

RECOGNIZING ACCOMPLISHMENTS
OF THE AMERICAN COUNCIL OF
YOUNG POLITICAL LEADERS

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 430) recognizing the accomplishments of the American Council of Young Political Leaders for providing 40 years of international exchange programs, increasing international dialogue, and enhancing global understanding, and commemorating its 40th anniversary.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 430

Whereas citizen-to-citizen exchanges offer unique opportunities for learning from one another about commonly-shared solutions to problems, as well as different perspectives on forms of government and the aspirations other nations have for their citizens;

Whereas the American Council of Young Political Leaders (hereinafter referred to as the "ACYPL") was incorporated on September 1, 1966, by young leaders to open lines of communication and increase cross cultural understanding among future generations of political leadership;

Whereas ACYPL prepares in-depth study tours for young leaders, aged between 25 and 40 years old, to give them much-needed international exposure early in their political careers;

Whereas ACYPL targets young politicians likely to assume future positions of responsibility and leadership as Federal and State legislators, mayors, city council members and other State and local elected officials, many of whom may not have previously traveled outside the United States;

Whereas ACYPL programs are strictly bipartisan: American delegates are drawn equally from both major political parties and from all 50 States; ACYPL's overseas delegations are chosen to represent the political and cultural diversity of their home countries;

Whereas every dollar ACYPL receives in Federal funding becomes about another dollar and fifty cents through cost-share, in-kind contributions and outside fundraising, making this program one of the most cost effective public diplomacy programs supported by the United States Department of State;

Whereas the ACYPL's operations have evolved from its initial focus on Western Europe where there was limited interaction between the emerging leadership in the post-World War II nations and the United States to meet the challenges and to embrace public diplomacy opportunities in a changing world;

Whereas in the ensuing decades, the ACYPL's programs have extended to 90 nations in all regions of the world, including the Middle East, sub-Sahara Africa, the Western Hemisphere, East Asia, and the Pacific Rim;

Whereas ACYPL became one of the very few organizations with which the Soviet Union agreed to conduct political exchanges during the height of the Cold War, and ACYPL launched an exchange relationship between young political leaders in the United States and China following normalization of relations in 1979;

Whereas ACYPL exchange programs have endured during times of government-to-government strain, such as with China during the hostilities in Tiananmen Square and the Hainan Island incident, with the Soviets during their war in Afghanistan, and with Venezuela today;

Whereas ACYPL maintains its legacy of exchanging with recent post-conflict nations

and assembling young leaders from places that have experienced bitter conflict, including Vietnam, Northern Ireland, Pakistan and India, Israel and the West Bank, and Greece and Turkey;

Whereas since 1966, the ACYPL has produced a global network of more than six thousand alumni, a large number of whom have risen to positions of great influence in the United States and in nations around the world;

Whereas prominent American ACYPL alumni include members of the United States Congress, cabinet members, governors, United States ambassadors, and many senior level national, State, and local executive and legislative branch officials;

Whereas distinguished international ACYPL alumni include prime ministers, cabinet members, ambassadors and parliamentarians; and

Whereas ACYPL looks to the future in an increasingly uncertain world, and remains steadfast in its mission to promote understanding and cultivate lasting political, economic and cultural relationships among young political leaders and policy-makers worldwide through the regular exchange of delegations, educational forums, leadership training and ongoing dialogue: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) Congress commends the American Council of Young Political Leaders for working for forty years to prepare young political leaders to play a leadership role in international relations and world affairs;

(2) Congress congratulates the American Council of Young Political Leaders for exemplifying a stellar example of public diplomacy that works; and

(3) Congress salutes the American Council of Young Political Leaders for being a pre-eminent catalyst for introducing rising political leaders and policy makers to international affairs and to each other.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, H. Con. Res. 430, which was introduced by the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS), recognizes the 40th anniversary of the American Council of Young Political Leaders and commends it for 40 years of working to prepare young political leaders to play a leadership role in international relations and world affairs.

