

support necessary to protect American interests.

But we do need to take advantage of this time to look at the underlying act. It needs to be brought up to date with current technologies in several ways. For instance, it is no secret that today people can routinely purchase off the shelf more computing power than was used to create the hydrogen bomb. We are all familiar with stories, not just apocryphal, where the technology in children's games, the Game Boys, commonly used by junior high students, could have been potentially subjected to this legislation in the past.

We also have to be very, very careful that we do not have unintended consequences by clamping down in an unrealistic fashion on American industry. We might well have the effect of diverting business to other countries that do not enjoy the same range of protections that we have got, and it would not just be a case of hamstringing American industry, although I think all of us are concerned about the impact it may have on the technology-based industries that are the cornerstone of so many economies around the country and is part of our dominant position in the future.

It could have the effect of encouraging further business for foreign sources of competition that would leapfrog past us in terms of technology so we would lose our advantage, we would encourage other states, some that may not be friendly to the United States or others that might be a little looser in terms of how they sell the technology, so that at the end of the day, by being unrealistic and too bureaucratic in our structure of this act, we will have not just lost business for the United States companies but we will have seen this technology shift to other parts of the world so that we will actually be less safe.

But I do think that the extension that my colleague has talked about that is embodied in this legislation is a good window. We have had, with the leadership of the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), other members of the committee, we have had productive discussions. We have laid the foundation to be able to do this properly in the future.

I hope we would be fair to American industry, be fair to American security interests, and move forward with the extension and come back in an expeditious fashion that will meet our needs now and in the future.

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

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. 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 California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3189.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING EFFORTS OF PEOPLE OF UNITED STATES OF KOREAN ANCESTRY TO REUNITE WITH FAMILY MEMBERS IN NORTH KOREA

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 77) expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the efforts of people of the United States of Korean ancestry to reunite with their family members in North Korea.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 77

Whereas on June 25, 1950, North Korea invaded South Korea, thereby initiating the Korean War, leading to the loss of countless lives, and further polarizing a world engulfed by the Cold War;

Whereas in the aftermath of the Korean War, the division of the Koreans at the 38th parallel separated millions of Koreans from their families, tearing at the heart of every mother, father, daughter, and son;

Whereas on June 13 and 14, 2000, in the first summit conference ever held between leaders of North and South Korea, South Korean President Kim Dae Jung met with North Korean leader Kim Jong Il in Pyongyang, North Korea's capital;

Whereas in a historic joint declaration, South Korean President Kim Dae Jung and North Korean leader Kim Jong Il made an important promise to promote economic cooperation and hold reunions of South Korean and North Korean citizens;

Whereas such reunions have been held in North and South Korea since the signing of the joint declaration, reuniting family members who had not seen or heard from each other for more than 50 years;

Whereas 500,000 people of the United States of Korean ancestry bear the pain of being separated from their families in North Korea;

Whereas the United States values peace in the global community and has long recognized the significance of uniting families torn apart by the tragedy of war; and

Whereas a petition drive is taking place throughout the United States, urging the United States Government to assist in the reunification efforts: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Congress and the President should support efforts to reunite people of the United States of Korean ancestry with their families in North Korea; and

(2) such efforts should be made in a timely manner, as 50 years have passed since the separation of these families.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may

have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 77, the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 77. It is coauthored by the gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA) and myself.

I serve as chairman of the U.S.-Republic of Korea Interparliamentary Exchange. Several of our colleagues met with South Korean legislators this past spring to discuss the critical relationship between the two countries, between South Korea and the United States; and we found that the issue of Korean-Americans here having a chance to participate in family reunifications was a key issue. Out of those discussions and in consultation with the Korean-American community, this resolution was developed.

There are over 500,000 Korean-Americans with relatives in North Korea that reside now in the United States. None of these individuals have been privy to any of the three family reunions that have taken place between the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

This legislation calls for the Congress and the President to support efforts to reunite U.S. citizens of Korean ancestry with their families in North Korea as soon as possible so they might have a chance to travel to North Korea and see their families. Many of these individuals are quite elderly, and they would like the opportunity before their loved ones pass away to do that.

