

I thank the members of the Committee on Agriculture for their support of this resolution. I also appreciate the support of the Committee on International Relations on this matter. The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) has been very cooperative in helping to expedite House Joint Resolution 49. I also thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM). I urge Members to support this resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution to recognize the role of the Foreign Agricultural Service in expanding export opportunities for America's farmers and ranchers and working to increase food security around the globe.

When FAS began its work, exports accounted for less than 10 percent of agricultural sales. Last year, 49 percent of the wheat and 54 percent of the cotton harvested in the United States was exported. By the year 2012, 98 percent of the world's population will live outside of the United States, and American agriculture will depend even more on export markets.

The men and women of the Foreign Agricultural Service have worked hard to identify and focus on the potential of growing markets such as Mexico and China where the economies are expected to grow by 5 and 7 percent respectively.

The U.S. agricultural producers are taking advantage of new trading opportunities. Between 1992 and 2002, U.S. agricultural exports to Mexico grew from \$3.8 billion to \$7.3 billion per year. And in China from .5 billion to \$2 billion. At the same period, exports to Canada have grown from \$4.9 billion to 8.7, making it our largest export market for agriculture. And all of these markets, particularly China, have a tremendous potential opportunity for U.S. producers.

The success of the programs administered by the FAS is also reflected by the increases in funding that were included for many of these programs in last year's farm bill. These include an additional \$650 million for the Market Access Program, \$308 million for Food for Progress, \$100 million for the International Food for Education Program, and \$67 million for the Foreign Market Development Program.

Rural communities depend on export for one-third of their jobs. Over the past 5 years, United States agricultural exports have averaged over \$53 billion per year, and our agricultural trade surplus has averaged over \$13 billion. This is compared to the overall trade deficit of the United States of over \$500 billion. Each \$1 billion in exports supports 15,000 American jobs. This means U.S. agricultural exports are supporting over 800,000 jobs, 50,000 in my home State of Texas alone. Many of these jobs are on farms or ranches, but even more of them are in transpor-

tation, storage, marketing, trade services, and food processing.

As a representative of some of the rural communities that benefit from such jobs, I thank the men and women of the Foreign Agricultural Service for their hard work, and I congratulate the agency on its service to rural America.

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I have no request for time; I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN).

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM) for yielding me this time, and I thank him for his leadership on this bill, as well as the chairman of the committee.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.J. Res. 49 recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Foreign Agricultural Service at the Department of Agriculture. I have had the privilege of working with many of the FAS staff in Washington and in our embassies around the world, and on one special program in particular, the Global Food for Education Initiative, or the GFEI.

In July 2000, President Clinton announced at the Okinawa G-8 summit that the United States would initiate a \$300 million pilot program, the Global Food for Education Initiative, to provide hungry children with a daily nutritious meal in a school setting. The twin goals of the program were to reduce hunger among children and increase the number of children, especially girls, attending school. The GFEI was modeled around a series of successful FAS school feeding programs that use section 416(b) surplus commodities and that were implemented by U.S. private voluntary organizations and the World Food Program.

FAS faced a monumental task to initiate the GFEI pilot program on a very tight timeline in an accountable and effective manner. They came through with flying colors. In December 2000, the President announced that the GFEI would carry out 48 projects in 39 countries and reach about 9 million children in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

In February 2003, USDA published the first evaluation of the GFEI. This report documents the marked success of these school feeding projects. Hunger was reduced, parents and community organizations were empowered, and school attendance increased, especially among girls.

I do not believe this level of success would have been achieved without the diligent leadership of Mary Chambliss, Robin Tilsworth, Babette Gainor, and the rest of the FAS staff. Their belief in this program and their commitment to accountability and oversight ensured that the project lived up to the promise of the initial proposal. I encourage my colleagues to visit the FAS Web site and review the GFEI report.

I have seen these projects in action in Indonesia and Colombia, and I have had the privilege of meeting the FAS staff based at our embassies who help carry out these programs in the field.

Mr. Speaker, there are 300 million hungry children worldwide. Most do not get a chance to go to school. For the children involved in the GFEI, these school meals are often the only food that child will receive, and that meal and school may be the only stable factors in their precarious and uncertain lives.

In last year's farm bill, the GFEI became permanent when the George McGovern-Robert Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program was established. It received \$100 million for fiscal year 2003, a reduction from the pilot program, but an allocation which I hope will increase in the future.

Every single Member of the other body called upon the President to keep the McGovern-Dole Program in the capable hands of the FAS, a resounding endorsement if ever I heard one.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the FAS and its staff for their commitment to use our farmers' productivity to help end world hunger. I congratulate them on a half century of fine work, and I urge my colleagues to pass this resolution.

