

her in 1972. The Nobel Peace Prize in 1979, the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1985 from President Reagan. And in 1996, Mother Teresa became the fifth person in the world to be conferred honorary citizenship from the United States by President Clinton.

For historical purposes, the first was Winston Churchill by President Kennedy in 1963, Raoul Wallenberg by President Reagan in 1981, and William and Hannah Penn by President Reagan in 1984.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, we live in an age that is sometimes easy to dismiss as selfish, self-absorbed, cynical, and cruel. Mother Teresa and her selfless dedication to the world's least fortunate serve as a powerful reminder of our age which still includes shining symbols, as Mother Teresa is, for goodness and compassion.

At our schools, wherever she takes us, she is always rededicating herself to the least of these. Permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol of the United States for a congressional ceremony to honor Mother Teresa and her life's work is something that I am proud to stand here today and be in full support of.

We will be focusing the attention of all Americans, whatever their faiths, on a symbol that can serve them well in our everyday lives. As we know, Mother Teresa was born in 1910 in Albania. She received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979.

She is known as the Saint of the Gutter, where she spent tireless hours giving of herself, educating, providing people with hope who have no hope. I had occasion to meet Mother Teresa when she visited the city of Detroit a few years back. The aura that is instilled in her is there for anyone to see. She is a saint. And she is a person whom we all can take a look at and honor because she has given much of her life so that people have the hope that God has intended each of us to have.

Mr. Speaker, the Missionaries of Charity has branches in 50 Indian cities and about 30 other countries around the world. It numbers more than 3,000 members who have decided to follow Mother Teresa's example and dedicate their lives by serving the world's poor.

Mother Teresa is special to me personally. I am happy this Congress is going to have a dedication ceremony for her.

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

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. CHRISTENSEN].

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from California [Mr. THOMAS] for his assistance in getting this piece of legis-

lation to the floor so quickly. This came up on rather short notice, and we appreciate all his hard work and the work of the staff to expedite this bill.

The passage of this resolution, Senate Concurrent Resolution 26, authorizes the use of the Capitol rotunda for a congressional ceremony honoring Mother Teresa. This ceremony will take place on June 5. We are looking forward to hearing her comments and honoring her life.

It is during this time that we will present her with the Congressional Gold Medal as a small tribute for her lifelong dedication of service to those who are less fortunate, impoverished, ill, homeless, and destitute.

As we have heard already some of her awards and accomplishments, they go on and on. They are very numerous awards that she has achieved throughout her life. But I think the one thing that Mother Teresa stands out for is that, no matter who is the person she meets, she loves everybody. I think that she has followed the example that Christ laid down in that she loves her brother and her sister.

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

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California [Mr. THOMAS] that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate concurrent resolution, Senate Concurrent Resolution 26.

The question was taken.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on Senate Concurrent Resolution 26.

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

There was no objection.

AUTHORIZING PRESIDENT TO AWARD CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO MOTHER TERESA

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1650) to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to Mother Teresa of Calcutta in recognition of her outstanding and enduring contributions through humanitarian and charitable activities, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1650

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that—

(1) Mother Teresa of Calcutta has greatly impacted the lives of people in all walks of life in every corner of the world through love and her selfless dedication to humanity and charitable works for nearly 70 years;

(2) Mother Teresa has expanded her personal dedication by founding the Missionaries of Charity, which include well over 3,000 members in 25 countries, who devote their entire lives to serving the poor without accepting any material reward in return;

(3) Mother Teresa has been recognized as a humanitarian around the world and has been recognized in the form of—

(A) the first Pope John XXIII Peace Prize (1971);

(B) the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding (1972);

(C) the Nobel Peace Prize (1979); and

(D) the Presidential Medal of Freedom (1985);

(4) Mother Teresa is a tool of God;

(5) God's love flowing through Mother Teresa has forever impacted the culture and history of the world; and

(6) Mother Teresa truly leads by example and shows the people of the world the way to live by love for mankind.

