



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 153

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2007

No. 165

House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GONZALEZ).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 29, 2007.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CHARLES A. GONZALEZ to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes and each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HILL) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: "When faith came to be in writings rather than in hearts, contention grew hot and love grew cold. That which is forced cannot be sincere and that which is not voluntary cannot please the Lord." These words of the medieval humanist, Erasmus, give us pause, Lord, as this Congress faces today's problems.

True faith is such a tender gift by which You massage the human heart. If faith does not spring spontaneously from within, it becomes dead men's quotes or rigid braces for feeble limbs.

The freedom of religion cannot live in legislative words or inanimate objects. Religious faith must be allowed to find its own expression freely. Left alone, faith will flourish in its own time and find its own roots, perhaps in open fields or in surprising cracks of our own pavement. Only when faith takes life will You be glorified, O Lord. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BARROW) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BARROW led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

HIGH PRICE OF CRUDE OIL

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, crude oil prices went to a record high of \$93 a barrel today. No doubt Americans will feel it at the gas pump. There are numerous reasons for the increase: mainly, oil producing countries are unstable. Mexico has cut oil production 20 percent because of bad weather in the Gulf of Mexico. Africa's largest exporter of oil to the United States, Nigeria, has had incidents where pirates have kidnapped workers from offshore drilling rigs.

The Middle East is still a tinder box of uncertainty with Iran's nuclear development, Turkey fighting the Kurdish rebels, and, of course, the problems that persist in Iraq and Syria. All of this affects the disruption of oil exports. This, plus a weak dollar, means that crude oil prices will grow even higher.

Until the United States develops a safe energy policy that allows complete offshore drilling for crude oil and drilling in ANWAR, we will be held hostage by Third World countries, rogue dictators, and political enemies. We have the ability to explore and drill safely our own abundant natural resources. We must take care of ourselves or the days of higher oil prices have just begun.

And that's just the way it is.

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:

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H12105

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 29, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on October 26, 2007, at 10:20 a.m.:

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 3678.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

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 after 6:30 p.m. today.

ANTHONY DEJUAN BOATWRIGHT ACT

Mr. BARROW. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1473) to amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 to require child care providers to provide to parents information regarding whether such providers carry current liability insurance, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1473

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Anthony DeJuan Boatwright Act".

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS.

Section 658e(c)(2) of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858c(c)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (E)(i) by adding at the end the following: "The State shall include as part of its regulatory process for issuance and renewal of licenses to providers of child care services, a recommendation to each provider that it carry current liability insurance covering the operation of its child care business.", and

(2) in subparagraph (F)—

(A) in clause (ii) by striking "and" at the end,

(B) in clause (iii) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon,

(C) by inserting after clause (iii) the following:

"(iv) a requirement that each licensed child care provider—

"(I) post publicly and conspicuously in the service area of its premises a notice specifying whether or not such provider carries current liability insurance covering the operation of its child care business;

"(II) provide to parents of children to whom it provides child care services a written notice stating whether or not such provider carries current liability insurance cov-

ering the operation of its child care business, including the amount of any such coverage;

"(III) obtain the signature of at least 1 parent of each such child on such written notice acknowledging that such parent has received such notice; and

"(IV) maintain such notice (or a copy of such notice) as signed by such parents (or a copy of the signed notice) in such provider's records during the period in which the child receives such services.", and

(D) in the last sentence by inserting "clauses (i), (ii), or (iii) of" after "Nothing in"

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect on October 1 of the 1st fiscal year that begins more than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlemen from Georgia (Mr. BARROW) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BARROW. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend their remarks and insert material relevant to H.R. 1473, as amended, into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, back home in Augusta, Georgia, there's a little 7½-year-old boy named Anthony DeJuan Boatwright, who is in a semicomatose state and hooked up to a ventilator. He wasn't born that way, but that is how he ended up. He ended up that way because of an accident, negligence, really, that never would have happened if his mother had been given the information that this bill requires.

Back in 2001, Juan's mother, Jacqueline Boatwright, was doing what millions of mothers all over the country do every day: she placed her child in day care so that she could work to improve her life and that of her child. She was a sophisticated consumer. She had done her homework and she shopped around and found a day care center. It was licensed by the State; it was clean and it complied with all sorts of Federal regulations under the Child Care Development Block Grant Act governing such things as the prevention and control of infectious diseases, building safety, premises access, and mental health and safety training for staff.

But there was one thing that Jackie Boatwright did not know: that these folks could take her money, they could take her child, they could harm her child, and they would not be financially responsible for any of the harm that they could do. That is because they had no liability insurance and there was no law, State or Federal, that required them to tell her that.

Mr. Speaker, sure enough, that is what happened. They ignored little

Juan long enough for him to find a bucket of water. Like every child that age, he had just enough strength to pull himself up and to look over inside and to fall inside, head first, but not enough upper body strength to push or pull himself back up. It was a death trap, and little Juan fell into it. Well, Juan survived, but his life and that of his family have been ruined and changed forever.

This bill would have prevented all of this from happening. It would not have done it by creating a whole new bureaucracy of day care inspectors to watch the watchers. It would have done it in the least expensive and most efficient way possible, by simply requiring the day care center to tell Jackie Boatwright what they knew but did not tell her, that they were willing to accept the moral responsibility of taking care of her baby, but they were going to accept none of the financial responsibility for failing to do so.

That would have prevented this from happening, because that is all it would have taken to prevent this tragedy from happening. Because if Jackie had known that, she would have done what any other parent would do: she would have taken her business someplace else, someplace where they accept some degree of financial responsibility for the consequences of their negligence and incorporate the cost in the cost of doing business, just like every other financially responsible business does.

Jackie has tried to make something positive out of this. She has determined to prevent this from happening to anybody else. Thanks to her efforts, financial responsibility disclosure laws are now on the books in four States: Georgia, California, Virginia and New Hampshire. This bill will close the gap by requiring financial responsibility disclosure for licensed day care facilities in the rest of the country.

In 2005, there were literally millions of kids in this country receiving day care in facilities that are governed by the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act. Only a fraction of these kids live in the four States that have now stepped forward to enact financial responsibility disclosure laws. That means that millions of kids still go to licensed day care facilities all around the country today whose parents have no idea that their day care centers can harm their child and accept none of the financial consequences of doing so.

This bill will give the parents of these millions of children the same information that parents are entitled to as a matter of law in the States of Georgia, California, Virginia, and New Hampshire. These parents have just as much need to know about the financial responsibility of the folks they give their kids to, and this bill will give them the same information.

This bill does not require any day care facilities to go out and get liability insurance. It merely requires licensed day care centers to tell parents

whether or not they have insurance, and, if so, how much. That is all. It then leaves it up to the parents to do what Jackie Boatwright would have done if only she had had this information, and that is to decide for themselves whether or not to leave their child with someone who wants to accept the responsibility for caring for your child, wants to take your money for doing so, but is unwilling and unable to accept any of the financial consequences for failing to fulfill this responsibility.

Indirectly, Mr. Speaker, this bill actually does more than that. By giving parents the information that they have a right to know, it places a powerful economic incentive on all day care centers to do what all of the financial consequences for failing to fulfill this responsibility and to incorporate the costs of that into the cost of doing business that goes along with the moral responsibility to take care of the children in their care. Anyone who wants to do business without doing that will be at a competitive disadvantage compared to those who do.

This approach gives the invisible hand of self-interest the opportunity to do some good in the marketplace; the interests of day care centers to do the right thing or compete at a disadvantage compared to those who do, and the interests of parents in placing their children in day care centers that are ready, willing and able to do the right thing if and when they mess up.

We have truth in labeling; we have truth in lending and truth in advertising. This is truth in day care. The States have led the way, and now it is time for the Federal Government to follow their lead. The families that end up being harmed because they are kept in the dark deserve no less.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1473, to amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 to require child care providers to provide to parents information regarding whether such providers carry current liability insurance.

Working parents depend on child care so they can earn an income needed to support their families, as well as ensure that their children are well cared for in a safe environment while they are working. As such, child care is an integral part of the daily routine of millions of American families with young children. Research clearly shows us that the quality of child care has a lasting impact on a child's well-being and ability to learn.

Children in poor quality child care have been found to be delayed in language and reading skills and display more aggression toward other children and adults. School-age children's academic performance is enhanced by at-

tending formal child care programs of at least adequate quality, according to several studies.

The bill before us today does not reauthorize the Child Care and Development Block Grant. Rather, it amends current law to do several things. Most importantly, it requires each provider to openly post whether or not they have current liability insurance covering the operation of the child care business, and it requires each provider to supply parents with a written notice stating whether or not the provider carries liability insurance, including the amount of such coverage.

This legislation does not supersede any State regulations regarding facility licensure or insurance requirements. We as the Federal Government are simply asking providers to inform parents whether or not they hold liability insurance. While we have not utilized the normal process of committee consideration through hearings and markup of this legislation, we do support the purpose of this legislation in providing notification of insurance to parents. I hope to see the Child Care and Development Block Grant come before this committee for reauthorization during the 110th session of Congress. As we move forward reauthorizing this program, we must consider policy that makes way for learning environments to exist where children can obtain the cognitive skills or other skills needed for them to succeed socially and academically.

□ 1415

Federalizing child care is not the purpose of this bill, but rather properly and consistently informing parents of whether or not the child care center has liability insurance. In the future, we must ensure that Federal policy continues to provide States maximum flexibility in developing child care programs and policies as well as parental choice so the parents are able to decide the best-suited care for their children. I thank Representative BARROW for introducing this bill, and ask my colleagues to support the bill.

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

Mr. BARROW. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee for his remarks in support of the bill, and I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA).

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1473, the Anthony DeJuan Boatwright Act. It is named in honor of Anthony DeJuan Boatwright who suffered a terrible tragedy at a licensed child care facility in Georgia.

In the wake of her son's accident, Anthony's mother, Jackie, has become a child care advocate who has worked tirelessly to help provide better information to parents navigating the child care system.

This important legislation is modeled after laws in the States of Georgia and Virginia. H.R. 1473 amends the

Child Care and Development Block Grant Program in order to help parents receive more information about potential child care providers. The Child Care and Development Block Grant is a very important Federal program providing almost \$5 billion to States to help low-income families afford child care.

Almost 2 million children receive child care subsidies through this child care program, and it has enabled millions of families to enter or remain in the workforce. H.R. 1473 strengthens the Child Care and Development Block Grant by adding a safety standard. H.R. 1473 requires licensed child care providers to give written notice to parents about whether or not they have liability insurance and requires child care providers to post publicly whether or not they have liability insurance.

H.R. 1473 also requires States to recommend to licensed child care providers that they carry liability insurance.

Child care quality can influence whether a child arrives at kindergarten ready to succeed. Providing parents with additional information about the child care providers in their communities will help parents make the right choice for their children and for their families.

I would like to thank my friend and colleague the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BARROW) for bringing this legislation forward. In moving this bill forward, we can help other families avoid the terrible loss suffered by Anthony DeJuan Boatwright's family.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1473.

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

Mr. BARROW. 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 Georgia (Mr. BARROW) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1473, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR DESIGNATION OF OCTOBER 2007 AS "COUNTRY MUSIC MONTH"

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 58) expressing support for designation of the month of October 2007 as "Country Music Month" and to honor country music for its long history of supporting America's armed forces and its tremendous impact on national patriotism.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

H. J. RES. 58

Whereas from the farms, ranches, and back roads of America comes a sound that is uniquely American; one that is about life and how that life should be lived;

Whereas country music is a story of family, faith, freedom, hard work, opportunity, pride, and patriotism;

Whereas country music embodies the spirit of America and the genuine feelings individuals experience throughout their lives such as joy and laughter, but also of sorrow and heartache;

Whereas country music has played an integral part in encouraging Americans to support its armed forces and their role in protecting American ideals, mainly during times of national conflict, through numerous popular patriotic songs;

Whereas the lyrics in these patriotic songs invoke sacrifice, responsibility, determination, freedom and liberty that were present during the nation's founding;

Whereas the lyrics in these patriotic songs talk about a calling to serve a higher duty, to come together with fellow citizens to defend and protect the freedoms we enjoy today given to us from those of past generations who paid the ultimate sacrifice;

Whereas country music songs seek to educate about America's history and teach listeners to learn from past lessons, to instill character and good citizenship;

Whereas country music has millions of fans in cities and towns all across the United States from all ages and walks of life; and

Whereas the Country Music Association celebrated its first National Country Music Month in 1964 and the month of October 2007 marks the 43rd annual observance of Country Music Month: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress—

(1) supports the designation of a "Country Music Month";

(2) honors country music for its long history of supporting America's armed forces and its tremendous impact on national patriotism; and

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may insert material relevant to H.J. Res. 58 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

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

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the designation of October 2007 as "Country Music Month" and to celebrate the long heritage of patriotism in country music.

The Country Music Association celebrated its first National Country Music Month in 1964, and October 2007 marks

its 43rd annual observance. I would like to thank my fellow Texan, Congressman TED POE, for bringing this bill forward today.

The themes invoked in country music resonate with important American values such as responsibility, determination and hard work. Country songs foster an appreciation of the many important sacrifices made by our men and women serving in the Armed Forces. Songs like "Only in America" by Brooks and Dunn and "Where the Stars and Stripes and the Eagle Fly" by Aaron Tippin encourage patriotism and the pursuit of the American Dream.

In addition to powerful patriotic lyrics, the country music industry has also directly supported the cause of our Armed Forces. Portions of the proceeds from some patriotic compilations have gone to support the USO's active duty troops and families of fallen soldiers.

Mr. Speaker, I express my support for Country Music Month and congratulate the genre on its many contributions to American society. I urge my colleagues to pass the resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.J. Res. 58, expressing support for the designation of the month of October as "Country Music Month" and to honor country music for its long history of supporting America's Armed Forces and its tremendous impact on national patriotism.

Country music is a blend of popular musical forms originally found in the southern region of the United States. I am proud to represent the birthplace of country music, Bristol, Tennessee. Country music has roots in traditional folk music, Celtic music, blues, gospel music, and old-time music and evolved rapidly in the 1920s.

Its sound and style has changed dramatically over the years. In the early years, country music was more of the honky-tonk sound from the likes of Ernest Tubbs and Hank Williams. In the 1930s and 1940s, another form of country music emerged, western country. These songs romanticized the life of the lonely, but heroic cowboy on the western frontier. Some of those famous for this western style were Gene Autry, America's singing cowboy, and Roy Rogers, who later teamed with wife Dale Evans to become the famous duo of the genre.

Country music morphed once again in the early 1950s with a sound that became known as rockabilly, a combination of rock and roll and hillbilly music. This sound was made popular by many performers who developed staying power in the country music industry. They include the Everly Brothers, Jerry Lee Lewis, and, of course, the king himself, Elvis Presley.

By the 1960s, country music found its home in Nashville, Tennessee. The

Nashville sound was born. This was most definitely the sound of country, but the sixties saw more steel guitars and drums in the Nashville sound. This era of country music was the beginning of the age of contemporary country music which ushered in today's most popular artists, Kenny Rogers, Dolly Parton, Garth Brooks, and Reba McEntire.

Today, country music is at its highest peak of popularity. As of 2007, country is the most popular radio format in America, reaching 77.3 million adults, almost 40 percent of the adult population, every week.

Country music is a story of family, faith, freedom, pride and patriotism. It embodies the American spirit and has played an integral part in encouraging Americans to support our Armed Forces. These songs invoke feelings of determination, liberty and responsibility, all of which this great country was founded upon.

In 1964, October was declared Country Music Month in honor of its rich history and tremendous impact on national patriotism. Country music is America's music, and for this reason I urge my colleagues to support H.J. Res. 58.

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

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

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE).

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee for yielding me this time, and I am delighted the member from Tennessee, the country music capital, is a cosponsor of this bill.

I also thank the majority and Mr. HINOJOSA for quickly getting this House resolution to the floor. I know there was some difficulty in doing it because of the timetable, but I appreciate it.

Mr. Speaker, country music is definitely a sound that is uniquely American because it speaks to the heart and soul of everyday Americans. It is about the ups and downs of everyday life, as well as the struggles individuals have in this country, and the struggles our Nation confronts as a country. They are exemplified gloriously through the gifted songwriting of our country music artists.

At no time is this more true than when songs are written during trying times for our country and for the unwavering support of our men and women who wear the uniform who are willing to fight and even die, if necessary, for this Nation.

Toby Keith sang in "America Soldier" about our troops. He said, "Up and at 'em bright and early, I'm all business in my suit. I'm dressed for success from my head down to my boots. I don't do it for the glory, I just do it anyway, providing our future's my responsibility. I will always do my duty. No matter what the price. If

dying's asked of me, I'll bear that cross with an honor, 'cause freedom don't come free."

Through songs like Darrel Worley's "Have You Forgotten," and Lee Greenwood's "God Bless the U.S.A.," Alan Jackson's "Where Were You (When the World Stopped Turning)," Aaron Tippin's "Where the Stars and Stripes and the Eagle Fly," Brooks and Dunn's "Only in America," and Charlie Daniels' "This Ain't No Rag, It's a Flag," and Chely Wright's "Bumper of my SUV," the thoughts and emotions of everyday Americans rings out all across America through country music.

□ 1430

These musicians and their patriotic radio stations that air their songs of support for the military are to be commended for being on the front lines of encouragement to our remarkable, relentless troops.

Like many in this House, I've been to Iraq; but also many of our country music singers have gone overseas to Iraq and every other place where American troops are, at their own expense to show appreciation to our American military for their loyalty to the U.S.A.

It's fitting that we as a Congress take note of this and honor country music during the month of October. I urge adoption of the bill.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, country songs foster an appreciation of the many important sacrifices made by soldiers serving in the Armed Forces.

I want to share with our Members of the House that tomorrow, Tuesday, I will be accompanying Sergeant Daniel Pena from my congressional district, a young man 28 years old serving his third tour in Iraq. While on patrol, their Humvee stepped on a land mine that exploded. One of his colleagues riding in that Humvee was killed, and he lost his right arm and his right leg.

He came back to the United States where he has stayed in Walter Reed the last 2 months and received an artificial arm and leg and has now been released by Walter Reed Hospital. I'm going to accompany him and his father and mother to Weslaco, Texas, where he is going to receive a hero's welcome.

I'm pleased to tell you that I requested that country songs like "Only in America" by Brooks and Dunn and "Where the Stars and Stripes and the Eagle Fly" by Aaron Tippin be played as part of the patriotic music that we're going to have at that celebration of a hero's welcome.

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

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield back my time.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, we have no other speakers on this resolution, and I yield back my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 58.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. 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.

CALLING ON CHINA TO RESPECT THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF REFUGEES FROM NORTH KOREA

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 234) calling on the Government of the People's Republic of China to respect the human rights of refugees from North Korea.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 234

Whereas the Government of North Korea is a dictatorial regime that commits gross human rights violations against the North Korean people;

Whereas the Government of North Korea attempts to exert absolute control over the lives of North Koreans through the use of deplorable systems of punishment and torture and by restricting the flow of information;

Whereas the Government of North Korea engages in the systematic torture, unlawful detention, and mass murder of tens of thousands of political prisoners, defectors, and refugees, employing the world's most brutal concentration camp system;

Whereas the lack of freedom, government persecution, and policies of selective starvation have driven hundreds of thousands of North Koreans to northeast China, fleeing for their lives from prison camps or political persecution;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China forcibly repatriates North Korean refugees and imprisons foreign aid workers who try to assist North Korean refugees inside China;

Whereas to encourage these repatriation efforts, Chinese central government authorities assign local public security bureaus in northeastern China a target number of North Koreans that they must detain in order to receive favorable work evaluations;

Whereas the refugees returned to North Korea by the Government of the People's Republic of China face imprisonment, brutal persecution, or execution;

Whereas up to 90 percent of North Korean women refugees fall prey to traffickers in China who sell the refugees into sexual slavery;

Whereas the United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, done at Geneva on July 28, 1951 (189 UNTS 150), as modified by the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, done at New York on January 31, 1967 (606 UNTS 267), defines a refugee as a person who, "owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country";

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China violates its obligations under the United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees by impeding access to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and continually classifying North Korean refugees as "economic migrants", denying them asylum and forcibly returning them to North Korea without the review to which they are entitled;

Whereas the UNHCR fails to robustly press the Government of the People's Republic of China to grant the UNHCR access to North Korean refugees and has failed to initiate a binding arbitration proceeding against the Government of the People's Republic of China pursuant to the terms of Article XIV of the Agreement on Upgrading of the UNHCR Mission in the People's Republic of China to the UNHCR Branch Office in the People's Republic of China, done at Geneva on December 1, 1995, governing refugee access and the refugee designation process;

Whereas the UNHCR's failure to bring such an arbitration proceeding was determined by the United States Congress in the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-333; 22 U.S.C. 7801 et seq.) to constitute a "a significant abdication by the UNHCR of one of its core responsibilities";

Whereas the failure of the People's Republic of China to abide by its treaty obligations toward the United Nations is a critical means by which the Government of North Korea is allowed to subject the people of North Korea to persecution and effectively imprison them within its borders;

Whereas Special Envoy for Human Rights in North Korea Jay Lefkowitz testified before the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and the Global Environment on March 1, 2007, that "the fact that the Government of China is not honoring its international commitments, is not providing genuine access as it is required to the U.N. High Commissioner on Human Rights, I think is really the single most significant issue we have outside of the North Korean Government's own emigration policies that is a barrier now to the free movement of people in that region";

Whereas the International Parliamentarians Coalition for North Korean Refugees' Human Rights, a coalition of parliamentarians from across the globe, met in Seoul, South Korea, on August 29, 2007, and called on the international community to increase its efforts to protect North Korean refugees; and

Whereas the Korean-American community, acting through various religious and civic organizations, including the "Let My People Go Campaign", has worked to bring awareness to the plight of the hundreds of thousands North Korean refugees living in China: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) strongly encourages the Government of the People's Republic of China to honor its obligations under the United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, done at Geneva on July 28, 1951 (189 UNTS 150), as modified by the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, done at New York on January 31, 1967 (606 UNTS 267), by—

(A) halting the forced repatriation of North Koreans who face a well-founded fear of persecution if they are returned to North Korea;

(B) making genuine efforts to identify and protect the refugees among the North Korean migrants encountered by Chinese authorities, including providing refugees with a reasonable opportunity to request asylum; and

(C) granting the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees unfettered access to such refugees to determine their status and the degree of assistance to which they are entitled; and

(2) recognizes the efforts of the Korean-American community for bringing attention to the plight of North Korean refugees.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TANNER. 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 gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume in speaking on behalf and in support of this resolution.

I would first like to thank our colleague, the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Trade, ED ROYCE of California, for introducing this resolution.

North Korea is quite literally, as we know from satellite images, one of the darkest places on Earth. One can see that when these images are taken from space at night. It has an underdeveloped economy which cannot supply even the most basic utilities. People there live under this darkness.

It's well-known that the North Korean regime regularly uses imprisonment, forced labor, torture and execution to intimidate the people into submission. Therefore, many try to flee their country each year, thousands crossing into northeastern China.

Some are driven by starvation or desperate poverty. Some flee because they fear persecution for their thoughts and beliefs.

I would say that given this situation most North Koreans, given the choice, would leave. So the regime clamps down ruthlessly to stop this flow of refugees.

Yet, the sad fact is that those who successfully make it may face further human rights abuses by the Government of the People's Republic of China. Beijing is fearful of attracting too many refugees. So it tries to disincentivize the North Koreans.

The government sometimes imprisons these people who cross into China; and in an attempt to avoid its responsibilities under the United Nations Conventions and Protocols that govern the status of refugees, to which the PRC is a signatory, China falsely labels North Korean refugees as economic migrants.

This cynical excuse Beijing uses to thwart the legitimate needs of these refugees will not allow the U.N. High

Commissioner of Refugees access to northeastern China to assess the welfare of the North Koreans who are there.

The disturbing truth is that those in China go to great lengths to attract North Korean refugees through sex and labor trafficking.

H. Con. Res. 234 calls on Beijing to stop this awful charade and live up to its moral and legal obligations. It further demands that China stop repatriating North Korean refugees; that it honor the United Nations Conventions and honor the status of refugees; and that it provide unfettered access to the U.N. High Commissioner on this subject.

Mr. Speaker, I support this resolution.

North Korea is quite literally one of the darkest places on Earth. Satellite images show us that North Korea at night is covered in an eerie black, in sharp contrast to the bright lights emanating from the lively, modern cities that dot the rest of North East Asia.

This dramatic image is stark evidence of North Korea's backwards, underdeveloped economy, which cannot supply even the most basic utilities.

But it is also a cold reminder of the horrific conditions that the North Korean people, who live under the cover of this darkness, must endure.

It is well known that the North Korean regime regularly uses imprisonment, forced labor, torture, and execution to intimidate the people of North Korea into submission.

It is no wonder that so many North Koreans attempt to flee their country. Each year, thousands and thousands cross the border into Northeastern China.

Some are driven by starvation or desperate poverty. Some flee because they fear persecution for their thoughts, beliefs, or simply because a member of the regime has arbitrarily labeled them a risk.

Pyeongyang knows that given the choice most North Koreans would leave, and so the regime clamps down ruthlessly to try and stop the flow, making an already dangerous trek even more perilous.

Yet, the sad fact is that those who successfully brave the hazards of the border crossing face further human rights abuses by the government of the People's Republic of China on the other side.

Beijing is fearful of attracting too many refugees, and so it brutally tries to create disincentives for North Korean refugees.

The government imprisons North Koreans who cross into China, subjecting them to terrible conditions and abuse, only to repatriate them to North Korea, where they face likely torture or execution.

In an attempt to avoid its responsibilities under the United Nations Conventions and Protocols that govern the status of refugees, to which the PRC is a signatory, China falsely labels North Korean refugees "economic migrants."

Using this cynical excuse Beijing stubbornly refuses to provide for the legitimate needs of these refugees and will not allow the U.N. High Commissioner of Refugees access to Northeastern China to assess the welfare of North Koreans there.

The disturbing truth is that there are those in China who go to great lengths to attract

North Korean refugees, through sex and labor trafficking.

H. Con. Res. 234 calls on Beijing to stop this awful charade, and live up to its moral and legal obligations. It demands that China stop repatriating North Korean refugees, that it honor the United Nations Conventions that govern the status of refugees, and that it provide unfettered access to the U.N. High Commissioner on Refugees so that these people who have suffered so terribly can finally receive the protection and fair treatment they so richly need and deserve.

I strongly support this resolution and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Gold Medal ceremony that was held for His Holiness the Dalai Lama earlier this month served to remind us all once again that the Chinese leadership has a long way to go before it becomes a responsible stakeholder in the international community.

Nowhere is this more apparent than in the callous disregard of Beijing of its international treaty obligations with regard to refugees, both North Korean and Tibetan.

The international press has reported incidents of Chinese border guards shooting and killing both North Korean and Tibetan refugees as they sought to flee China. These reprehensible acts must stop at once.

Earlier this month, Beijing demonstrated once again its continued contempt for the international refugee conventions. Chinese police entered the South Korean international school in Beijing to drag North Korean refugees from their hiding places. North Korean refugees had sought sanctuary there.

In the process, the Chinese police roughed up South Korean diplomats who were sent by their government to assist these refugees.

I call on Beijing to act in accordance with the international refugee conventions that it has signed and to end the disrespect that it has shown toward the diplomats of a major ally of the United States.

This resolution, put forward by my good friend, ED ROYCE of California, is particularly timely and essential with the approach of the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing. Olympic hosts should not include oppressors of refugees.

The forced repatriation of North Korean refugees is both irresponsible and immoral. If ever there was a refugee population who faced the immediate threat of persecution upon return to their homeland, it is the tens of thousands of North Korean refugees now hiding in China.

The office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR, must also do a much better job in holding Beijing accountable for its reckless disregard of its obligations. If Beijing does not begin to address this urgent issue in a

responsible way, then there should be dire consequences.

Television viewers around the world next summer could possibly see on their screens the scene of a North Korean woman with her baby seeking safe haven in an athletes' dormitory at the Olympic village as Chinese police ruthlessly pursue her.

This resolution, therefore, Mr. Speaker, is of vital importance for the reaffirmation of our commitment to the protection of refugees and, most importantly, for the North Korean refugees themselves.

I rise in strong support of Mr. ROYCE's resolution, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the author and the sponsor of this resolution, Mr. ROYCE of California.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlelady for yielding, and I want to take a moment and thank Chairman JOHN TANNER, as well as of course Ranking Member ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN and Chairman LANTOS for their support in bringing this bill to the floor of the House of Representatives.

I would also like to thank Congresswoman DIANE WATSON. She is the co-author of this resolution, and in August Congresswoman WATSON and myself traveled to South Korea as Chair and vice-Chair of the U.S.-Republic of Korea Interparliamentary Exchange. We also had an opportunity to go to North Korea at that time. In Seoul, South Korea, we held a day-long discussion with our counterparts in the National Assembly there in South Korea and took part in a forum of parliamentarians from across the globe. We had parliamentarians there from seven different countries to discuss the plight of North Korean refugees, and this resolution is a product of those discussions and what we learned from the defectors that we talked to, and we listened to the defectors during these hearings.

Mr. Speaker, we're all too familiar with the miserable human rights conditions in North Korea, and I would just remind the Members of this body of reports by the State Department and NGOs that paint a very grim picture.

There is a total denial of political, civil, and religious liberties. There is no dissent or criticism allowed of Kim Jong-Il. The media is tightly controlled there by the regime.

Severe, severe physical abuse is inflicted on any citizen who violates these laws and restrictions. NGOs describe a system of concentration camps. They say this is akin to the Soviet gulags, and they house somewhere up to 200,000 inmates.

Food shortages are a regular problem because the regime distributes food based on perceived loyalty and, of course, favors the ruling elite and the military.

This dismal state has led a large number of North Koreans, perhaps as

many as 300,000, to cross into China. There they seek food, and they're looking for work, and hopefully from their standpoint, they're looking for resettlement in South Korea. It is thought that nearly 75 percent of these refugees are women, and according to the NGOs that study this problem, 90 percent of those women end up trafficked.

In northeast China, North Korean refugees live in constant fear of being rounded up by Chinese authorities, and this despite the international obligations that China is supposed to keep.

China forcibly repatriates these refugees; and for many of them, it's effectively a death sentence. Some are shot on the spot. Some go to these concentration camps or work camps. Many of them live out their lives in these concentration camps.

□ 1445

The Government of North Korea deems leaving their country a crime, in some cases a capital offense. If not that, the expense is the gulag.

China's mistreatment of these refugees is not new but has really intensified, according to the State Department, in the last couple of years. During 2006, several thousand North Koreans were forcibly detained and forcibly returned to North Korea, the State Department reports.

As part of its stepped-up campaign of repatriation, Chinese authorities reportedly also have established new detention centers along the border with North Korea to accommodate greater numbers of North Korean prisoners prior to the repatriation. The Congressional-Executive Commission on China, on which I serve, recently released its annual report finding that during the past 1 or 2 years the Chinese Government has intensified its efforts to forcibly repatriate North Korean refugees, in part as security preparation for the 2008 Olympic Games.

These refugees deserve better. Certainly, Kim Chun-hee did. Ms. Kim is a North Korean woman in her 30s who sought refuge at a school in Beijing in December of 2005, only to be repatriated, this despite attempts by the United States and others to raise her case to the Chinese Government to convince the Chinese Government not to do this. To this day it is not known whether she was executed or whether she is still alive.

There are thousands of similar stories. Those associated with humanitarian groups who assist North Korean refugees in northeast China are also targeted by Chinese officials, and this includes U.S. citizens. Last month, American businessman Steve Kim was released from a Chinese prison after serving 4 years. His supposed crime was helping North Korean refugees who had escaped their homeland and were hiding in China hoping to make their way to South Korea.

Mr. Kim, who recently spoke on Capitol Hill about his experiences, recounted, "When I was in prison, I saw

North Korean defectors who I shared the prison cell with beaten to a pulp by prison guards." Now, this is in China. This is before they are sent back to North Korea. We have documented the kind of treatment they get when they are sent back.

This resolution sends a strong message to Beijing. This practice must stop. Specifically, the resolution calls on China to honor its obligations under the 1951 U.N. convention relating to the status of refugees and its 1967 protocol, and to honor that by halting the forced repatriation of these refugees, terminating the practice of automatically classifying all North Korean border crossers as illegal economic migrants and granting the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees unfettered access to get into these areas to see these refugees.

China is signed up to respect refugees. It is past time for them to live up to the protocols they have signed to do this. The human rights situation in North Korea is a nightmare. These human rights abuses are worthy of this House's attention, because North Koreans are suffering. Two million were killed at the hands of this regime over this last decade. They also tell us something about the regime we are expecting to carry out commitments under the Six-Party Talks on North Korea's nuclear weapons program. It tells you something about this regime.

I will quote Andrei Sakharov, the Soviet dissident who once said, "A country that does not respect the rights of its own people will not respect the rights of its neighbors." Teeing off that quote, Jay Lefkowitz, the State Department's Special Envoy for Human Rights in North Korea, wrote in *The Wall Street Journal* last year, "North Korea is a prime example of a regime that doesn't respect either. It wouldn't have surprised Sakharov that a government that inflicts on its citizens repression reminiscent of the most cruel totalitarian rulers of the 20th century is today counterfeiting U.S. currency, trafficking in narcotics, building a nuclear arsenal, and threatening other nations."

In testimony last week before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Assistant Secretary Christopher Hill reported that he is moving the ball forward with North Korea in respect to disabling their nuclear program. I hope he is right. Part of the February agreement to do so involves a U.S. commitment to move toward full diplomatic relations with North Korea.

The administration insists that it still has a clear eye on the North Korea human rights situation. However, the Congressional Research Service reports that Ambassador Hill increasingly has linked normalization of U.S.-North Korean relations solely to a satisfactory settlement of the nuclear issue. This body must let it be known that relations with North Korea will be far from normal as long as North Korea continues to treat its people as we have heard about today.

I urge the passage of this important resolution.

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to Mr. MORAN of Virginia.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. I thank Mr. ROYCE for bringing up this issue.

Mr. Speaker, it's terribly important, it's all about man's inhumanity to mankind. Here China envisions itself becoming a superpower in the 21st century, hosting the world's Olympics.

We, in the United States, are buying tens of billions of dollars of goods from China. China has the opportunity to take its place among the nations of the world that matter, that do the right thing, that lead us into the future. What a terrific opportunity for China to show that it has a moral fiber, that it knows right from wrong, that it is not an amoral totalitarian state.

It knows, beyond any shadow of a doubt, the horrific conditions within which the North Korean people exist today, barely surviving. Yet, out of total desperation, when they are able to escape North Korea, do the Chinese help? No. They make it worse. It's as though they have escaped from some purgatory into hell where they get beaten up by the Chinese and then sent back to North Korea, probably to be executed.

This is a situation that just cries out for people around the world to speak up. I appreciate the fact that Mr. ROYCE has given us that opportunity in the House of Representatives today.

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 234, which calls upon the People's Republic of China to abide by its obligations with respect to North Korean refugees.

Mr. Speaker, the people of North Korea suffer under one of the most oppressive regimes on Earth. North Koreans enjoy few freedoms. Indeed, most aspects of daily life are dictated by government mandate. This bleak existence is punctuated by constant fear of the merciless tactics employed by the government to command subservience. To add insult to injury, North Korea suffers chronic food shortages. The food that is available is rationed out based on presumed loyalty to the state, not need.

Not surprisingly, thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, have attempted to flee North Korea into China. I would assume almost all North Koreans would leave if given the option. The government of Kim Jong-Il must assume this as well, because it does everything in its power to dissuade North Koreans from doing so. Leaving North Korea is a crime. Those caught attempting to escape are beaten, imprisoned in concentration camps, or executed.

Instead of recognizing North Koreans as political refugees, China labels them economic migrants. Instead of providing sanctuary, it hunts them down and, like the North Korean government, beats and imprisons them. Finally, they are forcibly repatriated to North Korea, even though this is often tantamount to a death sentence.

The People's Republic of China is party to the United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol to that Convention. These are the international

instruments that detail the protections for refugees. Despite this, China has not allowed United Nations agencies access to the North Koreans living in China, and its aforementioned treatment of North Korean refugees violates these international agreements.

