

The Griffith Project forms an integral part of a much larger water delivery system built separately by the Southern Nevada Water Authority and its constituent agencies. It consists of the intake facilities, pumping plants, et cetera required to provide water from Lake Meade for distribution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I fully support the passage of S. 986. I note that the Department of the Interior has raised concerns regarding the effect of the bill on the Lake Meade National Recreation area. It is my understanding that the rights of way provisions in S. 986, while generous, are intended to provide the Southern Nevada Water Authority with reasonable access to project facilities across Federal lands.

The Secretary of the Interior has responsibility for protecting and managing the Lake Mead National Recreation area, and I would expect the Secretary's participation in negotiations involving rights of way over Federal lands which provide ample opportunities to ensure that those resources are fully protected.

Madam Speaker, I would like to say that I want to commend the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS), my good friend, and the good senator from Nevada for his bipartisan support of this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS), the author of the House companion bill to S. 986.

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased today to rise in support of S. 986, the Griffith Project Prepayment and Conveyance Act.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) for yielding me the time with which to speak and to thank the chairman of the committee, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from California (Mr. DOOLITTLE) for their leadership and assistance with this bill and also to thank my friend and colleague, the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) for his courtesies and assistance in this bill as well.

The Griffith Project, formerly known as the Southern Nevada Project, was first authorized in 1965, and directed to Secretary of Interior to construct, operate and maintain the project in order to deliver water to Clark County, Nevada.

With the phenomenal growth of the Las Vegas Valley over the past several decades, and the associated need for additional water, the Griffith Project has become but a small part of the overall system used to deliver water to the Las Vegas metropolitan area.

With the strong support of the State and local government to increase and improve the water delivery and treatment system for the Las Vegas Valley, it is projected that the federally funded share of the overall system will decrease to approximately 6 percent when completed.

The time has come, Madam Speaker, for the title of the Griffith Project to be transferred to the local ownership, and this is the goal of S. 986. S. 986 will convey to the Southern Nevada Water Authority all right, title and interest of the United States in and to the Griffith Project.

This conveyance is subject to the payment by the Southern Nevada Water Authority of the net present value of the remaining repayment obligation.

This repayment obligation will be determined under financial terms and conditions that are similar to other title transfer laws which have been enacted on other projects.

The repayment obligation will also be governed by the guidance from the Department of Interior and the office of Management and Budget. This conveyance will simplify the overall operation of the system for the Southern Nevada Water Authority by removing some of the duplicative efforts required by having dual owners.

For example, a pump station in the Griffith Project portion of the system requires repairs or maintenance, then Project employees must notify the Bureau of Reclamation that a repair is needed.

Madam Speaker, then they must describe the exact nature of the work to be performed, obtain permission for a crew to perform the work and schedule the work to be done at such a time when the Bureau of Reclamation employees can be present just to watch or oversee the repair or maintenance being performed by the Project employees.

When the Project work is completed, the Bureau of Reclamation then sends a local bill to the water authority for the time spent by its personnel simply watching the work being done by the Project employees.

Madam Speaker, we should note that this could be as simple as replacing just a valve handle, even though there are no leaks or any technical problems with the system. Truly, Madam Speaker, this is a tremendous waste of Bureau of Reclamation time and an unnecessary and expensive cost burden for the people of Las Vegas.

In summary, this is a rather straightforward bill which will result in a much simplified and improved operation of the water supply and treatment facility for the Las Vegas Valley.

Madam Speaker, I, along with the senior Senator from Nevada, have worked with the Bureau of Reclamation to resolve their concerns, and we believe this is the right approach for Southern Nevada.

I do understand the right of way issues that remain and will work with the administration and those concerned with that right of way issue to resolve those problems, and I would ask my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill and pass S. 986.

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

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time as well.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 986.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING VIETNAMESE AMERICANS AND OTHERS WHO SEEK TO IMPROVE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CONDITIONS IN VIETNAM

Mr. BEREUTER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 322) expressing the sense of the Congress regarding Vietnamese Americans and others who seek to improve social and political conditions in Vietnam, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 322

Whereas the Armed Forces of the United States and the Armed Forces of the Republic of Vietnam fought together for the causes of freedom and democracy in the former Republic of Vietnam;

Whereas the Armed forces of the Republic of Vietnam suffered enormous casualties, including over 250,000 deaths and more than 750,000 wounded between 1961 and 1975 for the cause of freedom;