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The President is authorized to present, on behalf of the Congress, a gold medal of appropriate design to Mother Teresa of Calcutta in recognition of her outstanding and enduring contributions to humanitarian and charitable activities.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose of the presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 2 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, and at a price sufficient to cover the costs thereof, including labor, materials, dies, and use of machinery, overhead expenses, and the cost of the gold medal.

SEC. 4. NATIONAL MEDALS.

The medals struck pursuant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS; PROCEEDS OF SALE.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is hereby authorized to be charged against the Numismatic Public Enterprise Fund an amount not to exceed \$30,000 to pay for the cost of the medal authorized by this Act.

(b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the sales of duplicate bronze medals under section 3 shall be deposited in the Numismatic Public Enterprise Fund.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Delaware [Mr. CASTLE] and the gentleman from New York [Mr. FLAKE], each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware [Mr. CASTLE].

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

Mr. Speaker, this afternoon I rise in support of H.R. 1650, the bill to award a

Congressional Gold Medal to Mother Teresa, a woman who is perhaps as close to sainthood as anyone this Congress is likely to meet.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta has set a standard of selfless dedication to humanity and charitable works for nearly 70 years. She founded the order, the Missionaries of Charity, which now includes over 3,000 members in 25 countries who devote their lives to serving the poor with no material recompense for their sacrifice. Among many other humanitarian awards, Mother Teresa has received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 and the Presidential Medal of Freedom 1985.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta is most renowned for devoting her life to the sick and dying, the poorest of the poor. She lives with them and ministers to their physical and spiritual necessities, seeking to influence the rest of us by setting an example and defining charity. This example must cause us all to reevaluate our lives in the light of her wholly admirable life. Mr. Speaker, the standard for a Congressional Gold Medal is the recipient must be someone one who has performed an achievement that has an impact on American history and culture that is likely to be recognized as a major achievement in the recipient's field long after the achievement itself. Mother Teresa's career embodying the principle of charity clearly meets and exceeds this standard.

H.R. 1650 complies with Committee on Banking and Financial Services rules regarding the authorization of congressional gold medals. Although a committee markup was not held, a majority of both committee and subcommittee members are cosponsors. There is no known opposition from Members of Congress or the U.S. Mint.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation may have set a record for the attraction of 325 cosponsors in a matter of hours. I understand that the sense of urgency is due to the desire of the House to present some tangible representation of this award during Mother Teresa's visit to the Capitol in a few weeks. The Congressional Gold Medal is the appropriate award, since it is the highest civilian honor this Congress can bestow.

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

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

I rise today in support of H.R. 1650, urge the House to unanimously extend the Congressional Gold Medal to Mother Teresa. Mother Teresa has captured the loving spirit of charity and exemplifies the moral obligation we all have toward a global community.

As she once said, the world today is hungry, not only for bread but hungry for love, hungry to be wanted, and hungry to be loved. She has indeed loved the most needy in the world since 1928. Born in Yugoslavia in 1910, she was raised in a comfortable environment. Comfort, however, did not mute her call to a higher purpose. Following her

convictions, she became a nun in 1928, and eventually joined the Loreto Convent in India. Subsequently, in 1931, she took the name of Teresa in honor of St. Teresa of Avila, a 16th century Spanish nun.

While teaching in Calcutta in 1929, Mother Teresa took note of streets crowded with beggars, lepers, and homeless persons. She was in a city where unwanted infants were regularly left to die in the streets or in garbage bins. After 17 years of teaching, Mother Teresa felt the need to abandon her position as a teacher and instead began to care for the needy in the slums of Calcutta.

Mother Teresa became a citizen of India in 1948 and soon founded the Missionaries of Charity. She focused her work on poor children in the streets and in 1949 began enlisting recruits to join her in her order. The core principle of her order became one of lifetime commitment to serving the poor without accepting any material reward in return.

