

The changes under discussion today will provide SBICs and small business with important tools like equity features. This proposal will not only improve a business' cash flow but will also create a sound investment for the SBIC.

Recently we have also seen the SBIC program expand into new areas. Last year we witnessed the creation of two women-owned SBICs and the establishment of the first Hispanic-owned firm. By increasing funding levels, we can build on the growing popularity of the SBIC program and make it a vehicle for achieving greater investment returns from historically underserved markets, such as women, minorities and inner cities.

Additionally, by giving the SBIC program greater flexibility and ensuring investment guarantees, small businesses will be assured lower interest rates. The bill also confirms that most small businesses, regardless of their chosen business form, are eligible for SBIC financing.

Finally, we would clarify SBA's role in ensuring equitable distribution and management of its participating securities to SBICs of all sizes. These changes are part of an ongoing process that will enable us to provide creative financing to more small businesses more efficiently.

I am pleased to join the distinguished chairman in support of the proposed correction, and I urge the adoption of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, first of all let me commend the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. TALENT) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) for bringing this important legislation to the floor.

I rise today in support of H.R. 68, the Small Business Investment Company Technical Corrections Act. Congress created the Small Business Investment Company program to ensure that independent small businesses have access to long-term financial and venture capital resources. In my district as well as districts throughout America, there are many small businesses eager to take advantage of these resources, resources that have been made available to them by SBICs which offer a wealth of opportunity, such as long-term loans of up to 20 years, all funds for working capital and equipment, or help for companies to expand or renovate their facilities.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this bill will add another layer of financing for our Nation's budding small businesses. I urge all of my colleagues to vote in favor of it.

We all know that small businesses are the foundation of our economy, and any effort to keep them alive, viable and thriving is worthy of our support and the support of all Members of this distinguished body. Therefore, again, I am pleased to join with my colleagues on the Committee on Small Business.

Again, I commend and congratulate the chairman, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. TALENT) and the ranking member, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ), and urge passage of this important legislation.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MOORE).

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

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, today I am speaking in support of H.R. 68, the Small Business Investment Company Technical Corrections Act, because the success of small businesses is ultimately linked to their ability to obtain investment capital.

The Small Business Investment Act has largely met the growing demands to obtain credit and equity investment capital. This is evident in my own district where an SBIC, Kansas City equity partners, invested in Organized Living, a local storage organization business. Today, through the assistance of the SBIC, this business has grown to a 6-store, 20-plus million dollar storage company.

The changes offered in this bill will strengthen these public/private partnerships to provide small businesses like Organized Living greater access to investment capital. It will also lower interest rates on loans and better cash flow. These improvements will allow small businesses to continue to create jobs and add billions of dollars to our economy.

Mr. Speaker, as a newly-appointed member of the Committee on Small Business and an original cosponsor of H.R. 68, I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, the biggest challenge facing our Nation's business is access to capital. For small businesses, access to capital means access to opportunity, and by passing the Small Business Investment Company Technical Corrections Act today, we can take an important step toward giving small businesses a chance to take advantage of that opportunity.

The SBIC program has an impressive history of helping small businesses grow and expand. The work done by SBIC is especially critical now as everyday more and more private venture dollars are sent overseas to help support companies that compete with U.S. businesses.

The SBIC program helps level the playing field for American business by focusing solely on helping domestic small businesses. These are companies that create the bulk of American jobs.

Furthermore, SBICs fill a unique gap by providing capital to companies that need smaller loans which are not generally made by large banks or lending institutions. The competitiveness that SBIC provides our small businesses helps strengthen our American economy.

The changes that will result from H.R. 68 will provide SBICs with the flexibility to offer more loans, increase the amount of available funding and lower interest rates.

Today's measure will help SBICs build on their already impressive work and pave the way for future small business success stories. I urge everyone to support the Small Business Investment Company Technical Corrections Act. Vote yes on H.R. 68.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, we have had discussion here on the floor about the importance of this bill, and I appreciate the gentlewoman's comments about the importance of this program. It is the only equity investment program as opposed to loan program in which the Federal Government plays a part for small business and it is therefore particularly important.

Those of us who are familiar with small business start-ups and expansion know that there are many small businesses that need investment, rather than additional loans. They are carrying enough debt but they needed some additional money put into the business. The SBIC program is the avenue for accomplishing that. We have nurtured it and shepherded it over the years and it is doing extremely well.

