

colleagues who have expressed congratulations to the people of Guatemala for ending decades of civil war and embarking on a courageous effort to rebuild their country together. The peace and national reunification that has resulted from this process represents the beginning of a bright new day for this country which has seen so much horror and loss in the past.

The civil war in Guatemala was one of the longest and bloodiest of this century. In the 36 years of fighting, the fabric of Guatemalan society was torn apart. As the peace process takes hold, the people of Guatemala will have to begin the arduous work of recreating their society and repairing the institutions that must serve them in the years to come. It is my hope that resolutions such as this, and the positive role that the United States played in the peace process, will become the symbols of a new era of United States involvement in Guatemala. I believe that we have much to offer the people of Guatemala in their efforts to build democratic institution and refashion a civil society, and I hope that they will turn to us for help.

I continue to be concerned that, although the war has ended, the culture of impunity that has long plagued Guatemala remains. The Law of National Reconciliation established a general amnesty for war crimes, as well as a truth commission to help heal the wounds of war. We must do all that we can to see that those actions which fall outside the scope of the amnesty and the truth commission are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Helen Mack, sister of Myrna Mack, who was brutally murdered by a Guatemalan death squad in 1990, is in town this week to discuss the application for amnesty made by her sister's killers. Such crimes do not fall within the parameters of the amnesty law, and we must press the Guatemalan Government to set firm limits on the amnesty provision in such cases.

We must also ensure that the truth commission is given the information that it requires to complete its healing process for the Guatemalan people. This means that the United States Government must fully declassify documents dealing with human rights abuses in Guatemala during the civil war. Given our own shameful role in this conflict, this is the least we can do to support Guatemala's peace process.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in urging the adoption of House Concurrent Resolution 17 congratulating the people of Guatemala on the success of the recent negotiations to establish a peace process for Guatemala. This is an important statement of congressional support and the people of Guatemala should know of our interest and concern and support for their efforts in the peace process there.

Mr. Speaker, I join in congratulating the people of Guatemala on reaching a peaceful solution to the brutal civil war in which more than 100,000 people were killed over the past 36 years. In the violence, thousands of individ-

uals were tortured, raped, and "disappeared." The frustrating and difficult U.N.-sponsored peace negotiations between the Guatemalan Government and the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Union [URNG] were not quick, but they have brought an end to the violence.

At the same time, however, I wish to express my serious concerns regarding the sweeping amnesty provisions which were, ironically, dubbed the Law of National Reconciliation. This legislation, which passed the Guatemalan Congress after only 2 days of consideration on December 18, 1996, raises some questions that I wish to call to the attention of my colleagues. If misapplied, the Law of National Reconciliation, which followed the signing of the Peace Accords in Madrid on December 12, 1996, will not reconcile the people of Guatemala with government forces, but will plant the seeds of future suspicion and mistrust between the Guatemalan people and members of government agencies. I am concerned that the amnesty provisions could be used to open up a legal back door for human rights perpetrators to escape just prosecution.

The broad amnesty provisions are also in direct conflict with the March 1994 Human Rights Accord, one of the proclaimed milestones in the Guatemalan peace process. This accord required both sides to agree that the government would not sponsor measures designed to prevent prosecution of human rights violations. I urge the Guatemalan authorities at least to apply the minimum safeguards in the Law of National Reconciliation when prosecuting human rights violations. While providing amnesty for political crimes related to the armed civil war, article 8 of this law excludes cases of genocide, torture, and forced disappearances from the amnesty, as well as crimes for which amnesty is prohibited by Guatemalan law or Guatemala's international treaty obligations.

I am also concerned, Mr. Speaker, with regard to civil cases in which U.S. citizens are involved, which are not connected with the armed conflict. The Law of National Reconciliation could potentially be used to terminate the landmark cases brought against Guatemalan Government forces by U.S. citizens Helen Mack, sister of the slain Myrna Mack; Jennifer Harbury, the wife of Mr. Bamaca; Carole Denn, wife of Michael DeVine; and Sister Diana Ortiz. In addition, those few members of the military who have already been convicted in the DeVine and Mack cases could be released from prison. I hope the Guatemalan legal authorities will insure that all human rights perpetrators in Guatemala are brought to justice, and none of these cases will be terminated or suspended under the amnesty provisions.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution today, but I also urge the Guatemalan Government to be certain that human rights violators are sought out and punished to the fullest extent of the law.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EWING). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 17).

The question was taken.

Mr. GILMAN. 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. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution just considered.

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

There was no objection.

