

Nation's waterways safe. Without their tireless dedication and outstanding service, we would not have such a superb safety record on our oceans, on our lakes and on our rivers.

Recreational and commercial boating is also a big part of life for my district, Congressional District 18 in Florida, and our citizens truly appreciate the hard work and the dedication of the Coast Guard patrolling our Nation's waters.

I will also once again express my deep appreciation for the remarkable work that our Coast Guard and Auxiliary does on behalf of the public as we celebrate the upcoming National Safe Boating Week, and I thank the gentlelady for introducing this legislation.

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

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Very briefly, we want to again congratulate Mrs. DRAKE on the sponsorship of this legislation. It is very important.

One of the things our Subcommittee on the Coast Guard just recently had, we had a hearing with regard to fishing safety. One of the interesting things that came forth during that discussion and during that hearing was how the industry was so very much interested in making sure that there was boating safety, and they wanted to make sure that their industry was regulated.

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That was very pleasing to our ears. So it is with that, Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 386, recognizing the Coast Guard, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, and other boating safety organizations for their efforts to promote National Safe Boating Week.

National Safe Boating Week is really about educating boaters. In 2005, there were 697 boating fatalities in the United States. The leading cause of death in a boating accident is drowning. Of the 491 people that drowned in 2003, almost 90 percent were not wearing a lifejacket. It is estimated that more than 50 percent of these deaths could have been prevented by proper use of a Personal Flotation Device.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary, and its 27,000 members, are on our Nation's waterways every day conducting voluntary safe boating examinations and educating the public about safe boating practices. In addition, the Auxiliary conducts harbor patrols, assists in search and rescue and marine environmental protection, and conducts boating safety courses; volunteering more than 2 million hours annually to benefit their fellow boaters.

Boating safety organizations, such as the National Safe Boating Council, educate recreational boaters about safety issues. As the summer boating season begins, they have some simple recommendations for boaters:

Do wear a Life Jacket. They Float. You Don't.

Don't mix alcohol and boating.

Do observe the nautical rules-of-the-road.

Don't stand in a small boat.

Do check the weather forecast before getting underway.

Don't overload your boat.

Do keep a good lookout.

Mr. Speaker, this House should help educate the boating public about prudent safety measures that can help save their lives.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting House Resolution 386 and help bring more attention to the importance of boating safety.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 386, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The title was amended so as to read: "Resolution recognizing the Coast Guard, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, and other boating safety organizations for their efforts to promote National Safe Boating Week".

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL EOSINOPHIL AWARENESS WEEK

Mrs. CAPPs. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 296) supporting the goals and ideals of National Eosinophil Awareness Week, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 296

Whereas the term "eosinophilic disorders" is a general term used to describe a group of diseases and disorders caused by the production of too many white blood cells called eosinophils;

Whereas eosinophilic disorders patients suffer from their immune system attacking their body's own normal, healthy tissue, resulting in inflammation or swelling;

Whereas an estimated 50,000 people are affected by eosinophilic disorders in the United States, many of whom remain undiagnosed or misdiagnosed;

Whereas inflammatory eosinophilic disorders are thought to be both allergic and autoimmune diseases, such that the body's immune system, which normally fights infections and viruses, mistakes common food proteins and environmental allergens as foreign;

Whereas eosinophilic disorders cause chronic illness that significantly impacts a person's quality of life and ability to attend school and work, and dramatically alters dietary lifestyles;

Whereas some eosinophilic disorders cause life-threatening and sometimes fatal illnesses by causing inflammation of the vital organs, such as the heart, lungs, kidney, and gastrointestinal tract;

Whereas eosinophilic disorders are difficult to diagnose and treatment is often delayed, resulting in unnecessary suffering;

Whereas many patients with eosinophilic disorders often have severe long-term disabilities as well as the severe limitations imposed by the disease itself;

Whereas some eosinophilic disorder patients will suffer permanent irreversible organ damage as a result of delays in diagnosis and proper treatment; and

Whereas the American Partnership For Eosinophilic Disorders has identified the third week of May as an appropriate time to recognize National Eosinophil Awareness Week in order to educate communities across the Nation about eosinophilic disorders and the need for research funding, accurate diagnosis, and effective treatments: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Eosinophil Awareness Week; and

(2) encourages health care providers and the American Partnership for Eosinophilic Disorders to increase education and awareness regarding eosinophilic disorders.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPs) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAPPs. Mr. 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 gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 296, recognizing National Eosinophil Awareness Week, and I commend my colleague Congressman JOHN LARSON for bringing attention to this issue.

Eosinophilic disorders are devastating as patients literally suffer from an attack on their bodies by their own immune systems. They are chronic disorders that have no cure and can even be fatal. Because they are rare, patients often go undiagnosed or misdiagnosed.

And as a nurse, I have seen intimately how heartbreaking it is for a patient and his or her family to go through test after test while suffering all the while from an unidentifiable condition.

That is why I support this resolution, calling for greater awareness of eosinophilic disorders and encouraging health care providers to increase education about these diseases.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution as well.

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

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

I am pleased to speak on behalf of this bill which does promote awareness about eosinophil disorders. These are little known disorders that are thought

to be both allergic and autoimmune in nature. The body produces white blood cells in higher than normal amounts, and it attacks food proteins and tissues as a result.

