

rocks and bare feet for miles and miles, trying to get to a refugee camp.

Many of these refugees eventually resettled in the United States; and I am proud to represent a large and active Cambodian community in and around the city of Lowell, Massachusetts, my hometown.

Cambodian Americans have made invaluable contributions to our communities through their spirit, leadership, and strength. I am proud that the City of Lowell elected the first Cambodian-American anywhere in the United States to public elective office. Rity Uong was elected to the Lowell City Council in 1979 in an at-large election. Just 2 weeks ago, he was reelected to his third term on the city council.

This resolution represents a small but important step in honoring the victims, their survivors, and their descendants by making public and vivid the hidden details of the Cambodian genocide. This resolution should remind the world not only of the horrors perpetrated by the Khmer Rouge but of the horrors of genocide in Europe, Africa, and around the world.

I am honored to add my voice to those of my colleagues today in remembering the victims of the Cambodian genocide, and I will continue to pursue justice for its victims. We will never forget what happened or turn our backs on the truth.

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

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to conclude with great thanks to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) for her gentility and her civil leadership of this very important international human rights issue.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHAW). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 83.

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. LANTOS. 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.

□ 1115

HONORING SEEDS OF PEACE FOR ITS PROMOTION OF UNDERSTANDING AMONG YOUTH FROM REGIONS OF CONFLICT

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the con-

current resolution (H. Con. Res. 288) honoring Seeds of Peace for its promotion of understanding, reconciliation, acceptance, coexistence, and peace among youth from the Middle East and other regions of conflict.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 288

Whereas Seeds of Peace, founded by John Wallach in 1993, is a program that brings together young people from regions of conflict to study and learn about coexistence and conflict resolution;

Whereas although the original focus of Seeds of Peace was to bring Israeli, Palestinian, Jordanian, and Egyptian youth together, the program has expanded over the past decade to involve youths from other regions of conflict, including from Greece, Turkey and divided Cyprus, the Balkans, India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan;

Whereas these young people study and learn primarily at a summer camp operated by Seeds of Peace in Otisfield, Maine, and also through its regional programs such as the Jerusalem Center for Coexistence;

Whereas Seeds of Peace works to dispel fear, mistrust, and prejudice, which are root causes of violence and conflict, and to build a new generation of leaders who are committed to achieving peace;

Whereas Seeds of Peace reveals the human face of those whom youth have been taught to hate, by engaging campers in both guided coexistence sessions and ordinary summer camp activities such as living together in cabins, sharing meals, canoeing, swimming, playing sports, and creative exploration through the arts and computers;

Whereas the Arab-Israeli conflict is currently at a critical juncture, and sustained progress towards peace depends on the emergence of a new generation of leaders who will choose dialogue, friendship, and openness over violence and hatred;

Whereas Seeds of Peace provides year-round opportunities for former participants to build on the relationships they have forged at camp, so that the learning processes begun at camp can continue back in the participants' home countries, where they are most needed;

Whereas Seeds of Peace is strongly supported by participating governments and many world leaders;

Whereas previous Federal funding for Seeds of Peace demonstrates its recognized importance in promoting United States foreign policy goals; and

Whereas it is especially important to reaffirm that youth must be involved in long-term, visionary solutions to conflicts perpetuated by cycles of violence: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) honors the accomplishments of Seeds of Peace for promoting understanding, reconciliation, acceptance, coexistence, and peace among youth from the Middle East and other regions of conflict around the world; and

(2) offers Seeds of Peace as a model of hope that living together in peace and security is possible.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHAW). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) 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 resolution 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, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 288, honoring Seeds of Peace for its promotion of understanding, reconciliation, acceptance, coexistence, and peace among youth from the Middle East and other regions of conflict.

I commend the gentleman from Maine (Mr. ALLEN) and the other cosponsors of this resolution. Seeds of Peace is a courageous organization that prepares youth from conflict-ridden areas and trains them to be leaders of tomorrow. Seeds of Peace was founded in late 1993 by the late John Wallach, an award-winning author and journalist in order to bring together Arab and Israeli youth as a way for them to learn conflict resolution skills necessary for making peace. While the primary focus is on the Middle East, participants also come from the Balkans, South Asia, and Cyprus.

