

unemployment, deficits that threaten to bankrupt the country, and a stimulus that is failing to create new jobs. Congress should be considering legislation providing real and immediate economic solutions for the American people before naming and commemorating anything.

But having said that, I do think it is important to recognize the State of New Hampshire for their major milestone, and I rise in support of H. Res. 159, honoring the New Hampshire State Senate for becoming the first statewide legislative body with a majority of women in the United States. It is a significant achievement. As a result of the 2008 statewide elections, 13 of 24 seats in the Senate are now held by women, an increase of three members which resulted in their majority status. On the national level, less than one in four legislators is female and eight of 50 Governors is a woman. These numbers continue to grow with each election year throughout the country.

I'm pleased to salute the women of New Hampshire for their commitment to public service as well as women throughout the United States who choose to serve our citizens on the local, State and Federal levels as their elected representatives. We certainly commend the wonderful work and addition that New Hampshire has been able to meet by this wonderful milestone.

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

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I will just point out that last week, we actually finally had an official draft of the health care reform bill. My colleagues on the other side have insisted, rightly, that they have 72 hours to review that bill; that it be placed online. I think it is a courtesy to keep controversial issues off the floor today to allow Members to consider that legislation because it is so important. I think if we jammed the schedule today with controversial matters, you might hear the complaint from my colleagues and others that they weren't given a full and fair opportunity to read that health care reform bill.

So, you're darned if you do sometimes, and you're darned if you don't. But I certainly do want to join with the lead sponsor and my colleague, the gentleman from North Carolina, but especially PAUL HODES from New Hampshire, who is the lead sponsor of this resolution, in congratulating the New Hampshire State Senate. I happen to be a member of the New Hampshire bar, so this is particularly a proud moment for me as well in celebrating their terrific accomplishment through the passage of House Resolution 159.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 159, 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 PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 736) honoring President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address on "Dedication Day", November 19, 2009.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 736

Whereas, on November 19, 1863, Abraham Lincoln dedicated the Soldiers' National Cemetery on the battlefield at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, with the Gettysburg Address, which harkened back to the promises of the Declaration of Independence in the first sentence, "Four score and seven years ago, our fathers brought forth, on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal", and which called upon people of the United States to dedicate themselves to the principles of democracy so that government "of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth";

Whereas Congress adopted a joint resolution on August 7, 1946, declaring the Gettysburg Address to be "the outstanding classic of the ages", designating November 19 as "Dedication Day" in honor of the Gettysburg Address, and suggesting that the Gettysburg Address "be read on that day in public assemblages throughout the United States and its possessions, on our ships at sea, and wherever the American flag flies"; and

Whereas 2009 is the 200th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln and bicentennial tributes to his birth are expected throughout the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) honors President Lincoln's greatest speech, the Gettysburg Address; and

(2) encourages people in the United States to read the Gettysburg Address on "Dedication Day" in public places across the Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and add any extraneous materials.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

On behalf of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am proud to present House Resolution 736 for consideration. This resolution pays tribute to the historic Gettysburg Ad-

dress delivered by President Abraham Lincoln in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, on November 19, 1863.

□ 1645

House Resolution 736 was introduced on September 10, 2009, by my great friend and colleague, Representative TODD PLATTS, Republican of the 19th District of Pennsylvania. In addition, this resolution was favorably reported out of the Oversight Committee by unanimous consent on October 29, 2009, and enjoys the support of over 50 Members of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 736 honors one of the most remarkable and significant political contributions in terms of speeches made by one of our greatest Presidents, the Gettysburg Address delivered by President Abraham Lincoln at the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, on Thursday, November 19, 1863. This resolution is not only fitting but also timely, as earlier this year we celebrated the bicentennial anniversary of the birth of President Lincoln, and on November 19 we will mark the 146th anniversary of Dedication Day and the Gettysburg Address.

In his invitation letter to President Lincoln, dated November 2, 1863, Gettysburg attorney David Wills requested that President Lincoln participate in the dedication ceremony by delivering "a few appropriate remarks," as Wills noted that former Senator Edward Everett of Massachusetts was already scheduled to deliver the central oration. Accordingly, the dedication address delivered by President Lincoln more than 4 months following the pivotal battle of Gettysburg is not remembered for its length, but rather for the depth of its content.

