

11th Congressional District of Ohio as we celebrate this Ohio bicentennial.

Mr. OXLEY. Madam Speaker, I'm proud to join my Buckeye colleagues in celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Great State of Ohio. My thanks to the dean of our delegation, Mr. REGULA, for introducing this resolution.

It's my great privilege to represent Ohio's Fourth Congressional District, a widespread and diverse region steeped in tradition that has contributed much to the rich history of our state.

Some three decades ago, my hometown of Findlay in Hancock County was honored by Congress with the designation "Flag City, USA." Nearby Arlington, Ohio, enjoys the title of "Flag Village, USA." The discovery of oil in 1886 contributed tremendously to the county's growth; Findlay is home to the headquarters of Marathon Ashland Petroleum, an oil refining and marketing leader to this day. It was about the Blanchard River—then called Mill Stream—that Hancock County's Tell Taylor reminisced in his 1908 song "Down by the Old Mill Stream."

Hardin County is known as the home of Jacob Parrot, the nation's first Congressional Medal of Honor winner in 1863. Employees at Ada's Wilson Football Factory hand-make well over one million footballs per year, providing the NFL's official game balls since 1941.

The Lima Army Tank Plant in Allen County has played a vital role in our nation's defense since the Second World War, when its forerunner, the Lima Tank Depot, processed more than 100,000 combat vehicles for shipment overseas. The tank plant's contributions continue in this new century, with ongoing work on the new Stryker light armored vehicle and a new \$32 million Abrams tank upgrade program.

Logan County is famous not only for the nation's shortest street (20-foot-long McKinley Street), but also the first concrete street in America. George Wells Bartholomew, Jr., constructed this street in 1891, posting a personal bond of \$5,000 to guarantee that the pavement would last for five years. That street carries local traffic to this day, and was declared a National Historical Civil Engineering Landmark in 1976.

Wyandot County's Old Mission Church is the oldest Methodist mission in the United States. Completed in 1824, the Church sits on the grounds of the Wyandotte Cemetery, a burial ground for the last Native American tribe in Ohio. The Basilica, and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey draws hundreds of thousands of pilgrims on a yearly basis.

Marion County is the site of the Warren G. Harding Home and Memorial, honoring our nation's 29th president. Marion, home of the Popcorn Festival and the Wyandot Popcorn Museum, also contains one of four branch campuses of The Ohio State University, 2003's national football champions. I am privileged to represent a total of three of OSU's branches.

Citizens of Shelby County take great pride in their magnificent 120-year-old county courthouse, which was recently added to the list of "Great American Public Places." Sidney, the county seat, developed a reputation as a railroad and canal center early in our state's history.

Residents of Mount Gilead in Morrow County rightfully take pride in the "victory shaft" that dominates the village's North Square. This stone monument was a 1919 gift from the federal government in recognition of Morrow County's support of World War I—its citizens purchased more war bonds per capita than any other county in the U.S.

Auglaize County is the birthplace of space pioneer Neil Armstrong and home to the Neil Armstrong Air and Space Museum. The county seat of Wapakoneta is a focal point of Native American history, serving as capital of the Shawnee nation in the late 1700s and early 1800s. Chief Blackhoof organized the migration of the Shawnee to Kansas in 1826, and afterward returned to Wapakoneta, where he died in 1831.

The Mansfield Blockhouse in Richland County is the county's oldest structure, built in the public square to protect early settlers from Indian attacks during the War of 1812. The medieval castle design of the Ohio State Reformatory, constructed in the late 1880s, landed it on the National Register of Historic Places in 1987, and has been featured in three major motion pictures. Mansfield was also the home of John Sherman, longtime House and Senate member from Ohio, Secretary of State, Secretary of the Treasury, Republican presidential candidate, and father of the Sherman Antitrust Act. Malabar Farm in Lucas is the former home and workshop of Pulitzer Prize winner Louis Bromfield, drawing thousands of visitors each year.

A bronze statue in the town square in Urbana memorializes the 3,235 Champaign County men who fought in the Civil War, 578 of whom did not survive the fighting. Urbana University's Johnny Appleseed Educational Center houses the largest collection of Johnny Appleseed memorabilia and information known to exist. St. Paris, in western Champaign County, was a leading carriage-making center for much of the late Nineteenth Century.