Since 1993, over 2,000 teens from 22 nations have graduated from Seeds of Peace. Every year hundreds of Arab and Israeli teenagers are brought together and learn to recognize the humanity within each other. Seeds of Peace makes it possible for people who are blinded by hatred and prejudice to see the value in coexistence and mutual understanding. Seeds of Peace programs expose young people to critical thinking, respect for the rule of law, human rights, participatory decision-making, nonviolent dispute resolution, and a free press.

The invaluable lessons learned and lasting friendships made through Seeds of Peace programs provide hope that respect and tolerance can prevail in communities where hate and ignorance have tragically hallmarked social interactions.

For participants, Seeds of Peace takes the war out of the streets and puts some of the most difficult issues on the table in an environment free from violence. In a period of self-reflection, teens are challenged to deal with complicated and emotional issues. They are given a candle of hope to take back to their home societies, and are prayerfully provided the determination and will to participate in civil society discussions and initiatives that can lead to a more civil region and world.

Negotiations and treaties are the responsibilities of governments. Peace, on the other hand, is made by people. In this context, Seeds of Peace are seeds of hope. I strongly urge the passage of this resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution. First, I want to pay tribute to my distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Maine (Mr. ALLEN), for introducing this resolution. This resolution brings about the realization of an important dream. It honors the organization Seeds of Peace for promoting understanding and coexistence among young people from the Middle East and other areas of conflict all around the globe. It praises Seeds of Peace for demonstrating that Israelis and Palestinians, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, Serbs and Bosnians and others can live together in peace and prosperity.

Seeds of Peace reflects the vision of my late friend, John Wallach, who founded this organization 10 years ago. John believed that real peace is made by people as much as by treaties, and he believed that peacemaking starts with the attitudes developed in youth.

More than 2,000 young people from nearly two dozen nations in areas of conflict have participated in Seeds of Peace programs mainly at the Seeds of Peace summer camp in Otisfield, Maine. Here they encounter, work with, play with, and argue with each other, and far more often than not befriend their counterparts from the other side of their national conflict.

Seeds of Peace works to dispel the mistrust and prejudice that are among the root causes of violence and to build a generation of leaders committed to achieving peace.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, Seeds of Peace does not guarantee peace, and it is certainly not an alternative to patiently negotiated peace treaties among governments. It does, however, ensure that there will be a growing core of high-quality people on both sides of the Israeli-Arab divide, and other conflicts as well, who will view one another as flesh and blood human beings and not as dehumanized enemies. The mutual understanding fostered by Seeds of Peace reinforces negotiations in good times and helps buffer conflicts in bad times.

For that reason, Seeds of Peace deserves our respect, our appreciation, and our commendation as a successful venture in people-to-people peacemaking. It serves as a model for what a world which is violence-free could be in the future.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 288.

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

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), distinguished chair of the Subcommittee on the Middle East and Central Asia.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say to all Members, this is a very important initiative, a very important bill; and I urge its passage.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Maine (Mr. ALLEN).

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 288, and I want to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE), the ranking member, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), and the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) for helping bring this resolution to the floor.

Treaties are negotiated by governments; peace is made by people. Seeds of Peace is grounded in this truth. Seeds of Peace, founded by the award-winning author and journalist John Wallach in 1993 is a program which brings together young people from regions of conflict to study and learn about coexistence and conflict resolution.

The program initially focused on Israeli, Palestinian, Jordanian and Egyptian youth, but has expanded over the past decades to involve youth from Greece, Turkey and divided Cyprus, the Balkans, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and other countries.

H. Con. Res. 288 honors the accomplishments of Seeds of Peace, and offers the program as a model of hope that living together in peace and security is possible. I want to thank my colleagues, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG), the gentleman from Maine (Mr. MICHAUD), the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT), and 46 other Members who have cosponsored the resolution.

