

good friend from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN).

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I believe that there is but one race, and that is the human race. I believe that one God created all humanity to live in harmony. I am honored to be here today to express my sympathies and my oneness with the people of American Samoa, Indonesia, as well as the Philippines.

I also want to make it very clear that my district is a polyglot melting pot. It is, in fact, a culture of cultures. Because it is such, I have a special kinship and relationship with the persons who have been devastated by these natural disasters.

I believe that we cannot do enough to help them recover. But I also understand in my heart that when you cannot do enough, you have a duty to do all that you can. I want us to do more because these are our fellow human beings. They are part of the one race, the human race.

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

Mr. FALÉOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I again want to thank my good friend from Washington for his assistance and partnering with me in putting this resolution before our colleagues.

I also have a proverbial expression, going along with what my good friend from Texas has said, that, yes, there truly is only one race, and that's the human race. That's what makes this country so great.

I also believe that this country is but a microcosm of the whole world in itself, and the fact that it seeks no race or creed or boundaries to the extent that we are all fellow human beings, and whenever there is a need, it's our moral responsibility to do all that we can to give assistance.

There is also a saying among the Chinese people that says there are many acquaintances but very few friends.

I will say, Mr. Speaker, to express my deepest appreciation and gratitude to my colleagues who truly are my friends, when I am in need, just from the fact that many of our colleagues have had occasions of having to appear before the floor and expressing and asking for assistance when disasters occur in their States and their territories, this is what the Congress is all about. This is what democracy is all about in this great country.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I cannot say enough words to express my deepest appreciation and gratitude for the offered help from the administration, from our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, from everybody in the Congress, knowing of the difficulties that we are going through. I am going to say, our people are in good spirits. The prayer services, all that has been offered has been tremendous. I just want to say again, thank you to my colleagues.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 816 and to express my con-

lences and deepest sympathies to the people of American Samoa and Independent Samoa for the loss of life that was caused by the earthquakes and tsunamis that hit these islands on September 29, 2009.

Struck by towering waves that reached up to 20 feet in height, the people of American Samoa, Independent Samoa and Tonga are today confronting staggering losses of life and property as they watched helplessly as the in-rushing sea swallowed up coastal towns and villages.

As of last week it is estimated that 32 American Samoans and 135 residents of Independent Samoa lost their lives. And today, many families in the affected areas still lack basic necessities resulting in the risk of additional deaths because of scarce clean water, shelter, food and basic health care.

I was pleased to have had the opportunity to visit American Samoa earlier this year with my good friend and colleague, Congressman ENI FALÉOMAVAEGA, the author of the resolution we are debating today. Among the places we visited while we were there was the Village of Leone; one of the areas on American Samoa that was severely impacted. I want to express my profound condolences to the people of Leone for their suffering as well as to thank them once again for the warm welcome and hospitality they offered us.

I want to also commend Congressman FALÉOMAVAEGA for his efforts in marshalling the response of the federal government in responding to the disaster in his home island. ENI and his staff labored around the clock to coordinate the efforts of FEMA, the Red Cross, Army Corps and the other federal agencies tasked by President Obama to speedily deploy all the resources and tools necessary for a full, swift and aggressive response.

Mr. Speaker, American Samoans in the Pacific and in the mainland United States are an integral part of our country's history and of our American social fabric. They are our brothers who fight valiantly in our wars and contribute immensely to the prosperity of our country. Today, I send my thoughts and prayers to the victims and their family members in this moment of grief and tragic loss. We stand in solidarity with our brothers and pray for their speedy recovery.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H. Res. 816 in mourning the loss of life caused by the earthquakes and tsunamis that occurred on September 29, 2009, in American Samoa and Samoa.

I want to express my sincere condolences to those that have lost family, friends and other important people in their lives. Despite this loss, the people of American Samoa and Samoa remain strong and resilient. They are continuing on, picking up the pieces of what can be salvaged, cleaning their homes and cities and helping each other through the struggles of trying to regain the life they once had. As thousands of people continue to struggle with this tragedy, I join my colleagues in our commitment to the relief efforts and offer support for the families of the many victims.

I would like to commend Representative ENI FALÉOMAVAEGA for his tireless efforts to help relieve the suffering and devastation in American Samoa. I will do everything I can to assist my friend and colleague in speeding any additional federal assistance needed to the area.

I am also proud of the rapid response by Major General Bob Lee and the Hawaii Na-

tional Guard, which is a testament to their training and professionalism. I know FEMA, the Hawaii Red Cross and other relief organizations are on the ground, as well, aiding communities to cope with the devastation.