Madam Speaker, I'm proud that citizens in each of the 11 counties I'm honored to represent are taking an active role in celebrating not only our state's bicentennial, but also the rich and vibrant histories of their own communities. Their dedication and devotion ensure that our state's future remains bright for the next 200 years and beyond.

I salute the efforts of all who have made this bicentennial year a great one for our great state.

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the Bicentennial of the State of Ohio's admission to the Union. I rise to honor the contributions of Ohio residents to the development of the United States.

On March 1, 1803, Ohio became the 17th state to enter the Union. From the invention of traffic lights and Teflon to the famous first flight at Kitty Hawk, Ohio has been the birthplace of many important advances in United States history. The nation's first interracial co-educational college, Oberlin College, was founded in 1833 in Oberlin, Ohio. The storied history of this great state is, perhaps, best demonstrated through the accomplishments of its amazing residents.

Ohio residents have contributed to many different aspects of United States history and

culture. Inventors Thomas Edison and Charles Goodyear hail from Ohio. Well-known authors Harriet Beecher Stowe and Toni Morrison, as well as, poet laureate Paul Laurence Dunbar also come from Ohio. Ohio also has the distinction of producing more Presidents than any other state in the Union. Legendary comedians Bob Hope and Phyllis Diller, who have inspired millions to laugh, hail from Ohio.

Other noteworthy Ohioans include Doris Day, Clark Gable, Annie Oakley and Neil Armstrong. Ohio's contributions have not only been limited to academic and artistic pursuits. Many well-known athletes hail from Ohio also. World-renowned golfers Nancy Lopez and Jack Nicklaus are both from Ohio. African American track star Jesse Owens, who won four gold medals during the 1936 Olympics, grew up in Cleveland and graduated from Ohio State University.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of the Bicentennial of the admission of Ohio into the Union, a state whose contributions to this great country cannot be overlooked.

Mr. NEY. Madam Speaker, Whereas, the people of Ohio are commemorating Ohio's 200th Birthday on March 1, 2003; and

Whereas, they will be celebrating the Bicentennial in Chillicothe, the original capital of the great state of Ohio; and

Whereas, the residents of Ohio have molded a strong tradition of family values and a commitment to a high standard of living for Two-Hundred Years; and

Whereas, Ohio, since its inception, has developed into a growing and prosperous community dedicated to its past and future generations;

Therefore, I join with the residents of the 18th Congressional District and all of Ohio in celebrating the Ohio Bicentennial.

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I have no other speakers, and I urge adoption of this measure.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 122.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Madam 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.

#### SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING IMPROVED FIRE SAFETY IN NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 85) expressing the sense of

the Congress with regard to the need for improved fire safety in nonresidential buildings in the aftermath of the tragic fire on February 20, 2003, at a nightclub in West Warwick, Rhode Island.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 85

Whereas, on the night of February 20, 2003, a pyrotechnic display ignited a massive fire at The Station nightclub in West Warwick, Rhode Island;

Whereas 99 people have died as a result of the fire and an additional 186 people were injured in the fire, many of whom remain hospitalized as of the date of the submission of this resolution with life-threatening burns and other injuries;

Whereas the victims of the fire were residents of Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and several other States;

Whereas the firefighters, police officers (particularly officers of the West Warwick Police Department who were the first to arrive on the scene), and medical personnel who responded to the fire performed heroically under horrific circumstances, and they risked their own lives to save many of the injured;

Whereas, at hospitals in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, doctors, nurses, hospital staff, mental health professionals, and other health care workers toiled through the night and in the following days to care for the injured, and they continue to provide world-class care to victims of the fire who remain hospitalized;

Whereas hospital care for victims of the fire was provided at Rhode Island Hospital, Kent County Hospital, South County Hospital, Fatima Hospital, Massachusetts General Hospital, Miriam Hospital, Roger Williams Hospital, Landmark Hospital, University of Massachusetts/Worcester Hospital, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Westerly Hospital, Shriners Hospital, St. Luke's Hospital, Memorial Hospital, Charlton Hospital, and Newport Hospital;

