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WASHINGTON, MONDAY, MAY 5, 2008

No. 73

Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 6, 2008, at 10 a.m.

House of Representatives

MONDAY, MAY 5, 2008

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 5, 2008.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOSÉ E. SERRANO 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.

EMERGENCY FUNDING FOR THE WAR IN IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Despite the fact that America has been at war—we are in the sixth year in Iraq—the President is continuing to attempt to hide the true cost to the American people. He is asking Congress to declare an emergency to pay for the troops' salaries, to provide them with body armor, ammunition, and other needs in the war. It is

certainly not an emergency. It certainly could have been anticipated, particularly given the fact that he is so stubborn about not setting any plan to get the U.S. out of that quagmire. But, to add insult to injury, the President says the war in Iraq is an emergency, and \$108 billion is what he wants to borrow but not a penny more for domestic emergencies or needs; not a penny more, the President says. He will veto the bill if any of that money is spent here in the United States of America to help Americans' suffering, high gas prices, to help my counties and schools that are losing their Federal money, to help fishermen who have been deprived of their living this year with emergency closures. Those aren't emergencies in George Bush's book, but the ongoing war in the sixth year in Iraq is.

Unfortunately, it appears that the Democratic leaders of Congress are going to cave in to Bush's strong-armed tactics and his unreasonable attitude, and will send him a bill that he can sign instead of putting forward Democratic priorities to the President: Extended unemployment benefits, a little bit of energy assistance for the American people who are suffering because they are being gouged by the oil and gas industry, my critical county and school payments, disaster assistance for salmon fishers on the west coast, and others. They appear like they are ready to cave in to the President on this and send him a bill that he can sign. That's wrong.

As Democrats, we are here to defend the priorities and the needs of the

American people. We know Bush is there for the corporations. We know he is there for his war in Iraq. Let's demonstrate that. Let's send him a bill.

Now, in terms of the county and school payments, the Republican Congress and the Bush administration allowed the law to expire. That has created a crisis. Last year, we did get emergency spending despite Bush's then veto threat to help the counties and schools through one more year as we worked on a longer term fix. In December, the House did pass a longer term fix. Unfortunately, since the Senate is not a democratic institution, 40 Senators—40 Republican Senators—were able to strip the critical county and school funding out of that bill. So, again, we languish without authorization for payments in the coming year.

So this is an emergency. We are going to see counties that are very large, counties in my district almost the size of New England that are going to be deprived of sheriff's patrols in rural areas. We are going to see jail beds closed and prisoners put out on the streets. We are going to see animal control ended. This is a crisis. These counties have no alternative. They are more than half-owned by the Federal Government. It is the Federal Government's policies that have brought them to this place. That was recognized by the former President as he put in place a plan to make up for the lost revenue from the changes in Federal policies.

It is time for this administration to agree that those counties need some

□ 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.



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help. I have written to the President. I have asked him to change his mind and allow counties and schools to receive at least some amount of funding this year as a true domestic emergency, not to draw a line in the sand and say he will only borrow money to pursue an open-ended war in Iraq, but he will not borrow a penny for the American people.

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 36 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. JACKSON of Illinois) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father of all, here You find in America people whose hearts are open to the message that all human life is sacred and that "each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary."

In a world where some no longer believe that we can distinguish between simple right and wrong, we need to reject any "dictatorship of relativism" and embrace a culture of equal justice and lasting truth.

Since Your very gift of freedom is ever new, Lord, we ask You to challenge this generation to build a world ever more worthy of the human person created in Your image and likeness.

Help us work today for an ever more just and fraternal society where political leaders and those they represent are guided by truth and bring wisdom born of firm moral principle to decisions affecting the life and future of this Nation, we pray, lifting up Your name, now and forever.

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 Texas (Mr. POE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. POE 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.

MOTHER GIVES LIFE FOR HER CHILD

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, as Americans across this Nation celebrate Mother's Day this Sunday, there are five children in Crosby, Texas, who mourn the loss of theirs. Tina Davila was murdered as she gave her life to protect her youngest child.

On April 17, Tina left her 4-month-old in the back seat of her car as she quickly ran into a store to pay a bill. But as Tina approached the store, she saw a car pull up beside hers, and a bandit jumped out and tried to steal her vehicle. She fought the outlaw and screamed, "My baby! My baby!" But the carjacker stabbed her, murdering her in front of her child and fled with blood on his hands. All this was caught on video surveillance.

The killer is 22-year-old Timoteo Rios, an illegal trespasser from Mexico. In addition to murdering Tina, Rios and his fellow hijacker, Kennedy Escoto, carjacked four other people. Rios had spent time in jail last year but was never deported.

Rios remains at large. He's believed to be back in the safe sanctuary country for criminals, Mexico, basking in the sun and unaccountable for this murder, while Tina Davila's children are motherless this Mother's Day.

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:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 2, 2008.

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 May 2, 2008, at 8:54 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3522.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 112.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 340.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following commu-

nication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 2, 2008.

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 May 2, 2008, at 12:54 p.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5919.

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.

□ 1415

FOREIGN SERVICE MEMBER REST

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3658) to amend the Foreign Service Act of 1980 to permit rest and recuperation travel to United States territories for members of the Foreign Service.

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

H.R. 3658

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

SECTION 1. INCLUSION OF UNITED STATES TERRITORIES AS ELIGIBLE FOR REST AND RECUPERATION TRAVEL FOR MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE.

The Foreign Service Act of 1980 is amended—

(1) in section 901(6)(B) (22 U.S.C. 4081(6)(B)), by inserting after "United States" the following: "or its territories, including American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the United States Virgin Islands"; and

(2) in section 903(b) (22 U.S.C. 4083(b)), by striking "its territories and possessions, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico" and inserting "or its territories, including American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the United States Virgin Islands".

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

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

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

There was no objection.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I want to recognize our colleague from Puerto Rico (Mr. FORTUÑO) and the distinguished chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and the Global Environment, Mr. FALCOMA VAEAGA, for putting forward a very important measure.

H.R. 3658 amends the Foreign Service Act to give the Secretary of State needed authority to ensure that foreign service officers from U.S. territories, including Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands, are provided the same benefits as their colleagues from the 50 States.

Currently, the State Department provides air transportation home from overseas assignments for the purpose of rest and recuperation to all foreign service officers who reside in any of the 50 States. However, current law does not permit the department to provide the same benefit to foreign service officers who reside in any of the territories.

The State Department has informed us that they do not have any objection to this measure. The cost of implementing it would be very small as it would impact very few foreign service officers.

I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution that would rectify an inequity in the treatment of our dedicated foreign service officers.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3658, introduced by my good friend from Puerto Rico (Mr. FORTUÑO).

This bill will make a long overdue clarification to the Foreign Service Act that will allow American foreign service officers to take rest and recuperation travel, commonly referred to as R&R, in American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and, of course, the United States Virgin Islands.

American diplomatic personnel who serve at hardship posts overseas are allowed to take State Department-funded R&R travel either at locations abroad or locations in the United States. But the phrase "locations in the United States" has been interpreted by the State Department regulation to exclude U.S. territories for some reason. That interpretation has placed a distinctly unfair burden on foreign service officers from those territories who might wish to spend their R&R with families at home.

It also puts U.S. territories at a disadvantage compared to other destinations abroad or in the United States where our diplomatic personnel may want to travel to rest and recuperate.

I want to commend our colleagues who have sponsored this legislation to remove this inadvertent and unfair provision. H.R. 3658 is a worthy bill that deserves our unanimous support.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. FORTUÑO), the author of this bill.

Mr. FORTUÑO. I thank my colleague.

I want to begin by thanking Chairman BERMAN for ushering H.R. 3658 through the committee process. In his short time as chairman, Mr. BERMAN has shown intelligence, generosity and strong bipartisan spirit, the same leadership qualities displayed by his predecessor, the irreplaceable Tom Lantos.

I want to thank my good friend, Ranking Member ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, as well. I continue to marvel at her devotion to her constituents in south Florida and at her tireless efforts to help light the lantern of freedom in dark places around the world.

I also want to thank the representatives from the other U.S. territories, all of whom are original sponsors of H.R. 3658. And I want to thank you, Ms. WATSON, and you, Judge POE, for your support for this bill. I note that Ms. WATSON served as a U.S. Ambassador to Micronesia and therefore brings a special expertise to this subject.

Mr. Speaker, the specific purpose of H.R. 3658 is to permit Foreign Servicemembers to take rest and recuperation travel, known as R&R, in the five U.S. territories. The broader objective of the bill is to ensure that Federal employees from the U.S. territories enjoy the same rights and privileges as their fellow citizens from the 50 States.

I am pleased that the American Foreign Service Association supports H.R. 3658, and that the State Department does not oppose its passage.

Mr. Speaker, the Foreign Service Act lists the instances in which the State Department may pay the travel-related costs of Foreign Servicemembers. One section of the FSA states that the Department may pay the travel costs incurred by Foreign Service personnel for what is known as home leave. The purpose of the home leave is to ensure that Foreign Servicemembers who have been sent abroad undergo a period of reorientation to the United States. The FSA provides that home leave may be taken in the 50 States and the U.S. territories.

Another section of the FSA states that the Department may pay the costs incurred by Foreign Servicemembers for R&R travel. Unlike home leave, which is granted to all Foreign Servicemembers who serve abroad, R&R is

granted only to those stationed at hardship posts. Under the current FSA, R&R may only be taken in locations in the United States. State Department regulations have interpreted this phrase to exclude U.S. territories.

Mr. Speaker, there is no principled basis for allowing Foreign Servicemembers to take home leave but not R&R in the U.S. territories, and H.R. 3658 amends the FSA to eliminate the distinction. Just as they proudly serve in our Nation's Armed Forces, residents of the U.S. territories also represent this great country abroad as diplomats. These men and women from the territories take the same risks and endure the same long absences from their families as their colleagues from the States. Making certain that our laws treat these public servants on equal terms is the only right thing to do.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to consider the case of Mr. Ramon Negron. Mr. Negron is a U.S. citizen born and raised in Puerto Rico, a graduate of West Point, and a lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserve. Mr. Negron currently serves as a political economic officer at the U.S. Interests section in Havana, Cuba, which is a hardship post. Mr. Negron's next posting, to begin this summer, is as the Embassy Office Director in Basra, Iraq. It is neither sensible, nor fair, that under current law the State Department will not cover the cost of airfare so this U.S. citizen, U.S. soldier and U.S. diplomat can travel home to Puerto Rico to be with his family before leaving for the Middle East. H.R. 3658 will correct this disparity.

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

Mr. POE. I would inquire of the gentlewoman if she has any other speakers.

Ms. WATSON. I have no other speakers.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3658, to amend the Foreign Service Act of 1980 to permit rest and recuperation travel to United States territories for members of the Foreign Service, sponsored by my good friend and neighbor, Mr. FORTUÑO of Puerto Rico.

Mr. Speaker, the Foreign Service Act unfortunately is not consistent in the way it treats citizens from the mainland and those from the territories. While it allows for the State Department to pay for Foreign Service members to return home, to any of the 50 states or U.S. territories, after being posted abroad, it only permits residents of the 50 states who are at hardship posts, such as Iraq and Afghanistan, to be granted R & R for a period of time while posted.

This bill, at its core, is about equal and fair treatment for residents of the U.S. territories. When most of us hear the word home, we have a clear picture in our head of where that is. But for these Foreign Service members, it is not that simple. Under current law, these diplomats must pay their own way if they want to visit their family and friends back home in the territories, while diplomats from the states have their travel costs covered.

Although these members are from a U.S. territory, they are our fellow citizens and commit their lives to the diplomatic causes. They join for the love of their country and risk their safety in dangerous posts.

The bill before us today would eliminate this unequal and unfair treatment between Foreign Service members who reside in the territories and those that reside in the states. I urge my colleagues to support passage of H.R. 3658.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3658.

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. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

DEVELOPING A COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL STRATEGY IN CHAD AND DARFUR

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1011) calling on the United States Government and the international community to promptly develop, fund, and implement a comprehensive regional strategy to protect civilians, facilitate humanitarian operations, contain and reduce violence, and contribute to conditions for sustainable peace and good governance in Chad, as well as in the wider region that includes the northern region of the Central African Republic and the Darfur region of Sudan, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1011

Whereas since independence in 1960, Chad's political life has been afflicted by a series of internal conflicts and civil wars as well as conflicts with its neighbors;

Whereas Chad has held several legislative and presidential multiparty elections since 1996, although the Department of State reported that the elections were "orderly, but seriously flawed";

Whereas human rights groups and the most recent Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices stated that "the [Chadian] government's poor human rights record deteriorated further";

Whereas the genocide in Darfur, Sudan, continues to affect neighboring countries, especially Chad;

Whereas the United Nations estimates there are more than 240,000 refugees from Darfur and 52,000 refugees from the Central

African Republic in Chad, and more than 180,000 Chadians have been displaced from their homes;

Whereas more than 12,000 new refugees from Darfur arrived in Chad in February 2008 due to increasing attacks against civilians by Sudanese Government forces, even as 30,000 Chadians were forced to flee the N'Djamena area to seek refuge in Cameroon;

Whereas the Government of Chad has provided important support to the many refugees from Darfur and the Central African Republic in Chad, despite serious economic and political difficulties;

Whereas the United States considers the Government of Chad an important ally in the war against terrorism;

Whereas a December 2007 report by the United Nations Secretary General stated that "the security situation in eastern Chad has remained volatile and unpredictable [and t]he renewed violence has put the civilian population living in the area at increased risk and will further impede the work of the humanitarian community";

Whereas an armed rebellion in Chad, supported by the Government of Sudan, has led to a serious humanitarian crisis and political instability in Chad;

Whereas on September 25, 2007, the United Nations Security Council passed Security Council Resolution 1778, authorizing a multidimensional presence intended to help create the security conditions conducive to a voluntary, secure, and sustainable return of internally displaced persons and refugees by contributing to their protection, both by facilitating the provision of humanitarian assistance in eastern Chad and the northern region of the Central African Republic and by creating favorable conditions for the reconstruction and economic and social development of those areas;

Whereas on October 15 and 16, 2007, the Council of the European Union agreed to deploy the military component of the multidimensional presence in the Central African Republic and Chad for a period of 1 year from the date that its initial operational capability is declared;

Whereas in late 2007, the Government of Sudan reportedly gathered several Chadian armed groups in Khartoum in order to bring the armed factions under one coalition for the February 2008 offensive;

Whereas in early February 2008, Chadian rebels armed and supported by the Sudanese Government's armed forces launched a major offensive in Chad's capital, N'Djamena, to overthrow the government of President Idriss Deby Itno;

Whereas in late February, the United Nations reported that the European Union Force began deployment to Chad and that an estimated 400 personnel have been deployed as of late February 2008;

Whereas the United States, the European Union, and the African Union condemn the fighting in Chad and the foreign support for the rebellion; and

Whereas the Department of State issued a press release condemning "the attempt by armed rebels entering from outside the country to seize power extra-constitutionally in Chad"; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses concern about the safety and well-being of innocent civilians in Chad, Chadian refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), and refugees from Darfur and the Central African Republic that have taken refuge in Chad;

(2) strongly condemns Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir and the National Congress Party for their support of the armed rebellion and aggressive behavior in Chad and throughout the region;

(3) calls on parties to seek a negotiated settlement;

(4) urges the Government of Chad to—

(A) engage in an inclusive national dialogue with all stakeholders of the current conflict to reach a comprehensive agreement that would address the root causes of the Chadian crisis and strengthen democratic institutions;

(B) protect its civilians from violence and respect and enforce the rule of law in accordance with international norms and standards; and

(C) honor its May 9, 2007, agreement with the United Nations Children's Fund, ensuring its commitment to end all recruitment of persons under the age of 18 and demobilize all children under the age of 18 from its security forces;

(5) urges the Government of the Central African Republic to—

(A) fulfill its obligation under international law to protect civilians; and

(B) engage in constructive and inclusive dialogue with opposition and armed groups;

(6) calls on armed opposition groups to—

(A) renounce violence and respect the rule of law;

(B) engage in political dialogue to resolve the current crisis in their respective countries; and

(C) immediately end cooperation with the Government of Sudan and others that encourage and support armed rebellion;

(7) urges the United Nations Security Council to remain focused on the crises in Chad and the Central African Republic, and to ensure the effective and impartial protection of civilians, including internally displaced persons and refugees, particularly local populations, by preempting, preventing, and deterring attacks on civilians; and

(8) calls on the President to—

(A) continue United States humanitarian assistance to the refugees and internally displaced persons in Chad and the Central African Republic;

(B) provide support to strengthen democratic institutions and respect for human rights and rule of law; and

(C) seek punitive measures against the Government of Sudan by the United Nations Security Council for its aggression and destructive activities in Chad and the region.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I would first like to thank Representative WOLF and Chairman PAYNE for recognizing the importance of developing and implementing a strategy to resolve the crisis in Chad.

Chad has been politically unstable for over 40 years, suffering from civil

wars as well as ethnic and religious tensions. Human rights conditions remain notably poor, and the government lacks transparency and accountability.

In the past 3 years, as fighting between the government and rebels increased, 180,000 Chadians have been displaced, adding to the inflow of 290,000 refugees from the Central African Republic and Sudan's Darfur region. Although the government developed a plan for reform, and signed a peace agreement with rebel groups in 2007, the conflict has not ceased.

In February 2008, rebel forces, supported by the neighboring Sudanese government, sought to remove President Idriss Déby from power, killing hundreds of civilians in the process.

The 16 U.N. refugee camps suffer from water and firewood shortages, as well as periodic attacks on aid workers. New controls imposed by the Chadian government on humanitarian organizations hinder the movement of assistance and personnel.

In September 2007 the U.N. Security Council, followed by the Council of the European Union, approved the presence of a multinational security force to facilitate assistance and create favorable conditions for reconstruction and development.

The United States has provided over \$338 million in humanitarian assistance since 2004 and also provides security assistance to the Chadian Army through the International Military Education and Training funds.

It is imperative that the U.S. work harder to develop and implement a sound strategy to protect and assist Chadians and other refugees and, together with the international community, condemn Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir and the National Congress for their support of the armed rebellion. Further destabilization in Chad will lead to wider regional instability and hinder the United States' counterterrorism capabilities in a very sensitive region.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this measure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise in support of H. Res. 1011, which calls on the United States and the international community to develop, fund, and implement a regional strategy which addresses the increasing intertwined security and humanitarian crisis in Chad, the Darfur region of the Sudan, and the northern region of the Central African Republic.

Borders in this region of the world are more of a concept than a reality. Ethnic groups straddle lines on a map, and conflict with each other or within one country inevitably spills over into the other countries. While this body has been seized by the horrific situation in Darfur, we have devoted far less attention to the broader regional crisis, particularly as it relates to Chad.

Chad has been plagued by intermittent conflict, both internally and with its neighbors since it gained independence in 1960. The current President of Chad, Idriss Déby, took power after launching a coup across the border in neighboring Darfur, Sudan, with the support of Libya and his fellow ethnic Zaghawas who straddle the border between Chad and Sudan. He has since faced at least five coup attempts, including one just this past February.

The Sudanese government's genocidal campaign in Darfur, which forced hundreds of thousands of Sudanese refugees across the border, has made the tensions within Chad, particularly among Déby's fellow Zaghawas, much worse. These tensions became further inflamed as the relationship between Chad and the Sudan deteriorated, with each government accusing the other of funding and supporting rebel movements within their respective borders, as well as in neighboring Central African Republic.