This bill is necessary in order for the program to continue moving forward, and I would appreciate the House's support for H.R. 68.

Once again, I want to express my appreciation to the distinguished gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ).

Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURR of North Carolina). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. TALENT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 68, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. TALENT. 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.

DANTE B. FASCELL NORTH-SOUTH CENTER

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 432) to designate the North/South Center as the Dante B. Fascell North-South Center

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 432

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF NORTH/SOUTH CENTER AS THE DANTE B. FASCELL NORTH-SOUTH CENTER.

Section 208 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1992 and 1993 (22 U.S.C. 2075) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “Dante B. Fascell North-South Center Act of 1991”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) by amending the subsection heading to read as follows: “**DANTE B. FASCELL NORTH-SOUTH CENTER.**—”; and

(B) by striking “known as the North/South Center,” and inserting “which shall be known and designated as the Dante B. Fascell North-South Center.”; and

(3) in subsection (d), by striking “North/South Center” and inserting “Dante B. Fascell North-South Center”.

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

(a) **CENTER.**—Any reference in any other provision of law to the educational institution in Florida known as the North/South Center shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Dante B. Fascell North-South Center”.

(b) **SHORT TITLE.**—Any reference in any other provision of law to the North/South Center Act of 1991 shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Dante B. Fascell North-South Center Act of 1991”.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON) 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 myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pleasure that I bring a bill before the House to honor our esteemed former colleague, the distinguished chairman of the Committee on International Relations, Dante Fascell. Our friend and colleague, Dante Fascell, regrettably passed away on November 29 after a long illness. On October 29, one month before Congressman Fascell died, President Clinton honored him at Cape Canaveral, Florida, with our Nation's highest civilian honor, the Medal of Freedom. Well over 100 Members of Congress signed what the White House termed the most bipartisan petition for the Medal of Freedom that they had ever seen.

Mr. Speaker, this bill renames the educational institution known as the North/South Center as the Dante B. Fascell North-South Center. Chairman Fascell was responsible for establishing that center in 1991 to help us promote better relations between our Nation and the nations of Latin America, the Caribbean and Canada through cooperative study, training and research.

During his tenure on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Dante Fascell was instrumental in enacting an astonishing array of bills that significantly advanced Americans' interest abroad, and those included the creation of the National Endowment for Democracy, Radio Marti, and the Inter-American Foundation. Congressman Fascell also

authored and advanced numerous bills to improve international narcotics control and aviation safety, as well as securing passage of the Freedom Support and SEED Acts, the Fascell Fellowships and the biennial State Department authorization bills. Dante Fascell also was a driving force behind establishing the Committee on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Today we recognize the significant contributions that former Chairman Fascell made to U.S.-Latin American relations and indeed to so many other aspects of our Nation's foreign policy. He was a dedicated legislator and statesman. It is a privilege to sponsor this measure with our committee's ranking Democratic member, the distinguished gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON). This is only a modest gesture to recognize a truly great American.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow we will be honoring the memory of Congressman Fascell in a ceremony in our Foreign Affairs Committee room, and I urge our colleagues to join us on that occasion.

I ask support for this measure, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bill. I had the privilege of serving under Chairman Fascell for many years, and I think what we are doing here today is obviously an appropriate response. But we could really go to almost any corner of the globe and look at the tremendous work that Dante did. There was no place where humans were in suffering, where there was a crisis, that Dante Fascell did not take a leadership role in trying to resolve that crisis, to relieve that pain.

But it is appropriate, looking at the place where he had his greatest focus, settling in Florida early in this century, he recognized before most of the rest of the country did how critical this North/South relationship would be, economically and politically, and for his years in the Congress he led the fight to make sure that we engaged our Latin American neighbors on an equal footing, trying to help nurture their democratic institutions and their economies.

What we do here today is a small part of the honor that Dante deserves. We all miss him, and we all admire and respect his great accomplishments.

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

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished ranking member, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON), for yielding this time to me, and I thank the distinguished gen-

tleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) for bringing this measure to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I was a sophomore at Coral Gables High School in the fall of 1954, and there was a gentleman running for Congress. I was 15 years of age, and the gentleman's name was Dante Fascell. I did not know him, but that was the first congressional race I ever focused on because we had a Problems of Democracy class, and we studied the congressional election.