Whereas the local Red Cross, with 10 paid staff and over 400 dedicated volunteers, has played a critical role in offering comfort to the families of victims and coordinating services;

Whereas State and local officials have responded to the fire and its aftermath quickly, effectively, and compassionately, and the people of Rhode Island and the Nation are grateful for their efforts;

Whereas Governor Donald Carcieri of Rhode Island and West Warwick Town Manager Wolfgang Bauer have shown exceptional leadership under trying circumstances and their sensitivity to the families impacted by the tragedy is much appreciated; Lt. Governor Charles Fogarty and Maj. Gen. Reginald Centracchio, as Co-Chairs of the Emergency Management Advisory Council, have also played a crucial role in responding to the tragedy; and the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency has impressively and effectively coordinated a myriad of State and local activities;

Whereas area funeral directors and medical examiners have provided outstanding service throughout the tragedy;

Whereas the staff of the local family resource center has helped the families of victims to access the services and information they need and provided care and comfort to hundreds of grieving family members;

Whereas the people of Rhode Island and concerned citizens across the United States have shown incredible generosity in response

to the tragedy, contributing hundreds of thousands of dollars to victims' assistance efforts;

Whereas many local businesses have provided victims and their families with crucial services from food to transportation, members of the Rhode Island Bar Association and Rhode Island Trial Lawyers Association have offered free assistance to victims and their families with immediate legal issues, and community mental health centers and mental health professionals have provided critical mental health care to victims and their families and other members of the community;

Whereas Federal agencies, including the Social Security Administration, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, the Department of Health and Human Services, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and the Small Business Administration, have offered assistance and expertise that has been extremely helpful to the State's emergency response to the tragedy;

Whereas the West Warwick fire is only the most recent example of how deadly fire can be in nonresidential buildings;

Whereas, in 2001, the last year in which full statistics are available, 80 people were killed and 1,650 injured in fires in nonresidential buildings, not including the victims of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001; and

Whereas, on February 17, 2003, 21 people were killed in a tragic stampede at the E2 Nightclub in Chicago, Illinois, and this tragedy and the West Warwick fire, which have deeply impacted persons throughout the United States, emphasize the critical need for enhancements in nightclub and concert hall safety: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—*

(1) expresses its deepest condolences to the family members and friends who lost loved ones as a result of the tragic fire on February 20, 2003, at The Station nightclub in West Warwick, Rhode Island, and offers its hope for the quick and full recovery of those persons who were injured in the fire;

(2) expresses immense gratitude for the efforts of countless emergency response personnel, local, State, and Federal officials, health care providers, volunteers, businesses, and citizens who have been part of the response to this tragedy; and

(3) urges State and local officials and the owners of entertainment facilities to examine their safety practices, fire codes, and enforcement capabilities in light of this horrific tragedy and to take all necessary action to ensure that such a tragedy never befalls any community again.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the concurrent resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

House Concurrent Resolution 85, introduced by the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN), expresses the sense of the House with regard to the need for improved fire safety in nonresidential buildings in the aftermath of the tragic fire that struck on February 20, 2003, at a nightclub in West Warwick, Rhode Island.

Madam Speaker, last month a great tragedy befell this Nation. Ninety-eight people were killed and nearly 200 more were injured when a devastating fire engulfed The Station nightclub that was hosting a concert in the suburban Providence, Rhode Island, town of West Warwick.

Stage props that sprayed pyrotechnics set on fire the acoustic wall behind the stage, and the fire spread across the nightclub ceiling at a terribly rapid speed. Apparently, the entire club was fully aflame in just 3 minutes. Many of the victims never had a chance to escape.

This unimaginable catastrophe was one of the deadliest nightclub fires in our Nation's history; and sadly, this incident seems so avoidable. I sincerely hope this event serves as a final wake-up call to owners and operators of entertainment venues across the country. I trust all those in responsible positions will take an even closer look at safety features in their facilities, in order that this tragedy may not be repeated.

I would like to express my sympathy to the grieving families and friends of the victims. I congratulate the local, State and Federal emergency responders that worked tirelessly to save victims from the fire and continue to treat patients that suffer from burns and other injuries. I hope and pray that those who remain injured will experience a full and very quick recovery.