The spillover of conflict from Darfur into Chad and the Central African Republic, from Chad into Darfur, and from Central African Republic into Chad, has led to the displacement of more than 3.1 million people.

In Darfur, an upsurge in fighting among rebel groups, government forces, militias and armed ethnic groups has led to the displacement of more than 80,000 people since this past January.

In February of this year, 12,000 new refugees from Darfur arrived in Chad, bringing the total number of Sudanese refugees in eastern Chad to 250,000. Chad also is hosting an additional 152,000 refugees from Central African Republic.

At the same time, more than 180,000 people from Chad have been displaced by internal conflict, and in February, 30,000 people from Chad were forced to seek refuge in neighboring Cameroon after rebels, backed by the Sudanese government, attacked the capital.

□ 1430

As the wars in Chad, Sudan and Central African Republic become increasingly intertwined, and as the massive displacements take on a regional dimension, the United States and the international community must resist the urge to deal with each crisis in a vacuum. This resolution recognizes that reality and calls for a comprehensive strategy to protect civilians, facilitate humanitarian operations, contain and reduce violence, and contribute to conditions for sustainable peace and good governance throughout the region with all nations. This is not only a moral imperative, but also a significant strategy requirement.

I thank the sponsor of this resolution, Mr. WOLF, for introducing this important resolution, and I urge Members to support it.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1011, a resolution I sponsored expressing the concern of the House regarding the crisis in Chad.

I want to acknowledge the support of my colleague and Africa subcommittee Chairman DONALD PAYNE in working together to introduce this resolution, and also thank Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman HOWARD BERMAN and ranking member Congresswoman LEANA ROS-LEHTINEN as well as Africa subcommittee ranking member Congressman CHRIS SMITH for their support in this effort.

Since its independence in 1960, Chad has struggled through civil war and political unrest. Recent fighting in Chad has demonstrated beyond doubt the fragile conditions in the region and the continuing destructive behavior of the Government of Sudan in Chad and Darfur. While Chadian rebel groups and their Sudanese allies who laid siege to the capital in early February have since fled toward the east and Darfur, the fighting claimed the lives of hundreds of civilians and forced tens of thousands more out of the capital city and into neighboring Cameroon.

This resolution calls on the United States government and the international community to promptly develop, fund, and implement a comprehensive regional strategy to protect civilians, facilitate humanitarian operations, contain and reduce violence, and contribute to conditions for sustainable peace and good governance in Chad.

It also calls for a strategy for the wider region that includes northern Central African Republic and the Darfur region of Sudan, as recent developments in Chad illustrate the terrible threat facing civilians and the risk of another major humanitarian disaster in that region.

The resolution acknowledges the concern about the safety and well being of innocent civilians in Chad, Chadian refugees and internally displaced persons, and refugees from Darfur and the Central African Republic that have taken refuge in Chad and strongly condemns Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir and the National Congress Party for their support of the armed rebellion and aggressive behavior in Chad and throughout the region.

It also urges the Government of Chad to engage in an inclusive national dialogue with all stakeholders of the current conflict to reach a comprehensive agreement that would address the root causes of the Chadian crisis and strengthen democratic institutions. The resolution also urges the government to work to protect its civilians from violence and to honor its May 9, 2007, agreement with the United Nations Children's Fund, ensuring its commitment to end all recruitment of persons under the age of 18 and demobilize all children under the age of 18 from its security forces.

The resolution further urges the Government of the Central African Republic to fulfill its obligation under international law to protect civilians and engage in constructive and inclusive dialogue with opposition and armed groups.

The resolution also calls on armed opposition groups to renounce violence and respect the rule of law, engage in political dialogue to resolve the current crisis in their respective countries, and immediately end cooperation with the Government of Sudan and others that encourage and support armed rebellion.

Recognizing the importance of the United Nations Security Council in ending this crisis, the resolution urges the Security Council to remain focused on the crises in Chad and the

Central African Republic, and to ensure the effective and impartial protection of civilians, including internally displaced persons and refugees, particularly local populations, by preempting, preventing, and deterring attacks on civilians.

The United States also has an important role to play in resolving the situation in Chad, and the resolution calls on the president to continue United States humanitarian assistance to the refugees and internally displaced persons in Chad and the Central African Republic, provide support to strengthen democratic institutions and respect for human rights and rule of law, and seek punitive measures against the Government of Sudan by the United Nations Security Council for its aggression and destructive activities in Chad and the region.

Mr. Speaker, it is important for this House to express its concern about the crisis in Chad and how the political instability and humanitarian crisis there is impacting the entire region. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H. Res. 1011, calling on the United States Government and the international community to promptly develop, fund, and implement a comprehensive regional strategy to protect civilians, facilitate humanitarian operations, contain and reduce violence, and contribute to conditions for sustainable peace and good governance in Chad, as well as in the wider region that includes the northern region of the Central African Republic and the Darfur region of Sudan, introduced by my distinguished colleague from Virginia, Representative WOLF. This timely and important legislation, of which I am proud to be an original cosponsor, not only calls on the governments of Chad and the Central African Republic to fulfill their obligations under international law to protect civilians, but also calls upon the President of the United States to continue humanitarian assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons in the region.

While regional conflicts have proven substantive and continuous, the internal politics of Chad are by no means a beacon of stability and democracy. Since reaching independence in 1960, Chad has been consistently riddled with internal conflicts and civil wars. Unfortunately, despite American assistance to the government, the State Department reported that the last elections were, "orderly, but seriously flawed," as well as stating in the most recent Department of State Country Report on Human Rights Practices that, "the [Chadian] government's poor human rights record deteriorated further." The situation within Chad is even more precarious when one considers that the United Nations estimates that Chad is home to some 240,000 refugees from Darfur, 52,000 refugees from the Central African Republic, and more than 180,000 internally displaced people. In February 2008 alone, over 12,000 new refugees from Darfur entered the country.

Mr. Speaker, in the past three years, as fighting between the government and rebels increased, 180,000 Chadians have been displaced, adding to the inflow of 290,000 refugees from the Central African Republic (CAR) and Sudan's Darfur region. Although the government developed a plan for reform, and signed a peace agreement with rebel groups

in 2007, the conflict has not ceased. In February 2008, rebel forces, supported by the neighboring Sudanese government, sought to remove President Idriss Déby from power, killing hundreds of civilians in the process. Despite the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1778, authorizing a multidimensional presence intended to help create the security conditions necessary for reconstruction and social and economic development, this has not been the case. While the United States has provided over \$338 million in humanitarian assistance since 2004 and also provides security assistance to the Chadian army through the International Military Education and Training (IMET) funds, there is still much more that needs to be done.

This resolution is both timely and imperative because it calls on the United States to work harder to develop and implement a sound strategy to protect and assist Chadians and other refugees, and, together with the international community, condemn Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir and the National Congress for their support of the armed rebellion. A further destabilization in Chad will lead to wider regional instability and hinder the United States' counter-terrorism capabilities in a very sensitive region.

By calling on the President of the United States to continue to provide humanitarian assistance to displaced persons in the Chad and the Central African Republic and provide support to strengthen the rule of law, democratic institutions, and respect for human rights, this legislation works to not only alleviate suffering in the short term, but also prevent them from occurring in the long term. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this legislation and urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H. Res. 1011, 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. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1166) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding provocative and dangerous statements and actions taken by the Government of the Russian Federation that undermine the territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1166

Whereas, since 1993, the territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia has been reaffirmed by the international community, international law, and 32 United Nations Security Council resolutions;

Whereas the Government of the Republic of Georgia has pursued in good faith a peaceful resolution of territorial conflicts in the regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia since the end of hostilities in 1993;

Whereas, on March 28, 2008, and on April 12, 2008, Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili introduced new and far-reaching peace proposals to resolve the territorial conflict in Abkhazia, including international guarantees of Abkhaz autonomy, broad political representation for the Abkhaz, the right to veto legislation related to the constitutional status of Abkhazia as well as its language and culture, the establishment of a joint Free Economic Zone in the Gali region, and an offer for more active involvement by the international community and Russian Federation to help forge a peaceful resolution to the conflict;

Whereas, for several years, the Government of the Russian Federation has carried out policies that seek to undermine the sovereignty of the Republic of Georgia in Abkhazia and South Ossetia by awarding individuals in these regions with Russian citizenship, Russian passports, economic subsidies, and the right to vote in Russian elections;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation has also detailed Russian officials to take up positions in the separatist governments, provided military equipment and support to separatists in the regions, and encouraged Russian volunteers to serve in militias in Abkhazia and South Ossetia;

Whereas the announcement from the Government of the Russian Federation on April 16, 2008, that it will establish "official ties" with the regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, recognize their official documents and legal entities, and further involve itself in aspects of their governments appears to be a thinly veiled attempt at annexation;

Whereas, on April 20, 2008, tensions between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Georgia further escalated when an unarmed and unmanned Georgian reconnaissance aircraft was shot down over Georgian territory, reportedly by a Russian MIG-29 fighter jet;

Whereas Russian officials have denied any involvement in the downing of the reconnaissance plane, claiming that Abkhazian rebels were responsible for the incident, although neither Georgia nor Abkhazian defense forces have MIG-29 fighter jets;

Whereas the statements and counter-productive actions of the Government of the Russian Federation in these regions has undermined the peace and security in Abkhazia and South Ossetia, the Republic of Georgia, and the Caucasus region as a whole;

Whereas the consistent effort to undermine the sovereignty of a neighbor is incompatible with the role of the Russian Federation as one of the world's leading powers and with its commitments to international peacekeeping made to the United Nations Security Council and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe; and

Whereas, on April 23, 2008, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice stated that "the United States is firmly committed to the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Georgia, that we support Georgia's efforts to make certain that the people of Abkhazia

and South Ossetia feel fully a part of Georgia, and that we are very concerned at the recent move by the Russian Federation, the presidential decree that was issued": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns recent decisions made by the Government of the Russian Federation to establish "official ties" with the regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, a process that further impedes reconciliation between those regions and the Government of the Republic of Georgia and that violates the sovereignty of the Republic of Georgia and the commitments of the Government of the Russian Federation to international peacekeeping;

(2) calls upon the Government of the Russian Federation to immediately revoke its decision to establish "official ties" with the regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia;

(3) strongly supports the restoration of the territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia and a peaceful resolution of the conflicts within Georgia's internationally recognized borders;

(4) encourages the Government of the Russian Federation to work with the Government of Georgia, the peoples of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, and the international community to find a peaceful solution to the conflict;

(5) welcomes the measured reaction of the Government of the Republic of Georgia to recent developments and commends President Saakashvili's latest initiatives to resolve territorial conflicts through peaceful means;

(6) calls on United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to conduct an investigation of the April 20, 2008, incident in which an unarmed Georgian reconnaissance aircraft was shot down by what reports indicate was a missile launched from a Russian MIG-29 fighter jet;

(7) urges all parties to the conflicts in the Republic of Georgia and governments around the world to eschew rhetoric and actions that escalate tensions and undermine efforts to negotiate a peaceful settlement to the conflicts; and

(8) supports the declaration of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) Bucharest Summit in Romania, which stated that the Republic of Georgia will become a member of NATO, reiterates its support for the commitment to further enlargement of NATO to include democratic governments that are able and willing to meet the responsibilities of membership, and urges the foreign ministers of NATO member states at their meeting in December 2008 to consider favorably the application of the Government of the Republic of Georgia's Membership Action Plan.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATSON. 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 gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I also rise in strong support of this resolution

and yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I am pleased to support this resolution that adds the House's voice to the chorus of condemnation from the administration and our European allies to the provocative actions taken in recent weeks by the Russian Federation against the Republic of Georgia.

I commend my distinguished colleague, Representative WEXLER of Florida and chairman of the European Subcommittee, for promptly introducing this important resolution.

For several years, the Russian Government has promulgated policies that have increasingly sought to undermine the sovereignty of the Georgian Government and its territorial integrity over Abkhazia and South Ossetia. Such harmful policies include awarding residents in these regions with Russian citizenship, Russian passports, and even the right to vote in Russian elections.

In addition, the Kremlin has assigned Russian officials to hold positions in the separatist governments in South Ossetia and Abkhazia. It has also provided military equipment and volunteer fighters to support militias active in these regions. Such behavior is counterproductive to efforts to find a peaceful resolution to these conflicts and contrary to Russia's commitments to international peacekeeping.

Irritated by international recognition of Kosovo's independence despite its objections and incensed by Georgia's clear future in NATO, Russia escalated its dangerous actions towards Georgia in the weeks leading up to and immediately following NATO's Bucharest Summit. On March 6, Russia withdrew from the sanctions regime imposed on Abkhazia in 1996 by the Commonwealth of Independent States thereby eliminating the remaining limits on direct Russian economic relations with Abkhazia.

On March 21, the Russian Duma passed a nonbinding declaration asking the government to consider the "expediency of recognizing the independence of Abkhazia and South Ossetia." On March 25, Dmitry Medvedev, Russia's incoming president, spoke out against NATO membership for Georgia. During the NATO Summit, Russian President Putin sent letters to the separatist leaders of Abkhazia and South Ossetia to express his support for their regimes.

As outlined in this resolution, President Putin instructed his government on April 16 to establish official ties with these separatist regimes. He further ordered his government to recognize legal documents issued by these authorities as well as legal entities registered by them. The tension reached its climax on April 20 when an unarmed and unmanned Russian reconnaissance aircraft was shot down over Georgian territory, reportedly by a Russian MIG-29 fighter. Despite Russian claims of innocence, neither the Georgians nor the Abkhazian rebels have this plane in their fleet.

Last week Russia further strained relations by moving an extra contingent of troops into Abkhazia. The Kremlin claims to be responding to a Georgia military buildup along the border, which the Tbilisi Government denies. Although Russia's troop level remains within the 3,000 soldier limit allowed under the 1994 U.N. ceasefire agreement, NATO has backed Russia's assertion that any increase must be approved by all parties.

Such hostile actions are in stark contrast to the recent attempts made by Georgian President, Mikheil Saakashvili, to find a peaceful and lasting solution to this conflict in the Caucasus. As he rightly stated, "There are no issues that we and the Abkhazians cannot solve through negotiations."

On March 28 and April 12, President Saakashvili introduced new proposals to facilitate a resolution to the conflict. They included international guarantees of Abkhaz autonomy, broad political representation for the Abkhaz, the right to veto legislation related to the constitutional status of Abkhazia as well as its language and culture, and the establishment of a joint Free Economic Zone in the Gali region. President Putin has turned a deaf ear to these suggestions.

I ask my colleagues to join me in calling on the Russian Federation to revoke immediately its decision to establish official ties with these regions and to support the territorial integrity of Georgia's borders.

Rather than engaging in provocative acts, President Putin should respond favorably to President Saakashvili's call for active involvement by the Russian Federation as well as the international community to forge a peaceful and lasting solution to this conflict.

Furthermore, NATO should uphold its Summit promise to Georgia of a future in the Alliance by considering the extension of a Membership Action Plan at its December meeting. This act would welcome the country into the Euro-Atlantic community and could serve as a deterrent to further Russian aggression. I strongly support this resolution and urge my colleagues to join me.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I believe that there was a time when we could honestly hope that Russia was playing a fair and supportive role with regard to the resolution of the separatist conflicts in the Republic of Georgia. Unfortunately, our optimism in that regard is almost exhausted. It now appears obvious that Russia seeks to play a destabilizing role in Georgia, with the goal of undermining Georgia's political and economic development and, ultimately, its own sovereignty.

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Over several years Russia has reportedly supported the separatist forces

with arms and trained personnel. It has applied boycotts on Georgian goods and shut off energy supplies to Georgia. It has broadly granted Russian citizenship and issued Russian passports to people living in Georgia's separatist regions. It has provided economic subsidies to the separatist regions and granted residents of those regions the right to vote in Russian elections. Its so-called "peacekeeping" forces in the separatist regions appeared to have played a biased role in favor, of course, of the separatist regime. More recently, on April 16, the Kremlin issued a decree further expanding its "official" ties with the separatist regions.

Most objective observers would affirm that the Georgian Government has tried to be fair and open-minded in its efforts to negotiate a settlement in the separatist conflicts. One has to wonder, however, if sporadic and mysterious incidents involving small-scale attacks on Georgian territory and forces are meant to provoke the Georgian Government.

One such incident occurred on April 20. An unmanned and unarmed Georgian reconnaissance aircraft was shot down over Georgian territory, reportedly by a Russian MIG-29 fighter. Since neither Georgia nor the separatist regimes have MIG-29 jets among their forces, it seems difficult for Russia to deny its involvement.

Mr. Speaker, the Georgian people have made tremendous progress since the "Rose Revolution" of 2003. Georgia is not a perfect democracy, but it's heading in the right direction. It certainly compares very well with the trends in Russia, where a totalitarian regime is steadily being constructed once again.

Georgia deserves the support and encouragement of leading states of Europe and the support of the United States. Democracy and reform in Georgia will only succeed if the European Union, the leading states of Europe, and the United States remain engaged and strongly support it.

The resolution calls for the Kremlin to immediately revoke its decision to expand "official ties" with the separatist regions in Georgia. The resolution expresses strong support for the restoration of the territorial integrity of Georgia and for the peaceful resolution of conflicts within Georgia's borders. It also restates the declaration made by the NATO heads of state at the recent summit in Bucharest, Romania, in which they confidently stated their belief that the Republic of Georgia will become a member of NATO some day. And it urges NATO allies to favorably consider Georgia's application for admission in the Membership Action Plan, or MAP, during the NATO Ministers meeting this December, MAP being a program to simply help interested applicants for membership and prepare them to meet the standards required of all NATO allies.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution is intended to support the sovereignty of

Georgia and support an end to any irresponsible actions by the Russian Government that undermine its sovereignty and the prospects for a peaceful resolution of the separatist conflicts in that country.

I note again as well that nothing stated in this resolution with regard to NATO and Georgia's interest in membership in that alliance is any different from what was stated at the recent NATO summit.

I support this resolution and urge all my colleagues to do the same as well.

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

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCHWARTZ).

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, as the co-Chair of the Congressional Georgia Caucus, I rise in support of House Resolution 1166 and to express my strong support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia.

On April 16, 2008, the Russian Government declared that it would establish legal and official ties with Abkhazia and South Ossetia. This is nothing more than a thinly veiled attempt by Russia to extend these regions, which are part of the sovereign nation of Georgia. This action was denounced by the international community, including the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, better known as NATO to all of us. Nonetheless, Russia remained unfazed by international opinion and further escalated tensions in the region just 4 days later by shooting down a Georgian unmanned aerial drone over Georgian territory.

Georgia is one of the strongest allies in the Caucasus region, and it is important for the United States to continue to stand by our allies. I spoke with President Saakashvili on Thursday, and he's very concerned about the situation and, as was mentioned by previous speakers, has offered a number of peace proposals. But he very much appreciates the statements that were made in support of Georgia by our State Department and is grateful for this resolution and the strong bipartisan support it demonstrates from Congress.

Since speaking with the President last week, the situation has become even more difficult for Georgia. The Russian Federation continues to move troops into Abkhazia, and yesterday we heard reports of possibly two more Georgian aircraft being shot down.