At the summer camp in Otisfield, Maine, and at the Jerusalem Center for Coexistence, the young people of Seeds of Peace come face to face with those whom they have been taught to hate and mistrust. An Egyptian wrote to his peers following this past summer at camp, "This camp changed things in my character, in my thoughts, and in my whole life. I really loved the people there without looking to where they are from or what is their religion. This is really the beginning of the road."

Recently, two new grassroots initiatives for peace in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict have emerged. These efforts present much hope. Sustained progress, however, ultimately depends on a new generation of leaders. Youth must be involved in long-term visionary solutions to conflicts perpetuated by cycles of violence.

Participating governments and world leaders strongly support Seeds of Peace. Previous Federal funding for the program demonstrates its importance in promoting United States foreign policy goals.

Seeds of Peace is even working with youngsters in Maine where a large influx of refugees and immigrants has contributed to an increase in racial and ethnic tension. As we honor Seeds of Peace today, we should remember that it offers priceless lessons to our communities at home, as well as nations abroad. I have visited the Seeds of Peace camp up in Otisfield; it is a moving and inspirational experience, and congressional support over the years

has been vital to the continuation of this particular undertaking.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for the resolution.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would conclude by thanking the gentleman from Maine (Mr. ALLEN) who has so thoughtfully brought this resolution before us. Congress is in the gentleman's debt.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPAS).

Mrs. CAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this important resolution honoring Seeds of Peace. I thank the gentleman from Maine (Mr. ALLEN) for authoring this resolution.

In describing the Day of Redemption, the Prophet Isaiah tells us "a little child shall lead them." During the past 3 years of violence and bloodshed, it is clear that the leaders of Israel and the Palestinian Authority have failed their people. The beauty and wisdom of the Seeds of Peace program is to instill within Israeli and Arab children a sense of understanding, reconciliation, and acceptance so that some day these future leaders can bring peace to their embattled peoples.

Mr. Speaker, my office is well acquainted with Seeds of Peace through its relationship with one of its most illustrious graduates, a young man named Fadi El Salameen. The oldest of nine children from a Palestinian family in Hebron, Fadi has overcome incredible hardships in his life and is currently studying at Earlham College in Indiana. He tells us that he owes his success, self-confidence, and his optimism for peace in the Middle East to his experiences in the woods of Maine with Seeds of Peace.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to think after months of such terrible news, perhaps the seeds of peace are finally growing roots in the region. After so many acts of Palestinian terrorism and Israeli reprisals, after the deaths of dozens of innocent people on both sides, we are seeing some hopeful signs. In particular, I think the upcoming signing of the Geneva Accord and the continued strength of a grass roots peace petition called the People's Voice hold out hope that a comprehensive political settlement of the conflict is not an impossible dream.

And if Israeli and Arab children are willing to live together in Maine each summer to participate in Seeds of Peace, we owe it to them to continue working as hard as we can to bring peace and security to their homelands. I support this resolution.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON).

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to be able to make a statement on this group because the program of Seeds of

Peace since 1993 has really made a difference in communication, most especially with young people. They have brought together people like Indians and Pakistanis and Israelis and Arabs, as well as teenagers from Cyprus, Afghanistan and the U.S. to understand that peace really is possible. They have helped young people from all conflict areas see each other as human beings, not as the enemy. They have helped them to break down the barriers of hatred and distrust.

□ 1130

In March of 2003, two Seeds of Peace students joined me in a peace dialogue that I had here at the Capitol. The Israeli student said when she joined Seeds of Peace, she felt she was doing something significant. The change was not aimed to change the world right away. It started out small, giving her an opportunity to change her own personal world. It gave her the opportunity to talk about the other side in terms of friends instead of saying "those Palestinians."

The Palestinian student said she first participated in a Seeds of Peace camp in 1999. She said 4 years have passed since then and she cannot recognize the person she was before. She also said that at Seeds of Peace, you get to open up, actually listen to each other, listen to different views and points of view and not toward just rebutting their argument, but to understand and eventually find respect for the argument.

