

improve the health and well-being of American men.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, all of the 10 leading causes of death among Americans, such as cancer and heart disease, affect our Nation's men at a higher rate than our women. On average, the male life expectancy in America is 6 years lower than the life expectancy of their female counterparts. A leading cause of this disparity is that men are 100 percent less likely to visit a doctor for screening and preventative medical checkups. This reluctance is tragic, as many life-threatening conditions are mitigated when found through early detection.

Congress recognized the need to encourage preventative medicine by increasing health awareness in American men when it established National Men's Health Week in 1994. Now, 14 years later, this commemorative week has helped to raise awareness and lower illness among American men.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I urge the swift passage of this measure, as it will continue to encourage the men of our country to take a more active and preventative role in safeguarding their health, and, therefore, the health of America.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today in support of this resolution promoting National Men's Health Week. Across this Nation, men are reminded daily about the benefits of living a healthy life. Whether through exercise, a balanced diet, or regular visits to the doctor, these simple steps can lead to longer, more vibrant lives. Sadly, many men still neglect the basic preventative measures and often fail to realize the ripple effect their declining health can have on those around them.

It is no secret that men have a shorter lifespan than women. Of the 10 leading causes of death in this country, men lead women in all 10. Yes, some of this can be attributed to lifestyle differences. Men are prone to engage in heavier drinking, smoking, and risky behaviors. But the sad reality is that men all too often neglect to seek out the medical help they need. Studies have shown that men are significantly less likely to visit the doctor than women are.

Congress and the President established National Men's Health Awareness Week in May 1994. They chose the week leading up to Father's Day, when our focus on the male figures in our life is greatest, to bring national attention to the critical health issues facing men and to highlight the preventative measures that are necessary and available.

Early detection is vital, and in many cases, increases chances for survival. Men's Health Awareness Week helps bring this information to light and highlights the proactive steps that men can take to improve their chances for a

long, healthy life. The benefits of a more proactive approach to men's health extends not only to the individual, but to their families, friends, society, and the Nation.

Better long-term health means fewer medical expenses for families, taxpayers, and employers. When women outlive their spouses, often by more than half a decade, they face the financial, emotional, and physical burden of living out their remaining years in solitude. This can ultimately place undue stress on a family or taxpayers.

Men's Health Awareness Week helps broaden our understanding of the serious health risks facing men and the simple steps we can all take to help mitigate their effects. So I urge my colleagues not only to support this resolution, but to honor its message. If you're a man, go to the doctor. If you're a woman, encourage your husband, brother, son, and friends to do so. Take a walk, go for a jog, or eat a piece of fruit. After all, we all know that an apple a day keeps the doctor away.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my distinguished colleague from the State of Idaho (Mr. SALLI).

Mr. SALLI. I thank the gentlewoman. Today, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 138, supporting National Men's Health Week. Not only should we be recognizing this important health issue this week, but Congress should also be addressing other issues critical to the American people, especially rising fuel prices.

As Americans across this country pay an average of \$3.98 per gallon, these prices hit families, and particularly school children. Just yesterday, the Calhoun Times reported in Georgia that, and I quote, "High gas prices hit high school sports. With gas prices soaring to record heights, the cost of taking teams on the road has become a looming storm on the horizon of high school athletics that has led some to worry what the future may have in store. All across the country, people are dealing with the pinch of high gas prices. With high school teams' main mode of transportation still the average school bus, which runs on diesel, costs are even higher."

This is unacceptable, Mr. Speaker. We need to act now to lower gas prices.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as we observe and promote Men's Health Week, I am pleased to note that both the Illinois Department of Public Health and the City of Chicago's Department of Public Health, under able leadership of their commissioners, place great emphasis on men's health, and have two activities coming up this

week; Saturday at Malcolm X College, and next week, the day before Father's Day, at Malcolm X Community College, where the focus is men's health.

I urge passage of this measure.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 138, 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. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECOGNIZING THE STATE OF MINNESOTA'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 923) recognizing the State of Minnesota's 150th anniversary.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 923

Whereas Minnesota was established as a territory on March 2, 1849, and became the 32nd State on May 11, 1858;

Whereas Minnesota is also known as the "Gopher State", the "North Star State", and the "Land of 10,000 Lakes";

Whereas Minnesota's name comes from the Dakota word "minnesota", meaning "water that reflects the sky", and Native Americans continue to play a defining role in Minnesota's proud heritage;

Whereas the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul were established after the completion of nearby Fort Snelling, a frontier outpost and training center for Civil War soldiers;