The patients who have this chronic disease suffer a variety of symptoms, and of course it is sometimes life-threatening. As of now, there's no known cure.

I know Mr. LARSON is going to be speaking on this because he personally has firsthand knowledge.

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to my colleague from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON).

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California for yielding but also for her continued outstanding service in the United States Congress and bringing the knowledge of her profession and her expertise to this body on a regular basis and especially the compassion that's needed for so many of those who suffer from eosinophilic disorder, more than 50,000 in this Nation.

I want to applaud my colleague from North Carolina, also, Representative MYRICK, for her cosponsoring this legislation and understanding as well the importance that this has for so many families who oftentimes are the ones who suffer along with the patient because of lack of diagnosis, and then also because of the way Representative CAPPS has described the nature of this disease, what it does to the patient that it attacks when the white blood cells in your own system begin to attack itself and creates the disorders that it does, often resulting in people having to be fed by tubes. You can imagine the tremendous stress that this causes on the parts of parents and of course family members.

This bill comes before us not because of me, but because of a courageous woman like LOIS CAPPS and like SUE MYRICK who understand what families go through when they face issues like this.

I was fortunate to have Dr. Wendy Book from my district in Connecticut, who resides in Gastonbury, a doctor herself, as well as her husband, come before me to talk about this disorder because of their desire to make sure that the Nation be made aware of what so many children are suffering from.

She was joined by Beth Mays, who together are the co-founders of the American Partnership for Eosinophilic Disorders. When Dr. Book's son Ryan was sick before his first birthday, doctors sent him home with a feeding tube and no explanation for his mysterious illness. This illness went undiagnosed for 2 more years. Now, this Ryan, his parents are doctors. They are in the field, and so for doctors to be as confounded by a lack of understanding or a diagnosis, imagine the consternation that they feel, and then exemplify that by how other parents must feel who do not come from similar professions.

And so they felt in founding this organization, this partnership, that what was needed across the country was awareness and understanding. Quite frankly, what's also needed is funding, but it has to start in a place of education, awareness and understanding, and as most pieces of critical legislation do, it comes not from a Member of Congress, but it comes from a constituent, a citizen, who has the temerity to stand up and speak out for suffering that a neighbor or one of their own children is going through.

As Mrs. CAPPS pointed out, sometimes there is no cure or the diagnosis eludes all the best efforts of professions, but it is getting better, and with awareness, they know they can deal with this going forward.

Hospitals in Cincinnati, and most notably, the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, where I visited personally, are working hard at identifying this disorder and helping parents and working with them. I want to commend the work of Dr. Chris Lancouris and Dr. Jonathan Spergel and especially Michelle Shuker who spent so much time dealing with the parents and helping them through this process.

As someone who has a son who has an illness that has gone undiagnosed, I empathize deeply with parents who go through this experience and understand deeply the need for education, the need for better understanding, and the responsibility that we share as Members of Congress to do our part, to first educate the public with respect to this disorder, but then secondly and more hopefully, to make sure that we follow through by funding and assisting.

But what you have to step back and admire, however, is the courage of these parents who, without their love and devotion and care for their children, without their consistent nurturing and support, you wonder what would happen to these children. But because of their courage and because of their ability to come forth and speak out about this, hopefully through resolutions like this and greater understanding we will be able to assist them and help them and assist families, and their not-for-profit organization will get the support that it needs, will create the understanding that it needs and provide the much needed relief for the children who are afflicted and the families that deal with this problem.

So I thank Representative CAPPS and I thank Representative MYRICK and a number of cosponsors on this legislation for having come forward and assisted in bringing this to the forefront.

There will be members from this association on the Hill tomorrow going to various House Members and to their offices and talking with them and their staff about this disorder. Please listen to them. Take them into your heart. It is an important issue and vital not only for their children, their families, but I dare say for all of us in the country. It speaks volumes to the better an-

gels that we have here in the United States Congress and our willingness to reach out and assist the constituents we are sworn to serve.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers, and I would like to inquire of the gentlewoman if she has any more speakers.

Mrs. CAPPS. I have no more speakers.

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

Mrs. CAPPS. As I indicated, I have no more speakers, either, but I do want to say a word of thanks to my colleague from North Carolina. We serve on the same committee. This is an issue that we both care about, but particular thanks to my colleague from Connecticut for reaffirming in me one of the major reasons that I am pleased to be part of this body, which was illustrated by his comments regarding his constituent.

As he observed their personal experience and was able to relate some of his own is when we do the work of the people, to carry the pain and suffering, if you will, the unanswered questions and the concerns, and to do the people's work by first creating an awareness of a situation. We have many issues before us, but for a family with a person diagnosed with an eosinophilic condition, it is a major, major part of their lives.

And we owe a responsibility and it is a privilege and a honor to carry their concerns to this body, to take this first step of recognition and to be welcoming to those who come with personal experiences to our office doors tomorrow and then to learn what the next step after this one might be and to stand ready as elected officials to work on behalf of those who simply desire to relieve the pain and suffering of dear and loved members of their family.

So I thank both of my colleagues for bringing this to the floor.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 296.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 634, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 692, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 916, by the yeas and nays;