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

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

This recognition of the Foreign Agricultural Service is well deserved. The work that they conduct around the world in promoting American agriculture is vitally important. It is even more important following the passage of the Trade Promotion Authority in the last Congress.

I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 49.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. GOODLATTE. 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.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.J. Res. 49, the joint resolution just considered.

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

There was no objection.

**AWARDING A CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO PRIME MINISTER TONY BLAIR**

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1511) to award a congressional gold medal to Prime Minister Tony Blair.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1511

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. FINDING.**

The Congress finds that Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom has clearly demonstrated, during a very trying and historic time for our 2 countries, that he is a staunch and steadfast ally of the United States of America.

**SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold medal of appropriate design, to Prime Minister Tony Blair, in recognition of his outstanding and enduring contributions to maintaining the security of all freedom-loving nations.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the "Secretary") shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the Secretary.

**SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 2 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses, and the cost of the gold medal.

**SEC. 4. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

(a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursuant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

(b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

**SEC. 5. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF SALE.**

(a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be necessary to pay for the costs of the medals struck pursuant to this Act.

(b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section 3 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) each will control 20 minutes.

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

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is a distinct privilege today to be able to move this bill awarding a Congressional Gold Medal to British Prime Minister Tony Blair. Throughout our history, there has probably been no country that the United States has had a closer relationship with than Great Britain. Certainly we share certain immutable, transcendent values. Throughout our history we have stood together in a number of noble causes, probably dramatically manifested during World War II when Prime Minister Churchill and President Roosevelt stood together to defeat the forces of fascism and Nazism. But there is probably no British Prime Minister who has been there when America needs him more than Tony Blair.

Certainly during the Clinton administration, it was Prime Minister Blair who stood shoulder to shoulder with President Clinton in the war in Kosovo against Serb aggression, against the dictator Milosevic. But nothing more illustrated the unique relationship between the United States and Britain and the immense courage and dedication of Tony Blair than what happened after our Nation was attacked on September 11, 2001. The first foreign leader to come to this country to express his regrets while the smoke was still there, while the flames were still burning, visited the World Trade Center, visited New York and came here to our Nation's capital was British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

When President Bush addressed a joint session of Congress on September 20, 2001, just 9 days after the brutal attack on the World Trade Center, it was Prime Minister Blair who sat here in the gallery expressing his solidarity with the United States. On that evening, President Bush said, "Once again we are joined together in a great cause and we are so honored the British Prime Minister has crossed an ocean to show his unity of purpose with America. Thank you for coming, friend."

Indeed, Tony Blair has been a friend of the United States but, just as important as that, he has been a friend and supporter of democratic values. He realizes the unique nature and relationship of the bonds between the United States and Britain and indeed between the United States and Europe. He has been a strong friend of the United

States. Certainly in the recent war against Iraq, it was Tony Blair who resisted pressure both from the media, his own party and his own parliament to stand up and be with the United States.

For all those reasons, and I am sure this debate will go on for a while, probably longer than we anticipated it would today, I stand in support of this legislation.

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

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY), the ranking member of the subcommittee, who is the cosponsor of this resolution.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I rise in support of this legislation that awards the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest honor Congress can award, to Prime Minister Tony Blair. Past recipients include Presidents George Washington and Harry Truman; heroic figures such as Charles Lindbergh, Rosa Parks, and Mother Teresa; and Prime Minister Winston Churchill, who led England through the dark hours of World War II.

Mr. Speaker, just as Prime Minister Churchill stood with President Roosevelt to defeat the Nazis, Prime Minister Blair has offered steadfast support for the United States since the terror attacks of 9/11. The American people will never forget that the Prime Minister traveled across an ocean to be in the gallery of the House in a sign of solidarity with our country as President Bush addressed our Nation after the terrorist attacks.

More recently, prior to the war in Iraq, the Prime Minister and his U.N. envoy, Sir Jeremy Greenstock, worked tirelessly to exhaust every diplomatic channel to build consensus in the United Nations. It was Prime Minister Blair who tried to bridge differences with our traditional European allies up until the wee hours before the war began. Additionally, Prime Minister Blair pushed our own administration to use its political capital to fully engage in the Middle East peace process.

While that effort continues to face very substantial obstacles, most notably the unceasing suicide attacks against Israel citizens, the Prime Minister deserves credit for putting Middle East Peace on the table as does the Administration for its efforts to implement the "road map."

While the Prime Minister has demonstrated considerable political courage in recent months, his stand with our country should not be surprising.

As a political leader in Britain the Prime Minister has spent this life leading the Labour Party out of oblivion and into its current dominant position in the Parliament.

At age 30 he was elected to Parliament. Later as a member of John Smith's shadow cabinet he worked to transform Labour into a party tough on crime and while still committed to its social causes.