

working with 4-H programs for black youth were housed at Florida A&M University. This long-standing relationship brings academic excellence to youth development as strategies and curriculum are created for the coming century.

Florida 4-H type programs were first established in the north Florida area. The boys participated in corn clubs, and the girls were active in tomato clubs.

County and regional fairs in Florida have a long tradition of providing opportunities for 4-H'ers to publicly show their projects and compete for awards.

Agricultural judging teams, organized in many counties, participated in regional, state and national contests. These teams provided a way for youth to travel and meet people from outside their communities, and learn more about the world around them.

Camping has always been a key component in the Florida 4-H program with Camp Timpoochee in northwest Florida being one of the first 4-H residential camps in the country, established in 1926.

One of the most successful programs is Florida 4-H Legislature, founded in 1973, and annually held in the State Capitol of Tallahassee. The youth participants conduct a mock legislature in the State Capitol building by filling the roles of legislators, lobbyists, reporters and legislative staff.

Over 45 million 4-H alumni, including myself, and 4-H members are celebrating the centennial of the 4-H youth development movement. 4-H provides a positive environment, a relationship with caring adults, and exciting educational experiences for today's youth.

Thanks, 4-H for molding and shaping so many great Americans. Here's to another 100 years of outstanding youth development and leadership growth.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the House is taking time today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the 4-H Youth Development Program, which has spent a century helping young people develop skills to improve their lives and contribute to their communities.

In Missouri, more than 200,000 children and teenagers are involved in the 4-H program, which is coordinated by University Outreach and Extension, a partnership of the University of Missouri, Lincoln University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and county governments. 4-H is often associated with rural communities, but today more than 1,000 Missouri 4-H clubs serve as many young people from suburban and urban areas as from farms and small towns.

During this centennial year, members of 4-H throughout Missouri have participated in events honoring the 100th anniversary of this outstanding organization. They have continued their unwavering commitment to community service throughout the Show Me State.

In May, 4-H and the U.S. Army teamed up to benefit American youth. 4-H faculty and staff from the University of Missouri worked with staff at Fort Leonard Wood to coordinate the Teen Discovery program for more than 30 teenagers from 16 Army installations across the nation. These teens received training in team building activities, opportunity for Army youth to focus on leadership training.

In July, nine 4-H members from across the state led Missouri 4-H into the technology

age. They formed the first Missouri 4-H Technology Leadership Team and competed for a chance to attend the National 4-H Technology Conference in Maryland. The primary focus of the team has been to provide leadership and community service within the context of using and learning information technology skills. In a technology-driven era, opening up these new doors to 4-H members is more important than ever.

This month, 4-H'ers helped Missouri youth prepare for the troubling anniversary of last year's terrorist attacks. ParentLink, part of the 4-H youth development office in Missouri, provided support to parents, childcare providers, and communities. The ParentLink service creates educational programs and offers resources on parenting and working with children. During a time when our youth may be confused about the terrifying events of September 11, 4-H has taken a lead role in helping parents and children cope.

Mr. Speaker, Missouri 4-H, not unlike their counterparts throughout the United States, has distinguished itself in this anniversary year. As we celebrate 100 years since the inception of this outstanding community service program, I encourage anyone who is interested in joining or volunteering for 4-H to get involved in this worthwhile initiative.

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my support and deep concern for H. Con. Res. 177, a resolution honoring Dolores Huerta for her commitment to the improvement of working conditions for children, women, and farmworker families. As a community leader, civic activist, and lobbyist, Dolores Huerta has struggled to bring justice and equal opportunity to immigrant farmworkers and their families for nearly three-quarters of a century.

Mr. Speaker, I have to question why House Concurrent Resolution 177 has not been brought to the floor when there are 91 co-sponsors including myself who believe it is time to pay tribute to Dolores Huerta, especially during Hispanic Heritage Month. So far this month the House has heard and passed 3 Concurrent Resolutions that have had no more than 8 co-sponsors combined. In one case, a concurrent resolution was introduced and passed in a matter of months. And this week alone we are scheduled to hear another 6 concurrent resolutions, two of which have only 1 co-sponsor. All the while House Concurrent Resolution 177 has been waiting since June of 2001 with overwhelming support to be heard.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for us to show our support for this resolution and bring it to the floor. Let us not delay any longer in paying tribute to Dolores Huerta. Her story deserves to be told and her contribution to Hispanic American culture celebrated.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 472.