Madam Speaker, I hope that the passage of this resolution will lead us to take steps toward improving the safety of nonresidential buildings. Therefore, I urge all Members to support the adoption of House Concurrent Resolution 85.

I thank my colleague from Rhode Island for introducing this important measure.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to support the resolution regarding the needs for improved fire safety in nonresidential buildings. This is a major concern with regards to the tragic fire at a nightclub in West Warwick, Rhode Island, on February 20, 2003, which killed over 90 people and injured about 200. It is almost unthinkable and unimaginable that such a tragedy could and would occur.

I also want to recognize a similar tragedy that took place in my congressional district in Chicago on February 17, 2003, at the E2 nightclub in Chicago's south side, where a stampede led to approximately 21 people being killed and more than 50 injured. This was a tragedy that could and should have been prevented if there were better fire and building safety codes implemented like wider staircases, more visible exits, and windows for air circulation.

In recognizing the tragedy in Rhode Island, I would like to take this opportunity also to extend my condolences to the families of the fire victims in Warwick and to the victims of the E2 nightclub in Chicago.

Madam Speaker, as lawmakers, we are responsible for ensuring the safety of our citizens, especially in public places. As a result, we should immediately pass this bill before there is any other tragedy, and I would want to urge all of those who have responsibility for safety in public places to do everything possible to assure that those buildings are, in fact, safe; that there is adequate opportunity for people to exit; and that we protect the lives of our citizens.

I commend the gentleman from Rhode Island for introducing this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I have no other speakers, and I want to thank the gentleman from Rhode Island for introducing this important resolution, and I urge adoption of this measure.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield 7 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN), who is the author of this resolution.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for yielding me the time, and I appreciate his comments; and my condolences go to the families that lost loved ones in the Chicago tragedy as well. We share his pain in these two tragic events.

Madam Speaker, on the night of February 20, Rhode Island suffered a devastating tragedy. On that night, a massive fire, ignited by a pyrotechnic display during a rock concert, tore through The Station nightclub in West Warwick, Rhode Island, in my congressional district. That fire took 99 lives and left nearly 200 injured.

In any community, this tragedy would have been overwhelming, but in a small State like Rhode Island, when a closeknit town falls victim to one of the worst nightclub fires in the Nation's history, the impact is simply incomprehensible. Everyone in Rhode Island has a connection to one of the victims; and indeed, connections have been made all across New England and, indeed, the Nation.

I have introduced the resolution before us today to memorialize this horrible event and honor the victims and to express thanks for heroic efforts of so many emergency personnel, medical workers, community members, and government officials who have helped us through this tragedy.

Just as importantly, I was compelled to draw the attention of my colleagues to this fire in order to reinforce the urgent need for increased attention to fire safety nationwide. Federal, State and local officials, along with proprietors of nightclubs and other commercial facilities, must reevaluate safety regulations and their enforcement to ensure that this kind of tragedy never happens again.

If the West Warwick fire can serve as a wake-up call and lead to improved safety across the country, then these 99 lives will not have been lost in vain. It is the very least we can do to honor the victims.

As Rhode Islanders continue the healing process, I want to express my deepest condolences to those who lost loved ones in this horrible fire. There are no words to adequately express our profound sadness. Please know that they are in the thoughts and prayers of us all, and we will not let the lives of their husbands, wives, sisters and brothers, children, parents and friends be forgotten.

As of this afternoon, at least 40 people remain hospitalized, nearly half of them still in critical condition. I know my colleagues join me in offering up prayers for their quick and full recovery. They are fighting every hour, and they need our strength now more than ever. Our best wishes go out to them and their families as they weather the tough days ahead.

I would also like to express my immense gratitude for the heroic efforts of people and agencies from Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and elsewhere who have helped respond to this disaster. The firefighters, police, emergency responders who were first on the scene made a herculean effort under unimaginable circumstances; and we have them to thank that even more lives were not lost.

In addition, over a dozen hospitals in Rhode Island and Massachusetts have been caring for patients since this tragedy. The doctors, nurses, mental health professionals, and support staff of these hospitals have worked tirelessly to help the injured; and we are grateful for their service.