We must voice our support for grassroots institutions that are mobilizing for peace. It might start small, but when young people in this number begin to speak about peace and trying to understand each other around the world, we will see the impact in the future. Institutions like Seeds of Peace can be instrumental in changing this world. They have helped the world to remember one thing, that peace begins with each of us.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, as a proud original cosponsor of this resolution, I rise in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 288, honoring Seeds of Peace for its promotion of understanding, reconciliation, acceptance, coexistence, and peace among youth from the Middle East and other regions of conflict.

Since 1993, Seeds of Peace has brought children from war torn areas to the Seeds of Peace International Camp in my district in Maine.

It is a source of great pride to have such a noble mission based in my state.

That mission is to sow the seeds of peace in children who have grown up in the horrors of war.

Seeds of Peace helps teenagers from the war torn regions of the Middle East, the Balkans, Cyprus, and South Asia, learn to respect and understand those they would call their enemy.

In so many of these conflicts building trust between the youth of the opposing sides is the only hope for ending the cycle of violence.

The work performed by Seeds of Peace goes to the heart of our war on terrorism, and

it goes to the heart of our goal to bring peace and prosperity to the world because it goes to the hearts of children to show them that violence is not the answer.

I thank my good friend and fellow representative from Maine for introducing this legislation and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 288 which honors the Seeds of Peace Program for its efforts to promote understanding and peace among young people from areas of conflict.

John Wallach, a constituent of mine and a true visionary, founded the program in 1993 to bring youths together from around the world to break down barriers and learn more about each other.

The organization plays a vital role in promoting many of our foreign policy goals and has been recognized by American leaders for its outstanding work.

By instilling understanding and open-mindedness in the world's children, we can help to put an end to long-standing conflicts and bring hope to these regions.

Seeds of Peace is a wonderful program that I hope will continue to produce more thoughtful, understanding leaders of the future.

At a time when there is so much hate in the world, the Seeds of Peace participants are an inspiration, and I admire their courage and determination.

I join my colleagues in paying tribute to this great organization and its founder John Wallach.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHAW). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 288.

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. LANTOS. 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.

COMMENDING AFGHAN WOMEN FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN AFGHAN GOVERNMENT AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 393) commending Afghan women for their participation in Afghan government and civil society, encouraging the inclusion of Afghan women in the political and economic life of Afghanistan, and advocating the protection of Afghan women's human rights in the Afghanistan Constitution, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 393

Whereas the women of Afghanistan suffered horrible tragedies under the Taliban regime;

Whereas the Afghan people have rejected the Taliban and are in the process of building a free and democratic republic and repairing the damage inflicted upon Afghan society by the Taliban;

Whereas those efforts have improved the daily lives of Afghan women, children, and refugees;

Whereas more Afghan girls are attending school than ever before in the history of Afghanistan and, in addition, many millions more adult women are either returning to school to make up for the time they were not allowed to attend school during the Taliban regime or taking vocational training classes to prepare for the job market;

Whereas women in Afghanistan now are able to work outside the home and hold positions in all levels of government and in private sector organizations, as they did before the Taliban regime;

Whereas the reconstruction of Afghanistan and the writing of the Afghanistan Constitution provide a unique opportunity to continue this success and to affirm women's human rights under the law;

Whereas, in order for women to fully participate in Afghan society, they must have the right to vote, the right to run for office, equality of opportunity, and access to health care, education, and employment;

Whereas women's human rights must be guaranteed in the Afghanistan Constitution; and

Whereas the United States, through its diplomatic activities, is actively involved in encouraging the full inclusion and participation of Afghan women in the political and economic life of their country, and must continue to do so throughout the reconstruction process: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the participation of Afghan women in Afghanistan's government and civil society;

(2) proclaims its ongoing commitment to encouraging the full inclusion of women, and indeed all members of Afghan society, in the political and economic life of their country; and

(3) advocates the protection of the human rights of all Afghans, particularly women, in the Afghanistan Constitution.

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

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

In 1996, a heavy shroud was placed on the people of Afghanistan when the Taliban captured Kabul. But the Taliban's brutality and blatant disregard for the lives and the well-being