I thank my colleague Representative ED ROYCE for introducing this legislation, and I join his call for China to live up to its humanitarian responsibilities with respect to North Korean refugees.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HILL). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Con. Res. 234.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING EFFORTS TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT AND HELP END THE WORSENING HUMANITARIAN CRISIS AND GENOCIDE IN DARFUR, SUDAN

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 573) recognizing and commending the efforts of the United States public and advocacy groups to raise awareness about and help end the worsening humanitarian crisis and genocide in Darfur, Sudan, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 573

Whereas the violence conducted by the Armed Forces of Sudan, government-backed Janjaweed militia, and various rebel factions in Darfur, Sudan, has left nearly 2,500,000 people displaced from their homes and up to 400,000 civilians dead;

Whereas despite the signing of the Darfur Peace Agreement on May 5, 2006, violence, death, and destruction in Darfur continue unabated, threatening the lives of thousands of civilians, humanitarian aid workers, United Nations officials, and African Union international peacekeepers;

Whereas on July 22, 2004, Congress declared the atrocities unfolding in Darfur as genocide, and on September 9, 2004, then-Secretary of State Colin Powell, in testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, declared that "genocide has been committed in Darfur", and that, "the [G]overnment of Sudan and the Janjaweed bear responsibility";

Whereas on April 18, 2007, President George W. Bush declared at the United States Holocaust Museum, where the Committee on Conscience has spent considerable efforts advocating to end the genocide in Darfur, that the United States has a moral obligation to help end the genocide in Darfur;

Whereas hundreds of United States faith-based, human rights, humanitarian and

youth-led advocacy organizations have established Darfur-related campaigns since the United States declaration of genocide in 2004;

Whereas hundreds of State and local communities, schools, universities, and individual citizens have mobilized and organized fundraisers, campaigns, and initiatives to help end the genocide in Darfur;

Whereas over 600 chapters of anti-genocide high school, college and university student organizations have been established since 2004 to help end the genocide in Darfur;

Whereas 57 United States colleges and universities, 20 States, ten United States cities, and eight international and faith-based organizations have adopted divestment policies from Sudan thus far;

Whereas on April 30, 2006, thousands of people gathered at the National Mall in Washington, D.C., to urge the United States and the international community to help end the genocide in Darfur;

Whereas similar public advocacy efforts in the United States to end mass human rights violations, racial discrimination, and violence in Africa have not been seen since the South African anti-apartheid movement;

Whereas these aforementioned efforts have embraced the slogans "Never Again" and "Not On Our Watch", reminiscent of the failure of the international community to stop the Holocaust and the genocides in Bosnia and Rwanda; and

Whereas the United States has led the international community's condemnation of the atrocities and violence in Darfur: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes and commends the efforts of the United States public and advocacy groups to raise awareness about and help end the worsening humanitarian crisis and genocide in Darfur, Sudan;

(2) supports the efforts of the various local schools, communities, and faith-based, human rights, humanitarian, and youth-led advocacy organizations that have dedicated their time and energy to help end the genocide in Darfur and to promote peace, defend human rights, and improve the lives of those affected in Sudan and Chad; and

(3) urges the United States to work with its partners in the international community to support a negotiated settlement to the conflict in Darfur, while implementing a more robust set of multilateral measures against those individuals who act as obstructionists to peace in Darfur, including by launching attacks against civilians, humanitarian operations, or peacekeeping forces, or by blocking the deployment of a credible African Union-United Nations hybrid peacekeeping force.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TANNER. 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 gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

Mr. TANNER. I want to thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) for his efforts in this regard and to say

a few words, so I will yield myself such time as I may consume before I recognize the gentleman from Virginia.

The genocide in Darfur has taken a horrific toll on that region. Well over 60 percent of the villages have been destroyed, 2 million people displaced, 400,000 killed, and 200,000 driven into refugee camps in neighboring Chad.

Thanks to the work of tens of thousands of Americans, the genocide has not been ignored. All over the country, local communities have been organizing and mobilizing with regard to this issue.

In response to the call for divestment from Sudan, 20 States have adopted divestment from Sudan policies and another 20 have it under consideration; 58 universities and colleges have adopted policies to divest pension funds from Sudan and another 47 are pursuing similar policies.

In addition, 10 cities, eight international and religious organizations and eight countries have either adopted policies or are in the process of so doing, while seven major international corporations have ceased doing business with the government in Sudan.

While this Congress, former Secretary of State Colin Powell and President Bush have described atrocities in Sudan as genocide and hold the Sudan overwhelmingly responsible, the international community has yet to come together to put an end to the genocide.

I want to commend the American people for not giving up on this issue. The U.N. is deploying peacekeepers. Foreign and civil society groups are also involved.

Muslim pop stars from around the world recently came together at a charity concert for Darfur. The head of the sponsoring organization, Islamic Relief, said, "British Muslims must unite and raise their voices over the issue of Darfur."

We cannot allow our voices to remain silent. Therefore, I urge all of our citizens and activist organizations to continue speaking out on Darfur and to continue pressure for economic sanctions and real civilian protections.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 573, which commends the efforts of the American people and advocacy groups to confront genocide in Darfur, Sudan. As the resolution notes, there has been no other grass-roots advocacy effort in the United States aimed at addressing mass atrocities and human rights abuses in Africa that has been conducted with as much vigor since the anti-apartheid movement of the 1980s and 1990s.

Mass demonstrations and protest marches have been organized. Days of prayer have been observed by churches, synagogues and mosques across the country. Countless fund-raisers for humanitarian relief have been conducted.

In my own district, school children as young as the first grade joined in an effort to collect hundreds of toys for the children of Darfur, which I had the opportunity to deliver while I visited that war-torn region. I am extremely proud of the contributions that these children made and all the people in my community, for it helped bring some joy to the youngest victims of a modern-day genocide.

Advocacy efforts on the Hill have also been extremely effective. Congressional offices have been inundated by phone calls, letters and visits by individuals committed to making a difference. It is due in no small part to the efforts of these groups that this body has considered 10 separate bills and resolutions which seek to address conditions in Darfur this year, including three that will be considered today alone.

I commend the efforts of those who have dedicated so much of their time and energy to raising awareness about the carnage that continues to unfold in Darfur, and I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution.

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

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. I thank my friend and colleague from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER).

Mr. Speaker, the intent of this resolution is to recognize the outstanding work of the school, community and faith-based advocacy groups who, through their moral commitment and tireless efforts and countless hours of volunteer service, have helped bring needed attention to the genocide occurring in Darfur. Their efforts reflect the true spirit of Americans and bring hope to those who are facing historic atrocities halfway around the world.

I want to particularly commend the students who are fueling this nationwide movement, urging action to stop genocide by educating their peers and holding us, their elected officials, accountable.

□ 1500

And hold us accountable they have. I recently met with students from an organization whose primary goal is to form a nationwide anti-genocide coalition. This organization has more than 700 chapters, provides students with creative and effective organizing materials and policy and advocacy training. Recently, in my home State of Virginia, several outstanding students from the New School of Virginia held a 3-day conference where they educated fellow students about the genocide in Darfur.

I was so moved by their sincere and energetic commitment to ending that genocide, I invited the students to Congress, where they were led by Semhar Araia and Lia Parada of my staff. These high school students briefed Members of Congress on their efforts to

put pressure on the Government of Sudan to stop the genocide. Having given their peers numerous briefings on the situation in Darfur, these students took it upon themselves to ask poignant, pressing questions of our colleagues. Their message was clear: help us save Darfur.

Having learned that villages have been razed, women systematically raped and branded, men murdered, and food and water supplies destroyed, they are determined to make a difference, and to continue speaking up until their government does the right thing.

Now, we hear slogans from our President like, "not on our watch," and we believe that he is sincere when he says that. But our society continues to be witness to a crisis as devastating as Rwanda. Our youth can't understand why it continues today, after years of knowing what has been going on, tens of thousands have died, hundreds of thousands are displaced and living in refugee camps. More than 2 million people have been driven from their homes.

And over the last few years, we've seen major changes in U.S. foreign policy with respect to the ongoing crisis in Darfur, but a far more aggressive response is still needed.

On July 22 of 2004, Congress declared that the atrocities unfolding in Darfur constituted genocide. On September 9 of that year, former Secretary of State Colin Powell stated that "genocide has been committed in Darfur and that the Government of Sudan and the janjaweed bear responsibility."

On April 18 of this year, President George Bush asserted that the United States has a moral obligation to help end the genocide in Darfur. But it still goes on.

Had it not been for the grass-roots effort to pressure the administration and other national governments on this humanitarian crisis, I doubt we would see the United Nations African Union peacekeepers in Darfur.

But we have got to do so much more. The mission is not complete. Just last month, on September 29, an estimated 1,000 members of a heavily armed Darfur rebel group overran a base in Haskanita, which is occupied by the African Union Mission. This ambush resulted in intense fighting that killed 10 peacekeepers and wounded many others; 50 soldiers are still missing. According to U.N. estimates, in the aftermath of the brutal attack, 15,000 civilians had to flee the area to neighboring towns or the wilderness.

The effort and resources put into resolving this conflict pale compared to what the President has requested for Iraq. Clearly, there's so much more that we as a Nation could be doing to end this crisis. The humanitarian situation is not improving. African Union peacekeeping forces are limited to only 7,000 troops. As evidenced by the attack on Haskanita, it is unlikely that their efforts alone will ensure any real meaningful progress. We've got to keep

pressuring the Sudanese Government and build support for a larger peace-keeping force. More Americans need to speak out day in, day out, like these students are. We cannot continue to allow the raping, the massacreing, the displacement of people to continue. These students are asking us to hear them, to act, and to bring to bear the strength of the nations of the world to address this conflict.

That's why I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this resolution that recognizes those who have selflessly devoted themselves to raising awareness of the crisis in Darfur.

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

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN).

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for yielding me the time and for his leadership on so many issues advocating human rights, but especially the humanitarian crisis in Darfur.

I also want to thank Congressman JIM MORAN for introducing this resolution that recognizes and commends the outstanding work carried out by dozens of national organizations and literally thousands of local groups across the country to educate Americans and motivate them to take action on ending the genocide in Darfur, Sudan.

Mr. Speaker, on April 28, 2006, my House colleagues, Representatives MORAN of Virginia, TOM LANTOS, JOHN OLVER and SHEILA JACKSON-LEE, joined me for a protest in front of the Sudanese embassy here in Washington as part of a larger effort organized by religious, student, and human rights groups to focus the country's attention on the genocide in Darfur. All of us were arrested and many of us joined thousands of our fellow citizens 2 days later for the national rally on the Mall to stop the genocide in Darfur.

I brought my two children, Patrick and Molly, to that rally so that they could listen to the speeches, see the great diversity of people united in effort, and meet so many of the young people and students who have been engaged in the cause of ending genocide.

I happen to be especially blessed, Mr. Speaker, in having 13 colleges and universities in the Third Congressional District of Massachusetts, an engaged religious community of many faiths and school districts that believe in debating the serious issues of the day inside the classrooms. I had been hearing and learning about the humanitarian crisis in Darfur for months from elementary school, middle school, high school and college students, from religious leaders and community groups, from the Armenian American community in Worcester, and from local human rights and refugee advocates.

When I stood with my colleague in front of the Sudanese embassy, I was there not just to protest the genocide,

but to honor the broad coalition of voices that works every day, that works day after day, week after week and year after year to end the violence, the terror, the humanitarian crisis, the genocide in Darfur. Among these are the Save Darfur Coalition, STAND, ENOUGH, and the Genocide Intervention Network.

Since the national rally on the Mall a little over a year and a half ago, these groups have continued to raise the awareness of the American people. Over the April recess, I had the privilege of traveling to eastern Chad to meet some of the 300,000 refugees from Darfur living in camps along the Chad-Sudan border. I spent several days with representatives from UNHCR, UNICEF, the World Food Program, Oxfam, ICRC, Catholic Relief Services, Doctors Without Borders and so many others whose lives and work are completely focused on responding to the humanitarian crisis. I cannot possibly express in words the respect and admiration I have for them and all the other NGOs working inside Darfur and in Chad and the Central African Republic with the nearly 3 million people displaced from their homes by the violence in Darfur.

Mr. Speaker, today we are considering three bills on Darfur: this one, that recognizes and commends the work of advocacy groups and other NGOs who raise awareness and are working to help end the genocide in Darfur; another resolution introduced by Congresswoman ROSA DELAURO about the need to protect the women and girls of Darfur from acts of rape and sexual violence that have become commonplace in this conflict; and, a third, condemning in the strongest terms the attacks on September 29 on the African Union peacekeepers.

Mr. Speaker, the genocide goes on. The humanitarian crisis persists. This morning's Washington Post speaks to the fact that the United States and the international community speak with passion, but accomplish little in ending the violence in Darfur. This week another peace conference on Darfur is under way in Libya, except all the parties to the conflict are not present. We must do more, Mr. Speaker, or we will be here 1 year from now, once again bemoaning the killing, the violence, and the terror. The time for action is now.

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I am now pleased to yield as much time as she might consume to the gentlelady from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I appreciate the work of Ms. DELAURO, Mr. MORAN, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, those who have brought forward a number of resolutions on Darfur. And there's a reason, I think, we're seeing a confluence of new concern.

This is not the kind of resolution one comes to the floor and says I'm proud to be a cosponsor. It is more in the nature, Mr. Speaker, of an emergency resolution designed to make sure we don't go to sleep on Darfur while the genocide continues.

There are so many things that the world community has done, that the President has done, that NGOs have done; and, yet, here we are with the genocide in place in Darfur. The message is, we haven't done enough, therefore.

I am among those who have been arrested in front of the embassy. Well, the whole point there was to call attention to Darfur, and that was at least more than a year ago, not to mention all that has happened all around the world.

I want to call special attention to the most defenseless victims of the genocide, and those are women who are the victims of rape as individuals, and mass sexual violence of various kinds. The mores of this society may mean that the women in society were more accustomed to being protected by the men. If those were the mores, that, of course, protection is long gone because of the genocide against the men.

So what we have often is a society of women and children defenseless against what appears to be interminable genocide. Just 2 months ago, there was yet another report of mass rapings, dozens of women. It seems to be a modus operandi. When the attacks are made, single out the women after the attacks for rape. The large attacks on the camp bespeak continuing genocide.

What is perhaps most pitiful is that the women continue to do what women in developing societies have always done, to be the wood gatherers of the society, to go out and gather the wood that is necessary to do the cooking and, indeed, to live. There are fire wood patrols that must go with these women, and still the rape continues. The lack of resources for these patrols, the lack of communication and organization for these patrols means that emergency conditions for women and children continue.

The hybrid force for Darfur is not even scheduled to be on the ground until next year. The shame of it all, that the mass rape is often committed by members of the Sudanese Armed Forces and the militias, and that we've been able to do nothing about it, means that we have an obligation to raise our voices about mass rape and abuse of women that is now well documented.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, bear in mind, these are women with no recourse except our raising our own voices. No recourse whatsoever. And consider that after the rape of such women, which is often shameful enough even in a society like ours so the women don't even want to come forward and speak about it, these women often are seen as women who've had sexual intercourse outside of marriage and are open to the crime of Xena or such an offense which would be 100 lashes in addition to the humiliation they have already suffered.

The ultimate victims, of course, are the children who result from pregnancy of these women, the janjaweed child, this often is called, and there that

child sits outside of the society, outside of what is normally done as a matter of course for children.

I hope this resolution begins to put Darfur, its genocide and especially its treatment of women and children, on the front burner once again.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, today, the House is considering three critically important resolutions related to the world's worst ongoing humanitarian disaster—the genocide in Darfur, Sudan.

The first is H. Res. 573, which recognizes and commends the efforts of U.S. advocacy groups to raise awareness about and help end the worsening crisis in Darfur. These groups remind us daily, through their media campaigns and grassroots efforts, that the international community has a responsibility to unite and stop crimes against humanity—and that we must learn from past failures to do so—in Rwanda, Bosnia, and elsewhere.

The second is H. Res. 740, which condemns the brutal attack on African Union peacekeepers that occurred in Haskanita, Darfur, 1 month ago today. This violent act, carried out by rebels, took the lives of 10 peacekeepers—seven Nigerians and three other soldiers from Mali, Senegal, and Botswana. It reminds us that there are many guilty parties in the violence in Darfur, and that we must reinforce our support for the courageous African Union soldiers—who indeed fight not for their own countries, but for humanity.

Finally, the House will vote today on H. Res. 726, a resolution calling on the President and the international community to take immediate steps to respond to and prevent acts of rape and sexual violence against the most innocent of Darfur's victims—young girls and women. I was asked to cosponsor this important resolution by my friend and colleague BRAD MILLER, who traveled with me to Darfur in April. There we saw things we will never forget—children orphaned by genocide and women who had experienced unspeakable personal traumas. We learned that the heartbreaking reality of life in Darfur today means women risk being raped when doing things as simple as collecting firewood. This resolution addresses this horrific reality by authorizing grants to help the women and girls of Darfur and calling for prosecution of those who have carried out such hideously inhumane acts.

I am proud that the U.S. House of Representatives is putting itself on record with these resolutions—as an institution that will not stand idly by while the world's worst humanitarian disaster continues to unfold. While these resolutions are not a panacea to the heart-rending conflict in Darfur, we know from experience that continual pressure on those who take part in such violent, inhumane actions brings us closer to a solution.

That solution must be multi-faceted. It includes not only full and speedy implementation of the United Nations/African Union hybrid peacekeeping force, but also international support for a single, unified peacemaking process. I am extremely disappointed to learn that multiple rebel leaders have chosen violence over peace and declined to participate in the current talks in Libya, but I am hopeful that the representatives that are there—including the representatives of the Government of Sudan—will make progress toward a ceasefire and a viable political solution for this ravaged land.

Finally, and equally important, a solution in Darfur must include a sustained and secure role for the courageous humanitarian workers, who risk their lives daily because they are so committed to alleviating the suffering of their fellow human beings.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support these three resolutions.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about a human tragedy that affects the lives of millions of innocent individuals. The barbarism in the Darfur region of Sudan continues despite international calls for a cessation of violence. Lives continue to be lost and hope for peace remains distant.

On July 4 of 2004, the 109th Congress declared that genocide was occurring in the Darfur region of Sudan. Over 3 years later, the violence continues. Hundreds of thousands of people have lost their lives. An estimated 2.2 million people have been forced from their homes.

Today the House will consider three resolutions related to Darfur. It is my hope that this body will continue to focus on this humanitarian crisis until the genocide comes to an end. H. Res. 573 recognizes and commends the efforts of the United States public and advocacy groups to raise awareness about and help end the worsening humanitarian crisis and genocide in Darfur. The responsibility to help end this humanitarian crisis is part of the values that make us American. It is in the best spirit of our country, and it is part of the leadership that we should bring to the world. We must continue to work together as one to bring this conflict to an end.

The second resolution, H. Res. 756, condemns rape and sexual violence against women and girls in Darfur, Sudan, eastern Chad and the Central African Republic. The violence and inhuman experiences perpetrated upon the people of Darfur and the surrounding region have been particularly terrible for women. This resolution urges the President to take an active role in providing victims of sexual abuse with medical and legal support. It also calls on fellow members of the United Nations to sanction the Sudan for any non-compliance to bring known perpetrators to justice. We cannot be silent while innocent women and girls suffer such cruelty.

The final resolution, H. Res. 740, condemns the attacks made on African Union Peacekeepers in the Darfuri village of Haskanita on September 29, 2007. This violent act took the lives of 10 peacekeepers—7 Nigerians and 3 other soldiers from Mali, Senegal, and Botswana. These attacks are unacceptable and detrimental to the peace effort but should not deter the conviction of the African Union or the international community to bring peace and security to the region.

The displacement of millions of people as well as the rape and murder of hundreds of thousands cannot be tolerated by the United States or any country that holds freedom and democracy as sacred values. The ongoing events in Darfur constitute the worst ongoing humanitarian disaster in the world. We must do everything we can to bring it to an end.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, the deplorable situation in Darfur has united the world in outrage over the atrocities being committed there. Through the efforts of motivated individuals and advocacy groups, the situation in Darfur has been brought to the forefront of public consciousness.

These people have worked tirelessly in raising awareness about the situation in Darfur and calling for an end to the genocide. Around the country, throughout Virginia and across the 6th District of Virginia, I have seen first hand the dedication and commitment of these individuals in calling on leaders, from around the world, to speak out against the horrendous events in Darfur. In fact, it was often their humanitarianism and commitment to peace in Darfur that encouraged nations to speak out against what was happening in Sudan and take action.

It is no surprise to me that the citizens of the United States have taken such an active role in condemning the actions taking place in Sudan. After all as a Nation dedicated to freedom and the rights of the individual, the United States and its citizens have a responsibility to speak out when those rights are violated, whether at home or abroad. The work of these groups is a true testament to the values of our country.

The goodwill of these individuals and groups in raising global awareness is instrumental in helping to end the genocide in Darfur. I am glad that we in Congress have risen today to commend these groups and thank them for their service. We thank all the various local schools, communities, faith-based, human rights, humanitarian, and youth-led advocacy organizations that have dedicated their time and energy to help end the genocide in Darfur, to promote peace there, and to defend human rights. We must continue to work together and do more to bring an end to the genocide in Darfur.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 573, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. TANNER. 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.

□ 1515

CALLING ON THE PRESIDENT AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO RESPOND TO AND PREVENT RAPE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN DARFUR, SUDAN, EASTERN CHAD AND CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 726) calling on the President of the United States and the international community to take immediate steps to respond to and prevent acts of rape and sexual violence

against women and girls in Darfur, Sudan, eastern Chad and the Central African Republic, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 726

Whereas, during war, rape and sexual violence are often used systematically as a weapon of intimidation, humiliation, terror and ethnic cleansing;

Whereas it is estimated that between 250,000 and 500,000 women and girls were raped during the genocide in Rwanda;

Whereas, on September 2, 1998, the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda found Jean Paul Akayesu guilty of rape and held that rape and sexual assault constitute crimes against humanity;

Whereas, on October 31, 2000, the United Nations Security Council adopted Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000), calling on all parties to an armed conflict to take, "special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse";

Whereas the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which entered into force on July 1, 2002, states that rape and "any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity" may constitute both "crimes against humanity" and "war crimes";

Whereas since 2003, mass rape committed by members of the Sudanese armed forces and affiliated militias with the support of the Government of Sudan has been a central component of the Government of Sudan's violence and ethnic cleansing in Darfur;

Whereas women and girls leaving Internally Displaced Persons camps in Darfur and refugee camps in eastern Chad, to seek firewood, water or outside sources of income are often attacked and subjected to rape and sexual violence perpetrated by members of the Sudanese armed forces and associated Janjaweed militia and other armed combatants;

Whereas, on July 19, 2004, Amnesty International reported that it collected the names of 250 women who had been raped in Darfur and information on 250 additional rapes;

Whereas, on January 25, 2005, the International Commission of Inquiry on Darfur, in a report to the United Nations Secretary General, reported numerous cases of mass rape throughout Darfur including an incident in which a large number of Janjaweed attacked a boarding school, and raped as many as 110 girls;

Whereas, on October 14, 2005, the Secretary General of the United Nations reported "Many girls have given birth as a result of rape. Although local communities are trying to accept the offspring, the children face a great deal of stigmatization.";

Whereas, on March 9, 2007, members of the United Nations High-Level Mission on the situation of human rights in Darfur reported that "rape and sexual assault have been widespread and systematic, terrorizing women and breaking down families and communities" and that "women are also attacked in and around refugee camps in eastern Chad";

Whereas, on April 27, 2007, the International Criminal Court, acting under the authority provided in Security Council Resolution 1593 (2005), issued arrest warrants for Sudan's Humanitarian Affairs Minister Ahmad Muhammad Harun and Janjaweed Colonel Ali Muhammad Al Abd-Al-Raham seeking their arrest for 51 counts including 6 counts involving rape;

Whereas under Sudanese law victims of rape have virtually no legal recourse and

may in fact be charged with the crime of zina, or sexual intercourse outside of marriage, punishable by one hundred lashes if the victim is unmarried and death by stoning if she is married;

Whereas, on July 31, 2007, the United Nations Security Council adopted Security Council Resolution 1769 authorizing the deployment of a United Nations-African Union peacekeeping force (UNAMID) to Darfur and expressing strong concern about "on-going attacks on the civilian population and humanitarian workers and continued and widespread sexual violence" while "emphasising the need to bring to justice the perpetrators of such crimes"; and

Whereas, on August 20, 2007, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, reported on attacks, abductions and systematic rapes of women in Darfur and the resulting "grave health risks from the consequent physical injuries and psychological trauma", and declared that these acts may "constitute war crimes": Now, therefore be it:

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) calls upon the President of the United States to develop within the United States Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development a Women and Girls of Darfur Initiative to improve assistance to victims and potential victims of rape and sexual violence in Darfur, Sudan, eastern Chad and the Central African Republic by—

(A) offering specialized grants to non-governmental organizations, operating within IDP and refugee camps in Sudan, Chad and the Central African Republic that can provide all essential quality health care services and medical supplies, psychological and social counseling, and legal advice to Darfuri victims of rape and sexual violence;

(B) providing treatment for the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, including antiretroviral drugs to prevent HIV infections, and specialized care for rape victims already infected with HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases;

(C) meeting the psychological, social and educational needs of victimized women, girls, children born as a result of rape, their family and the community in order to limit the stigmatization associated with rape; and

(D) providing financial, technical and other forms of assistance to support women's peace initiatives;

(2) calls upon the Secretary General of the United Nations, the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, the African Union, the European Union, the Arab League and other nations to immediately take steps to—

(A) ensure that a fully funded and fully equipped UNAMID is deployed to Darfur, Sudan;

(B) mandate that UNAMID employ all necessary measures to protect women and girls from acts of rape and sexual violence both outside and within Darfuri refugee and IDP camps;

(C) provide sufficient resources and training to UNAMID troops and police to ensure a capability to properly respond to acts of rape and sexual violence;

(D) provide for firewood patrols and other safeguarding measures to protect women and girls leaving refugee and IDP camps; and

(E) include an adequate number of female troops and police in UNAMID to properly manage incidents of rape and sexual violence; and

(3) calls on the United Nations Security Council to immediately—

(A) find the Government of Sudan in non-compliance with Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000);

(B) call on the Government of Sudan to provide full legal protections to victims of rape and sexual violence and to bring to justice individuals responsible for such crimes; and

(C) adopt under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter a Security Council Resolution calling on the Government of Sudan to respect all related Security Council Resolutions, including Security Council Resolution 1593 (2005), enforce the arrest warrants for Ahmad Muhammad Harun and Ali Muhammad Al Abd-Al-Raham, and further recognize the systematic rape of women and girls in Darfur as crimes against humanity and war crimes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members 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 Tennessee?

There was no objection.

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

I want to thank Congresswoman DELAURO for this important resolution that focuses again on one of the most heinous crimes of war known to humans: the rape of women.

In the process of the Darfur genocide, women and girls have been targeted specifically. And I will let her speak more about this, but when women living in refugee camps, for example, were asked why they went to fetch water and risk rape rather than the men, they answered, If we let the men go, they will be killed. It is better for us to be raped than for our husbands to be killed.

It goes on and on, Mr. Speaker, but I will reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of the resolution by my good friend, Ms. DELAURO, H. Resolution 726, which calls on the international community to take immediate steps to respond to and to halt acts of rape and sexual violence, all of which are occurring in Darfur, eastern Chad, and the Central African Republic.

I would like to thank the chairman of our committee, Mr. LANTOS; and, of course, the lead sponsor, my friend Ms. DELAURO for their flexibility in accommodating concerns raised prior to the introduction and then during the committee consideration with regard to nonessential health issues and the International Criminal Court.

With those issues addressed in the amendment before us, we now have a strong resolution that effectively focuses much-needed attention on the

horrific reality that has befallen women and young girls in Darfur without contradicting our U.S. policy.

Since the beginning of this conflict, Mr. Speaker, Sudanese Armed Forces, janjaweed militias, and other rebel factions have used rape as a weapon of war. Despite the conclusions of the Darfur Peace Agreement and the deployment of peacekeepers, these attacks have continued unabated.

The pattern of rape and sexual violence is widespread and systematic, and it seems that no one is spared. Elderly women, pregnant mothers, even girls as young as 10 years of age have fallen victim to the rapist thugs who attack with immunity. This is a horrific practice that must be condemned in the strongest possible terms.

I fully support efforts to provide essential health and psychosocial services to these women and girls as well as efforts to hold those responsible for such attacks accountable for their actions. I strongly support this resolution.

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

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as she may consume to the author of the resolution, the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee, and I rise in support of House Resolution 726, calling on the President of the United States and the international community to take immediate steps to respond to and to prevent acts of rape and sexual violence against women and girls in Darfur, Sudan, eastern Chad, and the Central African Republic.

I was proud to introduce this resolution, and I have been proud to work with my colleague Chairman LANTOS, whose attention to the crisis in Darfur has been unrelenting. His dedication made it possible to move this important legislation through the committee and onto the floor of the House so quickly.

My friend Congressman BRAD MILLER also took a lead on this resolution, and following his trip to Darfur this summer, he has shared his unique insight about the region and our responsibility.

And today it is also important to note that we have reached this point together with my colleagues from across the aisle. Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN led our bipartisan collaboration, and we now have the support of more than 100 cosponsors from both parties. That broad support from Members at every point along the political spectrum makes sense because this is not a political issue; it is a moral issue. And it is urgent. We have an obligation to act and to act now.

As Members of the United States Congress, we believe we must do everything in our power to protect the basic human rights of individuals around the world, and there may be no greater vio-

lation of a woman's or a girl's basic human rights than when she is a victim of rape or sexual violence.

All too often during war, rape and sexual violence are used systematically as a weapon of intimidation, humiliation, terror, and ethnic cleansing. There is no other way to put it. These crimes are crimes against humanity and war crimes. And we cannot ignore them.

The use of rape as a weapon of war is as prevalent today as ever. An average of 40 women are raped every day in the ongoing armed conflict in the Congo. It is estimated that between 20,000 and 50,000 women were raped during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the early 1990s. And it is estimated that between 250,000 and 500,000 women were raped during the genocide in Rwanda.

Now, as these atrocities occur in the Darfur conflict region, we must ask ourselves, again, when will we learn from history? The answer, it seems, is not soon enough for the untold number of Darfuri women and girls beaten, kidnapped, and raped, often multiple times by multiple attackers, and held as sex slaves by the Sudanese armed forces, the janjaweed, and other armed combatants. Since the current conflict began over 4 years ago, instances of rape and sexual violence have all been documented by NGOs like Amnesty International and Doctors Without Borders. And the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has reported on widespread and systematic mass rape occurring in the region as well as grave health risks, psychological trauma, and resulting pregnancies.

In July, the United Nations Security Council adopted its most recent Security Council resolution relating to Darfur in which it expressed strong concern about the "continued and widespread sexual violence" while "emphasizing the need to bring to justice the perpetrators of such crimes."

But we cannot simply talk about the downward spiral in Darfur or the conditions that have only worsened since the so-called Darfur Peace Agreement was signed in May 2006. As we saw just this weekend, peace talks in Libya appear to be breaking down because key rebel groups refuse to participate, demonstrating that we are a long way from peace and security in Darfur.

We cannot sit idly by as women and children are targeted. The resolution before us today calls for action. It calls on the President and it calls on the international community to do the following:

One, develop within the State Department and USAID a Women and Girls of Darfur Initiative to, among other things, provide victims and potential victims of rape in Darfur, eastern Chad, and the Central African Republic with all essential and quality medical supplies and health care services, psychological counseling, and legal advice;

Two, to ensure that a hybrid United Nations-African Union peacekeeping

force is deployed that can properly protect women and girls from and respond to acts of rape and sexual violence;

And, three, through the U.N. Security Council, find Sudan in noncompliance with its obligations to protect women and girls and call on Khartoum to bring perpetrators of rape and sexual violence to justice.

Our State Department and USAID must make this a top priority. As the rape and murder in Darfur goes on, the perpetrators of these atrocities go unpunished. And while the rhetoric of the administration and the international community have hit the mark, their action has fallen far short. Too much is at stake to allow these atrocities to continue. We have the power, the will, and the moral obligation to stop sexual violence and rape in the Darfur conflict region. There is no reason that we stand by when we should be acting.

I plead with my colleagues to understand what women and girls are undergoing in Darfur and to please pass this resolution. Let's act together in the best interests of women and girls around the world.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend Ms. DELAURO for introducing this resolution.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H. Res. 726, a bill responding to acts of rape and sexual violence in the Darfur conflict.

Rape and sexual violence are often used as weapons of war. It is estimated that between 20,000 and 50,000 women and girls were raped during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the 1990s; between 250,000 and 500,000 were raped during the genocide in Rwanda; and today, there are reports of wide and systematic rape and sexual assault of women and girls in the Darfur region.

The United States was the first government to refer to the killing in Darfur as genocide, but this has had little impact on ending the suffering. The suffering continues because the Sudanese government resists the efforts of the international community at every step and the Chinese government refuses to use its unique influence to force the Sudanese government to change its actions. In fact, China may even have prolonged the crisis by shielding Sudan against the collective efforts of the United Nations. The crisis is now in its 4th year with no end in sight and the suffering of men, women and children continues. That is why I am encouraging passage today of H. Res. 726.

H. Res. 726 requires the U.S. State Department and USAID to develop a women and girls Darfur initiative for the purpose of providing victims and potential victims of rape in Darfur, eastern Chad and the Central African Republic with much needed comprehensive and quality medical supplies and health services.

The bill also calls upon the Secretary General of the United Nations, the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, the African Union, the European Union, the Arab League and other nations to immediately take steps to ensure that a hybrid UN-African Union peacekeeping force is deployed that can properly protect women and girls from and respond to acts of rape and sexual violence.

We cannot stand still in the face of systematic and widespread rape in the Darfur region. The U.S. Congress has a moral obligation to reach out and do all it can to put an end to this tragedy. I strongly support this important piece of legislation and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am a proud cosponsor of this resolution, and I applaud the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) for her leadership on this important issue.

Every day in Darfur men are tortured and massacred as women and little girls seeking solace and refuge are raped, abused, and murdered. This is a systematic effort to destroy an entire race of people.

Where is the humanity, Mr. Speaker? Where are our souls? How can we stand by when hundreds and thousands are suffering every day at the hands of their own government?

Today, on the front page of the Washington Post there is an article entitled "U.S. Promises on Darfur Don't Match Actions". It highlights our Government's inaction during one of the most horrific human rights disasters of our generation.

Every single one of us has a duty to pressure our Government, the United Nations, the world—to act.

Mr. Speaker, this bipartisan resolution is not about politics. It is not about pushing an agenda forward.

We have a moral obligation to stand up for the women and children in Darfur against systematic and unchecked abuse.

They have no voice, no government, nobody to stand with them, nobody to stand for them.

Every day that we wait for a solution to magically appear, is another day that a woman, a child, is stripped of her home, her family, her dignity, her health, and her humanity.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H. Res. 726.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 726, 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.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONDEMNING ATTACKS ON AFRICAN UNION PEACEKEEPERS IN HASKANITA, DARFUR, SUDAN, ON SEPTEMBER 29, 2007

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 740) condemning in the strongest terms the attacks on African Union peacekeepers that occurred in Haskanita, Darfur, Sudan, on September 29, 2007, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 740

Whereas, on September 29, 2007, an estimated 1,000 heavily-armed rebels in Darfur overran a small base in Haskanita, Darfur, Sudan, occupied by the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS), brutally killing 10 peacekeepers—seven Nigerian soldiers and three other unarmed military observers and civilian police officers from Mali, Senegal, and Botswana—and wounding seven other peacekeepers, with 50 peacekeepers still missing;

Whereas, in an assault described by the African Union commander as "deliberate and sustained", the rebel group broke into the AMIS base in 30 vehicles with heavy artillery and mortars and battled for hours until AMIS forces ran out of ammunition;

Whereas the attacks were the worst attacks on AMIS peacekeepers since the deployment of the peacekeepers to Sudan in July 2004;

Whereas the United Nations Security Council condemned the "murderous attack" on AMIS peacekeepers and demanded that "no effort be spared" to identify and bring to justice the perpetrators of the attacks;

Whereas, in the aftermath of the attacks, the Government of Sudan secured the area reportedly to facilitate the evacuation of AMIS peacekeepers, but later was accused of burning Haskanita to the ground, driving more than 15,000 civilians into the wilderness or neighboring towns;

Whereas the attacks have been openly condemned by the United States Government, the African Union, the international community, and civilized people everywhere; and

Whereas the Government of Sudan has not publicly spoken out against or condemned the attacks: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns in the strongest terms the attacks on African Union peacekeepers that occurred in Haskanita, Darfur, Sudan, on September 29, 2007;

(2) expresses its condolences to the people and Governments of Nigeria, Mali, Senegal, and Botswana, the families and friends of those individuals who were killed or missing in the attacks, and expresses its sympathies to those individuals who have been injured;

(3) expresses the solidarity of the people and Government of the United States with the African Union and the African Union peacekeepers as they recover from these cowardly and inhuman attacks;

(4) expresses its readiness to support efforts to bring to justice those individuals responsible for the attacks and efforts to detect, pursue, disrupt, and dismantle the networks that plan and carry out such attacks;

(5) expresses its support for the people of Darfur, Sudan, in their continued struggle against extremism and violence and support for their efforts to secure a permanent peace, justice, and return to their restored villages and homes; and

(6) encourage all parties involved in the conflict to commit to negotiate a final and binding peace agreement at the peace talks scheduled for October 27, 2007, in Tripoli, Libya.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members 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 Tennessee?

There was no objection.

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

Let me thank Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON-LEE for introducing this resolution, which condemns the recent vicious and deadly assault on African Union forces.

On September 29, 2007, an estimated 1,000 members of a heavily armed group of Darfur rebels overran a small African Union base in Haskanita in Darfur. Ten peacekeepers were brutally killed, seven wounded, and 50 others are missing. Seven of those killed were Nigerian soldiers. The other three were unarmed military observers and civilian police officers from Mali, Senegal, and Botswana. With consideration of this resolution today, the U.S. Congress sends its condolences to their respective governments and to their families who have made the ultimate sacrifice in a war far from their native soil.

While the nations of the world deplore the war in Darfur and have provided significant humanitarian assistance to refugees and displaced persons, we still have not demonstrated the will to end this crisis. The United Nations is intensely lobbying countries to provide helicopters for a U.N. African Union peacekeeping force, one of many obstacles to starting the mission. According to recent reports, no country has made a credible offer to provide the 24 transport and attack helicopters needed for the 26,000-strong force.

□ 1530

This lack of helicopters, in part, accounts for the deadly attack on AU troops.

After Rwanda, the world said, never again, never again would we stand by and let another genocide take place; yet we continue to fail in Darfur. For over 4 years now, we have failed.

Today, our Congress calls upon our allies and friends to help put an end to this nightmare. We call on the Sudanese Government, its militia and rebel forces to take up seriously peace negotiations in that part of the world.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be a cosponsor of House Resolution 740, which condemns the horrible and cowardly attacks that occurred last month in Haskanita. According to reports, as we've heard, up to 1,000 heavily armed rebels believed to be associated with the Sudan Liberation Army ambushed the small base that had been occupied

by the African Union peacekeeping mission on September 29 of this year. Ten AU peacekeepers were killed, including seven Nigerian soldiers and three unarmed military observers and civilian police officers from Mali, Senegal, and Botswana. Seven others were wounded, and 50 peacekeepers went missing. This was the worst attack against the AU, African Union, mission since it first deployed in July of 2004.

