

proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF GOLD STAR MOTHERS DAY

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 605) supporting the goals and ideals of Gold Star Mothers Day.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 605

Whereas the American Gold Star Mothers have suffered the supreme sacrifice of motherhood by losing a son or daughter who served in the Armed Forces, and thus perpetuate the memory of all whose lives are sacrificed in war;

Whereas the American Gold Star Mothers assist veterans of the Armed Forces and their dependents in the presentation of claims to the Department of Veterans Affairs and aid members of the Armed Forces who served and died or were wounded or incapacitated during hostilities;

Whereas the services rendered to the United States by the mothers of America have strengthened and inspired Americans throughout the history of the United States;

Whereas Americans honor themselves and the mothers of America when they revere and emphasize the role of the home and the family as the true foundations of the United States;

Whereas by doing so much for the home, the American mother is a source of moral and spiritual guidance for the people of the United States and thus acts as a positive force to promote good government and peace among all mankind; and

Whereas September 30, 2007, is being recognized as Gold Star Mothers Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Gold Star Mothers Day; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

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

As a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague in the consideration of H. Res. 605, a bill supporting the goals and ideals of Gold Star Mothers Day.

H. Res. 605, which has 108 cosponsors, was introduced by Representative PETER ROSKAM on August 1, 2007.

H. Res. 605 was reported from the Oversight Committee on September 20, 2007 by voice vote.

Mr. Speaker, Gold Star Mothers Day is an organization for mothers who have lost a son or daughter in service to our country. In 1940, President Franklin D. Roosevelt designated the last Sunday in September as Gold Star Mothers Day to recognize and commemorate the tremendous sacrifice these courageous mothers have endured on behalf of our Nation. This wonderful group of women have turned their personal tragedy into patriotism and public service.

Today, numerous chapters of Gold Star Mothers across our Nation offer important programs and services to improve the lives of veterans and their families. They assist veterans of the Armed Forces and their dependents in the presentation of claims to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

I support the goals and ideals of Gold Star Mothers Day. And I have the utmost respect for mothers and fathers that have sacrificed their sons and daughters for peace, freedom and the security of our Nation.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague, Representative PETER ROSKAM, for introducing this legislation and urge its swift passage.

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

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

I, too, applaud PETER ROSKAM of Illinois for his introduction of this resolution. He had every intention of being here, but unfortunately he missed his plane, so he is not able to make it at this time.

During World War I, Grace Seibold's son, George, served with the British Royal Flying Corps in France. While on combat duty, he regularly sent letters home to his family in Washington, D.C. Around Christmas of 1918, the letters stopped and the Seibold family never heard from him again. Because his military unit was under British control, the U.S. had no information of his whereabouts or safety. After months of waiting, they received notice of his death.

Throughout the war, Grace Seibold had been spending her time visiting with soldiers in military hospitals and providing solace and assistance with their recuperation. After her own son's death, she met with fellow mothers of soldiers who had been killed serving their country.

The women began to share their grief and quickly found support for each other. Their uncommon bond brought them closer and helped them to heal. The group also encouraged community service by volunteering at local hospitals for veterans.

After years of careful planning, in June of 1928, 25 mothers joined in Washington, D.C. to form the American

Gold Star Mothers, Incorporated. The mission of the organization is to honor the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country and to assist veterans with processing claims made to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The service provided by the Gold Star Mothers does not end there. They inspire patriotism and love of country. They promote peace and goodwill through annual special events. The Gold Star Mothers work in cooperation with all veterans organizations and lend their support giving many hours of volunteer work and personal service to veteran families. It is an organization that inspires community service, honor of country, and takes great pride in having our brave men and women serving in our Armed Forces.

I am proud to honor these brave women for their continued efforts and their tireless support of our Nation.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I will close by simply stating that I have a very active, passionate and involved chapter of Gold Star Mothers in my congressional district. And so on behalf of them, and all of the Gold Star Mothers and Fathers throughout the country, I would urge passage of this resolution.

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 Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 605.

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.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF SICKLE CELL DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 210) supporting the goals and ideals of Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 210

Whereas Sickle Cell Disease is an inherited blood disorder that is a major health problem in the United States, primarily affecting African Americans;

Whereas Sickle Cell Disease causes the rapid destruction of sickle cells, which results in multiple medical complications, including anemia, jaundice, gallstones, strokes, and restricted blood flow, damaging tissue in the liver, spleen, and kidneys, and death;

Whereas Sickle Cell Disease causes episodes of considerable pain in one's arms, legs, chest, and abdomen;

Whereas Sickle Cell Disease affects over 70,000 Americans;

Whereas approximately 1,000 babies are born with Sickle Cell Disease each year in the United States, with the disease occurring in approximately 1 in 300 newborn African American infants;

Whereas more than 2,000,000 Americans have the sickle cell trait, and 1 in 12 African Americans carry the trait;

