

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

Reserve Bank of New York as well as private banks in the United States.

While the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act extends immunity to foreign central banks, the ECB's immunities under this act are not assured because of the ECB's unique status resulting from its multinational ownership. Although the International Organizations Act extends to international organizations the same immunity enjoyed by foreign governments, for the purpose of this act, the reference to "international organizations" only includes organizations to which the United States is a member; and of course, the United States is not a member of the EU.

In January of this year, I introduced this legislation to protect the legal security of the ECB's foreign reserves by amending the IOIA by designating the ECB, all of which is a mouthful, as an international organization for the purposes of this act. A significant number of other organizations of which the United States is not a member have been designated in this way, including the Organization of African Unity, the European Space Agency, and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The extension of immunity provided by the IOIA to the ECB would assure the protection of their foreign reserves equivalent to that enjoyed by other foreign central banks. If we refuse the ECB request, we would, in effect, penalize monetary unions exercising sovereign Central Bank functions by, among other things, making the ECB vulnerable to private litigation. In this context, providing the ECB this status is entirely equitable and reasonable and amounts to the kind of mutual accommodation that we should be emphasizing at a time when so much friction is building between the United States and the European Union on a host of commercial and political issues.

Indeed, in a historical context, the United States, in effect, created a monetary union when we replaced the original Articles of Confederation with a Constitution that restricted the capacity of individual States to tax each other. The European Union wisely matched this step 2 centuries later, and the newly created European Central Bank is an emanation of this daring initiative. It is incumbent on those on this side of the Atlantic to express our support and respect for this historical movement and for the institutions necessary to make it a cohesive success.

The Committee on International Relations approved H.R. 3656 by a voice vote on March 20. The Federal Reserve, the Treasury Department, and the Department of State are in strong support of the legislation. I recommend an "aye" vote.

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. 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. Mr. Speaker I rise in strong support of this bill.

This is a very straightforward measure to provide the European Central Bank the same immunity from judicial process that we routinely provide to foreign central banks under the Foreign Services Immunities Act. I want to commend the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH), and also chairman of our Subcommittee on East Asia and the Pacific, for his authorship of this bill.

The ECB was established in June of 1998 in accordance with the treaty establishing the European Union. The ECB is an independent legal entity owned by the central banks of the EU member states. Like any central banks, its role is to define and implement the monetary policy of the European Union and to maintain price stability. It also conducts foreign exchange operations and holds the official foreign reserves of the EU states.

Given the nature of the ECB, it makes absolute sense to extend to it the same legal treatment we routinely provide to other foreign central banks.

Unfortunately, since the ECB is a new type of central bank, it does not fit the definition of a foreign central bank under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act; and it is, therefore, not granted the immunities provided by that act.

The ECB is likewise excluded from the judicial process immunities normally provided to the international organizations by the International Organizations Immunities Act because the IOIA only extends its immunities to international organizations of which the United States is a member.

Therefore, H.R. 3656 amends the IOIA to include its provisions 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.

This extension of the IOIA will simply provide the ECB with the same immunity we routinely grant to foreign central banks.

This is a good bill, Mr. Speaker; and I urge my colleagues to support it. Again, I commend my good friend from Iowa for his sponsorship of the bill.

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

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

I would just conclude with my appreciation for the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) and his thoughtful approach to all issues of the day.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) that the House sus-

pend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3656.

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.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

WELCOMING MADAME CHEN WU SUE-JEN, THE FIRST LADY OF TAIWAN, TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 533) welcoming Madame Chen Wu Sue-jen, the first lady of Taiwan, to Washington, D.C.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 533

Whereas Taiwan's First Lady Chen Wu Sue-jen, wife and political partner to her husband President Chen Shui-bian, has been unwaveringly and courageously striving for justice, human rights, and democracy in Taiwan and has herself held a seat in the Legislative Yuan;

Whereas Taiwan is now a model vibrant democracy and one of the top ten trading partners of the United States;

Whereas supporting democracy, human rights, and free market economies has been a longstanding policy of the United States;

Whereas the Government and people in Taiwan have consistently provided tremendous support and generous contributions to the United States after the terrorist attacks against the United States that occurred on September 11, 2001;

Whereas First Lady Chen Wu was one of the main forces behind Taiwan's charity and humanitarian assistance for the victims of the terrorist attacks;

Whereas First Lady Chen Wu will visit the United States beginning on September 22, 2002, and will bring with her a strong message from her husband and the people of Taiwan that Taiwan's cooperation with the United States in this joint anti-terrorism campaign will continue and be further strengthened;

Whereas First Lady Chen Wu, on behalf of President Chen Shui-bian, visited France in November 2001 to receive the International Human Rights Award; and

Whereas First Lady Chen Wu, confined to a wheelchair due to a tragic traffic accident during a political campaign, is a strong and effective advocate for Taiwan's physically challenged citizens; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives extends its warmest welcome to Taiwan's First Lady Chen Wu Sue-jen during her visit to Washington, D.C., in September 2002.

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

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within