Khartoum deployed its forces to secure the area on October 6. Three days later, the entire village was found burned to the ground. Though Khartoum has not publicly claimed responsibility, there is little doubt about who burned the village. The initial attack against the African Union peacekeepers and the subsequent burning of the small base must be condemned in the strongest possible terms.

It is outrageous that rebels would attack those who had been sent to secure the peace in Darfur, particularly as the international community prepares to deploy a much larger hybrid United Nations/African Union peacekeeping mission to the region. It is equally outrageous, Mr. Speaker, that the Sudanese armed forces would seek retribution for the initial attack by burning the village to the ground and leaving an estimated 150,000 people homeless as a result.

It must be made clear to all parties to the conflict, the regime in Khartoum, its armed proxies, and the various rebel forces alike, that the ongoing attacks against peacekeeping forces, humanitarian operations, and civilian populations in Darfur are completely unacceptable.

Those who are truly interested in peace in Darfur must stop these senseless attacks, fully commit themselves to a binding cease-fire agreement, and rigorously pursue a political settlement. Failure to do so will send a clear signal to the international community about who is and who is not interested in peace.

And let there be no doubt that the United States has done much to alleviate the suffering in this war-torn region. The United States has provided more than \$2 billion in humanitarian assistance and assistance to the African Union peacekeeping mission in Darfur. The U.S. has also led the debate at the U.N. Security Council to get a larger, more capable United Nations/African Union hybrid peacekeeping mission approved and deployed.

We have built and maintained the camps for the African Union forces, and we will continue to expand those camps until the U.N. takes over. We have also provided air lift for troops, and will fund 25 percent of all peacekeeping costs.

We have a dedicated special envoy who has led international efforts to bring peace to Darfur. We have funded and supported critical peace talks. We have imposed comprehensive sanctions against Khartoum. Meanwhile, China

and Russia continue to allow their business interests in Sudan to override their concern for human rights. Both have failed to take meaningful action at the United Nations and have blocked consideration of sanctions against Khartoum.

So all obstructionists to peace in Darfur, regardless of their association, must ultimately be held to account. It is particularly appropriate that we are considering this resolution as Darfur peace talks are getting under way in Tripoli, Libya because, despite the best of intentions, the international community cannot impose peace on Darfur. The burden is on the Sudanese themselves to find a lasting political settlement. The time for Khartoum and the rebel factions to roll up their sleeves and get to work toward that end is long overdue. And, frankly, the people of Darfur deserve better.

I thank the sponsor, Ms. JACKSON-LEE, for introducing this important and timely measure. I urge the support of all of my colleagues.

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

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield as much time as she may consume to the gentlelady from Ohio (Mrs. JONES).

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. I would like to thank my colleague, the gentleman, JOHN TANNER, for yielding me time. I just came from a memorial service for one of our former colleagues from Ways and Means, Charlie Vanik.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of legislation calling on the President of the United States and the international community to take immediate steps to respond to and prevent acts of rape and sexual violence against women and girls in Darfur, Sudan, eastern Chad, and the Central African Republic.

For many years now we have seen the devastating atrocities taking place in the Darfur region of Sudan. With the support of the Sudanese Government, the janjaweed militia has ravaged the people of Darfur, raping, torturing, murdering, and forcing thousands of Darfuris to flee to refugee camps in neighboring Chad and the Central African Republic. Today, we highlight some of those most vulnerable of these victims in Darfur, women and girls.

We saw the same devastation in Rwanda over a decade ago, where it is estimated that between 250,000 and 500,000 women and girls were raped during the genocide in Rwanda. The American people have made their voices heard on this issue, vowing never again to remain silent when humanity is threatened. To date, there have been numerous reports of rape. On July 19, 2004, Amnesty International reported that it collected the names of 250 women who have been raped in Darfur and information on 250 additional rapes.

On January 25, the International Commission of Inquiry on Darfur, in a report to the U.N. Secretary General,

reported numerous cases of mass rape throughout Darfur. This is just the tip of the iceberg. We must do all that we can to ensure that no more women and girls are violated.

So today we give voice to the voiceless. Today we speak up for those who are often overlooked and ask that in this country we do all within our power to stop the rape and sexual violence against the women of the Darfur region.

I would like to add my support to the other pieces of Darfur legislation discussed today and applaud all the groups who have truly been on the front line of this issue, particularly the students, who have been so passionate in their support. It is my hope that we will be able to work with the people in the 11th Congressional District and across this country to continue to let our voices be heard on the issue. I encourage my constituents to contact me with your ideas and resources.

I know that I'm speaking on another piece of legislation, but they all affect Darfur, and it gives me an opportunity to be heard.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, I had the opportunity to travel as part of a bipartisan Congressional Delegation to the war-torn nation of Sudan and see first-hand one of the worst humanitarian crises in recent times.

The entire world is currently watching in horror the atrocities being committed in Darfur. Many people have been called to action to try to stop this genocide. This includes hordes of humanitarian workers and peacekeeping forces. The most prominent peacekeeping mission in Sudan has been the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS), which is carried out by African Union (AU) forces.

Since July of 2004, AU forces have been on the ground in Sudan working as peacekeepers. Sadly, their peacekeeping mission has made these AU personnel targets for attack by rebel forces. The worst of these attacks occurred in Haskanita, Darfur, Sudan, on September 29, 2007. This attack on the AU base left 10 brutally murdered and 50 soldiers missing. In the aftermath of the attacks Haskanita has been burned to the ground, displacing 15,000 citizens. This horrendous situation is made only worse by the government of Sudan's silence in not speaking out and condemning these attacks.

There is no doubt that this was an atrocious attack, and today we in Congress join together to condemn all these attacks. These attacks show just how horrid the situation in Darfur is, when those trying to bring peace and stability are themselves victims of violence. We in Congress express our deepest sympathy to the families of individuals killed or missing in these cowardly attacks.

It is my deepest hope that the Darfur peace negotiations currently underway in Libya bring about a meaningful and lasting peace agreement for Darfur. The United States and the international community must work together to stabilize the situation in Darfur and prevent further genocide. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues to bring an end to this international crisis.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me supporting H.

Res. 740, which I introduced, together with my good friend and distinguished colleague, Mr. CHABOT. This bipartisan legislation condemns, in the strongest terms, the attacks on African Union peacekeepers that occurred in Haskanita, Darfur, Sudan, on September 29, 2007.

I would like to thank the Chairman and the Ranking Member of the Full Committee, Mr. LANTOS and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, and of the subcommittee on Africa and Global Health, Mr. PAYNE and Mr. SMITH, for their support and co-sponsorship of this important bill. Let me also thank my 55 colleagues who co-sponsored this legislation.

Since 2003, we have witnessed a systematic campaign of displacement, starvation, rape, mass murder, and terror in the western Sudanese region of Darfur. In the worst humanitarian crisis of our time, an estimated 400,000 people have been killed in Darfur by the Government of Sudan and its Janjaweed allies. An additional 2,000,000 people have been displaced from their homes and livelihoods. Both the House of Representatives and the Senate declared that the atrocities in Darfur constitute genocide in July 2004, and the Bush administration reached the same conclusion in September 2004.

However, three years later, the situation in Darfur continues to deteriorate. The United Nations reported a substantial decline in the humanitarian situation during the first three months of 2007, during which time 21 humanitarian vehicles were hijacked, 15 additional vehicles were looted, and gunmen raided 6 humanitarian compounds. The security situation makes it extremely difficult for aid organizations to reach vulnerable populations, and, in the 12 months preceding April 2007, the number of humanitarian relief workers in Darfur decreased by 16 percent, largely due to security concerns, restrictions on access, and funding limitations. The flow of humanitarian aid has been severely threatened by the escalating violence in the region.

Since 2004, a small contingent of African Union peacekeepers have been deployed to Darfur, responsible for maintaining security in a region roughly the size of France. The 7,000 peacekeepers under the banner of the African Union Mission in Sudan, or AMIS, have displayed exemplary courage and resilience, but they are woefully outmanned and outgunned, as well as chronically short of funding. Recognizing the near-collapse of the AU Mission, the United Nations, in July 2007, approved a UN-AU hybrid peacekeeping mission, to be known as UNAMID, which is meant to take over from AMIS shortly.

The AMIS peacekeeping mission recently encountered yet another significant setback. On September 29, 2007, an estimated 1,000 members of a heavily armed Darfur rebel group, in 30 vehicles armed with heavy artillery and mortars, overran a small base in Haskanita, Darfur, Sudan, which was occupied by AMIS peacekeepers. The ambush resulted in several hours of intense fighting that killed ten peacekeepers—seven Nigerian peacekeepers and three other soldiers from Mali, Senegal, and Botswana—and wounded many others.

According to U.N. estimates, in the aftermath of this brutal attack, which was described by the African Union commander as

“deliberate and sustained,” 15,000 civilians fled the area to neighboring towns or the wilderness, fearing for their safety. This attack is considered to be the worst on AMIS peacekeepers since their deployment in July 2004. The United Nations Security Council condemned this “murderous attack” on AMIS peacekeepers, and demanded that “no effort be spared” to identify and bring to justice the perpetrators of this assault.

Only recently, during the August recess, I had the opportunity to lead a Congressional Delegation (CODEL) to Darfur. This was the first CODEL to the region since the announcement of the joint UN/AU peacekeeping force. Along with my colleagues Mr. CHABOT, who joins me as the lead Republican cosponsor of this legislation, and Mr. SMITH, I had the opportunity to meet with government officials, civil society leaders, international aid workers, and affected civilians, as well as with the African Union peacekeepers responsible for protecting Darfur. I saw first hand the immense suffering of the people of Darfur, as well as the enormous strain on the courageous but outnumbered AU peacekeepers.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly condemn recent attacks on African Union peacekeepers. This legislation also expresses the condolences of this House to the people and Governments of Nigeria, Mali, Senegal, and Botswana, the families and friends of those individuals who were killed or missing in the attacks, and expresses its sympathies to those individuals who have been injured. It expresses the solidarity of the people and Government of the United States with the African Union and the African Union peacekeepers as they recover from these attacks, and the readiness of Congress to support efforts to bring to justice those individuals responsible for the attacks and efforts to detect, pursue, disrupt, and dismantle the networks that plan and carry out such attacks.

This legislation also looks forward, to the process of bringing about a peace settlement for Darfur. Crucial though effective peacekeeping forces are, they are no substitute for a serious and sustained peace process. Consequently, this bill also expresses its support for the people of Darfur, Sudan, in their continued struggle against extremism and violence and support for their efforts to secure a permanent peace, justice, and return to their restored villages and homes, and it encourages all parties involved in the conflict to commit to negotiate a final and binding peace agreement at the peace talks, which began on October 27, 2007, in Tripoli, Libya.

Early reports from these negotiations have not been promising. With key rebel groups boycotting the peace talks, media reports indicate that mediators will now have to travel to Darfur to meet with rebel leaders before actual peace agreements can be reached. Despite these setbacks, U.N. Special Envoy Jan Eliasson has maintained optimism, saying yesterday “I refuse to state that the peace process is interrupted.”

Mr. Speaker, as United States foreign policy remains centered on the highly partisan debate over Iraq, we cannot allow Darfur to slip through the cracks. I thank the over 40 of my colleagues who have joined me in cosponsoring this important resolution, which reiterates that attacks on African Union peace-

keepers in Darfur are unacceptable. Despite the setbacks experienced at this weekend's peace talks in Libya, I believe it is important that we condemn the attacks of recent weeks, and look forward to the construction of a lasting peace for Darfur.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 740 which condemns the armed attack against African Union troops that took place on the remote southeastern settlement of Haskanita, Darfur precisely one month ago. This horrific attack by rebel groups left seven Nigerian peacekeepers and three other peacekeepers from Mali, Senegal and Botswana dead. Seven others were wounded and 50 peacekeepers went missing. This is the worst attack against the AU mission since it was first deployed in July 2004.

And the suffering of those in the village did not end with this violent assault. The Armed Forces of Sudan (SAF) moved into the village on October 6, reportedly to “secure” the area and facilitate the evacuation of the AU peacekeepers. Three days later the village was burned to the ground and 15,000 people were displaced. Although there has been no official statement as to who is responsible for the destruction of the village, U.N. officials have quietly pointed the finger at the SAF.

Although diplomatic activity on Sudan has intensified in recent weeks, and talks on the Darfur conflict began in Libya on October 27th, there is little reason for optimism that a peaceful solution to the Darfur tragedy is anywhere in sight. Several of the rebel groups are refusing to participate in the Libya talks. The U.N. Special Envoy for Darfur, Jan Eliasson, and his African Union counterpart, Salim A. Salim, who are leading this negotiation effort, have a Herculean task ahead of them. They will need all the help that we can provide them, and it is critical that this Congress continue to highlight the tragedy of what is occurring in Darfur and seek every means to bring about a just and enduring peace.

I therefore thank my colleague Ms. JACKSON-LEE for introducing this resolution, which also expresses the readiness of the House of Representatives to support efforts to bring those individuals responsible for the attacks to justice and to dismantle the networks that carry out such attacks. I strongly urge my colleagues in the House to support this resolution.

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, so I am pleased to yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 740, 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.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING THE RELIGIOUS AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FESTIVAL OF DIWALI

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 747) recognizing the religious and historical significance of the festival of Diwali.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 747

Whereas Diwali, a festival of great significance to Indian Americans and the people of India, is celebrated annually by Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, and Jains throughout the United States and the world;

Whereas there are more than 2,000,000 Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, and Jains in the United States;

Whereas the word "Diwali" is a shortened version of the Sanskrit term "Deepavali", which means "a row of lamps";

Whereas Diwali is a festival of lights, during which celebrants light small oil lamps, place them around the home, and pray for health, knowledge, and peace;

Whereas celebrants of Diwali believe that the rows of lamps symbolize the light within the individual that rids the soul of the darkness of ignorance;

Whereas Diwali, falling on the last day of the last month in the lunar calendar, is celebrated as a day of thanksgiving and the beginning of the new year for many Hindus;

Whereas for Hindus, Diwali is a celebration of the victory of good over evil;

Whereas for Sikhs, Diwali is feted as the day that the sixth founding Sikh Guru, or revered teacher, Guru Hargobind ji, was released from captivity from the ruling Mughal Emperor; and

Whereas for Jains, Diwali marks the anniversary of the attainment of moksha or liberation by Mahavira, the last of the Tirthankaras, who were the great teachers of Jain dharma, at the end of his life in 527 B.C.: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) during this time of celebration, in order to demonstrate support for Indian Americans and the Indian Diaspora throughout the world, recognizes Diwali as an important festival;

(2) acknowledges the international religious and historical importance of the festival of Diwali;

(3) recognizes and appreciates the religious diversity in both India and the United States and throughout the world;

(4) acknowledges and supports the new relationship of collaboration and dialogue in international efforts between the United States and India; and

(5) in observance of and out of respect for the start of Diwali, the festival of lights, acknowledges the onset of Diwali and expresses its deepest respect to Indian Americans and the Indian Diaspora throughout the world on this significant occasion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise

and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Our colleague and my friend, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, introduced this resolution that seeks to recognize the significance of the festival of Diwali. Diwali is celebrated as victory of good over evil for some, and as a remembrance of liberation for others. Ultimately, it is a day of joy celebrated annually by Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists and Jains throughout the world, particularly by Indians and Indian Americans.

With more than 2 million devotees of these faiths in our country, this resolution honors this holiday and those who cherish its message.

There are few religious holidays that are celebrated by a multitude of faiths, and it is a tribute to the diversity of India and to our country that we have such a rich religious heritage in our societies. By celebrating Diwali, we also are celebrating this diversity, a shared value that has brought the United States and India closer together through the years.

Much has been said about our two countries being natural partners in this world; and the importance of having multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and, indeed, multi-religious societies cannot be overemphasized.

For these reasons, I look forward to celebrating this festival and strongly support the resolution.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 747, which recognizes the significance of the festival of Diwali.

I want to extend my appreciation to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) for his leadership on this issue and so many issues that are affecting U.S. relations with India and Indian Americans.

Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues know because of our previous speaker, Diwali is a major, multi-cultural festival celebrated in India and everywhere around the world. Although often referred to as a Hindu festival, Jains, Sikhs and Buddhists also observe it.

Known as the Festival of Lights, it symbolizes the victory of good over evil, and lamps are lit as a sign of celebration and hope for mankind.

Diwali is celebrated for 5 consecutive days in October or November, and it is one of the most popular and eagerly awaited festivals in India. This celebration presents all of us with the opportunity to reflect on the many ways in which people, history and traditions of India, and elsewhere in South Asia,

have contributed to the rich cultural mosaic that is the United States of America. It also reminds us again that America's extraordinary diversity is one of our Nation's most enduring strengths.

I was proud to sponsor a similar resolution in the 109th Congress, House Resolution 584, which also recognizes the significance of this important festival of Diwali.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I urge support for this resolution.

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as the proud sponsor of House Resolution 747, I am pleased that this legislation recognizing the religious and historical significance of the festival of Diwali has been brought to the floor today for consideration.

Celebrated by the people of India, the Indian Diaspora and the nearly two million Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, and Jains who call America their home, the Diwali festival is a five day event held in the fall that celebrates the values of kinship, knowledge, and goodness. It signifies the triumph of good over evil and light over darkness. This is commonly represented by individuals lighting oil lamps and placing them outside their homes.

My resolution acknowledges the international, religious, and historical importance of the festival of Diwali as well as the religious diversity in India, the United States, and throughout the world. It shows our support for the strong and growing partnership and dialogue in international efforts between the United States and India. Lastly, it recognizes the importance of Indian Americans—a strong and vibrant immigrant community.

As co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans, as well as a lifelong supporter and admirer of the Indian American community, I am grateful for the opportunity to show my appreciation. My father served in India during World War II, and he told me how entrepreneurial and competent the people of India are. I call on my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to do the same for the citizens of India, a strategic and economic ally.

I would like to commend Ishani Chowdhury with the Hindu American Foundation, my Chief of Staff Dino Teppara, my Legislative Assistant Paul Callahan, and Arshi Siddiqui with Speaker NANCY PELOSI's office for their cooperation and dedication in bringing this important resolution to the floor.

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests, so I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 747.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. TANNER. 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.

□ 1545

SUPPORTING THE OBSERVANCE OF BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 230) supporting the observance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 230

Whereas every 3 minutes a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer;

Whereas another 180,510 new cases of breast cancer are expected to be diagnosed in the United States in 2007;

Whereas breast cancer is the leading cause of death among women between the ages of 45 and 54;

Whereas 1 out of every 8 women who live to the age of 85 will develop breast cancer in her lifetime;

Whereas the survival rate of women who have breast cancer is 98.1 percent when detected in the early stages;

Whereas mammograms and monthly breast self-examinations are the key components of early detection; and

Whereas observing a Breast Cancer Awareness Month would provide a special opportunity to offer education on the importance of monthly breast self-examinations and annual mammograms: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) supports the observance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month in order to provide a special opportunity to offer education on the importance of monthly breast self-examinations and annual mammograms;

(2) salutes the more than 2.4 million breast cancer survivors in the United States and the efforts of victims, volunteers, and professionals who combat breast cancer each day;

(3) recognizes and applauds the national and community organizations for their work in promoting awareness about breast cancer, providing information, and offering treatment to its sufferers; and

(4) urges organizations and health practitioners to use this opportunity to promote awareness about breast cancer, to support monthly self-examinations, and to encourage annual mammograms.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 230, a resolution supporting the observance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. As an original cosponsor of this resolution, I am proud to speak out in favor of greater support for breast cancer awareness and prevention. Through my work with Congresswoman SUE MYRICK in reauthorizing the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program, I am well aware of the challenges that lie ahead in preventing and ultimately finding a cure for breast cancer.

As my colleagues may know, breast cancer is the leading cause of death among women between the ages of 45 and 54. Many of us have witnessed a family member or a friend struggle with the devastating effects of breast cancer. We must ensure that these women do not suffer alone.

With this resolution, we affirm our solidarity with the 2 million-plus breast cancer survivors as we seek to find a cure for this and other cancers. We also pay tribute to the volunteers and health care professionals who work to combat breast cancer every day.

H. Con. Resolution 230 supports the observance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, a time to reemphasize the importance of monthly breast self-examinations and annual mammograms. As in the case of many diseases, early detection goes a long way toward ensuring survival. As many of my colleagues know, approximately 98 percent of women who are able to detect breast cancer in its most early stage survive. We must use this opportunity to educate women, all women, to ensure that they take the necessary steps to protect themselves from this potentially fatal disease.

I also rise to pay tribute to our friend and our colleague, Congresswoman Jo Ann Davis, who lost her life to breast cancer earlier this month. We are reminded that breast cancer can strike anyone. This resolution also expresses our gratitude to national and community organizations, such as the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, that have made us all aware of the power of the pink ribbon, been on the forefront in raising awareness about this disease and provided information to better understand this disease.

I also want to thank my colleague Representative GINNY BROWN-WAITE and the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues for their leadership on this resolution, and I urge my colleagues to join me in support of its adoption.

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

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to offer my resolution on the House floor today, House Concurrent Resolution 230, supporting the observance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The effects of breast cancer have touched almost every American, whether through losing a loved one, as

I did, or going through the pain of chemotherapy and a long recovery, as millions of individuals have done.

I introduced this resolution to support the breast cancer education and outreach efforts that have taken place this October. We all know that every 3 minutes, a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer and that this is the leading cause of death among women between the ages of 15 and 54. However, if this disease is detected early, the breast cancer survival rate is 98 percent.

Congress must continue to promote breast cancer awareness and support efforts to defeat this disease. My resolution expresses support for the observance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, which is this month of October. The resolution provides a special opportunity to offer education on the importance of monthly breast self-examinations and annual mammograms. My resolution also salutes the 2.4 million breast cancer survivors in the United States and the efforts of victims, volunteers and professionals who combat breast cancer every day.

Finally, this measure applauds the national and community organizations for their work in promoting awareness about breast cancer. A woman's risk for developing breast cancer increases if family members have a history of breast cancer, particularly at an early age. However, 85 percent of women who develop breast cancer have no known family history of the disease.

It cannot be stressed enough that early detection is the best chance for survival of a person who has a breast cancer diagnosis. Women must take care of their health and be aware of their risk factors, perform self-examinations and get annual checkups. While breast cancer predominately affects women, we are regularly reminded that a significant number of men are diagnosed with breast cancer each year.

My colleague, Ms. BALDWIN, mentioned Jo Ann Davis. Jo Ann Davis certainly was a very, very brave lady who fought breast cancer. Actually, she fought it twice. She won the first time, and it came back. We all remember her in this Chamber and we remember her desire to make sure that a cure is found. If Jo Ann Davis were here today, she would not only vote in favor of this, but she also would be speaking on behalf of it.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Representative BALDWIN and the 129 Members who co-signed this very important piece of legislation with me. I certainly urge all Members to support H. Con. Res. 230 to ensure that the House continues to bring awareness to this important issue.

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

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I urge my colleagues to support this very important resolution. Observing Breast Cancer Awareness Month gives us an opportunity to educate the

public on the importance of monthly breast self-exams and annual mammograms. It also gives us an opportunity to salute those who work every day in raising awareness about breast cancer and our health care professionals who work with patients to fight it.

Again, I want to commend the work of my colleague, Representative GINNY BROWN-WAITE, for her work on this important issue, and I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 230.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DAM REHABILITATION AND REPAIR ACT OF 2007

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3224) to amend the National Dam Safety Program Act to establish a program to provide grant assistance to States for the rehabilitation and repair of deficient dams, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H. R. 3224

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Dam Rehabilitation and Repair Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. REHABILITATION AND REPAIR OF DEFICIENT DAMS.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—Section 2 of the National Dam Safety Program Act (33 U.S.C. 467) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11), (12), and (13) as paragraphs (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (12), (13), (14), and (15), respectively;

(2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) **DEFICIENT DAM.**—The term ‘deficient dam’ means a dam that the State within the boundaries of which the dam is located determines—

“(A) fails to meet minimum dam safety standards of the State; and

“(B) poses an unacceptable risk to the public.”; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (10) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)) the following:

“(11) **REHABILITATION.**—The term ‘rehabilitation’ means the repair, replacement, reconstruction, or removal of a dam that is carried out to meet applicable State dam safety and security standards.”.

(b) **PROGRAM FOR REHABILITATION AND REPAIR OF DEFICIENT DAMS.**—The National Dam Safety Program Act is amended by inserting after section 8 (33 U.S.C. 467f) the following:

“SEC. 8A. REHABILITATION AND REPAIR OF DEFICIENT DAMS.

“(a) **ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.**—The Director shall establish, within FEMA, a program

to provide grant assistance to States for use in rehabilitation of publicly-owned deficient dams.

“(b) **AWARD OF GRANTS.**—

“(1) **APPLICATION.**—A State interested in receiving a grant under this section may submit to the Director an application for such grant. Applications submitted to the Director under this section shall be submitted at such times, be in such form, and contain such information, as the Director may prescribe by regulation.

“(2) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to the provisions of this section, the Director may make a grant for rehabilitation of a deficient dam to a State that submits an application for the grant in accordance with the regulations prescribed by the Director. The Director shall enter into a project grant agreement with the State to establish the terms of the grant and the project, including the amount of the grant.

“(3) **APPLICABILITY OF STANDARDS.**—The Director shall require States that apply for grants under this section to comply with the standards of section 611(j)(9) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5196(j)(9)), as in effect on the date of enactment of this section, with respect to projects assisted under this section in the same manner as recipients are required to comply in order to receive financial contributions from the Director for emergency preparedness purposes.

“(c) **PRIORITY SYSTEM.**—The Director, in consultation with the Board, shall develop a risk-based priority system for use in identifying deficient dams for which grants may be made under this section.

“(d) **ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.**—The total amount of funds appropriated pursuant to subsection (f)(1) for a fiscal year shall be allocated for making grants under this section to States applying for such grants for that fiscal year as follows:

“(1) One-third divided equally among applying States.

“(2) Two-thirds among applying States based on the ratio that—

“(A) the number of non-Federal publicly-owned dams that the Secretary of the Army identifies in the national inventory of dams maintained under section 6 as constituting a danger to human health and that are located within the boundaries of the State; bears to

“(B) the number of non-Federal publicly-owned dams that are so identified and that are located within the boundaries of all applying States.

“(e) **COST SHARING.**—The Federal share of the cost of rehabilitation of a deficient dam for which a grant is made under this section may not exceed 65 percent of the cost of such rehabilitation.

“(f) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

“(A) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2008;

“(B) \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2009;

“(C) \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2010;

“(D) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2011; and

“(E) \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2012.

“(2) **STAFF.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to provide for the employment of such additional staff of FEMA as are necessary to carry out this section \$400,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2010.

“(3) **PERIOD OF AVAILABILITY.**—Sums appropriated pursuant to this section shall remain available until expended.”.

SEC. 3. RULEMAKING.

(a) **PROPOSED RULEMAKING.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall issue a notice of proposed rulemaking regarding the amendments made by section 2 to the National Dam Safety Program Act (33 U.S.C. 467 et seq.).

(b) **FINAL RULE.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Federal Emergency Management

Agency shall issue a final rule regarding such amendments.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3224.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, many people are not aware that there are approximately 80,000 dams in the United States; and, of these, the Association of State Dam Safety Officials has identified 3,500 dams that are considered deficient or unsafe. In my State of Colorado, we have over 1,800 dams. Of those, 131 are high hazard public dams, and an additional 19 dams are deficient. The State has determined that they are in serious need of repair.

Without proper maintenance, these dams are an obvious threat to public safety. It is critical that we help to ensure the safety and security of these dams. H.R. 3224, introduced by myself and the gentleman from New York, Mr. RANDY KUHL, is a bill that does help to ensure such safety and security by addressing rehabilitation and repair of safety-deficient State-owned dams.

This bill is direct, quite simple, and will go a long way to mitigate significant hazards to our communities. First, the bill adds “deficient dam” and “rehabilitation” to the definition section of the Dam Safety Act and thus makes this category of dams eligible for funding for rehabilitation. Second, the bill directs the administrator of FEMA to establish within FEMA a program to provide grant assistance to States for use in rehabilitation of publicly owned deficient dams. The grants will be awarded so that each State will get an equal share of one-third of the total amount, while the remaining two-thirds will be awarded by risk. The Federal cost share is capped at 65 percent.

The program’s goal is to reduce the risks to life and property by establishing an effective national dam safety rehabilitation program that utilizes the resources and expertise of the Federal and non-Federal communities to achieve the reduction of dam safety hazards. In other words, one of the primary purposes of the Dam Rehabilitation and Repair Act of 2007 is to provide financial assistance to the States for strengthening their dam safety programs.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill and urge its passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3224 amends the National Dam Safety Program Act to establish a program to provide grant assistance to States for the rehabilitation and repair of deficient dams.

I would like to commend Congressman RANDY KUHL for his steadfast leadership on this issue. He was the original sponsor of similar legislation this year, and he was instrumental in the reauthorization of the National Dam Safety Program last year. I would also like to thank Mr. SALAZAR, again, for his leadership in this issue also.

This bill would authorize a program at the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide funding for repairs to publicly owned dams that would pose a direct risk to human life if they failed. The number of unsafe dams has risen by 80 percent since 1998 to more than 3,200.

□ 1600

This grant program would fund repairs of the most critical dams, which the Association of State Dam Safety officials estimates is a \$10 billion need over the next 12 years. Dams require ongoing maintenance, monitoring, and rehabilitation. Many States are unable to fund necessary repairs to publicly owned dams without assistance from the Federal Government. This new program will provide assistance up to 65 percent of the cost of the repairs. H.R. 3224 authorizes the program for 5 years at \$200 million.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important issue throughout the country in areas with numerous old and abandoned dams. Too often, the 19th century companies that built the dams no longer exist and local governments are left with orphaned dams in their jurisdiction. These downstream communities have a responsibility to protect their population, but they rarely have the tax base or revenue to repair the failing dams.

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

Mr. SALAZAR. I want to thank the gentleman from Arkansas for his leadership also on transportation issues. This is a very important piece of legislation. Mr. Speaker, this legislation has strong bipartisan support and outside groups, including the Association of State Dam Safety Officials, American Rivers, the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Associated General Contractors, who all have endorsed this important piece of legislation.

I want to thank the gentleman from New York, Mr. RANDY KUHL, for working with us on this critical bill, as well as other committee members of the Transportation Committee who have supported this bill as well. I would urge my colleagues to swiftly pass H.R. 3224.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3224, as amended, a bill to further enhance the safety of and bring to a state of good repair our Nation's aging

dam infrastructure. This important bill has broad bipartisan support.

I commend the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. KUHL) for introducing this legislation and for their strong support. I would also like to thank Subcommittee Chairwoman NORTON for her leadership and for diligently guiding the work of the Subcommittee on the issue of dam safety and rehabilitation.

During a May 8, 2007 hearing, the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management received compelling testimony about the need to rehabilitate our Nation's dams. The statements of witnesses reinforced some troubling statistics. There are approximately 80,000 dams in the United States; of these, approximately 10,000 dams are considered to have high-hazard potential, meaning their failure could result in loss of life or severe property damage. From 2000 to 2006, the number of high-hazard dams increased by almost 20 percent.

Further, States have identified approximately 3,400 dams as currently deficient or unsafe. These dams have been identified as having hydrologic or structural deficiencies that make them susceptible to failure triggered by a storm, an earthquake, progressive deterioration, or inadequate maintenance.

Since 1972, Congress has helped to mitigate the risk of dam failure by establishing a program to provide technical and financial assistance to States for dam safety. Through the National Dam Safety Program, the Federal government has helped to increase the level of knowledge and preparedness to prevent and mitigate the effects of dam failures across the country. Dam safety inspections have increased significantly and greater direct assistance has been provided for training State officials and providing technical seminars and workshops.

H.R. 3224 builds on this successful program and authorizes the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA") to provide grants for the rehabilitation and repair of publicly-owned dams. States must provide at least 35 percent of the funds necessary to rehabilitate a dam. While all States are eligible to apply, grants will be distributed after prioritization by the Administrator, along with the National Dam Safety Review Board, of all applications, based on degree of deficiency.

The bill is a necessary step in the right direction to upgrade our Nation's aging dam infrastructure.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3224.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3224, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam 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.

HURRICANES KATRINA AND RITA RECOVERY FACILITATION ACT OF 2007

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3247) to improve the provision of disaster assistance for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3247

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Hurricanes Katrina and Rita Recovery Facilitation Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act, the following definitions apply:

(1) COVERED HURRICANE DAMAGES.—The term "covered hurricane damages" means damages suffered in the States of Louisiana and Mississippi as a result of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

(2) PRESIDENT.—The term "President" means the President acting through the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

(3) STAFFORD ACT.—The term "Stafford Act" means the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).

SEC. 3. SPECIAL RULES FOR COVERED HURRICANE DAMAGES.

(a) IN LIEU CONTRIBUTIONS.—In providing contributions under section 406(c) of the Stafford Act (42 U.S.C. 5172(c)) for covered hurricane damages, the President shall substitute 90 percent for the otherwise applicable percentage specified in paragraphs (1)(A) and (2)(A) of such section.

(b) PARTICIPATION IN PILOT PROJECTS.—The States of Louisiana and Mississippi and local governments in such States shall be eligible to participate in the pilot program established by section 689j of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2007 (6 U.S.C. 777) with respect to covered hurricane damages.

(c) ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 423 of the Stafford Act (42 U.S.C. 5189a) or any regulation, the President is authorized and encouraged to use alternative dispute resolution procedures for appeals of decisions made under sections 403, 406, and 407 of the Stafford Act (42 U.S.C. 5179b, 5172, and 5173) regarding the award or denial of assistance, or the amount of assistance, provided to a State, local government, or owner or operator of a private facility for covered hurricane damages.

(2) DENIALS OF REQUESTS.—

(A) WRITTEN NOTICE.—If a State, local government, or owner or operator of a private facility requests the use of alternative dispute resolution procedures for an appeal pursuant to paragraph (1) and the President denies the request, the President shall provide to the State, local government, or owner or operator written notice of the denial, including the reasons for the denial.

(B) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—The President shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, on at least a quarterly basis, a report containing information on any denial described in subparagraph (A) made by the President during the period covered by the report, including the reasons for the denial.

(3) **APPLICABILITY.**—Paragraph (1) shall apply to an appeal made by a State, local government, or owner or operator of a private facility within 60 days after the date on which the State, local government, or owner or operator is notified of the decision that is the subject of the appeal.

(4) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report containing a description of how alternative dispute resolution procedures are being used pursuant to this subsection and recommendations on whether the President should be given the authority to use such procedures under the Stafford Act on a permanent basis.

(d) **ESSENTIAL ASSISTANCE.**—In providing assistance under section 403 of the Stafford Act for covered hurricane damages, the President may provide assistance for the reinterment of human remains at a privately-owned or private nonprofit cemetery.

(e) **USE OF SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURES.**—For covered hurricane damages, the President may use, if requested by a State or local government or the owner or operator of a private nonprofit facility, section 422 of the Stafford Act (42 U.S.C. 5189) for a project for which the Federal estimate of the cost is less than \$100,000.

(f) **USE OF TEMPORARY HOUSING UNITS TO PROVIDE HOUSING TO VOLUNTEERS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In providing assistance under title IV of the Stafford Act (42 U.S.C. 5170 et seq.) for covered hurricane damages, the President may provide temporary housing units purchased under section 408 of the Stafford Act (42 U.S.C. 5174) to State and local governments and appropriate private nonprofit entities for the purpose of providing housing to volunteers assisting in the recovery from such damages.

(2) **FEASIBILITY DETERMINATION.**—The President may provide temporary housing units for the purposes described in paragraph (1) only if the President determines that such assistance is appropriate, cost effective, and would not unduly interfere with the ability of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide housing for individuals and households with respect to other major disasters.

(g) **CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PUBLIC FACILITIES USED TO HOST PUBLIC EVENTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding sections 403 and 406 of the Stafford Act (42 U.S.C. 5170b and 5172), the President may make contributions to the State of Louisiana for—

(A) costs incurred for the repair or restoration of a public facility used to host public events if the facility was damaged as a result of use in conducting response activities for Hurricane Katrina or Rita;

(B) costs incurred because response activities for Hurricane Katrina or Rita precluded the normal use of a public facility used to host public events;

(C) costs incurred for necessary materials provided to evacuees of Hurricane Katrina or Rita in a public facility used to host public events; and

(D) the reasonable costs of renting or leasing a public facility used to host public events that was used for conducting response activities for Hurricane Katrina or Rita.

(2) **LIMITATIONS.**—

(A) **CONTRIBUTIONS FOR REPAIR AND RESTORATION COSTS.**—Contributions made under paragraph (1)(A) shall be limited to repair and restoration costs associated with damages described in paragraph (1)(A) that occurred—

(i) in the case of damages related to Hurricane Katrina, on or before October 27, 2005; and

(ii) in the case of damages related to Hurricane Rita, on or before November 23, 2005.

(B) **CONTRIBUTIONS FOR COSTS INCURRED FOR CANCELLED EVENTS.**—

(1) **EVENT REQUIREMENTS.**—Contributions made under paragraph (1)(B) shall be limited to costs that are documented for an event—

(I) for which there was a binding commitment for use of the facility in effect prior to August 29, 2005; and

(II) that was scheduled to be held on or before December 31, 2005, at the facility.

(ii) **LOST REVENUES.**—Contributions under paragraph (1)(B) shall not be made for any lost revenues.

(C) **CONTRIBUTIONS FOR REASONABLE COSTS OF RENTING OR LEASING.**—Contributions made under paragraph (1)(D) shall be limited to the reasonable costs of renting or leasing the facility during the period beginning on August 29, 2005, and ending on January 6, 2006.

(3) **COSTS RECOVERABLE FROM OTHER SOURCES.**—Costs that may be recovered by the State of Louisiana from any other program or from insurance or another source shall not be eligible for assistance under this subsection.