Considering our close relationship with Georgia, it is appropriate that the House of Representatives join the international institutions that have condemned Russia's actions and called for a peaceful resolution to the current tensions in the region. This resolution is supported by the chairman and ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, who were original cosponsors of the resolution. And it was introduced by Representative WEXLER, the chairman of the Europe Subcommittee.

I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution and appreciate its bipartisan nature.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1166. The international community has affirmed the territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia many times, and Georgia has sought in good faith a peaceful resolution of the conflicts with its regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. The Georgian Government has made generous proposals regarding internationally guaranteed autonomy, political representation, and the constitutional status of the regions.

I am deeply concerned that the Government of Russia has not responded with equal good faith. It has consistently undermined Georgian sovereignty over these regions, for example, by giving people in these regions Russian citizenship, passports, voting rights, and even economic subsidies. The Russian Government has provided leaders, volunteers, and arms to separatist movements in these regions, and threatened to establish "official ties" with the Abkhazian and South Ossetian regions. According to reliable reports, the Russian Government has shot down unmanned drones over Georgian territory. It is outrageous for one state to undertake such hostile actions against a neighbor.

Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt that the Secretary of State did the right thing when she recently committed the United States to Georgia's territorial integrity and sovereignty, and that the House will reaffirm American support for Georgia and condemn the Russian Government's unjust and destabilizing actions. Over and over again, we have seen how there are always people who are quick to make excuses for the Russian Government's unjust actions toward the small nations on its border—or toward the Russian people themselves. In the communist era, and since 1991, there have always been people who argued that, if we will just look the other way, allowing the Russian Government to do as it likes in some "sphere of influence," the Russian Government will respond by becoming kinder, gentler, and more peaceful.

The historical record belies this argument. Alexander Solzhenitsyn, President Reagan, Pope John Paul II, Father Gleb Yakunin, the refuseniks in Russia in the 1970s and 1980s, the brave and beleaguered Russian human rights movement today—these people spoke the truth to and about the Russian Government. They have done more to promote peace and justice in the former Soviet Union than all those who argued for silence and compromise. Mr. Speaker, I am glad that this House is today choosing their road. What the Russian Government is doing to undermine Georgia is wrong, it is outrageous, and it must stop.

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

Ms. WATSON. 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 gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1166.

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. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

CONDEMNING BURMESE REGIME'S UNDEMOCRATIC CONSTITUTION

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 317) condemning the Burmese regime's undemocratic constitution and scheduled referendum, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 317

Whereas in 1974, then-dictator General Ne Win and his regime redrew the 1947 State Constitution and held a referendum for a military-backed constitution, endorsing a civilian front for military rule, known as the Burmese Socialist Program Party;

Whereas in 1988, the people of Burma came to the streets in a massive popular democracy uprising to call for democracy, human rights, and an end to military rule and a single party system;

Whereas the current military regime violently crushed the mass democracy uprising in 1988, killing more than 3,000 peaceful protesters and taking over power from the previous regime;

Whereas the current military regime, officially known as the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), known previously as the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), held multi-party elections in 1990;

Whereas despite the threat and pressure by the military regime to vote for the candidates of the military-backed National Unity Party (NUP), the people of Burma voted 82 percent of Parliament seats for the candidates of the National League for Democracy (NLD) party, led by detained leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and allied ethnic political parties;

Whereas the military regime refused to honor the election results and arrested and imprisoned both democracy activists and elected members of parliament;

Whereas the SPDC over a period of 14 years held a National Convention to draft a new constitution in which the process was tightly controlled, repressive and undemocratic;

Whereas the NLD walked out of the convention in 1995 because participants were not allowed to table alternative proposals or voice disagreement with the military regime;

Whereas in 2005, the leaders of the Shan Nationalities League of Democracy (SNLD) were all arrested on false charges and sentenced to more than 90 years in prison each;

Whereas the people of Burma, led by democracy activists and Buddhist monks in August and September 2007, took to the streets in nationwide peaceful protests demanding the military regime participate in a meaningful tri-partite dialogue with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the elected political parties from the 1990 elections and representatives of the ethnic nationalities for national

reconciliation and a transition to democracy;

Whereas according to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights Situation in Burma, Professor Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, leading human rights groups and foreign diplomats based in Burma estimate the death toll from the August and September 2007 peaceful protests is much higher than reported by the regime;

Whereas the military regime brutally crushed the peaceful protests, killing at least 31 people, leaving nearly 100 missing, and arresting 700 additional political prisoners bringing the number of Burma's political prisoners to approximately 1,800;

Whereas the United Nations Security Council Presidential Statement, issued by unanimous consent of all members of the Council on October 11, 2007, stated that "the Security Council strongly deploras the use of violence against peaceful demonstrators in Myanmar, emphasizes the importance of the early release of all political prisoners and remaining detainees";

Whereas the United Nations Security Council Presidential Statement also stressed "the need for the Government of Myanmar to create the necessary conditions for a genuine dialogue with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and all concerned parties and ethnic groups, in order to achieve an inclusive national reconciliation with the direct support of the United Nations";

Whereas the United Nations and governments around the world also repeatedly called for the SPDC to hold a political dialogue with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, her party, the NLD, and representatives of ethnic nationalities to achieve national reconciliation and democratization and reverse the decades-long misrule by the regime which has resulted in a downward spiral of Burma's economic, educational, social, public health and infrastructure sectors;

Whereas the SPDC has ignored the repeated requests of the United Nations and the international community to release all political prisoners, end attacks against civilians, and engage in a meaningful dialogue with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, her party, the NLD, and representatives of ethnic nationalities;

Whereas at the same time, the SPDC assigned a commission to draft a constitution on October 18, 2007, with 54 hand-picked participants, in an attempt to ignore past election results, to lock in a process that excludes representatives of ethnic nationalities and the NLD from political participation, and to legitimize continued military rule;

Whereas the latest version of the draft constitution seeks to codify military rule by reserving 25 percent of parliamentary seats for military appointees, permits the head of the military to intervene in national politics, and ensures that key government ministries are held by military officers;

Whereas in October 2007, the SPDC appointed Labor Minister U Aung Kyi as liaison minister to engage with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi for possible talks with Senior General Than Shwe, leader of the SPDC, but there has been no true exchange or tangible result from the few talks that were held;

Whereas recently, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi expressed through her party leaders that she is unhappy with the SPDC's unwillingness to establish political dialogue and she even urged the people of Burma to be prepared for the worst;

Whereas on February 9, 2008, the military regime announced that it will hold a constitutional referendum in May 2008 and a general election in 2010;

Whereas on February 12, 2008, the SPDC extended for another year the house arrest of U Tin Oo, Deputy Chairman of the NLD; and

Whereas early reports concerning the referendum voting indicate that Burmese voters were instructed how to vote under supervision of officials, sometimes under threat of physical violence and without an opportunity to read the ballot they were forced to cast: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) denounces the one-sided, undemocratic, and illegitimate actions of the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) that seek to legitimize military rule through a flawed referendum process to adopt a new, undemocratic constitution;

(2) strongly urges that Burma's military regime begin a meaningful tri-partite dialogue with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the 1990 election-winning parties and representatives of ethnic nationalities toward national reconciliation, democracy, freedom of assembly, freedom of movement, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and internationally recognized human rights for all Burmese citizens;

(3) demands the immediate and unconditional release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, detained Buddhist monks, and all other political prisoners and prisoners of conscience;

(4) denounces the SPDC for its failure to comply with the United Nations' recommendations and engage in a meaningful time-bound tri-partite dialogue with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the 1990 election winning parties and representatives of ethnic nationalities;

(5) calls for the SPDC to comply fully and immediately with the recommendations made by the United Nations Security Council Presidential Statement issued on October 11, 2007;

(6) urges the President to call for the United Nations Security Council to condemn the undemocratic referendum process and the SPDC's flawed constitution which will be the outcome of the referendum;

(7) urges the President to call for the United Nations Security Council to pass a binding resolution, which will instruct the regime to fully comply with the recommendations made by United Nations Special Envoy Ibrahim Gambari and the United Nations Security Council Presidential Statement, and strengthen the mandate of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to engage in a meaningful and time-bound dialogue with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the 1990 election winning parties and ethnic nationality representatives towards an inclusive democratic national reconciliation;

(8) urges the President to push for a comprehensive arms embargo against the Burmese military regime at the United Nations Security Council so that weapons produced by foreign countries, including Ukraine, China, and Russia, that currently sell weapons to Burma's military regime, can no longer be used by Burma's military regime against civilians; and

(9) urges the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to involve itself more deeply in reaching out to the Burmese democracy movement and to work with the United Nations Security Council and the Secretary-General to promote meaningful political dialogue.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATSON. 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 California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to thank my colleague Mr. RUSH Holt for offering this important measure and for his tireless leadership in promoting human rights and democracy in Burma.

For more than a decade, the military regime in Burma has ignored the democratic aspirations of the Burmese people. As we saw in its bloody repression of last September's "Saffron Revolution," the regime continues to trample on human rights. And it is squandering Burma's vast natural resources through spending on the regime and its weapons, while leaving the overwhelming majority of Burma's people in poverty.

Now the regime plans a May 10 referendum to institutionalize these policies through a sham constitution. The referendum attempts to give democratic legitimacy to a process that was designed by the Burmese military, implemented by the Burmese military, and benefits only the Burmese military. As such, it is anything but democratic.

Today, as Burma recovers from a devastating storm that left thousands dead and missing, with many more homeless, our sympathies are with the Burmese people. But it is not natural disasters but rather the yoke of the Burmese military that has left Burma's people impoverished and calling for greater political participation for more than 20 years.

It is especially appropriate that we stand with the Burmese people today as they face not only the devastation of the cyclone but also the continued devastation caused by this regime. Accordingly, I call on my colleagues to join me in condemning the Burmese junta's sham referendum and constitution.

By passing H. Con. Res. 317 today, we call on the administration, the United Nations, and the international community to support a legitimate, inclusive dialogue between the regime and opposition forces. Only such an inclusive tripartite negotiation can put Burma back on the path to peace and prosperity, where it rightfully belongs.

Please join me in support of H. Con. Res. 317 and offering support for restoration of real democracy in Burma.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, which points out that the smoke screen of a sham constitution and a bogus referendum is not a path leading to free Burma.

It seems a particularly callous decision for the Burmese junta to go forward with its planned referendum on May 10, just 1 week after a tropical cyclone devastated the people of that nation. The generals, by ignoring the almost 4,000 dead and 100,000 homeless, are concerned only about their narrow political agenda.

We in Congress offer our heartfelt condolences to those in Burma who lost family and friends in this tragic natural disaster. We urge the junta to immediately lift its irrational restrictions on international humanitarian organizations operating inside Burma. Only then can they provide the emergency relief necessary for the suffering people of this country.

The generals in Rangoon, however, have cynically determined that time is on their side. They are convinced that, while the world's attention turns away from the bloody events of last fall to other crises in other parts of the world, they can carry on business as usual oppressing their people. That business includes implementing plans for the May 10 referendum on their undemocratic constitution. This constitution ignores the will of the people of Burma as expressed in the streets of Rangoon and other cities last fall. This one-sided constitution seeks to legitimize military dictatorship rule. The current junta seized power by crushing a mass democracy uprising over two decades ago. We and the people of Burma will commemorate the 20th anniversary of that uprising on August 8, the very date the Beijing Olympics begins. On that date, advocates of a free Burma will hold activities around the world to remind the Burmese generals and their Beijing allies that the torch of Miss Liberty shines brighter than any Olympic torch.

The generals have turned to a sham constitutional provision in an effort to ignore the international call for a genuine dialogue with Aung San Suu Kyi and members of the opposition and minority groups. The goal of that dialogue is to achieve "inclusive national reconciliation." This call for dialogue was contained in the statement released by the U.N. Security Council President on October 11, 2007, with the unanimous consent of all members of the council.

Instead of heeding the urgings of the international community, however, these generals have brazenly continued their roundup of those involved in the Saffron Revolution last fall, including Buddhist monks, and they have put them in jail. They have also refused to release Aung San Suu Kyi and other political prisoners.

The Burmese junta treated the U.N. special envoy to Burma with disdain during his last visit. They refused him access to the top leadership and flatly rejected his offer of independent monitoring of the referendum vote. The U.N. envoy himself has admitted the visit did not yield any tangible results.

The junta's attitude of brazen indifference following its bloody suppres-

sion of the Saffron Revolution cannot stand unchallenged by the world community.

□ 1500

This Congress must raise strong objection to the junta's cynical plan to try to maintain rule through a sham constitution.

I urge that my colleagues stand for a free Burma by voicing vigorous support of this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he might consume to the gentleman from New Jersey, Representative RUSH HOLT.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlelady.

Today all of our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Burma. The deaths and destruction caused by the cyclone Nargis which hit Burma over the weekend are still being discovered. Recent reports indicate that maybe 10,000 were killed and hundreds of thousands left without shelter and clean water. Yet despite this horrific natural disaster, the Burmese junta has announced it will go ahead with the scheduled sham constitutional referendum this Saturday.

Today, we are considering our resolution to condemn the Burmese regime's undemocratic constitution and the scheduled sham referendum to legitimize that constitution. As the sponsor of H. Con. Res. 317, I want to thank Chairman BERMAN and Ranking Member ROS-LEHTINEN, who are both lead sponsors of the resolution, for their support in helping to move this.

We sometimes ask, and our constituents sometimes ask, whether governments are relevant to our daily lives, to their daily lives. Well, certainly here we see a negative example of what a difference a government can make. The ruling junta did not warn the people, so I understand, of the oncoming cyclone. They have done little to provide humanitarian assistance.

I strongly encourage our State Department to heed the calls of the international community and provide whatever emergency humanitarian assistance the Government of Burma will accept. I do recall visiting Burma several decades ago following an earthquake that devastated Pagan, and the willful unwillingness of the military dictatorship then to accept international help.

I have long been interested in Burma and the future of the Burmese people. I first traveled there some decades ago, and I was struck by the amazing damage and destruction that a despotic antidemocratic government can inflict on an economy, on a country and on the people.

Under military rule since 1962, Burma was once called the "rice bowl of Asia" because of its rich resources, its fertile land and its productive people. But with the ruling junta, its promise and its potential have steadily declined. This promising country's resources have been channeled into supporting the military, and it is now one

of the most impoverished countries in the world.

Prior to this week's scheduled sham constitutional referendum, the junta has allowed an election once before. In 1990 the National League For Democracy, the NLD, led by Aung San Suu Kyi, won an election landslide. Yet despite the NLD winning four out of every five parliamentary seats, the regime locked up the NLD winners, and to this day Aung San Suu Kyi remains under arrest. For her bravery, courage and her fight for true democracy in her home country, she has been awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace. Yet 18 years later, this Nobel laureate remains locked away.

Those are among the reasons that this House today is considering, and should pass, this resolution to condemn the Burmese regime's undemocratic constitution and the sham referendum to legitimize it.

The Burmese people are determined to enjoy the same rights and freedoms that so many across the world, take for granted. The heroic efforts of the opposition leader and Peace Prize winner and others have given hope to victims of terrible oppression, and they deserve our support. This resolution sends a strong signal to the people of Burma that we stand with them in their struggle for democracy. The resolution denounces the one-sided totalitarian and illegal act by the junta to try to legitimize military rule through their unilaterally drafted constitution.

The monks who were detained following the September Saffron Revolution and all other political prisoners and prisoners of conscience should be released. The resolution urges President Bush to call on the world community not to accept or recognize the junta's constitution.

When several of us Members of Congress held a meeting here of the Human Rights Caucus on the Saffron Revolution to hear testimony from the monks who stood up in a nonviolent way to one of the most despotic regimes in the world, the monks told a gripping and heart-rending tale. They called on Congress to approve this resolution as soon as possible, and today the House answers that call.

Earlier this year, for a joint session of Congress, I invited a young man, Richard Chio, a refugee from Burma and a resident of my congressional district, to sit as my guest here in the gallery of this House. He sat and watched the State of the Union address, having resettled only months before in the United States with the help of Lutheran Social Services of New Jersey. He told me that this day in Washington "was like living in a dream." It was the most amazing day in his life to see that a government like ours could exist, because he knew nothing like that in Burma.

Richard's story and the countless others remind us of why now, more than ever, especially following the devastation of this cyclone in Burma, the

people of the United States need to stand with the people of Burma and oppose the junta.

This referendum later this week would be a sham, a fake, pretend; it would be bogus, fraudulent, spurious, phony. Use whatever word you want. But it would not be democratic. It would not be to the benefit of the people of Burma who want a true democracy.

I thank the chairman and the ranking member for their support and the many cosponsors of this resolution. I also want to thank Eric Richardson with Mr. BERMAN and Dennis Halpin with the ranking member for their assistance in preparing this resolution. I also want to thank the U.S. Campaign for Burma and Jen Quigley for the excellent work they do every day and have done year in and year out to promote democracy in Burma.

I urge passage of this resolution.

Ms. WATSON. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, it should be well noted that China continues to support this military dictatorship in Burma. And as we approach the Chinese Olympics this year, we should remember that China does not burn the torch for liberty and freedom throughout the world, but they continue to support dictatorships like those in North Korea, Darfur and Burma.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, as the representative in Congress of Fort Wayne, Indiana—home to an estimated 3,000 to 3,500 people from Burma, the greatest population of Burmese in the United States—I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 317.

Over the last year, Indiana's Third Congressional District has seen a marked increase in the number of refugees from Burma, although Burmese have lived in northeast Indiana for some time. To help them immerse as quickly as possible into our community, my office has been working with Federal and State agencies, as well as local resettlement organizations. Over the years, I've had an opportunity to learn about this Southeast Asian country and its diverse, proud, and resilient people.

More than anything, the refugees tell me about the brutal oppression they endured under the military junta in Burma, known as the State Peace and Development Council. Many of these refugees still have loved ones living in destitute, overseas refugee camps, or relatives who have been unable to escape Burma, and they worry greatly about their plight.

They also tell me about Aung San Suu Kyi, the Nobel laureate and democratically elected leader of Burma, who has been under house arrest for years, barred from assuming the Prime Ministerial post to which she was rightly elected. Her consistent advocacy of nonviolent resistance against the military junta is inspiring, and it was for her strong leadership that the Nobel Committee awarded her its Peace Prize. The United States must unequivocally support Aung San Suu Kyi as the legitimate leader of Burma.

Despite international recognition of its gross human rights violations, Burma's regime continues to use violence and murder to terrorize its own people, most recently during last Sep-

tember's demonstrations. I have spoken in opposition to Burma's military junta for a number of years, and today I am once again condemning it for forcing a referendum that seeks to lend false credibility to an undemocratic constitution. As a cosponsor of H. Con. Res. 317, I am deeply concerned by what the regime will do to retain its tight grip on power.

Today, as the House considers this concurrent resolution, I also join my colleagues in being mindful of the terrible devastation caused by a cyclone that ripped through Burma over the weekend. I offer my condolences to the families of those who lost loved ones in this staggering disaster, and I earnestly hope that the regime in Burma will accept international assistance to help Burma's people recover from this tragedy.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 317: Condemning Burma's Undemocratic Constitutional Referendum, introduced by my colleague Congressman HOLT, which I am proud to cosponsor. I would like to thank the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs for bringing this important legislation to the floor today, as well as his ongoing leadership on this issue.