Whereas many officers and enlisted personnel suffered imprisonment and forcible reeducation at the direction of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam;

Whereas on June 19 of each year, the Vietnamese American community traditionally commemorates those who gave their lives in the struggle to preserve the freedom of the former Republic of Vietnam;

Whereas June 19 serves as a reminder to Vietnamese Americans that the ideals and values of democracy are precious and should be treasured; and

Whereas the Vietnamese American community plays a critical role in raising international awareness of human rights concerns regarding the Socialist Republic of Vietnam: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) commends the sacrifices of those who served in the Armed Forces of the Republic of Vietnam; and

(2) applauds the contributions of all individuals whose efforts have focused, and continue to focus, international attention on human rights violations in Vietnam.

Amend the title so as to read: "Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the sacrifices of individuals who served in the Armed Forces of the former Republic of Vietnam."

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BEREUTER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Con. Res. 322.

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

There was no objection.

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

(Mr. BEREUTER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks, and include extraneous material.)

Mr. BEREUTER. Madam Speaker, this Member rises in strong support of H. Con. Res. 322, a resolution that recognizes the sacrifices made by Vietnamese Americans who served in the armed forces of the former Republic of Vietnam. This Member congratulates the efforts of the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS) to recognize the Vietnamese who fought bravely side by side with U.S. forces in Vietnam and to applaud all those whose efforts focus international attention on human rights violations in Vietnam. This Member is pleased to be a cosponsor of the legislation.

Each year on June 19, the Vietnamese-American community traditionally commemorates those who gave their lives in the struggle to preserve the freedom of the former Republic of Vietnam. During the war, the armed forces of the Republic of Vietnam suffered enormous casualties including over 250,000 killed and more than 750,000 wounded. They continued to suffer after the fighting ended when many were imprisoned and forced to undergo so-called reeducation. They continue their efforts even now playing an important role in raising international awareness of human rights violations in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Moreover, Vietnamese Americans, many of whom arrived as refugees with little but the clothes on their backs, have made tremendous achievements and have contributed greatly to this country.

Earlier this year, this body approved H. Con. Res. 295 on Human Rights and Political Oppression in Vietnam. There

was inevitably some duplication in the two initiatives. Therefore this Member, with the concurrence of the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS), the sponsor of the resolution, amended H. Con. Res. 322 only to eliminate duplication. The resolution now focuses on commemorating the service and sacrifices of the former members of the armed forces of the Republic of Vietnam.

This Member urges all his colleagues to support this laudable resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I would like to strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation. I certainly want to commend the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), the chairman of our committee, for bringing this resolution to the floor. I also want to commend the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, for making the proper changes to this resolution that is now before us.

Madam Speaker, while Vietnam has made a bit of progress in the past few years in opening up its society, we need to maintain pressure on the Vietnamese government to move more aggressively towards democracy.

This resolution recognizes the important role that the more than 1 million Vietnamese Americans in our nation play in raising the awareness of the Vietnam human rights record.

The resolution also recognizes the sacrifices made by the armed forces of the United States and the former Republic of Vietnam in fighting to bring democracy and freedom to that nation. We are right to get the Congress on record on all of these issues.

I want to note also, Madam Speaker, the tremendous contributions 1 million Vietnamese Americans make to the betterment of our Nation becoming mainstream Americans. They are such an industrious people in education, business, and all walks of life. I want to commend the 1 million Vietnamese Americans that we have who are members of our Nation.

Yet with all this, I think we can also recognize that their hearts are still with the mother country, hopefully, in some way, and somehow that the greater sense of democracy will come about with the current administration of Vietnam in that country.

Madam Speaker, I do urge my colleagues to support this resolution. Again, I thank the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) for managing this legislation on the floor.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BEREUTER. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gen-

tleman from California (Mr. BILBRAY), who has followed Vietnamese-American relations very carefully and has a direct knowledge of the contributions of the Vietnamese-American community to this country in his part of the Nation.

Mr. BILBRAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 322. I want to publicly thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from New York (Chairman GILMAN), but most importantly, because he is here today, the gentleman from Nebraska (Chairman BEREUTER) for allowing this resolution to come to the floor.

Madam Speaker, many of us from all over the country know about the problems and the trials and tribulations of individuals who immigrated to this country from the Republic of Vietnam.