As usual, when tragedy strikes Rhode Island, our community has proven strong, resilient and boundlessly generous. I want to recognize the countless volunteers who have put their lives on hold to help in any way they can. Likewise, many of our State's business community have come forward to provide food, shelter, transportation and much more to those affected by this event.

I would particularly like to thank the Red Cross and its scores of volunteers for all they have done to give comfort and assistance to those whose loved ones were lost or injured.

□ 1445

Rhode Island's Governor, Don Carcieri, has provided outstanding leadership throughout this ordeal and shown extraordinary sensitivity to the families involved, and I have personally heard from many of them how much they appreciate his efforts. West Warwick's town manager, Wolfgang Bauer, has worked hand in hand with State officials to help the people of his community through this event. Lieutenant Governor Charles Fogarty and Major General Reginald Centracchio, cochairs of the Emergency Management Advisory Council, have also played a crucial role in this crisis; and the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency has impressively and effectively coordinated a myriad of State and local activities.

I would also like to thank my friend, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. KENNEDY), who is an original cosponsor of this resolution, for his assistance, his friendship and support through this difficult time, and, of course, Rhode Island's senior Senator, JACK REED, and Senator LINCOLN CHAFEE for their tremendous efforts and leadership. And I want to express my great appreciation to several Federal agencies, including FEMA, the Social Security Administration, SBA, HHS and ATF, for all of their support. Their involvement has been critical, and I look forward to working with them further in the weeks to come.

Finally, Madam Speaker, let me address the issues of safety in our clubs, concert halls and other public places. As Americans have been reminded so painfully by the West Warwick fire, as well as the tragic nightclub stampede in Chicago just a few days earlier, we cannot relax our efforts to ensure that our fire and safety regulations are strong and effective and our entertainment facilities are in full compliance with them. As we now know all too well, to lose sight of the overall importance of safety can be fatal.

I have been greatly encouraged by the intense efforts going on across the country in recent weeks to revisit fire safety regulations and step up enforcement of existing laws. Our State and local officials are taking this issue seriously, and I am hopeful that the result will be improved safety in every city and town in America. I know that my colleagues are ready to offer whatever Federal assistance might be needed to support these efforts and ensure that the horrific events in Chicago and West Warwick are the last of their kind.

In closing, I urge support of House Concurrent Resolution 85.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time remains.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The gentleman from Illinois has 11½ minutes remaining.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield 10 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. KENNEDY).

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Madam Speaker, I, too, want to join my colleague, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN), in offering our heartfelt condolences to the families of the E2 Nightclub in Chicago for their tremendous loss. It is utterly ironic that the footage captured in Rhode Island of The Station nightclub on that terrible night was footage that was captured because a cameraman was following up on the local angle of club safety in light of what happened in Chicago. Those terrible images that we saw beamed across the country would not have been caught had it not been for our State trying to prevent what had happened in Chicago. How tragic it was that that is just what ended up happening.

Madam Speaker, it is with great regret that I stand on the floor of the House today to offer my sincerest condolences and heartfelt prayers to those who lost loved ones, to those who were lost, and those still recovering from the effects of the tragic fire in my State of Rhode Island. I know that there is nothing that we can say, no resolution that we can pass that will take away the consuming grief and the sense of loss that so many Rhode Islanders have felt and are feeling; but it is my hope that these condolences of the House, along with time, will help to heal those wounds.

I would like to say to my colleagues who have been watching the coverage of these sad events over the past days that you have no doubt heard several Rhode Islanders say that "everyone in Rhode Island is separated by one and a half degrees," a play off of the well-known "six degrees of separation" adage. Rhode Island is a small, but proud, State. There are fewer of us in Rhode Island than in Los Angeles, Dallas, Fort Worth, or Philadelphia. In Rhode Island, everyone knows everyone. Ask any Rhode Islander, and they will tell you their State is not so much a State as a community, a community where people are born, raised, educated, and eventually raise their own families in this place that will always welcome them home.

To my colleagues, and especially to my colleague, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN), who I thank for bringing this resolution to the floor today, I say that the atmosphere under which we are at this time and place, where generations of American representatives have marked tragedies and triumphs in the halls of this Republic, today we mourn the worst of

those disasters ever to afflict the people of Rhode Island. To date, we have lost 99 of our families, friends, and neighbors to this terrible tragedy. That is nearly half as many Rhode Islanders as were lost in the entire Vietnam War in our State of Rhode Island.