After World War II, the 38th Parallel was used to draw a line between freedom on one side and tyranny on the other. What at the time seemed an easy resolution to a difficult diplomatic problem between communist Russia and the United States turned out to be the worst nightmare for millions of Koreans. The 38th Parallel cut through the country of Korea. It cut through villages, through communities, and in this case it cut through families. Millions of parents were separated from their children. Mothers were separated from fathers, grandparents from their grandchildren. In a culture centered around the family, this was absolutely devastating.

On June 25, 1950, North Korea invaded South Korea; and a war ensued for 3 harsh years. After the Korean War, the border became heavily fortified and closed. No one in North Korea was allowed out, and no one from South Korea was allowed in. Since 1953, South Korea, with the help of the United States, has made numerous overtures to North Korea to allow family members to reconnect. The Stalinist North said no.

□ 1645

In 1998, Kim Dae Jung assumed the South Korean presidency and instituted a "sunshine policy," as he called it. Since last year, President Kim has enabled 300 South Koreans to see relatives they have not seen for over 50 years. I applaud these important steps.

But a very important component is missing from these reunions. The United States is home, as I said, to over 500,000 Korean Americans. Both the gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA) and I represent large Korean-American communities in our districts. These Americans have suffered the pain of having relatives in North Korea they have not seen in over 50 years. Mr. Speaker, this is unacceptable.

The United States has demonstrated a longstanding commitment to the Korean peninsula. In 1950, when North Korea unleashed an all-out attack on South Korea, the United States acted swiftly and decisively. At least 37,000 Americans unfortunately died defending South Korea. These American soldiers paid the ultimate price to ensure South Korea's sovereignty. We have defended South Korea ever since.

In 1997, the United States spearheaded the international community's effort to ensure that South Korea's economy remained strong. The United States has provided hundreds of millions of dollars in humanitarian food aid to North Koreans. Needless to say, our country has dedicated great amounts of diplomatic and financial contributions to Korea, which is extremely important to maintaining peace and maintaining stability on that peninsula. For that, the Korean people are appreciative and our strategic interests are served. But we should also have a strong commitment to Korean Americans.

Currently, a petition is being circulated by the Korean-American community, including church groups and students and private citizens, to be sent to our President, to be sent to the President of South Korea, to the President of North Korea, to Secretary-General Kofi Annan and others urging them to make it possible for Korean Americans to be reunited with their families, to see their families in North Korea. I believe this is a reasonable request that requires urgent attention. It has been 50 years since these estranged relations have seen each other. Many people have died, and for many others it is their last wish that they might see their brother or sister or their aunt or uncle once again.

I urge passage of this bill so that this historical calamity can be rectified in however small terms. The United States should stand behind its citizens and undertake measures immediately to ensure that Korean-American families have a chance to see one another.

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I too rise in strong support of

this resolution. I would first like to commend the sponsor of the resolution, the gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA), the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), as well as our Chair and ranking member for allowing it to move expeditiously to the House floor.

In June of last year, history was made on the Korean peninsula, 50 years after the outbreak of hostility as the leaders of North and South Korea, President Kim Dae Jung and North Korean Leader Kim Jong Il, had an unprecedented meeting in North Korea's capital. This historic meeting was the start of a series of official discussions between the North and the South designed to deal with the pressing political, economic, and humanitarian issues which separate them. Obviously, these discussions have proven difficult; and unfortunately there are no easy answers to permanently reducing North-South tensions. It may take years for the negotiations to resolve this range of issues separating North and South; but we are seeing tangible progress on one critical front, family reunification.

As has been referenced, millions of Koreans were separated from family members at the cessation of the armed conflict in the Korean War with millions finding themselves on opposite sides of the DMZ. That surreal area of the world continues. I personally will never forget the stark landscape on my first visit. It might as well have been on the other side of the Moon in terms of the sort of eerie nature, the clearing of the grounds, the fortifications that take place. For over 50 years, the DMZ has served as a symbol of this barrier that has divided not just the governments, not just the leaders, but of the families.