Whereas more than 338,000,000 tons of Minnesota iron ore were shipped between 1940 and 1945 that contributed to the U.S. military victory in World War II, and an additional 648,000,000 tons of iron ore were shipped between 1945 and 1955 that boosted post-war economic expansion in the U.S.;

Whereas in 1889, the Saint Mary's Hospital, now known as the Mayo Clinic, opened its doors to patients in Rochester, Minnesota, and is now known worldwide for its cutting-edge care;

Whereas Minnesota continues to be a leader in innovation and is currently home to more than 35 Fortune 500 Companies;

Whereas Minnesota houses over 30 institutions of higher education including the University of Minnesota, a world-class research university where the first open heart surgery and first bone marrow transplant was performed in the United States;

Whereas farmland spans over half of Minnesota's 54 million acres and the agriculture industry is Minnesota's second largest job market, employing nearly 80,000 farmers;

Whereas Minnesota is the Nation's number one producer of sugarbeets and turkeys;

Whereas Minnesota is a national leader in the production and use of renewable energy,

which helps our Nation reduce its dependency on foreign sources of oil;

Whereas the Mall of America located in Bloomington, Minnesota, is the Nation's largest retail and entertainment complex, spanning 9,500,000 square feet and providing more than 11,000 jobs;

Whereas Minnesota has 90,000 miles of lake and river shoreline, which includes the coast of Lake Superior, the largest of North America's Great Lakes;

Whereas the Minneapolis-St. Paul area is nationally recognized for its parks, museums, and cultural events; and

Whereas the people of Minnesota have a timeless reputation of compassion, strength, and determination: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives congratulates the State of Minnesota on its 150th anniversary and the contributions it continues to make to America's economy and heritage.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H. Res. 923, which recognizes the 150th anniversary of the State of Minnesota and highlights its contributions to America's economy and heritage.

H. Res. 923 was introduced by our colleague, Congresswoman MICHELLE BACHMANN of Minnesota, on January 16, 2008, and was considered by and reported from the Oversight Committee on May 1, 2008, by voice vote. This measure has the support and cosponsorship of 120 Members of Congress, including all of the Members from the State of Minnesota.

On March 2, 1849, Minnesota was established as a territory, and it became the 32nd State on March 11, 1858. Also known as the Gopher State, the North Star State, and the Land of 10,000 Lakes, Minnesota's name comes from the Dakota word "minnesota," meaning "water that reflects the sky."

Minnesota has been and continues to be a leader in innovation in science and education. It is home of the Mayo Clinic, which is known for its cutting-edge medical work, and over 30 institutions of higher education, including the University of Minnesota, a world-class research university, which performed the first open heart surgery and the first bone marrow transplant in America. I should also mention that Minnesota is currently home to more than 35 Fortune 500 companies and is leading the Nation in the production and use of renewable energy.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentlewoman from Minnesota for sponsoring the measure at hand. Given the 150th anniversary of Minnesota's statehood and the enormous contributions Minnesota has made to our Nation and the world, I urge passage of this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution seeks to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Minnesota becoming a State. In February of 1857, Congress passed an enabling act that defined the State boundaries and authorized the establishment of a State government for the people of Minnesota. Among other things, it called for a convention to establish a State constitution. As is normal in a democracy, the Democrats and Republicans could not come to a final agreement on language, which resulted in the drafting of two distinct constitutions.

Ultimately, a conference committee of five members from each party was formed in order to work out the differences and create one constitution both sides could agree to. This happened in August of 1857. Although neither party agreed to sign along with members of the other party, a consensus on the language was agreed upon and two copies were made and signed. Minnesota's State constitution was born.

A few months later, on May 11, 1858, President James Buchanan signed legislation granting statehood to Minnesota, making it the 32nd State in the Union. Until that point, Minnesota held the status of a territory for more than 9 years. Henry Hastings Sibley, the State's first Governor, famously uttered Minnesota is finally free "from the trammels of territorial vassalage."

On this occasion of the sesquicentennial, it is important that we recognize all that Minnesota has to offer. It is truly a time of celebration for the 5 million-plus residents of Minnesota, and there is a lot to celebrate. Its geography and terrain are among the most precious and beautiful our Nation has to offer. It is home to the headwaters of the mighty Mississippi River, which has been so crucial to the development of the economic viability of our Nation.

Minnesota is a land rich in natural resources and remains among the leaders in agriculture and iron production. Minnesota's farming industry feeds and nourishes many of our Nation's citizens today. Minnesotans are known to be a people with a sense of pride in their history and tradition. Many Minnesotans have had profound impact on the lives of people all across our Nation.

□ 1430

For instance, the founders of the world-renowned Mayo Clinic, Dr. William Mayo and his two sons, William and Charles, began their practice in Minnesota.