(4) **LIMITATION ON STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect eligibility for assistance under section 403 or 406 of the Stafford Act (42 U.S.C. 5170b or 5172), except to the extent that such assistance would result in a duplication of benefits.

(5) **FEDERAL SHARE.**—The Federal share of assistance under this subsection shall be 100 percent of the eligible costs.

(6) **FUNDING.**—Amounts appropriated to carry out sections 403 and 406 of the Stafford Act (42 U.S.C. 5170b and 5172) shall be available to carry out this section, including amounts appropriated before the date of enactment of this Act.

(h) **STATUS REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs of the Senate a report regarding the status of recovery for the States of Louisiana and Mississippi from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

(i) **HAZARD MITIGATION PROJECTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—A project for covered hurricane damages initiated by the State of Louisiana or Mississippi in the period beginning on August 29, 2005, and ending on the date of enactment of this Act may contribute toward the non-Federal share of assistance under section 404 of the Stafford Act (42 U.S.C. 5170c) if the project—

(A) complies with all applicable Federal laws governing assistance under such section, and

(B) otherwise is eligible to contribute to the non-Federal share of assistance under such section,

notwithstanding any requirement for approval of the eligibility and compliance of a project by the President prior to the initiation of the project contributing toward the non-Federal share.

(2) **APPLICATIONS.**—The States of Louisiana and Mississippi may submit an application to the President under section 404 of the Stafford Act with respect to any project described in paragraph (1).

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of H.R. 3247, the Katrina and Rita Recovery Facilitation Act of 2007. This bill has been a top priority of our leadership and has received excellent cooperation and support from the minority and its Members as well. It was reported by the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on August 1, 2007. On May 10, 2007, our subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management held a hearing entitled, "Legislative Fixes for Lingering Problems that Hinder Katrina Recovery," where Members from Louisiana and Mississippi testified on issues that were still delaying the recovery from these extraordinarily destructive storms, particularly in the Public Assistance Program.

These were problems that, and I stress, could not have been envisioned by the Stafford Act because of the unprecedented nature of the gulf coast disaster. Therefore, it was felt that there was a need for amendments to the act since FEMA often felt it could not move without specific authority.

This bill addresses issues specifically identified by these Members who represent the gulf coast area in testimony before our committee, testimony that was evaluated by our subcommittee and found to be compatible with the mission of the Stafford Act and the unique nature of the Katrina and Rita disasters.

For example, the bill allows FEMA to apply its so-called "simplified procedures" for "small projects" from the current threshold of \$55,000 to \$100,000, and authorizes FEMA to use alternative dispute resolution to resolve appeals in the Public Assistance Program. There have been many appeals. These need to be handled expeditiously if recovery is to occur expeditiously.

Madam Speaker, the bill also increases the Federal contribution for large "in-lieu" projects, also known as alternate projects, to 90 percent for both public and private nonprofit facilities. These are examples of remedies that will bring significant results, according to our own investigation and testimony from the region.

Hurricane Katrina made landfall nearly 2 years ago and proved to be the costliest natural disaster in American history. The storms had a massive physical impact on the land, affecting 90,000 square miles, which is an area the size of Great Britain. More than 80 percent of the City of New Orleans flooded, which is an area seven times the size of Manhattan. Untold consequences to the residents of the region were visited upon individuals and families.

Our subcommittee will hold a hearing in New Orleans soon to look further into the status of recovery from these storms. We certainly did not want to go to the region without passage of this act, which is so urgent to recovery. I am pleased that we will be able to report to the citizens of the gulf that our committee and hopefully the House has taken further steps to facilitate the recovery of the entire gulf coast.

I urge the support of all Members.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 3247, introduced by Subcommittee Chairwoman NORTON, will improve the provision of disaster assistance for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. This bill was created through an open and inclusive process. I want to thank Chairman OBERSTAR and Chairwoman NORTON for working with our Republican Members to include our provisions to this bill. Additionally, I want to thank my good friend and colleague from Louisiana, Ranking Member BAKER, for his steadfast support of Louisiana in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Congressman BAKER has been a great advocate for our State, and I thank him for helping the committee to draft this bill.

Madam Speaker, earlier this year the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management held a hearing on the recovery in the gulf coast following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The bill includes a number of provisions recommended by Members of Congress from both parties who testified at this hearing. These provisions are designed to alleviate specific problems with the recovery in the gulf coast.

H.R. 3247 authorizes changes to the Stafford Act programs exclusively for the recovery from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and applies these changes retroactively. The Congressional Budget Office does not expect these proposed changes to have a significant effect on the pace or amount of Federal expenditures from the disaster relief fund and has estimated that enacting H.R. 3247 would have no significant effect on direct spending. I support this legislation, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

I also want to thank Chairman OBERSTAR and Chairwoman NORTON specifi-

cally for working with our gulf coast delegations on this important legislation. The T&I committee has really been very helpful and a strong advocate throughout this process, as my home State of Louisiana and the rest of the gulf coast have tried to recover. I am pleased that the tradition continues today with the work on this bill.

I also want to mention that while much of the Nation's focus remains on the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, I want to remind my colleagues that there were two storms of similar magnitude that hit the gulf coast in 2005. The second storm, Hurricane Rita, brought high winds in excess of 120 miles an hour and a storm surge equivalent to that of a category 5 storm. Total damage in southwest Louisiana was estimated at approximately \$10 billion, making Rita, the forgotten storm, the third most costly natural disaster in U.S. history.

Two years later our recovery remains slow, but progress is being made and the people of southwest Louisiana are resilient and we will rebuild. This bill will help fix some of the roadblocks to recovery that we have encountered along the way. Notably, I want to mention one particularly. The bill addresses one of the bigger problems still lingering in my own district, which is the reimbursement to the sports arena called the Cajundome for use of the facility in sheltering both Katrina and Rita evacuees. The Cajundome acted as a shelter from August 30 through October 28, 2005, and processed an estimated 18,000 evacuees within that 60-day period. The facility was subsequently closed until January 2006 for recovery and repair from the sheltering operations. FEMA initially approved and then sought reimbursement for funds paid to the Cajundome for use of the facility while conducting response activities.

At issue is whether or not a government entity can be reimbursed for fees for sheltering evacuees after a disaster. The Cajundome, however, operates autonomously from city government, does not have a sustaining tax base, and instead relies on the fees it generates from events during its peak season to maintain operations year-round. H.R. 3247 will allow FEMA to pay for the reasonable cost of renting or leasing a public facility that was used for conducting response activities for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Facilities like the Cajundome are integral to our disaster recovery and response. We shouldn't punish them for opening their doors and providing shelter during a national crisis.

Again, I want to thank the committee staff as well, especially Mike Herman and Jennifer Hall, for working with my legislative director, Terri Fish, to develop language that will address this problem. Again, I thank Chairman OBERSTAR, Chairwoman NORTON, and Ranking Members MICA and GRAVES for including it in the bill. Again, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3247.

Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my colleague from Louisiana (Mr. BAKER).

Mr. BAKER. I thank the gentleman for yielding time and certainly want to express appreciation to Chairwoman NORTON, as well as Chairman OBERSTAR, for their continuing attention, courtesy and problem-solving for those of us along coastal States suffering yet from the aftermath of storms Katrina and Rita. Particularly, I want to speak to the great work of Congressman BOUSTANY representing his community. As he expressed here this afternoon, the second storm of the season which followed Katrina, Hurricane Rita, was just as devastating to his community, as was Katrina to coastal portions of eastern Louisiana. He has been the singular outspoken voice for the victims of that disaster in seeking relief and remedies that are appropriate.

Madam Speaker, contained in this resolution before us today is a unique resolution, as the Stafford Act never contemplated disasters of the magnitude and scope that affected our State. The duration was unexpected, as well as the intensity of the damage. A few would have thought an inconvenience of a few days for a public facility would be cause for reimbursement from the Stafford Act.

□ 1615

But in this case the damage went on not just for days and not just for weeks but literally for months. And income that was planned for many of these facilities was lost, as well as the operational expense to engage in the relief activities. As well, unfortunately, in the damage that occurred to the facilities as a result of this unusual and prolonged use.

For example, the Lamar Dixon Center on the southern edge of the City of Baton Rouge acted as the staging point for many law enforcement search and rescue efforts which went on for many days. As a result of the sheriff, police, municipal police and others simply engaging in this activity without seeking preclearance, not having a contract with FEMA in order to save people, Lamar Dixon similarly engaged in the care and feeding of literally thousands of those engaged in daily rescue activities.

We were surprised to learn that the Stafford Act provisions would not allow for the reimbursement of these highly appropriate and highly valuable services rendered during the height of the storm.

Today, with the adoption of this bill, we cure these deficiencies. And although I hope such need would never arise in any other community in our country, if it does, these changes are meaningful not only to the people who engage in the service but to the communities who likewise support and help in this most dire of recovery circumstances. I join with my colleague, Mr. BOUSTANY, to support this legislation.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. MELANCON) such time as he may consume.

Mr. MELANCON. Thank you, Congresswoman HOLMES NORTON, for your leadership in moving this piece of legislation forward. I also commend my colleagues and friends from Louisiana who also understand that Ms. HOLMES NORTON and others have been a genuinely great help to the folks of Louisiana and Mississippi and the affected areas of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

I am proud of what we have done in Congress to address the recovery and rebuilding needs along the gulf coast after these two unprecedented storms, Katrina and Rita, and our needs are still great. They have not gone away.

From my experience over the last 2 years, I found that the Stafford Act was not written for disasters the size of Katrina and Rita, nor was FEMA prepared to respond, particularly in the long term, to events of this magnitude. H.R. 3247 would amend the Stafford Act to more accurately reflect the rebuilding and recovery needs of the gulf coast. St. Bernard Parish in my district only has a handful of buildings that were not damaged in the storms, and less than 40 percent of the population has returned to the parish.

Through the alternate project penalty, the Stafford essentially penalizes the parish and its officials as they try to rebuild and reflect the returning population. H.R. 3247 would reduce this penalty from 25 percent to 10 percent of each of the project's costs, and this is enormous in the needs that follow and has been mentioned about the inadequacies of the Stafford Act.

The bill would also instruct FEMA to use alternate dispute resolution in place of its completely inadequate project worksheet appeals process. Many project worksheets are still under review after 27 months. Without a guarantee that the project will be fully funded, the State and local governments are apprehensive to even begin projects for fear that FEMA will ask for the money back. FEMA itself is preventing the rebuilding of the gulf coast. It is not their intention, but it is the reality, and this needs to change.

I appreciate all of the work Congress has done to address the recovery and rebuilding needs of the gulf coast, and I ask that my colleagues again assist with easing the restrictions to allow for full recovery by supporting H.R. 3247. I thank you for the opportunity to speak on this issue, and I thank the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia for her efforts and the efforts of my friends and colleagues on the other side of the aisle for helping in this rebuilding effort in an effort to bring FEMA to a position of reality rather than bureaucracy.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from Louisiana (Mr. MELANCON). Together, he and I have all of coastal Louisiana, and we have dealt with this disaster first-

hand. I know side by side along the coast, we were rolling up our sleeves and helping our friends and families back home through all of this. I want to thank him for his work in helping to come up with these revisions to the Stafford Act that were desperately needed.

This is a good piece of legislation. It will not cure all of the problems we still have in coastal Louisiana, but it is a good start. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass this important legislation, H.R. 3247. Again, I thank Chairwoman NORTON and Chairman OBERSTAR for their willingness to work with us to craft this legislation.

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

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, once again I want to thank the gentleman and all of the Members from the gulf coast delegation who worked so cooperatively with us, really informing us what needed to be done, looking at the Stafford Act, understanding we are amending the act for Katrina and Rita purposes only, and the least Congress could do was to recognize in all of our rhetoric about this being an unprecedented disaster, that we responded with an unprecedented remedy. We do not expect the remedies available here to be necessary elsewhere. For example, we have just had a big disaster in California. That is of a different kind and will have a different effect on the entire region; very devastating, but very different. We intend to have a hearing with respect to that disaster and comparing that disaster and the responses to that disaster with the responses to the gulf coast because we need to do all we can to learn about that disaster.

Moreover, the Katrina and Rita disasters have exposed other changes in the Stafford Act that we need. These are Rita and Katrina-specific changes, but we are learning from what happened to this extraordinary region of our country without which we cannot do. And every day you see oil prices go up, I hope you understand, we in the United States, how central this region is to the economy of this country. As a result, we will be holding hearings on the way in which the Stafford Act should be even further updated to the benefit not only of the disasters we hope never to see again, but to disasters that may occur in the future in our country.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3247, the "Katrina and Rita Recovery Facilitation Act of 2007", as amended. This bipartisan bill addresses lingering issues that continue to hinder the recovery from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The changes in this bill are both necessary and long overdue.

Hurricane Katrina made landfall on August 29, 2005, and proved to be the costliest natural disaster in American history. The storm had a massive physical impact on the land, affecting 90,000 square miles, which is an area the size of Great Britain. More than 80 percent of the City of New Orleans flooded, an area

comparable to seven times the size of Manhattan.

Although more than two years have elapsed since Katrina and Rita, significant problems still exist in the recovery effort. This disaster and its aftermath have revealed that the Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA") may need additional authorities to deal effectively with catastrophes of such magnitude.

H.R. 3247 provides additional relief for problems associated with recovery efforts from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, by authorizing retroactive changes to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act ("Stafford Act") programs. The Stafford Act authorizes disaster assistance that FEMA provides after a major disaster. While the authority of the Stafford Act is very broad and flexible, it does not anticipate every circumstance that can arise in disasters, especially catastrophic disasters such as Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Historically, when catastrophic or unusual disasters struck, Congress would work cooperatively with FEMA to identify areas where FEMA required additional specific authority. When Hurricane Katrina struck, FEMA was not a flexible or independent government agency. Rather, FEMA was an organization within the Department of Homeland Security, a larger bureaucracy, and without direct access to the President and Congress. I believe that this structure prevented FEMA from engaging with Congress as they have in the past. This problem was further magnified by the unprecedented scope and magnitude of the disaster. As a result, Congress was forced to act in a unilateral manner.

H.R. 3247 was developed in a bipartisan fashion, and draws on the recommendations of Members representing the Gulf Coast region from both sides of the aisle. The provisions in this bill were developed following a hearing held by the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management on May 10, 2007, entitled "Legislative Fixes for Lingering Problems that Hinder Katrina Recovery". At that hearing, Members from Louisiana and Mississippi testified on specific issues that are still hampering the recovery from these devastating catastrophes and proposed solutions. The provisions of this bill reflect the findings and recommendations that were presented at this hearing.

Specifically, H.R. 3247, the "Hurricanes Katrina and Rita Recovery Facilitation Act of 2007", increases the Federal share from 75 percent to 90 percent for "alternate projects" for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, to allow money designated for a specific facility to be used toward another facility for the same purposes. This provision will help communities, which have had multiple facilities destroyed by these hurricanes, rebuild facilities and reestablish services in a manner that will best suit their needs.

The bill also permits the Administrator of FEMA to make public assistance programs under Hurricanes Katrina and Rita eligible under a public assistance pilot program authorized in section 689j of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act (P.L. 109-295), which will expedite the provision of assistance to States.

This legislation further encourages alternative dispute resolution procedures for appeals of public assistance decisions by FEMA

for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, to address concerns over the speed of implementation of the public assistance program in the Gulf Coast. The bill allows the use of temporary housing units for volunteers, authorizes reimbursement of expenses incurred for the re-entertainment of human remains at privately-owned or private non-profit cemeteries, and authorizes the reimbursement of certain facilities that housed evacuees after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

The bill also allows in-kind projects initiated in the recovery efforts after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita to contribute the non-Federal share in a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program ("HMGP") application, if FEMA can determine that the project meets all eligibility and compliance requirements that apply to HMGP projects. This provision simply waives the requirement for pre-approval of a project.

Madam Speaker, each of the provisions in H.R. 3247 is specifically tailored to solve an existing problem in the Gulf Coast, and will help provide immediate relief to those still suffering in the wake of these disasters.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3247.

MS. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3247, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

C. CLYDE ATKINS UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2671) to designate the United States courthouse located at 301 North Miami Avenue, Miami, Florida, as the "C. Clyde Atkins United States Courthouse".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2671

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The United States courthouse at 301 North Miami Avenue, Miami, Florida, shall be known and designated as the "C. Clyde Atkins United States Courthouse".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States courthouse referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "C. Clyde Atkins United States Courthouse".

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. 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 H.R. 2671.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, this bill honors C. Clyde Atkins by naming the courthouse located at 301 North Miami Avenue, Miami, Florida, as the C. Clyde Atkins United States Courthouse. This bill has broad bipartisan support from the Florida delegation.

Judge Atkins was a Federal judge for over 30 years in south Florida and was a leader in many capacities in his community. He presided over some of the most controversial cases in south Florida and often spoke for those who had no voice. He ruled that Miami schools would no longer be racially segregated. Judge Atkins found that the City of Miami was guilty of harassment of the homeless and stopped them from arresting the homeless for eating, sleeping and bathing in public. He also ruled that Haitian and Cuban refugees should receive equal treatment.

In addition to Judge Atkins's courage from the bench, he also played a prominent leadership role in his own community. He served as president of the Dade County Bar Association, the Florida Bar Association. He was a trustee of Biscayne College and Mercy Hospital. He was also very active in the Catholic Church where he was named a knight of St. Gregory by Pope Paul VI. It is clear that Judge Atkins took the notion of being a public servant seriously and endeavored to make his service a large part of his life. In honor of Judge Atkins's public service as a Federal judge for 33 years, it is fitting to name the courthouse located at 301 North Miami Avenue in Miami, Florida, as the C. Clyde Atkins United States Courthouse, and I urge my colleagues to approve this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 2671, introduced by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), designates the United States courthouse located at 301 North Miami Avenue, Miami, Florida, as the C. Clyde Atkins United States Courthouse.

The bill recognizes Judge Atkins's dedication to the law and his fairness on the bench. In 1914, Judge Atkins was born in Washington, D.C. He received his law degree from the University of Florida College of Law in 1936 and began his career in the private practice of law in Stuart, Florida.

Judge Atkins's service to his community in the legal profession includes serving as president of the Dade County Bar Association, president of the Florida Bar Association, trustee of the

Mercy Hospital, and trustee of Biscayne College.

In 1966, President Lyndon Johnson appointed Judge Atkins to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida. Judge Atkins served as chief justice on the district court from 1977 to 1982 when he assumed senior status. Judge Atkins's tenure on the bench ended with his passing at the age of 84 on March 11, 1999.

This legislation is a fitting tribute to Judge Atkins's service to equal justice. I support this legislation and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2671, to designate the United States Courthouse located at 301 North Miami Avenue in my district of Miami, Florida, as the C. Clyde Atkins United States Courthouse.

I would like to commend my Florida colleagues for working together in a bipartisan manner to bring this bill to the floor today. I also want to thank our Florida Senators, BILL NELSON and MEL MARTINEZ, for taking the lead and introducing this bill in the Senate.

As the author of this legislation, I am pleased that this bill would take the next step toward ensuring that we can properly pay tribute to one of Florida's great jurists by naming the courthouse in Miami in honor of the stellar career of Judge Atkins.

After receiving his law degree from the University of Florida in 1936, C. Clyde Atkins worked as a distinguished attorney and held prestigious posts such as the president of the Miami-Dade County Bar Association, as well as president of the Florida Bar. In 1966, Atkins was nominated to the bench by President Lyndon Johnson. The late Judge Atkins brought tremendous honor to the legal profession through his dedicated service as a United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida from 1966 until his death in 1999 at the age of 84.

□ 1630

Judge Atkins was committed to the administration of the rule of law without consideration of race, creed, or national origin.

He was recognized for his devotion to equality by the National Conference of Christians and Jews and the Anti-Defamation League, to name just a few, Madam Speaker.

Judge Atkins was the first Catholic to be appointed to the bench in the Southern District of Florida.

His faith to his church was recognized by Pope Paul VI through his selection of Judge Atkins as a Knight of St. Gregory.

Judge Atkins was a fair and capable judge and rendered important decisions in the area of civil liberties and civil rights.

Judge Atkins declared that segregation in Miami-Dade County public schools was intolerable. He ruled that homelessness was not a crime and affirmed that freedom of expression was a constitutional right.

Judge Atkins was a man of principles who had the utmost respect for the rule of law.

Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join me in support of this legislation.

The C. Clyde Atkins United States Courthouse at 301 North Miami Avenue in Miami will serve as a lasting tribute to the incredible life and great accomplishments of this distinguished man.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2671, a bill to designate the Federal courthouse located at 301 North Miami Avenue, Miami, in the Southern District of Florida as the "C. Clyde Atkins United States Courthouse".

Judge C. Clyde Atkins was born on November 23, 1914, in Washington, DC. He graduated from the University of Florida College of Law in 1936. He practiced law as a partner in the law firm of Walton, Lantaff, Shroeder, Atkins, Carson, and Wahl for more than 25 years, from 1941 to 1966.

In 1966, judge Atkins was appointed to the District Court in the Southern District of Florida by President Lyndon B. Johnson. He served first as a district judge, then as chief judge, and eventually as a senior judge. During his time on the Federal bench, Judge Atkins presided over a number of landmark cases, including the unprecedented desegregation of Dade County schools in 1969. In 1970, he presided over an important environmental case and ruled that there was a public interest in protecting wildlife from discharge from a nuclear plant into Biscayne Bay. Judge Atkins found the City of Miami guilty of a pattern of harassment of the City's homeless population and showed great courage in overturning Federal policies that required the repatriation of Haitian and Cuban refugees at Guantanamo Bay.

Judge Atkins often made these rulings with little fanfare but always with a deep, abiding respect for the rule of law and equality. He was respected because of his application of the law without respect to race, creed, religion, or national origin.

He was also very active in the Catholic Church, and he was named a Knight of St. Gregory by Pope Paul VI.

Judge Atkins died in 1999 at the age of 84. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2671.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, having no further speakers, again, I think this is a very fitting tribute and honor and something that we should all very much support.

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

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman, and I am pleased to yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2671.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the

rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**THEODORE L. NEWTON, JR. AND
GEORGE F. AZRAK BORDER PA-
TROL STATION**

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2728) to designate the station of the United States Border Patrol located at 25762 Madison Avenue in Murrieta, California, as the "Theodore L. Newton, Jr. and George F. Azrak Border Patrol Station".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2728

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The station of the United States Border Patrol located at 25762 Madison Avenue in Murrieta, California, shall be known and designated as the "Theodore L. Newton, Jr. and George F. Azrak Border Patrol Station".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the station referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Theodore L. Newton, Jr. and George F. Azrak Border Patrol Station".

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 2728.

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

There was no objection.

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

This bill honors two Border Patrol inspectors who died in the line of duty by naming a Border Patrol station in their honor. On June 17, 1967, United States Border Patrol inspectors Theodore L. Newton, Jr., and George F. Azrak were killed in the line of duty while working the late-night shift in Southern California.

Their tragic deaths were considered a turning point for the Border Patrol agency. After the deaths of these two Border Patrol inspectors, the security and procedures for intercepting border crossings changed dramatically. The Border Patrol now requires that a minimum of three to five agents work each checkpoint along with a backup unit. In addition to the increased manpower, or person power, the Border Patrol has also increased the amount of training

and support that all Border Patrol agents now receive.

I support the Theodore L. Newton, Jr., and George F. Azrak Border Patrol Station naming bill and urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this effort to honor these two law enforcement officials who died in the line of duty while serving their country in a vital role.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

H.R. 2728, introduced by Representative DARRELL ISSA of California, designates the station of the United States Border Patrol located at 25762 Madison Avenue in Murrieta, California, as the Theodore L. Newton, Jr., and George F. Azrak Border Patrol Station.

Forty years ago, Theodore Newton and George Azrak were tragically killed in the line of duty. The deaths of these two agents shook the foundations of the agency.

The two young Border Patrol agents were working the graveyard shift at a remote checkpoint when they were kidnapped from their post by drug smugglers. They were found murdered and handcuffed to a stove in an abandoned mountain shack.

These two agents, just like agents on the front line today, put themselves in harm's way to uphold the tradition of honor, integrity, and service in securing our Nation's borders. Over 100 employees of the Border Patrol have died in the line of duty since it was formed in 1924.

The Newton-Azrak Award, the Border Patrol's highest award, pays tribute to those who show courage and heroism in the face of grave danger.

This bill recognizes the ultimate sacrifice these men made, giving their lives in the service of their country.

I support this legislation and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2728, a bill to designate the border station of the United States Border Patrol located at 25762 Madison Avenue in Murrieta, California, as the "Theodore L. Newton, Jr., and George F. Azrak Border Patrol Station".

On June 17, 1967, United States Border Patrol Inspectors Theodore L. Newton, Jr., and George F. Azrak were killed in the line of duty while working the late-night shift at a checkpoint along the U.S.-Mexico border. While examining a vehicle intercepted for suspected drug smuggling, the two inspectors were kidnapped and later killed.

As a result of the tragic deaths of these two men, the U.S. Border Patrol now requires that a minimum of three to five agents work each checkpoint, depending on a variety of factors, along with a back-up unit. In addition to this requirement for increased manpower, the Border Patrol has also enhanced the training and support that all Border Patrol agents receive.

In honor of these two inspectors, the Border Patrol annually bestows upon its bravest agents the Newton-Azrak Award. Eligibility for

the award is based on the demonstration of unusual courage in the line of duty or a heroic or humane act during times of extreme stress or in an emergency. In addition, the National Border Patrol Museum in El Paso, Texas, has a permanent memorial display in honor of Inspectors Newton and Azrak.

Designating the United States Border Patrol Station in southern California as the "Theodore L. Newton, Jr., and George F. Azrak Border Patrol Station" is a fitting tribute to honor the bravery and service of these men. Their valor has served as an inspiration for a generation of Border Patrol agents that have followed them in service to their country.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2728.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time having no further speakers.

Ms. NORTON. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2728.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MINE COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION ACT

Mr. MATHESON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3877) to require the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to establish an initiative to promote the research, development, and demonstration of miner tracking and communications systems and to promote the establishment of standards regarding underground communications to protect miners in the United States, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3877

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Mine Communications Technology Innovation Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The failure of miner tracking and communications devices or lack thereof in mines severely hampers rescue efforts in the event of emergencies.

(2) Mines, particularly underground mines, have properties that present unique technical challenges for the integration of currently available tracking and communications systems. These properties include the lack of a clear path or open air which is required for radio signals and WiFi. Additionally, because coal is an absorptive material, less than 10 percent of the radio spectrum that is used above ground can be used underground. A fraction of that (only about 1 percent) radio spectrum is actually allocated for commercial communications purposes. As a consequence, the availability of miner communication equipment is severely limited.

(3) Research and experience have shown that communications and tracking systems may not work equally well in every mine or in every emergency situation, and therefore several different systems may be necessary for development and integration.

(4) Because of the serious challenges of the mine environment and the limited market provided by the mining industry, much needed technology has not yet been developed by the private sector or is not commercially available in the United States.

(5) Furthermore, due to the regulatory structure of the industry and the lengthy approval process for mine tracking and communications systems, research must be accelerated so that next generation technology can be quickly and efficiently integrated into mines to protect the safety of miners.

(6) The National Institute of Standards and Technology is well positioned to help accelerate the development of mining tracking and communications technology. The National Institute of Standards and Technology has a long history of working in conjunction with industry to invest in longer-term, high-risk research which yields national benefits far beyond private payoff. Further, the National Institute of Standards and Technology builds partnerships with industry to leverage existing research and development to drive next generation technology.

(7) The National Institute of Standards and Technology is well-positioned to accelerate development of consensus mining communications standards given the extensive work that the organization has done in the field of emergency communications to develop standards and technologies for interoperable wireless telecommunications and information systems.

(8) In developing such standards, the National Institute of Standards and Technology should work in cooperation with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and the Mine Safety and Health Administration, and other relevant public and private stakeholders, to build on existing technology and knowledge regarding mine communications systems.

SEC. 3. MINE COMMUNICATIONS AND TRACKING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall provide for the establishment of a program of research, development, and demonstration that includes the establishment of best practices, adaptation of existing technology, and efforts to accelerate the development of next generation technology and tracking systems for mine communications.

(b) COORDINATION.—In carrying out this section, the Director shall coordinate with relevant Federal agencies and industry to evaluate areas of research and development and best practices that will be most promising in protecting miner safety.

(c) OPTIONAL FOCUS.—In establishing this program, the Director may focus on the following communications and tracking system characteristics:

(1) Systems that are likely to work in emergency situations.

(2) Systems that work in coal mines, with special attention paid to deep underground coal mines.

(3) Systems that provide coverage throughout all areas of the mine.

(4) Hybrid systems that use both wireless and infrastructure based systems.

(5) Functionality for 2-way and voice communications.

(6) Systems that serve emergency and routine communications needs.

(7) The ability to work with existing legacy systems and to be quickly integrated.

(8) Propagation environment characterization, performance metrics, and independently derived validation tests to verify performance for standards development.

SEC. 4. STANDARDS REGARDING UNDERGROUND COMMUNICATIONS.

Consistent with Office of Management and Budget Circular A-119, the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall work with industry and relevant Federal agencies to develop consensus industry standards for communications in underground mines. The Director shall also develop and provide any needed measurement services to support implementation of these standards. In their efforts to help develop these standards and related measurement services, the following issues should be addressed:

(1) The appropriate use of frequency bands and power levels.

(2) Matters related to interoperability of systems, applications, and devices.

(3) Technology to prevent interference.

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology such sums as are necessary for carrying out this Act for fiscal years 2009 and 2010, to be derived from amounts authorized under section 3001 of the America COMPETES Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MATHESON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 3877, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MATHESON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I'm very pleased that this action is taking place today on the floor of the House of Representatives. I represent the Second Congressional District of Utah, and that includes the Crandall Canyon Mine where this past August I think everyone in this country is aware of the coal mining accident that occurred where six men were trapped, and during the rescue attempt, three rescuers were killed in a cave-in.

There were a lot of emotions that we all felt and shared during that disaster; but beyond those emotions, I think something that must have crossed all of our minds as we all watched this tragedy unfold was a question, and that was, how is it as the rescuers tried to locate these six trapped men that we can't know exactly where they are, that there isn't some kind of signal or beacon or some way to communicate such that we can have a better sense of exactly where the six men were trapped?

I think that's a question that a lot of us have, and here in Congress, as a

member of the House Science Committee, I asked those questions, and the committee collectively, majority and minority, has looked at that issue.

The answer really is that the technology doesn't exist today to communicate in this manner between the surface and folks who are trapped deep underground, and so the effort here and the purpose of this legislation, it's a very narrow piece of legislation, looks at encouraging development of technology that would allow this type of communication to occur in the future.

The thing about this bill that I'm really proud of is the fact that the committee worked so well together, and I really want to thank Chairman GORDON and Ranking Member HALL for their extraordinary effort and also the staff, both majority and the minority, for working together to move this bill in a rather quick manner and in a bipartisan manner. Suggestions were taken from folks on both sides of the aisle, and the bill that came out of the committee reflected those discussions and deliberations among everyone involved in the committee.

So I think this is an example where Congress is passing good legislation, a substantive piece of legislation. It's a piece of legislation that is so important for the 1,400 underground mines we have in this country and, quite frankly, the many thousands of underground mines that exist around the world today, where this type of technology, if it is developed, will allow better communication capability and allow an opportunity for perhaps more success in rescue operations.

Now, I want to be clear on a couple of things. The purpose of the legislation is really to accelerate next-generation technology. The legislation will direct the National Institute of Standards and Technology to establish an initiative to promote research, development, and demonstration of miner tracking and communication systems and to promote the establishment of standards and other measurement services regarding underground mines. I think the legislation will foster much-needed research and development in this field of communications to better protect miners.

The time to address this issue is now, before any more accidents leave any additional miner families desperate for word about their loved ones.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise also in support of H.R. 3877, the Mine Communications Technology Innovation Act.

First, I want to take this opportunity to thank Chairman GORDON, Ranking Member HALL, and all of the members of the Science Committee and the staff who worked so hard to bring this important bipartisan legislation through our committee and to the House floor today.

Madam Speaker, every Member of the House hopes to avoid another catastrophe such as the Sago Mine explosion in West Virginia in 2006 or the disaster at the Crandall Canyon Mine in Utah this past August. And I certainly want to commend my colleague, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON), for introducing H.R. 3877 to address one of the major obstacles to miner safety, and that is, our inability, as he just pointed out, to track miners underground and to communicate with them in the event of such an emergency.

Under the 2006 MINER Act, the Mine Safety and Health Administration, MSHA, and the National Institute for Occupational Health and Safety, NIOSH, receive significant funding to lead an interagency program to develop communication, tracking, oxygen supply and refuge systems for mines. To date, this program has invested over \$23 million, and it is steadily progressing towards installation of new, safer communication systems by the year 2009.

As NIOSH and MSHA continue to advance research and development in this area, there was clear bipartisan agreement within the Science Committee that the National Institute of Standards and Technology, NIST, could enhance these efforts by fostering standards for communication equipment in mines and development of those systems through the creation of best practices, measurement services, and research evaluation.

□ 1645

NIST has long been a leader in communications research technology and has the equipment, and it has the expertise to characterize the mine environment and determine what techniques are best suited for these very difficult situations and conditions.

This bill is the product of bipartisan work in the Science Committee, and it creates a basic framework to ensure that the government's research agency works cooperatively, effectively and quickly to improve mine and miner safety.

The world-renowned capabilities of NIST laboratories and the years of study and experience at NIOSH and MSHA can significantly improve implementation of emergency communications and tracking systems in our mines. Improvement in these systems will substantially increase rescuers' ability to find and free miners in the event of a mine catastrophe, as we just outlined, that occurred recently in West Virginia and the great State of Utah.

H.R. 3877 would significantly contribute to the health and the safety of miners by uniting the communications and standards experience of NIST with the ongoing research and the mine environment experience at NIOSH and MSHA.

I want to applaud my colleague, Mr. MATHESON, for addressing this issue that he knows so well that is of such

utmost importance to his constituents in Utah, as well as mining communities across this country.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation. It will make significant advancements in miner safety.

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

Mr. MATHESON. I thank my colleague. I also want to thank him for making one additional really good point in his remarks, and that is that this legislation is complementary with what we are trying to do at NIOSH and MSHA.

Madam Speaker, Congress these days doesn't have the best reputation of working together on certain things, but this is an example where this committee worked really well in terms of coming up with legislation, where bills were originally introduced, there were some other questions during the committee process. Folks on the minority side of the aisle offered suggestions for a manager's amendment. We approved this bill. It has good bipartisan support. It's the right thing to do.

I again want to thank Dr. GINGREY and everyone on the Science Committee staff for their help in making this legislation work.

I will just close by saying that I visited the Crandall Canyon mine families right after the disaster. They were going through so many emotions that it's difficult for us to even imagine, but to not know where their loved ones were was probably the greatest frustration of all. If this legislation can provide a path to help provide answers to those questions in the future, then, clearly, it's the right thing to do.

I ask for a favorable vote from everybody on this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3877, as amended.

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

The title was amended so as to read: "A Bill to require the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to establish an initiative to promote the research, development, and demonstration of miner tracking and communications systems and to promote the establishment of standards and other measurement services regarding underground communications to protect miners in the United States."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair

declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 48 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. CLARKE) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

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. 3224, by the yeas and nays;
- H. Res. 573, by the yeas and nays;
- H. Res. 747, by the yeas and nays.

