

from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with section 1321 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107-228), I transmit herewith a report prepared by my Administration on implementation of the debt reduction authority conferred by title XIII, subtitle B of Public Law 107-228.

GEORGE W. BUSH,
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 8, 2004.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE
CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 8, 2004.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on March 8, 2004 at 11:55 a.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he notifies the Congress of his intention to enter into a free trade agreement with the Kingdom of Morocco.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAH,
Clerk of the House.

INTENTION TO ENTER INTO FREE
TRADE AGREEMENT WITH THE
KINGDOM OF MOROCCO—MES-
SAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF
THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC.
NO. 108-172)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with section 2105(a)(1)(A) of the Trade Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-210; the "Trade Act"), I am pleased to notify the Congress of my intent to enter into a free trade agreement (FTA) with the Kingdom of Morocco.

This agreement will create new opportunities for America's workers, farmers, businesses, and consumers by eliminating barriers in trade with Morocco. Morocco is one of the United States strongest friends in the Middle East. Increased trade will benefit Americans and help strengthen a tolerant, open, and more prosperous Morocco. Entering into an FTA with Morocco will not only strengthen our bilateral ties with this important ally, it

will also advance my goal of a Middle East free trade area (MEFTA) within a decade.

Consistent with the Trade Act, I am sending this notification at least 90 days in advance of signing the United States-Morocco FTA. My Administration looks forward to working with the Congress in developing appropriate legislation to approve and implement this free trade agreement.

GEORGE W. BUSH,
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 8, 2004.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

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

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken at 6:30 p.m. today.

SENSE OF THE HOUSE WITH RE-
SPECT TO SAN LUIS OBISPO
COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, DECEM-
BER 22, 2003 EARTHQUAKE

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 519) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the earthquake that occurred in San Luis Obispo County, California, on December 22, 2003.

The Clerk read as follows:
H. RES. 519

Whereas at 11:15 A.M. on Monday, December 22, 2003, an earthquake measuring 6.5 on the Richter Scale occurred in San Luis Obispo County, California, with an epicenter approximately 6 miles northeast of the community of San Simeon and 24 miles northwest of the City of Paso Robles;

Whereas the magnitude of the earthquake was such that it was felt from the City of San Francisco to the Los Angeles Basin, and may have caused the Coastal Range to become up to a foot higher;

Whereas the earthquake caused damage to homes, businesses, and public infrastructure such as buildings, bridges, and roads, that will cost millions of dollars to repair;

Whereas tragically, 2 lives were lost and more than 40 persons sustained injuries;

Whereas local public safety and law enforcement personnel responded immediately, effectively, and courageously to assist victims of the earthquake and otherwise protect the public; and

Whereas a Federal disaster declaration was issued on January 13, 2004: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) is saddened by the loss of life and property caused by the earthquake that occurred in San Luis Obispo County, California, on December 22, 2003, and sends its deepest condolences to the victims and their families; and

(2) recognizes and honors those local officials, public safety and law enforcement personnel, and individuals, who in private or public capacity provided assistance to the victims of the earthquake and their families,

and commends this dedicated service to the residents of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties and the State of California.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which 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 gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 519, introduced by the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS), honors the victims and affected residents of the earthquake that occurred in San Luis Obispo, California, on December 22, 2003. The earthquake registered a 6.5 on the Richter scale, and it killed two people and injured 50 others. This was the largest quake to hit the counties of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara since 1994.

The historic town of Paso Robles was hit the hardest. Many of the buildings in that area were unreinforced masonry structures built over a century ago, and they were unfortunately no match for the earthquake's power. The two deaths occurred in Paso Robles. In addition, the earthquake's tremors were felt in San Francisco to Los Angeles, and more than 30 aftershocks were reported in the following hours. The quake knocked out power to approximately 75,000 residents, and many others were forced to evacuate. This resolution remembers the victims and those who were injured and underscores the heroic sacrifices made by countless disaster relief workers and emergency personnel after the earthquake.

Following the wildfires that scorched hundreds of thousands of acres in October, the December 22 earthquake concluded a difficult fall season for so many California residents. Therefore, I thank the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) for introducing this resolution. It helps us all remember the victims of this disaster.

The resolution also appropriately recognizes the public safety officials and emergency response personnel who helped limit the earthquake's effects on the region. Many individuals, businesses, and organizations in surrounding areas provided much-needed assistance to victims in the days and the weeks following the tragedy. I commend the gentleman from California for the resolution's important focus in

commending these charitable groups as well.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge all Members to support House Resolution 519.

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

□ 1415

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

Mr. Speaker, Paso Robles, California, is a small town nestled in the Central California wine country. Since 1892, the clock tower atop the Mastagni Building had kept the pulse of the town, an unceasing progression of hours for 111 years. The ticking stopped at 11:16 a.m. on Monday, December 22, 2003, when the building crumbled underneath it and the clock fell to the street below.

