

H. Res. 120

In the House of Representatives, U.S.,

April 5, 2005.

Whereas on December 26, 2004, an earthquake and tsunami struck the Indian Ocean basin, killing over 250,000 people in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand, Somalia, Burma, Maldives, Malaysia, Tanzania, Bangladesh, and Kenya;

Whereas the response by members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) was immediate, invaluable, and courageous;

Whereas civilian employees of the Department of State and USAID showed great leadership in helping to coordinate relief efforts among donors, United Nations agencies, international organizations, aid agencies, and host governments;

Whereas civilian employees of the Department of State and USAID who were on vacation in some of the hardest hit areas used their expertise and specialized skills to provide immediate assistance to victims and survivors of the tsunami;

Whereas civilian employees of the Department of State and USAID set up remote assistance operations in the affected areas in order to best provide service to United

States citizens and citizens of other countries who were affected by the tsunami;

Whereas United States consular officers worked around the clock to locate and identify United States citizens affected by the tsunami, reconnect them with their loved ones, and facilitate their return to the United States, despite the loss of their passports, other identification, and belongings as a result of the tsunami;

Whereas members of the Armed Forces volunteered their unique resources to assess the situation and deliver aid when and where other relief efforts could not;

Whereas the sight of members of the Armed Forces providing aid to tsunami victims and survivors has provided an important boost to the image abroad of the United States;

Whereas members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of USAID worked together to bring clean water from Navy ships to victims and survivors in need; and

Whereas the coordinated effort by members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of the Department of State and USAID saved lives, made a crucial contribution to recovery, and set the stage for a long-term United States commitment to increased peace and security across South and Southeast Asia: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the outstanding efforts in response to the earthquake and tsunami of December 26, 2004, by members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development;

(2) recognizes that the actions of these individuals went above and beyond the call of duty; and

(3) thanks them for their service.

Attest:

Clerk.