A disaster of this magnitude in a community like Rhode Island has tested the limits of our collective comprehension, resilience, and grief. While we mourn, we still hold out the hope, and offer our prayers, to the 190 men and women still fighting their injuries across New England, as many as 40 in the hospital. Their struggles will be difficult, the road ahead challenging; but the people of Rhode Island have proven that community togetherness and family can see us through anything. We offer them our support and encouragement today, and we promise that we will still be there in the months and the years ahead to ensure that we never forget that they are going to be living with these injuries for the rest of their lives.

Madam Speaker, but for the brave first responders who came immediately and professionally to their call to duty, many of those in the hospitals today would no longer be with us, and most assuredly the number of those still recovering from their injuries would be much, much higher. The emergency personnel on duty who rushed to the scene, to those who simply passed or heard through the grapevine about the tragedy and selflessly responded, the men and women of this House today say "thank you" to all of them. They worked without thought for themselves that freezing night, and afterwards, not only to free the trapped from the inferno, and tended through their own tears to the cries of the wounded, but long past the tragedy to tend to the emotional and psychological wounds that continue to inflict these victims.

Madam Speaker, what we ask of first responders in these situations is to be superhuman in the face of staggering human suffering. Most of us spend our lives doing our best to keep ourselves and our loved ones out of situations that the police, fire, and medical personnel rush into every single day, day after day. Their heroism in this tragedy does not go unnoticed. It might be added that with so much evil emanating from the events of 9-11, it is fitting to acknowledge that our State would not have been able to react as quickly as it had were it not for the lessons learned in that tragedy.

Also, the leadership shown at so many levels of government is inspiring to those of us who believe that there are indeed good and honorable people in government service. I want to join my colleague, the gentleman from Rhode Island, in recognizing all those who he recognized in his remarks; but I too want to pay particular attention to our new Governor, Governor

Carcieri, who has shown tremendous leadership under pressure. The compassion and personal touch that he has brought to our State has truly been inspirational. More than any other person, the Governor has held our State together through this tragedy.

So while we continue to mourn for those who have walked on from this world and offer our prayers to those still fighting to return to good health, let us help to lessen their grief by showing our gratitude to all those who have helped them through this adversity.

There will be, unfortunately, no shortage of time to grieve for the mother that will not be able to open the presents with her children at the holidays. There is no shortage of time to grieve for the brother who will not walk down the aisle with his new bride. There is no shortage of time to grieve for the spouse who will not celebrate her next anniversary with her husband, the grandfather who will not see his grandchildren graduate from college, or the child who will take his first steps without his parents to see him. Many Rhode Islanders will have the rest of their lives for these somber memories. Now is a time for remembrance of how the human spirit, above all, arises in times of tragedy, because that is the only thing, besides the passage of time, that will help ease our current pain.

Unlike other no-less-painful losses we experience in the course of our lives, too many young lives were lost this horrific night. This incident has reminded me of the words that my father spoke at my cousin, John F. Kennedy, Jr.'s, memorial service. He said: "He was lost on that troubled night, but we will always wake for him, so that his time, which was not doubled, but cut in half, will live forever in our memory, and in our beguiled and broken hearts."

Madam Speaker, our hearts are broken; and those who are lost will no doubt live forever in our memory.

I want to thank the gentleman from Rhode Island once again for all the work that he has done representing his district through these difficult times. I know that the people who have entrusted their faith to him have been well served, and I appreciate this opportunity to rise in support of his resolution and strongly urge my colleagues to give it the support that it deserves.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to commend both the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN) and the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. KENNEDY) for bringing this great tragedy to our attention.

I also want to join with them in commending all of those who rose to the occasion, the policemen; the firemen; the Red Cross; emergency medical

services personnel; mental health centers, crisis counselors; and even undertakers in my town, like Leak and Sons Funeral Home, who buried seven people without cost and greatly reduced the cost for an eighth person; radio stations; Salem Baptist Church, New Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church; the Push Rainbow; WGCI Radio; and all of those who have contributed in setting up educational funds for the children of those whose parents lost their lives in the E2 tragedy.