Marilyn Zafuto of Paso Robles and Jennifer Myrick of Atascadero were shopping at a dress shop in the Mastagni Building on that fateful day, and as they attempted to flee to safety, they were killed by falling debris. Their tragic fate made them the only two deaths of a powerful earthquake that shook California from San Francisco to Los Angeles.

With a magnitude of 6.5 on the Richter Scale, the San Luis Obispo County earthquake of 2003 threw lives into upheaval all around the State. In addition to the deaths of Ms. Zafuto and Ms. Myrick, 40 people were injured in the quake and its subsequent aftershocks, which measured as strong as magnitude 4.7. More than 40 buildings were damaged, roads were buckled, gas mains were damaged, water pipes were ruptured. This was the largest earthquake to hit California since 1999 when a magnitude 7.1 quake was measured in the desert near Joshua Tree and the first to cause deaths since the 6.7 magnitude earthquake in Northridge in 1994.

The effects of this earthquake were felt far and wide across California. At the Federal Building in San Francisco, 165 miles northwest of the epicenter, the top floor swayed for 30 seconds and people in downtown Los Angeles reported that the streets were beset with a sustained rolling motion.

As often is the case, from American tragedies come stories of American heroism. The San Luis Obispo earthquake is no exception. The 200 emergency workers who toiled for hours, looking through the rubble for victims and tending to the wounded, deserve the admiration of this House as do the countless local heroes who rose to the occasion when circumstances called for it.

We have not the time to tell all the stories, but I would like to tell you of Nick and Patricia Sherwin. Mr. Sherwin owns a jewelry store in the Mastagni Building in Paso Robles. When the quake hit, Mr. Sherwin took charge, calling for the evacuation of his store. Most of the people made it outside before the roof, including the clock tower, was shorn off the building.

But two elderly customers fell before they could get outside. Mr. and Mrs. Sherwin went back and draped themselves over the fallen elderly customers and shielded them and their bodies until the quake subsided. Untold heroic stories like this one unfolded across Central California on that day.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of men and women, Americans like these, I offer my respect for their quiet heroism on a day when the earth made their feet seem poised to betray them. I also extend, along with the rest of the House, my deepest condolences to the victims and families of the San Luis Obispo County earthquake.

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

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS), the distinguished sponsor of this resolution.

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

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) for his willingness to expeditiously move this resolution. Those of us in California experience earthquakes periodically. It is difficult to predict. The usual formula is the longer it has been since the last one, the sooner it is to the next one. When actually, if you will look at newspapers in California on a regular basis, literally on a daily basis there are anywhere from several dozen to several hundred earthquakes that occur, many of them are not felt.

Periodically, we get an earthquake as occurred in Paso Robles on December 22. It was a good size earthquake, 6.5 on the Richter Scale is a good size earthquake. The earthquake that literally leveled downtown Bakersfield in 1952 was only 6.1. The earthquake that produced between 20 and 50,000 lives lost in Bam, Iran, in 2003 was about the same magnitude, 6.5.

This particular earthquake caused about a quarter of a billion dollars worth of damage in homes, businesses and government offices. But only two lives lost. And even then, it was a peculiar set of circumstances that produced the tragedy of the two lives lost. I have a district office in San Luis Obispo County in the 1915 Atascadero City Hall which was shook pretty severely, bricks were falling, and the building itself suffered a number of cracks. And in visiting the site and in the surrounding area, again and again and again it was clear how fortunate we were, how many near misses occurred.

I do want to thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) for moving this resolution, and for all of us to remember those individuals who lost their life, those individuals who suffered major business damage downtown, and to the general psyche.

I know that when earthquakes occur, I have seen local television stations go to the airport to interview people, to

ask them if they are thinking about returning to California because the earth literally shook. I have told them many times that although it occurs periodically on the east coast, literally, hurricanes and tornados occur everywhere. There are difficulties that you have to put up with wherever you live. California, unfortunately, on the rim of fire, is periodically subjected to these earthquakes.

This one was a difficult one for all of us. My colleagues in the area, Mrs. CAPPS and others responded fairly quickly. I do want to put on the record how magnificently the local elected officials responded, setting up emergency teams, keeping lines of communication open. And I want to compliment the Federal Government in its quick response in providing grants and loans to those who were clearly depressed and destroyed and were given the opportunity very quickly to rebuild.

The spring has come, the rains have come, the grass is green, but the psyche shattering earthquake of last December is still present in downtown areas and in the surrounding communities. And the scar on the earth will be there for a long time.

I thank the chairman for the quick response and especially for the Nation's taxpayers in responding in the hour of need in San Luis Obispo, Paso Robles, Atascadero and the surrounding community. I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS).

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 519, a resolution honoring the victims of the December 22, 2003, San Simeon earthquake and paying tribute to the law enforcement, emergency personnel, and many local leaders who provided assistance to citizens throughout San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties.

I thank my colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) for introducing this resolution and for bringing it to the floor of the House today. It has been a privilege for me to work with him to help get the central coast back on its feet again.