Mr. Speaker, Dante Fascell was elected to the Congress that year, and 27 years later, in 1981, I was elected to the Congress. Dante Fascell had already served from 1955 to 1981, and was one of the senior Members. I had met Dante Fascell on numerous times before my election to Congress, and we had become good friends.

In 1976 Speaker O'Neill appointed Dante Fascell chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe. That is now known as the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe, and it is a vital factor in European peacekeeping, in a focus on human rights and conflict resolution. It is playing a major role in Bosnia and a major role in Kosovo. The OSC, a very vibrant organization, was formed in August of 1975 when 35 signatory States, including the United States and Canada, joined with 33 European states in forming the Organization on Security, then called the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Dante Fascell was a vital founding member of that organization. As the Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe from 1976 to 1985, he forged U.S. policy in many ways regarding security and cooperation in Europe.

Upon his becoming Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee in 1985, I was privileged to be recommended by him and then appointed by Speaker O'Neill to succeed him as chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

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Mr. Speaker, those who did not know Dante Fascell missed knowing a very decent, able, giving, caring, effective American and Member of this body.

Dante Fascell was the epitome of a bipartisan Member of the House. He worked without respect to party. He worked on behalf of the best interests of the United States of America and the best interests of the world community. He was, in many ways, an international citizen.

I had the opportunity to attend the North American Assembly on numerous occasions with Dante Fascell and others, and Dante Fascell was appropriately perceived as a leader in that organization, which is an adjunct of NATO.

Dante Fascell has been missed in this body since he left. When he left the Congress, he returned to practice law in his beloved Florida. I had the opportunity of talking to him on numerous occasions, and I lament his loss.

Dante Fascell was a good and decent man, who raised his hand and swore to defend the Constitution of the United States. No Member has done his duty better than Dante Fascell. We do ourselves proud by passing this legislation and honoring Dante Fascell.

Dante Fascell honored this institution and the people's House through his service. He served the people of Florida for over 30 years with such distinction that Floridians felt compelled every two years to return him to this body. I am honored to join with the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON), my good friend, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), and all the Members of this body, to say to Dante Fascell, thank you and farewell. You were honored while you were here, and you are honored still.

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK).

(Mrs. MEEK of Florida asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in very strong support of this bill, which would designate the North/South Center at the University of Miami as the Dante B. Fascell North/South Center.

My rhetorical question is, how else could it be, what other name could be designated, to cover this center? No man in this country has done more for north-south relations than the late Dante Fascell.

But what I liked most about Dante Fascell was that he was a gentleman. He was a populist. The people knew him well. I serve part of his district today, and never a day passes that someone does not say something good to me about what Dante Fascell has done.

Mr. Speaker, that will be Dante's legacy, what he has done for the people, what he has done to make relationships between the north and the south become real.

I want to thank the gentleman from New York (Chairman GILMAN) for his initiative in this matter, for it is a fitting honor for a truly great, and, most of all, humble man.

For 38 years, Dante Fascell served on the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, eight years as a full committee chairman. He devoted his whole life time to the service of this Nation and the nations of the world, a man of great insight, a man of good judgment and knowledge.

He advised presidents, but he never lost common touch, Mr. Speaker. He was sought by foreign leaders and foreign dignitaries, but he never got so full he didn't think about the people back home who had domestic problems as well.

Throughout his decades of service in this body, Mr. Fascell became more and more convinced of the need for an

American foreign policy based on cultural, educational, trade and person-to-person exchanges between nations, in addition to normal government-to-government contacts.

His vision became reality at his alma mater, the University of Miami. If it were not for Dante Fascell, you would not see the strong cemented relationships now that exist between this country and Latin America and other countries, particular in the Caribbean as well.

He is recognized as the father of the North/South Center, which today Congress has seen fit, thank God, to authorize as one of the Nation's leading institutions, focusing on improving relations between the countries of North and South America and the Caribbean.

Despite his great achievements, Dante Fascell never forgot his roots, he never forgot from whence he came. The son of Italian immigrants, he met with presidents and kings and was a recipient of the President's Medal of Honor, the highest civilian honor that can be bestowed by our country. He was, by any measure, a truly great man, but he was, nonetheless, always friendly, and I keep underlining that, open and approachable to his constituents in South Florida.

Who among you who knew him can forget the warm feeling inside just knowing that Dante was on the phone waiting to talk to you? He was welcome wherever he went.

