

York, Pennsylvania. It was our first taste of snow. Coming from Havana, we did not get too much of that.

On the weekends, when we could put together the little pennies we had, I remember taking weekend trips with my parents, where we got to see the many historic sites that Pennsylvania had to offer. For me, Pennsylvania will always be just like this wonderful city, and New York also, symbolic images of the freedom and democracy and the liberty that we enjoy so much in our country, and we sometimes take for granted.

I again commend the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) for introducing this important proclamation and for working hard to ensure its passage. In light of the challenges facing our Nation today, Madam Speaker, it is certainly appropriate in this time for Congress to reaffirm our commitment to religious liberty and human rights, and it is certainly an appropriate time for all of us as Americans to reflect upon the principles underlying each of these three important historical symbols of our democracy.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to support this resolution.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 254.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIONAL WORDS CAN HEAL DAY

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 235) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the establishment of a National Words Can Heal Day, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 235

Whereas the Jerusalem Fund has launched a Words Can Heal Campaign on September 4, 2001, to reduce verbal violence and gossip and to promote the value and practice of ethical speech in order to improve our democracy, build mutual respect, honor, and dignity in our country;

Whereas words used unfairly, whether expressed through excessive anger, unfair criticism, public and private humiliation, bigoted comments, cruel jokes, or rumors and malicious gossip, can traumatize and damage many lives;

Whereas an unwillingness or inability of many parents to control what they say when angry causes the infliction of potentially damaging verbal abuse on many children;

Whereas bigoted words are often used to dehumanize entire religious, racial, and ethnic groups, and can inflame hostility;

Whereas the spreading of negative and often unfair, untrue, or exaggerated com-

ments or rumors about others often inflicts irrevocable damage on the victim of such rumors;

Whereas the Words Can Heal Campaign will raise awareness regarding the damage that can be caused by destructive language; and

Whereas the House of Representatives supports the goals of the Words Can Heal Campaign: Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) the House of Representatives supports the goals of the Words Can Heal Campaign; and

(2) the President should issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to support the goals of such campaign with appropriate programs and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 235.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, the Words Can Heal Campaign, sponsored by the Jerusalem Fund, is a visionary national media and educational campaign designed to reduce verbal violence and gossip. The goal of the campaign is to promote the value and the practice of ethical speech in order to improve our democracy and to build mutual respect, honor and dignity to our country.

The Words Can Heal Campaign launched a media campaign on September 4, 2001, right here in our Nation's Capital. The campaign includes posters in D.C. Metro stations and bus shelters. It includes advertisements in newspapers, such as Roll Call, and publications such as the National Journal, Congressional Quarterly, and television ads on all major networks.

The campaign also includes educational modules for use in schools, in companies, community centers, government offices, houses of worship, every building throughout the Nation. We can all practice and participate in this initiative to improve our society and make a difference in the lives of millions of Americans, one word at a time.

In the aftermath of the tragedy of September 11, the Words Can Heal Campaign is now more important than ever. We must all be committed to unite and strengthen America through the power of words.

Each and every one of us have been touched by the events of September 11, and we as Americans have pulled together as a country to show our true

colors. Americans reached out to each other with kind words and helping hands. We embraced each other with words of comfort. And through these difficult days, we as a country have come together in fellowship with expressions of kindness and caring.

As we work our way back to normalcy, let us continue the outpouring of concern that we have shown each other. We should have a new Golden Rule: Say unto others as you would want said unto you.

Mother Teresa once said, "Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless." Her words capture the essence of the Words Can Heal Campaign. Words are powerful. Words can build love, or they can destroy it. Words can be encouraging, or damaging.

We must choose what we say carefully because we cannot take back our words. Once something is said, it can never be erased. We have all said something which later we have wished that we could take back. The Words Can Heal Pledge is one way to avoid that terrible feeling when you regret what you have said.

It says, "I pledge to think more about the words that I use. I will try to replace words that hurt with words that encourage, engage and enrich. I will try to see how gossip hurts people, including myself, and work to eliminate it from my life. I will not become discouraged when I am unable to choose words perfectly, because making the world a better place is hard work. And I am helping to do that, one word at a time."

The Words Can Heal Pledge helps us to remember what someone says to you can change your entire day.

Words are contagious. A friendly "hello" can spread from one colleague to another, from one brother to sister, one friend to another, from a stranger to a stranger. We must work to avoid harsh words and gossip which makes everyone feel badly.

We can all play a role in this undertaking to improve our society and make a difference in the lives of millions of Americans. Our ability to voice views freely and resolve differences through dialogue and persuasion is fundamental to our American system of democracy, and for that process to work, our words must reflect mutual respect, truth and fairness.

As our dialogue in Congress needs to be civil and ethical, so do communications throughout society.

Please join me in support of the Jerusalem Fund's Words Can Heal Campaign, along with the Executive Director of the Words Can Heal Campaign, Rabbi Irwin Katsof, whom I had the opportunity to meet along with my husband and children in our trip to Jerusalem and Tel Aviv this August, and Rabbi Chaim Feld; also President and CEO of the IAC Group, Ana Maria Fernandez Haar; Senior Fellow of Foreign and Defense Policy Studies, Dr. Jeane Kirkpatrick; New York Mayor

Rudolph Giuliani; and Chairman and CEO of Radio Unica, Joaquin Blaya. Both Joaquin Blaya and Ana Maria Fernandez Haar joined Rabbi Katsof and my family on our trip to Israel this summer.