In the 1950's, Mother Teresa began the work that would gain her worldwide acclaim. She established a leper colony called the Town of Peace. For this the Indian Government awarded her The Magnificent Lotus Award in 1962. Pope Paul the 6th, that same year, placed Missionaries of Charity directly under the control of the papacy. In doing so, he allowed Mother Teresa to expand her order outside of India. Centers for lepers, the blind, the aged and the dying were soon opened all around the world.

The love, the concern and samaritanism so evident in Mother Teresa was honored by the Pope in 1971 when he awarded her the first Pope John the 23d Peace Prize. She received her greatest award in 1979 when she received the Nobel Peace Prize. As with other awards, Mother Teresa accepted the prize on behalf of the poor and used the monetary gifts to fund her centers. Today there are over 3,000 nuns in her order, and Missionaries of Charity centers in over 25 countries.

Mr. Speaker, these deeds and her consistent hard work on behalf of the needy have made Mother Teresa a paragon of charity. She has indeed left an indelible mark on our society. We should do nothing less than to follow her advice to make our homes centers of compassion and forgiveness endlessly.

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Believing in this advice will make us all a better people.

I close by again advising this House to give support to the bill. It is a small gesture for our Nation to honor a larger than life human being. But as Mother Teresa has said, "We can do no great things, only small things with great love."

I believe that every Member voting for this particular legislation today will express to Mother Teresa not only our love but the love of the people of

this Nation as we reach out to one who has always reached out to others.

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

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. CHRISTENSEN].

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank some of the people who helped in bringing this legislation to the floor.

When Senator BROWBACK initially approached me with the idea of introducing this legislation on the House side just a month ago, I was not sure that we could get the needed 290 cosponsors in time for Mother Teresa's visit next month. As of today, we have 327 cosponsors.

That is why I want to thank the gentleman from Tennessee, Mr. ZACH WAMP, and the gentleman from Michigan, Mr. STUPAK, and the gentleman from Tennessee, Mr. BRYANT, and the gentleman from Nevada, Mr. ENSIGN, and the gentlewoman from Missouri, Mrs. EMERSON, for obtaining the necessary number of signatures and cosponsors because literally this was a team effort.

I would also like to thank the gentleman from Delaware [Mr. CASTLE], for helping expedite this bill through, as well as the gentleman from New York [Mr. FLAKE].

The cosponsor on this bill is my friend, the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. JESSE JACKSON. He and his staff have worked hard on this bill. They have helped work the issue on both sides, and I think it is a neat opportunity when two Members from the two different parties can work together in a bipartisan fashion and work together for the good of the country and for a cause that we all believe in.

On June 5, a woman who has made it her lifelong mission to serve others will visit this Congress. This woman can be recognized by all as the most important self-sacrificing heroine of our time. For this reason, my colleagues and I would like to grant Mother Teresa the Congressional Gold Medal.

Mother Teresa has spent the majority of her 87 years reaching out to the poorest of the poor and providing comfort to individuals who face nothing but hopelessness and despair. Her personal commitment to the sick and dying demonstrate her unceasing love and selfless devotion to mankind, serving as a true model for the world to follow.

She has proven repeatedly that no matter how indigent an individual has become, simple acts of love and tenderness can once again help them discover the true sense of dignity, humanity, and at least momentary peace. Her inspirational work will live forever and can be multiplied through the Missionaries of Charity, which now resides in every continent, even in Russia, where her sisters continue their service to the poor and neglected.

Today the Missionaries of Charity have more than 4,000 nuns who run over 5,517 orphanages, housing the impoverished, the ill, the homeless, and the dying. In a world that sometimes seems so impersonal and unaffected by the suffering of others, Mother Teresa has provided hope and encouragement through her endearing spirit. She has an exceptional character and has sacrificed the greater part of her daily life for others.