Mr. Speaker, earthquakes impact all segments of the communities they strike: Individuals, businesses, and public services such as police, fire, hospitals, and schools. In the days following this earthquake I was very moved by the devastation in San Luis Obispo County and in northern Santa Barbara County. The earthquake registered 6.5 on the Richter Scale and was felt from San Francisco all the way to Los Angeles. I know what it was like to feel it strongly in my fourth

floor congressional office building as I was meeting with constituents at that very hour.

Even though the earthquake lasted only seconds, it left behind destruction that will take months, if not years, to repair and rebuild. The greatest tragedy, of course, is that time will not undue the loss of life of two people caused by this earthquake. Two women perished when a clock tower collapsed in Paso Robles. Our thoughts and prayers continue to go out to the friends and families of these victims.

More than 50 people were injured as a result of the earthquake. There was extensive damage to residential properties, to historical and public buildings, and to public utility structures. I have received numerous calls and letters from constituents who have suffered major losses to their businesses.

Total costs and damages to the counties of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara are expected to exceed \$300 million with reports of more damage coming in daily.

Mr. Speaker, residents and local authorities are continuing to rebuild their lives after this earthquake. I was pleased the President heeded calls from Governor Schwarzenegger, the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS), and me and declared San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties Federal disaster areas as a result of the December 22 earthquake. Federal funding and loan assistance is essential to help businesses and individuals rebuild their lives and get their lives back on track following this, such a devastating earthquake.

However, I remain disappointed that the Governor's request that Santa Barbara County's Federal disaster area declaration does not include individual assistance programs. It only limits the support from the Federal Government to the businesses involved.

In northern Santa Barbara County, especially in the cities of Santa Maria and Guadalupe, homeowners are still suffering from the impact of this earthquake and its after shocks. Updated damage assessments have revealed that northern Santa Barbara County residents suffered much more loss than was originally estimated.

My office will continue to work with all businesses and all families affected by the earthquake to ensure that they have access to loans and other assistance that could help them recover as quickly as possible. Work has already begun to make sure that the hundreds of Federal historic properties are preserved and retrofitted to provide safe and accessible work in public spaces.

This is a critical component of creating communities where our families and businesses are safe, healthy, and that the economy is secure. State and Federal agencies, including the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, FEMA and the Small Business Administration all have been working closely with local officials to give them all the support that they need. And I want to

extend my heartfelt thanks to them as well as to the first responders, to the rescue workers and to all of the volunteers, so many of them, everyone who took great risk to themselves to search the wreckage for their fellow citizens. They did an extraordinary job.

I also want to commend the city, the county, and State workers and utility crews who worked around the clock to restore power, water, and other important services to our communities. Critical functions such as emergency centers, fire stations, police stations and hospitals were functioning right after the earthquake.

We do not want to think about what would happen in such an event, but when it does, we are all heartened by the way that people pull together and work together from every level, particularly the volunteers who leave whatever they were doing aside and step right up to the plate. They cannot do it without the assistance of local, State, and Federal support.

The San Simeon earthquake was a shocking reminder to people who live just about anywhere in California that we are prone to earthquakes and should do whatever we can to prepare. Preparing for an earthquake can be as simple as making an earthquake preparedness kit with first aid supplies, extra food and water, and clothing. I encourage all Californians to take this step. This may be a lifesaver in the next quake.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, people on the Central Coast are returning to their lives as they once knew them before the earthquake. The earthquake may have shaken our foundations, but it, once again, proves the strength of our communities and our unshakable resolve to help each other out during times of tragedy. I urge immediate adoption of this resolution to pay tribute to the lives we lost that day and to honor all of those who stepped in, stepped up to the plate, to help their neighbors to get through such a difficult time.

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

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and 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. TOM DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 519.

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. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. 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.

□ 1430

ARMY STAFF SGT. LINCOLN HOLLINSAID MALDEN POST OFFICE

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3536) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 210 Main Street in Malden, Illinois, as the "Army Staff Sgt. Lincoln Hollinsaid Malden Post Office".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3536

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

SECTION 1. ARMY STAFF SGT. LINCOLN HOLLINSAID MALDEN POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 210 Main Street in Malden, Illinois, shall be known and designated as the "Army Staff Sgt. Lincoln Hollinsaid Malden Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the Army Staff Sgt. Lincoln Hollinsaid Malden Post Office.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3536.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the next three pieces of legislation that the House will consider today are each tributes to a fallen soldier of the United States Armed Forces who served in Iraq in the past year.

All Americans and all peace-loving people around the world should have rejoiced in the news just yesterday that members of the Iraqi Governing Council signed an interim constitution, a grand step towards the objective of establishing free elections and a permanent self-ruling government in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, in working to achieve these extraordinary goals, countless American servicemen and women have sacrificed for months since the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom nearly one year ago and, indeed, some American soldiers today have paid the ultimate price for our country. Today I am pleased that the House is taking time