CONGRATULATING PEOPLE OF NICARAGUA ON DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS SUCCESS

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 18) congratulating the people of the Republic of Nicaragua on the success of their Democratic elections held on October 20, 1996.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 18

Whereas on October 20, 1996, the people of the Republic of Nicaragua held truly democratic, multiparty elections to choose their government;

Whereas these elections were deemed by international and domestic observers to be free and fair and a legitimate expression of the will of the people of the Republic of Nicaragua;

Whereas on January 10, 1997, Arnoldo Aleman was peacefully sworn in to the office of President of the Republic of Nicaragua and immediately promised to continue down the path to democracy, national reconciliation and reconstruction that are started by the previous administration of President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro; and

Whereas this historic event of democratic elections in the Republic of Nicaragua and the inauguration of President Arnoldo Aleman should be honored: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) congratulates the people of the Republic of Nicaragua for the successful completion of the historic democratic, multiparty elections held on October 20, 1996;

(2) congratulates former President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro for her personal courage and her commitment to democracy, which have helped her achieve a profound political and economic transition in the Republic of Nicaragua;

(3) encourages all Nicaraguans to work together after taking this critical step on the long road to lasting peace and democracy;

(4) recognizes that all Nicaraguans should continue to work together in order to ensure a stable democracy, respect for human rights, a free and market-oriented economy, and social justice for all people;

(5) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to help the Republic of Nicaragua move toward freedom and democracy; and

(6) further reaffirms that the United States is strongly committed to encouraging democracy and peaceful development throughout the Western Hemisphere.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule the gentleman from

New York [Mr. GILMAN] and the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON] each will control 20 minutes.

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

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York [Mr. HOUGHTON] the original sponsor of this resolution on Nicaragua.

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

I would like to rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 18. Mr. Speaker, we wrestle with problems both real and self-imposed in this Chamber day after day. It is nice for a change to be able to celebrate and to thank and to support one of our neighbors, which we are doing here not only with Guatemala but also now with Nicaragua.

I would also like to associate myself with my chairman the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN], the gentleman from California [Mr. GALLEGLY], the gentleman from New York [Mr. ACKERMAN], the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. BALLENGER], and also with the gentleman from American Samoa [Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA], who have been cosponsors of this particular legislation.

This resolution really does three things: First of all, it congratulates the Republic of Nicaragua on holding free and fair elections for the second time in its history. Second, it recognizes the contributions of an extraordinary woman, the former President of Nicaragua, Violeta Chamorro, a person I call the great healer, who has had an impact far beyond the borders of Nicaragua. It also celebrates the peaceful swearing in of the new President, President Arnoldo Aleman.

Mr. Speaker, I have been associated with Nicaragua for several years. In 1988, a group of us from my district went down and established an educational program, all privately funded for this great country. I think we added a bit to the whole relationship between our countries at that time. This is before Violeta Chamorro was elected President.

Then in 1990, we went down and were there for the election. It was an extraordinary time. As I mentioned yesterday at the Committee on International Relations meeting, I can remember, with Elliot Richardson, we were part of a United Nations team picking up a young woman and her baby who had walked 30 miles to vote and then was going to walk back, just because she felt this was such an important time.

Then in 1993, my wife and my grandchildren and others went down there to see, personally and on a personal visit, this extraordinary country and what has happened to it.

The Chamorro administration really did extraordinary things. I mean here

is a lady who was not prepared for leadership. Her husband had been tragically assassinated there. All of a sudden she developed this tremendous rapport not only with the people but also with the critical issues there. The gross domestic product when she took over, after 20 years, was lower than it had been in 1970. Hyperinflation of about 40,000 percent, imagine, think of it, 40,000 percent a year. And the foreign debt amounted to more than six times the value of the total gross domestic product. Far-reaching privatization programs, preventive health care, primary education changes, and an extraordinary story in this tiny little country, all due to the leadership and this wonderful ambience of an extraordinary lady, Violeta Chamorro.

The election took place. Over 80 percent of the people voted. It was not a perfect election, but the observers, both elected representatives and staff, felt it was a free and fair election.

Now, starting on January 10, there was a peaceful transition to President Aleman and the power of the presidency is now in good hands.