Mother Teresa is visibly perceived by many as a living saint. Her love and compassion for humanity will always serve as a constant reminder that no matter what age, gender, or faith one may be that every human being has the ability to make an impression on mankind. Her tradition of spirituality and compassion has made her one of the greatest humanitarians of all time.

Recently, a poll was taken here in the United States and of all the people that the United States said they respected the most, Mother Teresa was voted No. 1. Though weakened by a chronic heart ailment and other heart problems, Mother Teresa's deep hope and abiding faith in God will live on forever.

In closing, I would like to share some of Mother Teresa's wisdom by quoting her. She once said, "If we pray, we will believe. If we believe, we will love. If we love, we will serve. We can do no great things, only small things with great love."

That quote reminds me of Matthew 22 that talks about the greatest commandment of loving others. Mother Teresa has embodied what Christ called the greatest commandment, and the second greatest commandment was like the first.

I urge the immediate adoption of H.R. 1650 in a bipartisan fashion, and I thank the Members that have worked so hard in bringing this to the floor.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Chicago, IL, Mr. JESSE JACKSON, Jr., the cosponsor of this legislation.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 1650, and I would like to thank the gentleman from Delaware, Chairman CASTLE, and the gentleman from New York, Mr. FLAKE, the ranking member, for the opportunity to address this important piece of legislation commending and honoring the work of Mother Teresa. Mother Teresa has been referred to as a moral leader, a Nobel laureate who has also been regularly referred to as a living saint among us.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my good friend, the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. CHRISTENSEN] for providing me with the opportunity to cosponsor this worthy endeavor. When the gentleman initially approached me about the legislation, there was no equivocation whatsoever about my willing-

ness to support and work on this side of the aisle to seek Democratic cosponsors of such a worthy piece of legislation. I think that the thoughtfulness of the gentleman from Nebraska on this particular piece of legislation is certainly an example of the kind of spirit that he has brought to this Congress, and it is indeed an honor to have the privilege of being a cosponsor with the gentleman on this piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, with this Congressional Gold Medal we honor Mother Teresa of Calcutta upon her retirement as superior general of the Missionaries of Charity, the order she founded in 1947 to care for the dying and destitute of Calcutta, India. This moral and spiritual leader, known to the world as the "Saint of the Gutters" for her lifelong work caring for the third world's poorest of the poor, continues her struggle for humanity despite her own physical frailty.

After suffering from malaria, from pneumonia, a heart attack, and after undergoing three heart surgeries just last year, the 86-year-old Mother Teresa has announced that she hopes that she is able to set up a base in China as her next project. Imagine that, 86, after having suffered from malaria, from pneumonia, a heart attack and three different surgeries, Mother Teresa keeps on giving and she never ceases to keep on giving.

The Albanian-born Mother Teresa, who bravely combats her physical weakness, lacks no internal moral strength or outward vision. She is motivated by the depth of her faith and spirituality. Through her direct humanitarian acts, carried out by the Missionaries of Charity, she has transformed millions of lives one by one in the order's AIDS hospices, soup kitchens, homes for unwed mothers, clinics, schools, and homes for the lepers, the sick, and the terminally ill in 25 nations across this world.

The sisters of her order literally go out into the streets and physically lift the starving terminally ill, drawing them into these homes to provide them with shelter and medicine free of charge. Most importantly, the sisters offer the least of these, our world's most vulnerable, who have so tragically been cast aside by society, the dignity and the respect of which all human beings are deserving.

It is this spirit, the spirit of Mother Teresa, that I believe was probably best engendered in recent times in our Nation by the volunteer summit that took place in Philadelphia, where we saw Americans attempting to give back beyond themselves, beyond their class, beyond their race, and even beyond their own value system, to give of themselves, and no other person in our world for such a time as this has provided that as the gentlewoman from Calcutta.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we can all learn and embrace her example. She is motivated by her faith to do good. She feeds the poor because they are hungry;

she houses the homeless because they lack shelter; she treats the sick because they are ill. Her love and her care is not conditional. Her service to humanity is based upon her deep seated belief that we are all members of one human family.

