

Chairman MILLER, Ranking Member MCKEON, and the rest of my colleagues on the Education and Labor Committee for bringing this resolution to the floor.

Founded in 1958, Ailey has become widely recognized as one of the world's premier modern dance companies. In its 50-year history, Ailey has performed for an estimated 21 million people in 71 countries on six continents. The troupe's signature work, "Revelations," has been seen by more people across the globe than any other work of dance.

Alvin Ailey was born into an impoverished childhood in the small, segregated town of Rogers, Texas. Dedicated to promoting the uniqueness of the African-American cultural experience, Ailey began offering opportunities to black dancers when there were few. "Revelations," which draws upon the influences of black spirituals, gospel music, and blues, epitomizes the universality of art that Ailey sought to explore. Of this groundbreaking work, he said: "Its roots are in American Negro culture, which is part of the whole country's heritage. The dance speaks to everyone."

By 1963, the troupe had begun welcoming dancers of diverse ethnicities and backgrounds, and translating their experiences into some of the most riveting works of dance of the 20th century. The company now performs works by a wide range of choreographers, both emerging and established, from across the globe, totaling more than 200 works by over 70 choreographers.

In 1982, Alvin Ailey received the United Nations Peace Medal, and in 2001, President George W. Bush recognized the Ailey and Artistic Director Judith Jamison with the National Medal of Arts, making the Ailey the first dance company to be honored with this award.

Ailey continues to make a lasting impact in the dance world through its arts in education and community programs, which provide more than 100,000 young people from diverse cultural, social, and economic backgrounds the opportunity to explore their creative potential, not only in New York, but in cities throughout the United States. Ailey II, the junior company, reaches more than 69,000 people each year, and brings its inspiring performances to smaller communities across North America.

I am proud that Ailey calls my congressional district in New York City home, and has made the Joan Weill Center for Dance the largest facility dedicated exclusively to dance in the United States.

I wish to thank Ailey for all it has done to break cultural barriers through the arts. I especially want to thank Judith Jamison, Artistic Director, and Sharon Gersten Luckman, Executive Director, who keep Alvin Ailey's artistic and social vision alive today.

I urge all my colleagues to support this resolution congratulating the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater for its 50 years as a cultural ambassador to the world, and thanking them for their outstanding service to future generations of artists.

□ 1245

Mr. BISHOP of New York. 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 New York (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1088, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### CONGRATULATING EAST HIGH SCHOOL IN DENVER, COLORADO, ON WINNING CITIZENSHIP COMPETITION

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1261) congratulating East High School in Denver, Colorado, on winning the 2008 "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" national competition, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 1261

Whereas in order to preserve our democracy, it is important that an indepth understanding of the documents upon which our Nation was founded is passed on from generation to generation;

Whereas students in the "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" competition demonstrate their understanding of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, along with the documents' contemporary significance by participating in simulated congressional hearings;

Whereas the "We the People" competition, founded in 1987 on the bicentennial of the adoption of the Constitution, celebrates its 21st consecutive year in 2008;

Whereas in the 21 years of competition, East High School has gone to the "We the People" national finals 19 times, placed in the Top Ten 16 times, placed in the Top Three 8 times, and placed in the Top Two 4 times;

Whereas on May 5, 2008, East High School placed first in the national "We the People" competition;

Whereas East High School placed first for the second year in a row, and for the third time in the school's history, the previous times being in 2007 and 1992; and

Whereas the 27 team members exhibited an extraordinary grasp of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the importance of civics education and the role of the "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" competition in promoting greater understanding and appreciation of the principles of democracy upon which our Nation was founded;

(2) congratulates the organizers, teachers, and students from across the Nation who participated in the 2008 "We the People" competition;

(3) congratulates the East High School team from Denver, Colorado, on winning the 2008 "We the People" national competition; and

(4) directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to Denver School District Superintendent Michael Bennet and coach Susan McHugh for appropriate display.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on H. Res. 1261 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the students of East High School in Denver, Colorado, on winning the 2008 "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" national competition.