I think that it's appropriate to repeat why so many Vietnamese fought and died for freedom and democracy in their country. Over 250,000 Vietnamese from the Republic of Vietnam died in this struggle. Let me say this sincerely, they not only died for themselves, but also in the struggle against tyrannies, against oppression.

Frankly, I think too often we talk about a lot of inconsequential issues, but we need to remember that there is a long black wall down at the other end of the Mall. Many Americans and Vietnamese Americans walk that wall and trace out names. I think too often that, when we talk about that long black wall, we think about it as something that is in the past, something that is over, something that somebody else did or another generation did.

Madam Speaker, I am here to remind us all that the war may be over; but the struggle for what that wall symbolizes, the struggle for what the Vietnamese people in the Republic of Vietnam were fighting for, the struggle for what American men and women fought and died for is still going on today.

There are still individuals in Vietnam who are being tagged as "hard core", and who are in reeducation facilities. Now I think we all know what kind of catch word "reeducation" means. It basically means, if one does not think like the government, the government will teach one how to rethink so one thinks only their way.

Madam Speaker, I think that, as we address this resolution today, we should commit ourselves to the fact that the men and women that are symbolized on our wall at the other end of the Mall and the men and women who died from the Republic of Vietnam will be remembered by our constant quest to make sure that this struggle for freedom does continue.

I want to say, though, too, I guess too often we talk about "hyphenated Americans", and maybe being a son of a so-called "hyphenated American", I am always reminded that we are really not talking about Vietnamese. We are talking about Americans who came from Vietnam. We are talking about

people that have made, not only a great struggle in Vietnam fighting Communism, but also a great struggle and great success at becoming new Americans, at becoming what this country has always promised the rest of the world: that if one works hard, one studies hard, one strives to do their best, if one is willing to make a contribution to this free society, this free society will reward one through one's own sweat of one's own brow.

I think that we all need to remind ourselves that these immigrants who came from the Republic of Vietnam, and as an example to all of us no matter what our race, what our creed, what our gender, that there still is the opportunity for those who are willing to work hard, to strive, and to contribute.

In closing, in San Diego County, we have a very large population of individuals who emigrated from the Republic of Vietnam, and their children now are as American as anyone who has been here for 200, 300 years. I am very proud that, when I go to review ROTC units, when we see the military young men and women lining up in San Diego, we will see the sons and the daughters of men and women who fought for their homeland and emigrated from the Republic of Vietnam in the worst of circumstances, but have learned the best of lessons both from their country of the past and their newly adopted country of the future.

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

Madam Speaker, I also want to compliment the gentleman from California (Mr. BILBRAY) for his comments on this piece of legislation.

I should also note the fact that 58,000 American lives were lost in that terrible conflict. I think, if we are to assess what lesson our Nation has learned from Vietnam, I can say that, if we are ever to commit our men and women in uniform to engage in a war against enemy forces, our Nation's political and military leaders must all be committed to one purpose and one purpose only, and that is to win the war, nothing less, nothing more.

There is no such thing as a half-baked war, Madam Speaker. We are there to win, or do not waste the resources or the valuable blood of the men and women in uniform. That is probably the lesson I learned from Vietnam, Madam Speaker.

I think more important, in essence, is the fact we have 1 million Vietnamese Americans who believe in democracy, who believe in our form of government, who believe in the system where everybody is given better treatment, that no one is above the law. That is what America is about.

I want to commend again the many Vietnamese Americans who have made tremendous sacrifice, not only for their country, but their willingness to come here and make tremendous contributions for the betterment of our own Nation.

Again, I want to thank the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) for managing this piece of legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) for his insightful statement. As a Vietnam-era veteran, I certainly appreciate the wisdom of what he has just said regarding appropriate foreign and security policy.

I would also like to compliment the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. BILBRAY) for his insightful statement, very much focused on the many contributions that Vietnamese, who happen now to be American citizens, are making to this country and to all of those who are striving for citizenship.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), vice chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific.

Madam Speaker, I have on two occasions seen the rapport and the attention that the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) gives to Asians who are living in his district, immigrants, refugees, and to those many who have become citizens actively participating in the economy and the politics of California.

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, the gentleman from Nebraska (Chairman BEREUTER) is the author of this particular legislation, of this approach, of which I am a cosponsor. I want to thank him for introducing this bill.

It is important that we honor those in the Armed Forces in the United States and in the armed forces of the Republic of Vietnam who fought together. These brave individuals risked their lives for liberty, and their actions should be honored 25 years now after the fall of Saigon. We must remember their deeds while working for increased political and economic freedom in the socialist Republic of Vietnam.