□ 1145

And so, Mr. Speaker, I would like to join with my colleagues and hope others will join with us in congratulating the people of this extraordinary nation of Nicaragua on the success of their elections and wishing President Aleman the best in the years to come.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York [Mr. HOUGHTON] for his support of this resolution and for his poignant remarks.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the resolution, and I want to commend the gentleman from New York [Mr. HOUGHTON] for introducing House Concurrent Resolution 18, it congratulates the Nicaraguans on their elections last October, and also extend my congratulations to the chairman of the subcommittee, the gentleman from California [Mr. GALLEGLY] and the ranking member, the gentleman from New York [Mr. ACKERMAN]. I commend also the chairman, the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN], for moving it through the committee so that we could take it up here today.

The October 1996 election was an exciting one for the Nicaraguans. In a country with an underdeveloped infrastructure and almost no transportation system, between 85 and 90 percent of the eligible voters participated. Not one but six ballots were cast in these elections, and for the first time a domestic election observation group oversaw Nicaraguan elections.

The Nicaraguan people clearly stated they want to continue the democratic transition that was begun in 1990. They deserve to be congratulated for their relatively young democracy. I am pleased to support the resolution and I urge its adoption by the House.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York [Mr. ACKERMAN], the ranking member of the subcommittee.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, last fall the people of Nicaragua again chose the path of democracy by electing Liberal Alliance candidate Arnoldo Aleman decisively.

In the wake of their second free and fair election of the 1990's, Nicaraguans must move just as decisively to consolidate democracy and strengthen their civil institutions.

Nicaragua is on its way to recovery. With 3 years of economic growth, peace, and stability, the people of Nicaragua chose a candidate who emphasized economic reform and private sector-led growth as key planks in his platform. Nevertheless, President Aleman has his work cut out for him.

Nicaragua continues to have a precarious balance-of-payment position and is heavily dependent upon foreign assistance. Although the economy has grown recently, the country remains very poor, with a per capita income of \$470 per year.

Strengthening the rule of law was a campaign theme of the President, and he inherits a court system that has become a bottleneck as problems of crime and property disputes have proliferated. It is imperative for Nicaragua to address this question if foreign investors are to have any confidence in Nicaragua's future.

The United States and other donors have provided \$4 billion to Nicaragua since 1990, and for the coming fiscal year USAID has requested an additional \$22 million to deepen and expand the economic reforms and enhance the legitimacy of civil institutions.

The international community must continue to work with the Nicaraguans to help them along the path to prosperity. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that this resolution will provide a measure of moral support to Nicaraguans and encourage them to continue on the road that they have chosen.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate my colleague from New York [Mr. HOUGHTON] for sponsoring this resolution and his hard work and diligence in this area of the world; and also the gentleman from California [Mr. GALLEGLY], our chairman on the subcommittee, for putting this legislation through our body; as well as the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN], the chairman of the full committee; and the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON], who serves as our leader on this side.

I urge all my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from American Samoa [Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA]. (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, at the outset I would like to first express my appreciation to the gentleman from North Carolina, Mr.

BALLENGER] for the opportunity he extended me to join a congressional delegation visiting our neighboring countries in the Central American region. It certainly has been a real educational experience for me to see how beautiful democracy works in these countries that we visited, including Nicaragua.

As a cosponsor of House Concurrent Resolution 18, I certainly would like to commend our good friend the gentleman from New York [Mr. HOUGHTON] as the chief sponsor of this legislation; and also the chairman of our full committee, the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN]; and the gentleman from California [Mr. GALLEGLY] as chairman of the Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere.

I am also grateful to our senior ranking Democratic member of the full committee, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON] for being a chief sponsor also of this legislation; and our good friend, the ranking member of our subcommittee, the gentleman from New York [Mr. ACKERMAN].

Mr. Speaker, I had the honor of visiting Nicaragua on January 10 for the inauguration of President Aleman. It was clear the people of Nicaragua are dedicated to the principles of democracy. The election was a success. Domestic and international observers declared them to be free and fair, and it was certainly a true expression of the desires of the voters and the people of Nicaragua.

It was a large voter turnout—the kind that we dream about having in the United States. The attempts by the opponents of the democratic process to sully the results of the process were unsuccessful.

I am also pleased, Mr. Speaker, by the development of institutions in Nicaragua that will help consolidate that country's democratic system. The Supreme Electoral Commission has successfully conducted a number of free and fair elections. For the first time there is a civilian Defense Ministry, run by a civilian Minister of Defense.

This is an exciting and critical time for the country of Nicaragua, and I am pleased that we are taking this opportunity to support this democratic country.

There are still many challenges for the Nicaraguans to overcome, however. It remains the second poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, and it faces an enormous challenge in resolving its property problems. The Nicaraguans have chosen to address these problems as a democracy, and that is a giant—and commendable—first step.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to show their support for this government by adopting this resolution commending the Government of Nicaragua for this milestone achievement.