"We the People" is a program that encourages civic awareness and responsibility in middle school and high school students through hands-on activities. Students discover firsthand how the Constitution and the Bill of Rights impact their everyday lives and participate in a simulated Congressional hearing. At the national level, students utilize higher order thinking skills as they demonstrate their knowledge of constitutional theory by defending a historical or contemporary issue.

For the second consecutive year, Denver's East High School won the national title. In order to receive this high honor, 27 students from East High School competed against 1,200 other participants from all 50 States. The 3-day long competition took place on Capitol Hill and involved the students completing a mock hearing. They were judged by law school professors, State supreme court justices, mayors, and others on their opening statements and their responses to follow-up questions on 17 different constitutional topics.

This competition makes the Constitution come alive and helps students connect what they are learning to contemporary issues and events. This type of learning is important not only for its academic aspects, but also for the way in which it improves our democracy. Students are able to analyze and evaluate their rights and responsibilities and apply this new knowledge to their surroundings.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I wish to congratulate the students of East High School and all the other students across the Nation that took part in the "We the People" competition. I hope all students have the opportunity to see civics come alive, and I encourage my colleagues to pass this resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I also rise in support of House Resolution 1261, congratulating the East High School in Denver, Colorado, on winning the 2008 "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" national competition.

Every year since 1987, the Center for Civic Education has sponsored “We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution,” a competition for American high school students held in Washington, D.C.

The primary goal of the competition is to promote civic competence and responsibility among the Nation’s elementary and secondary students. What makes the program successful is the design of its instructional program, including its innovative culminating activity.

The instructional program enhances students’ understanding of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, while also discovering their contemporary relevance. The culminating activity is a simulated congressional hearing in which students testify before a panel of judges. Students demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of constitutional principles and have opportunities to evaluate, take and defend positions on relevant, historical and modern day issues.

In the 21 years of competition, East High School has gone to the “We the People” nationals 19 times, placed in the Top Ten 16 times, placed in the Top Three eight times, and placed in the Top Two four times. However, this year East High School placed first in the national competition.

The 27 team members, under the leadership and guidance of their coach, Susan McHugh, are to be commended. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the team’s accomplishments.

From the earliest days of American democracy, the study of history has been essential to the preservation of freedom. This competition is a great forum in which to strengthen the teaching, study and understanding of our Nation’s history and culture. “We the People” is a wonderful opportunity for American youth to develop an understanding of the documents upon which our Nation was founded. Therefore, I ask my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as she may consume to the gentlelady from Colorado (Ms. DEGETTE).

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 1261.

I want to take a moment this afternoon to recognize one of the premier civics instruction programs in this country. Most of my colleagues are aware of the “We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution” national civics class and competition. And in this day and age, when so few Americans take American Government in school, and even fewer know who their Members of Congress are, this class is incredibly vital and this competition is vital for civics awareness among our high school students.

“We the People” is a year-long class incorporated into high school curricu-

lums around the country that focuses on the foundation of the U.S. Constitution and its relevance in American modern government. In this program, students are not confined to the walls of their classrooms; they have the opportunity to take their knowledge on the road, participating in a national competition against students from other schools. “We the People” culminates in a simulated congressional hearing right here in Washington, D.C. for the finalist teams.

In addition to learning the basic tenets of our democracy, the program teaches students valuable critical thinking, debate, and public speaking skills.

“We the People” was first started in 1987, on the bicentennial of the adoption of the U.S. Constitution by the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia. Since its inception, more than 28 million students and 90,000 educators have participated.

The program is sponsored by the nonprofit, nonpartisan Center for Civic Education, whose mission is to help develop and foster a well-informed citizenry through civics education. Its flagship program, “We the People,” is funded in part through the U.S. Department of Education under the Education for Democracy Act. And just to show how bipartisan this program is, several years ago I worked with Congressman DAN BURTON to expand funding for this important program to middle school students.