Last year, we witnessed the biggest protests in Burma since the popular uprising in 1988. Initially triggered by a sharp and unexpected increase in fuel, last September's protests, known as the Saffron Revolution, became a statement against the government attacks on Buddhist monks attending a peaceful protest in early September. Following the government's failure to apologize for these appalling actions, Burma's spiritual and nonviolent monks began protesting in large numbers. Burma's monks are highly revered, and have historically played a prominent role in political protests within the country. They form the social foundation of their nation, and it is extremely significant that tens of thousands of monks participated in the recent demonstrations.

The events of last September illustrated the Burmese military regime's ongoing repression of basic human rights. The military has, for many years, ignored the democratic aspirations of the Burmese people, perhaps best seen in the ongoing restrictions on prominent pro-democracy leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, whose party won a landslide electoral victory in 1990 but has never been allowed to govern. In addition, the regime is squandering Burma's natural resources, with proceeds going to the military and its weapons, instead of to the people of Burma, the overwhelming majority of whom live in poverty.

Military-run enterprises continue to control key sectors of the Burmese economy, which, in general, is plagued by corruption, severe mismanagement, and a flourishing black market. Burma is the world's largest exporter of teak, as well as a principal source of jade, pearls, rubies, and sapphires. These resources, combined with extremely fertile soil and offshore oil and gas deposits, are spent in ways that only benefit the military elite while the vast bulk of the Burmese people are increasingly destitute.

Mr. Speaker, this repressive government is now planning a May 10th referendum, which will have the effect of institutionalizing these policies through a sham constitution. The military regime in Burma is attempting to give

democratic legitimacy to a process, controlled from start to finish by the Burmese military, which is anything but democratic. A true democracy benefits the people; this referendum will only benefit the Burmese military.

The legislation that we are considering today, H. Con. Res. 317, calls on the Administration, the United Nations, and the international community to support legitimate, inclusive dialogue between the regime and opposition forces. It denounces the regime's one-sided, undemocratic attempt to legalize military rule with the constitution and its related referendum, and insists that Burma's military regime begin a meaningful tri-partite dialogue with Aung San Suu Kyi, winners of the 1990 election, and ethnic nationality representatives toward full restoration of democracy and internationally recognized human rights for all Burmese citizens. Further, it urges the President to call for the U.N. Security Council not to recognize the constitution and to pass a resolution instructing the Burmese regime to enter into meaningful dialogue, and to push for a comprehensive U.N. Security Council arms embargo against the Burmese military regime.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is an unambiguous call for truly inclusive, tripartite dialogue. Burma possesses one of the most ancient, rich, and ethnically and religiously diverse cultures on earth. Like the indomitable Aung San Suu Kyi, the opposition leader democratically elected to lead the nation in 1990 but who instead has been imprisoned for 12 of the last 18 years, the people of Burma are resilient and draw strength from their convictions and the diversity of their nation. Only through such international negotiation can we hope to put Burma back on the path to peace and prosperity. I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important and timely legislation.

Mr. POE. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATSON. 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 gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Con. Res. 317, 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. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

DITH PRAN

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1109) honoring the memory of Dith Pran by remembering his life's work and continuing to acknowl-

edge and remember the victims of genocides that have taken place around the globe, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1109

Whereas Dith Pran was born on September 23, 1942, in Siem Reap, Cambodia, a provincial town near the ancient temples at Angkor Wat;

Whereas Mr. Dith, a photojournalist and human rights advocate, became the face of the atrocities in Cambodia carried out by the Khmer Rouge;

Whereas Mr. Dith learned French and English in school and became a translator of Khmer for the United States Armed Forces and visiting film crews while he worked as a receptionist at a hotel near Angkor Wat prior to the escalation of the Vietnam War;

Whereas, during much of the early 1970s, Mr. Dith was a guide, interpreter, and friend of Sydney H. Schanberg of the New York Times;

Whereas the friendship and partnership between Mr. Dith and Mr. Schanberg became the basis for the 1984 film, "The Killing Fields", which showed the brutality perpetrated by the Khmer Rouge from 1975 to 1979 under Pol Pot;

Whereas nearly 2,000,000 Cambodians died from 1975 to 1979 at the hands of the Khmer Rouge;

Whereas Mr. Dith saved Mr. Schanberg and other Western journalists from being executed by persuading Khmer Rouge soldiers that they were journalists sympathetic to the Khmer Rouge cause;

Whereas Mr. Dith's wife and children were able to leave Cambodia for the United States through Mr. Schanberg's connections, but Mr. Dith was unable to obtain a passport or visa to leave the country;

Whereas, for four years, Mr. Dith disguised himself as a peasant, worked in rice fields, and endured regular beatings and harsh labor while living on a diet of a tablespoon of rice a day because the Khmer Rouge would often kill anyone who appeared educated or even wore glasses;

Whereas, in November 1978, Mr. Dith returned to his home of Siem Reap, and discovered that 50 members of his family had been killed;

Whereas Mr. Dith fled 60 miles to the border of Thailand and arrived, on October 3, 1979, where Mr. Schanberg flew to greet him;

Whereas Mr. Dith had an emotional reunion with his wife, Ser Moeun Dith, and their four children when he arrived in San Francisco;

Whereas Mr. Dith moved to New York, New York, and was hired in 1980 as a photographer for The New York Times;

Whereas Mr. Dith was a tireless activist speaking out about the Cambodian genocide and once stating, "I'm a one person crusade";

Whereas soon after the release of the film "The Killing Fields", Mr. Dith became a United States citizen and a goodwill ambassador for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

Whereas, in 1994, Mr. Dith worked to help pass the Cambodian Genocide Justice Act of 1994, sponsored by former Senator Charles Robb of Virginia, which established an Office of Cambodian Genocide Investigations at the Department of State;

Whereas, on March 30, 2008, Mr. Dith, a resident of Woodbridge, New Jersey, passed away at the age of 65; and

Whereas the Dith Pran Holocaust Awareness Project was established to create aware-

ness about the Cambodian genocide: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) honors the life and legacy of Mr. Dith for his commitment to raising awareness about the atrocities that took place under the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia;

(2) recognizes his courage and his endless pursuit for justice for the victims of the Cambodian genocide and all peoples around the world who have been victims of genocide; and

(3) honors the memory of Mr. Dith by remembering his life's work and continuing to acknowledge and remember the victims of genocides that have taken place around the world.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution, and I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I would like to thank my colleague, Mr. SIRES, for offering this important legislation in memory of a great American, Dith Pran. Through the film "The Killing Fields," Dith Pran is for many Americans the face of the Cambodian genocide. That movie documented Dith Pran's personal struggle, his friendship and cooperation with New York Times reporter Sydney Schanberg, and the larger horror of the Khmer Rouge genocide in Cambodia.

Much as "The Killing Fields" reminded Americans of the Cambodian genocide, Mr. Dith's life work as a photojournalist and U.N. goodwill ambassador raised awareness around the world of the atrocities that took place for those in Cambodia under the Khmer Rouge.

This resolution commemorates the work of Dith Pran's life, including his work as a photojournalist for the New York Times, his bravery in surviving the Cambodian genocide and escaping to Thailand in 1979; his advocacy for the Cambodian refugees and victims of genocide around the world after he became a U.S. citizen and a goodwill ambassador for the United Nations in 1994; and his work with former Senator Charles Robb to help pass the Cambodian Genocide Justice Act establishing an Office of Cambodian Genocide Investigations at the State Department.

Mr. Dith's work laid the foundation for ongoing justice and reconciliation tribunals within Cambodia that continue to this day.

For all these reasons, I support this resolution and urge my colleagues to join me as well.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution which serves as yet another reminder of the haunting words inscribed in the Holocaust Museum: "Never again."

The Khmer Rouge-led slaughter of over 1 million innocent people took place more than three decades after the Holocaust ended. Yet the world was again largely silent and indifferent to this tragedy. There was no one person who more embodied the tragic and horrific story of this genocide committed by the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia than Dith Pran. His harrowing personal story of courage, abandonment, struggle, escape and ultimate survival was recorded for all time in the gripping Academy Award-winning film "The Killing Fields."

After escaping from the Khmer Rouge and making his way across a treacherous border laden with mines, Dith Pran reached a refugee camp in Thailand and ultimately came to the United States. Here while continuing his career as a photojournalist, Dith Pran was a firm and clear voice appealing to the world's conscience to remember the genocide which occurred in his homeland. He worked tirelessly to achieve the establishment of an Office of Cambodian Genocide. It was officially called the Office of Cambodian Genocide Investigation in the Department of State.

It is a note of some consolation that Dith Pran lived to see the start of the genocide trial last November of surviving leaders of the Khmer Rouge on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Sadly, it took almost 30 years to bring these architects of the killing fields to justice. There is thankfully no statute of limitations for those who carry out world genocide.

Without Dith Pran's steadfast determination, however, this aging Khmer Rouge cadre may have escaped their final hour of judgment. This trial now taking place in the Cambodian capital should give solace to Dith Pran's family and his friends at his passing. It also represents his greatest legacy as an advocate on human rights.

The current trial should also remind us to redouble our efforts to ensure that the words "Never Again" are finally realized. The best final tribute for Dith Pran would be for the world community to work together for a swift end to the current genocide in Darfur and the killing fields in North Korea.

I urge my colleagues to give their whole-hearted support to this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1515

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. RUSH Holt.

Mr. HOLT. I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, in countries all over the world, journalists are assisted, in fact, often dependent on local assistance, such as Dith Pran was to Sydney Schanberg, who was working for The New York Times. Such assistance often goes unrecognized.

But Dith Pran did not go unrecognized. His life would be noteworthy if only because of his survival. After the foreign military forces left southeast Asia, and horrific genocide and slaughter enveloped Cambodia, Dith Pran faced a situation that is hard to believe. He would be noteworthy also because of his excellent work as a photographer and photojournalist, but he is most noteworthy and truly admirable because of his work to bring the horrors of the genocide of Cambodia and of genocide anywhere in the world to the attention of the public. It was my honor and good fortune to know Dith Pran.

He covered stories and events in the New Jersey and New York area, and I saw him fairly often. He even accomplished the challenging achievement of sometimes making me look good on film. He was hardly a movie star, but he was always cheerful. In his daily contacts, looking through those smiling eyes, it would be hard to imagine the horrors that were back in his mind.

For months each year, after hours, on weekends, before students, before policymakers, before any audience that would listen, he used his experiences effectively to teach the horrors that humans can do to humans and to work for justice, truth and reconciliation in Cambodia and other countries around the world.

After each mass murder and genocide in history, some have said "Never again." After the Nazi death camps, after Rwanda, after each genocide, we say never again.

Let us all hope, that the example of Dith Pran and his story will help us take action so that truly never again we will see the kind of horror that Dith Pran saw.

Mr. SIRE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H. Res. 1109, honoring the memory of Mr. Dith Pran, a constituent of mine from Woodbridge, New Jersey, who passed away on March 30, 2008, at the age of 65. Mr. Dith was a photojournalist for the New York Times and a renowned human rights advocate, who became the face of the atrocities in Cambodia carried out by the Khmer Rouge under Pol Pot. After fleeing Cambodia in 1979, Mr. Dith devoted his life to advocating against genocide and finding justice for victims of genocide through his advocacy.

After working as a translator and receptionist in Cambodia, he was hired in the early 1970s by Sydney H. Schanberg of the New York Times to be a guide and interpreter. The incredible friendship and partnership that developed between the two men became the

basis for the 1984 film, "The Killing Fields," which helped bring to light the brutality of the Khmer Rouge regime.

In 1985, Mr. Dith became a U.S. citizen and a goodwill ambassador for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. In 1994, he worked with former Senator Charles Robb to help pass the Cambodian Genocide Justice Act. Mr. Dith was a tireless advocate constantly speaking out about the Cambodian genocide, so that the world would know and never forget.

This resolution is to honor Mr. Dith's commitment to raising awareness about the atrocities that took place in Cambodia, as well as to recognize the strength and courage of an ordinary man who lived an extraordinary life. Mr. Speaker, I would urge all my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1109, 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. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

HIGHER EDUCATION EXTENSION

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 2929) to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of the Senate bill is as follows:

S. 2929

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

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

(a) EXTENSION OF PROGRAMS.—Section 2(a) of the Higher Education Extension Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-81; 20 U.S.C. 1001 note) is amended by striking "April 30, 2008" and inserting "May 31, 2008".

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section, or in the Higher Education Extension Act of 2005 as amended by this Act, shall be construed to limit or otherwise alter the authorizations of appropriations for, or the durations of, programs contained in the amendments made by the Higher Education Reconciliation Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-171) or by the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (Public Law 110-84) to the provisions of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and the Taxpayer-Teacher Protection Act of 2004.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect as if enacted on April 30, 2008.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may insert material relevant to S. 2929 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Senate 2929, a bill to temporarily extend programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965.

At the beginning of February, the House took the next step in the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act in passing H.R. 4137, the College Opportunity and Affordability Act.

Now we find ourselves in the near final phase of completing the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act as we work towards a compromise bill with the Senate to ensure that the doors of college are truly open to all qualified students. It's our goal to ensure that a final bill encompasses the major issues addressed in H.R. 4137, including the skyrocketing college prices and needlessly complicated student-aid application process and predatory tactics by student lenders.

The bill under consideration today, S. 2929, will extend the programs under the Higher Education Act until May 31, 2008, to allow sufficient time for final deliberations on the two bills reported out of the respective chambers. While the process of reauthorizing the Higher Education Act may be coming to a close, I would like to underscore that this does not mean that we will complete work on higher education altogether.

The committee intends to continue to address issues as needed, which include not only overseeing the proper implementation of the College Cost Reduction and Access Act and the rest of the Higher Education Act, but also, for example, ensuring availability of student loans during this challenging credit market, which the House acted on last week in passing H.R. 5715.

It has been nearly 10 years since the Higher Education Act was last reauthorized, and I believe that Members on both sides of the aisle and in both chambers are anxious to complete work on a compromise bill in this Congress, and we believe it can happen.

I look forward to completing this work with the respective Members on behalf of our Nation's hardworking families and students.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2929, a 1-month extension of the Higher Education Act.

Over the past several months, a tremendous amount of progress has been made toward reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. The Education and Labor Committee worked in a bipartisan fashion to produce a bill that received strong support here on the House floor.

Chairman MILLER and Ranking Member MCKEON have been leading our efforts to negotiate a final compromise with the other chamber, and I am pleased to report that our work is nearly done. While I support today's temporary extension of programs under the Higher Education Act, I know members of the committee, along with members of the higher education community, will be pleased to hear our assurances that this will be the final extension we have to pass. We expect conference meetings to wrap up in the next several weeks with a conference report to be brought back in the month of May.

As we move toward finalizing this broad overhaul of Federal higher education programs, our top priority must remain college access and affordability. Bolstering our higher education and student aid programs has long been a priority for Congress.

One of the issues that has received a great deal of attention throughout the reauthorization process has been the rising cost of higher education and the high levels of debt that accompany that education for many students.

As a physician, I am keenly aware of the unique challenges faced by new graduates in the medical field, who often carry hundreds of thousands of dollars in debt, yet make an initial wage that is no more than many individuals with a bachelor's degree. I am particularly concerned that high debt levels among medical graduates may be limiting career choices, and that's why I was pleased to partner with another doctor on the committee, the gentleman from Georgia, Dr. PRICE, to call for a study of indebtedness of medical school graduates. It's important that we closely monitor the impact of student loan debt on all the young people pursuing higher education so that we can ensure the value of that investment is not outweighed by the burdens.

I urge my colleagues to retain the House-passed provisions of the reauthorization bill that will help to address our Nation's looming nursing shortage, which makes health care more expensive for all Americans while delaying access to lifesaving treatment. HHS warns that the Nation's nursing shortage could exceed 1 million nursing vacancies by the year 2020. Congress has a duty to address this problem.

I want to thank my colleagues, Congresswoman MCCARTHY and Congressman MELANCON, for working across the aisle with me on this issue. This au-

thorization is a long time coming, and I am pleased to be here supporting what we expect to be the final extension before this law is finally renewed.

I urge my colleagues to support this extension.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this extension as we finalize our work on the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

I join my colleagues on the other side of the aisle in supporting this measure.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TIERNEY. 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 Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2929, 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. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

CONGRATULATING CHARTER SCHOOLS

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1168) congratulating charter schools and their students, parents, teachers, and administrators across the United States for their ongoing contributions to education, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1168

Whereas charter schools deliver high-quality education and challenge our students to reach their potential;

Whereas charter schools provide thousands of families with diverse and innovative educational options for their children;

Whereas charter schools are public schools authorized by a designated public entity that are responding to the needs of our communities, families, and students and promoting the principles of quality, choice, and innovation;

Whereas in exchange for the flexibility and autonomy given to charter schools, they are held accountable by their sponsors for improving student achievement and for their financial and other operations;

Whereas 40 States and the District of Columbia have passed laws authorizing charter schools;

Whereas over 4,300 charter schools are now serving approximately 1,200,000 children;

Whereas over the last 14 years, Congress has provided over \$2,262,257,000 in support to

the charter school movement through start-up financing assistance and grants for planning, implementation, and dissemination;

Whereas over 365,000 children are on charter school waiting lists nationally;

Whereas charter schools improve their students' achievement and can stimulate improvement in traditional public schools;

Whereas charter schools must meet the student achievement accountability requirements under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 in the same manner as traditional public schools, and often set higher and additional individual goals to ensure that they are of high quality and truly accountable to the public;

Whereas charter schools must continually demonstrate their ongoing success to parents, policymakers, and their communities, some charter schools routinely measure parental satisfaction levels, and all give parents new freedom to choose their public school;

Whereas charter schools nationwide serve a higher percentage of low-income and minority students than the traditional public system;

Whereas charter schools have enjoyed broad bipartisan support from the Administration, Congress, State Governors and legislatures, educators, and parents across the United States; and

Whereas the ninth annual National Charter Schools Week, to be held May 5 through May 9, 2008, is an event sponsored by charter schools and grassroots charter school organizations across the United States to recognize the significant impacts, achievements, and innovations of charter schools: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) acknowledges and commends charter schools and their students, parents, teachers, and administrators across the United States for their ongoing contributions to education and improving and strengthening our public school system;

(2) supports the ninth annual National Charter Schools Week; and

(3) joins the President in calling on the people of the United States to conduct appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities to demonstrate support for charter schools during this weeklong celebration in communities throughout the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may insert material relevant to H. Res. 1168 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, this measure supports the designation of May 5 to May 9, 2008, as National Charter Schools Week and recognizes the growing charter school movement in our Nation.

Since their inception in 1991, charter schools have grown by leaps and bounds to address various needs of our Nation's public school students. Di-

verse charter schools across the country offer innovative instruction.

With site-based control and flexibility, charter schools can make timely decisions about how to structure the school day, which curriculum best suits the needs of their students and, additionally, charter schools may form important partnerships with parents and the surrounding community.

This week charter schools across the country will celebrate the ninth annual National Charter Schools Week. This year's theme, "Growing Excellence," encourages charter schools to share their successes as part of the effort to reform public education in our country.

Today there are almost 4,300 public charter schools operating in 40 States. Their combined force serves over 1.2 million students, and 61 percent of charter schools report significant waiting lists. These waiting lists of nearly 365,000 students nationally are enough to fill over 1,100 new charter schools. Between 300 and 400 new public charter schools open each year, and nearly 150,000 new students enroll in charter schools annually.