Now we have had three rounds of family visits. And while 600 does not seem like much, it truly represents a tremendous opportunity to produce a sea change between the two. But now my colleagues have brought forward a resolution that expresses the sense of Congress that the scope of these family reunification visits should be expanded to include Korean Americans. In my community, Korean Americans form a vital element of our civic fabric; and I know the energy, the compassion that they have displayed in our community and to one another could go a long way. And if they were able to deal with reunification of their own families, I think it would be an important step toward normalizing relations and depressing the pressures that have been built. A half million Korean Americans have been unable to see their families for half a century in an area that is the one that is most likely for American troops actually to see massive armed conflict, notwithstanding what is going on in the Middle East.

The United States has many issues on the agenda with North Korea, including missile development and proliferation, human rights, terrorism. Indeed, in North Korea the specter of

mass starvation continues to haunt them. While these issues remain at the core of our agenda with North Korea, I firmly believe that passage of this resolution can help advance family reunification and can help tip the balance in ways that put a human face on this tragic situation.

I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

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

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

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA) for this resolution. In June of 1950, when the 38th parallel became a dividing line between North and South Korea, it dramatically divided the country and symbolized the polarity in the Cold War. Millions of Koreans lost communication with their families and loved ones living across the border.

Fifty years later, in June of last year, South Korean President Kim Dae Jung and North Korean leader Kim Jong Il made a promise to bring together the divided families of North and South Korea. After 50 years of political strife and social unrest, families are finally crossing the 38th parallel once again, reuniting with loved ones that were once lost to each other during the Cold War. While we should encourage this reunification between North and South Korean families, there is one set of families that have been left out, 500,000 Korean Americans who have been separated from their families.

Last year's summit was just the beginning of efforts to bring these two nations together. Not only are families reuniting across the border but economic ties are being strengthened; and there are positive efforts under way, including a cross-border railway and construction of a North Korean industrial park for businesses from the South. We must now make every effort to ensure that Korean Americans are part of this reconciliation.

As a congressional staff member, I traveled to North Korea twice and witnessed firsthand the starvation and lack of medical supplies and care. For over 50 years, citizens in North Korea have endured countless hardships at the cost of their government. As cooperation begins to start between North and South Korea, we must take action to ensure that citizens from our own country with relatives in North Korea benefit as well. The Illinois Ethnic Coalition estimates that 40,000 Korean Americans live in Chicago and another 60,000 live in Chicago suburbs. Too many citizens in my district are waiting to hear from loved ones in North Korea.

In September, the Korean-American Coalition of the Midwest collected 20,000 signatures in a petition calling for the U.S. Government to raise the

issue of family reunification with officials of the North Korean Government. I recently joined this coalition in a meeting with Secretary of State Colin Powell to encourage the reunification of North Korean families with their Korean-American relatives. I want to directly thank Secretary Powell for receiving us and agreeing to put the issue of reunification of North Koreans with their Korean-American families on the dialogue between the United States and the DPRK.

I strongly support this resolution as an important step in promoting the reunification of Americans of Korean ancestry with their families in North Korea. In the end, I hope Korean Americans like Cha Hee Stanfield will be able to see her relatives and say hello to her Korean relatives.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA).

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for his support and for his management of this time and the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), a good friend and someone who has been a champion of not just these issues but other issues of international affairs. I want to thank him for his efforts. We have had an opportunity, as he mentioned, in the past to work on issues that are important to Korean Americans, but important to relations between the Koreas as they make efforts to try to reunify the two countries. I wish to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) for all of his efforts and certainly for the support and his cosponsorship of this particular resolution.

If I may also thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT) for helping us expedite the hearing of this particular concurrent resolution on the floor today. I want to make sure I do acknowledge their efforts to bring this before us quickly.

Mr. Speaker, H. Con. Res. 77 is a resolution that I authored in conjunction with the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) for the express purpose of expressing our country and our government's firm support for family reunification opportunities between Americans of Korean descent and their North Korean relatives. Being separated from family at some point in our lives is something that we can all identify with. It is universal and we have gotten accustomed to it with all the travel that we do and separation that goes on between families. That separation is what makes holidays like Thanksgiving, which we just celebrated, a very special time. These are occasions when families gather to give thanks for their blessings. But unfortunately for many Americans, especially Americans of Korean descent, this separation from family has not been temporary, but prolonged and painful at times.