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Florida [Mr. DEUTSCH].

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity to also rise in

support of this resolution. I had the honor and distinction of being able to travel to Nicaragua as an observer for the elections, and it was an experience that will have an impact on me for the rest of my life, to see the level of commitment, in terms of democratic process, in a country which was just described as a poor country in economics but not in spirit or in hope.

In our country, our turnout for elections is arguably only about 30 percent, if we include unregistered voters. Nicaragua's turnout in the election was anywhere between 85 and 90 percent of eligible voters—85 to 90 percent. And in part of the country people literally had to walk a day to vote. Over 50 percent of the country really does not have electricity, does not have a road system, by any comparison to anything in the United States, where people literally had to walk a day to vote, a day in one direction or several, 8, 10, 12, 14 hours in one direction, 14 hours in another direction. And they did it.

As has been described, Mr. Speaker, we are living in really a golden age of democracy in the Western Hemisphere, an age that seemed unprecedented or impossible a decade or two ago. Nicaragua is a shining example of that success. And the involvement of the Nicaraguan-American community throughout America, but particularly in south Florida, as part of that process, I think, has been very positive.

Again, I think this Congress is looking forward to working hand-in-hand with the new administration in Nicaragua towards a redevelopment of the country, to strengthen it and to assure that its economic and democratic systems will continue for all times.

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from California [Mr. TORRES].

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the promoters of this resolution, the gentleman from New York [Mr. HOUGHTON]; obviously thank the two chairmen, the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN], and the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON], for moving this forward.

I remember in great anguish what this House went through many years ago as we were witnesses to that great civil war in Nicaragua. For so many years many of us had followed the impact that that had upon those people.

I was also an observer, Mr. Speaker, to the elections in 1990. For the first time the Government of Nicaragua, then led by Sandinistas, had an orderly transfer of power to the government of Mrs. Chamorro. I think we saw history taking place at that time.

So often we condemn nations for their prosecution, for their persecution, for the oppression that they have caused to their citizens, to their many people, because they have been led by dictatorships, by tyrants. I am happy

today to acknowledge the new government of Mr. Aleman, the new democratic elections that have taken place there. I commend that government, and I want to say how important it has been for our country to have been a part of that.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, we thank our friend, the gentleman from New York [Mr. HOUGHTON], for sponsoring House Concurrent Resolution 18, commending the Nicaraguan people for their democratic elections and peaceful transition of power, and I am pleased to have been included as an original cosponsor of this measure.

I also want to thank the ranking minority member, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON], and the ranking subcommittee member, the gentleman from New York [Mr. ACKERMAN], for their support of the measure.

Fifteen years ago, Central America, as we know it, was in turmoil, and at that time our Nation paid a great deal of attention to the region and invested extraordinary sums of money to try to bolster the democratic governments. Now we see a region living in peace and democracy. The American public can rightfully claim a great deal of credit for supporting our neighbors in their hour of need.

All of us will certainly acknowledge that the Central American people themselves deserve the utmost credit for an extraordinary democratic transition. In House Concurrent Resolution 18, the House recognizes the significant accomplishments achieved by the Nicaraguan people since the transition to the democratically elected government of President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro on April 20, 1990.

The climate of free expression has improved dramatically since the routine repression during the Sandinista regime. Nicaragua's national assembly is operating vigorously as a truly representative body. Political parties and civic groups are active there. Spirited public debate on political and economic policy has been unhindered.

In October 1996, as the gentleman from New York indicated, 80 percent of Nicaraguans participated in national elections. These citizens freely elected a new president and a vice president, national assembly members, mayors and city councils. On January 10 power was transferred peacefully from one democratically elected civilian government to another.

Like his remarkable predecessor, President Arnaldo Aleman is committed to democracy, to respect for human rights, and to a free market economy. In short, Nicaragua has made great strides toward overcoming a history of dictatorship and civil war, and we are encouraged by President Aleman's strong commitment to policies aimed at revitalizing the agricultural sector, attracting foreign investment, and addressing chronic unemployment and

poverty that still exists, particularly in the rural regions of past conflict.

We support his efforts to ensure that property rights are going to be fully respected in Nicaragua. We are also encouraged by his actions to ensure that a nonpartisan police force and a professional army will answer to civilian authority.

Mr. Speaker, by adopting this resolution, the House will recognize the historic contributions made by President Violeta Chamorro. Her tireless efforts to resist and overturn dictatorship make her a giant figure in our time. I am proud that the gentleman from New York [Mr. HOUGHTON] has chosen to commend President Chamorro in his resolution as well.

