

thanking Reverend Charles L. Allen, Sr., for all he has done to better the lives of his parishioners.

A RESOLUTION “CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND WORK OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DURING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STEVIE WONDER SONG TRIBUTE TO DR. KING, ‘HAPPY BIRTHDAY,’ AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 13, 2010*

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to introduce a resolution celebrating the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during the 30th anniversary of the Stevie Wonder song tribute to Dr. King, “Happy Birthday.” Joining me in this effort is the gentleman from Georgia, JOHN LEWIS, and I would like to acknowledge him at this time.

For over 40 years, we have commemorated the life and work of our nation’s greatest civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Since 1986, we have recognized Dr. King with a Federal holiday in his honor—a holiday that I worked hard to achieve. As we approach this year’s King Holiday, which coincides with the 30th anniversary of Stevie Wonder’s song tribute to Dr. King, “Happy Birthday,” I am honored to introduce this resolution for a few reasons.

First, we celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for pursuing a dream of equality that made our nation a more free and just society. In his short life, Dr. King laid the foundation for a society that could live up to the ideal that “all men are created equal.” It is on the shoulders of Dr. King and others at the forefront of the Civil Rights Movement, that we are here today, able to acknowledge that much of Dr. King’s dream has been realized.

Our 44th President, President Barack Obama, is a testament to Dr. King’s pursuit and struggle for equality. At his Inauguration, President Obama acknowledged that he was a product of Dr. King’s legacy, when he expressed that the historic day be explained by “why men and women and children of every race and every faith can join in celebration across this magnificent Mall, and why a man whose father less than sixty years ago might not have been served at a local restaurant can now stand before you to take a most sacred oath.”

Second, we are able to commemorate the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on the third Monday in January every year because of the commitment to continue Dr. King’s legacy by people like Stevie Wonder. Stevie Wonder’s 1980 song tribute to Dr. King, “Happy Birthday,” became a rallying cry for those supporting the campaign to honor Dr. King with a Federal holiday. It was that song that led to the collection of 6 million signatures in support of a Federal holiday that Stevie Wonder and Coretta Scott King presented to Congressional Leadership in 1982.

After legislation providing for a Federal holiday in honor of Dr. King had been enacted in 1983, and was first observed in 1986, it was Stevie Wonder that headlined a concert during

that first official commemoration of Dr. King. Significantly, Stevie Wonder’s work to advance the legacy of Dr. King did not end here. Mr. Wonder went on to address such racial and social ills as apartheid in South Africa, famine in Africa, and the AIDS epidemic.

Finally, I introduce this resolution commemorating the life and work of Dr. King during this 30th anniversary of “Happy Birthday” because, while the legacy of Dr. King lives on in Stevie Wonder and so many of us, we must realize that we still have work to do to live up to the ideal that “all men are created equal.” Advancing Dr. King’s mission of equality means eliminating the disparities that exist in so many aspects of our society, like healthcare, housing, employment, and education. Advancing Dr. King’s mission of peace means encouraging our nation to be a peaceful democracy.

Therefore, it is with this resolution that I ask the people of the United States to renew pledges to advance those principles and actions that are consistent with Dr. King’s dream, those principles of equality, freedom, peace, courage, and compassion. Let us allow Dr. King to live on in each of us, not just on the third Monday in January, but every day.

IN OPPOSITION TO H.R. 3326, THE FY10 DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 13, 2010*

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 3326, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for FY 2010.

Critical provisions have been added to this bill in order to help those facing incredible hardships during this difficult economic time.

The extension of expanded unemployment benefits until the end of February is a vital stopgap measure for those in dire need, and I would like to stress that this is only a piece of our urgent responsibility to restore the economic livelihood, and promise of opportunity to so many individuals and communities across the country.

I am also pleased to see that H.R. 3326 includes language prohibiting the establishment of permanent military bases in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Unfortunately, I cannot support the \$125 billion included in this bill for ongoing military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, nor can I support a continuation of runaway defense spending especially at a time when individuals and families across this nation are facing enormous challenges in simply trying to make ends meet.

Madam Speaker, I have been clear in my respectful disagreement with the President’s decision to escalate the United States military presence in Afghanistan, as well as my belief that the situation in Afghanistan will not be solved with a military solution.

This bill does not include additional funding for the proposed troop deployments, and I am hopeful Congress will hold an honest debate and up-or-down vote on the issue of a military escalation prior to obligating federal resources.

The direct costs of two wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have reached nearly \$1 trillion, and

the indirect costs to our national security, our economy, and to our brave men and women in uniform are immeasurable.

We further cannot afford to squander our resources on costly cold-war era weapons that in many cases are outdated and truthfully inappropriate for reducing the real threats facing our nation.

The fact is, as we work to reform our nation’s healthcare and education systems, invest in housing and infrastructure, and put American’s back to work, sending more than 50 percent of the federal discretionary budget to the Pentagon represents a clear and unacceptable tradeoff.

For those reasons I cannot support this bill.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LIFELONG IMPROVEMENTS IN FOOD AND EXERCISE ACT (LIFE)

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 13, 2010*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, as we come close to the enactment of historic health care legislation, I introduce the Lifelong Improvements in Food and Exercise Act (LIFE), authorizing a national initiative to attack a major health problem in the United States that cannot be remedied through the health care system alone. Growing problems of overweight and obesity are now found in Americans of every age, race, and major demographic group, and threaten the health of Americans like no other single disease or condition does. In fact, the key to eliminating many of the most serious health conditions is reducing overweight and obesity. The LIFE bill would provide \$25 million in funding to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for a coordinated effort to reverse increasingly sedentary lifestyles and diets that are high in fat and sugar. Despite rising consciousness of this epidemic, from NBC’s “The Biggest Loser” to a steady stream of diet books, startling rates of obesity among adults and children continue in the United States. In 2007, estimates from the CDC National Center for Health Statistics showed that the percentage of children who are overweight has more than doubled, and among adolescents, the rates have tripled since 1980. Today, 13 million overweight children have an 80 percent chance of being overweight adults, with the health conditions that follow, such as high blood pressure, heart disease, and cancer. The CDC reports that Type 2 diabetes, considered an adult disease, is now widespread in children. The health care system is already paying the price, and the consequences for kids will follow them throughout their lives. If we are serious about health care, we must start where the most serious health conditions begin: in the epidemic of overweight and obesity.

The LIFE bill directs the CDC to pursue obesity and sedentary lifestyles in three ways: train health professionals to recognize the signs of obesity early and educate people concerning healthy lifestyles, such as proper nutrition and regular exercise; conduct education campaigns to teach the public about how to recognize and address overweight and obesity; and develop intervention strategies to be