This council is a not-for-profit organization based in Washington, D.C., which was incorporated on September 1, 1966. Since then, it has worked to promote understanding and cultivate lasting political, economic, and cul-

tural relationships among young political leaders and policymakers throughout the world through the regular exchange of bipartisan delegations, educational forums, leadership training and ongoing dialogue.

When this Young Political Leaders group was founded during the Cold War, its efforts initially focused on Western Europe. Over the past 4 decades, its programs have expanded to include over 90 nations throughout the world, including the Middle East, sub-Saharan Africa, the Western Hemisphere, East Asia, and the Pacific Rim.

The organization has also worked to better prepare young political leaders between the ages of 25 and 40 years old for future positions of responsibility in local, State, and Federal governments. It offers young leaders, some who may have never traveled outside the United States, the opportunity to enhance their awareness and understanding of other cultures through in-depth study tours, which are strictly bipartisan and carefully selected to represent geographical and cultural diversity.

It is important to note that every Member of Congress and all 50 Governors may nominate young political leaders as possible candidates to participate in the organization's in-depth study tours.

It has more than 6,000 alumni throughout the world, many of whom have risen to positions of great responsibility. In the United States, alumni include Members of Congress, the Cabinet, ambassadors and many senior level officials who serve in local, State and national government. Internationally, past participants of its program now serve as Cabinet members, ambassadors, parliamentarians and as other senior level policymakers.

The council's work to establish early relationships among such future leaders helps facilitate international dialogue and strengthen and promote U.S. policies and objectives. Accordingly, Congress congratulates the American Council of Young Political Leaders upon its 40th anniversary and wishes it continued success in its efforts.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I first would like to commend my friend, fellow Californian, chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Congressman BILL THOMAS, for introducing this measure. I have worked with him on many different issues over the many years we have both served here, from Africa to Southeast Asia, and I am sure all of us will miss him when Congress reconvenes next January.

The resolution before the House recognizes the achievements of the American Council of Young Political Leaders, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary. BILL THOMAS has served on the board of directors of this fine organization, and we commend his leadership on behalf of ACYPL.

Madam Speaker, as the midterm election approaches, partisanship is at the extreme. But on the subject of the importance of ensuring the next generation of American political leaders, we understand that the global environment calls for us to have bipartisan support for this measure.

For 40 years, this organization has selected young political leaders in the United States, carefully balanced between Republicans and Democrats, to travel to many other nations to meet their foreign counterparts. These missions have helped young American political leaders in their understanding of the complexities of the economic, cultural and political climate of many countries and provide a global perspective for policymaking at the local, State and Federal levels.

Many of these young foreign leaders ultimately became major political figures in their home countries. The Foreign Minister of Australia is an alumnus, as are dozens of members of parliaments in many nations around the world.

I am pleased that the distinguished Ambassador of Hungary to the United States today, Ambassador Andras Simonyi, is another alumnus.

This organization is a cost-effective public diplomacy program that is sorely needed in this troubled international environment. I strongly support this resolution.

Mr. THOMAS. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 430, which recognizes the 40th anniversary of the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL) and commends it for the work it has done over the past 40 years to prepare young political leaders for leadership roles in international relations and world affairs. As an alumnus of an ACYPL program and the sponsor of H. Con. Res. 430, I appreciate the House's consideration of this resolution as well as Chairman HYDE's efforts to bring it to the floor today.

When ACYPL began during the Cold War, it initially focused its efforts on improving young leaders' understanding of Western Europe. In fact, when I participated in an ACYPL program in the 1970s, I traveled to the former Soviet Union. However, as geopolitical conditions have changed over the past 40 years, ACYPL has expanded its bipartisan programs to include over 90 nations throughout the world, including the Middle East, sub-Saharan Africa, the Western Hemisphere, East Asia, and the Pacific Rim.