In less than 3 minutes and in only 10 sentences, President Lincoln eloquently commemorated the lives of those who had fallen on the hallowed battlefield, reaffirmed the founding principles of the then-divided United States of America, and set forth the impetus behind the continuation of the shared struggle to unify the Nation amidst a deadly Civil War.

As noted by President Lincoln at the conclusion his historic address: "It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus so far nobly advanced . . . that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this Nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from this Earth."

The elegance of President Lincoln's brief words was noted by Senator Everett, whose oration at Gettysburg preceded the President's address and lasted approximately 2 hours. In a letter that he sent to President Lincoln following the dedication ceremony, Senator Everett wrote: "I should be glad if I could flatter myself that I

came as near to the central idea of the occasion in 2 hours as you did in 2 minutes.”

And the profound impact of President Lincoln’s address on our national history has been evident for generations. In addition to its prominence on the south wall of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., the Gettysburg Address has served as a timeless source of inspiration in our eternal commitment as a Nation to achieve equality among all citizens. Notably, President Lincoln’s address was referenced in the equally historic “I Have a Dream” speech delivered by the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in August of 1963.

Mr. Speaker, in acknowledgement of the lasting impact of President Lincoln’s words, the 79th Congress approved House Joint Resolution 35 on August 7, 1946, thereby designating the day of November 19 as Dedication Day. The 79th Congress additionally characterized the Gettysburg Address as “the outstanding classic of the ages” and recognized that “it will touch the hearts of men and inspire faith in our matchless democracy as long as time endures.”

Mr. Speaker, let us pay further tribute to President Lincoln in the year of his bicentennial birthday celebration and in anticipation of the 146th anniversary of the Gettysburg Address through our support of Representative TODD PLATTS of Pennsylvania’s resolution, 736.

I would like to thank my colleague Mr. PLATTS for introducing this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, as I said in the two previous resolutions that have come forth from the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, while I do support the legislation at hand and the motivation behind it, I do think that Congress should be focusing instead on higher-priority initiatives.

We’re facing record unemployment, deficits that threaten to bankrupt the country, and a stimulus that is failing to help our people and create new jobs. Congress should be considering legislation providing real and immediate economic solutions for the American people before naming and commemorating resolutions.

I certainly appreciate the initiative of my colleagues to acknowledge the Gettysburg Address and the anniversary that we are fast approaching. I do find it quite interesting as a Congressman from a Southern State that my colleague that controls the majority’s time is from a Northern State. It’s kind of interesting that actually those dynamics still persist of both Southerners and Yankees alike, or New Englanders. But we can have an honest debate in this country, which is certainly worthwhile, and I think that

Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address certainly is a wonderful and enormous milestone for all Americans. Whether or not your State was in the Union at that point, whether it even existed at that point, it’s certainly important.

On November 19, 1863, President Lincoln delivered a carefully crafted address that was assumed by many to be overshadowed by Senator Edward Everett’s 2-hour oration. So unsuspecting was the crowd and so swift was the speech that no pictures were taken while the address was given. If the crowd had known that they were witnessing the defining speech of the War Between the States, I’m confident that many more would have been better prepared for the occasion.

In 10 lines and 272 words, the President redefined the war as an effort to solidify the American political system, our Republic, calling upon the Nation to dedicate themselves to a new birth of freedom so that government “of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the Earth.”

We all know these words, Mr. Speaker. We all care about these words. Though brief, his oration was powerful. In these few appropriate remarks, Lincoln honored the fallen but also paid homage to the Founding Fathers and their commitment to a Nation led by its people.

Mr. Speaker, I would say in closing on a larger issue for the American people that this commemorating resolution, while certainly it’s important to honor the Gettysburg Address, and though delivered in 1863, I think today we are at an anniversary of the 146th year for the Gettysburg Address, and it’s important that we remember and commemorate this; but I think it’s also important that we have a real debate about health care.

I do appreciate my colleague saying earlier that we’re going to have a debate. We have 72 hours to review the 1,990-page health care bill, which is good, and certainly we’re grateful, as a minority party, to have that time to review such a massive piece of legislation.