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. ISAKSON. 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.

□ 1430

SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING AMERICAN GOLD STAR MOTHERS, INCORPORATED, BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INCORPORATED, THE SERVICE FLAG, AND THE SERVICE LAPEL BUTTON

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 301) expressing the sense of Congress regarding American Gold Star Mothers, Incorporated, Blue Star Mothers of America, Incorporated, the service flag, and the service lapel button.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 301

Whereas section 901 of title 36, United States Code, authorizes members of the immediate family of individuals serving in the Armed Forces to display a service flag approved by the Secretary of Defense in a window of their place of residence during any period of war or hostilities in which the Armed Forces are engaged;

Whereas such section also authorizes members of the immediate family of individuals serving in the Armed Forces to wear a service lapel button approved by the Secretary of Defense during any period of war or hostilities in which the Armed Forces are engaged;

Whereas the traditions of displaying the service flag and wearing the service lapel button have not been widely practiced since the end of World War II; and

Whereas reinvigorating the traditions of displaying the service flag and wearing the service lapel button would foster patriotism and express support for the members of the Armed Forces during the war on terrorism: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) the members of American Gold Star Mothers, Incorporated, and Blue Star Mothers of America, Incorporated, should be recognized for their sacrifices and for their dedicated and patriotic support of the United States;

(2) during the period in which the Armed Forces are engaged in the war on terrorism, members of the immediate family of individuals serving in the Armed Forces should be encouraged to display a service flag approved by the Secretary of Defense under section 901 of title 36, United States Code, in the window of their place of residence and wear a service lapel button approved under such section; and

(3) the President should issue a proclamation calling on members of the immediate family of individuals serving in the Armed Forces to display a service flag approved by the Secretary of Defense under section 901 of title 36, United States Code, in the window of their place of residence and wear a service lapel button approved under such section during the period in which the Armed Forces are engaged in the war on terrorism.

SEC. 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives shall transmit a copy of this

resolution to the American Gold Star Mothers, Incorporated, and the Blue Star Mothers of America, Incorporated.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS) and the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TAUSCHER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the concurrent resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as America's war on terrorism continues, the men and women who serve in our Armed Forces, like the veterans before them, help bring freedom and democracy to the world. In obscure, remote parts of the globe, the airmen, soldiers, sailors, and Marines stand tall. In some remote location, a sailor will miss his anniversary, an airman will miss his daughter's birthday, and a Marine will be absent for yet another family reunion, all in an effort to help make the world a safer place to live, work, and play.

As demonstrated by military casualties in Afghanistan, America's patriots sometimes pay the ultimate price in support and defense of democracy. The family members they leave behind especially feel the sacrifice. The American Gold Star and Blue Star Mothers of America deserve our special thanks and appreciation.

The tradition of the Blue Star dates back to World War I, symbolizing a mother who had her pride and joy serve in the Armed Forces. The traditional Gold Star recognized a mother who had lost a child during any period of war or hostilities.

During World War I, the Blue Star flag flown in a family's window was a symbol of both hope and yet grave concern for their son and others who were serving in the military and fighting for their country. It served as recognition of what Americans at home could do to support military family members, and also symbolized a pride in the commitment of America's youth, and a reminder of the gravity of the entire war effort.

During this time, there was the all-too-constant fear that the Blue Star would change its color to become a Gold Star days, weeks, or months later.

Mr. Speaker, the tradition of immediate family members displaying the service flag in their home or wearing a Blue Star or Gold Star service lapel button have not been widely practiced since the end of World War II.