I recently visited Vietnam. During my trip there, I paid a visit to the Venerable Thich Quang Do, who is the 72-year-old leader of the banned Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam.

Because of his peaceful protests, those protests that he engaged in in support of political freedom and religious freedom, Thich Quang Do has been imprisoned and exiled. Even though he was under surveillance, Thich Quang Do welcomed my visit.

My private visits to him and Le Quang Liem, another dissident, were quickly denounced by the government. It is obvious the Vietnamese government is sensitive to international criticism. This obligates the United States to speak out constantly against the Vietnamese government's human rights violations. We may not always realize it, but protests by the American government and by the American people

do help the cause of freedom in Vietnam. Silence is no alternative.

This international criticism has come about in large part due to the tireless work of the Vietnamese-American communities. Their efforts to raise awareness about human rights and about the violations of basic freedoms of Vietnam have a critical, critical effect.

It is imperative that we continue pressuring for increased openness in Vietnam. A two-track policy of engaging the Vietnamese government on economic reform on one hand while pressuring it on its political and religious repression, that approach requires diplomatic finesse. But if done right, it promises to bring long-sought freedom to the Vietnamese people, freedom for which many Americans have sacrificed.

I want to commend the gentleman from Nebraska (Chairman BEREUTER) for his authorship of this two-pronged approach. We all hope that it is successful in engaging and changing Vietnam.

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

Mr. BEREUTER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to compliment the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), who just spoke, for focusing on the policy implications and the direction that we should take in our relationship with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Certainly all of us want to work closely with our distinguished former colleague, Ambassador Pete Peterson, and we have been doing that on a variety of programs and votes in this effort here.

We would hope that our policies and actions regarding the government of Vietnam might bring some better results. We have at the current time trade negotiations ongoing in this city, and we hope that, in fact, the kind of response from the Vietnamese will be forthcoming and will result in a better human rights record in Vietnam and an opportunity, therefore, to improve our relationship with that country.

I thank my colleague for his outstanding statement, I thank the gentleman from American Samoa for his role, and I particularly wish to thank my staff director from the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, Mike Ennis, for his outstanding work in this effort, in working with the staff of the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS).

Madam Speaker, I urge support of the resolution.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution commending the Vietnamese American Community for its work in bringing democratic principles and practices to the people of Vietnam. Social equality is the backbone of the American government and a fundamental principle in every democratic government.

As the leading democratic country in the world, the United States should take care to

applaud the efforts of all people who have worked to spread democracy throughout the earth including the contributions of the Vietnamese American people.

After the fall of Saigon, the Vietnam's government punished those Vietnamese who had allied with the U.S. North Vietnam forces placed hundreds of thousands of southerners in prisons, re-education camps and economic zones in efforts to remove subversion and to consolidate the country.

The Communists created a society of suspicion that hounded prisoners even after their release. The men were treated as second class citizens. Families were deprived of employment and their children could not attend college. Police interrogated families if ex-prisoners were not seen for more than a day.

Prisoners were considered expendable, worked to death and forced to walk in rows down old minefields to find out where they were. Daughters of South Vietnamese military men were sometimes forced by destitution to become prostitutes.

The re-education camps remained the predominant devise of social control in the late 1980s. Considered to be institutions where rehabilitation was accomplished through education and socially constructive labor, the camps were used to incarcerate members of certain social classes in order to coerce them to accept and conform to the new social norms.

Sources say that up to 200,000 South Vietnamese spent at least a year in the camps, which range from model institutions visited by foreigners to remote jungle shacks where inmates died of malnutrition and disease. As late as 1987, Vietnamese officials stated that about 7,000 people remained in re-education camps.

The first wave of refugees, in 1975, had no established Vietnamese American communities to rely upon for help. Assistance came from government programs, private individuals, nonprofit organizations and churches. Vietnamese men who held high positions in their homeland took whatever jobs they could get. Vietnamese woman became full-time wage earners, often for the first time.

Most refugees in the first wave were young, well-educated urban elites, professionals and people with technical training. Despite the fact that many first wave arrivals were from privileged backgrounds, few were well prepared to take up new life in America. The majority did not speak English and all found themselves in the midst of a strange culture.

The refugees who arrived in the US often suffered traumatic experiences while escaping Vietnam by sea. Those caught escaping after the fall of Saigon, including children, were jailed. Almost every Vietnamese American family has a member who arrived as a refugee or who died en route.

