whereas according to a 1996 Gallup poll, 90.3 percent of Americans agree that fathers make a unique contribution to their children's lives;

Whereas married fathers are more likely to have a close, enduring relationship with their children than unmarried fathers;

Whereas the promotion of responsible fatherhood is a bipartisan issue; and

Whereas Father's Day is the third Sunday in June: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) urges men to understand the level of responsibility fathering a child requires, especially in the encouragement of the academic, moral, and spiritual development of children;

(2) recognizes the need to encourage active involvement of fathers in the rearing and development of their children;

(3) encourages each father to devote time, energy, and resources to his children, recognizing that children need not only material support, but even more importantly, a secure and nurturing family environment;

(4) commends the millions of fathers who serve as wonderful, caring parents for their children, while also recognizing that there are children who will have no one with whom to celebrate on Father's Day;

(5) urges mothers to encourage fathers to play an active role in child-rearing;

(6) calls on fathers across the Nation to use Father's Day to reconnect and rededicate themselves to their children's lives, to spend Father's Day with their children, and to express their love and support for their children; and

(7) urges American institutions, and government entities at every level, to promote public policies that encourage and support the efforts of, and remove barriers to, responsible fatherhood.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 442.

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

There was no objection.