As Americans, and at this historic juncture in our history, when America will indefinitely continue its war on terrorism, let us not forget the sacrifices of the families of the military members who make the world a safer place. Mr. Speaker, when we see Blue Star or Gold Star flags flying in a window or family members wearing lapel buttons, we should take the time to thank them for their sacrifice, and let them know that America stands behind them.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, I urge my colleagues to vote for this resolution, and let us not forget the families who have also sacrificed on behalf of freedom, liberty, and democracy.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 301, introduced by my colleague and friend, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS).

House Concurrent Resolution 301 urges the President to issue a proclamation on behalf of the members of the American Gold Star Mothers and Blue Star Mothers of America for their sacrifices and dedicated and patriotic support.

The bill also calls upon family members of American service members to display an approved service flag and wear a service lapel button in support of members of the Armed Forces.

Army captain Robert L. Queissner of the Fifth Ohio Infantry created the blue star flag in 1917 during World War I. The blue star flag quickly became a symbol that a family member was serving in the armed services. The blue star symbolizes the hope and pride of families who have loved ones in uniform.

During World War I, a blue star was replaced with a gold star if a service member was killed or died while on active duty. The idea for a gold star is believed to have been developed from the Women's Committee on the Council of National Defenses on May 28, 1918. The Women's Committee recommended a gilt star on a black band on the left arm for mourning the loss of a family member in wartime. The gold was to signify the sacrifice of a loved one for the cause of liberty and freedom.

Grace Darling Seibold, who lost her son George Vaughn Seibold during World War I, established the American Gold Star Mothers. When George left for service, his mother began to do community service by visiting returning servicemen in hospitals. On Christmas Eve, Grace Seibold received word that her son had been killed. In her sorrow, she reached out to other mothers who lost a child, and organized a group of special mothers. The group provided comfort to each other, and also provided loving support to hospitalized veterans confined in hospitals far from home. But it was not until January 5, 1929, that the American

Gold Star Mothers, Incorporated, was officially established.

On June 12, 1984, the American Gold Star Mothers received a congressional charter. Army Captain George H. Maines founded the Blue Star Mothers of America in the 1940s. On January 22, 1942, he ran a newspaper article in the Flint News Advertiser requesting information about children in the Armed Forces. Over 1,000 mothers responded, and chapters of Blue Star Mothers began forming across the United States. Blue Star Mothers also began to volunteer for the war effort, visiting hospitals, providing hospitality areas in buses and train stations, preparing packages for shipment overseas, and comforting families who lost loved ones.

I want to commend the blue star mothers and gold star mothers who have dedicated themselves in support of our service members and families. As our Nation continues its war on terrorism, it is only fitting that we call upon the families of service members to reinvigorate the tradition of displaying a service flag in the windows of their homes, and that all Americans recognize the sacrifices of families of those who volunteer to defend our country.

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

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SIMMONS).

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Oklahoma for yielding time to me, and I thank him for his sponsorship of House Concurrent Resolution 301, which expresses support of the Congress for the American Gold Star Mothers, for the Blue Star Mothers of America, and for our Armed Forces. I also commend the American Legion for its support of the Blue Star program.

We have heard, Mr. Speaker, that during World War I and during other conflicts, it was the custom for citizens in our country to hang a blue star banner in the windows of their homes or in the windows of their places of business to commemorate the fact that a family member or an employee of that business was serving in uniform overseas in difficult and dangerous circumstances.

We have also heard of the tragic news that when a family or a business would learn that that loved one or that employee was killed in the line of duty or died as a result of wounds, that blue star would then become a gold star, and that mother, that mother would lose her son or her husband or her loved one.

The blue star program is a program whose time has come for us here in America. It is a time for this program to be reinvigorated. That is what this resolution does.

In my home district of eastern Connecticut, we have a Blue Star Highway and we also have a Gold Star Highway and a Gold Star Bridge. Not every State or every district can honor the

gold star mothers and the blue star mothers with a bridge or a highway, but something that we can all do, we can all do, is present a blue star banner to those constituents who have a family member or an employee serving in uniform.

Recently, I had the opportunity to honor several constituents who were serving in the Armed Forces. They would be Jason Tinelle, who currently serves in Bosnia as an infantry platoon sergeant with the U.S. Army, and also Torpedoman First Class Richard Messick, who currently serves aboard the USS *Hartford*.