The growing charter school movement is said to be providing opportunities for many historically underserved communities. Nationally, it is said that charter schools disproportionately serve minority and low-income students. It is reported that 58 percent of charter school students are minorities, and 52 percent qualify for free and reduced-price lunch, and many charter schools are able to achieve impressive academic results.

H. Res. 1168 expresses support for National Charter Schools Week and recognizes the charter school movement's 16-year history providing public education options based on innovation, flexibility and community partnerships.

The committee urges our colleagues to pass this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1168, congratulating charter schools and their students, parents, teachers and administrators across the United States for their ongoing contributions to education.

This week has been designated as the ninth annual National Charter Schools Week, and it is entirely appropriate that we take a few minutes to recognize the contributions that charter schools make every day in the lives of millions of children. Charter schools are innovative public schools with a simple interest in providing a quality education to children in their community. They explore new educational approaches, such as longer school days or an extended school year, and are free from most rules and regulations governing conventional public schools. Every day, however, charter schools face unarguable facts of free-market pressures.

□ 1530

Unlike traditional public schools, charter schools must demonstrate the success of their students' academic achievements to parents, policymakers, and their communities or they face closure. From the time the first charter school opened its doors, they have risen to the challenge.

For example, charter schools made an important contribution to rebuild and strengthen Louisiana after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, particularly in New Orleans.

More often than not, charter schools meet the student achievement and accountability requirements under No Child Left Behind in the same manner as traditional public schools, but often set higher individual goals to ensure that they are of high quality and truly accountable to the public. Yet despite these innovative approaches and promising reports of parental satisfaction, charter schools across the country have struggled through a myriad of obstacles to create successful schools.

We should support the \$272.6 million included in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget request for the public charter school programs authorized under No Child Left Behind. These programs provide key points in the development of charter schools, helping cover the extraordinary costs of launching successful charters, disseminating their successful innovations to other public schools, and providing financial incentives to State governments and private lenders that help enable schools to build and renovate facilities. These programs have been a tremendous success helping to create public charter schools all across the country that work to improve academic achievement for low-income students.

It is my hope that the charter community will continue to build on its 15-year history of providing a high-quality option in public education that is based on innovation, freedom from red tape, and partnership between parents and educators, an option that is giving new hope to disadvantaged and minority families across the country.

I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

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

Mr. TIERNEY. 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 Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1168, 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. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

HONORING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE EL DORADO PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1155) honoring the recipients of the El Dorado Promise scholarship, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1155

Whereas the 2000 United States Census determined that El Dorado, Arkansas, had a significantly lower percentage of residents with degrees from institutions of higher education and significantly higher percentage of families who fell below the poverty line than the national average;

Whereas it is increasingly important for students to obtain a college education in order to keep up with the demands of the modern workforce and global economy;

Whereas the El Dorado Promise scholarship is a tuition scholarship, created and funded by Murphy Oil Corporation, which enables all eligible high school graduates of the El Dorado Public School District in El Dorado, Arkansas, to attend any accredited 2- or 4-year, public or private, college or university;

Whereas school enrollment in the El Dorado Public School District has significantly increased since the El Dorado Promise scholarship program was established, despite a 15-year trend of decreasing enrollment;

Whereas the El Dorado Promise scholarship program increased the number of El Dorado High School students who chose to attend college after graduation by 20 percent; and

Whereas on April 30, 2008, El Dorado High School students who received El Dorado Promise and other academic scholarships sign academic letters of intent for the colleges they will be attending upon graduation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates the recipients of the El Dorado Promise scholarship for choosing to further their education;

(2) observes that April 30, 2008, is the second academic signing day for graduating El Dorado High School students receiving El Dorado Promise and other academic scholarships;

(3) acknowledges that the El Dorado Promise scholarship program is important for the revitalization of southern Arkansas; and

(4) recognizes the organizations and corporation involved in this program for their efforts to ensure that children from southern Arkansas, who might otherwise struggle in financing a college education, are able to attend college.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may insert material relevant to H. Res. 1155 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the recipients of the El Dorado Promise scholarship.

The El Dorado Promise scholarship is a tuition scholarship which allows all students who graduate after attending all 4 years of high school in the El Dorado Public School District to attend any accredited 2- or 4-year college or university. While the enrollment in the El Dorado Public School District has decreased over 15 consecutive years, the establishment of this scholarship has seen enrollment in the district significantly increase. This scholarship program has also increased the number of students going to college after graduating high school by 20 percent.

Mr. Speaker, these numbers are very impressive and I commend the students who have taken advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

As you know, many students are struggling to pay the rising costs of tuition across the country. Additionally, students are graduating with more debt than ever before, and are working harder and harder to pay back their college loans. This growing college crisis has serious implications not just for students and families, but also for our Nation's economic future. In order to maintain our economic leadership in the world, we must make aggressive investments in our current and future workforce.

Scholarships and grants similar to the El Dorado Promise scholarship, such as Georgia's Hope Scholarship, and California's CAL Grant continue to help students achieve their goal of going to college and alleviate the debt burden they carry after college.

Once again, I congratulate the recipients of the El Dorado Promise scholarship, and I thank the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. ROSS) for offering this resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1155 which honors the recipients of the El Dorado Promise scholarship.

On April 30, 2008, El Dorado High School students who received the El Dorado Promise scholarship signed their academic letters of intent for the colleges and universities they will be attending upon graduation.

Thanks to funding provided by the Murphy Oil Corporation, the Promise scholarship gives El Dorado students an additional opportunity to pursue higher education. The scholarship provides up to 5 years of tuition and man-

datory fees for undergraduate post-secondary education for students entering college immediately following high school.

To be eligible for the program, students must have attended local schools for at least 4 years. The annual scholarship is limited to the highest yearly rate charged by an Arkansas public university, currently \$6,010, but the oil company has factored inflation into the program, and plans to be in place for 20 years.

In this era of global competitiveness, it is increasingly important for students to obtain a college education in order to keep up with the demands of the modern workforce. We know how important higher education is both to individuals and to our Nation. A college degree can be a ticket to the middle class. It helps individuals prepare for good jobs, and it allows them to pursue new skills in a changing economy. Higher education also has important societal benefits. College-educated citizens are healthier, more civically involved, have lower unemployment rates, and use fewer government benefits.

The El Dorado scholarship program has increased the number of high school students who choose to attend college after graduation by 20 percent, so it is my pleasure to acknowledge the El Dorado Promise scholarship program for its important role in the revitalization of southern Arkansas; and to recognize Murphy Oil Corporation for its efforts to ensure that children from southern Arkansas who might otherwise struggle in financing a college education are able to attend college. I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

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

Mr. TIERNEY. 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 Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1155, 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. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

CHARLTON HESTON

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1091) honoring the life,

achievements, and contributions of Charlton Heston and extending its deepest sympathies to the family of Charlton Heston for the loss of such a great generous man, husband, and father, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1091

Whereas the United States of America has lost a great patriot with the passing of Charlton Heston;

Whereas Charlton Heston first became beloved by the Nation as a great actor and portrayed many heroic figures, including Moses, Michelangelo, Andrew Jackson, John the Baptist, Mark Antony, and El Cid in epic movies of the 1950s and 1960s, and won the 1959 Best Actor Oscar for the lead character in "Ben-Hur";

Whereas Charlton Heston was a leader in many areas of life outside of acting, including serving as President of the Screen Actors Guild, which he helped to integrate with Ronald Reagan and was Chairman of the American Film Institute;

Whereas Charlton Heston was an active supporter of the civil rights movement, including protesting the showing of his film at a segregated movie theater in Oklahoma City and participating in and leading the Arts Group in the 1963 civil rights march on Washington;

Whereas in the last major public role of his life, Charlton Heston was President of the National Rifle Association from June 1998 until April 2003;

Whereas as President of the National Rifle Association, Charlton Heston was a stalwart advocate of the position that the 2nd Amendment gave citizens the right to keep and bear arms;

Whereas Charlton Heston was an active promoter of wildlife management through hunting;

Whereas, in 2003, Charlton Heston was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Nation's highest civilian honor;

Whereas Charlton Heston was born in Illinois on October 4, 1923, and his parents moved to St. Helen, Michigan, where he grew up;

Whereas, in 1943, Charlton Heston enlisted in the Army Air Force and served as a radio-gunner in the Aleutian Islands of Alaska, and in 1947, he was discharged from the Army;

Whereas, in 1944, Charlton Heston married the love of his life, Lydia Clarke, to whom he had been married 64 years at his death;

Whereas the Hestons were the parents of two children, Fraser Heston and Holly Heston Rochell; and

Whereas Charlton Heston passed away on April 5, 2008, and the contributions he made to his family and his Nation will not be forgotten: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) honors the life, achievements, and contributions of Charlton Heston; and

(2) extends its deepest sympathies to the family of Charlton Heston for the loss of such a great generous man, husband, and father.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I present for consideration H. Res. 1091, which seeks to recognize the life of Charlton Heston for his accomplishments both and off the big screen. Not only did Heston command an overwhelming presence in theaters, but his actions in support of the civil rights movement during the 1960s and on behalf of other social causes throughout his life deserve recognition. For example, Charlton Heston joined Martin Luther King, Jr., in the march on Washington, D.C. in 1963, and was an early civil rights activist long before Hollywood found it fashionable.

H. Res. 1091 was introduced by Representative DON YOUNG of Alaska on April 8, 2008, and was considered by and reported from the Oversight Committee on April 16, 2008, by voice vote after being amended by the panel.

The measure has the support of well over 100 Members of Congress and is evidence of a wide, national appreciation for the enduring legacy that this great American citizen left behind.

Heston was born on October 4, 1923, in No Man's Land, Illinois. In 1944, Heston enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, spending 2 years of his life as a B-25 radio operator and gunner in the Alaskan Aleutian Islands.

In August of 2002, after a long and illustrious acting career, Heston publicly announced that he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. In 2003, Mr. Heston was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in commemoration of the positive impact he has had on our culture and country.

In memory of his life of greatness and activism, I urge swift passage of H. Res. 1091.

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

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, rather than my making a statement, I would like to yield to the sponsor of the resolution, our very distinguished veteran, Mr. YOUNG from Alaska, and just advise him I am going to yield him such time as he may consume, letting him know that the former chairman of the Rules Committee would like some time as well.

(Mr. YOUNG of Alaska asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I thank my chairman of the subcommittee and Mr. SHAYS and the chairman of the full committee.

It is indeed an honor that I will speak on Charlton Heston today. We have already heard some of the roles that he played in "Planet of the Apes,"

"Julius Caesar," "Antony and Cleopatra," "Omega Man," and I can go on down the line. His famous roles, of course, were Moses, Michelangelo, Andrew Jackson, John the Baptist, Mark Antony, El Cid, and Ben Hur.

Some people may not remember his role in politics. He became very active as president of the Screen Actors Guild. Before every actor in the world got involved politically, he was involved in the Screen Actors Guild. He was also very active and involved, as mentioned by the chairman, in civil rights. He marched with Martin Luther King. And one of my interests was that he enlisted in the Army Air Force in World War II and served 2 years as a B-25 gunner in the Aleutian chain, a God-awful place it was, but part of my great State of Alaska, and defended against the enemy at that time with great honor.

He had two children. He married the love of his life, Lydia Clarke, in 1944, and was married to her for the rest of his life.

He was the president of the NRA from June 1998 until April 2003, and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Bush.

I have to say I knew him personally. I never called him Chuck or Charles, it was always Mr. Heston or Mr. President because he was president of an organization which I am very proud of, and that is the NRA, the National Rifle Association. He probably did more to protect the freedoms of America in his actions as president of that organization than any other individual. And that may not be proper with certain people in this body, but he did guarantee us, through the second amendment, the right to protect ourselves, the right to protect the castle which we live in, the right to be able to protect those that we love against those who would do us harm. He believed in it, as I believe in it. It is very, very important.

If America were to recognize one individual who probably contributed most to our individual freedoms, it would be Charlton Heston.

□ 1545

Not his movie and acting career, not his Guild presidency, but his action as the NRA president, National Rifle Association of America; his role in being able to assure that each person could carry, on his hip, if necessary, against those that invade our domicile. And for that alone, we should recognize his great contribution. His civil rights, yes, his activities willing to speak out, and his great acting capability, yes, but the ability, and what he has left us in the legacy under the second amendment, because it will be under attack.

Let's not kid ourselves. It's under attack by those that would like to have the government do everything for you. They want to give you all your health care. Of course you won't have health care. They would like, in fact, to have

you taken care of from the birth until the death, and they might decide when you will die and even when you will be born.

And they definitely don't want the American citizen to be armed. They don't want the American citizen to be able to protect themselves from those who would do you harm. It will be under attack.

But he left a great legacy. We have 37 States in the Union today who have the "Right to Carry Law," and it's all because of Charlton Heston, because he saw the need to protect the United States of America against those who would take away the great nation that we know.

So, with great honor, I was able to take and introduce this legislation to just recognize himself and his family for what he contributed to those he leaves behind, the freedom of the great United States of America.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve my time.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the former chairman of the Rules Committee, now its ranking member, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER).

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by expressing my appreciation to Messrs. CLAY and SHAYS for their leadership on this and, most important, to our good friend, DON YOUNG, for having stepped forward to author this resolution.

And I want to say that as I listened to our friend, DON YOUNG, talk about Charlton Heston, I was struck by a story. DON began by taking the acting career, which, since I represent Los Angeles, I'm particularly proud of people who have great acting careers, and Mr. Heston was certainly one of those. I was struck by the fact that DON YOUNG drew from that to the fact that he focused on reality.

And as he was saying that, Mr. Speaker, I'm reminded of a story that Mr. Heston used to enjoy telling with regularity. When he was in the midst of rehearsals for that famous movie, Ben Hur, he would regularly say to people around him, I really want to make sure that I do this right because I want to make sure that I win this race. And he was constantly assured that he was going to win the race because the outcome was clearly predetermined.

But he understood full well that there was a great disparity between the roles that he played, as a great actor, and the fact that the reality of life is something that is much different, and it does take a great deal of vigilance and hard work.

Now, all of my colleagues have spoken about the role that he played as a civil rights leader. Mr. YOUNG has talked about the fact that he played such an important role in preservation of second amendment rights, which was very important.

He was always involved, Mr. Speaker, in public policy issues. Again, as a Representative from Los Angeles, I had the opportunity to regularly discuss with him issues, and he exercised his first amendment rights with me with great regularity. He would call. And I will say that even though he was ill, I had the privilege of talking with him about, I think it was a year and a half, 2 years ago. And I knew that he had been ill, but he still was asking me questions about things that were going on here in this institution, making sure that we were staying on the right path.

And so it's difficult to imagine a greater patriot than Charlton Heston. And I have to say, Mr. Speaker, that still, to this day, our thoughts and prayers are with Lydia and the wonderful Heston family. And I know that at this moment he's probably up there playing tennis, which was one of his great loves, and looking down and working to make sure that we, as Members of the United States Congress, and as leaders in our great Nation, do everything that we can to preserve these very, very precious liberties that he loved so dearly.

I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. CLAY. I continue to reserve, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, may I ask how much time we have left.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Connecticut has 13 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Missouri has 18 minutes remaining.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) such time as he may consume.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding. And I want to thank Mr. YOUNG from Alaska for offering this resolution. I'm certainly proud to support this resolution honoring Charlton Heston's iconic life.

Charlton Heston has done much for this country in many, many different areas of public involvement and public service. He appeared in over 100 films during 60 years, but he's best remembered by me as Moses. To many Americans, Moses died on April 5, 2008.

As a kid, I actually thought Heston was Moses. I can remember sitting in a Sunday school class as a young kid when the teacher asked me if I'd ever read about Moses and the 10 Commandments in the Bible. And I said no, but I saw the movie version.

Charlton Heston brought Moses to life in a way that no one else could. As Moses, Heston lifted his staff in the 10 Commandments to rally the Israelites. But in his personal life he lifted his musket to rally millions of Americans. The second amendment was his tablet of stone, proclaiming the right to bear arms.

Heston was quite the intense actor, and wonderful patriot. Heston once said, "It's been quite a ride. I loved every minute of it." And his life was certainly extraordinary.

So, Mr. Speaker, I thank "Moses Heston" for bringing life to history and

for being a great American during his life.

Mr. CLAY. I continue to reserve, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I rise today in support of this resolution honoring the life of one of the great American personalities in the century, the late Charlton Heston.

Truly, a man of legends, whether from his epic contributions as an actor, to his passionate and momentous involvement in our politics and society, Mr. Heston touched us all.

Born in 1923 in Evanston, Illinois, John Charles Carter spent his childhood in Michigan. Following his parents' divorce in the 1930s, his mother remarried to Chester Heston, and the family moved to the Chicago suburb of Winnetka. It was here that his acting career took flight.

After enrolling in the theater program at his new high school, he earned a drama scholarship to attend Northwestern University. It was here that he met another aspiring thespian, future wife, and "the queen of his heart," Lydia Clarke.

Enlisting in the Army Air Forces in 1942, he spent 2 years serving as a radio gunner in the Aleutian Islands during World War II.

After experiencing limited success on Broadway after the war, Heston emerged on the big screen in 1950. He captivated audiences with his statuesque appearance and his historic epic roles. He scaled Mt. Sinai as Moses in the 10 Commandments, rebelled against the Romans in his Oscar winning performance in Ben Hur, remained loyal to his king at all costs in El Cid, and masterfully decorated the Sistine Chapel as Michelangelo.

Who can forget his gritty performance in such noir classics as Touch of Evil, and groundbreaking science fiction classics like Planet of the Apes?

Though he spent more than 60 years on camera and appeared in over 100 movies, he is also known by many for his passion for politics and commitment to a life outside of Hollywood.

A staunch supporter of civil rights in the early 1960s, Heston called Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the "20th century Moses for his people."

A vocal participant in a number of marches and protests, he demonstrated his support long before Hollywood found it fashionable.

Like his friend, Ronald Reagan, Heston's political views gradually began to align more with the Republican Party, and by the late 1980s, he had become a prominent orator on behalf of conservative politicians and against the debasement of American culture.

In 1998, the passionate Heston, well in his 70s, was elected president and spokesman of the NRA, a position he held until his resignation in 2003.

After a bout with prostate cancer, Heston announced in August 2002 he had been diagnosed with symptoms

consistent with Alzheimer's. On April 5, 2008, at the age of 84, Charlton Heston passed away.

He once joked, "I have played three presidents, three saints, and two geniuses. If that does not create an ego problem, nothing does." But arrogance does not describe this humble man, who pursued life as he did each of his roles, a constant pursuit of unattainable perfection.

Despite numerous accolades, including an Oscar, a Kennedy Center Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the loving husband, devoted father of two and grandfather of three, believed that his family was his proudest achievement.

In his August 2002 announcement regarding his declining health, he emotionally stated that, "For an actor there is no greater loss than his audience. I can part the Red Sea, but I can't part with you."

Though he may have left us in body, his spirit and legacy live on, a lifetime of passionate commitment to freedom in the truest sense.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution honoring a man who was as much a hero on the big screen as he was a hero in life.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back my time.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I want to first thank my friend, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), for bringing this resolution, and urge my colleagues to honor this great American by voting in favor of the resolution.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in supporting H. Con. Res. 1091 and honoring the life and contributions of the late Charlton Heston.