She treats people of all races and ethnicities, of all social stratum, equally, regardless of their relative wealth or poverty. In essence, this is what her deep sense of spirituality and religion compel her to do. Her righteous and selfless example is one from which we can all find inspiration and take guidance and direction.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor today to sponsor this bill to bestow the Congressional Medal of Honor to Mother Teresa when she graces us with her presence on June 5. I thank my colleagues for the overwhelming support for this tribute to a truly remarkable member of the world community.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and solely to thank those who were the sponsors of this legislation. The gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. CHRISTENSEN] referenced this, but they did an extraordinary job of getting more signatures in this Congress in support of something than maybe anybody in the history of the Congress, for all I know, in a remarkably short time. So I congratulate them both on that. Obviously, the cause was extremely justifiable, which we have all learned here today, and we appreciate that, too.

I also want to thank the gentleman from New York [Mr. FLAKE] who continues to be a wonderful ranking member to work with on this committee. Hopefully, we will have some success again today as we have before.

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

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to say that, indeed, it is a joy to work with the gentleman from Delaware, and I am overwhelmed by the number of supporters that spoke on this bill and actually signed on in such short order.

I think that makes the ultimate statement of the value of this particular piece of legislation, and would hope that all of our colleagues would join us, for I think this expresses all that is a part of what our life ought to be, and that is loving our neighbors as we love ourselves.

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

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to encourage everyone to support this. We will be asking for rollcall votes so people will have an opportunity to vote for it.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 1650. At the same time, I rise in total support of, and with complete respect for, the work of Mother Teresa, the Missionaries of Charity organization, and each of

Mother Teresa's Nobel Peace Prize-winning humanitarian efforts. I oppose the Gold Medal for Mother Teresa Act because appropriating \$30,000 of taxpayer money is neither constitutional nor, in the spirit of Mother Teresa who dedicated here entire life to voluntary, charitable work, particularly humanitarian.

Because of my continuing and uncompromising opposition to appropriations not authorized within the enumerated powers of the Constitution, several of my colleagues found it amusing to question me personally as to whether, on this issue, I would maintain my resolve and commitment of the Constitution—a Constitution, which only months ago, each Member of Congress, swore to uphold. In each of these instances, I offered to do a little more than uphold my constitutional oath.

In fact, as a means of demonstrating my personal regard and enthusiasm for the work of Mother Teresa, I invited each of these colleagues to match my private, personal contribution of \$100 which, if accepted by the 435 Members of the House of Representatives, would more than satisfy the \$30,000 cost necessary to mint and award a gold medal to the well-deserving Mother Teresa. To me, it seemed a particularly good opportunity to demonstrate one's genuine convictions by spending one's own money rather than that of the taxpayers who remain free to contribute, at their own discretion, to the work of Mother Teresa and have consistently done so. For the record, not a single Representative who solicited my support for spending taxpayer's money, was willing to contribute their own money to demonstrate the courage of their so-called convictions and generosity.

It is, of course, very easy to be generous with other people's money.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SUNUNU). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Delaware [Mr. CASTLE] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1650.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof)—

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 1650.

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

There was no objection.

SENSE OF THE HOUSE THAT HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN AND SUPPORT ACTIVITIES TO PROVIDE DECENT HOMES FOR PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. LAZIO of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and

agree to the resolution (H. Res. 147) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the House of Representatives should participate in and support activities to provide decent homes for the people of the United States, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 147

Whereas the United States promotes and encourages the creation and revitalization of sustainable and strong neighborhoods in partnership with States, cities, and local communities and in conjunction with the independent and collective actions of private citizens and organizations;

Whereas establishing a housing infrastructure strengthens neighborhoods and local economies and nurtures the families who reside in them;

Whereas an integral element of a strong community is a sufficient supply of affordable housing;

Whereas such housing can be provided in traditional and nontraditional forms, including apartment buildings, transitional and temporary homes, condominiums, co-operatives, and single family homes;