This year, as we’ve heard, East High School, in my congressional district in Denver, Colorado, won the competition for the second year in a row. Each year, thousands of students from around the country participate in this program, which, as I said, culminates in the hearings on Capitol Hill. These students are given questions ranging from the inadequacies of the Articles of Confederation, to the implications of Federalist No. 51, to what James Madison would think about current political topics. Frankly, Mr. Speaker, most Members of Congress would struggle to answer these questions.

I would also like to note that these students are not simply memorizing facts from stuffy 18th-century debates that they will soon forget. They are diving into real-world debates over executive power, civil liberties, and other issues that are on our front pages every day and on the agenda in this hallowed Chamber week in and week out.

I would like to say I have personal familiarity with the depth of knowledge this program gives to students because I was one of the very first volunteer coaches of the East High School team in the 1980s, well before my tenure in Congress, when I was a practicing attorney in Denver. And I can attest, these students know far more than many professors and Members of Congress about our political process and our Constitution. So, given the depth of knowledge of these thousands of high school students around the coun-

try, it really was a tremendous achievement for this year’s East High School team to win the “We the People” competition for the second year in a row.

Under the leadership of this year’s teacher and coach, Susan McHugh, and the dedication of my long-time friend and colleague, Loyal Darr, the “We the People” coordinator for Colorado’s First District, East High School demonstrated an unrivaled expertise in constitutional issues.

To all of the dedicated students, teachers, parents and organizers of “We the People” nationwide, on behalf of the United States Representatives, I want to congratulate you on your accomplishments and thank you for your efforts towards promoting civic engagement, healthy debate, and an ongoing commitment to the foundations of this great country.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution. But more importantly, I urge my colleagues to think about the importance of civics education in this country. We need to look at the successes of Denver’s East High School. We need to look at the accomplishments of “We the People” participants from across the Nation and their ability to dissect complex current and historic political issues. And we need to ask ourselves, do we need more civics education, or less? The answer is self-evident.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place the names of the team and their coaches in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. With that, Mr. Speaker, I simply say this is a wonderful program, I’m so proud of my constituents, and I ask for an affirmative vote on this resolution.

EAST HIGH SCHOOL 2008 “WE THE PEOPLE”  
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM

Isabel Breit, Nicholas Brown, Maya Burchette, Nitai Deitel, Gideon Hertz, Gideon Irving, Katherine Jablonski, Gavin Jacobs, Noah Kaplan, Brendan Lamarre, Zachary Lass, Alexandria Leenatali, Richard Londer, and Nathan Mackenzie.

Rebecca Nathanson, Alyse Opatowski, Marley Pierce, Alyssa Roberts, Paige Romer, Hayley Round, Ryan Saunders, Lindsay Shields, Jeffrey Thalhofer, Shaquille Turner, Charlotte Vilkus, Taylor Want, and Jacob Zax.

Coach: Susan McHugh; We the People coordinator, Colorado’s First District: Loyal Darr.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS).

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this time to be able to address. I want to commend East High School in Denver, Colorado. As a former civics teacher myself, I concur with my colleague from Colorado of the importance of teaching government and the processes of how we should do things here in Washington. Hopefully they’re giving some real world examples of what we do and what we fail to do. An

example of what we fail to do is energy policy in this country.

Historically, since the Bush administration came in, crude oil was at \$23 a barrel. When this new leadership came in in the House, the price of a barrel of crude oil was \$58, now it stands at \$145 a barrel. What we're saying here on this side of the aisle is that the trend line in this energy debate is bad, and we have to address this. That's why we've come to the floor—unfortunately we have to do it in times like this—to raise awareness that there is a plan to get away from this reliance on imported crude oil. And that answer is, do all of the above. Do all of the above: Expand our renewable portfolio; push for efficiencies; open up the Outer Continental Shelf; explore and recover gas in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I was in a hearing today addressing expansion of nuclear power. Move to coal-to-liquid technologies.