A larger than life figure, Charlton Heston was a World War II veteran, president of the Screen Actors Guild, and chairman of the American Film Institute. He was celebrated—as an Academy Award-winning actor and a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Throughout his life, when he saw injustice, Charlton Heston did not hesitate to take action. It did not matter to him whether his position was popular. He protested segregation, marching alongside the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King during his campaign for civil rights, and described Dr. King as a "20th century Moses for his people."

Never shy to take a stand, Charlton Heston picketed a segregated movie theater premiering one of his own movies. All of us should commend his principled commitment to civil rights.

His support for our Nation's Bill of Rights extended to the second amendment. Indeed, for many of us, Charlton Heston's most memorable contribution may have been his fierce advocacy for our right to keep and bear arms. As president of the National Rifle Association, NRA, Mr. Heston famously rallied millions of Americans by holding a rifle over his head and declaring that the Government would take it only "from my cold, dead hands."

When our rights were threatened by the Federal Government, Charlton Heston—the face of the NRA—inspired millions of us. This legacy is lasting. And it never mattered to him

that his stance wasn't fashionable with Hollywood elites.

Not until the onset of Alzheimer's disease did Charlton Heston begin to withdraw from public life.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my heartfelt condolences to the Heston family, especially Lydia, his wife of 64 years. They must be proud of Charlton Heston's life, legacy, and contributions. We all are here.

Mr. CLAY. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1091, 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. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF MOTHER'S DAY

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1113) celebrating the role of mothers in the United States and supporting the goals and ideals of Mother's Day.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1113

Whereas Mother's Day is celebrated on the second Sunday of each May;

Whereas the first official Mother's Day was observed on May 10, 1908, in Grafton, West Virginia, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania;

Whereas 2008 is the 100th anniversary of the first official Mother's Day observation;

Whereas in 1908, Elmer Burkett, a U.S. Senator from Nebraska, proposed making Mother's Day a national holiday;

Whereas in 1914, Congress passed a resolution designating the second Sunday of May as Mother's Day;

Whereas it is estimated that there are more than 82,000,000 mothers in the United States;

Whereas mothers have made immeasurable contributions toward building strong families, thriving communities, and ultimately a strong Nation;

Whereas the services rendered to the children of the United States by their mothers have strengthened and inspired the Nation throughout its history;

Whereas we honor ourselves and mothers in the United States when we revere and emphasize the importance of the role of the home and family as the true foundation of the Nation;

Whereas mothers continue to rise to the challenge of raising their families with love, understanding, and compassion, while over-

coming the challenges of modern society; and

Whereas May 11, 2008 is recognized as Mother's Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives celebrates the role of mothers in the United States and supports the goals and ideals of Mother's Day.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, with the annual mother's holiday just a few short days away, I am pleased to join in the consideration of H. Res. 1113, which aims to recognize and celebrate the role of mothers in our country by supporting the goals and ideals of Mother's Day.

□ 1600

H. Res. 1113 was introduced by JEFF FORTENBERRY of Nebraska on April 16, 2008, and was considered and reported from the Oversight Committee on May 1, 2008, by voice vote. Currently, the bill is cosponsored by 54 Members of Congress and provides us all an opportunity to pay tribute to the importance of mothers and motherhood in general.

It was on May 10, 1908, that our country first officially observed Mother's Day. On this day, church services, organized by Mother's Day founder Anna Jarvis in honor of her own recently deceased mother Ann Marie Reeve Jarvis, were held in Grafton, West Virginia, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Following these services, the notion of celebrating motherhood gained a widespread popularity across the Nation leading to the creation of the Mother's Day International Association, which came into being on December 12, 1912, to promote and encourage meaningful observances of the role of mothers. However, it wasn't until May 9, 1914, that a presidential proclamation was issued that declared the second Sunday of May was to be observed as Mother's Day in America to honor all mothers.

And now, here we are 100 years later and Mother's Day continues to hold a special place in the hearts of countless Americans as they set aside the second Sunday of every May to show their appreciation, love, and gratitude for the role of mothers.

Mr. Speaker, let's also lift our voices in praise and thanks not only for the role in which our own mothers play, but for the contributions the 82.5 million American mothers make on a

daily basis for the betterment of their children and the advancement of our country.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to prove to my mother that I am a better son than the gentleman that I need to yield to, given that it's his resolution, Mr. FORTENBERRY. So he gets the prize of being the best son in the Chamber.

I yield the gentleman from Nebraska such time as he may consume.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Let me add parenthetically before I begin that I am sure the gentleman from Connecticut is a fine son as well. But thank you for your kind introduction.

Mr. Speaker, in 1908, the United States Senator from Nebraska, Elmer Burkett, rose before his colleagues to propose that Mother's Day be recognized as a national holiday. Notably, the Senator's proposal was defeated in a maelstrom of sensitivities concerning the role of women in society and the role of the Federal Government in honoring them. However, despite this setback, most States adopted Mother's Day celebrations 2 year after, and in 1914, due in large part to the unceasing dedication of support of a number of persons around the country, including Mrs. Jarvis that Representative CLAY mentioned, Congress passed a resolution declaring the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

President Woodrow Wilson then issued a proclamation directing the flying of the flag as "a public expression of our love and reverence for the mothers of our country." One hundred years later, I now have the honor of rising to renew Senator Burkett's beginning effort to support the goals and ideals of Mother's Day.

Mothers have been celebrated throughout history in many languages, religions, and cultures, yet the practice remains far from antiquated. Few traditions have withstood the test of time as the social celebration of mothers. From its early Egyptian roots to our modern American holiday, the commemoration of mothers is timeless.

We now honor all mothers without debate as to their role in politics or the Federal justification in doing so because they are mothers and thus make an immeasurable contribution to the very core of our society. Mothers sustain and strengthen our Nation through their leadership in the family and community. Despite the dynamic nature of society, the ability of mothers to rise to the challenge of raising their families, with love and understanding and compassion, remains constant.

As we commemorate mothers for the integral role they play in shaping the course of our Nation's past, present, and future, we also revere and emphasize the importance of the role of the family and the home as the true and ever-present foundation of America.

Each day in Congress, we tirelessly debate the challenges and nuances of

maternity with limited time for appropriate philosophical reflection. So, Mr. Speaker, it is refreshing today that we have a resolution as this before us now. This Sunday, I and millions of Americans will thank our mothers who have shaped our lives and our country.

Mr. Speaker, I wish your mother and all mothers a Happy Mother's Day.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume and rise in support of H. Res 1113 supporting the goals and ideals of Mother's Day and to celebrate its 100th anniversary.

This Sunday, May 11, many Americans will take a moment to remember the estimated 82 million mothers for their immeasurable contributions towards building strong families, thriving communities, and frankly, a strong country.

The first Mother's Day was celebrated in Grafton, West Virginia, on May 10, 1908. From there, the custom caught on, quickly spreading to 45 other States. In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson declared the first national Mother's Day as a day for American citizens to show the flag in honor of those mothers whose sons had died in war.

Today, this holiday has grown to include all mothers in times of war and peace. Traditionally, mothers have represented the backbone of families in every culture throughout the world. Mothers are called upon to nurture, teach, and provide guidance to those that have been entrusted in their care. It is their responsibility to raise productive citizens of their communities and ultimately, the world.

As Washington Irving said, "A mother is the truest friend we have, when trials heavy and sudden, fall upon us; when adversity takes the place of prosperity; when friends who rejoice with us in our sunshine desert us; when trouble thickens around us, still will she cling to us, and endeavor by her kind precepts and counsels to dissipate the clouds of darkness, and cause peace to return to our hearts."

It is that very peace in our hearts which brings us to honor the women we hold dear and to show steadfast support of our mother's love that helps shape us throughout our lives.

For this reason, I urge the passage of H. Res 1113. I thank all mothers, and I thank my mother, Margaret Oliver Shays.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) for bringing this timely resolution to the floor. And also let me wish all of the sisters, mothers, aunts, nieces, grandmothers, and friends Happy Mother's Day this Sunday.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr.

CLAY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1113.

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. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

SENSE OF HOUSE OF ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL TEACHER DAY

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 952) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that there should be established a National Teacher Day to honor and celebrate teachers in the United States.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 952

Whereas the education of children in the United States is the foundation of the future success of the United States;

Whereas education is critical for the creation of an innovative workforce and for increasing the global competitiveness of the United States;

Whereas teachers help students cultivate the knowledge and principles necessary to be successful in life;

Whereas teachers are held to high expectations, while often receiving little compensation;

Whereas teachers help instill civic responsibility among students in the United States;

Whereas teachers deserve annual national recognition for their knowledge, selfless dedication to their profession, compassion, and sacrifice; and

Whereas the Tuesday of the first full week of May of each year is an appropriate day for the establishment of National Teacher Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) there should be established a National Teacher Day to honor and celebrate teachers; and

(2) the President should issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe such a day with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to yield as much time as my friend from Florida (Mr. KLEIN) may consume.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res 952, legislation calling for the establishment of a National Teacher Day. Few professionals touch as many lives as teachers do. They provide us with the knowledge and skills that we need to succeed in life, and their compassion, sacrifice, and dedication to their profession deserves national recognition.

As the son of an elementary school teacher, I was proud to introduce this resolution calling for the establishment of a national day of recognition for our Nation's teachers. My mother and so many other teachers across the country spend their lives working to inspire children and open their minds to new ideas so that they can grow up to be successful in whatever path they choose.

I am sure that each and every one of our colleagues can identify a teacher from their past who left a significant mark on their lives. I know that I would not be here where I am today without the motivation and encouragement of teachers from my past who challenged me to aspire to greater things and pursue my dreams of public service.

For me, the teacher who provided the greatest impact of my life is Dr. Leatrice Rabinsky, a teacher at Cleveland Heights High School in Ohio. She was one of the pioneers of Holocaust education. Her teaching and experience left an indelible mark on me and led me to introduce legislation, as a State Senator in Florida, requiring the teaching of the Holocaust in all of Florida's public schools. Florida was one of the first States to pass and implement this policy which is now considered a model for Holocaust education across this country, and I attribute that effort to Dr. Leatrice Rabinsky.

I believe it is important to recognize the hard work of our Nation's teachers who prepare our students to build a stronger America. The education of our children is critical to the success of our country, and despite limited compensation, in many cases, and increasingly high expectations, our teachers rise to the challenge each and every day.

In Florida, the average teacher earns about \$43,000 per year, and nationally, teacher salary growth continues to lag behind inflation. This day of recognition is critical for bringing national attention to the pressing need to invest more in our teachers and our public schools. By providing teachers with the support, professional development, and compensation they deserve, we will retain more teachers in the profession and see significant gains in our public schools. No longer can we ask our teachers to increase their workload and raise academic achievement without providing them with the resources they need to do so.

Teachers are a critical component to our increasing global competitiveness, and once again establishing our country as a world leader in the global economy, teachers will play a central role.

I'm proud to have voted for the passage of legislation that invests in our Nation's math and science teachers this year providing roughly 25,000 teachers with assistance in pursuing graduate degrees, summer training, and other types of professional development. I am confident that this is just the beginning of new Federal support investing in science, technology, engineering, and math education and providing incentives to teachers who wish to engage in these specialty areas.

Our teachers are charged with a very difficult task as the pressure continues to grow across the country to increase student achievement. However, they have taken on the challenge with incredible perseverance and determination, and their dedication to our students and their profession deserves thanks and recognition.

I'm hopeful with the passage of this resolution, every American will take time from their day to acknowledge the teachers in their lives, both past and present, for their commitment to this important profession.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank my distinguished colleague, Congressman ROSKAM, for joining me in introducing this legislation, and I thank the overwhelming number of Members who have joined me in support of the establishment of a National Teacher Day.

I urge passage of this important legislation.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, we've heard from the Democratic sponsor of the bill. I would like to yield to the Republican sponsor of the bill, Mr. ROSKAM, who is from Illinois and close to Chicago, such time as he may consume.

□ 1615

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Connecticut. I, like many of us, come to the floor and want to congratulate Mr. KLEIN for his leadership on this issue and bringing us together actually in an area that I think most folks, if you reflect back, you can think of a favorite teacher. Let me tell you a little bit about one of my favorite teachers.

My fourth grade teacher was Lillian Anderson. Lillian Anderson was 65 years old and I was in the last class. Maybe I caused her to retire, but I was the last class that Ms. Anderson had. Ms. Anderson was one of those people at Ben Franklin School in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, that began to open up our eyes, myself and my classmates, to the State of Illinois, and that's a tradition that we have in Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, as a fine product of the public schools in Illinois, you know that fourth graders in Illinois begin to

learn about the State. We learn the State flower, the violet. We learn the State song, which I will not sing for you. We learn the State bird, the cardinal, and all of these things.

And what happened to me was in Ms. Anderson's class, beginning to learn about the three branches of government, in all of those things, suddenly this was a whole new area that was revealed to me.

I grew up in a family that wasn't active when it came to politics. My mom and dad would vote, but that was pretty much it. So here I was a young student, a young boy in Ms. Anderson's class, and a seed was planted by that dear woman. The seed was later watered for me when I was in eighth grade and took the Constitution test, and I was one of those kids in eighth grade that couldn't get enough of it, absolutely loved it.

My point is that there were teachers along the way that encouraged and nurtured me, and I have a strong suspicion that, as we reflect, every one of us can point to somebody along the way, in addition to those people in our immediate families, but somebody along the way that encouraged us, that saw a little something in us, moved us along, took the time to pull us aside and give us an important word. I think that that legacy is the great benefit of the teaching profession today because they don't know all of the ways in which they've influenced people.

So I want to thank Mr. KLEIN. I want to thank him for bringing this resolution to the floor, for having the Congress today pause and to reflect on those people who were influential in bringing us here today, and I know he's worked very hard to reach out to folks on both sides of the aisle.

I want to thank my friend from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) for yielding.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today in support of this resolution urging the establishment of a National Teacher Day. Every day, thousands of men and women in this country wake up in the morning with a tremendous responsibility, this stressful and sometimes daunting task of educating our Nation's youth. We entrust these special people with our most precious resource, our children.

Devoted teachers make a difference in the lives of students from every age and background. Every one of us can point to so many exceptional educators whose impact allowed us to get where we are today.

Support for a national day honoring the hard work of teachers has been brewing since 1944 when an Arkansas schoolteacher, Maddie White Woodridge, began corresponding with education leaders about the need for a teacher's day. In 1953, Eleanor Roosevelt convinced the 81st Congress to establish the first National Teacher Day. Finally, in 1985, the National Parent Teacher Association declared the

first week in May as National Teacher Appreciation Week.

Through their dedication and passion for service, teachers bridge the gap between the resources available and the vital need for a strong education, with sometimes too little compensation. They provide the tools necessary for success, and their sacrifice deserves national recognition.

So, in recognition of the crucial role teachers play in trying to make sure every child receives a quality education, it is appropriate we pass this important resolution.

Given the incredible teachers I have been fortunate to have over my life, it is appropriate for me to recognize and thank them. I am extraordinarily grateful for every teacher that I have had. They saw in me opportunities for growth—there sure was—but more important, they helped me to dream and to imagine I could be someone I wanted to be. I thank them for the skills they taught me and for helping me grow in the right direction. And I thank them for their love and care of me.

With that, I yield back my time.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I'd like to thank my friend from Florida (Mr. KLEIN) for bringing this resolution and to say that, after hearing the speakers today, it made me think about the impact some of my teachers had on my learning throughout my life. In the words of a famed historian and author, Henry Adams, he said, Teachers affect eternity because they can never tell you where their influence stops.

So, today, let us stand in support and recognition of the timeless influence of our country's teachers and educators by passing H. Res. 952, which expresses the sense of the House that there should be established a National Teacher Day to honor and celebrate teachers in the United States, and I urge passage of the bill.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, as the only former state schools' chief serving in Congress, I rise today in appreciation of the lasting impact that teachers make on the lives of all Americans.

Each of us in the House have benefited from the care and guidance of a talented educator. Each of us knows, from personal experience and reports from our district, many of the amazing success stories in our schools today. These successes would not be possible without our dedicated teachers who lend their skills, experience, and passion to the task of educating our children.

I am profoundly thankful to all of my teachers, who pushed me to succeed and taught me valuable lessons. Ms. Flossie Barber, who taught me at the Cleveland School, was the personification of teaching. Stern and tough, but always caring with each and every student, her early lessons enabled me to achieve my goals and more. Coach Bruce Coats taught me what it meant to be a member of a team and how to contribute to the greater good. I hope that everyone has the privilege of great teachers like these, and remembers to give them thanks for their hard work and inspiration.

Too often, we do not give our teachers the respect and esteem that they deserve. This day, and really this whole week, is an opportunity to stop and remember the professional educators who work every day to build a bright future for our children and our Nation. Their efforts shape the world of tomorrow, and they deserve our support every day throughout the year.

Mr. Speaker, with your leadership, the New Direction Congress is ensuring that our teachers get the support they need to continue their work to educate our children. We have committed to fully funding No Child Left Behind and other federal mandates that have been shortchanged by the current administration. We also must pass new teacher training and staff development initiatives to help our educators hone and maintain the skills they need to teach our children well. We have made great strides in recent years to improve our schools, and, on this National Teacher Day should recommit to build on that record of success.

Improving education in this country is about creating a classroom environment where children can learn. My colleagues and I have crafted bipartisan legislation to provide critical investments in school construction and modernization across the country. The RANGEL-RAMSTAD-ETHERIDGE America's Better Classrooms Act will provide \$25 billion in interest-free bonds for local schools. This bill will make a real difference for our communities, our children, and their teachers. I have also introduced legislation to ensure that students and teachers have a safe place to learn that is equipped to respond to any disaster. The Schools Empowered to Respond Act will support schools in their efforts to keep children safe and implement robust emergency management plans. On this National Teacher Day, I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this important legislation.

The work of our dedicated teachers inspires our students every day, and I have been inspired by so many educators who give much to our communities. I thank them for their work, and do so every day.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the establishment of a National Teacher Day to honor and celebrate teachers.

Teachers are the cornerstone of our Nation's schools. We ask them to be educators and mentors. We ask them to work long hours, keep order in crowded classrooms, and respond creatively to individual student needs. They consistently rise to meet the challenge.

We should recognize their contributions, but we should also take tangible steps to assist them. And that means funding for our schools, high quality training, and fair pay. It means making sure that every teacher is prepared to walk into the classroom and every teacher has support through the school day.

We trust our Nation's teachers with our most important task—caring for and educating our children. National Teacher Day will remind us to honor their commitment and support that mission.

Mr. CLAY. 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 Missouri (Mr. CLAY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 952.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. 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.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE JOHN A. BOEHNER, REPUBLICAN LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable JOHN A. BOEHNER, Republican Leader:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 13, 2008.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, U.S. Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI: Pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 2702, I am pleased to appoint Mr. Jeffrey W. Thomas of Ohio to the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress. Mr. Thomas has expressed interest in serving in this capacity and I am pleased to fulfill his request.

Sincerely,

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Republican Leader.

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 22 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 (Mr. MCINTYRE) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO OFFER MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 2419, FOOD AND ENERGY SECURITY ACT OF 2007

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, under rule XXII, clause 7(c), I hereby announce my intention to offer a motion to instruct on H.R. 2419.