Whereas for many families a home is not merely shelter, but also provides an opportunity for growth, prosperity, and security;

Whereas homeownership is a cornerstone of the national economy because it spurs the production and sale of goods and services, generates new jobs, encourages savings and investment, promotes economic and civic responsibility, and enhances the financial security of all people in the United States;

Whereas the United States is the first country in the world to make owning a home a reality for a vast majority of its families; however, more than one-third of the families in the United States are not homeowners;

Whereas a disproportionate percentage of non-homeowning families in the United States are low-income families;

Whereas the National Partners in Homeownership, a public-private partnership comprised of 63 national organizations under the leadership of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, has established a goal of reaching an all-time high homeownership level in the United States by the end of the 20th century;

Whereas there are many other nonprofit and for-profit organizations that, in partnership with the Federal Government and local governments, strive to make the American dream of homeownership a reality for low-income families;

Whereas national organizations such as the Fannie Mae Foundation, Freddie Mac, the Local Initiatives Support Corporation, the Enterprise Foundation, the Housing Assistance Council, and the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation, in conjunction with local organizations, have developed thousands of homes each year for low-income families and have, in the process, reduced urban decay and blight and fostered business activity;

Whereas the community building activities of neighborhood-based nonprofit organizations empower individuals to improve their lives and make communities safer and healthier for families;

Whereas one of the best known nonprofit housing organizations is Habitat for Humanity, which builds simple but adequate housing for less fortunate families and symbolizes the self-help approach to homeownership;

Whereas Habitat for Humanity provides opportunities for people from every segment of society to volunteer to help make the

American dream a reality for families who otherwise would not own a home; and

Whereas the second week of June 1997 is National Homeownership Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) it is a goal of our Nation that all citizens have safe, clean, and healthy housing;

(2) the Members of the House of Representatives should demonstrate the importance of volunteerism and community service;

(3) the Members of the House of Representatives and Habitat for Humanity, with support from the National Partners in Homeownership, should sponsor and construct, commencing on June 5, 1997, two homes in the Anacostia neighborhood of the District of Columbia, each to be known as a "House That Congress Built";

(4) each "House That Congress Built" should be constructed primarily by Members of the House of Representatives and their families and staffs, involving and symbolizing the partnership of the public, private, and nonprofit sectors of society;

(5) each "House That Congress Built" should be constructed with the participation of the family that will own the home;

(6) upon completion and initial occupancy of the homes in the fall of 1997, the Members of the House of Representatives, their families and staffs, and local and national leaders from the public and private nonprofit sectors of society should participate, together with each family that will own a "House That Congress Built", in an event to celebrate the occasion;

(7) in the future, the Members of the House of Representatives and their families and staff should participate in similar house building activities of Habitat for Humanity in their own districts as part of National Homeownership Week; and

(8) these occasions should be used to emphasize and focus on the importance of providing safe, clean, and healthy homes for all of the people in the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York [Mr. LAZIO] and the gentleman from New York [Mr. FLAKE] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York [Mr. LAZIO].

Mr. LAZIO of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1½ minutes.

Mr. Speaker, let me begin by congratulating and thanking my colleague and friend, the gentleman from California [Mr. LEWIS], for this concept and for his introduction of this legislation.

I also want to thank the gentleman from Ohio, Mr. STOKES, the gentleman from Missouri, Mr. GEPHARDT, the gentleman from Georgia, Mr. GINGRICH, the Speaker of the House, the gentleman from New York, Mr. FLAKE, and certainly the gentleman from Massachusetts, Mr. KENNEDY, and the gentleman from the District of Columbia, Ms. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, for their cooperation and collaboration to celebrate what I think is one of the more outstanding programs that we have in America, the creation of a synergy where people in the public sector and the community itself, businesses and the private sector, and the not-for-profit sector which have come together to contribute their time and resources and effort to give to their fellow neighbor one of the greatest gifts that one