Minnesota is also the birthplace of one of America's greatest literary figures and favorite authors, F. Scott Fitzgerald. His literary works have reached millions and continue to have a great impact on our youth. Fitzgerald's "The Great Gatsby" is regarded as one of the great American novels.

In conclusion, the State of Minnesota is one that is rich in nature, resources, and, most importantly, in people and heritage. For this reason, I ask my colleagues to support H. Res. 923, recognizing the State of Minnesota's 150th anniversary.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my distinguished colleague from the State of Idaho (Mr. SALI).

Mr. SALI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman.

I rise in support of H. Res. 923, recognizing the 150th anniversary of the great State of Minnesota. While I rise in support and recognition of this anniversary, I also rise to remind my colleagues that we must address rising fuel prices.

Some have blamed rising fuel prices on those who own and manage big oil companies. In a recent study, however, Robert Shapiro, Undersecretary of Commerce for Economic Affairs under President Bill Clinton, found that the vast majority of oil and natural gas company shares are owned broadly by middle-income Americans through mutual funds, pension funds and individual retirement accounts, while a mere 1.5 percent of the shares of public oil companies are owned by company executives. That means that when Congress levies additional taxes on oil companies, the American public will pay for that tax in one of two ways; either through their pension or mutual funds, or by paying a higher price at the pump.

Mr. Speaker, increasing taxes is not the answer to rising fuel prices.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the sponsor of this resolution, my colleague from Minnesota (Mrs. BACHMANN).

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina for yielding to me.

This is a wonderful, delightful resolution to be able to speak on this afternoon. It is the State of Minnesota's 150th birthday. We have had a big party all year, we are going to continue to have a big party all year, and it is my honor to be able to present this resolution before our distinguished body and also to let the American people know the entire Minnesota delegation has joined me on this resolution. All Democrats, all Republicans, we are united in this great party of celebrating Minnesota's 150th birthday.

Mr. Speaker, as this resolution's author, I rise to support House Resolution 923. As Minnesota turns a very proud 150 years old, we are no worse for the wear as a State, and I am very honored to recognize the contributions that Minnesota has made to the United States economy and to our great heritage of freedom and prosperity.

On March 3rd, 1849, Minnesota was established as a United States Territory as part of the Northwest Territory, and later we became the 32nd State in this great country, on May 11, 1858.

Minnesota is now home to over 5 million very lucky people. Minnesota is renowned for our welcoming communities, our high quality schools and our valuable natural resources. Minnesotans take advantage of those resources every weekend that we can, our beautiful lakes, our forests, our prairies. "Minnesota Nice" is more than a saying for us; it is our way of life, and we welcome you to come and enjoy our hospitality any time you get to our great State of Minnesota.

We are also known as the Gopher State. We are also known as the North Star State and the Land of 10,000 Lakes. But, truth be told, we actually have over 15,000 lakes in our great State. Our name comes from the Dakota word "minnesota," which means "water that reflects the sky," in other words, sky blue waters. And it is that, and more.

Native Americans continue to play an extremely important role in Minnesota and a defining role in our very proud heritage. The influence of the Native Americans can be seen not only in the names of our local towns, our local lakes and our natural landmarks, but also in the enduring culture of conservation of the land and the great love that every Minnesotan shares and our bond with the outdoors.

It was in 1889 that the Saint Mary's Hospital, now known as the world famous Mayo Clinic, opened its doors to patients in Rochester, Minnesota. They are now known worldwide for their cutting-edge care, and quite often in the news we will hear of yet one more world leader who makes their way to little Rochester, Minnesota, to receive what we know in Minnesota is the finest health care system in the United States.

Minnesota also houses, Mr. Speaker, over 30 institutions of higher education. Education is a very strong value in the State of Minnesota, including the world renowned University of Minnesota, a world class research university of which we are all extremely proud and where the Nation's and world's first open heart surgery was performed and also the first bone marrow transplant was performed in the United States.

Minnesota continues to be a leader in innovation. In fact, Minnesota is currently home to more than 35 Fortune 500 companies. Yes, we are the State, Mr. Speaker, that gave you SPAM, and

we are the State that gave you the Post-it note.

But our rise in corporate and technological prominence has not compromised our agricultural background. Farmland spans over half of Minnesota's 54 million acres. My father was born on a farm and grew up on a farm, and farming is a way of life for many of our Minnesota people. The ag industry is a jewel in Minnesota and it is Minnesota's second largest job market, employing nearly 80,000 farmers that serve to feed the world.