There are many people in Hawaii with friends or family back in American Samoa and Samoa. They are our brothers and sisters of the Pacific and we will do all we can to help and support them.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and the people of American Samoa and Samoa.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my support and sympathy to the people of the U.S. Territory of American Samoa and Western Samoa in the aftermath of the devastating tsunami that hit the region last week. The wave claimed over 200 lives and left thousands more homeless. I ask that this body support our colleague, Congressman Faleomavaega and his community as they recover from this disaster. All necessary aid to this region in the South Pacific should be brought to bear for our fellow Americans.

We on Guam have experienced our share of disasters. I recognize the efforts of my constituents, many of whom have banded together to raise money and donate clothes, blankets, and food to the relief effort for Samoa. The people of American Samoa and Western Samoa have shown great courage in the face of this tragedy. Following the disaster they have pulled together and expressed their determination to recover what was lost. They deserve our backing and support in their time of need. My thoughts and prayers will remain with the families and those impacted by this disaster.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALÉOMAVAEGA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 816, 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. FALÉOMAVAEGA. 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.

#### EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES AND SUPPORT TO INDONESIA IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE EARTHQUAKE THAT STRUCK SUMATRA

Mr. FALÉOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 810) expressing condolences to the citizens of Indonesia and support for the Government of Indonesia in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake that struck the island of Sumatra.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 810

Whereas, on September 30, 2009, a 7.6 magnitude earthquake originated northwest of

the city of Padang in West Sumatra, Indonesia;

Whereas over 700 lives have been lost, many are missing and injured, and thousands have been displaced as a result of collapsed homes and buildings;

Whereas the area of the earthquake is along the same fault line that caused the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami that killed more than 230,000 people and caused many panicked residents to flee to higher ground in fear of another tsunami;

Whereas strong aftershocks continue to rock the region and create hazardous conditions for both residents and rescue workers;

Whereas the Indonesian Government sent relief teams Thursday from the capital, Jakarta, including army units to look for survivors and deliver food and medicine;

Whereas international aid agencies said they were sending rapid assessment teams to the area and preparing to rush in supplies;

Whereas the Indonesian Government stated that the earthquake destroyed more than 83,700 houses, approximately 200 public buildings, a total of 285 schools, and also caused extensive damage to an additional 100,000 buildings including hotels, mosques and shops, and approximately 20 miles of roads;

Whereas a damaged building in the main public hospital had to be evacuated, and patients are being treated outside and without electricity;

Whereas humanitarian aid agencies in the United States and around the world are mobilizing to provide much needed assistance to the relief and recovery efforts;

Whereas the United States offered assistance and immediately released \$300,000 to help provide for the most immediate and pressing needs and an additional \$3,000,000 has been set aside once greater need is determined;

Whereas the United States Government deployed a Disaster Assistance Response Team to provide assistance and is sending a field hospital, three United States Navy ships with helicopters and lift capability, and 45 metric tons of emergency relief commodities; and

Whereas President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and the Indonesian Government responded quickly to the disaster: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) mourns the loss of life and expresses its deepest condolences to the families of those killed and injured in the earthquake;

(2) recognizes the deep ties between the United States and Indonesia and expresses continued solidarity with the people of Indonesia during this time of crisis;

(3) applauds the courageous response of Indonesian and international rescue workers;

(4) supports President Obama's offer of United States assistance to Indonesia in response to this catastrophic event;

(5) urges the people of the United States to generously support those humanitarian aid agencies working to assist the people of Indonesia in this time of need; and

(6) expresses gratitude to the people of the United States who have generously supported those humanitarian aid agencies working to assist the people of Indonesia in this time of need.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from American Samoa.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. 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 American Samoa?

There was no objection.

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

I would like to thank my good friend Congressman DAN BURTON of Indiana, distinguished member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and co-Chair of the Indonesia Caucus, for his leadership in introducing this resolution.

This resolution extends our profound sympathy and condolences to the people of Indonesia for the terrible losses they suffered as a result of the massive earthquake that struck the island of Sumatra on September 30, 2009. Landslides triggered by the quake wiped out three villages in the province of West Sumatra. Nearly 700 lives were lost. Thousands have been injured and displaced, and a staggering number of houses, schools, and public buildings were destroyed or seriously damaged.

I want to extend my deepest sympathy and support to the Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, who has been working tirelessly to deliver assistance to victims in response to this catastrophic event.

As a representative of American Samoa, a place that has also recently experienced calamity caused by a natural disaster, I know firsthand how difficult it is to see the people who elected you facing such profound losses. I also know how much it means to have support from friends and allies during these times of crisis.