The form of the motion is as follows:

Mr. Flake moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 2419 (an Act to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2012) be instructed not to recede to the provisions contained in subtitle A of title XII of the Senate amendment (relating to a permanent agriculture disaster assistance program).

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. Res. 952, by the yeas and nays;
- H. Res. 1011, de novo; and
- H. Res. 1109, de novo.

Postponed votes on remaining motions to suspend will be taken later in the week.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

SENSE OF HOUSE OF ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL TEACHER DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 952, 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 Missouri (Mr. CLAY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 952.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 368, nays 0, not voting 63, as follows:

[Roll No. 240]
YEAS—368

Abercrombie Cantor Engel
Ackerman Capito English (PA)
Aderholt Capps Eshoo
Akin Capuano Etheridge
Alexander Cardoza Everett
Allen Carnahan Fallin
Altmire Carney Farr
Arcuri Carter Fattah
Baca Castle Feeney
Bachmann Castor Ferguson
Bachus Chabot Filner
Baird Chandler Flake
Baldwin Clarke Forbes
Barrett (SC) Clay Fortenberry
Barrow Cleaver Foster
Bartlett (MD) Clyburn Foxx
Barton (TX) Coble Frank (MA)
Becerra Cohen Franks (AZ)
Berkley Cole (OK) Frelinghuysen
Berman Conaway Gallegly
Berry Conyers Garrett (NJ)
Biggert Cooper Giffords
Billray Costa Gillibrand
Bilirakis Courtney
Bishop (GA) Crenshaw
Bishop (NY) Crowley
Blackburn Cubin Goode
Blumenauer Cummings Goodlatte
Blunt Davis (CA) Granger
Boehner Davis (KY) Graves
Bonner Davis, David Green, Al
Bono Mack Davis, Tom Green, Gene
Boozman Deal (GA) Grijalva
Boren DeFazio Gutierrez
Boswell DeGette Hall (NY)
Boucher Delahunt Hall (TX)
Boustany DeLauro Hare
Boyd (FL) Dent Harman
Boyd (KS) Diaz-Balart, L. Hastings (FL)
Brady (PA) Diaz-Balart, M. Hastings (WA)
Brady (TX) Dingell Hayes
Braley (IA) Doggett Hensarling
Brown (GA) Donnelly Heger
Brown (SC) Doyle Herseth Sandlin
Brown, Corrine Higgins Hill
Brown-Waite, Dreier Hill
Ginny Duncan Hinchey
Burgess Edwards Hinojosa
Buyer Ellison Hirono
Calvert Ellsworth Hobson
Camp (MI) Emanuel Hodes
Cannon Emerson Holden

Holt
Honda
Hondy
Hoyer
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kennedy
Kildee
Kind
King (IA)
Kingston
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Lampson
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowe y
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Mahoney (FL)
Manzullo
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris
Rodgers

NOT VOTING—63

Andrews
Bean
Bishop (UT)
Buchanan
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Campbell (CA)
Carson
Costello
Cramer
Cuellar
Culberson
Davis (AL)
Davis (IL)
Davis, Lincoln
Dicks
Doolittle
Ehlers
Fossella
Gerlach
Gilchrist

McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mitchell
Moore (KS)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neugebauer
Nunes
Obey
Oliver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Pearce
Pence
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Putnam
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sali
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes

Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sestak
Shadegg
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Space
Spratt
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thornberry
Pitts
Tiaht
Tierney
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Welch (VT)
Weller
Westmoreland
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

□ 1905

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.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to reconsider the vote.

MOTION TO TABLE OFFERED BY MR. HASTINGS OF FLORIDA

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to lay the motion to reconsider on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to table.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 202, noes 168, not voting 61, as follows:

[Roll No. 241]
AYES—202

Abercrombie Filner McIntyre
Ackerman Foster McNerney
Allen Frank (MA) McNulty
Altmire Giffords Meek (FL)
Arcuri Arcuri Gillibrand
Baca Gonzalez Melancon
Baird Green, Al Michaud
Baldwin Green, Gene Miller (NC)
Barrow Grijalva Miller, George
Becerra Gutierrez Mitchell
Berkley Hall (NY) Moore (KS)
Berman Hare Moore (WI)
Berry Harman Moran (VA)
Bishop (GA) Hastings (FL) Murphy (CT)
Bishop (NY) Herseth Sandlin Murphy, Patrick
Blumenauer Higgins Nadler
Boren Hill Napolitano
Boswell Hinchey Obey
Boucher Hinojosa Oliver
Boyd (FL) Ortiz
Boyda (KS) Hodes Pallone
Brady (PA) Holden Pascrell
Braley (IA) Holt Pastor
Brown, Corrine Honda Perlmutter
Capps Hooley Peterson (MN)
Capuano Hoyer Pomeroy
Cardoza Israel Price (NC)
Carnahan Jackson (IL) Rahall
Carney Jackson-Lee (TX) Rangel
Castor Reyes
Chandler Jefferson Richardson
Clarke Johnson (GA) Rodriguez
Clay Johnson, E. B. Ross
Cleaver Kagen Rothman
Clyburn Kanjorski Roybal-Allard
Cohen Kaptur Ruppersberger
Conyers Kennedy Ryan (OH)
Cooper Kildee Salazar
Costa Kind Sanchez, Linda T.
Courtney Klein (FL) T.
Crowley Kucinich Sanchez, Loretta
Cummings Lampson Sarbanes
Davis (CA) Langevin Schakowsky
DeFazio Larsen (WA) Schiff
DeGette Larson (CT) Schwartz
Delahunt Lee Scott (GA)
Dent Levin Scott (VA)
DeLauro Lewis (GA) Serrano
Dingell Loeb sack Sestak
Doggett Lofgren, Zoe Shea-Porter
Donnelly Doyle Lowey Sherman
Doyle Lynch Sires
Edwards Mahoney (FL) Skelton
Ellison Markey Slaughter
Ellsworth Emanuel Snyder
Emanuel Engel Solis
Engel Matsui Space
Eshoo McCarthy (NY) Spratt
Etheridge McCollum (MN) Stupak
Farr McDermott Sutton
Fattah McGovern

Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Tierney
Towns
Tsongas
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)

Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz (MN)
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt

Waxman
Welch (VT)
Wilson (OH)
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth

NOES—168

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Bachmann
Bachus
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Biggart
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite,
Ginny
Burgess
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Castle
Chabot
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Crenshaw
Cubin
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson
English (PA)
Everett
Fallin
Feeney
Ferguson
Flake
Forbes

Fortenberry
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Hall (TX)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hensarling
Herger
Hobson
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Issa
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Keller
King (IA)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel
E.
Mack
Manzullo
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHugh
McKeon
McMorris
Rodgers
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)

Murphy, Tim
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Nunes
Pearce
Pence
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Porter
Price (GA)
Putnam
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Sali
Schmidt
Sensenbrenner
Shadegg
Shays
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stearns
Sullivan
Tancredo
Terry
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Turner
Upton
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Weller
Westmoreland
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—61

Andrews
Bean
Bishop (UT)
Buchanan
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Campbell (CA)
Carson
Costello
Cramer
Cuellar
Culberson
Davis (AL)
Davis (IL)
Davis, Lincoln
Dicks
Doolittle
Fossella
Gerlach
Gilchrest
Gordon

Heller
Hoekstra
Hulshof
Insee
Johnson (IL)
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kilpatrick
King (NY)
Lipinski
Maloney (NY)
Speier
Stark
Thompson (MS)
Tiberi
Wamp
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Wexler
Wolf

Pryce (OH)
Radanovich
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rush
Saxton
Sessions
Shuler
Smith (WA)
Souder
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Bralley (IA)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite,
Ginny
Burgess
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito

□ 1912

Mr. CHABOT changed his vote from "aye" to "no."
So the motion to table was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

DEVELOPING A COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL STRATEGY IN CHAD AND DARFUR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 1011, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1011, 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.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 371, noes 0, not voting 60, as follows:

[Roll No. 242]

AYES—371

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Altmire
Arcuri
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggart
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Bralley (IA)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite,
Ginny
Burgess
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito

Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carter
Castle
Castor
Chabot
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Clever
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Hayes
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchev
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Hunter

Etheridge
Everett
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxy
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Giffords
Gillibrand
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchev
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Hunter

Inglis (SC)
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kennedy
Kildee
Kind
King (IA)
Kingston
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Lampson
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel
E.
Lynch
Mack
Mahoney (FL)
Manzullo
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)

Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mitchell
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neugebauer
Nunes
Obey
Oliver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Pearce
Pence
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Putnam
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sali
Sanchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff

Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sestak
Shadegg
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Space
Spratt
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tierney
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Welch (VT)
Weller
Westmoreland
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—60

Andrews
Bean
Bishop (UT)
Buchanan
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Campbell (CA)
Carson
Costello
Cramer
Cuellar
Culberson
Davis (AL)
Davis (IL)
Davis, Lincoln
Dicks
Doolittle
Fossella
Gerlach
Gilchrest

Gordon
Heller
Hoekstra
Hulshof
Insee
Johnson (IL)
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kilpatrick
King (NY)
Lipinski
Maloney (NY)
Marchant
Marshall
McHenry
Mollohan
Murtha
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Paul

Payne
Peterson (PA)
Pryce (OH)
Radanovich
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rush
Saxton
Sessions
Shuler
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stark
Thompson (MS)
Tiberi
Wamp
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Wexler
Wolf

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1921

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.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to reconsider the vote.

MOTION TO TABLE OFFERED BY MR. HASTINGS OF FLORIDA

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to table the motion to reconsider.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to table.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 199, noes 168, not voting 64, as follows:

[Roll No. 243]

AYES—199

Abercrombie	Frank (MA)	McNulty
Ackerman	Giffords	Meek (FL)
Allen	Gillibrand	Meeks (NY)
Altmire	Gonzalez	Melancon
Arcuri	Green, Al	Michaud
Baca	Green, Gene	Miller (NC)
Baird	Grijalva	Miller, George
Baldwin	Gutierrez	Mitchell
Barrow	Hall (NY)	Moore (KS)
Becerra	Hare	Moore (WI)
Berkley	Harman	Murphy (CT)
Berman	Hastings (FL)	Murphy, Patrick
Berry	Herseht Sandlin	Nadler
Bishop (GA)	Higgins	Napolitano
Bishop (NY)	Hill	Obey
Blumenauer	Hinchev	Olver
Boren	Hinojosa	Ortiz
Boswell	Hirono	Pallone
Boucher	Hodes	Pascarell
Boyd (FL)	Holden	Pastor
Boyd (KS)	Holt	Perlmutter
Brady (PA)	Honda	Peterson (MN)
Braley (IA)	Hoolley	Pomeroy
Brown, Corrine	Hoyer	Price (NC)
Capps	Israel	Rahall
Capuano	Jackson (IL)	Rangel
Cardoza	Jackson-Lee	Reyes
Carnahan	(TX)	Richardson
Carney	Jefferson	Rodriguez
Castor	Johnson (GA)	Ross
Chandler	Johnson, E. B.	Rothman
Clarke	Kagen	Roybal-Allard
Clay	Kanjorski	Ruppersberger
Cleaver	Kaptur	Ryan (OH)
Clyburn	Kennedy	Salazar
Cohen	Kildee	Sánchez, Linda
Conyers	Kind	T.
Cooper	Klein (FL)	Sanchez, Loretta
Costa	Kucinich	Sarbanes
Courtney	Lampson	Schakowsky
Crowley	Langevin	Schiff
Cummings	Larsen (WA)	Schwartz
Davis (CA)	Larson (CT)	Scott (GA)
DeFazio	Lee	Scott (VA)
DeGette	Levin	Serrano
Delahunt	Lewis (GA)	Sestak
DeLauro	Loeb sack	Shea-Porter
Doggett	Lofgren, Zoe	Sherman
Doyle	Lowey	Sires
Edwards	Lynch	Skelton
Ellison	Mahoney (FL)	Slaughter
Ellsworth	Markey	Snyder
Emanuel	Matheson	Solis
Engel	Matsui	Space
Eshoo	McCarthy (NY)	Spratt
Etheridge	McCollum (MN)	Stupak
Farr	McDermott	Sutton
Fattah	McGovern	Tanner
Filner	McIntyre	Tauscher
Foster	McNerney	Taylor

Thompson (CA)
Tierney
Towns
Tsongas
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Bachmann
Bachus
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Biggart
Billbray
Bilirakis
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite,
Ginny
Burgess
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Castle
Chabot
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Crenshaw
Cubin
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
Hack
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson
English (PA)
Everett
Fallin
Feeney
Ferguson
Flake
Forbes

Andrews
Bean
Bishop (UT)
Buchanan
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Campbell (CA)
Carson
Costello
Cramer
Cuellar
Culberson
Davis (AL)
Davis (IL)
Davis, Lincoln
Dicks
Dingell
Donnelly
Doolittle
Fossella
Gerlach
Gilchrist

Visclosky
Walz (MN)
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman

NOES—168

Fortenberry
Fox
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gingrey
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Hall (TX)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hensarling
Herger
Hobson
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Issa
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Keller
King (IA)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel
E.
Mack
Manzullo
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHugh
McKeon
McMorris
Rodgers
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Murphy, Tim

NOT VOTING—64

Gohmert
Gordon
Heller
Hoekstra
Hulshof
Inslie
Johnson (IL)
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kilpatrick
King (NY)
Lipinski
Maloney (NY)
Marchant
Marshall
McHenry
Mollohan
Moran (VA)
Murtha
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Paul

Welch (VT)
Wilson (OH)
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth

□ 1928

So the motion to table was agreed to. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to attend to several votes today. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on H. Res. 952—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that there should be established a National Teacher Day to honor and celebrate teachers in the United States National Teacher Day; “yea” on H. Res. 1011—Calling on the United States Government and the international community to promptly develop, fund, and implement a comprehensive regional strategy to protect civilians, facilitate humanitarian operations, contain and reduce violence, and contribute to conditions for sustainable peace and good governance in Chad, as well as in the wider region that includes the northern region of the Central African Republic and the Darfur region of Sudan; and “yea” on H. Res. 1109—Honoring the memory of Dith Pran by remembering his life’s work and continuing to acknowledge and remember the victims of genocides that have taken place around the globe.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, May 5, 2008, I missed recorded votes. Had I been present, the record would reflect the following votes:

H. Res. 952 Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that there should be established a National Teacher Day. “Aye.”

H. Res. 1011 Calling on the United States Government and the international community to promptly develop, fund, and implement a comprehensive regional strategy to protect civilians, facilitate humanitarian operations, contain and reduce violence, and contribute to conditions for sustainable peace and good governance in Chad, as well as in the wider region that includes the northern region of the Central African Republic and the Darfur region of Sudan. “Aye.”

H. Res. 1109 Honoring the memory of Dith Pran by remembering his life’s work and continuing to acknowledge and remember the victims of genocides that have taken place around the globe. “Aye.”

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Ms. Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker pro tempore, Mr. HOYER:

H.R. 493. An act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of genetic information with respect to health insurance and employment.

H.R. 1195. An act to amend the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users to make technical corrections, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5715. An act to ensure continued availability of access to the Federal student loan program for students and families.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Less than 2 minutes remain in this vote.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to adjourn offered by the gentleman from New York.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. WALSH of New York. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 199, noes 168, not voting 64, as follows:

[Roll No. 244]

AYES—199

Abercrombie	Hall (NY)	Pallone
Ackerman	Hare	Pascarell
Allen	Harman	Pastor
Arcuri	Hastings (FL)	Perlmutter
Baca	Herseth Sandlin	Peterson (MN)
Baird	Higgins	Pomeroy
Baldwin	Hill	Price (NC)
Barrow	Hinchee	Rangel
Becerra	Hinojosa	Reyes
Berkley	Hirono	Richardson
Berman	Hodes	Richardson
Berry	Holden	Rodriguez
Bishop (GA)	Holt	Rogers (AL)
Bishop (NY)	Honda	Ross
Blumenauer	Hookey	Rothman
Boren	Hoyer	Roybal-Allard
Boswell	Israel	Ruppersberger
Boucher	Jackson (IL)	Salazar
Boyd (FL)	Jackson-Lee	Sánchez, Linda T.
Boyd (KS)	(TX)	Sanchez, Loretta
Brady (PA)	Jefferson	Sarbanes
Braley (IA)	Johnson (GA)	Schakowsky
Brown, Corrine	Johnson, E. B.	Schiff
Capps	Kagen	Schwartz
Capuano	Kanjorski	Scott (GA)
Cardoza	Kaptur	Scott (VA)
Carnahan	Kennedy	Sensenbrenner
Carney	Kildee	Serrano
Castor	Kind	Sestak
Chandler	Kirk	Shea-Porter
Clarke	Klein (FL)	Sherman
Clay	Lampson	Sires
Cleaver	Langevin	Skelton
Clyburn	Larsen (WA)	Slaughter
Cohen	Larson (CT)	Snyder
Conyers	Lee	Solis
Cooper	Levin	Space
Costa	Lewis (GA)	Spratt
Courtney	Loeb sack	Stupak
Crowley	Lofgren, Zoe	Sutton
Cummings	Lowey	Tanner
Davis (CA)	Lynch	Tauscher
DeFazio	Mahoney (FL)	Taylor
DeGette	Matheson	Thompson (CA)
Delahunt	Matsui	Tierney
DeLauro	McCarthy (NY)	Towns
Doggett	McCollum (MN)	Tsongas
Doyle	McDermott	Udall (CO)
Edwards	McGovern	Udall (NM)
Ellison	McIntyre	Van Hollen
Emanuel	McNerney	Velázquez
Engel	McNulty	Visclosky
Eshoo	Meek (FL)	Walz (MN)
Etheridge	Meeks (NY)	Wasserman Schultz
Farr	Melancon	Waters
Fattah	Michaud	Watson
Feeney	Miller (NC)	Watt
Filner	Miller, George	Waxman
Foster	Mitchell	Welch (VT)
Frank (MA)	Moore (KS)	Wilson (OH)
Garrett (NJ)	Moore (WI)	Woolsey
Giffords	Murphy (CT)	Wu
Gillibrand	Murphy, Patrick	Wynn
Gonzalez	Nadler	Yarmuth
Green, Al	Napolitano	Young (AK)
Green, Gene	Obey	
Grijalva	Oliver	
Gutierrez	Ortiz	

NOES—168

Aderholt	Barton (TX)	Bono Mack
Akin	Biggart	Boozman
Alexander	Bilbray	Boustany
Altire	Bilirakis	Brady (TX)
Bachmann	Blackburn	Brown (GA)
Bachus	Blunt	Brown (SC)
Barrett (SC)	Boehner	Brown-Waite,
Bartlett (MD)	Bonner	Ginny

Buchanan	Hensarling	Petri
Burgess	Herger	Pickering
Buyer	Hobson	Pitts
Calvert	Hunter	Platts
Camp (MI)	Inglis (SC)	Poe
Cannon	Issa	Porter
Cantor	Johnson, Sam	Price (GA)
Capito	Jordan	Putnam
Carter	Keller	Rahall
Castle	King (IA)	Ramstad
Chabot	Kingston	Regula
Coble	Kline (MN)	Rehberg
Cole (OK)	Knollenberg	Reichert
Conaway	Kucinich	Renzi
Crenshaw	Kuhl (NY)	Reynolds
Cubin	LaHood	Rogers (KY)
Davis (KY)	Lamborn	Ros-Lehtinen
Davis, David	Latham	Roskam
Davis, Tom	LaTourette	Royce
Deal (GA)	Latta	Ryan (WI)
Dent	Lewis (CA)	Sali
Diaz-Balart, L.	Lewis (KY)	Schmidt
Diaz-Balart, M.	Linder	Shadegg
Drake	LoBiondo	Shays
Dreier	Lucas	Shimkus
Duncan	Lungren, Daniel E.	Shuster
Ehlers	Mack	Simpson
Ellsworth	Manzullo	Smith (NE)
Emerson	McCarthy (CA)	Smith (NJ)
English (PA)	McCaul (TX)	Smith (TX)
Everett	McCotter	Souder
Fallin	McCreary	Stearns
Ferguson	McHugh	Sullivan
Flake	McKeon	Tancredo
Forbes	McMorris	Terry
Fortenberry	Rodgers	Thornberry
Fox	Mica	Tiahrt
Franks (AZ)	Miller (FL)	Turner
Frelinghuysen	Miller (MI)	Upton
Galleghy	Miller, Gary	Walberg
Gingrey	Moran (KS)	Walden (OR)
Gohmert	Murphy, Tim	Walsh (NY)
Goode	Musgrave	Weller
Goodlatte	Myrick	Westmoreland
Granger	Neugebauer	Whitfield (KY)
Graves	Nunes	Wilson (NM)
Hall (TX)	Pearce	Wilson (SC)
Hastings (WA)	Pence	Wittman (VA)
Hayes		Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—64

Andrews	Heller	Peterson (PA)
Bean	Hoekstra	Pryce (OH)
Bishop (UT)	Hulshof	Radanovich
Burton (IN)	Inslie	Rogers (MI)
Butterfield	Johnson (IL)	Rohrabacher
Campbell (CA)	Jones (NC)	Rush
Carson	Jones (OH)	Ryan (OH)
Costello	Kilpatrick	Saxton
Cramer	King (NY)	Sessions
Cuellar	Lipinski	Shuler
Culberson	Maloney (NY)	Smith (WA)
Davis (AL)	Marchant	Speier
Davis (IL)	Markey	Stark
Davis, Lincoln	Marshall	Thompson (MS)
Dicks	McHenry	Tiberi
Dingell	Mollohan	Wamp
Donnelly	Moran (VA)	Weiner
Doolittle	Murtha	Weldon (FL)
Fossella	Neal (MA)	Wexler
Gerlach	Oberstar	Wolf
Gilchrest	Paul	
Gordon	Payne	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Two minutes remain in this vote.