At a time when energy costs and production are dominating the headlines, Minnesota is a national leader in the protection and use of renewable energy. We are very proud of this fact, and it helps our Nation reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

For 150 years, Mr. Speaker, Minnesota has attracted a very special caliber of people, marked by our spirit and by our character. The citizens of the State of Minnesota are dedicated to our families. Families are very important. Faith is very important in our State, our communities, and also in our Nation. We are people of faith. We are people of charity. We are people of hope and dedication, love and compassion. We have a very high rate of giving in the State of Minnesota.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you and my fellow colleagues will join me in recognizing the rich history and the substantial contributions that Minnesota and Minnesotans have made to this great Nation. We have a lot to be proud of, Mr. Speaker, and this legislation marks yet one more happy milestone in Minnesota's long history of success.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as he may consume to one of the cosponsors of this resolution, Representative WALZ from Minnesota.

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Thank you, Mr. DAVIS, for managing the bill. A special thank you to my colleague from a little further upstate in Minnesota, Mrs. BACHMANN. Thank you for your kind words. Your pride and enthusiasm for our State is evident, and I think all of us who live there understand why.

I, too, rise to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the great State of Minnesota, the 32nd State. It is our sesquicentennial, 150 years. From the natural beauty of the Mississippi River, across to the plains near South Dakota, this is a State that amongst the stark beauty has planted the seeds, as you heard my previous colleague talk about, of innovation, from health care to computer technology to agriculture.

I am especially proud to represent the southern area of the State, the First District, those many towns, like Winona along the Mississippi River, which were the stopping points near the upper end of the paddle boats that brought our forebearers to Minnesota. The courthouses and the city halls still represent that long heritage, that rich

tradition and that sense of community that had people staking out a new life in the "big woods," in the Land of 10,000 Lakes.

I am proud to have the City of New Ulm in my district. New Ulm is, as you might expect, a very, very German town. It boasts the "Herman the German" statue that is the second largest brass statue behind only the Statue of Liberty in the United States. There is the proud tradition of the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame that captures the tradition of the many musicians and folk artists that have come through and lived in Minnesota. Both Winona and New Ulm were capitals of a day, and I am very proud of them during the sesquicentennial celebration.

The City of Rochester, as you heard my colleague mention, the small town on the prairie that the Mayo brothers opened the door to a hospital and have established the most advanced critical hospital in probably the world. The Mayo Clinic is a destination. You must fly there to get there. There is not a large city to draw you there, but there is the absolute guarantee of the most quality care that you can receive anywhere in the world. They are leading the way not only in innovations in medical research, they are leading the way in how we deliver health care to all Americans.

Also the City of Austin, known for many, many things, and one also you heard my colleague mention, the invention of SPAM and the SPAM Museum. Mr. Speaker, I invite you and anyone to please visit this wonderful place. You will find out how SPAM is made, first and foremost, but it also is something about the Hormel Institute and this other great company. They have a research lab that is there that is called the Hormel Institute. By most accounts the Hormel Institute will feature the international conference on carcinogens and in cancer research, especially melanomas, and the Hormel Institute, when the story of how cancer is solved, it will probably start in Austin, Minnesota. It is something we are very proud of, a public-private partnership.

Minnesotans have always prided themselves on their education, of investing in their children. Garrison Keillor talks about all of our children are above average. We know that we have a ways to go, but we do take pride in that, from our many, many public schools and institutions of higher learning, producing one of the highest graduation rates in the country, and usually in the very top three of all SAT and ACT scores. So there is a great pride in this.

It is those residents of Southern Minnesota that I am here today to congratulate, people who have chosen to live in a somewhat harsh climate, to take the opportunity to settle this land, to move into the Upper Midwest and to settle and create not just places to live, but communities that were vibrant and growing, and that understood that the investments we put

back in them would benefit this country.

So, I am proud of our State. I am proud of what our State contributes to this Nation, just like our other 49 States and territories do. This Nation is strongest when we are altogether, and admission of Minnesota as the 32nd State strengthened this great Union. Today I say congratulations to all Minnesotans, and we are looking forward to the next 150 years.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the opportunity to visit Minnesota myself later this year. I urge our colleagues to support H. Res. 923, recognizing the State of Minnesota's 150th anniversary, and yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, as this resolution's author, I rise to support H. Res. 923. As Minnesota turns a proud 150 years old, I am honored to recognize the contributions she has made to America's economy and heritage.

On March 3, 1849, Minnesota was established as a U.S. territory and later became the 32nd state on May 11, 1858. It is now home to over five million people and is renowned for its welcoming communities, quality schools and valuable natural resources. "Minnesota Nice" is more than a saying; it's a way of life.