Indeed, Indonesia has many friends around the world, as seen by the outpouring of international support for the earthquake relief efforts, which currently stands at about \$16 million in financial commitments from more than 20 countries. For our part, the United States has released \$300,000 for earthquake relief and has set aside an additional \$3 million for recovery operations.

In addition, the Secretary of Defense has authorized \$7 million for relief operations in Indonesia, which includes setting up a field hospital, sending three U.S. Navy ships with helicopters and lift capability, and 45 metric tons of emergency relief commodities.

□ 1200

These are all signs of enduring friendship between our two countries.

Time and time again, Indonesia has shown the world that democracy can not only survive, but thrive in a vibrant, multiethnic, moderate Islamic country. This resolution reflects our commitment to maintain a strong U.S.-Indonesia relationship and ex-

presses our solidarity with the good people of Indonesia during these difficult times.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution, introduced by my good friend and colleague, DAN BURTON of Indiana, expressing the condolences of the Congress and the American people regarding the loss of life and property suffered by the people of Indonesia. The devastating earthquake which struck the island of Sumatra on September 30 has reportedly led to the deaths of at least 700 people and the displacement of thousands more from their homes.

The concern and the generosity of the American people is well-known to the people of Indonesia, as demonstrated following the devastating tsunami which struck their country in late December of 2004. The sight of U.S. military personnel engaged in tsunami rescue and relief operations made all Americans proud. The involvement of our two former U.S. Presidents in the Bush-Clinton Tsunami Relief Fund further demonstrated that when a crisis occurs, we are indeed our brothers' and sisters' keeper.

The United States came to Indonesia's assistance once again after this most recent earthquake. We provided \$300,000 in immediate response and set aside an additional \$3 million for further relief efforts. The U.S. Navy was once again deployed, with three ships being dispatched with helicopters to provide emergency relief and supplies.

We send the relief workers and the people of Indonesia our prayers and our best wishes for a rapid and full recovery as they continue their courageous efforts to assist the injured and to locate the missing.

I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution.

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO).

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 810. I would like to thank Congressman DAN BURTON for his work on this resolution.

In February 2008, I visited Indonesia as a member of the House Democracy Partnership. While our focus was meeting with members of the Indonesian House of Representatives, we made it a point to also visit Banda Aceh on the island of Sumatra.

As you may recall, in December 2004, Banda Aceh was the closest major city to the epicenter of an Indian Ocean earthquake and suffered further damage by a tsunami that struck shortly afterwards. That earthquake measured 9.3 on the Richter scale.

The awesome power of the tsunami was brought home to us as leaders of Banda Aceh showed us how the whole

area had literally been leveled and ships from port were swept inland by the water's force. Of course, the human tragedy was incalculable. Children became orphans instantly. Mothers, fathers and families were devastated.

The recovery efforts in which the United States played a major role were extraordinary. What I was most impressed with, however, was the remarkable resiliency and spirit of the people of Banda Aceh. It is that same resiliency that I am sure will rise again out of the tragedies of the earthquakes and aftershocks of September 2009.

My thoughts are with those who were lost, their loved ones, and the tens of thousands of survivors who are struggling in the aftermath. I stand with President Obama in his offer of assistance that will help alleviate the suffering and provide relief in this region.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, we continue to reserve.

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

Mr. Speaker, I will say that Indonesia has come a long way in establishing its democracy, being the largest democratic country. It happens to be a Muslim country with a population of some 225 million people.

I want to also commend President SBY for all that he is trying to do in helping the good people of West Papua. There have been some difficulties along the way, but I suspect that every effort is being made to address the needs of the people of West Papua. Certainly I congratulate them on the recent national elections that were done in such a way that it was again demonstrated that democracy can happen in a Muslim country like Indonesia.

So I want us to realize that only 5 years ago we had a tsunami that also impacted Indonesia, that some 220,000 people died as a result of that terrible disaster, and for which I am very grateful that our country responded in such a way that I think the people of Indonesia deeply appreciated our assistance.

So we are at this again. Another disaster struck Indonesia, and I thank the administration for all the efforts that are being made to give assistance to the good people of Indonesia.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I have the honor and privilege of co-chairing the Congressional Indonesia Caucus with my good friend, Congressman WEXLER. Accordingly, I want to take this moment to express my heartfelt condolences to the citizens of Indonesia, the President, and the Indonesian government in the aftermath of the devastating earthquakes that struck the West Sumatra region this past month.

On September 30, 2009, a 7.6 magnitude earthquake that originated northwest of the city of Padang (population: 900,000) led to the loss of 800 lives. Countless more remain missing and are presumed dead while thousands have been displaced from their homes that were either destroyed or remain unsafe as ongoing tremors continue to bring uncertainty to the area.