Once again, I thank the gentleman from New York for this resolution. We also thank our colleague from California [Mr. GALLEGLY] for his work as chairman of the Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere.

□ 1200

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to acknowledge the good work of the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. BALLENGER] for his work in Central America over several decades. The commitment of the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. BALLENGER] and his full partner, Mrs. Donna Ballenger, recognizes that peace and prosperity in Central America results in concrete benefits here at home.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EWING). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 18.

The question was taken.

Mr. GILMAN. 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. GILMAN. Mr. 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 just considered.

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

There was no objection.

COMMENDING HON. WARREN CHRISTOPHER FOR EXEMPLARY SERVICE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 4) commending and thanking the

Honorable Warren Christopher for his exemplary service as Secretary of State.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. CON. RES. 4

Whereas Secretary Warren Christopher served as Secretary of State from 1993 until 1997, and maintained the tradition of that Office by representing the international interests of the United States with great dignity, grace, and ability;

Whereas Secretary Christopher, during his tenure as Secretary of State, engaged in more international travel than any other Secretary of State in United States history, reflecting his indefatigable commitment to advancing peace and justice, protecting and promoting United States interests, and preserving United States leadership in international affairs;

Whereas Secretary Christopher has played a key leadership role in United States foreign policy achievements, including ending the war in Bosnia, restoring an elected government in Haiti, and advancing peace in the Middle East;

Whereas Secretary Christopher served with distinction as Deputy Secretary of State from 1977 until 1981 and, among his accomplishments as Deputy Secretary, is credited with skillfully negotiating the release of American hostages in Iran;

Whereas Secretary Christopher has had a distinguished career in law and public service in California;

Whereas Secretary Christopher, born in Scranton, North Dakota, is one of North Dakota's most distinguished native sons and has always displayed the quiet strength and work ethic associated with the people of the Great Plains;

Whereas in 1997 Secretary Christopher leaves his position as the 63d Secretary of State; and

Whereas Secretary Christopher has earned the respect and admiration of Congress and the American people: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress commends and thanks the Honorable Warren Christopher for his exemplary diplomatic service, and for his skillful and indefatigable efforts to advance peace and justice around the world.

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

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

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

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

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

Mr. GILMAN. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, my remarks will be very brief, and they specifically hone in on an extraordinary citizen of this country, Warren Christopher. Warren Christopher has held one of the most important jobs that any administration can offer, the Secretary of State. There are two words which symbolize this great man: One is integrity; the other is judgment.

Mr. Speaker, Warren Christopher has done us proud.

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

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in support of the resolution.

I want to thank the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN], the chairman of the committee, for bringing forward this resolution.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 4 commends and thanks the honorable Warren Christopher for his exemplary diplomatic service. The Senate approved this resolution, as I understand it, by voice vote on January 22. It was reported by the Committee on International Relations on February 5.

I also want to express my appreciation to the gentleman from North Dakota [Mr. POMEROY], who has worked hard on a companion resolution in the House, praising one of North Dakota's finest sons, and on the persistent efforts of the gentleman from North Dakota [Mr. POMEROY] to see that this resolution was taken up by the House. I also want to thank Chairman GILMAN for moving the resolution through the committee several weeks ago and for his efforts to see that the House considers it.

This is, of course, an excellent resolution. It allows us to publicly recognize the extraordinary public service of Warren Christopher. Secretary Christopher has represented the international interests of the United States with great dignity, grace, and ability. During his tenure in office, Secretary Christopher had an indefatigable commitment to advancing peace and justice, protecting and promoting U.S. interests, and preserving the U.S. leadership in international affairs. There have been many tough foreign policy decisions to make over the past 4 years.

To my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I understand that each of us may have our differences with the administration and its foreign policy, but I think all of us have an interest in ensuring that individuals of the caliber, character, and integrity of Secretary Christopher continue to be attracted to the high calling of public service.

It is altogether fitting that we commend this remarkable man and his extraordinary service to this country. I urge adoption of the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from North Dakota [Mr. POMEROY].

Mr. POMEROY. I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to join with my colleagues in paying tribute to the service of Warren Christopher as Secretary of State. I thank the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN], the chairman of the committee, and the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON], the ranking member, for bringing this resolution to the floor today.

Not all my colleagues may be aware that Secretary Christopher hails from my State, the great State of North Dakota. He was born in Scranton, ND, a town of less than 300 people in southwestern North Dakota. Although his