There is not anyone in South Florida that can ever forget attending the Dante Fascell picnic on Labor Day, where they got to shake hands with the proud and the mighty as well as the low and those were aspiring to be high. He committed his efforts to solving little problems, as well as big ones. His common sense and common touch endeared him to literally generations of voters. It is not an exaggeration to say that by the end of his service in Congress, he was, as he is today, and I believe will remain forever, truly a legend in Florida and in this country.

Mr. Fascell retired from Congress the year that I was elected, in 1992, so I never had the honor of serving with Dante. But the minute I hit Capitol Hill, Dante saw fit to advise me. He never said, "CAROL, you can't do this." He said, "You strive for what you want and work hard for it, and you can get it done."

I knew Dante for many years, and he did not hide behind his desk. He came out and advised me as to what I should do. In typical Fascell fashion, he opened up his office. Right now I am sitting in my office in one of Dante Fascell's chairs. I wish, by God, I could ever reach any heights that Dante reached. But the mere fact I inherited his furniture gave me a certain amount of inspiration and motivation to do well here. As a new Member of Congress, he opened up his doors to me.

When he retired, Dante said something that bears repeating. He said, We should all be proud of whatever part we

have done to promote the American dream. For all its faults, our method of self-government allows for more tolerance of other people and their views; more compromise when our opinions differ; and more willingness to listen to other people's problems than any government I have dealt with during my long association with nations."

He was proud of this nation. He was proud of this institution. He was proud of South Florida. He was proud of South Florida. I wish more of us in this body could emulate Dante Fascell, to share in his national pride, and spend more time in making this institution one in which there is love and caring for everyone, instead of tearing it down.

Throughout his life, Dante Fascell set a very high standard for public service, which all of us should follow. I am completely confident, Mr. Speaker, that those of you here today who served with Dante Fascell will agree with me that he is one of the finest men who will ever serve in this body.

Mr. GEJDENSON. I again commend the chairman for moving this resolution. Dante Fascell was an incredible individual. We are all privileged to have served with him. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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 H.R. 432 and H.R. 68.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON) for his supportive remarks. I thank the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK) for her support and her eloquent words.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this legislation to rename the University of Miami's North/South Center in honor of my good friend Dante B. Fascell. Dante Fascell worked tirelessly to help create and fund the North/South Center during his tenure as the Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Throughout his service in Congress, Dante Fascell was a constant advocate for the cause of democracy and open dialogue among the nations of the Western Hemisphere. Our nation owes him a debt of gratitude for his years of service.

Dante Fascell's support for the creation of the North/South Center stemmed from his strong belief that the free exchange of ideas would strengthen our nation's security, competitiveness and economic vitality. The North/South Center provides a forum for research and policy analysis that is unparalleled by any other institution in the country and promotes better understanding and relations between the United States, Canada, and the nations of Latin America and the Caribbean.

In 1990, with the passage of the North/South Center Act, Congress authorized the establishment of the Center as a place for "cultural and

technical interchange between North and South." Dante Fascell's dream was to focus the country on the pursuit of policies which strengthen our national economic policy, trade practices, and relations with the countries of the Western Hemisphere.

The North/South Center plays many roles. It is a think-tank, a foundation, a public resource center and a repository of information. The work of the Center informs our national debate regarding topics of major significance, such as trade, economic growth, immigration, drug control policies, and the spread of democracy.

There is no greater way that we can thank Dante Fascell for his vital contributions to the North/South Center than naming it in his honor. Dante Fascell served his constituents in Florida and the nation as a whole for 36 years. He is, indeed, worthy of this tribute and I think that this is an excellent way to honor his memory.

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support for H.R. 432—a bill to designate the North-South Center as the Dante B. Fascell North-South Center. This legislation is a fitting tribute to a man who devoted his life toward promoting cultural understanding throughout the world.

South Florida was deeply saddened to learn of Dante's passing on November 28, 1998. Dante, the son of Italian immigrants and a World War II veteran, became a legend in South Florida during his 38-year career in Congress. He is remembered as a powerful, yet kind political figure who left an enduring mark on the Everglades, the Florida Keys, and world affairs.

An advisor to eight Presidents, Dante remained a humble man who demonstrated the greatest qualities of any public servant. Reflecting on his service upon his retirement from Congress, Dante said, "We all should be proud of whatever part we have done to promote the American dream."