Now, what's interesting about this floor, this bicameral legislative body that we have, we have a House and a Senate. The Founding Fathers, as "We the People" would teach, identified the House as the body that should be most outraged and be the most responsive to the public needs and demands. It is the House that's supposed to take up the clarion call when the public is angry and frustrated at their government, and it is the House that's not doing that. We're acting like we're the Senate. We're sitting back and doing nothing. We're trying to take some long-term provision instead of moving aggressively to address the energy crisis in this country.

And the people are behind us. Numerous polling is highlighting this debate. A new IBD/TIPP poll says 64 percent of Americans support Republican-led new American energy production efforts. That's not good enough? I had a telephone town hall meeting last night to my district. Three different callers referenced this poll number: 76 percent of Americans say we need more drilling, we need more supply.

The Founding Fathers, in the formation of this new Constitution that we have, would say it is the House that should be taking up this call. We're the ones who are supposed to be responding to the 76 percent of Americans, saying, "we hear you. We're going to aggressively move to open up more supplies."

Seventy-six percent, just over three-quarters, support immediately increasing oil drilling in the United States, more than seven in 10. And from Democrats, 71 percent of Democrats hold this view. So the populist issue that should be raised in the House is not being heard. A CNN opinion research poll, 73 percent of more than 1,000 Americans surveyed from June 26 to June 29 said they favor offshore drilling for oil and natural gas in U.S. waters. Los Angeles Times poll, 68 percent; when all registered voters were asked whether they support increased exploration for oil and natural gas, 68 percent responded in the affirmative.

In a Rasmussen poll, 67 percent. According to Rasmussen, 67 percent of Americans support oil drilling off the Nation's coast. And 64 percent think it will lower gas prices.

Is anyone on the floor of the House listening to this? Sixty-seven percent. Seventy-six percent of the public want us to drill. They want us to look at our natural resources not as an environmental disaster, but as a strategic national interest.

Reuters: Most Americans support more U.S. oil drilling, some 59.6 percent of Americans surveyed in a poll. In a Gallup poll, 57 percent support drilling. Now, why is this important? Here's a news story from my congressional district, Wayne County Board. The Wayne County Board has approved covering a shortfall in the county sheriff's gasoline budget with money from the county's Public Safety Tax Fund. Members urged the sheriff to cut costs anywhere possible and to curb any unnecessary spending the remainder of the fiscal year. Why? High energy costs.

□ 1300

A transfer of funds will take place near the end of the current fiscal year.

Sheriff Jim Hinkle has announced that dramatic measures have been taken to curb gasoline consumption in his department. This is in a rural county. One major community, rural. The sheriff covers the entire county. He has initiated two-man patrols and has mandated that officers perform 2 hours of stationary patrol. I think that's an oxymoron. How can you patrol and be stationary? But energy costs are causing rural sheriffs to make a decision which does not have sheriffs driving the county roads. He has initiated two-man patrols and has mandated that officers perform 2 hours of stationary patrol with their engines turned off during each 8-hour shift.

Friends, we don't have to be in this position. Mr. Speaker, we can aggressively address these issues. The House should be the body. My colleagues on the other side should be welcoming this. We're doing what the Founding Fathers intended us to do. We are the body that should be throwing stones when the Federal Government is not hearing the cries of the public. And the cries of the public are we have got to address this problem. And how do we do it?

A current debate is the Outer Continental Shelf. We only drill and explore on 15 percent of the Federal lands in the Outer Continental Shelf, and that is the western gulf. What is off-limits by mandate by us by Federal law, we said no, you cannot go on the West Coast, you cannot go on the East Coast, you cannot go on the eastern gulf coast, thus depriving our country of billions of barrels of oil and trillions of cubic feet of natural gas.

We can change this today with a vote on the floor. In fact, yesterday the President said have at it, I will not

stand in the way. Now it's up to us to address the Outer Continental Shelf, bringing on more supply to lower gas and oil prices. That's what this line here has.