The quakes have devastated the region, destroying over 83,700 houses, 200 public buildings, 285 schools, and have also caused extensive damage to an additional 100,000 buildings including hotels, mosques, shops, and hospitals, and approximately twenty miles of roads. Lying near the intersection of shifting tectonic plates, Indonesia is prone to earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. Such devastation is yet another tragedy to strike the region, which is still recovering from the 2004 earthquake born from this very same fault line that resulted in the Indian Ocean tsunami and the loss of over 230,000 lives.

As a result, I am very pleased to join my colleagues today in passing House Resolution 810 expressing our condolences to the Indonesian people for the devastating earthquake and loss of life in their Sumatra region.

I would also like to commend the courage and perseverance of the Indonesian government and people as they work tirelessly with humanitarian organizations in distributing aid and mobilizing relief efforts. All the while, strong aftershocks continue to rock the region and create hazardous conditions for both residents and rescue workers.

There is still much to be done, yet the Indonesian government and countless other humanitarian and private groups continue to provide emergency assistance to those in need.

The U.S. also shows our support as we reaffirm our commitment by releasing millions in aid and contributing to the widespread international response. We continue to regard Indonesia as an important ally, recognizing its recent democratic transition and transformation into the world's third largest democracy. In addition, hosting the world's largest Muslim majority, the people of Indonesia demonstrate that Islam and democracy are not mutually exclusive and can successfully work in tandem. Thus, we look forward to fostering future cooperation between the United States and Indonesia in the areas of trade, national security, and cultural awareness and appreciation.

The Indonesian people have seen tremendous change in the last decade, and they once again continue to persevere through tragedy. It is my hope that our nations will only continue to grow in our commitment to one another and to freedom, justice, and democracy.

I would like to thank Congressman BERMAN and Ranking Member ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN for helping to move this important resolution to the floor.

And, again I extend my heartfelt condolences to the Indonesian people and the family and friends of those who are suffering greatly as a result of this disaster.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, we yield back the balance of our time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. 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 American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 810.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## COMMEMORATING THE CANONIZATION OF FATHER DAMIEN DE VEUSTER TO SAINTHOOD

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 786) commemorating the canonization of Father Damien de Veuster, SS.CC. to sainthood, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

### H. RES. 786

Whereas Father Damien de Veuster, SS.CC. was born Joseph de Veuster in Tremelo, Belgium, on January 3, 1840, and in 1859, at age 19, he entered the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary in Louvain and selected Damien as his religious name;

Whereas in 1863, Father Damien received permission to replace his ill brother, and sailed to the Hawaiian Islands to perform missionary work;

Whereas Father Damien arrived in Honolulu, Hawaii on March 19, 1864, was ordained to the priesthood at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Peace on May 21, 1864, and began his pastoral ministry on the island of Hawaii;

Whereas the Hawaiian Government deported individuals infected with leprosy, now also known as Hansen's disease, to a peninsula on the island of Molokai, to prevent further spread of the disease, and Bishop Louis Maigret, SS.CC. sought the help of Father Damien and other priests to provide spiritual assistance for the sufferers of Hansen's disease;

Whereas several priests volunteered to work on Molokai for a few months, but Father Damien requested to remain permanently with the individuals suffering from Hansen's disease, and was among the first to leave for the island of Molokai on May 10, 1873;

Whereas for 16 years, Father Damien served as a voice of hope and a source of consolation and encouragement for the individuals afflicted with Hansen's disease;

Whereas working together, Father Damien and the people isolated on the Kalaupapa peninsula accomplished remarkable achievements, including building houses and hospitals, taking care of the patients' spiritual and physical needs, building 6 chapels, constructing a home for boys and a home for girls, and burying the hundreds who died during his years on the island of Molokai;

Whereas Father Damien died on April 15, 1889, after contracting Hansen's disease, and his remains were transferred to Belgium in 1936, where he was interred in the crypt of the church of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts at Louvain;

Whereas in 1938, the process for beatification for Father Damien was introduced at Malines, Belgium;

Whereas in April 1965, the Legislature of the State of Hawaii selected Father Damien as the first of its two selections for the National Statuary Hall Collection in the U.S. Capitol;

Whereas, on April 15, 1969, a statue of Father Damien and a statue of King Kamehameha I, gifts from the State of Hawaii, were unveiled at the Capitol Rotunda;

Whereas, on July 7, 1977, Pope Paul VI declared Father Damien "venerable", the first of 3 steps that lead to sainthood;

Whereas, on June 4, 1995, Pope John Paul II declared Father Damien "Blessed Damien", and his feast is on May 10, the day Father Damien first entered the island of Molokai; and