As technology and trade continue to advance, the world will likely become even more interconnected. Thus, the need for our young leaders to better understand foreign governments and cultures will continue to be important, along with the bipartisan international exchange programs, educational forums, and leadership training ACYPL provides to prepare young political leaders for future positions of responsibility in local, state, and federal government. Accordingly, I congratulate ACYPL on its 40th anniversary, commend it for its important work, and wish it continued success.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of our time.

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, I urge adoption of this House concurrent reso-

lution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 430.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMENDING UNITED KINGDOM FOR ITS EFFORTS IN THE WAR ON TERROR

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 989) commending the United Kingdom for its efforts in the War on Terror, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 989

Whereas on August 10, 2006, British police arrested 24 people for plotting to commit acts of terror on trans-Atlantic flights;

Whereas as of August 31, 2006, 12 citizens have been charged for their roles in the terror plot, including eight citizens charged with conspiracy to murder;

Whereas United Kingdom authorities acted swiftly and decisively to prevent a horrific attack on scores of innocent people;

Whereas the United Kingdom and the United States have been close allies in not only two World Wars and Operation Desert Storm, but also the Global War on Terror;

Whereas the intelligence and military communities of the United Kingdom and the United States continue to work together to win the Global War on Terror;

Whereas the threat of terrorism is a grave concern for all nations, regardless of geographical or other boundaries;

Whereas acts of terror have profoundly affected citizens across the globe, including those in Egypt, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States; and

Whereas victory in the Global War on Terror is a necessity to ensure the liberty and safety of all people: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the law enforcement authorities of the United Kingdom on their action to prevent a terrible attack from occurring;

(2) commends the intelligence community of the United Kingdom for its outstanding work in identifying the citizens seeking to carry out this plot;

(3) condemns those that would use acts of violence against innocent civilians to spread a message of hate and intolerance; and

(4) urges the allies of the United States in the Global War on Terror to remain steadfast in the execution of this important mission.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 989, a resolution that I introduced that commends the United Kingdom for its efforts in the war on terror and for their work in stopping a terrorist plot in July that could have resulted in the deaths of thousands of innocent civilians.

Madam Speaker, since the attack on the United States on 9/11, the United Kingdom has been our closest ally in the war on terrorism. In this effort, there has been extremely close cooperation between American and British police and intelligence agencies.

In addition, Britain has stood side by side with us both in Iraq and in Afghanistan. The British still have more than 7,000 troops in Iraq, and 118 British soldiers have lost their lives in that war. In Afghanistan, 40 soldiers from the United Kingdom have been killed fighting the Taliban and those warlords. Currently, Britain heads the NATO-led international security assistance force in Afghanistan, and British troops have been involved in particularly heavy fighting in the southern part of Afghanistan.

In both of these countries, Iraq and Afghanistan, Britain is the largest contributor of troops of any country after the United States. The American people will not soon forget the sacrifice of our British allies in those wars.

Madam Speaker, H. Res. 989 focuses on the outstanding work of law enforcement authorities in the United Kingdom in preventing the planned terrorist attack that would have blown up in midair multiple transatlantic flights from London to the United States. This plot was thwarted by British police and intelligence officials on August 10, 2006, with the arrest of 24 people.

In addition, the resolution cites terrorism as a grave concern for all nations, regardless of boundaries, as terrorist attacks have killed innocent people in countries such as Egypt, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Spain, Turkey and, of course, the United Kingdom and here in the United States.

Britain has been a close, long-time friend of the United States, and now they are standing with us in the war against terrorism. It is entirely appropriate for the House of Representatives to recognize their friendship and contribution in this war.

This resolution was approved unanimously by the Subcommittee on Europe and Emerging Threats of the House International Relations Committee on September 20. I would like to thank the subcommittee chairman, Chairman GALLEGLY, and the International Relations Committee chairman, Chairman HYDE, for moving this