Other options is when we do that, we'll get royalties, we will get Federal money, and we can expand wind and solar. The great position about our side is we are for all of the above. We want more renewables. We want more efficiency standards. We want more supply. We want more energy to lower prices.

Also I have talked about earlier coal-to-liquid technologies. Taking American coal, American jobs, mining that coal, bringing it to the surface, building a coal-to-liquid refinery, refining that coal into liquid fuel and using it for aviation. The bill coming to the floor next is honoring Nelson Mandela. South Africa is a leader on coal-to-liquid technologies. South African Airlines, that's how they operate their fleet.

And then, of course, the renewable fuel issues with biodiesel, soy diesel, ethanol, cellulosic. And the one solution is to bring on more supply.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this time to be able to talk about we the people and addressing the important educational aspects of our Founding Fathers. Having taught civics for 4 years at the high school level, I agree with my colleague from Colorado we can't teach the Constitution and the process more than we do today, but we have to lead by example here on the floor of the House. We cannot continue to bring regular order bills on a suspension calendar so we are not allowed a chance to amend, debate, and argue this out in front of the American people.

This is the first in a long time that the Republican side has been so right on a populous issue that the public wants and that we're right on our votes, that we welcome any chance, and, unfortunately, the only chance we have to do it is on suspension bills like we have today.

I want to thank my colleague from New York, who is a great friend and a colleague, for putting up with my ranting and raving. I want to thank the ranking member.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank my friend from Illinois, who is truly a friend, and I thank him for his passion on this issue.

I would simply say that we understand and agree that we need to expand our development and research and drilling for additional supplies of energy. And I would just ask all of my friends on the other side of the aisle to join us on this side of the aisle in passing use-it-or-lose-it legislation. It is estimated by the Minerals and Management Service of the Department of the Interior that 81 percent of the known reserves of oil and natural gas are already available for lease and the vast majority of those leases are not being acted upon. So we are going to try to pass, on this side of the aisle, use-it-or-

lose-it legislation, and I would ask my friends on the other side of the aisle to join us in that effort.

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

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

In returning to the resolution at hand, congratulating the East High School in Denver, Colorado, I would just like to ask that all of us be supportive of this, not just to recognize that school but to recognize that program and what we the people have done to educate people about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and make all of us better citizens.

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

Mr. BISHOP of New York. 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 New York (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1261, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### HONORING NELSON MANDELA ON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1090) honoring the esteemed former President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela on the occasion of his 90th birthday, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 1090

Whereas Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was born to the Thembo Dynasty in Mvezo in the Umtata District of Transkei, South Africa, on July 18, 1918;

Whereas he joined the African National Congress (ANC) in 1942 and in 1944 joined with other young dissidents to form the African National Congress Youth League (ANCYL), which embraced African nationalism and began building a mass movement;

Whereas after the National Party came to power in an all-white election in 1948 on a platform of apartheid, a system of strict racial segregation, the ANC adopted the Programme of Action, inspired by the ANCYL, which advocated the use of boycotts, strikes, civil disobedience, and noncooperation against the National Party's apartheid policies;

Whereas, in 1952, after being designated volunteer-in-chief of the Defiance Campaign Against Unjust Laws, Nelson Mandela traveled the country, organizing resistance to discriminatory legislation;

Whereas in recognition of his outstanding contribution during the Defiance Campaign, Nelson Mandela was elected to the presidency of both the ANCYL and the Transvaal region of the ANC at the end of 1952, earning him a position as deputy president of the ANC itself;

Whereas, after the banning of the ANC in 1960 and the continued violent response to

the ANC's nonviolent methods, Nelson Mandela led the effort to set up Umkhonto we Sizwe ("Spear of the Nation"), the armed resistance organization of the ANC;

Whereas, in 1964, Nelson Mandela and 9 of his fellow leaders of the ANC and Umkhonto we Sizwe were arrested, charged with treason, and brought to trial for plotting the violent overthrow of the Government of South Africa;