The vote on House Joint Resolution 58 will be postponed until tomorrow.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

DAM REHABILITATION AND REPAIR ACT OF 2007

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3224, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3224, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 263, nays 102, not voting 67, as follows:

[Roll No. 1010]

YEAS—263

Abercrombie	Brady (TX)	DeLauro
Ackerman	Braley (IA)	Dent
Aderholt	Burgess	Diaz-Balart, L.
Alexander	Capito	Diaz-Balart, M.
Allen	Capps	Dingell
Altmire	Capuano	Doggett
Andrews	Cardoza	Donnelly
Arcuri	Carnahan	Doolittle
Baca	Castle	Doyle
Bachus	Castor	Edwards
Baird	Chandler	Ehlers
Baker	Clarke	Ellison
Baldwin	Clay	Ellsworth
Barrow	Cleaver	Emanuel
Bean	Clyburn	Emerson
Becerra	Cohen	Engel
Berkley	Costa	Eshoo
Berman	Courtney	Etheridge
Berry	Cramer	Farr
Biggert	Crowley	Fattah
Bishop (GA)	Cuellar	Filner
Bishop (NY)	Cummings	Fortenberry
Blumenauer	Davis (AL)	Fossella
Bonner	Davis (CA)	Frank (MA)
Boren	Davis (IL)	Frelinghuysen
Boswell	Davis, Lincoln	Gerlach
Boucher	DeFazio	Giffords
Boyd (FL)	DeGette	Gilchrest
Boyd (KS)	Delahunt	Gillibrand

Gonzalez	Matheson	Ruppersberger
Gordon	Matsui	Rush
Graves	McCarthy (NY)	Ryan (OH)
Green, Al	McCollum (MN)	Ryan (WI)
Hall (NY)	McCotter	Salazar
Hare	McCrery	Sánchez, Linda
Harman	McDermott	T.
Hayes	McGovern	Sanchez, Loretta
Herger	McHugh	Sarbanes
Herseht Sandlin	McIntyre	Saxton
Higgins	McNerney	Schakowsky
Hill	McNulty	Schiff
Hinchev	Meeks (NY)	Schwartz
Hinojosa	Melancon	Scott (GA)
Hirono	Michaud	Scott (VA)
Hodes	Miller (MI)	Serrano
Holden	Miller (NC)	Sestak
Holt	Miller, George	Sherman
Honda	Mitchell	Shimkus
Hooley	Mollohan	Shuler
Hoyer	Moore (KS)	Sires
Inslee	Moore (WI)	Skelton
Israel	Moran (VA)	Slaughter
Jackson (IL)	Murphy (CT)	Smith (NJ)
Jackson-Lee	Murphy, Patrick	Snyder
(TX)	Murphy, Tim	Solis
Johnson (GA)	Murtha	Space
Johnson, E. B.	Napolitano	Stark
Jones (OH)	Oberstar	Stupak
Kagen	Obey	Sutton
Kanjorski	Olver	Tanner
Kaptur	Ortiz	Tauscher
Kennedy	Pallone	Terry
Kildee	Pascrell	Thompson (CA)
Kind	Pastor	Thompson (MS)
King (NY)	Perlmutter	Thornberry
Kirk	Peterson (MN)	Tierney
Kuhl (NY)	Petri	Towns
Langevin	Platts	Tsongas
Lantos	Pomeroy	Turner
Larsen (WA)	Porter	Udall (NM)
Larson (CT)	Price (NC)	Upton
LaTourette	Putnam	Van Hollen
Lee	Radanovich	Velázquez
Levin	Rahall	Visclosky
Lewis (GA)	Rangel	Walden (OR)
Lipinski	Regula	Walsh (NY)
LoBiondo	Rehberg	Walz (MN)
Loeb sack	Reichert	Waters
Lofgren, Zoe	Renzi	Watson
Lowe y	Reyes	Watt
Lucas	Reynolds	Weiner
Lungren, Daniel	Richardson	Welch (VT)
E.	Rodriguez	Wexler
Lynch	Rogers (KY)	Whitfield
Mahoney (FL)	Ros-Lehtinen	Woolsey
Maloney (NY)	Roskam	Wu
Manzullo	Ross	Wynn
Markey	Rothman	Yarmuth
Marshall	Roybal-Allard	

NAYS—102

Akin	Forbes	McMorris
Bachmann	Fox	Rodgers
Barrett (SC)	Franks (AZ)	Mica
Bartlett (MD)	Gallely	Miller (FL)
Barton (TX)	Garrett (NJ)	Miller, Gary
Bilbray	Gingrey	Moran (KS)
Bilirakis	Goode	Musgrave
Bishop (UT)	Goodlatte	Neugebauer
Blackburn	Hall (TX)	Nunes
Blunt	Hastings (WA)	Pearce
Bono	Heller	Pitts
Boozman	Hensarling	Poe
Boustany	Hobson	Price (GA)
Broun (GA)	Hoekstra	Ramstad
Brown (SC)	Inglis (SC)	Rogers (AL)
Buchanan	Issa	Rogers (MD)
Burton (IN)	Johnson, Sam	Royce
Calvert	Jones (NC)	Sali
Camp (MI)	Jordan	Sensenbrenner
Campbell (CA)	Keller	Sessions
Cannon	King (IA)	Shadegg
Cantor	Kingston	Smith (NE)
Carter	Kline (MN)	Smith (TX)
Coble	Knollenberg	Stearns
Cole (OK)	Lamborn	Sullivan
Crenshaw	Latham	Tiahrt
Culberson	Lewis (CA)	Tiberi
Davis, David	Lewis (KY)	Walberg
Davis, Tom	Linder	Westmoreland
Drake	Mack	Wicker
Dreier	McCarthy (CA)	Wilson (NM)
Duncan	McCauley (TX)	Wilson (SC)
Everett	McHenry	Wolf
Fallin	McKeon	Young (FL)
Feeney		

NOT VOTING—67

Boehner	Green, Gene	Peterson (PA)
Grijalva	Gutierrez	Pickering
Brown, Corrine	Hastert	Pryce (OH)
Brown-Waite,	Ginny	Rohrabacher
Butterfield	Hulshof	Schmidt
Buyer	Hunter	Shays
Carney	Jefferson	Shea-Porter
Carson	Jindal	Shuster
Chabot	Johnson (IL)	Simpson
Conaway	Kilpatrick	Smith (WA)
Conyers	Klein (FL)	Souder
Cooper	Kucinich	Spratt
Costello	LaHood	Tancredo
Cubin	Lampson	Taylor
Davis (KY)	Marchant	Udall (CO)
Deal (GA)	Meek (FL)	Wamp
Dicks	Myrick	Wasserman
English (PA)	Nadler	Schultz
Ferguson	Neal (MA)	Waxman
Flake	Paul	Weldon (FL)
Gohmert	Payne	Weller
Granger	Pence	Wilson (OH)
		Young (AK)

□ 1856

Messrs. COLE of Oklahoma, DUNCAN, SMITH of Texas and CANTOR changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 1010, I am not recorded because my card did not register. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING EFFORTS TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT AND HELP END THE WORSENING HUMANITARIAN CRISIS AND GENOCIDE IN DARFUR, SUDAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 573, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 573, as amended.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 366, nays 0, not voting 66, as follows:

[Roll No. 1011]

YEAS—366

Abercrombie	Barrett (SC)	Blackburn
Ackerman	Barrow	Blumenauer
Aderholt	Bartlett (MD)	Blunt
Akin	Barton (TX)	Bonner
Alexander	Bean	Bono
Allen	Becerra	Boozman
Altmire	Berkley	Boren
Andrews	Berman	Boswell
Arcuri	Berry	Boucher
Baca	Biggert	Boustany
Bachmann	Bilbray	Boyd (FL)
Bachus	Bilirakis	Boyd (KS)
Baird	Bishop (GA)	Brady (TX)
Baker	Bishop (NY)	Braley (IA)
Baldwin	Bishop (UT)	Broun (GA)

Brown (SC) Hensarling
 Brown-Waite, Herger
 Ginny Herseht Sandlin
 Buchanan Higgins
 Burgess Hill
 Burton (IN) Hinchey
 Calvert Hinojosa
 Camp (MI) Hirono
 Campbell (CA) Hobson
 Cannon Hodes
 Cantor Hoekstra
 Capito Holden
 Capps Holt
 Capuano Honda
 Cardoza Hooley
 Carnahan Hoyer
 Carter Inglis (SC)
 Castle Inslee
 Castor Israel
 Chandler Issa
 Clarke Jackson (IL)
 Clay Jackson-Lee
 Cleaver (TX)
 Clyburn Johnson (GA)
 Coble Johnson, E. B.
 Cohen Johnson, Sam
 Cole (OK) Jones (NC)
 Cooper Jones (OH)
 Costa Jordan
 Courtney Kagen
 Cramer Kanjorski
 Crenshaw Kaptur
 Crowley Keller
 Cuellar Kennedy
 Culberson Kildee
 Cummings Kind
 Davis (AL) King (IA)
 Davis (CA) King (NY)
 Davis (IL) Kingston
 Davis, David Kirk
 Davis, Lincoln Klime (MN)
 Davis, Tom Knollenberg
 DeFazio Kuhl (NY)
 DeGette Lamborn
 Delahunt Langevin
 DeLauro Lantos
 Dent Larsen (WA)
 Diaz-Balart, L. Larson (CT)
 Diaz-Balart, M. Latham
 Dingell LaTourette
 Doggett Lee
 Donnelly Levin
 Doolittle Lewis (CA)
 Doyle Lewis (GA)
 Drake Lewis (KY)
 Dreier Linder
 Duncan Lipinski
 Edwards LoBiondo
 Ehlers Loeb sack
 Ellison Lofgren, Zoe
 Ellsworth Lowey
 Emanuel Lucas
 Emerson Lungren, Daniel
 Engel E.
 Eshoo Lynch
 Etheridge Mack
 Everett Mahoney (FL)
 Fallin Maloney (NY)
 Farr Manzullo
 Fattah Markey
 Feeney Marshall
 Filner Matheson
 Forbes Matsui
 Fortenberry McCarthy (CA)
 Fossella McCarthy (NY)
 Foss McCaul (TX)
 Frank (MA) McCollum (MN)
 Franks (AZ) McCotter
 Frelinghuysen McCrery
 Gallegly McDermott
 Garrett (NJ) McGovern
 Gerlach McHenry
 Giffords McHugh
 Gilchrest McIntyre
 Gillibrand McKeon
 Gingrey McMorris
 Gonzalez Rodgers
 Goode McNerney
 Goodlatte McNulty
 Gordon Meeks (NY)
 Graves Melancon
 Green, Al Mica
 Hall (NY) Michaud
 Hall (TX) Miller (FL)
 Hare Miller (MI)
 Harman Miller (NC)
 Hastings (WA) Miller, Gary
 Hayes Miller, George
 Heller Mitchell

Towns
 Tsongas
 Turner
 Udall (NM)
 Upton
 Van Hollen
 Velázquez
 Visclosky
 Walberg
 Walden (OR)

Boehner
 Brady (PA)
 Brown, Corrine
 Butterfield
 Buyer
 Carney
 Carson
 Chabot
 Conaway
 Conyers
 Costello
 Cubin
 Davis (KY)
 Deal (GA)
 Dicks
 English (PA)
 Ferguson
 Flake
 Gohmert
 Granger
 Green, Gene
 Grijalva
 Gutierrez

Walsh (NY)
 Walsh (MN)
 Waters
 Watson
 Watt
 Weiner
 Welch (VT)
 Westmoreland
 Wexler
 Whitfield

Wicker
 Wilson (NM)
 Wilson (SC)
 Wolf
 Woolsey
 Wu
 Wynn
 Yarmuth
 Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—66

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
 The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised there are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1904

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING THE RELIGIOUS AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FESTIVAL OF DIWALI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 747, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 747.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 358, nays 0, answered “present” 8, not voting 66, as follows:

[Roll No. 1012]
 YEAS—358

Abercrombie
 Ackerman
 Aderholt
 Alexander
 Allen
 Altmire
 Andrews
 Arcuri
 Baca
 Bachmann
 Bachus
 Baird
 Baker
 Baldwin

Barrett (SC)
 Barrow
 Bartlett (MD)
 Barton (TX)
 Bean
 Becerra
 Berkley
 Berman
 Berry
 Biggert
 Bilbray
 Bilirakis
 Bishop (GA)
 Bishop (NY)

Bishop (UT)
 Blackburn
 Blumauer
 Blunt
 Bonner
 Bono
 Boozman
 Boren
 Boswell
 Boucher
 Boustany
 Boyd (FL)
 Boyda (KS)
 Brady (TX)

Brady (TX)

Brayley (IA)
 Broun (GA)
 Brown (SC)
 Brown-Waite,
 Ginny
 Buchanan
 Burgess
 Burton (IN)
 Calvert
 Camp (MI)
 Campbell (CA)
 Cannon
 Cantor
 Capito
 Capps
 Capuano
 Cardoza
 Carnahan
 Carter
 Castle
 Castor
 Chandler
 Clarke
 Clay
 Cleaver
 Clyburn
 Coble
 Cohen
 Cole (OK)
 Cohen
 Cole (OK)
 Conyers
 Cooper
 Costa
 Courtney
 Cramer
 Crenshaw
 Crowley
 Cuellar
 Culberson
 Cummings
 Davis (AL)
 Davis (CA)
 Davis (IL)
 Davis, David
 Davis, Lincoln
 Davis, Tom
 DeFazio
 DeGette
 Delahunt
 DeLauro
 Dent
 Diaz-Balart, L.
 Diaz-Balart, M.
 Dingell
 Doggett
 Donnelly
 Doolittle
 Doyle
 Drake
 Dreier
 Duncan
 Edwards
 Ehlers
 Ellison
 Ellsworth
 Emanuel
 Emerson
 Engel
 Eshoo
 Etheridge
 Everett
 Fallin
 Farr
 Fattah
 Feeney
 Filner
 Forbes
 Fortenberry
 Fossella
 Foss
 Frank (MA)
 Franks (AZ)
 Frelinghuysen
 Gallegly
 Garrett (NJ)
 Gerlach
 Giffords
 Gilchrest
 Gillibrand
 Gingrey
 Gonzalez
 Goode
 Goodlatte
 Gordon
 Graves
 Green, Al
 Hall (NY)
 Hall (TX)
 Hare
 Harman
 Hastings (WA)
 Hayes
 Heller

Herrger
 Herseht Sandlin
 Higgins
 Hill
 Hinchey
 Hinojosa
 Hirono
 Hobson
 Hodes
 Hoekstra
 Holden
 Holt
 Honda
 Hooley
 Hoyer
 Inglis (SC)
 Inslee
 Israel
 Issa
 Jackson (IL)
 Jackson-Lee
 (TX)
 Johnson (GA)
 Johnson, E. B.
 Johnson, Sam
 Jones (OH)
 Jordan
 Kagen
 Kanjorski
 Kaptur
 Keller
 Kennedy
 Kildee
 Kind
 King (NY)
 Kingston
 Kirk
 Klime (MN)
 Knollenberg
 Kuhl (NY)
 Lamborn
 Langevin
 Lantos
 Larsen (WA)
 Larson (CT)
 Latham
 LaTourette
 Lee
 Levin
 Lewis (CA)
 Lewis (GA)
 Lewis (KY)
 Linder
 Lipinski
 LoBiondo
 Loeb sack
 Lofgren, Zoe
 Lowey
 Lucas
 Lungren, Daniel
 E.
 Lynch
 Mack
 Mahoney (FL)
 Maloney (NY)
 Manzullo
 Markey
 Marshall
 Matheson
 Matsui
 McCarthy (CA)
 McCarthy (NY)
 McCaul (TX)
 McCollum (MN)
 McCotter
 McCrery
 McDermott
 McGovern
 McHenry
 McHugh
 McIntyre
 McKeon
 McMorris
 Rodgers
 McNerney
 McNulty
 Meeks (NY)
 Melancon
 Mica
 Michaud
 Miller (FL)
 Miller (MI)
 Miller (NC)
 Miller, Gary
 Miller, George
 Mitchell
 Mollohan
 Moore (KS)

Moore (WI)
 Moran (KS)
 Moran (VA)
 Murphy (CT)
 Murphy, Patrick
 Murphy, Tim
 Murtha
 Napolitano
 Neugebauer
 Nunes
 Oberstar
 Obey
 Olver
 Ortiz
 Pallone
 Pascrell
 Pastor
 Pearce
 Perlmutter
 Peterson (MN)
 Petri
 Peterson (MN)
 Petri
 Pomeroy
 Porter
 Price (GA)
 Price (NC)
 Putnam
 Radanovich
 Rahall
 Ramstad
 Rangel
 Regula
 Rehberg
 Reichert
 Renzi
 Reyes
 Reynolds
 Richardson
 Rodriguez
 Rogers (AL)
 Rogers (KY)
 Rogers (MI)
 Ros-Lehtinen
 Roskam
 Ross
 Rothman
 Roybal-Allard
 Royce
 Ruppersberger
 Rush
 Ryan (OH)
 Ryan (WI)
 Salazar
 Sanchez, Linda
 T.
 Sanchez, Loretta
 Sarbanes
 Saxton
 Schakowsky
 Schiff
 Schwartz
 Scott (GA)
 Scott (VA)
 Sensenbrenner
 Sessions
 Sestak
 Shadegg
 Sherman
 Shimkus
 Shuler
 Sires
 Skelton
 Slaughter
 Smith (NE)
 Smith (NJ)
 Smith (TX)
 Snyder
 Solis
 Space
 Stark
 Stearns
 Stupak
 Sullivan
 Tanner
 Tauscher
 Terry
 Thompson (CA)
 Thompson (MS)
 Thornberry
 Tiahrt
 Tiberi
 Tierney
 Towns
 Tsongas
 Turner
 Udall (NM)

Upton	Watson	Wilson (NM)
Van Hollen	Watt	Wilson (SC)
Velázquez	Weiner	Wolf
Viscosky	Welch (VT)	Woolsey
Walden (OR)	Westmoreland	Wu
Walsh (NY)	Wexler	Wynn
Walz (MN)	Whitfield	Yarmuth
Waters	Wicker	Young (FL)

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—8

Akin	Goode	Sali
Forbes	King (IA)	Walberg
Franks (AZ)	Musgrave	

NOT VOTING—66

Boehner	Hastert	Pryce (OH)
Brady (PA)	Hastings (FL)	Rohrabacher
Brown, Corrine	Hulshof	Schmidt
Butterfield	Hunter	Shays
Buyer	Jefferson	Shea-Porter
Carney	Jindal	Shuster
Carson	Johnson (IL)	Simpson
Chabot	Kilpatrick	Smith (WA)
Conaway	Klein (FL)	Souder
Costello	Kucinich	Spratt
Cubin	LaHood	Tancredo
Davis (KY)	Lampson	Taylor
Deal (GA)	Marchant	Udall (CO)
Dicks	Meek (FL)	Wamp
English (PA)	Myrick	Wasserman
Ferguson	Nadler	Schultz
Flake	Neal (MA)	Waxman
Frelinghuysen	Paul	Weldon (FL)
Gohmert	Payne	Weller
Granger	Pence	Wilson (OH)
Green, Gene	Peterson (PA)	Young (AK)
Grijalva	Pickering	
Gutierrez	Pitts	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised there are 2 minutes to record your vote.

□ 1913

Mr. GOODE changed his vote from "yea" to "present."

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. KILPATRICK. Madam Speaker, due to official business in the 13th Congressional District of Michigan, I was unable to make several votes today. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on final passage of H.R. 3224, the Dam Rehabilitation and Repair Act of 2007; "yea" on final passage of H. Res. 573—Recognizing and commending the efforts of the United States public and advocacy groups to raise awareness about and help end the worsening humanitarian crisis and genocide in Darfur, Sudan, and for other purposes; and "yea" on final passage of H. Res. 747—Recognizing the religious and historical significance of the festival of Diwali.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, on October 29, 2007, I missed 3 recorded votes.

I take my voting responsibility very seriously and would like the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to reflect that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on recorded vote No. 1010, "yea" on recorded vote 1011 and "yea" on recorded vote 1012.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, on Monday, October 29, 2007, I was absent from the House due to travel complications. Had I been present I would have voted:

On rollcall No. 1010—"nay"—H.R. 3224, Dam Rehabilitation and Repair Act of 2007.

On rollcall No. 1011—"yea"—H. Res. 573, Recognizing and commending the efforts of the United States public and advocacy groups to raise awareness about and help end the worsening humanitarian crisis and genocide in Darfur, Sudan, and for other purposes.

On rollcall No. 1012—"yea"—H. Res. 747, Recognizing the religious and historical significance of the festival of Diwali.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I took a leave of absence on October 29, 2007; unfortunately my airline flight was delayed. The following list describes how I would have voted had I been in attendance today.

"Yea" on H.R. 3224—Dam Rehabilitation and Repair Act of 2007, Representative Salazar—Transportation and Infrastructure.

"Yea" on H.R. 573—Recognizing and commending the efforts of the United States public and advocacy groups to raise awareness about and help end the worsening humanitarian crisis and genocide in Darfur, Sudan, and for other purposes, Representative Moran (VA)—Foreign Affairs.

"Yea" on H.R. 747—Recognizing the religious and historical significance of the festival of Diwali, Representative Wilson (SC)—Foreign Affairs.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2074

Mr. MCCAUL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 2074.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1915

SUPPORT OUR VETERANS

(Mrs. DRAKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. DRAKE. Madam Speaker, this is day 29. That is 29 days so far that our veterans have not had the use of the increased funding for their benefits and health care. That is \$18.5 million dollars a day not able to be used. And why? Because the Democratic leadership has decided to not complete this bill and send it to the President who has agreed to sign it.

In June this House passed this appropriation bill with a \$6 billion increase in a bipartisan manner. We are proud of our work and grateful to our veterans.

On September 6, the Senate completed their bill. This work is done. Our veterans are not pawns in a political game. They are heroes.

America expects us to get the job done. America expects us to provide the best care to our veterans.

Please join me in calling upon the Democratic leadership to put our veterans first and send this bill to the President now.

CONDEMNING THE ATTACKS ON AFRICAN UNION PEACEKEEPERS IN HASKANITA, DARFUR, SUDAN

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, today on the floor of the House, I was very pleased to have debated H. Res. 740 that I authored with Congressman CHABOT from Ohio and joined by 55 of my colleagues.

This resolution denounced the attack on African Union peacekeepers. And it was a result of the codel led by myself, joined by Congressman CHABOT and Congressman SMITH from Nebraska, the first codel to go into Darfur since the signing of the agreement dealing with the peacekeepers.

It is time now for our eyes to focus on a safe return of those who have suffered to their homeland, 2.4 million displaced Sudanese, Darfurians, who live in a state of flux and fear.

It is an outrage that these peacekeepers would be attacked. It is an outrage that, as the African Union has stood up to be counted and provided soldiers on the field to protect those refugees, it is an outrage that they are being attacked.

We ask the U.N. to intervene to provide more peacekeepers. We ask that the genocide stop. And we ask that Khartoum recognize that they have an obligation to the people of Sudan. Stop the genocide.

IN MEMORY OF SERGEANT EDWARD PHILPOT

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today, with great sympathy, in honor of the memory of Sergeant Edward Philpot of South Carolina National Guard's 218th Brigade Combat Team. Sergeant Philpot and his fellow soldiers were traveling as a convoy near Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, last Tuesday when his Humvee accidentally went off the road.

Sergeant Philpot is the first member of the 218th, my former National Guard Brigade, to lose his life while serving in Afghanistan. His sacrifice is a reminder of the courage and dedication to duty shared by so many of our fellow Americans. We must never forget the immense sacrifices these brave men and women are making to defend freedom and to protect American families.

My thoughts and prayers are with Sergeant Philpot's wife, Stephanie; their three daughters; his parents, Ottas and Willa; and his entire family, friends, and fellow soldiers who continue to defend our country overseas. His sacrifice is a testament to the love for his country, his family, and his fellow soldiers.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

THE DRIVE ACT

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, last week the Capitol hosted a display of electric cars, hybrids like the Toyota Prius and various generations.

And there was one car that got my attention. It was an Auto-Cycle. It was a one-man car. It would go 75 miles an hour. And the owner of it did not drive it in from Ohio where it was made, but he said he could have. It goes 75 miles an hour. And if you have a car like that in town, you basically plug it in every day and you run all day long, and you don't use one ounce of gas.

I am a cosponsor of something called the DRIVE Act. It is a bipartisan bill cosponsored by me and ELIOT ENGEL of New York. The idea behind it is to get off Middle East oil by increasing the incentive to buy hybrid cars, flex-fuel vehicles, electric vehicles, biodiesels, cars that run on ethanol, and a number of other alternative-fuel vehicles. We have the technology that's out there.

We are doubling, in the DRIVE Act, the tax credit for buying hybrids in such cars. I believe that this is a step in the right direction, and I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the DRIVE Act.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. CLARKE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

HONORING LIEUTENANT MICHAEL P. MURPHY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, it is with honor and with a profound sadness that I rise to recognize Lieutenant Michael P. Murphy of the United States Navy, who last week was posthumously awarded our Nation's highest award for valor: the Medal of Honor.

Among my greatest privileges was attending last week's ceremonial presentations of the Medal of Honor to his family at the White House and the Navy Memorial.

Known fondly as "Murph," Michael was born on May 7, 1976, in Smithtown, New York, and grew up in Patchogue, in my district on eastern Long Island. He was raised by a family of policemen, lifeguards, firemen, and teachers who instilled values reflecting that public service is a noble calling.

In high school, Lieutenant Murphy life-guarded at the Brookhaven town beach in Lake Ronkonkoma, a job he returned to each summer through his college years. He graduated from Patchogue-Medford High School in 1994.

Lieutenant Murphy attended Penn State University, where he was an exceptional all-around athlete and student. He excelled at ice hockey, graduated with honors, and was accepted to several law schools, but instead wanted to serve his country as part of the world's most elite fighting force: the U.S. Navy SEALs.

Slightly built at 5 feet, 10 inches, he attended SEAL mentoring sessions at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point and was accepted to the Navy Officer Candidate School in 2000. Lieutenant Murphy was commissioned as an ensign and after 6 months completed Basic Underwater Demolition SEAL training in 2001. He then attended Army Jump School, SEAL Qualification Training, SEAL Delivery Vehicle School, and earned his SEAL Trident by 2002.

Lieutenant Murphy was later deployed to Qatar and to the Horn of Africa in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. In 2005, Lieutenant Murphy was assigned to SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team ONE as assistant officer in charge of ALFA Platoon and deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Madam Speaker, the Congressional Medal of Honor commemorates Lieutenant Murphy's actions as the officer in charge of a four-man SEAL unit in support of Operation Red Wing, tasked with finding a key Taliban commander in the mountainous terrain of northeastern Afghanistan.

On June 28, 2005, shortly after inserting into the objective area, the SEALs were spotted by three goat herders who were initially detained and then released. It is believed they reported the SEALs' presence to Taliban fighters.

A fierce gun battle ensued on the steep face of the mountain between the SEALs and a much larger enemy force. Despite the intensity of the firefight and suffering grave gunshot wounds himself, Lieutenant Murphy is credited with risking his own life to save the lives of his teammates.

He had moved into the open where he could gain a better position to transmit a call for help. This deliberate and heroic act deprived him of cover and made him a target for the enemy. While continuing to be fired upon, he made contact with Bagram Air Base to request assistance. He calmly reported his unit's location and the size of the enemy force while requesting support for his team.

He was shot in the back, causing him to drop the transmitter. He picked it back up, completed the call, and continued firing at the enemy closing in. Severely wounded, he returned to his men and continued the battle.

In response to Lieutenant Murphy's call, an MH-47 Chinook helicopter,

with eight additional SEALs and eight Army Night Stalkers aboard, was sent. As the Chinook drew near, a rocket-propelled grenade hit the helicopter, causing it to crash, killing all 16 men aboard.

On the ground and nearly out of ammunition, the four SEALs continued to fight. After 2 hours Lieutenant Murphy, Matthew Axelson, and Daniel Dietz had fallen. Over 30 Taliban were also killed.

The fourth SEAL, Petty Officer Marcus Luttrell, was knocked unconscious and over a ridge by the blast of a rocket-propelled grenade. Though severely wounded, he evaded the enemy for nearly a day and was rescued by local nationals who cared for him until U.S. forces arrived for him 3 days later.

Lieutenant Michael P. Murphy was buried at Calverton National Cemetery, less than 20 miles from his hometown. His other awards include the Purple Heart, Combat Action Ribbon, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Ribbon, and National Defense Service Medal.

Throughout his life, he was known for his unwavering loyalty and an instinctive responsibility to help others. With unwavering courage in the face of certain death, he gave his life for his country and teammates, reflecting great credit upon himself and upholding the Navy's highest traditions.

Madam Speaker, our Nation is blessed to have a military full of great Americans like Lieutenant Michael P. Murphy who are serving with great distinction. He epitomized the selfless devotion to duty our young men and women have demonstrated time and again in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other hostile regions. My heart goes out to the Murphy family and the people of Patchogue, New York, for they have lost one of America's very finest.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

□ 1930

HONORING LIEUTENANT MICHAEL P. MURPHY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DENT. Madam Speaker, I just want to follow up on what my friend Mr. BISHOP of New York has just said.

We all learned about Lieutenant Michael Murphy's bravery. And, of course, last week, as was just stated, he received the Congressional Medal of Honor from President Bush on October 22.

I also want to share with you an experience over the weekend prior to the

Penn State/Ohio State game on Saturday evening. We had a ceremony on the field of Beaver Stadium, 110,000 people. Of course Lieutenant Murphy is a Penn State alumnus and graduated from the university in political science, as I did about 17 years earlier. And we had a ceremony. It was touching to be with his parents, Dan and Maureen, to recognize his gallantry, his bravery. As Abraham Lincoln said, he had given that "last full measure of devotion." But we joined his parents on the field, myself along with our colleagues, TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, BILL SHUSTER of Pennsylvania and TODD PLATTS of Pennsylvania. We escorted them on the field, along with the president of the university, Graham Spanier. And just prior to the playing of the national anthem, which was dedicated in memory of Lieutenant Murphy, the university presented a certificate that read: "Pennsylvania State University recognizes Lieutenant Michael Murphy as the recipient of the Medal of Honor, for his gallantry and bravery, serving as a United States Navy SEAL while under enemy attack in Afghanistan. Lieutenant Murphy represents the highest ideal of the university as an alumnus and patriot."

And, again, I would just like to share with my colleagues from New York, and certainly all Americans, the sense of deep loss we feel for the Murphy family and so many others who have paid the ultimate price in this war, in both Afghanistan and Iraq.

LIEUTENANT MICHAEL MURPHY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I want to thank my good friend and colleague, Mr. BISHOP from Long Island, for asking several of us to pay tribute to Lieutenant Michael Murphy, who received the Medal of Honor.

Madam Speaker, I did not know Michael Murphy personally, but I knew of him. I have a love of history, and particularly military history. And I know that every generation of Americans has confronted challenge and threat, grave and great, with the heroism of Michael Murphy. Every generation has produced its Michael Murphys.

In August of 1776, in the Battle of New York, there were men like Michael Murphy. They were surrounded by the most powerful navy in the world, the British Navy, and American democracy could have been snuffed out at that point. But men like Michael Murphy took risk, sacrificed their lives, fought on, and replaced British monarchy with American democracy. They fell, Madam Speaker, so that I could stand here in this body, the Congress of the United States, the people's House of the oldest democracy on Earth.

There were Mike Murphys in Gettysburg, in the Fighting 69th and other brigades, at Shiloh and Fredericksburg.

There were plenty of Union generals who told President Lincoln that they didn't really need to fight the Civil War; you could have slavery on one side of the line and we could have freedom on the other and that would be fine. But there were men like Michael Murphy who understood that slavery in the United States was not an option. They fought on; they refused to retreat. They would not surrender. They would not lose their ground. They fell so that my children could grow up in a country of liberty versus tyranny.

Madam Speaker, there were Mike Murphys who grew up on Long Island. When Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Madam Speaker, stood where you are now and summoned America into the greatest battle of the 20th century, against Nazism and fascism, there were Mike Murphys from Long Island who stood up, who stormed beaches, who leapt hills, who ran through Europe, freed France, liberated concentration camps, went to the Pacific, freed the Pacific and came back, looked at the Moon and said, we could go there, too. Many of those heroes, Madam Speaker, are from Long Island, and we value and thank every one. Only 18 Long Islanders, Madam Speaker, have received the Medal of Honor, Mike Murphy and 17 others.

Madam Speaker, Mike Murphy fell in a long and noble tradition of those who made the ultimate sacrifice. He is linked in time with those I mentioned: in Afghanistan, in Iraq, in Vietnam, in Korea, in Normandy, and stretching back to the earliest battles and the first battlefield.

Let me close, Madam Speaker, with a passage that could have been written about Michael Murphy, although it was uttered almost 2,500 years ago. This is what Pericles said at the funeral of fallen soldiers:

"In the fighting, they thought it more honorable to stand their ground and suffer death than to give in and save their lives. So they fled from the reproaches of men, abiding with life and limb the brunt of battle, and in a small moment of time, the climax of their lives, a culmination of glory, not of fear, they were swept away from us."

So and such they were, these men, worthy of their city. Madam Speaker, Michael Murphy went to Afghanistan to defend the City of New York, which was attacked out of Afghanistan on 9/11. He joins a proud and noble tradition of history's best. My thoughts, my prayers and my condolences go to him and his family. And he will always be remembered in this Congress as the citadel of freedom in the world, for fighting for that freedom.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PETERSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

OCCUPATION IN IRAQ SOAKING UP U.S. DOLLARS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, for the past 5 years, the administration has underfunded the No Child Left Behind Act to the tune of more than \$50 billion. This has robbed millions of children of the education they will need to succeed in the 21st century, and it is robbing America of the brain power we need to stay competitive in the global economy.

Those of us who believe it's a bad idea to shortchange our kids and our Nation begged the administration to fully fund the No Child Left Behind Act, but our pleas were ignored. That is one of the reasons I was so outraged last week when the White House requested \$46 billion in supplemental funding for its occupation of Iraq. That \$46 billion, Madam Speaker, is almost identical to the amount that the administration has underfunded No Child Left Behind. In fact, the administration announced its request at a press conference. In that one short press conference, they asked for virtually the same amount for Iraq that it has been denying to our Nation's schools for nearly 6 years.

And while the administration has demanded that every school in America show adequate yearly progress on its learning benchmarks or they will be punished, punished financially for the most part, it has allowed the Iraqi Government to show virtually no progress at all when it comes to meeting its benchmarks for peace.

And education is not the only crying need that is being ignored. The opportunity costs of the occupation are actually incalculable. The occupation is soaking up dollars we need to meet so many of our domestic challenges. If we really want America to be secure, we must invest in child care, we must invest in health care, sustainable energy, the environment, law enforcement, community and economic development, medical research, real homeland security, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera.

But the administration believes that policing a centuries-old civil war in

Iraq trumps all other needs. The American people do not agree with this administration's priorities. They want action, they want real solutions to our domestic problems, and they want to fight a real war on terrorism, not the phony war on terrorism the administration is fighting in Iraq.

When the President signed the No Child Left Behind Act, Madam Speaker, he said it was the most important piece of legislation most of us will ever work on. The education of our children is far more important to the future of our country than an endless and counterproductive occupation of another country.

That is why Congress must finally stand up to the administration and say no, no to supplemental funding that would bring our total spending in Iraq this fiscal year alone to \$160 billion. Madam Speaker, that's over \$13 billion a month, or nearly \$450 million per day.

Almost exactly a year ago, the American people sent us to Congress to end the occupation of Iraq. It's time that we do it. We must use our power of the purse to fully fund the safe, orderly and responsible redeployment of all of our troops out of Iraq, and that includes the withdrawal of all of our military contractors as well.

As if one occupation army weren't enough, these independent contractors comprise a second occupation army that is angering the Iraqi people and actually making life much harder for our very own troops.

Madam Speaker, we can't afford to keep throwing money into the bottomless pit of Iraq. That appears to be what our leaders in the White House want us to do. But their policy is bankrupting all of us politically, economically, and morally. It is time that we come to our senses; it is time to end this madness.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

DARFUR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, tonight this House passed House Resolutions 740, 573 and 726 with regard to Darfur and Sudan.

Madam Speaker, decades from now our children's children will look back on these times as an ugly blemish on human history. They will remember a time when innocent people were senselessly slaughtered in the Darfur region of Sudan. The question is whether they will look back and see that this Nation and this Congress stood up for what is

right and just, or did we sit idly by and watch from the sidelines.

Madam Speaker, we must be on the right side of this issue. That's why I'm so glad that we have passed these resolutions today. Although much work remains to be done, they represent a step in the right direction.

The passage of these bills rightfully pressures the Sudanese Government to end civil strife and ongoing human rights violations in Darfur, which threatens stability in the region and the very fabric of Sudanese life.

As you know, Madam Speaker, Darfur remains in great peril. Hundreds of thousands of Sudanese have lost their lives since the conflicts spiraled out of control in February of 2003. Over 2 million civilians have been internally displaced, and an estimated 215,000 more persons have been externally displaced in such neighboring states as Chad. Even for those who are internally displaced persons, they have experienced anything but a safe haven outside of Darfur while ongoing killing, torture, rape, looting and the unlawful destruction of their property by all parties continues, mainly by the janjaweed, associated militia groups, and the institution that should be protecting them, the Sudanese Government.

Indeed, as House Resolution 726 points out, it has become treacherous for women or young ladies in Darfur or eastern Chad to leave their villages to collect firewood or food from the market. They are at risk of being raped and assaulted, which, unfortunately, to date is exactly what has occurred to thousands.

Although some strides have been made in reducing the government's participation in continued human rights abuses in Darfur, militia groups remain a very real and present threat for the civilians in Darfur and eastern Chad, despite peace negotiations.

Particularly, as reported by the United Nations, these systematic human rights violations have been and continue to be committed with total impunity throughout Sudan, especially in Darfur. It is clear that the Government of Sudan has taken to turning a blind eye to such atrocities, choosing instead to provide strikingly few prosecutions, sentencing or even adequate examinations of war crimes or crimes against humanity, whether by criminal courts or those courts established to investigate the violations.

These failures by the Sudanese Government to respect and abide by customary international norms, international humanitarian and human rights laws embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Geneva Conventions and the Convention on the Rights of a Child that it is a party to demonstrates a lack of respect for international law and responsibility that it has to protect its citizenry from unacceptable levels of abuse.

Meanwhile, this Bush administration has held tightly to a hands-off approach by failing to send any troops to Sudan, despite there clearly being a lack of an adequate and capable number of African Union troops, amounting to a mere 7,000.

The President promised to not allow another Rwanda-style atrocity to occur; however, it appears to be happening once again, with little being done about it. Even the peace negotiations that recently occurred in Libya appear to be faltering, with two key militia groups failing to show up for the meeting.

As such, I congratulate my colleagues in passing these three vital resolutions this evening. And I thank the Congress, which has chosen to answer the pleas for help by the people of Darfur while the administration has failed to adequately respond.

We must act with a great sense of urgency. History will judge whether we have synchronized our conduct with our conscience.

□ 1945

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WATERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WATERS addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE PERU TRADE AGREEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maine (Mr. MICHAUD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MICHAUD. I thank Madam Speaker. This weekend, Senator John Edwards announced his opposition to the Peru Trade Agreement. The reason? As his statement says, "All of these agreements replicate the terrible features of NAFTA." Senator Edwards is right. It is more of the same old, same old. A leading Presidential candidate is saying it. The American people are sick of it. And so why is Congress pushing for it? Why would we push for a steady stream of lost jobs that gives incentives to multinational

corporations to move overseas? Why would we agree to an agreement that would displace peasant farmers who would be forced to migrate to the United States?

The American public aren't fooled. Campaign finance reform hasn't stopped the incredible financial influence of multinational corporations. These corporations are weighing in with the candidates, even Citibank. Take, for example, the provisions hidden in the Peru FTA. As Senator Edwards points out, "Buried deep in the 800-page text of the Peru FTA are ambiguous provisions that could allow U.S. banks to demand compensation if Peru reverses its disastrous social security privatization."

The Peru FTA contains provisions that could allow Citibank to demand compensation in FTA foreign investor protection tribunals from the Peruvian Government if Peru seeks to reverse its failed social security privatization. The Peruvian archbishop and both labor federation presidents asked the Ways and Means leaders to fix this problem. And it hasn't been fixed.