Whereas there is a 1 in 4 chance that a child born to parents who both have the sickle cell trait will have the disease;

Whereas the life expectancy of a person with Sickle Cell Disease is severely limited, with an average life span for an adult being 45 years;

Whereas, though researchers have yet to identify a cure for this painful disease, advances in treating the associated complications have occurred;

Whereas researchers are hopeful that in less than two decades, Sickle Cell Disease may join the ranks of chronic illnesses that, when properly treated, do not interfere with the activity, growth, or mental development of affected children;

Whereas Congress recognizes the importance of researching, preventing, and treating Sickle Cell Disease by authorizing treatment centers to provide medical intervention, education, and other services and by permitting the Medicaid program to cover some primary and secondary preventative medical strategies for children and adults with Sickle Cell Disease;

Whereas the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Inc. remains the preeminent advocacy organization that serves the sickle cell community by focusing its efforts on public policy, research funding, patient services, public awareness, and education related to developing effective treatments and a cure for Sickle Cell Disease; and

Whereas the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Inc. has requested that the Congress designate September as Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month in order to educate communities across the Nation about sickle cell and the need for research funding, early detection methods, effective treatments, and prevention programs: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress supports the goals and ideals of Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H. Con. Res 210, which pays homage to a tradition that both the Senate and House have honored for over two decades.

In 1983, Congress first recognized September as the month to nationally commemorate sickle cell disease awareness. And it is in that same vein

today that I ask for support of H. Con. Res 210.

Sickle cell disease is an inherited blood disorder characterized by affected red blood cells that mutate into the shape of a crescent or sickle, and as such are unable to pass through small blood vessels. The horrific outcomes of this condition include considerable pain in one's arms, chest, legs and abdomen, anemia, gallstone, strokes, as well as damaging tissue in the liver, spleen, kidney, and death.

This disease affects over 70,000 Americans and cripples over 1,000 newborn babies each year in the United States. By supporting H. Con. Res 210, we acknowledge the importance of raising awareness for advance in sickle cell disease research, prevention treatment and potential cure.

As the sponsor of H. Con. Res 210, I would urge all of my colleagues to support swift passage of this bill.

I would also just note, Mr. Speaker, that the devastation of this disease on those who are affected by it is, indeed, tremendous. I have had firsthand experience with it by virtue of having run a sickle cell community education project for the University of Illinois in Chicago and came in contact with many of the patients and their families; saw the pain and suffering firsthand. And so I would urge passage of this resolution.

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

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

I congratulate Mr. DAVIS for bringing this important resolution to the floor.

This resolution seeks to bring attention to sickle cell disease and to support the designation of September as Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month.

Sickle cell disease is a deadly genetic blood disorder that strikes primarily people of African descent. Those affected by the disease most often appear to be healthy, but their lives are disturbed by sporadic and painful attacks in their arms, legs, chest and abdomen. SCD also causes the rapid destruction of sickle cells that results in multiple medical complications, including anemia, jaundice, gallstones, strokes, and restricted blood flow causing tissue damage, cardiovascular and organ damage.

Approximately 80,000 African Americans suffer from sickle cell disease, and millions are affected worldwide. Statistics shockingly show that one in every 350 African American babies born in the United States has the disease, and one in eight African American babies carry the sickle cell trait. There is a one-in-four chance that a child born to parents who both carry the sickle cell trait will have the disease. Life expectancy is limited, as an average life span for an adult with the disease is only about 45 years.

A universal cure, though, remains elusive. However, early diagnosis through newborn screening and education has improved survival and qual-

ity of life for those who suffer from SCD. Because SCD affects so many people and research funding is critical to effectively treating and ultimately preventing the disease, we are grateful for organizations such as the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America that continue to shine the light of hope for all of those affected.

Therefore, I ask my colleagues to support the designation of the month of September as National Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month so that communities throughout the country will become aware of this disease and the need for additional research, effective treatments and prevention programs that will ultimately lead to a cure.

I urge my colleagues to support House Concurrent Resolution 210.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Illinois, Representative BIGGERT, for her support of this resolution.

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 Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 210.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. 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.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS DAY

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 663) supporting the goals and ideals of Veterans of Foreign Wars Day.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 663

Whereas veterans of the Spanish-American War and Philippine Insurrection, the Nation's first major foreign conflicts, faced hardships to include a complete lack of medical care and pensions upon discharge from the service;

Whereas on September 29, 1899 the American Veterans of Foreign Service and in December 1899, the National Society of the Army of the Philippines, were established to advocate for the rights and benefits then denied to veterans of the Spanish-American War and Philippine Insurrection;

Whereas, in subsequent years, membership in these and other veterans organizations continued to grow;

Whereas these veterans organizations, recognizing their common goals and the importance of unity, merged to form the present-