Whereas in his statement at the opening of the defense case in the historic Rivonia Treason Trial on April 20, 1964, in which he and 9 other ANC leaders were tried for 221 acts of sabotage designed to "ferment violent revolution" to overthrow the apartheid system, Nelson Mandela use his oratory skills as a legal advocate to lay out the reasoning for the ANC's choice to use acts of sabotage as a tactic to defeat apartheid, as doing otherwise would have been tantamount to unconditional surrender;

Whereas he closed his statement with these words: "During my lifetime I have dedicated myself to the struggle of the African people. I have fought against White domination, and I have fought against Black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die.";

Whereas on June 12, 1964, 8 of the accused, including Nelson Mandela, were sentenced to life imprisonment;

Whereas, from 1964 to 1982, Nelson Mandela was incarcerated at Robben Island Prison, off the coast of Cape Town, and thereafter at Pollsmoor Prison, nearby on the mainland;

Whereas Nelson Mandela consistently refused to compromise his political demands for freedom and equality for all South Africans to obtain his freedom while in prison;

Whereas Nelson Mandela became widely accepted around the world as one of the most significant leaders of the 20th century and became a potent symbol of resistance as the anti-apartheid movement gathered strength;

Whereas the Congressional Black Caucus and other Members of Congress actively engaged in efforts to bring about an end to South Africa's apartheid system and played a key role in raising public awareness in the United States about South Africa's racist regime;

Whereas, after nearly 14 years of opposition, the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986 was finally agreed to by both Houses of Congress, calling for sanctions against South Africa and establishing conditions for the lifting of such sanctions, including the release of all political prisoners including Nelson Mandela;

Whereas the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986 withstood a veto by President Ronald Reagan making it the first time in the 20th century that a President had a foreign policy veto overridden by Congress;

Whereas Nelson Mandela was released from prison on February 11, 1990, after the apartheid Government of South Africa agreed to his terms for release;

Whereas, after his release, he plunged himself wholeheartedly into his life's work, striving to attain the goals he and others had set out almost 4 decades earlier;

Whereas, in 1991, at the first national conference of the ANC held inside South Africa after the organization had been banned in 1960, Nelson Mandela was elected President of the ANC;

Whereas Nelson Mandela was elected President of South Africa in that country's first democratic elections with full enfranchisement was granted were held on April 27, 1994,

and was inaugurated on May 10, 1994, as the country's first indigenous African President;

Whereas, as President from May 1994 until June 1999, Nelson Mandela presided over the transition from minority rule and apartheid to a participatory democracy, winning international respect for his advocacy of national reconciliation and international peace; and

Whereas Nelson Mandela has received numerous prestigious honors, including the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993, which was shared with Frederik Willem de Klerk, the Order of Merit and the Order of St. John from Great Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom from George W. Bush; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the United States House of Representatives—

(1) honors former President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela on the occasion of his 90th birthday on July 18, 2008, and extends best wishes to him and his family;

(2) honors his many accomplishments on behalf of all South Africans;

(3) congratulates him for his efforts to promote dialogue to peacefully resolve conflicts between people in Africa and around the world; and

(4) celebrates his contributions to South Africa, the United States, and the international community.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Let me first thank our chairman, Mr. BERMAN, for moving this resolution swiftly to the floor in light of the time sensitivity of this resolution. Let me also recognize Mr. JEFFERSON for introducing this resolution and for inviting me to join him in that endeavor.

Mr. Speaker, this Friday a living icon of freedom will turn 90 years old. His birthday already has been celebrated at more than 20 different charity events around the world. Now it's time for the United States Congress to rise in its voice of praise of Mr. Nelson Mandela in recognition of his remarkable life and the contributions that he has made to humankind.

His struggle on behalf of black South Africans confronted with the horrific system of racial hatred is legendary. It landed him in prison under harsh conditions for 27 years. Mr. Mandela will be remembered for many things, but perhaps the words he spoke at his trial sums up his effort best. He said:

"During my lifetime, I have dedicated myself to this struggle of the African people. I have fought against