When I presented these banners to their family members, to their spouses and to their children, there were literally tears in their eyes, tears in their eyes because this Congress recognized the sacrifice of their loved ones, and also the burden of those families.

This is an important resolution. This is a resolution which conveys this Congress' support for the men and women of our Armed Forces and for the mothers who wait at home, hoping beyond hope that that blue star does not turn into a gold star.

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

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS) for this resolution. I think that all of us find ourselves in the 20th century in a time of asymmetrical warfare, unidentified enemies, and very troubling times. I think that it is very emblematic of a country that has been the shining beacon of freedom to have a volunteer military.

Unlike the Second World War, before we were born, when many, many of our fighting men and women came from our neighborhoods, we have a small military right now, one that is, I think, the best in the world, but is not necessarily represented in every community. I think that anonymity has created a lack of support for military families who find themselves disconnected in many ways, and unappreciated.

I think that the resolution of the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS) is a good way for us to reknit together the community of Americans; to find a way to recognize those families that have provided our fighting men and women; and to give them a sense of support, a sense of pride, and a sense of the ability to recognize them.

So I am really encouraging my colleagues to vote for this resolution. I think it is very timely.

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

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SIMMONS), and my friend, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TAUSCHER), for being here on the floor

today to help recognize the blue and gold star moms. My colleague, the gentlewoman from California, said it very well: We have moms and dads around the country, all over the Nation, that have made tremendous sacrifices in giving a loved one, giving a son or a daughter or a husband, in defense of the values and the freedoms and the many things that we hold dear in this Nation. I again would hope that we would never forget that sacrifice.

We have some blue and gold star moms here with us today. We are going to go and take some pictures with them, and have an opportunity to have a little fellowship with them.

So I want to say for them on behalf of a grateful Nation, we are appreciative of the sacrifices that they have made over the years in allowing this country to be the country that we know it to be this day.

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H. Con. Res. 301, which recognizes the American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., and Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc., for their sacrifices and patriotic support of the United States. I join my colleagues in urging the families of those serving in the armed forces to display a service flag in the window of their homes and to wear a service lapel button approved by the Secretary of Defense.

At a time when our military men and women are putting their lives on the line of our safety, we all recognize the importance of displaying a service flag. In times of war, these flags symbolize the love and pride that we have for the young men and women in the Armed Forces. They are a poignant reminder just how much America's greatness depends on their bravery.

The patriotic tradition of the service flag dates back to World War I, when mothers of young soldiers hand stitched red, white, and blue flags to hang in their windows as a sign that a loved one had gone to fight in the war. This tradition was later extended to the wives and families of servicemen serving during the war. This tradition encountered a huge resurgence in World War II and again during the Korean War. Even during Desert Storm some U.S. ships sent service flags to the families of everyone aboard.

As we face this new threat to our country, it is only fitting that we take the time to recognize that America's mothers may once again suffer the supreme sacrifice of motherhood, the loss of a son or daughter. To everyone with a family member in the Armed Services we offer our humble appreciation and respect.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 301.

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. WATTS of Oklahoma. 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.

#### AMENDING INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IMMUNITIES ACT TO PROVIDE FOR APPLICABILITY TO THE EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3656) to amend the International Organizations Immunities Act to provide for the applicability of that Act to the European Central Bank.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3656

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

#### SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF THE EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IMMUNITIES ACT.

The International Organizations Immunities Act (22 U.S.C. 288 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 15. The provisions of this title may be extended to the European Central Bank in the same manner, to the same extent, and subject to the same conditions, as they may be extended to a public international organization in which the United States participates pursuant to any treaty or under the authority of any Act of Congress authorizing such participation or making an appropriation for such participation."

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEACH. 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 the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, this measure is a minor but symbolically important bill designed to underscore support for the establishment of the European Union by according its central bank legal rights within the United States that are accorded the central banks of individual Nation states.

The European Central Bank is an independent legal entity owned by the central banks of the European Union member states, and was established in 1998 in accordance with the provisions of the treaty creating the European Union itself.

□ 1445

Significant portions of the ECB's foreign reserves are held at the Federal