Nearly one-third of the more than 1 million people of Korean ancestry who

live in the United States have relatives, mothers, brothers, grandmothers, uncles, many of whom they have not seen in more than half a century. Nongovernmental travel and communication between Korean Americans in the U.S. and family members in North Korea is difficult if not impossible. The year 2000 was historic because it was the year that marked the first-ever summit conference between South Korean President Kim Dae Jung and North Korean Leader Kim Jong Il in North Korea. Both leaders agreed to resolve humanitarian issues, such issues as exchange visas for families that have been separated for decades.

As of the third reunion, as we have heard, there have been three reunions to date of family members, the fate and addresses of more than 6,000 members of separated families have been confirmed and more than 3,400 families from South Korea have had an opportunity to reunite with relatives in North Korea. The three family reunions have taken place only between South and North Korea, unfortunately; and these reunions have been closed to date to Korean Americans in the United States. According to discussions with Korean officials, it is right now unfortunately the policy of trying to help the families from South Korea unite with North Korean family members probably more than anything else because there is such limited time and space available for families to reunite, and there are so many families who are hoping to have that opportunity in the future.

But time is of the essence. We have seen more than 50 years go by since those separations first occurred; and for many family members who reside here in the United States, they now know of family members in North Korea who are in their seventies and in their eighties and in many cases they are not even aware of what the status and the fate of their family members in North Korea may be at this time.

In the district I represent in Los Angeles, we have a very vibrant Korean-American community. I happen to be the Representative who has within his congressional district most of what is considered Korea Town in Los Angeles. I am committed to making family unification a reality for my constituents and for the people of Korean ancestry who are Americans here. The Korean-American Family Reunion Council has been working tirelessly to collect signatures, more than 100,000 signatures to date, which urge the President of the United States and the Congress to urge the two Koreas to allow Korean Americans to participate in these family unification opportunities and to visit their loved ones.

□ 1700

I have heard many personal stories from Korean Americans who have not seen their family in decades. In that opportunity that the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), I and other of

my colleagues had in an inter-parliamentary session in South Korea to meet with our South Korean counterparts, we had an opportunity to hear from them on this resolution, on this particular provision, and they indicated their support in having the United States advocate to have Korean Americans participate in those family unification efforts. But, despite those efforts, right now we currently see that there have been stops and starts in the inter-Korean talks that have been taking place, but we must still support these efforts.

Especially in these times of uncertainty in the world, it is vital that Congress support efforts to strengthen family bonds and build civic ties. Certainly since September 11, the community of nations has worked earnestly to bring the people of the world closer together, to break down barriers, and to help peoples live in peace as brethren.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank those individuals, the chairman of the committee, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH); the ranking members, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALLOMAVAEGA); the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE); as I said before, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER), all of those that made it possible to have the resolution before us.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the individuals who made this resolution possible, individuals like Hyepin Im of the Korean American Family Reunification Council; Mr. Sue Hee Kang of the Advisory Council on the Peaceful and Democratic Unification of Korea; Mr. Ki Whan Ha of the Korean American Federation of Los Angeles; Mr. Mike Hong of the Advisory Council on the Peaceful and Democratic Unification of Korea; Dr. Young Seok Suh of the Korean American Family Reunion Council; and Mr. Chul Choi, the President of the Federation of North Korean Provinces.

I would also like to add to that Reverend Tae Hwan Park, President of the Korean American Sharing Movement, who has been a great inspiration, and those who told me their personal stories of how they hope that before they expire they have a chance to see their relatives, and especially to my staff, Denise Lee, former staff member Susie Ahn, and certainly to the staff of the majority and minority on the Committee on International Relations, thank you very much for helping us bring this resolution to the floor of the House of Representatives.