Many Vietnamese Americans still refuse to accept the current communist government of their former homeland. For many, the pain, anger and hatred felt toward the communist regime that forced them into exile remains fresh. Fiercely proud of their heritage, yet left without a homeland, many Vietnamese Americans have vowed never to acknowledge that Vietnam is now one communist country.

The story of Le Van Me and wife Sen is a typical one of many refugees. Me was a lieutenant colonel in the South Vietnamese Army when they came to the U.S. They spent time

in a refugee camp in Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, until the government found a church in Warsaw, Missouri, to sponsor them. In the small rural town, Me worked as a janitor for the church and all the parishioners helped the family in any way they could—giving them clothes, canned preserves, even working together to renovate a house where the family could live.

Me took classes at the community college. After 11 months, the family moved to California, drawn by the jobs rumored to be there. Me got a job as an electronic technician and started attending a neighborhood community college again. Sen was determined not to use food stamps for longer than two weeks. Within three years, they bought a three bedroom house in north San Jose. As Me explained "You really don't know what freedom is until you nearly die fighting for it."

Saigon fell 25 years ago, but the memories are still raw for many Vietnamese people. The exodus from Vietnam since 1975 has created a generation of exiles. The efforts of everyone, especially Vietnamese-Americans, to bring democracy must be recognized. We should hesitate no longer to make it known that the United States Congress proudly recognizes these efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I urge each of my colleagues to support this Resolution.

Mr. GILMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 322 expressing the sense of Congress regarding the sacrifices of individuals who served in the Armed Forces of the former Republic of Vietnam.

I want to thank the gentleman from Virginia, Mr. DAVIS, for introducing this resolution and for his continuing commitment to human rights and democracy in Vietnam.

I want to thank the chairman of the Asia-Pacific Subcommittee, Mr. BEREUTER, for his work in crafting the final language in this measure.

Madam Speaker, it is unfortunate that 10 years after the end of the cold war, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam is still a one-party state ruled and controlled by a Communist Party which represses political and religious freedoms and commits numerous human rights abuses.

It is appropriate that we recognize those who fought to oppose this tyranny which has fallen across Vietnam and those who continue the vigil of struggling for freedom and democracy there today.

Accordingly, I urge Hanoi to cease its violations of human rights and to undertake the long-overdue liberalization of its moribund and stifling political and economic system. The people of Vietnam clearly deserve better.

Finally, I call upon the Vietnamese government to do all it can—unilaterally—to assist in bringing our POW/MIAs home to American soil.

I want to praise this resolution for pointing out the injustice that tragically exists in Vietnam today and those who have—and are—still opposing it.

Once again I want to commend Mr. DAVIS for introducing this resolution and his abiding dedication to improving the lives of the people of Vietnam.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of this measure and I strongly urge my colleagues to support it and send a strong signal to Hanoi that it is time to free the minds and spirits of the Vietnamese people.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 322, which honors the wonderful contributions of our nation's Vietnamese-Americans in raising awareness of human rights abuses in Vietnam. I thank my colleagues Mr. DAVIS and Ms. SANCHEZ for their hard work on this issue. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this important resolution, and urge my colleagues' overwhelming support today.

I represent San Jose, California, a community greatly enriched by the presence of immigrants. Quite a few of my constituents came to San Jose as refugees, escaping the brutal and oppressive political regime in Hanoi. I worked with those refugees as a Santa Clara County Supervisor, and many of those people have become my friends throughout the years. I believe that they have a unique perspective on the state of our country's relationship with Vietnam that is of immense value.

A quarter century after the fall of Saigon, the Communist government continues to oppress its citizens and violate their basic human rights. Stories of political repression, religious persecutions and extra-judicial detentions are all too common. Many Vietnamese-Americans have worked tirelessly to bring these violations to light, here in the United States and to the international community. As a result of their extraordinary dedication, awareness of the abuses of the Vietnamese government is growing exponentially.

I applaud their continued effort to bring democratic ideals and practices to Vietnam. This resolution is a small token of our gratitude for the hard work of the 1 million Vietnamese-Americans living in our country. I am proud to support it.

Mr. BEREUTER. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and 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 Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 322, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The title of the concurrent resolution was amended so as to read: "Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the sacrifices of individuals who served in the Armed Forces of the former Republic of Vietnam."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4 p.m.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 4 p.m.

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AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro