

concerted international focus on the North Korean regime's human rights abuses would advance stability in Northeast Asia. I am hard pressed to see how turning away from this ugly reality is in the interest of anyone but the North Korean regime.

Mr. Speaker, we face a critical challenge on the Korean peninsula. I urge the passage of this timely resolution.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO), my friend and our distinguished colleague, who in the short time she has been with us has already made significant contributions to the work of this body.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for his very kind words and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) for their leadership on human rights around the world and in particular for introducing this resolution for which I rise in strong support.

The Korean people are great friends of the United States and have a proud history and a vibrant culture. I, therefore, follow with great sadness the daily oppression suffered by the people of North Korea. Through meeting the many Koreans that come to Guam and by having personally traveled to Korea on many, many occasions, I have come to appreciate how difficult life is under Kim Jong Il's dictatorship.

The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom has described the North Koreans as being amongst the least-free people on this Earth with no personal freedoms or protections for their rights. In their most recent report on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the commission said that North Koreans are barely surviving under a regime that denies basic human dignity and lets them starve while pursuing military might and weapons of mass destruction.

Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights opened its 59th session in Geneva. Human rights are perhaps the most important issue the international community can address. Human rights is the most important guiding principle underlying the work of the United Nations. The commission must and should address the human rights abuses in North Korea. It is my fervent hope that one day Koreans from both North and South will come to visit my island of Guam in unity and peace.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of House Resolution 109. I strongly support it.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. 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. Res. 109 the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) for her very eloquent remarks and my good friend from California (Mr. LANTOS). We need a very strong show of support by our colleagues today, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of this resolution. The U.N. committee is meeting as we speak. This issue must be brought so the kind of scrutiny and, I would say, condemnation for these egregious abuses of human rights can be brought to the fore. North Korea has a horrific record on human rights; and it is about time the international community said so in one loud voice: no more.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H. Res. 109 urging passage of a UN Resolution addressing human rights in North Korea, and to commend my colleague, the Honorable CHRIS SMITH, a true leader on the issue, for introducing this resolution.

The human rights abuses in North Korea are a human tragedy of the worst proportions. Kim Jong Il's prison camp system is a chilling reminder of the methods used by totalitarian dictators to suppress their people. Behind the veil of North Korea's closed society, countless citizens starve to death while the regime continues to spend its limited resources on building nuclear weapons. Public executions are common, newborn babies of prisoners are routinely killed by being smothered or by having their necks broken, and prisoners are used as guinea pigs for chemical weapon experiments.

A truly disturbing tactic of the North Korean regime seeks submission from dissidents by exacting retribution on family members. Persons who resist the regime are punished, but their parents, siblings, and other relatives may also be punished. Many fear for their families particularly if they flee as refugees. According to Human Rights Watch, one man who had suffered years in a political prison camp because of his father's supposed disloyalty and eventual defection feared trying to flee himself. He stated, "I thought it would be all right to lose my own life, but I hated to think that my act might harm my mother and brother."

According to the State Department there continue to be reports of extrajudicial killings and disappearances. The penal code is draconian, and stipulates capital punishment and confiscation of assets for a wide variety of "crimes against the revolution," including defection, attempted defection, slander of the policies of the party or State, listening to foreign broadcasts, writing "reactionary" letters, and possessing reactionary printed matter.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this resolution which would urge the State Department to draft, introduce, and work toward the passage of a resolution addressing human rights abuses in North Korea at the 59th session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. The United Nations must highlight the atrocities of the North Korean regime.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, we 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 New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 109, as amended.

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.

TED WEISS FEDERAL BUILDING

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 145) to designate the Federal building located at 290 Broadway in New York, New York, as the "Ted Weiss Federal Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 145

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The Federal building located at 290 Broadway in New York, New York, shall be known and designated as the "Ted Weiss Federal Building".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Ted Weiss Federal Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) 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, H.R. 145 designates the Federal building located at 290 Broadway in New York City as the Ted Weiss Federal Building. Ted Weiss was born in Gava, Hungary, in September of 1927. He and his family fled Eastern Europe to escape Nazi persecution on the last passenger ship to leave Hamburg, Germany, arriving in the United States in 1938.

Ted Weiss graduated from Hoffman High School in South Amboy, New Jersey, in 1946. He served for 1 year in the United States Army. He then went on to earn a bachelor's and a law degree from Syracuse University, graduating in 1952. Ted Weiss became a naturalized citizen in 1953, the same year that he was admitted to the practice of law in New York.

In 1955 Congressman Weiss became an assistant district attorney for New

York City and in 1962 was elected to the New York City Council where he was an influential advocate on a number of critical issues. After 15 years of service as a councilman, he was elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1976 for the 95th Congress and was reelected to each of the succeeding seven Congresses. During his tenure in the House, Congressman Weiss diligently served as a leader on the House Banking Committee, as well as on the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Government Operations.

He faithfully served this body and his adopted country until his untimely death in September of 1992. The naming of this Federal building in his honor is a fitting tribute to a respected former colleague.