I hope to convey a message to the two Koreas and to the people of the two Koreas that we wish to work with them as they work to reunify, and we also hope that the Korean Americans of this country will have an opportunity to participate in those family reunification efforts.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA) for his leadership on this resolution and for his work on building the relationship between South Korea and the United States on our interparliamentary exchange that we do between the U.S. Congress and the General Assembly in South Korea.

So, again, I wanted to acknowledge his authorship of this measure, which I was proud to coauthor, and the focus and attention that he has brought to better relations between the United States and South Korea.

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume 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, as a cosponsor of House Concurrent Resolution 77, I am honored to rise in support of this important measure which urges our government to support efforts to reunite Korean Americans with their families in North Korea.

As a member of the Asia-Pacific Congressional Caucus, it is most appropriate that we deliberate and pass this legislation in honor of our Korean American community throughout the United States. I especially want to commend the authors of this legislation, both the gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), who were instrumental in this measure's introduction. The gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA) are respectively the chairman and vice chairman of the U.S. Republic of Korea Interparliamentary Exchange and they have done, in my personal opinion, an excellent job in furthering relations between our two nations.

I would also like to commend the chairman and ranking Democrat of the Committee on International Relations, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), for their leadership and support in moving this measure on the floor.

Mr. Speaker, as many of you know, our relations with North Korea are crucial as the Korean Peninsula has long been one of the most dangerous flashpoints in the world. The United States currently has over 37,000 military personnel stationed in South Korea, with many of them patrolling the demilitarized zone.

As one who served in the military in Vietnam, Mr. Speaker, I can never forget the presence of thousands of South Korean soldiers who fought side by side with us. I might submit that, in time of crisis, we know who our real friends are. I want to say to the leaders and the people of South Korea, for supporting us during the Vietnam War, I say, Kham-Samieda.

Mr. Speaker, since the Korean War, millions of Koreans have had their families separated and torn asunder with the division of North Korea and South Korea. After almost some 50 years, the tragedy of family separation continues, impacting more than 500,000 Korean Americans who have been denied contact with their loved ones in North Korea.

At a time when the administration has reviewed its policy to urge North Korea to improve implementation of the agreed framework on nuclear activities, verify constraints on North Korea's missile program and exports, and to adopt a less-threatening conventional military posture, we should also follow up South Korea President Kim's sunshine policy.

Last year's historic summit meeting and joint declarations between the leaders of South Korea and North Korea, in my opinion, has already borne fruit, resulting in limited reunions between long-separated Korean family members.

Mr. Speaker, we need to build on this progress, and we can only do so by adoption of this measure. Establishing ties and reuniting Americans of Korean ancestry with their relatives in North Korea addresses a humanitarian goal and, more importantly, could play a meaningful role in helping to open up North Korea while reducing tensions in the Korean peninsula.

Again, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support for H. Con. Res. 77, a resolution expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the efforts of people of the United States of Korean ancestry to reunite with their family members in North Korea.

Koreans and Korean Americans from all walks of life have suffered for more than 50 years from the pain of forced separation of their families. People have grown old and died without ever being in touch with their loved ones since the end of the war. Nobody benefits from such an inhumane situation.

While a few hundred staged reunions which have taken place there should be no undue restrictions imposed on the hundreds of thousands of people who want to spend time with their families. The Korean war is long over and we now need to get beyond the past. The best way to do this is by permitting people to cross the border and to end this regrettable piece of history.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 77.

Ms. WATSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 77.

I would like to commend my colleague and fellow California delegation member Mr. BECERRA for his insight and hard work on this issue, as well as the chairman of the International Relations Committee, Mr. HYDE, and its ranking member, Mr. LANTOS.

Mr. Speaker I rise today to champion an American ideal, and an ideal revered throughout the world: the family. The family is the bedrock of America, and the foundation of our society. It is a fitting time to discuss H. Con. Res. 77 right now, in the midst of our holiday season, in the middle of time we value with our families.

War can have a terrible impact on civilians. Not only are family members killed, totally removed from society, but the very fabric of society can be torn, as we witnessed in the Korean War. After the DMZ was established, and the dust settled, millions of Koreans found themselves separated from their husbands, wives, children, parents, and extended family members.