But I also think it’s important that we have significant debate on this legislation. And rather than having just 2 or 3 hours, which has been the news this week that we will have to debate such a far-reaching piece of legislation on this House floor, that we would be able to spend more time, even on a Monday, debating health care and the importance of getting this approach right for the American people not just for today but for tomorrow.

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

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I want to point out that the current resolution is offered by my dear friend and colleague who happens to be a Republican; so if I did not extend him the courtesy, Mr. PLATTS of Pennsylvania, to offer this resolution, I think it would not comport to the level of courtesy that this House requires.

I do want to point out that of the last seven resolutions that we have taken up in the House today, five out of the seven were offered by Republican Members: Senate 475 by Senator BURR, House Resolution 773 by Representative BOOZMAN, again 1168 by Representative BOOZMAN. Those are all dealing with veterans’ issues. Representative CAO of Veterans’ Affairs, House Resolution 828; and H. Res. 398 by Representative FORTENBERRY, another one of my great Republican friends.

So if the gentleman wanted to complain and restrain his own Members from offering what I think are meritorious and deserving resolutions with respect to veterans and to the people of their own districts, that’s a courtesy that I fully and fairly recognize and choose to honor, but if the gentleman wants to press with his desire to curtail—

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LYNCH. The gentleman has already exhausted his time to no apparent purpose. It would be an attack on common sense for me to yield to him at this time.

With that being said, Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members to support Mr. PLATTS of Pennsylvania in his resolution, my Republican friend.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H. Res. 736 “Honoring President Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address on Dedication Day.”

Mr. Speaker, this resolution recognizes President Lincoln’s speech during the November 19, 1863 dedication of the Soldiers’ National Cemetery on the battlefield at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

This speech, forever known as the Gettysburg Address, commemorated the sacrifices of the fallen during the Civil War, and called upon people of the United States to dedicate themselves to the principles of democracy so that “government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth.” Lincoln’s words transcend the context of the Civil War and have served as an inspiration for visitors to the Lincoln Memorial, including the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr., who chose the Memorial steps as the location to deliver his famous “I Have a Dream” speech. King started his speech by invoking Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address and reminding those gathered before him of the importance of the Emancipation Proclamation.

King’s words remind us of the importance of President Lincoln, as well as how his legacy cannot be embodied by any one speech or action. This resolution is particularly timely given that, this year we celebrate the 200th anniversary of President Lincoln’s birth. President Lincoln was a true champion of liberty for all Americans, and he led the nation during very turbulent political times from the Civil War. Abraham Lincoln was portrayed as a self-made man, the liberator of the slaves, and the savior of the Union who had given his life so that others could be free. President Lincoln became Father Abraham, a near mythological hero, “lawgiver” to African Americans, and a “Masterpiece of God” sent to save the Union. His humor was presented as an example of his humanity; his numerous pardons demonstrated his “great soul”; and his sorrowful

demeanor reflected the burdens of his lonely journey as the leader of a “blundering and sinful” people.

Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809, to Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, two uneducated farmers, in a one-room log cabin on the 348-acre Sinking Spring Farm, in southeast Hardin County, Kentucky. Lincoln began his political career in 1832, at age 23, with an unsuccessful campaign for the Illinois General Assembly, as a member of the Whig Party.

Lincoln was a true opponent of injustice. In 1837, he made his first protest against slavery in the Illinois House, stating that the institution was “founded on both injustice and bad policy.”

Opposed to the 1854 Kansas-Nebraska Act, Lincoln spoke to a crowd in Peoria, Illinois, on October 16, 1854, outlining the moral, political and economic arguments against slavery that he would continue to uphold throughout his career.

His “Western” origins also appealed to the newer states: other contenders, especially those with more governmental experience, had acquired enemies within the party and were weak in the critical western states, while Lincoln was perceived as a moderate who could win the West.

On November 6, 1860, Lincoln was elected as the 16th President of the United States. In his First Inaugural Address, Lincoln declared, “I hold that in contemplation of universal law and of the Constitution the Union of these States is perpetual. Perpetuity is implied, if not expressed, in the fundamental law of all national governments,” arguing further that the purpose of the United States Constitution was “to form a more perfect union.”