The House floor will be voting on this in a couple of weeks. As a Democratic Party, we have stood united against privatization of Social Security. We have not backed down. That is why it shocks me to hear that Senator OBAMA supports the Peru FTA. Yes, Senator OBAMA does support the Peru FTA.

Senator Edwards has it right. It is time to stick up for the American workers. It is time to reject the same NAFTA model that has devastated our industry. It is time to listen to the broad list of groups who do not support the Peru FTA. Not one union, environmental, consumer, small business, faith, family farm group supports the modified Bush Peru NAFTA Expansion FTA. So why would any Presidential candidate?

It is important to hear what the candidates are saying about protecting our jobs and fighting for fair trade deals. It is important that we stick together in this fight to keep our jobs here at home. I encourage my colleagues to vote "no" on the Peru FTA.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HARE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HARE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE PERU TRADE DEAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Peru trade deal will also be bad for U.S. agriculture and all farmers in our country and, amazingly, in Peru. So both here at home and abroad it will result in more harm.

Let's look at the facts. This current trade deficit chart with Peru tells us we are already in the red with Peru, as we are in the red with China and in the red with Mexico and in the red with almost every other trading country, Japan, et cetera. The U.S. vegetable trade deficit with Peru is already a part of this. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service, just the vegetable deficit component is already over \$200 million in 2006. So America's vegetable farmers will lose more market share. They have already lost market share, especially those who farm asparagus, onions and peas. Their situation will be similar to the plight of America's tomato, bell pepper and cucumber farmers who learned well what happened after NAFTA was signed. They all lost production as it relocated.

Several global corporations have already indicated what they are going to do. They are already putting their processing plants in Peru. Green Giant has done it. Del Monte has done it. The pattern is the same, the same as under NAFTA. As was the case with Mexico where millions of peasant farmers were upended under NAFTA with no adjustment provisions for them, Peru's farmers will also be hurt when these same global corporations take over their farming operations and flood their markets with rice, corn and chicken.

We expect that an additional 3 million Peruvian agricultural workers will be directly affected and millions of Peruvian farmers, as Mexico's farmers well know, will be upended. This will force increased migration of those individuals to cities that are already swelling with large numbers of poor, and it is projected expanded illegal drug production as people try to stay in their home countries with no crops to sell, they turn to those illegal choices.

Similar to the lack of protection for Mexico's corn and bean farmers under NAFTA, which that corn and bean tariff is going to phase out at the end of this year, and another 2 million of Mexico's farmers will be hurt, we know that what happens is that they either emigrate to adjoining cities or to the United States, many of them illegally, or they turn to the illegal sector where they literally risk their lives in order to survive.

What kind of a plan is this that would treat the people of developing countries with such derision? What kind of a plan is it that would hurt our farmers to that extent? Why does it always have to be a negative? Why can't trade be a plus plus? Importantly, Peru was the world's top coca producer in 1996, and coca production remains a viable alternative for farmers forced to give up their legal crops.

Is anybody listening? Is anybody thinking? It is pretty clear what is going to happen because there is nothing in the agreement to help Peru adjust. We saw what happened when that didn't occur under NAFTA. There were no adjustment provisions for Mexico's

farmers. CAFTA, the same thing, and now we add Peru on top of the pile. There is nothing in the Peruvian agreement for adjustments inside of Peru. The displaced farmers have few options. If they do not turn to coca production or other illegal industries, they will be forced to move. And we can ask where. To the overcrowded cities of Peru, further straining those resources? To another country? With the debate raging about illegal immigration and with us unable to reach a civil accommodation across this continent, wouldn't it be truly cruelly irresponsible to support another trade agreement that could result in more devastation to small holders?

Shouldn't we be helping these farmers adjust inside their own homelands? That is long overdue inside of Mexico, in order to help people earn money in their own countries, rather than wipe out hundreds of thousands of people as if their lives and their cultures didn't matter. And then we get the added problem of illegal labor trafficking into this country, which we can't control.

The Peru agreement doesn't do anything to address these serious human concerns. It does have some of the glossy language like NAFTA and CAFTA did that ends up toothless in terms of enforcement.

Madam Speaker, why would the American people be given more of the same out of this Congress? We ought to be changing these trade agreements to development agreements and treating people with the respect they deserve.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

PERU FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California. Thank you, Madam Speaker. Tonight I rise to address the House and the American people regarding the U.S. Peru Free Trade Agreement and its effect on working families. But before I launch into my remarks, I want to be clear. I am committed to trade. I believe trade is an essential component to the development and strengthening of our economy.

Done the right way, trade can increase our access to raw material for production and create American jobs. It can open foreign markets to our goods and services and bring new and unique products into the United States. Done the right way, trade can not only contribute to the economic prosperity of America and its working families, it can also strengthen the economic and political stability of our trading partners. It is because I believe in the many positive impacts that trade can bring when done the right way that I have been fighting for a new trade model.

The NAFTA-style trade free trade agreements negotiated by the Bush administration are the wrong way to do trade. They bring nothing more than empty promises and harm to the American working class. My support for smart trade agreements that work for working people means that I cannot support the U.S.-Peru FTA. It is based on the North American Free Trade Agreement, NAFTA, which has resulted in job losses in America, pushed small farmers off the land in Mexico, and jeopardized public health and safety policies in the U.S., Mexico, and Canada.

When the administration announced its new policy on trade earlier this year, I, along with the rest of my colleagues in the House Trade Working Group were hopeful that the administration had taken bold steps to improve its trade policy. Unfortunately, it soon became clear that the Peru FTA, along with the rest of the pending trade agreements, retain the basic structure of NAFTA and CAFTA. The bold promises of new protections for workers turned out to be nice promises that had little chance of being enforced.

The American people are fed up with trade agreements that only benefits the "haves" while making it harder for the "have-nots" to get ahead. A recent Wall Street Journal survey identified the declining public confidence in the NAFTA-style trade model. According to the survey, 60 percent of conservative Americans, those who would have been most apt to support the expansion of free trade, now believe that free trade is harmful to the U.S. economy.

The promises of U.S. job creation and an increased standard of living for the working class have not been fulfilled. Instead, we continue to see the rich get richer and the rest, the middle and working class, get left behind. The administration asserts that the new additions to the Peru agreement will add long-sought labor and environmental protections; however, a careful analysis reveals that there are few changes from the basic NAFTA-CAFTA text. And even when there are changes, the new provisions offer few new protections.

If the Peru FTA is so great, where is all the union support for it? Why do so many environmental groups oppose it? NAFTA-CAFTA provisions that have

caused downward pressure on wages, the export of U.S. jobs and an import of unsafe products and food have saved little. This so-called new deal is a bad deal. It is an old clunker with a new coat of paint. But even if this new deal contained the most stringent labor and environmental protections in the world, it would be dependent on the executive branch for enforcement. And enforcement of labor and environmental standards is something the current administration is unlikely to do. Let's be honest. The Bush administration has a consistent record of non-enforcement.

We need a real new deal, not another NAFTA clone. Simply put, the NAFTA model doesn't work. It has failed to bring the jobs and prosperity that we were promised. Remember when we were promised that NAFTA would create jobs in Mexico and stem the flow of immigration? Remember when we were promised that NAFTA would ensure our trading partners would uphold the same strong labor and environmental standards that we have here in the U.S.? And now, this administration is asking us to believe its promise that the labor and environmental provisions of the Peru agreement will be stringently enforced.

Well, if the experience of the last 10 years hasn't convinced you, I have some swamp land in Florida that I would like to sell you. So long as we have to rely on this administration to protect the rights and safety of working men and women, we will continue to be disappointed. This administration's track record does not reflect a real commitment to the working families of America. The truth of the matter is that the NAFTA model heavily favors the wealthiest few leaving small businesses to fend for themselves on an unequal playing field. The Peru Free Trade Agreement has been advertised as the new model for trade deals. This sounds eerily familiar to what we were told when CAFTA was being pushed. CAFTA was supposed to include bold new wage protections for workers. But those protections were disappointingly weak allowing countries to downgrade their own labor laws.

Minor adjustments in NAFTA-style deals such as the U.S. Peru FTA are not good enough. We need to reject the Peru FTA agreement, and I urge all my colleagues to oppose it.

□ 2000

ENDING THE GENOCIDE IN DARFUR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES of Ohio) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to re-

vised and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD on the topic of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, another opportunity to be here on the floor on Monday night during the Congressional Black Caucus message hour, and you are in the chair. What a privilege.

I rise tonight, Madam Speaker, during this message hour to pause to address an ongoing crisis in Darfur. For many years now we have seen the devastating atrocities taking place in the Darfur region of Sudan. With the support of the Sudanese Government, the janjaweed militia has ravaged the people of Darfur, raping, torturing, murdering and forcing hundreds of thousands of Darfuris to flee to refugee camps in neighboring Chad and the Central African Republic. We saw the same devastation in Rwanda over a decade ago; and the American people have made their voices heard on this issue, vowing never again to remain silent when humanity is threatened.

The Congressional Black Caucus has been a leader on this issue. I, along with many of my Congressional Black Caucus colleagues, were some of the first Members of Congress to speak out about this issue. We have been to the Sudanese embassy to protest. Many were arrested. We have visited the region numerous times and we have repeatedly addressed this issue with President George Bush in meetings, asking him to take immediate action. Yet, once again, we come to the House floor to challenge this administration to take a stand in Darfur.

Madam Speaker, today's Washington Post had this to say about our progress in Darfur: "A year and a half later, the situation on the ground in Darfur is little changed. More than two million displaced Darfuris, including hundreds of thousands in camps, have been unable to return to their homes. The perpetrators of the worst atrocities remain unpunished. Despite a renewed U.N. push, the international peacekeeping troops that Bush has long been seeking have yet to materialize. Just this weekend, peace talks in Libya aimed at ending the 4-year conflict appear to be floundering because of a boycott by key rebel groups."

"Many of those who have tracked the conflict over the years, including some in his own administration, say Bush has not matched his words with action, allowing initiatives to drop because of inertia or failure to follow up, while proving unable to mobilize either this bureaucracy or the international community."

I continue to quote from the Washington Post: "The President, who famously promised not to allow another Rwanda-style mass murder on his watch, has never fully chosen between

those inside his government advocating more pressure on Sudan and those advocating engagement with the Islamist government. So the policy has veered from one approach to the other.”

Today, I am pleased to say that the House passed three resolutions on Darfur, which I will discuss as I come back to the microphone. I am pleased to be joined again this evening, Madam Speaker, by one of my colleagues and good friends, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE of California. She has been out front, particularly on this issue. We have had an opportunity to have press conferences with several leading Hollywood-types who have really been with us on the issue.

Madam Speaker, I am happy to yield such time as she may consume to the great woman from the great State of California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, first let me thank the gentlewoman from Ohio for yielding and her leadership in organizing these Special Orders. This is a particularly timely discussion we are having tonight, and I want to again thank Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES for ensuring that not only this issue, the ongoing genocide in Darfur, stays in the spotlight, but also so many issues that we are addressing here on behalf of the American people and as a result of the Congressional Black Caucus being the conscience of the Congress. Congresswoman TUBBS JONES, thank you very much for your voice, stepping up to the plate, and your constant leadership on the issues we are addressing, which are so timely and, quite frankly, so difficult.

The poor track record of the Sudanese Government in previous talks really have warranted our work here to become more intense and revved up. We have got to do our part to keep the pressure up on all sides, especially the government, and come together to stop the violence and the killing.

Now, Members of the Congressional Black Caucus and Congresswoman TUBBS JONES, I am very pleased that you recounted some of this history tonight because it was Congressman DON PAYNE who for so long was the lone voice in the wilderness with regard to the genocide that was taking place. Finally, several years ago he brought together this entire body to declare that what atrocities we had witnessed is genocide.

So this declaration of genocide exists, it's a matter of record, and we, unfortunately, have not acted in a way that warrants that declaration in terms of the Darfurian people. So we have to remember Congressman DON PAYNE tonight and members of the Congressional Black Caucus who have visited Darfur. I have been there on three occasions. We have witnessed the tragedy, we have witnessed the faces, the eyes of the children who have seen right before their eyes their villages burn, their women raped and their family members killed.

It is very important that we come together once again with our young peo-

ple from around the country, because it is young people who are leading the charge, and the faith community, to end this genocide. Unfortunately, as Congresswoman TUBBS JONES said earlier and, again, The Washington Post, actually the headlines today, says: “U.S. promises on Darfur don't match actions. Bush expresses passion for issue but policies have been inconsistent.”

Let me mention a couple of the policies in addition to the bills that were passed today, which were very important, major steps in the right direction. We introduced a resolution, Congresswoman TUBBS JONES was a co-sponsor, and I introduced it with many others, about a year and a half ago, which really was a bill calling for divestment and allowing States to divest. This bill is called the Darfur Accountability and Divestment Act, better known as DADA.

Two weeks ago, the Senate banking committee amended and passed DADA, which, again, is bipartisan, and it really is a major bill that I hope gets to the President's desk very soon. What it does is it would authorize divestment from certain companies doing business in or with Sudan and prohibit any new Federal contracts with such companies. No one should have to worry that they are supporting genocide, whether it is through their tax dollars or their pension funds.

Madam Speaker, thanks to the persistence of a committed group of students and grass-roots activists, divestment has become a national movement that has the potential to really hit the Government of Sudan where it hurts the most, and that is their wallets. Today, 20 States, 59 universities, 10 cities and scores of individuals and organizations around the country have chosen to divest from businesses supporting the genocidal regime in Khartoum. Their actions have already had an impact. Once we introduced DADA over here, many multinational companies began to significantly change their business operations in Sudan, and some actually ceased doing business there.

So we must follow through on this massive grass-roots mobilization and pass Federal divestment legislation now so that we can put further pressure on Khartoum to end this genocide.

As we pursue divestment, we must also ensure that we support our peacekeeping efforts in the region and protect civilians and prevent violence. Again, I witnessed what was taking place on the border of Chad several years ago in Sudan, and also this year and last year with two additional congressional delegations; and each time I was there, I saw more violence and it was getting much worse; and it still is getting much worse.

The recent attacks, really the AU forces, actually when we were there last time, I believe it was five soldiers were killed from the African Union. They are really overstretched and we

need to make sure we approve the \$210 million in the Foreign Operations appropriations bill, because they deserve the resources, they need the resources. We need a strong, robust force to provide for peacekeeping operations.

So I hope that the President will not veto this legislation and that he will sign the DADA bill, which would begin to end this genocide in Darfur and to assist the Darfurian people.

Our Speaker, Speaker NANCY PELOSI, has been such an unbelievable leader on this issue. She has made this a priority. I participated with her on her delegation last year. Subsequent to that, Majority Leader STENY HOYER led a delegation. And Congressman ED ROYCE led a delegation where Don Cheadle, the wonderful Academy Award nominee for Hotel Rwanda, was with us and spent time in the refugee camps.

I share that, because the world needs to know that this has been here in the House and Senate a bipartisan effort, but we still haven't quite done what we need to do. But it is a moment that we must all embrace now, because we have to do this. More people are getting killed each and every day.

Yes, some of us were arrested. We were very involved in the anti-apartheid movement, and sometimes you have to do things out of the box to make sure that the public understands that death and destruction is taking place and that we cannot allow this death and destruction to continue.

So I want to commend members of the Congressional Black Caucus for really putting their bodies on the line and getting arrested and doing some of the things that we had to do in the sixties and the seventies to “make some noise,” as Congressman JOHN LEWIS says, because we have to work with our outside groups and we have to do the legislative work. We have to do what it takes to end this.

We cannot have another Rwanda. Unfortunately, Congresswoman TUBBS JONES mentioned Rwanda. We stood by and we saw nearly 1 million people die. The only thing our government did was apologize after the fact, after the fact. One million people.

So not on our watch are we going to allow another Rwanda to take place. Whatever we have to do, we will do. The people of Darfur are suffering and they are dying. The world is watching. Congresswoman CAROLYN KILPATRICK, under her leadership, we met with the President of Algeria. We met with President Mubarak. We tried to bring forth the League of Arab Nations. We talked to China and their representatives. We passed resolutions here in a bipartisan manner to ask China and the League of Arab Nations to join with us in condemning this genocide and doing the things that need to be done. So we cannot stand by and do nothing. Not on our watch, not on our dime.

So I want to congratulate Congresswoman JACKSON-LEE for the passage of

your resolution today, and all of the other Members that are working so hard each and every day 24/7, to stop this slaughter that is taking place in Darfur.

Congresswoman TUBBS JONES, thank you again for your leadership and for calling us together once again to beat the drum and to let the American people know that not on our watch, not on our dime, will this genocide continue.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Madam Speaker, I include for the RECORD from today's Washington Post, October 29, 2007, this first part of the article entitled, "U.S. Promises on Darfur Don't Match Actions" by Michael Abramowitz.

[From the Washington Post, Oct. 29, 2007]

U.S. PROMISES ON DARFUR DON'T MATCH ACTIONS

(By Michael Abramowitz)

In April 2006, a small group of Darfur activists—including evangelical Christians, the representative of a Jewish group and a former Sudanese slave—was ushered into the Roosevelt Room at the White House for a private meeting with President Bush. It was the eve of a major rally on the National Mall, and the president spent more than an hour holding forth, displaying a kind of passion that has led some in the White House to dub him the "Sudan desk officer."

Bush insisted there must be consequences for rape and murder, and he called for international troops on the ground to protect innocent Darfuris, according to contemporaneous notes by one of those present. He spoke of "bringing justice" to the Janjaweed, the Arab militias that have participated in atrocities that the president has repeatedly described as nothing less than "genocide."

"He had an understanding of the issue that went beyond simply responding to a briefing that had been given," said David Rubenstein, a participant who was then executive director of the Save Darfur Coalition, which has been sharply critical of the administration's response to the crisis. "He knew more facts than I expected him to know, and he had a broader political perspective than I expected him to have."

Yet a year and a half later, the situation on the ground in Darfur is little changed: More than 2 million displaced Darfuris, including hundreds of thousands in camps, have been unable to return to their homes. The perpetrators of the worst atrocities remain unpunished. Despite a renewed U.N. push, the international peacekeeping troops that Bush has long been seeking have yet to materialize.

Just this weekend, peace talks in Libya aimed at ending the four-year conflict appeared to be foundering because of a boycott by key rebel groups.

Many of those who have tracked the conflict over the years, including some in his own administration, say Bush has not matched his words with action, allowing initiatives to drop because of inertia or failure to follow up, while proving unable to mobilize either his bureaucracy or the international community.

The president who famously promised not to allow another Rwanda-style mass murder on his watch has never fully chosen between those inside his government advocating more pressure on Sudan and those advocating engagement with its Islamist government, so the policy has veered from one approach to another.

Meanwhile, a constant turnover of key administration advisers on Darfur, such as

former deputy secretary of state Robert B. Zoellick and presidential aide Michael Gerson, has made it hard for the administration to maintain focus.

"Bush probably does want something done, but the lack of hands-on follow-up from this White House allowed this to drift," said one former State Department official involved in Darfur who did not want to be quoted by name criticizing the president. "If he says, 'There is not going to be genocide on my watch,' and then 2½ years later we are just getting tough action, what gives? He has made statements, but his administration has not given meaning to those statements."

Since the United States became the first and only government to call the killing in Darfur genocide, Bush and his aides have grappled with how to provide security for civilians in a large, remote area in the heart of Africa.

While almost everyone involved in Darfur policy agrees that an African Union peacekeeping force of just 7,000 troops is not up to the task, the United States has refused to send troops and, despite promises of reinforcements, has yet to secure many additional troops from other countries. At the same time, it has been unable to broker a diplomatic resolution that might ease the violence.

Even Bush has complained privately that his hands are tied on Darfur because, with the U.S. involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan, he cannot be seen as "invading another Muslim country," according to people who have spoken with him about the issue.

"It's impossible to keep Iraq out of this picture," said Edward Mortimer, who served as a top aide to then-U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan and says resentment over Iraq caused many countries to not want to cooperate with the United States on Darfur.

Bush advisers argue that the lack of success reflects the limitations of working through institutions such as the United Nations, NATO and the African Union. They cite the billions of dollars of U.S. relief aid that has kept millions of Sudanese alive. They say U.S. pressure has kept the issue on the world's agenda.

"If there was ever a case study where the president sees the limitations and frustrations of the multilateral organizations, it is the issue of Darfur," said Dan Bartlett, former White House counselor. "Everybody for the most part can come to a consensus: Whether you call it genocide or not, we have an urgent security and humanitarian crisis on our hands. Yet these institutions cannot garner the will or ability to come together to save people."

There is no doubt that responsibility for inaction on Darfur can be spread around. The Sudanese government has resisted cooperation at every step in the saga and has been shielded at the United Nations by China, its main international protector. Few other Western nations, with the notable exception of Britain and some Nordic countries, have shown much interest in resolving the crisis. The process of raising peacekeepers from U.N. members has proved tortuously slow.

"There's an enormous stain on the world's conscience," said Mitchell B. Reiss, former State Department policy planning chief. "We collectively stood by and let it happen a decade after it happened in Rwanda."

A PRESIDENT'S PASSION

In late 2005, Bush gathered his most senior advisers to discuss what to do about Darfur. He wanted to know whether the U.S. military could send in helicopter gunships to attack the militias if they launched new attacks on the refugee camps. Could they also shoot down Sudanese military aircraft if necessary? he asked. His aides worried that

the United States could get involved in another shooting war, and the president backed off.

"He wanted militant action, and people had to restrain him," said one senior official familiar with the episode. "He wanted to go in and kill the Janjaweed."

The meeting underscored both Bush's personal investment in Sudan, dating back to the beginning of his administration, and his instinct, which aides have kept in check, to take direct action.

Many close to Bush believe that this intense interest in the issue was heavily influenced by American evangelicals, who have adopted the cause of Christians in southern Sudan. Even before the crisis in Darfur, in western Sudan, one of Bush's foreign policy goals was to try to end the civil war between the Muslim government in Khartoum and rebels in the south, a conflict that had lasted more than two decades and cost more than 2 million lives.

Former Senator John C. Danforth (R-Mo.), whom Bush appointed as his special envoy for Sudan, said the president's interest in the country is rooted in a larger sense of morality. "This isn't a country that has much strategic interest for the United States," he observed.

Bush's initiative to broker a north-south deal worked. Despite difficult negotiations, Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir agreed in January 2005 to a plan to share power and oil revenues with the rebels—and even gave the south the right to secede in six years if the leadership could not reconcile their differences.

But by then a separate conflict had exploded in Darfur, as long-standing conflicts between African farmers and Arab herders over land, and a failure by the Khartoum government to redress local grievances, boiled over into armed rebellion.

The government turned to a tactic it had employed in fighting the southern rebels: arming local Arab militias, the Janjaweed, to carry out a counterinsurgency on its behalf. The militias rampaged throughout Darfur starting in mid-2003, burning hundreds of villages, raping women and summarily executing African villagers, according to numerous human rights reports. More than 200,000 people have died in Darfur since the crisis erupted, according to U.N. estimates. Some estimates place the figure as high as 450,000.

Many familiar with Sudan believe that Bush and his aides initially averted their gaze to the flaring violence in Darfur because raising the issue might interfere with the difficult negotiations with Bashir. Some U.S. officials saw another reason for the reluctance to get involved: preserving a burgeoning intelligence relationship with Khartoum, which had begun sharing critical information about al-Qaeda and other Islamic extremists.

"There was a tendency not to see Darfur initially for what it was," said Gerard Gallucci, who served in 2003 and 2004 as the top U.S. diplomat in Khartoum. It was well known among Western governments, he said, that Sudan "was using terror to cleanse black Muslim Africans from land that they had promised the Janjaweed."

Such claims are vigorously contested by Danforth and other Bush advisers, who say the president repeatedly warned Bashir about the consequences of sending Arab militias after defenseless civilians.

Over time, Bush has become increasingly outspoken about the situation in Darfur, raising the issue with foreign leaders and meeting privately with dissidents and other little-known political players in Sudan to encourage a solution. In recent months, he has singled out Bashir for harsh condemnation, accusing him of subverting efforts to bring peace to Darfur.

Meeting with the Darfur activists, Bush acknowledged that Sudan had cooperated in anti-terrorism initiatives—but he insisted that Khartoum could not “buy off” the United States, Rubenstein said.

Last spring, when the White House worked on a new plan to try to press Sudan’s government to accept international peacekeepers, it was the president himself who was the driving force in the interagency process, many officials involved the debate said. According to national security adviser Stephen J. Hadley, Bush refused to accept a program developed to confront Sudan because he was concerned that it was not tough enough. He kicked it back to the bureaucracy.

“I’ve had it with this incrementalism,” Hadley quoted the president as saying in the Oval Office. “We’re going to lead, and if people don’t want to follow us, they’re going to have to stand up and explain why they are willing to let women continue to be raped in Darfur.”

At one point, one senior official said, Bush wanted action to crimp Sudan’s booming oil business, a move that would have severely aggravated relations with China—and that no one else in the government favored.

There was stunned silence in the room, the official said, when Hadley disclosed Bush’s idea to other government officials. Hadley made clear he was not interested in having a discussion, but the administration never went as far as the president seemed to be demanding. Instead, Treasury officials came up with a sanctions plan aimed at tracking and squeezing key individuals and companies in the Sudanese economy, including the oil business.

I want to thank the gentlewoman from California, my good friend BARBARA LEE, for her leadership on so many issues. As we come to the floor tonight, I want to thank her for her work that she has done in Darfur and thank her for joining me again in this hour.

As has been said previously, there were three pieces of legislation on Darfur that were voted on on the floor today, and one of those resolutions happened to be a resolution authored by my colleague and good friend SHEILA JACKSON-LEE from the great State of Texas.

She has had many great opportunities to take the lead on some of these issues as well. I have to say she and BARBARA LEE have been wonderful about helping me with this CBC message hour every week.

I am happy to yield to my colleague and good friend SHEILA JACKSON-LEE of Houston, Texas.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Thank you, Madam Chairman and Madam Manager. I think it is appropriate to congratulate and to thank you again for giving us the opportunity to provide a face on the work of the Congressional Black Caucus and to thank our chairwoman, the Honorable CAROLYN KILPATRICK, for working with us to continue to show the efforts being made that have such a vast array of impact. Let me thank the distinguished Speaker this evening for her leadership as well as we work together.

I am grateful that my first efforts with the Honorable Congressman BARBARA LEE was an historic trip that we took some years ago as the first Presi-

dential trip or major statement before the Marshall Plan on HIV/AIDS. I cite that to say that it can be done. You can get your hands around a major devastating killer. HIV/AIDS is a killer. It continues to kill in Africa. But yet there is the Millennium Account, there are a number of issues that address the question of HIV/AIDS. Part of it was out of the trip that Congresswoman BARBARA LEE and myself and Congresswoman KILPATRICK went on some years ago.

□ 2015

And so as I stand here today to acknowledge the Congressional Black Caucus, I want to reinforce the fact of the number of Members who were arrested of the organized campaign to respond to the pain of what is going on, and the legislative initiatives and the work we did with Congresswoman LEE on the divestiture bill. And I, too, believe it is long overdue that this bill should move and be signed by the President of the United States.

Just this past summer, I led a delegation with the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) and the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH) to go into Darfur and get into the soul and the soil of Darfur and begin to realize and to emphasize the importance of moving on the peacekeepers.

We were the first American delegation to go in right after the recognition that the peacekeepers should come in and the agreement by the government in Khartoum, as represented to us by the U.N., that they had agreed to peacekeepers. We went in, and not only did we go to Darfur, Sudan, but we went to Tunisia and Algeria and Ethiopia, and we asked each governing body to provide troops to the peacekeeping effort through the African Union because it was a serious effort.

But what we found most of all was red tape. I want to put a human face on these refugee camps: 2.4 million displaced. The genocide in Darfur has destroyed well over 60 percent of the villages in Darfur, displaced over 2 million people, killed an estimated 400,000 and driven 200,000 into Chad, and that is a separate story in talking about the physical and emotional and financial burden of the refugees on Chad and the conflict that is rising up in Chad because of the refugees.

Today the House considered H. Res. 740, which condemned in the strongest terms the recent attacks on African Union peacekeepers that occurred in Haskanita, Darfur, Sudan, on September 29, 2007. I introduced this bill along with the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT), and 55 Members joined me in this. They recognized that we are not going to make any steps of success to put a human face on the suffering. We are not going to be able to pull that suffering back, to be able to quash the janjaweed, to be able to separate the rebels, to prevent some of the tragic stories that I heard.

We sat in the refugee camps to listen to the women who spoke about their

plight. This is a growing Rwanda. And I remember people saying, “Never again, not on my watch.” I remember the horror of recognizing the inaction of this government, the American Government as related to the crisis in Rwanda. Then it was we did not know. Now we have the backdrop of Rwanda. Thank God Rwanda is moving to a country of stability and overcoming their horrific crisis. But after a million deaths, is that what we want to see after 400,000 have died, over 2 million displaced, 2.4 million displaced, children whose birth weight is far below the average because of limited amount of access to food and water? In essence, there is a degree of malnutrition, even though I want to give great thanks to the NGOs, but it is just not enough. These people need food and health care and water and the ability to survive.

Yet we are seeing the constant dust up of the violence around the camps. We saw it firsthand, and it is important that these troops are able to come in without the violence. Let me just cite the incident that occurred on September 29. An estimated 1,000 members of a heavily armed Darfur rebel group in 30 vehicles, armed with heavy artillery and mortars overran a small base in Darfur, Sudan, which was occupied by the African Union mission peacekeepers. The ambush resulted in several hours of intense fighting that killed 10 peacekeepers and wounded many others.

According to U.N. estimates in the aftermath of this brutal attack, which was described by the African Union commander as deliberate and sustained, 15,000 civilians fled the area to neighboring towns or the wilderness fearing for their safety. And in the wilderness, there is nothing but death. There is violence by the janjaweed and rebels not in line with the peacekeeping mission. There is devastation, lack of water. There is lack of food. There is death. And the 15,000 that fled were the elderly, women with children and families.

Madam Speaker, this is what is going on in Sudan and so it is important for the Congressional Black Caucus to list a number of efforts, including the divestiture, including a number of initiatives, putting ourselves forward to protest at the Sudanese Embassy.

Let me say the recent ambassador that I discussed this matter with seemed to care, seemed to want to do something. But my words are that you can’t want to do something; you must do something.

So here you can see the landscape. Although it reflects the landscape of Sudan generally, this is a compound where people are confined and these children have nowhere to go. They have no life. They have no games. They have no way of looking to the future. As you see, this group of children, there are thousands upon thousands upon thousands of children. Babies being born as well. And, therefore, these babies are being born with limited health care, malnutrition. And it

is important to note that they are struggling under these conditions.

This is a mother and child. They are trying to make mud bricks so they don't have to go out beyond the parameters of the refugee camp because that is when these women are attacked. Their livelihood is dependent on getting firewood as they did 50, maybe 100 years ago. Every time they go out to get firewood, the women are subjected to rape. The men cannot go because they may be killed, so the women go. They scavenge the land. It is completely barren because you have 2.4 million people living in one compound trying to survive. So they have come up with a creative way to try to use the mud to keep the fire going so they don't have to go out as much. This is the condition. This is where they cook. This is the communal cooking area. I can assure you, as loving as this mother is, that the food is so limited it may be one meal a day. It may be a porridge because of the limit of wildlife, access to meat and vegetables, and these are the conditions.

I will say to you that the people are resilient, but they are looking to us to do something, and the question is: What are we going to do? These are the women who I sat down with trying to make baskets to sell. I listened to their stories about the intrusions at night coming into the camps, going into their living quarters and attacking them. And only through their screams did they have men and others come to scare away the attackers. So they are not safe from rape even in these villages. This is a crime against humanity.

Those of us who believe in the sanctity of human life, the abhorrence of rape and violence, this is a disgrace of what these women are facing. I, too, join in reflecting in the words and the headlines in *The Washington Post*, "U.S. Promises on Darfur Don't Match Actions."

But what I want to say to the Commander in Chief who has just asked for some \$46 billion or more for the Iraq war when our soldiers have already done their job and the American people want them home, what we want to see done is where the benevolence of the United States can help get something accomplished, where people are looking for our safety net, and our technical help with the peacekeepers can make a difference.

Listen to these words from the former director of the Darfur Coalition who I have worked with, and I thank him and thank them for their leadership. Bush insisted there must be consequences for rape and murder, and he called for international troops on the ground to protect innocent Darfuris. According to contemporaneous notes by one present, he spoke of bringing justice to the janjaweed, the Arab militia, that has participated in atrocities that the President has repeatedly described as nothing less than genocide.

Congresswoman JONES, you remember it was the Congressional Black

Caucus sitting down with Secretary Colin Powell, and I thank him for what he did, but colleagues like our chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa, DONALD PAYNE, claimed this was genocide, called this genocide many months before. But it was our persistence to meet with the Secretary of State, to sit down in a meeting at which he came, and at that meeting he made the statement which he then made public that he had determined this was genocide based on the pursuit, the pressure, the information, the agitation, the advocacy of members of the CBC and of course other colleagues in the Democratic Caucus and of course in the Republican Caucus, because this is a bipartisan issue.

So the Secretary of State Colin Powell announced, I believe in 2004, that this was genocide by this government. So the President recognized what was happening, and the article goes on to say that the White House, President Bush, had an understanding of the issue that went beyond simple responding to a briefing that had been given, said David Rubinstein, a participant who was then executive director of the Save Darfur Coalition, which has been sharply critical of the administration's response to the crisis.

He knew more facts than I expected him to know, and he had a broader political perspective than I expected him to know. Yet a year and a half later, having known all of this information, the situation as you reported on the ground in Darfur is little changed, and more than 2 million people remain displaced. The question is that if we know all of this, if the administration knows all of this, if we have declared genocide, it is imperative that we act.

In my visit in August, I could see there was no action. There was no action in the south to settle that down so rebels are scattered. There are now multiple rebel groups, and then there is the conflict with the janjaweed.

I think tonight what we wanted to do was to reconfirm and reaffirm the Congressional Black Caucus is not going to let this rest. We are not going to suffer the indignities that these people are experiencing and suffering. We are going to call on our colleagues in the Congress. We are going to thank Speaker PELOSI and Leader HOYER and Majority Whip CLYBURN, Chairman EMANUEL and Vice Chairman LARSON and our leadership in the Congressional Black Caucus, which I am proud to serve as whip, our leadership, that what I believe we need now is for this administration to move on getting the peacekeepers on the ground, to not take no for an answer, to help move the U.N. so they can join with the African Union peacekeepers, because it is clear we need additional help other than the African Union troops. We must have additional help.

The last thing I want to say, we have friends and allies, and they include members of the Arab League and China. We cannot continue to have our

allies empower and embolden the Khartoum Government without solving this problem. If they think 2.4 million people are okay and nothing is happening, I am here to tell you they are wrong. Rape and pillage and suffering is going on. I ask on this floor for the U.N. and the new Secretary General to take a firm stand to move U.N. peacekeepers in now and to help the AMIS effort, the African Union peacekeepers now, and have these people move back to their places of residence and to solve the violence and the viciousness going on in Darfur. Enough of genocide and enough of the travesty on human rights.

I include the remainder of *The Washington Post* article dated September 29, 2007, for the RECORD.

WAY OF SENDING TROOPS

At an appearance in Tennessee this summer, Bush raised a question many have asked about the situation in Darfur: "If there is a problem, why don't you just go take care of it?" But Bush said he considered—and decided against—sending U.S. troops unilaterally. "It just wasn't the right decision," he said.

With the United States tied down in Iraq and Afghanistan, skepticism about using U.S. soldiers, even in a limited way, cut across agencies and bodies that often disagree, from the State Department to the Pentagon to Vice President Cheney's office, according to many current and former officials.

Advisers say Bush came to accept, albeit grudgingly, the arguments against using U.S. military assets—especially the possibility that they might attract al-Qaeda. "In my mind, there would never be enough troops to impose order on this place," former secretary of state Colin L. Powell said in an interview. "The only way to resolve this problem was for there to be a political settlement between the rebels and the government."

Sharing this belief was Powell's bureaucratic nemesis, then-Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, who advocated sending troops to Iraq but not to the middle of Africa, according to many officials in the government.

This aversion to any use of force was frustrating to some lower-ranking government officials, who saw a modest U.S. military effort as indispensable to making the Sudanese take American diplomacy seriously. Early in the crisis, in the summer of 2004, the U.S. mission in Khartoum made clear to Washington its belief that the African Union was incapable of dealing with the security problem in Darfur on its own.

It recommended that several hundred U.S. troops help fly in African Union forces and provide other assistance, according to a former State Department official. The idea was never seriously entertained, the official said, and it was not until two years later that the United States began making efforts at the United Nations to bolster the over-matched African mission.

Roger Winter, a former State Department official who was intimately involved with Sudan policy during the Bush administration, argues that the United States has never been serious about pressuring the Sudanese government. "They know what we will do and what we won't do," he said. "And they don't respond unless there is a credible threat. And they haven't viewed everything that has happened up until now as credible."

CARROTS VS. STICKS

Over the course of the conflict, Bush has found himself torn between different factions

in his administration over how to handle Sudan—whether, simply put, to try carrots or sticks.

In early 2006, Bush empowered Zoellick to seek a peace deal between Khartoum and the Darfur rebel groups. Zoellick, now president of the World Bank, was essentially pursuing what one senior U.S. official described as a policy of engagement with the Sudanese government, even though the Bush administration believed it was involved in perpetrating the atrocities in Darfur.

Zoellick worked closely with senior Sudanese officials and dangled the possibility of improved relations and other incentives should Khartoum cooperate in bringing peace to Darfur. And he came close to pulling it off: An agreement to end the violence was negotiated in the spring of 2006, but it fell apart after key rebel leaders refused to sign on.

Some U.S. officials say Bush never completely bought into Zoellick's approach. He seems to have been influenced in that regard by Gerson, the then-speech writer who was given a wide-ranging policy berth in the early part of Bush's second term.