For over 50 years, separated Korean family members have had limited information about their loved ones. June of 2000 was a historical moment for the world. The leaders of North and South Korea held a meeting in North Korea's capital. The leaders have started down the path to resolving the humanitarian, political, and economic issues that separate them. I commend the Korean officials who understand that family reunification is essential to the political reunification of Korea.

Mr. Speaker, I recall the Opening Ceremonies of the Sydney, Australia Olympic Games in September 2000, which I attended, and the excitement of the 100,000 spectators who all stood and cheered as North and South Korean athletes emerged from the tunnel under one flag. I will never forget the overwhelming emotional response of the stadium fans to this symbolic display of unity.

Mr. Speaker, according to the 2000 census, approximately 1/10th of the 1.1 million Koreans in the United States reside in, or very near to, my congressional district. The resolution before the House today expresses the sense of Congress that the scope of Korean family reunification visits, of which there have been three so far, should be expanded to include Korean-American families.

H. Con. Res. 77 expresses the value Americans place on the family unit. This resolution is positive for America, for American-Korean relations, and as a message for the world.

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 77, the Korean American Family Reunification Resolution, introduced by my colleague, Congressman XAVIER BECERRA.

In the aftermath of the Korean War, the division of the Koreas at the 38th parallel separated millions of Koreans from their families, tearing at the heart of every mother, father, daughter, and son. As an immigrant, I know what it is like to be separated from my family. In March of 1961, John F. Kennedy signed an Executive Order that made it possible for people to come to this country from Asia, as they have from Europe. In October of 1961, after living apart for six years, my family was reunited in America.

My heart goes out to the many Americans of Korean ancestry who have been separated from loved ones for over fifty years. I understand the pain of being separated from family, which is why I support reunification efforts.

Since the historic summit last year between South Korean President Kim Dae Jung and North Korean leader Kim Jong Il, several reunions have taken place between divided Korean families and more anxiously await a chance to meet with relatives. However, the hope for reunification remains distant for Korean Americans here in this country that have not yet been involved with the selection process for family reunions.

H. Con. Res. 77 calls on Congress and the President to support the efforts of Korean Americans who wish to reunite with their family members in North Korea. I urge my colleagues to join in support of this resolution to

unite family members torn apart by the tragedy of war. Furthermore, I would like to extend my appreciation to Mr. BECERRA for introducing this legislation.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H. Con. Res. 77, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the efforts of people of the United States of Korean ancestry to reunite with their family members in North Korea.

The year 2000 marked the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War. While the July 27, 1953 armistice officially ended the War, the division of the Koreas at the 38th parallel separated millions of Koreans from their families, tearing at the hearts of every mother, father, daughter, and son. Today, half a million people in the United States of Korean ancestry bear the pain of being separated from their families in North Korea.

Another historic occasion for the two Koreas occurred in the year 2000. On June 13th and June 14th, South Korean President Kim Dae Jung met with North Korean leader Kim Jong Il in the first ever summit held between the leaders of North and South Korea. In a joint declaration, the two leaders made a historic promise to promote economic cooperation and to hold reunions of divided Korean families. I am pleased to share with Members that three of these reunions have taken place thus far. It is vital that we continue to support the familial ties that bind the two Koreas.

Mr. Speaker, I am concerned that Korean Americans here in the United States have not had the opportunity to participate in these family reunifications. Because of the geographical distance, many Korean Americans are not involved with the selection process for the family reunions. This is why H. Con. Res. 77 is important to Korean Americans in my district, and across the United States.

Virginia's Eleventh Congressional District is home to one of the largest Korean-American constituencies. Korean Americans in my district still have personal ties to their former homeland. Some have not seen nor heard from their family members in North Korea for more than fifty years. Almost three generations have grown up unable to communicate with their own family members. We must make every effort to persuade the two Koreas that Korean Americans should be permitted to participate in the selection for the family reunifications and that these efforts should be timely, as older Koreans are dying as they await their turns in this process.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this humanitarian resolution.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution expressing the Sense of Congress that the President should support the efforts of U.S. citizens of Korean ancestry to reunite with their families in North Korea.