Minnesota is known as the Gopher State, the North Star State, and the Land of 10,000 Lakes; and its name comes from the Lakota word *minnesota*, meaning "water that reflects the sky." Native Americans continue to play a defining role in Minnesota's proud heritage. Their influence can be seen not only in the names of local towns and lakes and natural landmarks, but also in the enduring culture of conservation and love for the outdoors.

In 1889, the Saint Mary's Hospital, now known as the Mayo Clinic, opened its doors to patients in Rochester, Minnesota and is now known worldwide for its cutting-edge care.

And Minnesota houses over 30 institutions of higher education including the University of Minnesota—a world-class research university where the first open heart surgery and first bone marrow transplant were performed in the United States.

Minnesota continues to be leaders in innovation. In fact, Minnesota is currently home to more than 35 Fortune 500 Companies.

But our rise in corporate and technological prominence has not compromised our agricultural background. Farmland spans over half of Minnesota's 54 million acres and the agriculture industry is Minnesota's second largest job market, employing nearly 80,000 farmers.

At a time when energy costs and production are dominating the headlines, Minnesota is a national leader in the production and use of renewable energy, which helps our nation reduce its dependence on foreign oil.

For one-hundred and fifty years, Minnesota has attracted a special caliber of people, marked by their spirit and character. The citizens of our great state are dedicated to their families, their communities and their country. They are people of faith and charity, hope and dedication, love and compassion.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you and my fellow colleagues will join me in recognizing the rich history and substantial contributions Minnesota has made to its nation. Minnesotans have a lot to be proud of, and this legislation marks another milestone in Minnesota's long history of success.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I would urge passage of this resolution, and yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 923.

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. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF THE ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION AND NATIONAL ARBOR DAY

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1114) supporting the goals and ideals of the Arbor Day Foundation and National Arbor Day.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1114

Whereas the Arbor Day Foundation was founded in 1972 and now has nearly 1,000,000 members;

Whereas these members and the countless supporters of the Arbor Day Foundation continue to further the mission of the Foundation, which is to "inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees";

Whereas the Arbor Day Foundation manages the 260-acre Arbor Day Farm to serve as a model of environmental stewardship;

Whereas the Arbor Day Foundation distributes more than 10,000,000 trees annually through its Trees for America program;

Whereas the Arbor Day Foundation has worked with the Department of Agriculture's Forest Service since 1990, helping to plant nearly 12,000,000 trees in national forests damaged by fire, insects, or other causes;

Whereas J. Sterling Morton recognized the need for trees in Nebraska and proposed a tree-planting holiday called "Arbor Day" in 1872;

Whereas the observation of Arbor Day soon spread to other States and is now observed nationally and in many other countries;

Whereas J. Sterling Morton once observed that "the cultivation of trees is the cultivation of the good, the beautiful, and the ennobling in man"; and

Whereas National Arbor Day, the last Friday in April, will be celebrated on April 25, 2008: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of the Arbor Day Foundation; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe National Arbor Day with appropriate activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentle-

woman from North Carolina (Ms. Foxx) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

□ 1445

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I present for consideration H. Res. 1114, which expresses the support of Congress for the environmental goals and ideals of Arbor Day and the work of the Arbor Day Foundation.

H. Res. 1114, which was introduced by my colleague, Representative JEFF FORTENBERRY, on April 16, 2008, was reported from the Oversight Committee on May 1, 2008 by voice vote. This measure has the support and sponsorship of 53 Members of Congress, and recognizes the importance of Arbor Day and the Arbor Day Foundation in preserving America's green spaces.

J. Sterling Morton, the father of Arbor Day, once observed that, "The cultivation of trees is the cultivation of the good, the beautiful, and the ennobling in man." Established in 1872 as a tree planting holiday and celebration, Arbor Day has had a powerful and positive effect on America's landscape and ecosystem, and is now observed both nationally as well as in many foreign countries.

Mr. Speaker, we can't speak about National Arbor Day without mentioning the work of the National Arbor Day Foundation which was created with a mission to inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees. The Foundation has attracted almost 1 million members to become passionate about conservation and is worthy to be commemorated for their efforts to distribute 10 million plus trees annually for planting. And so I ask, Mr. Speaker, that we show our support of Arbor Day and the Arbor Day Foundation by agreeing to H. Res. 1114.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my distinguished colleague from the State of Nebraska, the author of this resolution, Mr. FORTENBERRY.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. I thank the gentledady from North Carolina for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, J. Sterling Morton, the founder of Arbor Day and an outstanding Nebraskan, once said, "Each generation of humanity takes the earth as trustees." That is the spirit embodied in Arbor Day. The simple act of planting a tree provides resources