Our country has a tendency to rise up when there is a special need, and I commend all of those who took note of the tragedy in Rhode Island, as well as the tragedy at the E2 in Chicago.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 85.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. 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.

#### OBSERVER STATUS FOR TAIWAN AT WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY IN MAY 2003 IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 441) to amend Public Law 107-10 to authorize a United States plan to endorse and obtain observer status for Taiwan at the annual summit of the World Health Assembly in May 2003 in Geneva, Switzerland, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 441

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

#### SECTION 1. AMENDMENTS TO PUBLIC LAW 107-10.

(a) FINDINGS.—Section 1(a) of Public Law 107-10 (115 Stat. 17) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(14) The government of Taiwan, in response to an appeal from the United Nations and the United States for resources to control the spread of HIV/AIDS, donated \$1,000,000 to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.”

(b) PLAN.—Section 1(b)(1) of Public Law 107-10 (115 Stat. 17) is amended by striking “May 2002” and inserting “May 2003”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

I want to express my strong support for this legislation, Madam Speaker. My friend, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), has worked long and hard to make Taiwan's participation in the WHO a reality, and we also want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for his leadership in this area as well. As in years past, I am pleased to join with them in this effort.

The good people of Taiwan have a great deal to offer the international community. It is terribly unfortunate that even though Taiwan's achievements in the medical fields are substantial, and it has expressed a repeated willingness to assist both financially and technically in WHO activities, it has not been allowed to do so because of strenuous opposition from the Communist Chinese dictatorship.

My colleagues may recall the travesty that occurred back in 1998, when Taiwan suffered from a serious entovirus outbreak which killed 70 Taiwanese children and infected more than a thousand.

□ 1500

The WHO was unable to help.

In 1999, a tragic earthquake in Taiwan claimed more than 2,000 lives. Sadly, we learned in published news reports that the People's Republic of China demanded that any aid for Taiwan provided by the United Nations and the Red Cross receive prior approval from the dictators in Beijing. Yet when other nations face similar crises, Taiwan stands ready to help.

Our friends in Taiwan were among the first to offer assistance to the victims of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on our Nation. They provided generous humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan. They have been leaders in addressing global health issues and as this legislation notes, “The government of Taiwan, in response to an appeal of the United Nations and from the United States for resources to control the spread of HIV/AIDS, donated \$1 million to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria.”

Madam Speaker, many of us have been disappointed by our government's lack of effort to assist Taiwan in its attempts to obtain WHO observer status at the annual World Health Assembly in Geneva. We have expressed our con-

cerns to the State Department, and most recently, a bipartisan group of 64 Members of this body sought the personal assistance of Secretary Powell in this matter. We are hopeful that our delegation to the upcoming Geneva conference will stand strongly in favor of Taiwan's candidacy.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) and also the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE) for his prompt consideration of this bill in the Committee on International Relations. We have been working quite some time for this, and I thank Members for continuing to work on this important issue. I urge adoption of this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 441, and urge all of my colleagues to do so as well. I would like to commend my colleague, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) for his persistence in pushing for Taiwan's observer status at the World Health Organization. I also wish to acknowledge the chairmanship of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) on this critically important subject, and that of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT).

Madam Speaker, by battling the spread of infectious diseases and increasing the quality of health care to the global community, the World Health Organization makes a significant contribution to our national security. As we meet in this Chamber today, the WHO is dealing with an outbreak of Ebola in Africa, implementing new strategies to stop the spread of the deadly HIV/AIDS virus, and teaching the developing world how to stop the transmission of tuberculosis.

Madam Speaker, the fight for quality health care around the globe will never cease. As a result, the World Health Organization and its member countries must look for help from every nation to strengthen the work of the organization. Unfortunately, strong and consistent opposition from the Chinese government in Beijing has repeatedly stopped the people of Taiwan from contributing to the work of the WHO.

It is true that observer status for Taiwan will not come easy. Beijing holds sway over many WHO members, but the facts in support of Taiwan's case are clear and compelling, and support will undoubtedly build over time with active American engagement. Taiwan is one of our strongest allies in the Asia Pacific region. It is a beacon of democracy for people around the globe.

Taiwan has the resources and the expertise to make a significant contribution to the work of the World Health