Gerson, now a Washington Post columnist, is a devout Christian who was especially animated by the part of the Bush agenda that focused on alleviating suffering in Africa. He traveled to Sudan with Zoellick in late 2005, a trip that included a meeting with Bashir, and came back convinced that Khartoum was not seriously interested in efforts to improve conditions in Darfur.

"There was always a series of incremental steps, and nothing changed on the ground," Gerson said later.

Returning to Washington, Gerson told Bush that Bashir was feeling no pressure to cooperate and that the African Union peacekeepers were not up to the task of protecting civilians. He also suggested that it might be useful to establish a no-fly zone to prevent the Sudanese government from flying bombing missions in support of Janjaweed attacks.

Several months later, Gerson sent Bush some articles criticizing the U.S. approach as anemic, and Bush summoned his aide to the Oval Office, a little hot under the collar because he did not agree with the criticism. But he assured Gerson, as the former aide remembers, "I want you to know we are acting on this."

In February 2006, Bush proposed using NATO forces to help quickly bolster the beleaguered African Union mission. The president seemed so excited about the idea that he mentioned it, almost casually, in response to a question about Uganda during a public appearance in Florida. The statement stunned some in the U.S. bureaucracy.

But even Bush's efforts to promote the idea did little to move the process along. The French were leery of a new NATO mission outside its normal sphere of operations, and there was no interest from Sudan or the African Union in a major role for this quintessentially Western military alliance, according to U.S. officials. The plan went nowhere.

Now, 20 months later, with Zoellick and Gerson gone, new administration figures are working with other countries on new plans for peace and peacekeepers in Darfur. Given the track record, those who have handled Darfur over the years are cautious.

"Overall," concluded John R. Bolton, the former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, "Sudan is a case where there's a lot of international rhetoric and no stomach for real action."

Madam Speaker, the genocide in Darfur has taken a horrific toll on that region of Sudan. It has destroyed well over 60 percent of the vil-

lages in Darfur, displaced over 2 million people, killed an estimated 400,000, and driven 200,000 into refugee camps in neighboring Chad.

Today the House considered H. Res. 740, condemning in the strongest terms the attacks on African Union peacekeepers that occurred in Haskanita, Darfur, Sudan, on September 29, 2007, which I introduced, together with my good friend and distinguished colleague, Mr. CHABOT. This measure was cosponsored by 55 of my colleagues, and it passed the House by voice vote.

Since 2003, we have witnessed a systematic campaign of displacement, starvation, rape, mass murder, and terror in the western Sudanese region of Darfur. In the worst humanitarian crisis of our time, an estimated 400,000 people have been killed in Darfur by the Government of Sudan and its Janjaweed allies. An additional 2,000,000 people have been displaced from their homes and livelihoods. Both the House of Representatives and the Senate declared that the atrocities in Darfur constitute genocide in July 2004, and the Bush administration reached the same conclusion in September 2004.

However, three years later, the situation in Darfur continues to deteriorate. The United Nations reported a substantial decline in the humanitarian situation during the first three months of 2007, during which time 21 humanitarian vehicles were hijacked, 15 additional vehicles were looted, and gunmen raided 6 humanitarian compounds. The security situation makes it extremely difficult for aid organizations to reach vulnerable populations, and, in the 12 months preceding April 2007, the number of humanitarian relief workers in Darfur decreased by 16 percent, largely due to security concerns, restrictions on access, and funding limitations. The flow of humanitarian aid has been severely threatened by the escalating violence in the region.

Since 2004, a small contingent of African Union peacekeepers have been deployed to Darfur, responsible for maintaining security in a region roughly the size of France. The 7,000 peacekeepers under the banner of the African Union Mission in Sudan, or AMIS, have displayed exemplary courage and resilience, but they are woefully outmanned and outgunned, as well as chronically short of funding. Recognizing the near-collapse of the AU Mission, the United Nations, in July 2007, approved a UN-AU hybrid peacekeeping mission, to be known as UNAMID, which is meant to take over from AMIS shortly.

The AMIS peacekeeping mission recently encountered yet another significant setback. On September 29, 2007, an estimated 1,000 members of a heavily armed Darfur rebel group, in 30 vehicles armed with heavy artillery and mortars, overran a small base in Haskanita, Darfur, Sudan, which was occupied by AMIS peacekeepers. The ambush resulted in several hours of intense fighting that killed ten peacekeepers—seven Nigerian peacekeepers and three other soldiers from Mali, Senegal, and Botswana—and wounded many others.

According to UN estimates, in the aftermath of this brutal attack, which was described by the African Union commander as "deliberate and sustained," 15,000 civilians fled the area to neighboring towns or the wilderness, fearing for their safety. This attack is considered to be the worst on AMIS peacekeepers since their

deployment in July 2004. The United Nations Security Council condemned this "murderous attack" on AMIS peacekeepers, and demanded that "no effort be spared" to identify and bring to justice the perpetrators of this assault.

Only recently, during the August recess, I had the opportunity to lead a Congressional Delegation (CODEL) to Darfur. This was the first CODEL to the region since the announcement of the joint UN/AU peacekeeping force. Along with my colleagues Mr. CHABOT, who joins me as the lead Republican cosponsor of this legislation, and Mr. SMITH, I had the opportunity to meet with government officials, civil society leaders, international aid workers, and affected civilians, as well as with the African Union peacekeepers responsible for protecting Darfur. I saw first hand the immense suffering of the people of Darfur, as well as the enormous strain on the courageous but outnumbered AU peacekeepers.

I strongly condemn recent attacks on African Union peacekeepers. This legislation also expresses the condolences of this House to the people and Governments of Nigeria, Mali, Senegal, and Botswana, the families and friends of those individuals who were killed or missing in the attacks, and expresses its sympathies to those individuals who have been injured. It expresses the solidarity of the people and Government of the United States with the African Union and the African Union peacekeepers as they recover from these attacks, and the readiness of Congress to support efforts to bring to justice those individuals responsible for the attacks and efforts to detect, pursue, disrupt, and dismantle the networks that plan and carry out such attacks.

My legislation also looks forward, to the process of bringing about a peace settlement for Darfur. Crucial though effective peacekeeping forces are, they are no substitute for a serious and sustained peace process. Consequently, this bill also expresses its support for the people of Darfur, Sudan, in their continued struggle against extremism and violence and support for their efforts to secure a permanent peace, justice, and return to their restored villages and homes, and it encourages all parties involved in the conflict to commit to negotiate a final and binding peace agreement at the peace talks, which began on October 27, 2007, in Tripoli, Libya.

Early reports from these negotiations have not been promising. With key rebel groups boycotting the peace talks, media reports indicate that mediators will now have to travel to Darfur to meet with rebel leaders before actual peace agreements can be reached. Despite these setbacks, UN Special Envoy Jan Eliasson has maintained optimism, saying yesterday "I refuse to state that the peace process is interrupted."

In Darfur, rape has been an important aspect of the genocide. Women and girls have been targeted specifically as spoils of war. Though it is impossible to know or even estimate exact numbers of rape victims, particularly in light of the Government of Sudan's practice of harassing or even detaining representatives of organizations attempting to report such statistics, they would certainly be extremely high.

In Darfur, rape is linked to racial slurs. When rape victims were interviewed by human rights workers, they reported hearing Janjaweed militia and Sudanese soldiers shouting their intent—to rape the women and girls, forcing them to have Arab children. According to a Refugees International report, one woman interviewed in a refugee camp in Chad said that a Janjaweed militiaman who raped her told her: “I will give you a light-skinned baby to take this land from you.”

One Sudanese human rights activist has noted, “The war in Darfur is centered on identity, and rape is being used as a weapon of war in the struggle for the identity of the region. Women have a very important role in Darfur’s culture, and rape destroys not only a woman but her tribe.”

Though many survivors of these attacks are able to find their way to displaced persons camps, they remain at risk. Many women and girls are attacked when they leave the relative security of the camps to collect firewood and other necessities. When women living in refugee camps were asked why they went to fetch water and risk rape rather than the men, they answered, “If we let the men go, they will be killed. It is better for us to be raped than for our husbands to be killed.”

Today, the House also considered H. Res. 726, introduced by my colleague, Congresswoman DELAURO, which I was proud to co-sponsor. This resolution draws attention to this savage practice, and it calls on the President, the Secretary General of the United Nations, and the United Nations Security Council to take measures to provide assistance to these victims, to fully fund the UN Mission in Darfur, and to find the government of Sudan in non-compliance with Security Council Resolution 1325. It also calls upon the government of Sudan, responsible for unleashing this madness on the women and girls of Darfur, to provide full legal protection to the victims of rape and to bring the perpetrators to justice.

The international community must do much, much more to protect the women and girls of Darfur, to meet the needs of those who have already been sexually abused or raped, and to finally bring this horrific conflict to an end. The deployment of the hybrid UN/AU peacekeeping force is a necessary and important step, but it is no substitute for a serious and sustained peace process.

□ 2030

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I want to thank both of my colleagues for their leadership. Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON-LEE, all that you’ve done around this issue and so many other issues, thank you so much and again for joining me as we do this Congressional Black Caucus message hour.

I’m so pleased today that the House passed the three resolutions on Darfur. One of them, H. Res. 573, recognizing and commending the efforts of the United States public and advocacy groups to raise awareness about and help end the worsening humanitarian crisis and genocide in Darfur, Sudan, and for other purposes.

H. Res. 726, calling on the President of the United States and the inter-

national community to take immediate steps to respond to and prevent acts of rape and sexual violence against women and girls in Darfur, Sudan, eastern Chad and the Central African Republic.

And, finally, H. Res. 740, condemning in the strongest terms the attacks on African Union peacekeepers that occurred in Haskanita, Darfur, Sudan, on September 29, 2007.

I want to reference back for a moment to the person that Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON-LEE mentioned and that was my friend from ECOWAS, and ECOWAS is an acronym for the Economic Commission of West African States, and my friend who went to Case Western Reserve Law School as I did is Dr. Muhammad Chambas. Was there something else you wanted to say about Dr. Chambas?

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. If the gentlelady would yield, first of all, to thank him for sharing his insight and his leadership and thank you for allowing us to have that opportunity, and just to be able to emphasize, he was firm that he wanted and needed and thought that they needed more help. And that help was, of course, the United States, the U.N., and a number of other countries.

And I’d just like to finish by saying, as there may be those listening, I would encourage as you mentioned that resolution about thanking the various advocacy groups to continue their work and to reach out to the college campuses, because I remember speaking at the University of Nevada. They are there; they want to work. College campuses can be the agitation to get this government to move, to continue the light on the genocide in Darfur.

And I thank you for yielding to me just to be able to say, college students, get about the business because you can make a difference. Organize Save Darfur Coalitions on your campus, and call and write and e-mail about the crisis in Darfur.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. The Congresswoman is referencing H. Res. 573, and I want to add my comments to encourage the young people on the college campuses across this country. Many of us recognize in the history of the United States many of the great movements were begun by young people, by students sitting at lunch counters and just the involvement of so many young people.

One of the things that people often have said about young people these days is that they’re self-centered and only concerned about what’s going on in their own lives. I found that not to be true, and I had the opportunity even as recently as this weekend, I happened to be in Iowa campaigning for my candidate for President.

And while I was campaigning there, campaigning for Senator CLINTON, I met with a group of young University

of Iowa students who were complaining about the fact that nothing has happened in Darfur and that they are expecting this government to step up on their behalf.

So I want to join my colleague in commending college students, as well as all of the nonprofit organizations across the world who are trying to focus a light or shine a light on what’s happening in Darfur.

I want to talk for a moment about the whole issue of sex crimes against women and girls in Darfur. One of the worst things to happen to a woman, and particularly a young woman, is for her to be sexually abused or raped.

We recognize in this country the impact that this has had. In fact, we recognize it such that we passed the VAWA Act which is the Violence Against Women Act, to help address the issue of violence against women.

When you begin to think about the fact that there are thousands of women and girls in these various refugee camps and the things that happen, all we need do is to focus on what happened with Katrina. We had people of the United States of America in a football stadium, and the stories about what happened to young women that were raped right there in Louisiana, in New Orleans, being raped. So you can imagine, if you exponentially take a look at that and see how many thousands of women and children are there, and these women venture out just to get things to help themselves and to continue to live and the fact that they would be subjected to rape and others does not make sense.

I can only think about that movie, “Time to Kill,” where that young girl in the South who was like 7 or 8 years old got raped by three men and raped her such that she was never able to have any children. It just makes no sense that we would not focus, and let me give you a few statistics.

During war, rape and sexual violence are often used systematically as a weapon of intimidation, humiliation, terror and ethnic cleansing. We know right here in America that generally rape is not about sex. It really is about being in control, being in charge. It has nothing to do with the sexual act itself. I won’t say “nothing.” In many instances, when you’re involving children, it does in fact have to do with the sexual act, but it means being in charge.

It’s estimated that between 250,000 and 500,000 women and girls were raped during the genocide in Rwanda. On September 2, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda found Jean-Paul Akayesu guilty of rape and held that rape and sexual assault constitute crimes against humanity.

On October 31, the United Nations Security Council adopted Security Council Resolution 1325, calling on all parties to an armed conflict to take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse.

The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which entered into force July 1, 2002, states that rape and any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity may constitute both crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Since 2003, mass rape committed by members of the Sudanese armed forces and affiliated militia with the support of the Government of Sudan has been a central component of the Government of Sudan's violence and ethnic cleansing in Darfur.

Can you imagine this is the army, the militia of a country just having their way, going into camps and violating women and girls, thousands of women and girls who have been violated as a result.

Women and girls leaving internally displaced persons camp in Darfur and refugee camps in Eastern Chad to seek firewood, water or outside sources of income are often attacked and subjected to rape. My colleague already spoke to that issue. It is just outrageous that this could continue to happen.

On March 9, 2007, members of the United States-United Nations High Level Mission on the Situation of Human Rights in Darfur reported that rape and sexual assault have been widespread and systematic, terrorizing women and breaking down families and communities and that women are also attacked in and around refugee camps in eastern Chad.

Think about this: systemic, widespread, terrorizing of women and girls. Systemic. That is just something that I can't even imagine that we would continue to allow happen in another country. We know how great the impact of rape and sexual assault on women and girls in our country over time, and imagine what it would be in a country where they don't have available to them what our women and girls have available to us. Be it counseling, medical care, long-term mental health counseling, it just doesn't happen.

So I'm just so happy that the House passed by way of suspension bills today three resolutions around Sudan.

Finally, I think that what I would say at this point is that the people of America and all of these nonprofit organizations and the children across this country, women and children and students, must stand up. They must speak up about what's going on in Darfur, and you all know that old statement, that piece of speech that someone gave, and I can't think of the author, and it said, if you're quiet when they come for other people, who's going to speak up when they come for you? And that is what we should all be

thinking about, that we need to speak up on behalf of the people of Darfur and say enough is enough; we're not going to have this happen anymore.

The United States, under the leadership of George Bush, who's been talking loud and saying nothing on this issue and not moving forward, should move forward to make sure that there are people and peacekeepers going into this area and making sure that these people are taken care of.

With that, I would again commend the Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, Congresswoman CAROLYN CHEEKS KILPATRICK, for her leadership and thank her for giving me the opportunity to lead the Congressional Black Caucus message hour every Monday evening and to give us the opportunity to step up, speak out, and really shine a light on issues that the Congressional Black Caucus is concerned about and that the people of America, regardless of their color, are concerned about.

Again, thank you very much, Madam Speaker. It's always good to be leading a Special Order when you're in the chair. I thank you for your leadership as well.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, today we recognize the ongoing loss of life occurring in Darfur. I would like to restate my unconditional support and commitment to advancing peace and security for the people of Darfur. I implore my colleagues in Congress to join me in urging the Sudanese government to take decisive action to address this tragedy. This quite simply is a matter of Life and Death and as the destruction of hope and possibilities continues to erode away at a people who are calling out for help. These atrocities continue to mount in the Sudan as our Administration continues to pump billions of dollars into Iraq and redirects greatly needed resources away from this unnecessary tragedy. The conflict in Sudan began as a genocide against tribes of small farmers in its Darfur region over five years ago. Militia groups have slaughtered an estimated 400,000 people and driven 2.5 million people from their homes. There has been an increase in civilian killings and large scale attacks in Darfur. The rape and torture of women and children remains a constant concern on a daily basis. Thousands have moved to displacement camps which contain their own level of violence with guns being readily available and tensions in Darfur continuing to grow every day. The African Union peace keeping troops who have put up a courageous fight have lacked the proper resources and manpower needed to contain the growing threat. Equipped only with light weapons, they are no match for the heavily armed rebels. They are undermanned and outgunned and in desperate need of advanced weapons and helicopters to properly engage with the Militia.

In May, Nobel Peace Prize winner and Holocaust survivor Elie Weisel called Darfur "the capital of suffering." He called on all of us to "tell the victims they are not alone." Violence continues in Darfur, as the Sudanese government attacked two internally displaced camps in the past week. On October 19, the Militia attacked the Kalma refugee camp, the largest in Darfur. Additionally, on Oct. 22, the Hamidiya camp near the town of Zalengei was attacked in a series of clashes between gov-

ernment troops and rebel groups. The killings of African Union peacekeepers and World Food Programme contract drivers combined with detentions of humanitarian workers in the conflict-ridden Darfur region of western Sudan are just a few examples of a deteriorating situation, which is prompting increased anxiety by those affected by the ongoing crisis, as well as by those responding to the emergency. From June until late August, the United Nations reported, an estimated 55,000 new persons had been displaced in the region—bringing the total number of those uprooted this year to some 250,000. In all, the UN estimates, 2.2 million of Darfur's 6.4 million people have been displaced, and four million are now dependent on some form of humanitarian assistance.

While almost everyone involved in Darfur policy agrees that an African Union peacekeeping force of just 7,000 troops is not up to the task, the United States has refused to send troops and, despite promises of reinforcements, has yet to secure many additional troops from other countries. At the same time, it has been unable to broker a diplomatic resolution that might ease the violence. There is no doubt that what is taking place in Darfur is genocide, and the government of Sudan and the Janjaweed bear responsibility. Congress and the Administration must support legislation to address this most pressing human rights issue. We must move beyond the rhetoric and take action to save the lives of the people who are struggling each day with this horrific conflict. We must leave politics aside and support legislation such as H. Res. 573, which recognizes and commends the efforts of U.S. advocacy groups to raise awareness about and help end the worsening crisis in Darfur; We must also support H. Res. 740, which condemns the brutal attack on African Union peacekeepers that occurred in Haskanita, Darfur one month ago today. This violent act, carried out by rebels, took the lives of 10 peacekeepers—seven Nigerians and three other soldiers from Mali, Senegal, and Botswana; and finally H. Res. 726, a resolution calling on the President and the international community to take immediate steps to respond to and prevent acts of rape and sexual violence against the most innocent of Darfur's victims—young girls and women.

We must continue to provide security and support for the courageous humanitarian workers, who risk their lives daily. Their commitment to this struggle has been exemplarily in the face of danger. We must also take this opportunity to unite and stop these crimes against humanity. We can not allow our past failures to identify genocide in places such as in Rwanda, Bosnia, and elsewhere to exist ever again.

HEALTH CARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor of the House tonight as I frequently do to talk a little bit about health care.

Tonight, I will be filling the leadership hour of the minority side, and I

certainly thank the House leadership for providing me the opportunity to speak to the Chamber over this hour and talk a little bit about health care, perhaps give a little bit of historical context, perhaps talk a little bit about our current situation, perhaps talk about the prospects for change in the future, talk about what principles are important to maintain in a health care system, whether it be public or private, the principles of affordability, accountability and advancements.

Madam Speaker, I hope to spend part of this hour talking about the things that I think will improve the delivery of health care in this country, regardless of who the payer is, because we are perhaps perched on a historical time.

Madam Speaker, I believe with all my heart that we are perched on a transformational time in American medicine, a time that we've seen perhaps similarities with before, perhaps three times in the last century. We'll detail those in just a moment, but it is a time like any other.

When the rapidity of the scientific information is coming at such a rate, the rapidity of scientific change is coming at such a rate, and at the same time we're poised to perhaps have a significant impact on the delivery of health care in this country by how we craft our public health policy, our health policy in this body, think about in the preceding century we had three, I believe, transformational times in the 20th century.

You think about the status of medicine in the days of the late 1800s leading up to the early 1900s, and it was not always a pretty sight. Blistering, burning, and bleeding were treatments that were not only tolerated; they were, in fact, embraced by the medical mainstream, the best minds in medicine at that time. But those heroic efforts were beginning to be supplanted by people who rigorously applied the scientific method and began to investigate as to whether or not these heroic methods were, in fact, yielding or returning a positive benefit for the patient. In fact, they found that they were not.

And at the same time, you had scientists working on concepts such as sterility, sterility during surgery, vaccinations, improvements in public health, sanitational water supplies, as well as just a decade before you had the introduction of anesthesia which, obviously, radically changed the prospects for being able to perform surgery.

□ 2045

There was also a crisis of confidence in American medicine, because there was no standardization in American medical schools. They were all over the map as far as their embracing scientific method or scientific philosophy. This body, the United States Congress, in 1910, commissioned a study that was ultimately called the Flexner Report, which detailed the problems inherent in American medical schools and how

value to the patient could be improved by standardizing the training and making the training more rigorous and adhering to the scientific process.

Well, not quite midway through the century, in the 1940s, we saw, again, a transformational change occurring in American medicine. How did this change come about? Actually, there were some discoveries that preceded the 1940s by a little bit. Sir Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin in 1928. At the time, it was just more or less a laboratory curiosity that the growth of a mold in a Petri dish could inhibit the growth of a bacteria, but it was American ingenuity and American know-how that took this concept and made possible the distillation and production of large amounts of this compound.

Prior to the 1940s and prior to the intervention of American know-how, only small amounts of penicillin were available. Again, it was more of a laboratory curiosity than a useful treatment that could be made available to a broad spectrum of patients.

With the introduction of new techniques for bringing this medicine to the public, large amounts of medicine were made available, the price plummeted and, as a consequence, we ushered in the new antibiotic age in the early part of the 1940s. It was terribly significant. Many of our soldiers who were wounded during the invasion of Normandy on D-Day had wounds that ultimately would have been much more serious had infection become a problem, but now, because of the availability of penicillin, many of those infections could be treated, life and limb could be saved and spared. It was, indeed, a change that medicine had not previously seen.

There was another rather dramatic development during the 1940s, about the same time, Percy Julian, who was an African American scientist who we honored in this body during the last Congress. He didn't discover cortisone. Cortisone had previously been discovered but was only available by a labor-intensive process. You had to get it from the adrenal glands of an ox.

Cortisone was very difficult to obtain, very expensive and really wasn't available to treat much in the way of a large number of patients. It was available only as an experimental effort.

But Dr. Julian, who had experimented in biochemistry for a number of years and worked extensively with soybeans and soybean products, found a way to make a precursor to cortisone and, in fact, found a way to apply this for the commercial production of cortisone. Suddenly, this medicine, this miracle drug which had been available only in very small supply and terribly expensive, now became generally available to treat patients.

So we had the advent of anti-infective agents in the antibiotics and anti-inflammatory agents with cortisone, all of which occurred around the mid-1940s. What else happened in the mid-1940s? Of course, we were a country at

war. As a consequence, the workforce in this country was severely contracted. In an effort to keep employees, what employees were available on the job, employers wanted to pay higher and higher wages to keep the employees there and keep them satisfied.

But the Federal Government, the President of the United States, President Roosevelt said, we are going to get in trouble with inflation if we are not careful, and put in place a series of wage and price controls to kind of keep the lid on this rapidly expanding sector of the economy. He felt it was justified because of a wartime situation.

Well, employers still wanted a way to attract employees, to hold employees, to keep employees, keep them happy, keep them satisfied, keep them healthy and well so they stayed on the assembly lines and stayed in the workforce. They devised a plan to offer health insurance and retirement benefits to employees that were under their employ.

Well, it was kind of controversial as to whether or not this would be something that was even available, whether or not it violated the spirit of the wage and price controls that were in place at the time, and, if it was something that could be made available, is this a benefit that would be taxed or not taxed? The Supreme Court in a historic decision in 1944 decided, number one, that this did not violate the spirit of wage and price controls. Just as importantly, they determined that these benefits provided as health insurance benefits and retirement benefits, in fact, were not taxable benefits. Thus, the era of employer-derived health insurance was born.

After the war, it continued because it was very popular. People liked that concept. They liked the fact that you, at the time you went to work, you received health insurance; so that was one worry that was lifted off of you that you didn't have to contend with. It changed forever the face of how medicine is practiced in this country, as much, I submit, as the introduction of penicillin and as much as the introduction of large-scale production of cortisone.

So we will quickly fast-forward to the 1960s. In the 1960s, again, we were seeing a big transformation in medical care, a big transformation in science, the newer antibiotics were available that could treat more and more diseases, more aggressive diseases. The whole era of chemotherapy began to be ushered in. Antidepressants were available for the first time, as well as antipsychotics, which had a profound effect on the census in psychiatric hospitals.

What else happened in the 1960s? Well, a little over 40 years ago, this Congress, at the direction of a fellow Texan, Lyndon Johnson, developed the Medicare and then subsequently the Medicaid programs to provide a social safety net for our seniors. Then, ultimately, with the introduction of the Medicaid program, it provided a social

safety net for people who were too poor to afford health insurance.

So there was greater access, greater access for the aged, for people who were disabled, and for people who historically had been not allowed into the medical system because of a poor financial situation. But, the government established for the first time an enormous footprint in the practice of medicine in that for the first time it paid for a significant amount of the practice of medicine.

Now, the current situation is that about 50 percent of the health care dollar is derived from the United States Congress, from the Federal Government. The other 50 percent is not all private pay; it's private, commercial insurance as well as people who pay bills out of their pocket, self-pay individuals, and I will actually include the 4.5 million people that own health savings accounts. I would include them in that group as well.

Of course, there are people who just simply do not pay the bill; there is bad debt. There is also charitable care that is given by a doctor or a hospital to a patient and no payment is expected.

Now, the big question before us is can this hybrid system that has just sort of grown up, can this hybrid system be sustained? The tension that exists within this system, I think, creates a dynamic for continued change and for medicine to continue to evolve and continue to reinvent itself.

But, as I said, we are on the brink of a time of transformational change. I believe that in the early part of the 21st century we will see and we have seen changes in medicine as a result of cracking the genetic code. Genomic medicine, which was a phrase that I wouldn't even have been aware of during medical school or residency, now is part of our regular parlance.

Diseases that used to be treated only with surgery are now treated with medicines. There are going to be vast changes on the horizon as far as the treatment of disease goes as we begin to understand more about how the human genome affects the course of health and disease, how we can intervene earlier at a lower cost to prevent disease and, quite honestly, extend life over time.

But, we are also poised at a time where it looks as if, because of frustrations with the current system, because it doesn't provide all of the coverage that we think it should to every person who we think needs it, we are poised here in this Congress to begin debating an ever greater expansion of the Federal Government's role in health care in this country.

It will ultimately be up to us to decide is this a good thing or a bad thing. Since we live in a representative Republic, it will be up to the American people to decide is this something that we want to see more of or less of. They will, of course, register those thoughts with their votes, not only in the 2008 election but in the 2010 election.

I would submit to you that it is important that we keep in mind really where the fundamental unit of production is in this vast medical machine that we have in this country. What is the widget that is produced by the vast medical machine?

Well, my impression is that it is the interaction that takes place between the doctor and the patient in the treatment room, whether you like to say the operating room or the emergency room, but, nonetheless, it is the interaction between the doctor and the patient. That is the fundamental unit of production in American medicine. How do we interact that?

Well, my opinion is anything that will deliver value to that interaction is one of those things that we ought to encourage. Anything that detracts from value or anything that serves to drive apart the doctor-patient interaction is something that may be seen as pernicious. It's all about empowering the patient and not an insurance company, not the Federal Government. We need to focus on those policies that will bring that power back to the patient, will bring that value back to the doctor-patient interaction.

A lot of people would argue that we need health care reform. In fact, remember, that was a big argument in 1992 in the Presidential election and in 1993, the year that followed, and then, ultimately, nothing was accomplished and the situation stayed as it is. But they kept talking about health care reform, health care reform, health care reform.

Well, reform is what you need if the system is working just jim-dandy, just working extra special well, and you only need some marginal changes around the edges. But since we are upon a time of great scientific advancement, changes in how we handle information technology, changes in how we even approach medicine, the whole era of personalized medicine is just a little bit over the horizon, and we may well see that in my lifetime, certainly in my children's lifetime.

Medicine is on the cusp or the threshold of some big changes. Is reform going to be enough to enact the social policies that we need here in Congress as well as permit those transformational changes that are occurring in science and occurring in the delivery of medical care?

Now, I would submit that only by keeping a portion of the free enterprise system involved in health care, only by that method are we likely to continue to generate the kind of instability we need in a system in order to foster change, in order to foster growth, in fact, in order to drive that transformational process.

If, suddenly, we are at complete equilibrium and there is no tension on the system anymore, what's going to cause it to grow? If, in fact, we devolve to a single-payer system where the Federal Government picks up the entire tab for medical care from cradle to grave, and

there are some people who think that would be the correct response, the correct way to go, what will change? What will be the impetus to change? What will be the reason to change anything about medicine?

What you see today, if you enact that system, is what you will see 20 years from now, 40 years from now, 60 years from now. The transformational change that I think will be responsible for some of the greatest gifts that medicine could give to humankind, suddenly the spark, the spark of incentive would be removed and we would have a steady state that would be well paid for, a lot of people would be well taken care of, but the improvements, the advancements would be lacking in such a system.

If we move toward a system that is more patient driven, rather than one that's driven by insurance companies, rather than one that's driven by governments, I think we will usher in that new era of transformation in American medicine.

During the course of that, we have got to keep health care affordable. We have got to keep the monitor on the person in the middle, the person who acts as that barrier between the doctor and the patient, what we describe as a middleman. We have to keep that very close tab on what's happening in that arena. That's one of the things that prevents a patient from knowing the value of care they receive. It's one of the things that prevents a doctor from knowing how much the care they are ordering is going to cost or what burden that patient will have to bear. We have anesthetized everyone by putting a third-party payer in the middle of that mix.

Now, questions do come up as to how we bring about those changes and not obstruct changes that we want to see happen, but, again, keep in mind things like the advancements in medicine that are going to occur as a result of discovery of the human genome and further elucidation of the human genome, concepts like rapid learning. When I was in medical school, we all just worshipped at the altar of the double-blind crossover study in order to prove that something was effective or not.

But we live in a time when computational speed and capability is so vast, and the speed of learning is so fast, that, you know, it may no longer be as necessary as it once was to select the correct sample size and go out and do all the statistical tests. We can just simply monitor everyone, everyone who is on Lipitor, everyone who is on a statin, see what their complications are, see what their health benefits are that people who are on statin live as long or longer than a closely matched age and gender-matched group of individuals who are on no such therapy. We can begin to develop those concepts, and the data is there and will accumulate rapidly because of advances that are being made in health information technology.

□ 2100

That's the way that, ultimately, we're going to be able to curtail some of the costs of taking care of chronic diseases and, in fact, beating chronic diseases; and I would include cancer in that group. And above all, we do have to ensure an adequate workforce to be able to provide that care.

Now, I alluded a few minutes ago at the point of transformational change, but we also run the risk of getting caught up in transaction. You know, if you think back to 1993 and the changes in health care that were discussed at the time, we really weren't talking about any kind of health care change. We were talking about change in the administration of insurance policies.

As a result, since we got caught up, in this body, in the transactional, we forgot about the transformational. And again, as a result, there really wasn't much happened, except we left the field essentially empty, and HMOs and managed care came in, took over a large market share. And that was the time, at least in my experience as a physician, when some of the worst excesses of HMOs and managed care occurred: care being denied, patients being put out of the hospital too soon. And then Congress was in a very reactive mode: you've got to have this many days after delivery, this many days in the hospital after a mastectomy.

Well, that clearly wasn't the way to go about it, but that is the risk that we run if we focus on the transactional and forget the transformational. So all three things, affordability, accountability and advancement, must be considered and must be given equal weight in any change that comes about.

Within the concept of affordability, it's really not how much money you spend; it's how you spend it and are you getting value for the dollar that you spend in health care. And I would circle back and bring it back to that interaction between the doctor and the patient in the treatment room. How do we deliver value to that fundamental unit of production of medical care? And if a policy that we propose delivers value, then that is something that really should be looked at and one that should be carefully debated and perhaps enacted into law.

But if you look at that fundamental interaction between the doctor and the patient in the treatment room and it is fundamentally deleterious, well, maybe that's something that we should not be doing. We see examples of this within the insurance environment all the time.

And I would use the bill that we voted on last week, the State Children's Health Insurance Program. Good things in the bill, but some bad things in the bill. Some of the bad things is we tend to take children off of private health insurance and move them onto the State's Children's Health Insurance Program; and we do that for successive, for families who earn excessively larger and larger incomes.

Now, we can argue what the top line was; the top line reported in the bill was \$60,000. But on the floor of this House, the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee admitted to me that States could disregard \$20,000 income for housing, \$10,000 in income for clothing, and \$10,000 in income for transportation. We're up to over \$100,000 with the income set-asides that some States could develop.

Well, what's going to happen to taking all these children off of private health insurance, perhaps coverage that the employer provides their mom and dad and moves them on to an SCHIP policy? Many pediatricians around the country find that the reimbursement for a State Children's Health Insurance policy in their State reimburses at a fundamentally lower rate than the private plans. Even though the private plans aren't great, they're better than the State Children's Health Insurance policy.

So what if a pediatrician's earnings or gross bookings for their practice go down by 30 or 40 percent on that segment of patients? Well, if you make that segment of patients successively larger, it's going to be more and more difficult for them to make up that gap; and what they will do is what doctors have always done: they'll open a little earlier, they'll stay open a little later and they'll kind of squeeze a few more patients into every hour.

Now, I ask you, is that a way to drive up the value in that doctor-patient interaction? I don't think so. I think if you squeeze more and more patients into that hour, if you increase that doctor's work day so they're having to make decisions on less and less rest with more and more stress, we are ultimately likely to negatively affect the value of that doctor-patient interaction.

So certainly that's one aspect of the bill for me that was extremely important for us to fully evaluate; and, unfortunately, we didn't get to evaluate it. We didn't get to debate it. We didn't get to do it in committee. We didn't get really to debate it on the floor. It was kind of an up-or-down vote: take it or leave it. And that's fine if that's the way you want to run things. But for me it was a fundamentally flawed idea because it damaged the value of the doctor-patient interaction.

Other programs that may improve the doctor-patient interaction, I'm aware of a large employer in my district back home, school district, to be precise, that has a number of employees under their insurance policy that provides a \$20-a-month premium reduction for anyone who undergoes some pretty basic screening, blood pressure, weight and doing a little blood work. So there's a \$250 value returned to the enrollee in the health plan over a year's time. So obviously that's a value. It's a value to the insurance company because now they're able to identify perhaps that silent person with a cholesterol up to here or a blood

sugar that's an undiagnosed and unmonitored diabetic.

They can identify those individuals; and if the individual is desirous of help, they can get them into the proper type of care that will lower the likelihood of a heart attack with the attendant time in the intensive care unit, perhaps coronary artery bypass grafting, perhaps even the risk of sudden death or the complications of untreated diabetes, problems with eyesight, the problems with circulation, leg amputation, all of the kidney disease that goes along with untreated diabetes. Perhaps we can begin to get a handle on this earlier in the course of the disease so that the disease course may be modified and ultimately less costly.

Well, I would submit that that insurance company has found a way to deliver value to the doctor-patient interaction; and, in fact, I would think that's behavior that this body would want to encourage, not discourage, amongst private insurance players.

But these are just two examples of where value for the doctor-patient interaction can be increased or decreased. And as a consequence, when I apply that test to any health care policy, my decision about that, whether or not to support that health care policy, is likely to be based on the fundamental question, are we delivering value to the doctor-patient interaction? If the answer is yes, that's a program that's worthy of further study, debate, and perhaps enacting. If the answer is no, then it becomes fairly easy for me to say that's not a policy that I would be inclined to support at the present time.

Now, one of the things we move on to or other aspects of affordability that we should talk about, I did allude earlier to the fact that there are now, according to recent data that was released last April, 4.5 million people who are covered under health savings accounts. That's up about a million and a half from the year before. And, certainly, while it is not a vast segment of coverage, the reality is we could cover a great deal more people who are uninsured if they just simply knew about these products.

In the mid-1990s when I went to look for an insurance policy for an adult child, it was just almost impossible to get a private individually owned insurance policy for someone in their mid-20s. No one wanted to talk to you about one single policy. We won't even discuss it unless you've got a group of five or 10, and then we're going to charge you a great deal for that. Now, I was ultimately able to get insurance for that individual.

But what a change 10 years later. Any individual getting out of college today, mid-20s, off their parents insurance for the first time in their life, maybe they want to go start a business. Maybe they haven't quite found that right job yet; but rather than going without health insurance, they now have an option. They can go to the

Internet and in the search engine of choice type in health savings account and very quickly they'll be taken to sites that will provide them a vast array of choices in high deductible insurance policies. These policies are typically paid for with after-tax dollars, which is a limitation, I admit, and one that this Congress should take up and deal with. But oftentimes we're talking about individuals who are not in the higher income earning brackets or perhaps pay no Federal income tax at all. So the fact that it's not a tax deductible expense is not of great import to them.

But the fact that you can get a high deductible insurance policy that, with a \$2,000 to \$5,000 deductible that ranges in price from about \$55 a month to \$75 a month, well, that's a pretty significant savings over what we typically associate with the cost of insurance, which is obviously much greater than that.

So that young individual who's just starting out doesn't need to start out life without insurance coverage. It's not something that they need to forego. Yeah, it's a high deductible policy, so guess what? If you go in for a flu shot or you go in for some relatively minor difficulty likely as not that's going to be something that will have to be borne by the individual.