Mr. Speaker, in June of 2000 North and South Korean leaders signed an historic agreement that was to facilitate the reunion of Korean families through Red Cross registration offices. An estimated 1.2 million North Korean refugees are currently living in South Korea, and over 500,000 Korean-Americans have been separated from their families in North Korea.

The reunions that have resulted from this agreement have been short, and therefore bittersweet. However, these reunions between North and South Koreans have not included

Korean Americans who also feel the pain of separation from their families.

As the healing process between these two nations continues, I believe the United States must do more to ensure that our citizens have the opportunity to reconnect with their loved ones. In fact, this resolution should be the beginning of a conversation between the U.S. and North Korea on behalf of these families, with the goal being the fair and even representation of their interests during government level meetings on Korean Family reunification.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is the Sense of Congress that the U.S. values peace in the global community, and we must continue to recognize the sanctity of the family as the central unit of human socialization.

Mr. Speaker, 50 years is too long to have gone without seeing your brother or sister. Many mothers and fathers from families torn apart by war along the 38th parallel have passed on without final visits from their children. We must therefore pursue the goal of family unification for Korean Americans with alacrity, for soon it will be too late for many families to share the words "I love you."

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WHITFIELD). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 77.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. ROYCE. 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.

AUTHORIZING THE 2002 WINTER OLYMPICS TORCH RELAY TO COME ONTO THE CAPITOL GROUNDS

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 82) authorizing the 2002 Winter Olympics Torch Relay to come onto the Capitol grounds.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. CON. RES. 82

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

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION OF THE RUNNING OF 2002 WINTER OLYMPICS TORCH RELAY ONTO THE CAPITOL GROUNDS.

On December 21, 2001, or on such other date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate may jointly designate, the 2002 Winter Olympics Torch Relay (in this resolution referred to as the "event") may come onto the Capitol Grounds as part of the ceremony of the 2002 Winter Olympic Games to be held in Salt Lake City, Utah.

SEC. 2. RESPONSIBILITY OF CAPITOL POLICE BOARD.

The Capitol Police Board shall take such actions as may be necessary to carry out the event.

SEC. 3. CONDITIONS RELATING TO PHYSICAL PREPARATIONS.

The Architect of the Capitol may prescribe conditions for physical preparations for the event.

SEC. 4. ENFORCEMENT OF RESTRICTIONS.

The Capitol Police Board shall provide for enforcement of the restrictions contained in section 4 of the Act of July 31, 1946 (40 U.S.C. 193d; 60 Stat. 718), concerning sales, advertisements, displays, and solicitations on the Capitol Grounds, as well as other restrictions applicable to the Capitol Grounds, with respect to the event.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE).

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

Mr. Speaker, Senate Concurrent Resolution 82 authorizes the 2002 Winter Olympics Torch Relay to come on the Capitol grounds as part of the ceremony of the 2002 Winter Olympic games. The Torch Relay will cross the grounds on December 21, 2001, or on such date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration designate.

The resolution also authorizes the Architect of the Capitol, the Capitol Police Board, and the sponsor of the event to negotiate the necessary arrangements for carrying out the event in complete compliance with the rules and regulations governing the use of the Capitol grounds. The sponsor of the event will assume all expenses and liabilities in connection with the event, and all sales, advertisements and solicitations are prohibited.

The 2002 Winter Olympic Games will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, beginning on February 8 and concluding on February 24, 2002. Competition is scheduled for seven sports in 78 medal events at the games. An estimated 3,500 athletes and officials from 80 countries are expected to participate. In addition, 18,000 volunteers will help stage the games.

It will be an honor to have the Winter Olympic Torch Relay pass through the Capitol Grounds on December 21 and for the United States to host the 19th Olympic Winter Games. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Senator BENNETT for introducing Senate Concurrent Resolution 82. This legislation authorizes the use of the Capitol Grounds for the 2002 Winter Olympics Torch Relay. Consistent with other