□ 1945

So the motion to adjourn was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, May 6, 2008, at 10:30 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:

6371. A letter from the FEMA OCC Attorney Regulations & Policy, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket No. FEMA-B-7772] received April 25, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6372. A letter from the FEMA OCC Attorney, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations — received April 25, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6373. A letter from the OCC (FEMA) Attorney, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Proposed Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket No. FEMA-B-7773] received April 25, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6374. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations — received April 25, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6375. A letter from the FEMA OCC Attorney Regulations & Policy, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Proposed Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket No. FEMA-B-7771] received April 25, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6376. A letter from the Attorney, FEMA OCC Regulations & Policy, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations — received April 29, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6377. A letter from the General Counsel, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Standard for the Flammability of Clothing Textiles — received April 29, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6378. A letter from the Director, Office of Management, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's report on the amount of the acquisitions made from entities that manufacture the articles, materials, or supplies outside of the United States in fiscal year 2007, pursuant to Public Law 109-115, section 837; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6379. A letter from the Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's report to Congress for Fiscal Year 2007, pursuant to Section 6034 of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6380. A letter from the Secretaries, Departments of Agriculture and Health and Human Services, transmitting the Departments' report on Thefts, Losses, or Releases of Select Agents or Toxins for the period February 7, 2003 to December 31, 2006, as required by the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002, Pub. L. 107-188; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6381. A letter from the Legal Advisor, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — In the Matter of Amendment of Parts 1, 21, 73, 74

and 101 of the Commission's Rules to Facilitate the Provision of Fixed and Mobile Broadband Access, Educational and Other Advanced Services in the 2150-2162 and 2500-2690 MHz Bands [WT Docket No. 03-66 RM-10586] received April 15, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6382. A letter from the Deputy Chief, CGB, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — In the Matter of Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities E911 Requirements for IP-Enabled Service Providers [CG Docket No. 03-123 WC Docket No. 05-196] received April 15, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6383. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — In the Matter of Advanced Television Systems and Their Impact Upon the Existing Television Broadcast Service [MB Docket No. 87-268] received March 26, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6384. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Interlocutory Review of Rulings on Requests by Potential Parties for Access to Sensitive Unclassified Non-Safeguards Information and Safeguards Information (RIN: 3150-AI08) received April 15, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6385. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary For Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Technical Corrections to the Export Administration Regulations based upon a Systematic Review of the CCL [Docket No. 080307395-8515-01] (RIN: 0694-AE32) received April 29, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6386. A letter from the District of Columbia Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled, "Audit of Child and Family Services Agency's Congregate Care Contract Expenditures," pursuant to D.C. Code section 47-117(d); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6387. A letter from the District of Columbia Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled, "Audit of Child and Family Services Agency's Contracting and Quality Assurance Procedures," pursuant to D.C. Code section 47-117(d); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6388. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting in accordance with Section 647(b) of Division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004, Pub. L. 108-199, and the Office of Management and Budget Memorandum M-08-02, the Department's report on competitive sourcing efforts for FY 2007; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6389. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's annual report for FY 2007 prepared in accordance with the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002, Public Law 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6390. A letter from the Director, Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, transmitting two reports on the 2007 Activities of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts and the 2007 Judicial Business of the

United States Courts, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 604(a)(4); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6391. A letter from the Chairman, Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting the Commission's report entitled, "Reinvigorating the Nation's Civil Rights Debate: The Strategic Plan of the United States Commission on Civil Rights for Fiscal Years 2008-2013"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6392. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's report on the growth of violent street gangs in suburban areas, in reference to the Commerce, Justice, Science, and related Agencies Appropriations Bill for 2008; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6393. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting a letter concerning grants made during FY 2007 under Section 2806(b) of the Paul Coverdell National Forensic Science Improvement Act of 2000 (Pub L. 106-561) to improve forensic science services; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6394. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's report on the STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program, as required by Section 2004(b) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6395. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Labor, transmitting a copy of a draft bill to "authorize the retention by the Secretary of Labor of fees collected to process applications for temporary agricultural employment certification for non-immigrant aliens in the United States, and for other purposes"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6396. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Report on Denial of Visas to Confiscators of American Property for the period of April 1, 2007 through March 31, 2008; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6397. A letter from the Secretaries, Departments of Defense, State, Energy and Commerce, transmitting a legislative proposal for Presidential authority to waive Section 1083 of the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act for states that have been removed from the list of state sponsors of terrorism; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6398. A letter from the Acting Chief, Trade & Comm'l Regs. Branch, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Import Restrictions Imposed on Archaeological and Ethnological Material of Iraq [CBP Dec. 08-17] (RIN: 1505-AB91) received April 25, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6399. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Tier 1 Issue — Backdated Stock Options Directive #2 [LMSB Control No. 4-0308-017] received April 23, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6400. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's report entitled, "National Coverage Determinations for Fiscal Year 2006," pursuant to Public Law 106-554 section 522(a); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

6401. A letter from the Program Manager, Department of Health and Human Service, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Conditions for Coverage for End-Stage Renal Disease Facilities [CMS-3818-F] (RIN: 0938-AG82) received April 8, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.

801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

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. CONYERS: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 4279. A bill to enhance remedies for violations of intellectual property laws, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 110-617). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. CONYERS: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 1512. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for compensation to States incarcerating undocumented aliens charged with a felony or two or more misdemeanors; with an amendment (Rept. 110-618). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 5830. A bill to create a voluntary FHA program that provides mortgage refinancing assistance to allow families to stay in their homes, protect neighborhoods, and help stabilize the housing market; with an amendment (Rept. 110-619). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. CONYERS: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 5690. A bill to exempt the African National Congress from treatment as a terrorist organization for certain acts or events, provide relief for certain members of the African National Congress regarding admissibility, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 110-620 Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the Committee on Foreign Affairs discharged from further consideration. H.R. 5690 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. ROYCE:

H.R. 5957. A bill to reduce subsidies for agricultural commodity programs; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. MCNERNEY (for himself and Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California):

H.R. 5958. A bill to make permanent the increases made by the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 in the loan limits for the Federal National Mortgage Association, the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, and the FHA; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. REYES:

H.R. 5959. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2009 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select).

By Mr. ALTMIRE (for himself and Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 5960. A bill to amend the Trade Act of 1974 to provide for a limitation on presidential discretion with respect to actions to address market disruption; to the Committee

on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, 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. GINGREY (for himself, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, Mr. HERGER, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. WESTMORELAND, and Mr. DEAL of Georgia):

H.R. 5961. A bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to place a general eligibility ceiling of 250 percent of the poverty level on gross income for eligibility for benefits under Medicaid and SCHIP; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida (for himself, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. PAUL, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, and Mr. TURNER):

H.R. 5962. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide temporary housing related tax relief for individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ELLISON (for himself, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, and Mr. CAPUANO):

H.R. 5963. A bill to protect the interests of bona fide tenants in the case of any foreclosure on any dwelling or residential real property, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GONZALEZ (for himself and Mr. UPTON):

H.R. 5964. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to extend the compliance period for persons subject to the renewable fuel mandate in the years 2008, 2009, and 2010; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 5965. A bill to encourage small businesses to provide continuing financial education to their employees by providing a credit against income tax to cover a portion of the costs of providing that education and by giving such businesses and corporations providing such financial education preferential status when applying for Federal contracts, loans, and other assistance; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Small Business, 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. KAPTUR (for herself and Mr. LATOURETTE):

H.R. 5966. A bill to target housing counseling funding based upon levels of residential mortgage foreclosures and delinquencies; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. WEINER:

H.R. 5967. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for reallocation of abandoned private activity bond volume cap; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia:

H.R. 5968. A bill to require assurances that certain family planning service projects and programs will provide pamphlets containing the contact information of adoption centers; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia:

H.R. 5969. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to make service-disabled veterans eligible under the 8(a) business development program; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. STUPAK (for himself and Mr. COBLE):

H. Con. Res. 341. Concurrent resolution celebrating 75 years of effective State-based alcohol regulation and recognizing State lawmakers, regulators, law enforcement officers, the public health community and industry members for creating a workable, legal, and successful system of alcoholic beverage regulation, distribution, and sale; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MATSUI (for herself, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. PLATTS, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina):

H. Res. 1173. A resolution recognizing AmeriCorps Week; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 139: Mr. CULBERSON and Mrs. MYRICK.
H.R. 643: Mr. PRICE of Georgia.
H.R. 661: Mr. SESTAK and Mr. BROWN of South Carolina.

H.R. 914: Mr. PITTS.
H.R. 992: Mr. SHAYS.
H.R. 1032: Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.

H.R. 1072: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 1078: Ms. BERKLEY.
H.R. 1188: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 1283: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. CARSON, and Mr. DICKS.

H.R. 1392: Mr. GONZALEZ.
H.R. 1536: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 1542: Mr. SARBANES.
H.R. 1606: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.
H.R. 1643: Mr. ABERCROMBIE.
H.R. 1772: Mr. SHAYS.
H.R. 1776: Mr. DOYLE, Mr. LIPINSKI, and Mr. ALLEN.

H.R. 1843: Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina.
H.R. 1957: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 1983: Mr. CONYERS and Mrs. SCHMIDT.
H.R. 2032: Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. SERRANO, and Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 2049: Mr. CARSON, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. ESHOO, and Ms. LEE.

H.R. 2092: Mr. LATOURETTE and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 2189: Ms. BALDWIN.
H.R. 2361: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 2392: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 2477: Mr. FORTUÑO.
H.R. 2552: Mr. WEXLER and Mr. PASTOR.
H.R. 2632: Ms. LEE.
H.R. 2676: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 2712: Mr. THORNBERRY.
H.R. 2812: Mr. CONAWAY and Mr. HINOJOSA.
H.R. 2859: Mr. ELLISON.
H.R. 2894: Mr. BACHUS.
H.R. 2942: Mr. ANDREWS.
H.R. 2990: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 2994: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 3047: Mr. SALLI.
H.R. 3063: Mr. SERRANO.
H.R. 3089: Mr. SALLI, Mr. ROYCE, and Mr. NEUGEBAUER.

H.R. 3164: Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 3257: Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. OLVER, Mr. BISHOP of New York, and Mr. ANDREWS.
H.R. 3267: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
H.R. 3309: Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 3480: Mrs. LOWEY and Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 3543: Mr. BACA and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 3544: Mr. WEXLER and Mr. DICKS.
H.R. 3636: Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 3870: Mr. ALTMIRE and Mr. WAXMAN.
H.R. 3896: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.
H.R. 4071: Mr. SHULER.

H.R. 4081: Mr. DOGGETT and Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 4105: Ms. SOLIS, Mr. SIRES, Mr. WELCH of Vermont, Mr. PLATTS, and Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida.

H.R. 4114: Mr. SESTAK and Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 4141: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 4206: Mr. KUHL of New York and Mr. YARMUTH.

H.R. 4236: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. SPACE, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND.

H.R. 4296: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 4318: Mr. CHABOT and Mr. TURNER.
H.R. 4335: Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 4790: Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 4900: Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. FORBES, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. BACHUS.

H.R. 4990: Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 5106: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 5174: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.

H.R. 5180: Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 5265: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. ANDREWS, and Mrs. TAUSCHER.

H.R. 5315: Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. REYES, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND.
H.R. 5401: Ms. LEE.
H.R. 5442: Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 5447: Mr. CAPUANO and Mr. McNULTY.
H.R. 5450: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa and Mr. REHBERG.

H.R. 5461: Mr. FORTUÑO.
H.R. 5464: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 5465: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina and Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas.
H.R. 5496: Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 5515: Mr. REYNOLDS.
H.R. 5532: Ms. BALDWIN.
H.R. 5534: Mr. SHAYS.
H.R. 5561: Mr. HIGGINS.
H.R. 5568: Mrs. BLACKBURN and Mr. HULSHOF.

H.R. 5586: Mr. ABERCROMBIE.
H.R. 5595: Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mrs. LOWEY, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 5604: Mr. SOUDER, Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, and Mr. MICHAUD.
H.R. 5605: Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 5606: Mr. KING of New York and Mr. ROYCE.

H.R. 5609: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 5611: Ms. FOXF.
H.R. 5626: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.R. 5635: Mr. ALTMIRE.
H.R. 5664: Mr. WALZ of Minnesota.
H.R. 5672: Mr. BERRY.
H.R. 5696: Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 5716: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 5717: Mr. FEENEY.
H.R. 5723: Mr. MCKEON.
H.R. 5731: Mr. FEENEY.
H.R. 5734: Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 5740: Mr. LYNCH, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. WILSON of Ohio, Mrs. BONO MACK, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Ms. CASTOR, and Ms. BEAN.
H.R. 5752: Mr. SHAYS.
H.R. 5753: Ms. BALDWIN.
H.R. 5762: Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SESTAK, and Mr. KLEIN of Florida.
H.R. 5765: Mr. PORTER and Mr. HERGER.
H.R. 5766: Mr. RUSH and Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.

H.R. 5784: Mr. RENZI.
H.R. 5798: Mr. ALTMIRE.
H.R. 5824: Mr. TAYLOR, Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas, Ms. CLARKE, and Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.
H.R. 5825: Mr. CARNAHAN.
H.R. 5826: Mr. BILIRAKIS and Mr. WALZ of Minnesota.
H.R. 5831: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. BOREN, and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.

- H.R. 5837: Mr. ISRAEL.
 H.R. 5847: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
 H.R. 5854: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
 H.R. 5857: Mr. CAMP of Michigan, Mr. FORTUÑO, Mr. SOUDER, and Mrs. MUSGRAVE.
 H.R. 5869: Mr. UDALL of Colorado.
 H.R. 5895: Mr. SESTAK.
 H.R. 5898: Mr. JEFFERSON.
 H.R. 5904: Mr. TERRY and Mr. REGULA.
 H.R. 5911: Mr. RADANOVICH.
 H.R. 5912: Mr. SHERMAN.
 H.R. 5914: Mr. MCKEON.
 H.R. 5916: Mr. CROWLEY.
 H.R. 5934: Mr. ELLSWORTH.
 H.R. 5954: Mr. FILNER.
 H. Con. Res. 267: Mr. ALTMIRE.
 H. Con. Res. 276: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.
 H. Con. Res. 295: Mr. SALI.
 H. Con. Res. 299: Mr. ENGEL, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. LOBIONDO, and Mr. BACHUS.
 H. Con. Res. 332: Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, and Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California.
 H. Con. Res. 334: Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. Latta, and Mr. WALDEN of Oregon.
 H. Con. Res. 337: Mr. CONYERS.
 H. Con. Res. 338: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. GRIJALVA.
 H. Res. 68: Mr. CONYERS.
 H. Res. 227: Mr. CONYERS.
 H. Res. 353: Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. FORTUÑO, Mr. KUCINICH, and Ms. SUTTON.
 H. Res. 356: Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut and Mr. KNOLLENBERG.
 H. Res. 369: Mr. TOWNS.
 H. Res. 374: Mr. CONYERS.
 H. Res. 757: Ms. SUTTON.
 H. Res. 779: Ms. BALDWIN.
 H. Res. 937: Mr. BOREN, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. LATTA, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
- H. Res. 977: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. MAHONEY of Florida, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. BOUCHER, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. LAMPSON, Mr. HILL, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. JEFFERSON.
 H. Res. 1008: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
 H. Res. 1011: Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania.
 H. Res. 1022: Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. SUTTON, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
 H. Res. 1026: Mr. MOORE of Kansas and Mr. BOREN.
 H. Res. 1048: Mr. MCCOTTER.
 H. Res. 1069: Mr. LINDER.
 H. Res. 1075: Mr. CALVERT.
 H. Res. 1086: Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. GINGREY.
 H. Res. 1090: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. WATT, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CLYBURN, Ms. CLARKE, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. CLAY, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CARSON, Mr. WYNN, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. WATSON, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. LEE, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. DINGELL, Ms. WATERS, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. RICHARDSON, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. CONYERS.
 H. Res. 1109: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
 H. Res. 1111: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas.
- H. Res. 1122: Mr. WALDEN of Oregon.
 H. Res. 1124: Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. WEXLER, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. SAXTON, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Ms. BEAN, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. ROSS, Mr. HODES, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. HALL of New York, Ms. DELAURO, Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. WELCH of Vermont, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.
 H. Res. 1132: Mr. STUPAK and Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.
 H. Res. 1134: Ms. DELAURO, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. SERRANO, and Mr. SESTAK.
 H. Res. 1143: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Mr. EHLERS.
 H. Res. 1155: Mr. MATHESON, Mr. BARROW, Mr. NUNES, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. WEINER, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. BOSWELL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. BOYD of Florida, Mr. TANNER, Mr. BOREN, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. ARCURI, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. COOPER, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. SHULER, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee, and Mr. ELLSWORTH.
 H. Res. 1160: Mr. ETHERIDGE.
 H. Res. 1164: Ms. BORDALLO.
 H. Res. 1170: Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. PENCE, Mr. SOUDER, and Mr. BUYER.