Lincoln possessed a keen understanding of strategic points and understood the importance of defeating the enemy’s army, rather than simply capturing cities. He had, however, limited success in motivating his commanders to adopt his strategies until late 1863, when he found a man who shared his vision of the war in Ulysses S. Grant. Only then could he insist on using African American troops and relentlessly pursue a series of coordinated offensives in multiple theaters.

Throughout the war, Lincoln showed a keen curiosity with the military campaigns. He spent hours at the War Department telegraph office, reading dispatches from his generals. He visited battle sites frequently, and seemed fascinated by scenes of war.

The Emancipation Proclamation freed slaves in territories not already under Union control. Lincoln later said: “I never, in my life, felt more certain that I was doing right, than I do in signing this paper.”

As the war was drawing to a close, Lincoln became the first American president to be assassinated. On April 14, 1865, as a lone bodyguard wandered, and Lincoln sat in his state box, John Wilkes Booth crept up behind the President and fired a single fatal shot into the President. However, his triumphs live on far past this date.

In 1982, forty-nine historians and political scientists were asked by the Chicago Tribune to rate all the Presidents through Jimmy Carter in five categories: leadership qualities, accomplishments/crisis management, political skills, appointments, and character/integrity. At the top of the list stood Abraham Lincoln. The judgment of historians and the public tells us that Abraham Lincoln was the nation’s greatest President by every measure applied.

Because he was committed to preserving the Union and thus vindicating democracy no matter what the consequences to himself, the Union was indeed saved. Because he understood that ending slavery required patience, careful timing, shrewd calculations, and an iron resolve, slavery was indeed killed. Lincoln managed in the process of saving the Union and killing slavery to define the creation of a more perfect Union in terms of liberty and economic equality that rallied the citizenry behind him. Because he understood that victory in both great causes depended upon purposeful and visionary presidential leadership as well as the exercise of politically acceptable means, he left as his legacy a United States that was both whole and free. His great achievement, historians tell us, was his ability to energize and mobilize the nation by appealing to its best ideals while acting “with malice towards none” in the pursuit of a more perfect, more just, and more enduring Union.

Mr. Speaker, President Lincoln has paved the way for people of color such as me to serve in Congress and represent the people of the 18th District of Texas proudly. He has been a trailblazer, opening the door for our first African American President, President Barack Obama.

This year, we celebrate the life of President Abraham Lincoln. He has given America many victories. Importantly, his presidency opened the door to ensure that all Americans would be assured their constitutional freedoms and that all Americans would enjoy the triumph against oppression and injustice. President Lincoln has lit the candle, let us today continue to carry it and make sure that it will never go out.

One hundred and forty six years after the Gettysburg Address, Lincoln’s words continue to inspire people and governments not only in America, but throughout the world. In 1958, France adopted the constitution of its’ fifth—and current—republic. Under Title 1, Section 2, the constitution states that “the principle of the Republic shall be: government of the people, by the people and for the people.” This is one of many examples of other nations viewing our great country as a beacon of democracy.

I thank my colleague, Rep. TODD PLATTS, of Pennsylvania, for introducing this important legislation, to ensure that we celebrate, treasure and recognize the impact of President Abraham Lincoln’s most famous speech and I urge my colleagues to honor President Lincoln not only by joining me in supporting this resolution, but also by promoting the reading and examining of this speech on November 19th.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 736.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the

Chair’s prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 4 o’clock and 58 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HEINRICH) at 6 o’clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 1168, by the yeas and nays;

House Resolution 291, by the yeas and nays;

Senate 509, by the yeas and nays.

Proceedings on remaining postponed questions will resume later in the week.

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

VETERANS RETRAINING ACT OF 2009

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1168, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1168, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 356, nays 0, not voting 76, as follows:

[Roll No. 832]

YEAS—356

Aderholt	Baca	Bean
Adler (NJ)	Bachmann	Berkley
Akin	Bachus	Berman
Alexander	Baird	Berry
Altmire	Baldwin	Biggert
Andrews	Barrow	Bilbray
Arcuri	Bartlett	Bilirakis
Austria	Barton (TX)	Bishop (GA)