Dante held a strong belief in American democracy saying, "For all its faults, our method of self-government allows for more tolerance of other people and their views, more compromise when our opinions differ and more willingness to listen to other people's problems than any government I have dealt with during my long association with other nations." Last October, President Clinton presented Dante with the Presidential Medal of Freedom—our nation's highest civilian honor—calling him a "man of reason and conscience" who was "courageous in war and public service."

Mr. Speaker, it is entirely appropriate that Congress dedicate Miami's North-South Center to Dante Fascell. This designation reflects Dante's impact on the Caribbean and Central America, both of which he felt were direct extensions of South Florida. Among his most famous statements, Dante often said, "When Central America sneezes, Miami catches cold." The North-South Center is a living extension of Dante's long-held belief that cultural and economic understanding between the Americas is essential to our mutual prosperity. I rise in full support of H.R. 432 and urge my colleagues' unanimous support.

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 432, a bill to name the North-South Center after our former colleague, the late Dante Fascell.

It is fitting that Congress is naming the North-South Center, which Dante helped found, in his honor. During his long and distin-

guished career in the House, Dante used his position as chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee to promote understanding and cooperation between nations of the Western Hemisphere. To advance this view, in 1984 Dante helped establish the North-South Center, located in Miami. This educational institution helps promote better relations between the United States and the other nations of the Western Hemisphere through cooperative study, training and research. Today, the North-South Center plays an essential role in the conduct of American diplomacy.

Mr. Speaker, one of Chairman Fascell's top priorities in Congress was to promote closer relations among our allies in this hemisphere. Dante was also a tireless fighter against tyranny and oppression in Latin America and the Caribbean. Since the North-South Center is essentially carrying on Dante's work, it is fitting that this organization be named in his honor. I hope the naming of the North-South Center will remind future generations, and especially South Floridians, the gratitude we owe Dante Fascell for his tireless efforts.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 432.

Mr. GILMAN. 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 New York (Mr. GILMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 432.

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 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

PERMITTING USE OF CAPITOL ROTUNDA FOR CEREMONY COMMEMORATING DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE FOR VICTIMS OF HOLOCAUST

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on House Administration be discharged from further consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 19) permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS).

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, this concurrent resolution is one that is presented annually, and, up until today, at least for a decade, and I believe this resolution has been requested for two decades, at least for a decade, it was sponsored by the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. Yates.

Sid Yates is no longer with us, so it is my privilege to offer this resolution

with the ranking Member of the Committee on House Administration, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON), the gentleman from Ohio, (Chairman REGULA), the gentleman from New York (Chairman GILMAN), the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE), and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS).

Mr. Speaker, this year's celebration is one that strikes a theme directly remembering the period just prior to the United States entering World War II and the tumultuous nature of international relations at the time. The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council is entrusted with sponsoring appropriate observances of the days of remembrance, and the U.S. Capitol rotunda ceremony is part of that effort.

The theme of the 1999 commemoration is the 60th anniversary of the voyage of the S.S. *St. Louis*. In 1939, if you will all recall, Hitler's invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939, is usually marked as the actual beginning of the Second World War, the *St. Louis* sailed. It had as its passengers 936 Jewish refugees. It left Europe and moved toward the United States, where it was refused entry, and it was refused entry in Cuba. The refugees then returned to Western Europe.

Then, of course, we know that following the invasion of Poland, Hitler and the German forces moved south, invading the Netherlands, Belgium and then France. These individuals, who were simply looking for freedom, found themselves refugees under the National Socialist rule and subject to the Holocaust.

The Survivors Registry is currently attempting to document the fate of the 936 passengers of the *St. Louis*. Until we are able to document the actual fate of these individuals, it is entirely appropriate on the 60th anniversary of these people, simply looking for freedom and being rejected by the country that calls itself the Beacon of Freedom, to remember the Holocaust in the way that I think strengthens this Nation's commitment to democracy and human rights.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, continuing my reservation, I am pleased to yield to my good friend, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), the chairman of the Committee on International Relations.

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Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I want to commend the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) for bringing this measure to the floor at this time.

The commemoration of the Holocaust is so important, and the fact that we do it here in the Capitol building, in the Rotunda, is an extremely important reminder to the entire world of the importance that we place on the Holocaust.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to support the House Concurrent Resolution, H. Con. Res. 19, authorizing the