But if that individual has a catastrophic event, a motorcycle accident, an accident or pregnancy and requires prolonged hospitalization, that hospitalization is covered after the deductible is met. And how powerful is that to be able to put that type of protection in the hands of a whole segment of society that 10 years ago had no choice at all, no option. You just simply cannot buy or find insurance no matter how big a check you're willing to write, because I was willing to write a big check to get insurance coverage at that time, but it just wasn't available. Ten years later it's readily available. It's up on the Internet. And because of competition on the Internet, we've driven the price down, so affordability obviously has improved.

Now, the other great things about a health savings account is you can put money away. If you do pay taxes, you can put away money with pre-tax dollars, put money into essentially a medical IRA, or a health savings accounts. You can actually begin to accumulate dollars in that health savings account. And the good news is that over time, if that money is not used for medical expenses, it can only be used for medical expenses, but if it's not used, it doesn't go back to someone else at the end of the year. It doesn't even go back to the Federal Government if you die too soon. That money is yours. It is yours to use for your health expenses, or it is then delivered on to your heirs and assigns if you meet an untimely demise, but that money is yours. It doesn't belong to the Federal Government. The money you put into that health savings account stays under your command

and control for the rest of your life as long as it is spent for health care expenses.

So you can see, even a young individual who doesn't have the financial wherewithal to contribute the full amount, say the \$2,000 or the \$5,000 every month to a health savings account, still can put some number of dollars away that will grow over time. And since we're talking about young individuals, well, the time value of money comes into play. And if you begin such an account when you're 25, by the time you're 65 and ready to face retirement, there may be a significant accumulation of dollars in that account. And the good news is there is no one can take that away from you.

Now another thing that we've worked on in this Congress and something that I would argue would be a positive in the values section for delivering value to the doctor-patient interaction are what are called association health plans. Now, association health plans by themselves are not going to drive down the cost of the, or the number of the, uninsured; but they will help control the ever-rising cost of health insurance which, of course, is what drives a lot of small businesses out of the business of providing health insurance. So association health plans have been voted on in the two previous Congresses several times since I arrived here in the beginning of 2003.

And the concept is pretty simple. It just says small businesses can kind of group together to get the purchasing power, the purchasing clout of a much larger organization and use that ability to aggregate themselves to get a better deal with an insurance company, to get a better deal in providing insurance to their employees. So if you have, say, a group of Realtors, a group of dentists offices, for example, a group of chambers of commerce employees, you can put this group together as long as they have similar business models. That's why the term "association" is used. They can be put together to go out and purchase or to make bids on the commercial insurance market and, again, get a little bit more of that purchasing clout that large organizations have.

And one of the reasons that association health plans have been contentious in this House is because for them to be effective, particularly in medium and small-sized States, you've got to have the ability to go and take in a group of people that may cross a State line. Now, a State as big as Texas, which at one time was its own country, that's not as big an issue. But still you will get a better economy of scale if you are able to draw in more people into this association that then goes out and buys insurance.

For whatever reason, we passed it in the House, three or four times in the last 4 years, but unfortunately it never did pass in the Senate. They had Senator ENZI, who was at the time chairman of the Senate Health Committee,

make a good run at it last year, got all the principals in the room and tried to get them to craft an agreement on that, but ultimately was not able to get that done. And that's a shame, that's too bad because again this is one of those things that would fundamentally deliver value to the doctor-patient interaction because it would hold down the cost, the ever-increasing cost, bend that growth curve a little bit on the increasing cost, the ever-increasing cost of health insurance, and allow more people to keep and retain their insurance coverage.

Now, the President brought up in his State of the Union message here last January, and it's been talked about on and off again over the past six to eight months, the issue of equal tax treatment for employer-derived insurance and insurance that's owned by the individual. We've really not made any great progress, but I do believe the concept is one that's worthy of study, that's worthy of debate in this House. I already alluded to that fact a little earlier in the talk that once you have the employer-derived insurance as a pre-tax expense, that alters the playing field and it, in fact, encourages the use of that type of insurance and maybe even encourages the use of that type of insurance a little too much.

□ 2115

It encourages people to be over-insured because, look, I can't really pay you any more without distorting my salary structure but I will give you this more generous insurance package. And as a consequence, more insurance benefits are added to that person's benefits package, and it may, in fact, be more insurance than they actually need. So they are paying for something that they don't actually need.

On the other end of the spectrum, you have the individual who is out there pricing insurance now in the private market, and perhaps they do earn enough money to pay income taxes, and it would be great to extend or expand their purchasing power for that insurance by allowing them to pay for that with pretax dollars.

There is going to be a lot of debate on that over the next several years, I expect. In my mind, it is the only sane and smart way to go to, again, decouple the insurance product from the tax code and kind of put everybody on an equal footing. It's either deductible for everyone or not deductible for everyone. But let's put everyone on the same playing field there because only in that way will we get true equity and only in that way will we get the demand for the type of products that, again, ultimately will have the competitive forces that will push the price down. And after all, the kind of competition that is available on the Internet, the same type of competition that's available now with health savings accounts, and since they are after-tax items anyway, they are not under the same restrictions, but to get that same type of

competitive influence from pricing on the Internet that will help keep the cost of health care coverage more affordable for more people. It's kind of analogous to the people who sell car insurance and who say 15 minutes can save you big bucks on your car insurance if you are willing to invest 15 minutes on a telephone call to a particular insurance company. They have done a lot of clever things with their advertising with animated lizards and unfrozen cavemen and the like, but the reality is they have taken the concept of the type of competitive edge you can get by utilization of the Internet with car insurance. If we had the same ability to do that with health insurance, how much better would that be? Because we could drive the price down, because now people would be competing with large volumes, large numbers of patients. Now companies would be competing with large numbers of patients, and, in fact, I think we would see an improvement on the price structure rather than this continued year-after-year increase in prices and this continued year-after-year of picking only the people that we want to insure and leaving others out. This is a way of broadening the base and lowering the rate. We liked that concept in our tax policy; we should like that concept in our insurance policies as well.

Madam Speaker, mandates are another issue that will come up from time to time. The health care program that was popularized in the State of Massachusetts, very famously, depends upon an individual mandate. It is your obligation and responsibility to have insurance, and you will have insurance or we will buy it for you and charge you for it. If you don't want to pay us, we will take that money out of your State income tax refund that you are due at the first of the year. So that is one way to get people to buy insurance, to be sure.

Now, in 1993, when the Clinton health care plan was discussed, they talked about employer mandates: We're going to require every employer to participate in an employer-derived health insurance program or they are going to have to pay a large amount in order for their employees to get coverage elsewhere.

So employer mandates and individual mandates are certainly techniques that have been tried in the past, and we may see them tried again in the future.

State mandates are where a State says any insurance policy that is written in the State, you have to provide coverage for these items. It varies from State to State. Some States are quite generous, and as a consequence, their insurance rates are high. Some States are more spartan, and as a consequence, their insurance rates are more reasonable. But State mandates, individual mandates, employer mandates, in my opinion, have the ability of driving up the cost and limiting the care because they remove the competitive influences that otherwise would be

brought by the competition that's available in the open market and just keeping free enterprise involved in medicine.

I guess the counterpart to mandates, for all its faults and for all of the sort of anguished discussion that we had about Medicare part D over the past several years, Medicare part D now provides pharmaceutical benefits, pharmaceutical coverage to 90 percent of the Nation's seniors, and it does so with a 90 percent satisfaction rate. And there is not a mandate in the program. And how do they do it? They provided programs that people actually wanted. That would be a novel approach. Instead of a mandate, you make something that is marketable. You make something that's desirable. You make something that patients and families are going to say that's a good idea and it's reasonably priced and I am going to do that. Mandates, on the other hand, tend to drive things in the other direction. And ultimately, although there may be a transient reduction in price long term, it has a negative influence on price and causes prices to inflate and increase over time.

Madam Speaker, I can hardly come to the floor of the House and talk about changes in our health care system without at least briefly talking about changes in the way the medical justice system is handled in this country. And the reason that it is so important to me is my State, my home State of Texas, changed the nature of the argument 4 years ago and since then has been reaping the benefits of fundamental and sound medical liability reform.

Now, the Texas legislation that passed in the legislature that convened in 2003, and subsequently we had to undergo a constitutional amendment in September of 2003, it provided a cap on noneconomic damages. The so-called Medical Injury Compensation Reform Act of 1974, as passed by the State of California, was adopted and modernized in the Texas plan. But it was a Medical Injury Compensation Reform Act-style reform that was done in my home State of Texas.

Now, caps on noneconomic damages out in California in 1975 were set at \$250,000. In Texas, with the passage of this legislation, there was a cap set at \$250,000 for a physician if the physician was involved; \$250,000 set for the hospital if a hospital was involved; and \$250,000 for a second hospital or a nursing home if one was involved. So there was an aggregate cap of \$750,000. At the same time, there was no cap placed on actual damages, real damages, that were sustained in a medical liability suit and no cap placed on punitive damages if those were awarded by a judge in a medical liability suit.

The result of all of this was that a State that was in turmoil, a State that was in chaos in the year 2002, today is eminently stable when you talk about its medical justice system because of these commonsense reforms that were

enacted back in 2003. The benefits that we have seen for my old insurer of record, Texas Medical Liability Trust, my medical liability premiums had been increasing by double digits every year, year after year for about the 4 years before I concluded my practice and came to Congress. The very next year after the passage of this bill in 2003, prices dropped. They dropped 12 percent. They have continued to drop. So the aggregate reduction in premium prices over the 4 years since this passed has been 22 percent for physicians insured under the Texas Medical Liability Trust. And that is in addition to double-digit increases that were happening every year up to 2003. Now we have had a 22 percent reduction. That's a significant change.

One of the most important things, though, was the number of medical liability insurers that existed in the State of Texas had gone from 17 down to two. You are not going to get much in the way of a competitive edge if you have only got two people willing to write medical liability insurance in your State. So by the start of 2003, we were truly in crisis with the fleeing of medical liability insurers from our State.

What happened after the law passed? The insurers started to come back in. Now, many of them wanted to come back in and say, we're going to have to charge you more money because Texas is still an unproven deal and we're not sure we want to come in at the rates you are going to set. But Commissioner Montemayor, who was then the Commissioner of Insurance in the State of Texas said, if you are going to come back in, you're going to come back in at reasonable rates. And as a consequence today, I'm not sure of the top number of Texas insurance companies, but certainly above 15 and may well be above 20 insurance companies that have come back to the State, and, most importantly, they have come back without an increase in their rates.

One of the unintended beneficiaries of this reform was the smaller not-for-profit hospital in the State of Texas. Smaller and medium-sized hospitals, self-insured, they had to put a lot of money away against a possible bad outcome in a court. With the passage of this law and with some return of sensibility and stability to what their actual outlay may be if they lost a case, smaller hospitals and medium-sized hospitals were able to take some of that money that they had put away in accounts to guard against a possible adverse finding in court, and now they were able to take that money and use it for capital expansion, nurses' salaries, the kinds of things you want your smaller not-for-profit hospital to be doing in your small and medium-sized community.

So it was a very big boon not only to physicians but also to hospitals. And, again, I would submit is that a win or a loss for someone who wants to deliver value to the fundamental doctor-patient interaction in the treatment

room? Obviously, it's a win. We have more doctors coming to the State. We have so many doctors coming to the State, the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners can't keep up with the pressure, with the demand on new licenses for doctors who want to get licensed to practice in Texas. So that is a good thing. Texas as a whole has been underprovided, if "provided" can be used as a verb. Texas as a whole has been underprovided for some time. The national average is 260 doctors per 100,000 population. Texas sits at about 186. But the situation is improving month over month because of some of the commonsense changes we made in medical liability insurance.

And one last thing I would add. If I'm from Texas and we've already done this, what do I care about the rest of the country that their medical justice system perhaps remains with the scales uneven and tipped to one side or the other? Well, the reason I care is because now, as a Member of Congress, we have to deal with the Federal budget every year. We have to decide how much money we are going to give Medicare and Medicaid every year. Consider this: A study done back in 1996 at Stanford University looking at the cost to the Medicare system for treatment of heart disease, the additional cost for the treatment of heart disease when factoring in the cost for defensive medicine, back in 1996, that cost was calculated to be just under \$30 billion. Well, that was 12 years ago. I rather suspect that number would be higher today if anyone went back in and recalculated those figures. So it is significant. That is practically 10 percent of the money we budget every year, the money we appropriate every year to pay for the Medicare system. It is a significant savings to the Medicare system if, in fact, we can capture these savings.

Just the Texas bill alone introduced in the House of Representatives was scored by the Congressional Budget Office as saving \$3.8 billion over 5 years just with the language of the Texas bill, to say nothing of what it would do on putting negative pressure, downward pressure on the cost of defensive medicine. And \$3.8 billion is not a big figure when we talk about money up here in Congress. It's usually tens or hundreds of billions of dollars. But I have got to tell you what, \$3.8 billion is real money, and in a year where we are scratching around trying to find every dollar that we can, that \$3.8 billion is significant. And, again, I, frankly, do not understand why the House wouldn't consider taking this up, because this is a commonsense solution to a problem that vexes many States around the country.

And perhaps one of the even more pernicious effects of the medical liability crises in some States is the fact that it directs the best and brightest of our young people in a career path other than medicine. If I am going to spend all that time in school, if I'm going to

accumulate all that student debt, and then when I get out, I have got to pay these high liability premiums and you go to court and they make you look like a bad guy, I don't think I want any part of it. It does have a negative effect on attracting the best and brightest into our physician workforce.

The physician workforce is important. I want to talk about that in greater detail. But just consider this: A residency program director out of one of the big hospitals up in New York a few years ago, when I asked her, "Does the medical liability crisis impact your residency training program at all?" she told me that, well, currently we are taking people into our residency program that we wouldn't have interviewed 5 years ago.

□ 2130

In other words, the pool of available applicants for their residency program had contracted because of the chilling effect, the negative effect of the medical liability insurance in that State. And these are our children's doctors; these are our children's children's doctors. I fail to see how the advancement of medical care is furthered by allowing policies that have that type of an effect on our physician workforce.

But let's talk a little bit about the physician workforce in the time that remains because this is another important part of where we go with health care reform, health care transformation in this country. And three bills that have recently been introduced, H.R. 2583, H.R. 2584 and H.R. 2585, deal with the problems surrounding the physician workforce.

Now, just a little bit less than 2 years ago, Alan Greenspan, as one of his last trips around the Capitol, came and talked to a group of us one morning. And a question was posed to him: What do you think about Medicare? Are we ever going to be able to pay for the unfunded liability of Medicare in the future? And he stopped and thought for a moment and said, Yes. I think when the time comes Congress will make the hard choices, make the hard decisions, and, indeed, we will be able to salvage and pay for the Medicare system. And he paused for a moment and then went on to say, But what concerns me more is, will there be anyone there to deliver the services when you require them?

And that, Madam Speaker, is a crucial point in this discussion. And that is the point behind the three bills that were introduced earlier this year to create incentives for hospitals to provide residency programs, to create incentives for medical students to go into medicine in the first place and, finally, to encourage physicians who are more mature in their practice to stay in their practice.

Creating more residency programs. There are some hospitals in the country that would welcome a residency program. They have the patient load. They could get the accreditation from the American Council of Graduate

Medical Education, but the barrier for entry is just simply too high, the cost of starting a residency program is too high.

So this bill would provide loans to hospitals to begin residency programs where none have existed in the past, particularly in fields in high-need medical specialties in medically underserved areas, things like general surgery; things like family practice; things like obstetrics and gynecology. This would be the subset of residency programs that would be encouraged with this legislation.

And, as a consequence, since it is a loan program, the money would be paid back and over time would recirculate so more and more programs could be added to the Nation's training programs, particularly, again, for high-need primary care specialties in medically underserved areas.

H.R. 2584 dealt more with the younger individual who is either in medical school or perhaps thinking about a profession in health care. And this bill would provide incentives, it would provide scholarships, it would provide loan forgiveness, it would provide tax relief for individuals who, at the time of their conferring of their degrees and the beginning of their practice, would agree to practice in areas that are medically underserved and, again, in high-need specialties.

Now, this concept is actually an older concept. It was around when I was in medical school, but we need to modernize it for the 21st century.

And what really brought it home for me was visiting the gulf coast area after Hurricane Katrina. So many doctors had left, and so many more doctors were contemplating leaving. How in the world are they ever going to maintain a health care workforce in that part of the country unless they grow their own doctors in place? This is a way to allow that to happen, and of course there are other medically underserved areas around the country that might benefit from this as well.

Again, back in my home State of Texas, the Texas Medical Association puts out a periodical called "Texas Medicine." This was the cover of their March issue, which raised the specter or the question: "Running Out of Doctors." And these two bills were largely inspired by the work done in this article.

And one of the concepts that was put forward in this article was that medical residents tend to stay where they train; they don't go very far. The fruit doesn't fall very far from the tree. So a medical resident who trains in a town is likely to set up practice within 50 or 100 miles of that town. That is the concept behind setting up these residencies in smaller and medium-sized communities, smaller hospitals that have the need and have the patient load that will allow for the training and teaching and allow those physicians to stay in that practice area.

Well, you might ask, how does this deliver value to that doctor-patient

interaction that I've talked about several times tonight? Well, there are several ways. Number one, in just having the availability and the access of a physician. You can't deliver value to the doctor-patient interaction if you don't have a doctor there to interact with the patient. So that is certainly one very fundamental way that it can improve it. But another way, and perhaps a less tangible way, is if a doctor goes into practice within 50 miles of where they did their training, what do they know about that place? Well, they know the community. Their family, their wives and their children are probably going to be more comfortable in that community, so there is increased job satisfaction that the doctor will have in that community. I'm sorry, I should have said wives or husbands would have in that community. So there is increased personal satisfaction.

But the other thing is, you know the doctors in the area, you know who's good and you know who's not so good. Referral patterns that are established during a 3- or 4-year residency can be continued. And this is the additional value that this type of training will bring to our young physicians in the State and allow them to be better physicians when the time comes for them to begin their practice.

The final bill, 2585, deals with a problem that we've had in this Congress for as long as I've been here, in fact, before I got here, and that is the problem that we have with reimbursing physicians in the Medicare system. The current Medicare system of pricing is one that is not based on any sort of reality. Hospitals, drug companies, HMOs each get sort of a cost-of-living adjustment every year for their funding sources; but physicians, for whatever reason, don't get that cost-of-living adjustment. They don't get what's called the Medical Economic Index. What they get is called the Sustainable Growth Rate Formula, which generally pushes their reimbursement rates down year over year. And over the next 10 years time, the budgetary projection is for physician payment rates for Medicare patients to be reduced on the order of 30-38 percent. Well, that's untenable. No doctor can continue to practice; they can't even plan for their practice. They can't plan for hiring; they can't plan for the purchase of new equipment all of the time they're laboring under that type of restriction.

2585 would repeal the Sustainable Growth Rate Formula in 2 years' time. It resets the baseline for 2008 and 2009, which does allow for a positive update for physicians in 2008 and 2009, with no smoke and mirrors, no fancy footwork. It is just something that could be done.

And then we aggregate all of the savings that accrue to the Medicare system because we are doing things better, cheaper, and faster in the Medicare system currently. As a consequence, that savings can be used to offset what is described as the cost of repealing the

Sustainable Growth Rate Formula over 10 years' time.

Consider this, the Medicare Trustees Report from last June said that the bad news is Medicare is still going broke, but the good news is it's going to go broke a year later than we told you last year. The reason for that is 600,000 hospital beds were not filled last year because doctors are doing things better in their practices, they are keeping patients out of the hospital, they are doing procedures in an ambulatory surgery center; and as a consequence, the overall cost price pressure on the Medicare system has reduced. The problem is that doctors don't get to have any credit for that reduction. It all goes to the hospitals, drug companies, nursing homes and HMOs, not to the part B of Medicare, which is, after all, where physicians are paid.

We need to change this. We need to make those savings only attributable to part B. And as a consequence, we can drive down the cost of repealing the Sustainable Growth Rate Formula. And by postponing that repeal for 2 years' time, but at the same time providing a positive update for 2008 and 2009, I believe we have a system in place that can be a win-win for Congress, for doctors, and for the American patient, the Medicare patient, who has increased difficulty with finding a Medicare physician.

Two other proposals in that bill, 2585, would be to provide positive updates for doctors who voluntarily improve information technology in their offices. We all know this is something that is going to have to happen. This is something that is going to have to occur. Let's give a little bit of a positive update, a little bit of a positive bonus. Yes, patients who aren't in the Medicare system will also benefit from that, but we're not getting a tremendous amount, about a 3 percent bonus per year for voluntary improvements in health information technology.

Let's also make available for physicians who voluntarily report quality measures, let's also make a positive update available for them as well. And the consequences of that is people will begin to focus on the quality aspect if you just simply make a physician aware of what their expenditures in the Medicare system were for the past year. That information is confidential. It's not something that's published; other people aren't aware of it. But doctors tend to be relatively competitive, and if they have that number available to them, they are likely to behave in a way that will try to drive that number down. Doctors are goal-directed, doctors are competitive, doctors want to be the best at what they are. Well, let's give them the data and see if they can't compete on that level.

The other thing is I think we need to make that information available to the patient as well: What did it cost the patient to provide for the treatment over the cycle of care for the past year? And, again, these are less defined, but

equally important, ways we can begin to deliver value to that doctor-patient interaction.

The health information technology is so important. Many doctors are sitting on the sidelines right now. It's like buying a VCR in the mid-1980s: Do you go with Beta or VHS? And it's hard to know what the technology is going to look like in 5 years; and the person who guesses right will be rewarded, the person who guesses wrong will be penalized.

So there is a lot of tension, a lot of nervousness out there when you talk to physicians' offices. And there is no question about it, these things add a lot of time to the doctor's day, time that is not readily compensated in any other formula. So we need to consider adding that positive update, such as was done in H.R. 2585.

Well, Madam Speaker, we cannot rise to the transformational change required in this country without keeping the best doctors involved and without incentivizing and training the best doctors for tomorrow. This is going to require a near-term, a mid-term and a far-term, a long-term strategy. We will not be able to master the transformational changes and challenges without America's best and brightest still involved in the teaching and in the practice of medicine.

This is a bipartisan issue. It doesn't affect only one side of the aisle. It doesn't only affect the other side of the aisle. It requires each of us to work together.

Madam Speaker, I will submit our congressional approval ratings right now are at historic lows; and the reason they're at historic lows is not for the reason that most people think up here. The reason they're at historic lows is because we won't work together to get a single thing done for the American people, and this is one of those things that they want done.

Now, I left my beloved profession a little over 4 years ago to come and serve here in Congress. I didn't come to just sit and watch as things happened and things were brought to us by other people. I came to be actively involved in the process, and I intend to remain involved in the process.

I have outlined numerous solutions here tonight. I am grateful to the leadership on my side for giving me the opportunity to talk about these things and would only submit that there is a great deal more to discuss, and there will be more to come later.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CARNEY (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Ms. KILPATRICK (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Ms. SHEA-PORTER (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of family medical reasons.

Mr. CONYERS (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today until 7 p.m. on account of travel problems.

Mr. BUYER (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of family illness.

Mr. WAMP (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of a family commitment.

Mr. HULSHOF (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and October 30 until 3 p.m. on account of personal reasons.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. BISHOP of New York) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BISHOP of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ISRAEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WATERS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MICHAUD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HARE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. FOXX) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, November 5.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, November 5.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and October 30, 31, and November 1.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DENT, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 43 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, October 30, 2007, at 9 a.m., for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3902. A letter from the Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting Authorization of Captain Sean A. Pybus to wear the insignia of the grade of rear admiral (lower half) in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

3903. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility [Docket No. FEMA-7993] received October 10, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3904. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility [Docket No. FEMA-7991] received October 10, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3905. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3906. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification regarding the proposed license for the manufacture of defense equipment to the Government of Italy (Transmittal No. DDTC 067-07); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3907. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification regarding the proposed license for the manufacture of defense equipment to the Government of Canada (Transmittal No. DDTC 083-07); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3908. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification of a proposed license for the export of technical data, defense articles and services to the Republic of Korea (Transmittal No. DDTC 070-07); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3909. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification of a proposed license for the export of technical data, defense articles and services to the Governments of Germany and the United Kingdom (Transmittal No. DDTC 069-07); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3910. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification regarding the proposed manufacturing license agreement for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad and the export of defense articles and defense services with the Government of Japan (Transmittal No. DDTC 049-07); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3911. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification regarding the proposed manufacturing license agreement for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad and the export of major defense equipment with the Government of Spain (Transmittal No. DDTC 077-07); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3912. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-165, "Energy Efficiency Standards Act of 2007," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3913. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-164, "District of Columbia Free Clinic Captive Insurance Company Establishment Temporary Act of 2007," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3914. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-163, "Closing of a Public Alley in Square 452, S.O. 06-1034 Act of 2007," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3915. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-131, "Homestead Housing Preservation Amendment Act of 2007," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3916. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-132, "Child's Right to Nurse Human Rights Amendment Act of 2007," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3917. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-133, "Bank Charter Modernization Amendment Act of 2007," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3918. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-162, "Quality Teacher Incentive Clarification Act of 2007," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3919. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-134, "Closing of a Portion of 8th Street, S.E., and the Public Alley in Squares 5956 and W-5956, S.O. 05-4555, Act of 2007," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3920. A letter from the Associate Special Counsel for Legal Counsel and Policy, Office of Special Counsel, transmitting the Office's final rule — Privacy Act of 1974; Implementation — received October 10, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3921. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Department of Defense, transmitting a report on a navigation improvement project for Haines, Alaska; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3922. A letter from the Director, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's review of the Chief of Engineers' proposed report on the Lower Colorado River Basin, Phase I, Texas; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3923. A letter from the Director of Regulations Management Office of Regulation Policy & Management, VA, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Government-Furnished Headstone and Marker Regulations (RIN: 2900-AM64) received September 18, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

3924. A letter from the Director of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Accreditation of Service Organization Representatives and Agents (RIN: 2900-AM29) received October 10, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee: Committee on Science and Technology. H.R. 3877. A bill to require the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to establish an initiative to promote the research, development, and demonstration of miner tracking and communications systems and to promote the establishment of standards regarding underground communications to protect miners in the United States; with amendments (Rept. 110-411). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2262. A bill to modify the requirements applicable to locatable minerals on public domain lands, consistent with the principles of self-initiation of mining claims, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 110-412). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. CONYERS: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 3921. A bill to provide nationwide subpoena authority for actions brought under the September 11 Victim Compensation Fund of 2001 (Rept. 110-413). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. RANGEL: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 3920. A bill to amend the Trade Act of 1974 to reauthorize trade adjustment assistance, to extend trade adjustment assistance to service workers and firms, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 110-414, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the Committees on Education and Labor and Energy and Commerce discharged from further consideration. H.R. 3920 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

TIME LIMITATION OF REFERRED BILL

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the following action was taken by the Speaker:

H.R. 2830. Referral to the Committee on the Judiciary extended for a period ending not later than October 30, 2007. Referral to the Committee on Energy and Commerce extended for a period ending not later than November 16, 2007.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. MILLER of North Carolina (for himself, Mr. TURNER, Mr. COLE of Oklahoma, Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. HIGGINS, and Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota):

H.R. 3981. A bill to authorize the Preserve America Program and Save America's Treasures Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BOSWELL (for himself, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mr. BAIRD):

H.R. 3982. A bill to continue to prohibit the hiring, recruitment, or referral of unauthorized aliens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition

to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ALTMIRE:

H.R. 3983. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent certain tax benefits relating to elementary and secondary schools; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ALTMIRE:

H.R. 3984. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the expensing of certain environmental remediation costs; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DEFAZIO (for himself, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. MICA, and Mr. DUNCAN):

H.R. 3985. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to register a person providing transportation by an over-the-road bus as a motor carrier of passengers only if the person is willing and able to comply with certain accessibility requirements in addition to other existing requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. OBERSTAR (for himself, Mr. MICA, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. GRAVES):

H.R. 3986. A bill to amend the John F. Kennedy Center Act to authorize appropriations for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BACA (for himself, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. FORTUÑO, Mr. FILNER, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, and Mr. NUNES):

H.R. 3987. A bill to provide emergency tax relief for persons affected by California wildfires in October of 2007; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. GRANGER (for herself, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. POE, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. PAUL, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. REYES, Mr. EDWARDS, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. LAMPSON, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. CARTER, and Mr. SESSIONS):

H.R. 3988. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3701 Altamesa Boulevard in Fort Worth, Texas, as the "Master Sergeant Kenneth N. Mack Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. MCHUGH:

H.R. 3989. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to reduce mercury, carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen oxide emissions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, Science and Technology, and Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SLAUGHTER (for herself, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BACA, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr.

COSTA, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. FARR, Mr. FILNER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HONDA, Mr. INSLEE, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. POE, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. SHAYS, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. WU, Ms. SUTTON, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. DICKS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. AL GREEN of Texas):

H.R. 3990. A bill to reduce sexual assault and domestic violence involving members of the armed forces and their family members and partners through enhanced programs of prevention and deterrence, enhanced programs of victims services, and strengthened provisions for prosecution of assailants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STUPAK:

H.R. 3991. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to extend the time limit for the use of education benefits by members of the Selected Reserve and certain members of the reserve component, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BOYD of Florida (for himself, Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. COHEN, Ms. SUTTON, and Mr. WICKER):

H. Con. Res. 243. Concurrent resolution supporting the efforts of the Iraq Neighbors Process Ministerial meeting and encouraging the ongoing engagement of the international community to stabilize Iraq and achieve peace in the Middle East; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 89: Mrs. BONO.
 H.R. 135: Mr. MARSHALL.
 H.R. 136: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 138: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 160: Mr. WELCH of Vermont.
 H.R. 275: Mr. SHERMAN.
 H.R. 281: Mr. ROTHMAN and Mr. BISHOP of New York.
 H.R. 303: Mr. FEENEY.
 H.R. 464: Mr. MARKEY and Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.
 H.R. 677: Mr. SPRATT.
 H.R. 758: Mr. LATHAM and Mr. RODRIGUEZ.
 H.R. 873: Mr. SESTAK.
 H.R. 876: Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee.
 H.R. 971: Mr. WALDEN of Oregon and Mr. OLVER.
 H.R. 1023: Mr. CANNON, Mr. COBLE, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. BUYER, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. HARE.
 H.R. 1061: Mr. ALLEN.
 H.R. 1070: Ms. KILPATRICK.
 H.R. 1073: Mr. PALLONE.
 H.R. 1091: Mr. MCINTYRE.
 H.R. 1093: Mr. REHBERG, Mr. LATHAM, and Mr. WU.
 H.R. 1108: Mr. SESTAK.
 H.R. 1110: Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mr. KLINE of Minnesota, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. LIPINSKI.
 H.R. 1188: Mr. KILDEE.
 H.R. 1192: Mr. WOLF, Mr. SESTAK, and Mr. TURNER.

- H.R. 1228: Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 1236: Mr. BOREN, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Mr. CANNON.
H.R. 1286: Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 1295: Mr. BROUN of Georgia and Mr. PICKERING.
H.R. 1398: Mr. MCCRERY.
H.R. 1415: Mr. WAXMAN.
H.R. 1498: Mr. ABERCROMBIE.
H.R. 1518: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 1524: Mr. ALEXANDER and Mr. KINGSTON.
H.R. 1534: Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 1565: Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota.
H.R. 1609: Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. KELLER, and Mrs. JONES of Ohio.
H.R. 1619: Ms. WATERS.
H.R. 1621: Mr. LANGEVIN.
H.R. 1650: Mr. PERLMUTTER.
H.R. 1667: Mr. ROTHMAN.
H.R. 1738: Mr. HARE, Mr. SESTAK, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. ARCURI, Mr. BOUCHER, and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
H.R. 1919: Mr. WELCH of Vermont.
H.R. 1921: Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 1932: Mr. ALLEN.
H.R. 2053: Mr. ALLEN.
H.R. 2116: Mr. KUHL of New York, Mr. REYNOLDS, and Mr. HILL.
H.R. 2156: Mr. WELCH of Vermont.
H.R. 2160: Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 2176: Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 2188: Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 2246: Ms. BERKLEY and Mr. PORTER.
H.R. 2266: Ms. SUTTON.
H.R. 2371: Mr. SOUDER.
H.R. 2385: Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 2387: Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 2417: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania and Mr. SHULER.
H.R. 2470: Mr. KENNEDY and Mr. COSTELLO.
H.R. 2580: Mr. MANZULLO, Ms. FOX, and Mr. FEENEY.
H.R. 2651: Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 2711: Mr. KUCINICH and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 2827: Mr. BOOZMAN.
H.R. 2840: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.
H.R. 2852: Mr. WYNN.
H.R. 2910: Mr. MEEK of Florida.
H.R. 2914: Mr. BOUCHER.
H.R. 2915: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD and Mr. BOUCHER.
H.R. 2933: Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. BOYD of Florida, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, and Ms. FALLIN.
H.R. 3008: Mr. SHULER.
H.R. 3029: Mrs. MALONEY of New York and Mr. FORTUÑO.
H.R. 3041: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 3099: Mr. LAMPSON.
H.R. 3109: Mr. AKIN.
H.R. 3144: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.
H.R. 3189: Mr. UDALL of Colorado.
H.R. 3204: Ms. SUTTON.
H.R. 3219: Mr. KAGEN.
H.R. 3232: Mr. DOYLE, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. WICKER, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. SHIMKUS, and Mrs. BLACKBURN.
H.R. 3251: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 3289: Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 3298: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 3317: Mr. CUELLAR and Mr. ABERCROMBIE.
H.R. 3320: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 3326: Mr. CLAY.
H.R. 3327: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas and Mr. REICHERT.
H.R. 3339: Mr. ROTHMAN.
H.R. 3397: Ms. SUTTON.
H.R. 3401: Mr. ABERCROMBIE.
H.R. 3406: Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, and Mr. PASTOR.
H.R. 3414: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3429: Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut and Mr. HARE.
H.R. 3430: Mr. ROTHMAN and Mr. ALLEN.
H.R. 3453: Mr. GERLACH, Mr. GONZALEZ, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 3480: Mr. SHULER.
H.R. 3533: Mr. BONNER and Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 3541: Mr. HOLT and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 3544: Mr. HOLT.
H.R. 3547: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3548: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 3563: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 3609: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H.R. 3618: Mr. KELLER of Florida.
H.R. 3622: Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. COBLE, Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. WOLF, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. PASTOR.
H.R. 3630: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 3645: Mr. SHULER.
H.R. 3660: Ms. HOOLEY.
H.R. 3664: Mr. SOUDER.
H.R. 3691: Ms. GIFFORDS and Mr. HINOJOSA.
H.R. 3705: Mr. KUCINICH.
H.R. 3752: Mr. WOLF.
H.R. 3691: Ms. GIFFORDS and Mr. HINOJOSA.
H.R. 3789: Mr. BURTON of Indiana.
H.R. 3793: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. COSTELLO, and Mr. CROWLEY.
H.R. 3818: Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. STEARNS.
H.R. 3840: Mr. ANDREWS.
H.R. 3846: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. Payne, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. FATTAH, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H.R. 3852: Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky.
H.R. 3865: Mr. WELCH of Vermont and Mr. TERRY.
H.R. 3877: Mr. HINCHEY.
H.R. 3887: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, and Ms. SUTTON.
H.R. 3908: Mr. GOODLATTE and Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey.
H.R. 3910: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H.R. 3911: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. DENT, Mr. HOLDEN, and Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3915: Mr. WYNN and Mrs. JONES of Ohio.
H.R. 3918: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 3950: Mrs. MYRICK and Mrs. BLACKBURN.
H.R. 3951: Mrs. BONO.
H.R. 3956: Mr. WILSON of Ohio.
H.R. 3958: Mr. WOLF.
H.J. Res. 30: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.J. Res. 35: Mr. CONYERS.
H.J. Res. 55: Mr. GOODE.
H.J. Res. 58: Mr. PUTNAM, Mr. ROSS, Mr. ADERHOLT, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, and Mr. STARK.
H. Con. Res. 28: Mr. KNOLLENBERG and Mrs. DAVIS of California.
H. Con. Res. 81: Mr. STARK and Mr. COSTELLO.
H. Con. Res. 162: Mr. GINGREY.
H. Con. Res. 163: Mr. SOUDER and Mr. FARR.
H. Con. Res. 204: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.
H. Con. Res. 214: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.
H. Con. Res. 230: Ms. HIRONO.
H. Con. Res. 235: Mr. LOBIONDO.
H. Con. Res. 236: Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. HERGER, and Mr. CALVERT.
H. Con. Res. 239: Mr. ADERHOLT.
H. Res. 111: Mr. PICKERING, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. MCCRERY, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, and Ms. FALLIN.
H. Res. 163: Mr. BISHOP of New York.
H. Res. 185: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Mr. CARNAHAN.
H. Res. 335: Mr. HOLDEN and Mr. SESSIONS.
H. Res. 336: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H. Res. 353: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
H. Res. 563: Ms. RICHARDSON and Mr. GONZALEZ.
H. Res. 598: Mr. BROUN of Georgia.
H. Res. 684: Mr. ROSS.
H. Res. 690: Mrs. MYRICK.
H. Res. 695: Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, and Mr. ETHERIDGE.
H. Res. 713: Mr. BILIRAKIS and Mr. BLUNT.
H. Res. 715: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.
H. Res. 726: Ms. BALDWIN and Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H. Res. 740: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. WATERS, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina, and Mr. REICHERT.
H. Res. 743: Mr. FATTAH, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. HONDA, Mr. COHEN, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. KAGEN.
H. Res. 759: Mr. GONZALEZ and Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H. Res. 760: Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. SESTAK, and Mr. HARE.
H. Res. 770: Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mrs. EMERSON, Mrs. CAPP, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Mr. MAHONEY of Florida, Mr. DREIER, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. SKELTON.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 2074: Mr. McCAUL of Texas.