I want to commend our colleague and former committee member, the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER), for his persistence in bringing this legislation, not only this Congress, but in the past Congress. For reasons of schedule and other matters, it was not successfully negotiated through the other body. I hope by bringing it up today and moving it through the House in an expeditious fashion we can receive the same result in the Senate and get this fitting bill to the President of the United States for his signature so that this building may be appropriately named.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG); the ranking member, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR); and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE), the subcommittee chairman; and the ranking member, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON), for their bipartisan support and expeditious handling of this bill on behalf of our former colleague, Ted Weiss.

Ted Weiss was my predecessor in this House. Ted Weiss first ran for Congress in 1966. I was a freshman in Columbia College, and I worked on that campaign. He ran on an anti-Vietnam War platform, and he was not successful. But whereas the previous candidate had lost to the incumbent by 2,500 votes, Ted Weiss lost by 61 votes. Two years later in 1976, Ted Weiss was elected to be Congress where we owe him a great debt of thanks for his dedication for increased funding for AIDS research. In fact, Ted Weiss was the sponsor of the very first funds for AIDS research in this House.

He was a staunch supporter for the human rights movement, and he worked to ensure dignity and equality for Vietnam veterans. He was a great supporter of the rights and aid to Vietnam veterans. These were a few of the causes of which Ted was a tireless advocate and worker.

He was born in Hungary, as was mentioned. He escaped with his family on

the last ship out of Hungary before World War II. He settled in New Jersey. He graduated from South Amboy High School in 1946. After his service in the Army, he attended Syracuse University, earning both undergraduate and law degrees.

In 1953 Ted entered public service as an assistant district attorney in New York City. He served as assistant D.A. for a number of years. As a matter of interest, he roomed with a friend of his while he was assistant district attorney. The friend went on to become the minority leader of the State Senate in later years.

In 1961 Ted was elected to the New York City Council, being the first reformed Democratic member of the city council and served on the city council until his election to Congress in 1976.

The Almanac of American Politics for many years when it talked about Ted's election to Congress mentioned that he had become so recognized as a tribune of the people that in an open, solidly Democratic seat he was unopposed for an open Democratic seat in the primary. He declared his candidacy and no one else ran. During his tenure in Congress, he was a staunch supporter of civil liberties. His legislative record was built around the service of the Government Operations Committee where he chaired the Subcommittee on Human Resources and Intergovernmental Relations.

He was instrumental in establishing procedures for the timely planned conversion of surplus military bases to peacetime uses. He was the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including the NAACP's National Legislative Award.

It is most fitting and proper that we honor Ted Weiss by designating the Federal building at 290 Broadway as the Ted Weiss Federal Building. It is in what was Congressman Weiss's district. It would be a fitting tribute to his memory and to the great service he rendered to the State of New York and to the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for H.R. 145. I do hope this time the Senate will not be totally tied up in bureaucracy and we will manage to pass this bill in time. I know of no opposition to the bill. I again thank the other people who have helped with this, including the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE). Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of this bill unanimously.

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

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to join my colleagues in honoring Congressman Ted Weiss and encouraging them to support H.R. 145 to name a federal building in his honor.

Ted Weiss was often referred to as the conscience of the House for his idealism, independence and unwavering commitment to improving the quality of life for all Americans.

He exemplified all the attributes of a great member of Congress—he championed the disadvantaged, stood up for his principles and

used the oversight power of Congress to effect real improvement in health care and food safety.

By naming a building in his honor, we will be recognizing his legacy.

Congressman Weiss relished his position as a member of Congress, saying after his election that at last, he was "where the clout is."

Even his strongest critics were impressed by his appetite for hard work, his intellectual honesty and his zest for thorough research.

He was a staunch supporter of civil rights, criticizing the Reagan Administration for its handling of civil rights complaints against schools and colleges.

An unrepentant liberal, Congressman Weiss was best known for his advocacy on health care issues and food safety.

Millions of Americans benefitted from his dedication and keen desire to investigate problems presented to him.

As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Relations and Human Resources, Congress Weiss had jurisdiction over the Department of Health and Human Services.

He used his position to advocate tougher testing of food additives, stricter government oversight of Federally financed scientific research and new regulations to allow AIDS medication to reach the marketplace quickly.

He was the first to hold Congressional hearings to seriously question the safety of breast implants.

Following the appearance of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) in the early 1980s, he became one of the most active members of Congress in seeking a strong federal response.

His committee was the first to hold hearings on AIDS in 1983.

Eventually he held more than 20 hearings to push the federal government to dedicate more funding and staff to combat the epidemic.

Congressman Ted Weiss brought real humanity and a sense of decency to public office.

He was a dedicated New Yorker who truly cared about the people he served.

For all of the foregoing reasons, I am hopeful that we will recognize the achievements of Congressman Ted Weiss by naming 290 Broadway in his honor.

Mr. LATOURETTE. 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 Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 145.

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.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATOURETTE. 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.R. 145, the bill just passed.

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