We congratulate and thank all of the cosponsors of House Resolution 235, because now, more than ever, words are vital to the American community.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, this resolution is somewhat unusual, but I want to congratulate the gentlewoman from Florida for having the insight and the feeling and the sensitivity and the recognition that sometimes behavior can be taught and that we can move in the direction that we choose to go.

This resolution, which expresses the sense of Congress regarding a National Words Can Heal Day, seeks to reduce verbal violence and gossip. Imagine, if we could reduce gossip, then obviously that would help to reduce verbal violence. The goal of this effort is to promote the value and practice of ethical speech in order to improve our democracy, build respect, honor and dignity in our country.

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The essence of this campaign, which was launched on Tuesday, September 4, right here in Washington, D.C., is reflected in this simple pledge: "I pledge to think more about the words I use. I will try to see how gossip hurts people, including myself, and work to eliminate it from my life. I will try to replace words that hurt with words that encourage, engage, and enrich. I will not become discouraged when I am unable to choose words perfectly, because making the world a better place is hard work. I am pledging to do that one word at a time."

We can all play a role in this effort to improve our society and make a difference in our homes, our schools, our communities, and in the workplace by taking this pledge.

As I read through it, I could not help but recall the teachings of my mother, who always told us that you can catch far more bees with honey than with vinegar. Or she might say, see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil. Or she might admonish us to speak about others as we would have them speak of us. Then she would force us to read the book of Proverbs, with all of the wisdom that it contains. So it seems to me that the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) has taken those kinds of teachings and expressions, placed them into a resolution that all Members of this body can adopt; and I would urge my colleagues to take this pledge and, in doing so, support this resolution.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I want to thank the executive directors of the Words Can Heal Campaign, Rabbi Irwin Katsof and Rabbi Chaim Feld, whom I had the pleasure of knowing during my trip to Israel. When they first came to me and showed me their Words Can Heal Campaign pledge, I said that I wanted to get involved in a meaningful way and I thought of this resolution as a way to do it, because words can make a difference, and that is the pledge that we make one word at a time.

In the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attacks against the United States, we have borne witness to the ability of words to help in the healing process, as friends and allies offered their condolences and their support to our efforts. We have also felt the brunt of the verbal attacks by enemies of the United States who rejoice in the violence perpetrated against us.

Words matter. The ability to voice views freely and resolve differences through dialogue and persuasion is fundamental to our American style of government and our democracy, as it is to world peace. To reiterate, for that process to work well, our words must reflect mutual respect, truth, understanding, and fairness.

The Words Can Heal effort is a strong first step toward a future generation of Americans and global leaders who will value the power of words and practice ethical speech. It starts with one day. This one day can then become a week, a month, a year, until it is ingrained in our character, in our nature, in our human nature. The potential is limitless. The possibilities are awe-inspiring.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this resolution. The hope for a better future begins today, one word at a time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 235, as amended.

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

The title of the resolution was amended so as to read: "Resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives in support of the goals of the Words Can Heal Campaign".

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT MEN AND WOMEN OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE HAVE DONE AN OUTSTANDING JOB OF DELIVERING THE MAIL DURING THIS TIME OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY

Mr. MCHUGH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 257) expressing the sense of the Con-

gress that the men and women of the United States Postal Service have done an outstanding job of delivering the mail during this time of national emergency, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 257

Whereas, on September 11, 2001, evil acts of terrorism were perpetrated against the people of the United States and all humanity;

Whereas, in October 2001, reports of anthrax-tainted letters began to surface;

Whereas the United States Postal Service handles approximately 680,000,000 pieces of mail each day;

Whereas our Nation's postal and delivery sector accounts for approximately 8 percent of our gross national product;

Whereas, since September 11, 2001, the United States Postal Service has delivered more than 20,000,000,000 pieces of mail;

Whereas 2 employees of the United States Postal Service have died as a result of anthrax infection;

Whereas a number of employees of the United States Postal Service are being treated for anthrax-like symptoms;

Whereas the more than 800,000 men and women who work for the United States Postal Service have done an outstanding job of collecting, processing, sorting, and delivering the mail during this time of national emergency; and

Whereas the delivery of anthrax through the mail is an attempt to disrupt our ability to communicate through the mail, and threatens the viability of the postal system: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) it is the sense of the Congress that the men and women of the United States Postal Service have done an outstanding job of collecting, processing, sorting, and delivering the mail during this time of national emergency; and

(2) Congress will work with the United States Postal Service to assure the safety and well-being of postal workers as they carry out their duties and responsibilities, and of the general public.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCHUGH. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the concurrent resolution now being considered.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, H. Con. Res. 257, as introduced by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), expresses the sense of Congress that the men and women of the United States Postal Service have done an outstanding job delivering the mail during this time of national emergency. I am very, very pleased, as I know the gentleman from Illinois is, that 47 of our colleagues here in the