

told us stories about Abraham Lincoln. This obviously whetted my appetite, and I became an Abraham Lincoln guy who read everything that I could get my hands on about Lincoln.

It is obvious from all of the comments that we have heard that Indiana, Illinois, and I guess we have to add Kentucky, have great memories and great fondness for the legacy of Abraham Lincoln, who would probably be considered a great communicator. We did not talk so much about people being communicators then. Now we talk about communication skills and abilities; but I guess he could communicate so much in just a few words, in things like the Lincoln Gettysburg Address and other comments that he made.

The one quote that I often like to suggest that Lincoln made was about education. He said that "education makes a man easy to lead, but difficult to drive; easy to govern, but impossible to enslave." So as we put resources into budgets for education, I always try to remember Abraham Lincoln.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 858, a bill to extend the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission.

History recognizes Abraham Lincoln as one of this Nation's greatest and most visionary Presidents. Born in rural Kentucky, Lincoln rose from humble roots to the highest office in the land. He was renowned as a masterful orator and legislator. He led our country through its greatest internal crisis, our Civil War, with a decisiveness balanced with humanity. In 1863, Lincoln issued the revolutionary Emancipation Proclamation, freeing all slaves in the South. And he professed himself committed to rebuilding our Nation into a strong, united entity through a generous, practical reconstruction program in the South.

Tragically, Lincoln never had the opportunity to act upon his vision for Reconstruction. Just 5 days after Lee's surrender at Appomattox, Lincoln was shot at nearby Ford's Theater. He died of his wounds the next morning. An outpouring of grief swept across the Nation, with thousands meeting his funeral train at every stop.

Abraham Lincoln embodied the principles and qualities our Nation values most highly. He was scrupulously honest, forthright, and moral. In all matters of governance, he made decisions based on his desire to do the greatest good for the largest number of people. He was utterly committed to the fair treatment of all Americans and to healing the wounds of our internal divisions.

As a Member of Congress, I strive to emulate Lincoln's example. In doing so, I am deeply proud to say that I am deeply proud to say that I am carrying on a family heritage. I can trace my own ancestry back to Lincoln himself; our families lived in the same part of Kentucky. His portrait hangs in my office as a constant reminder of his noble spirit and eloquent example.

The Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission was established in 2000 to inform the public about the impact Abraham Lincoln had on the development of our Nation and to identify the best possible ways to honor his accomplishments. The Commission has already done a great deal of excellent work and looks

forward to doing much more. Under the original legislation, however, the Commission is scheduled to expire this year—3 years before the actual Lincoln Bicentennial in 2003. This legislation would extend the Commission's life through the bicentennial it was established to celebrate.

Just last month, I was deeply honored to be appointed to the Commission's advisory board. It will be my privilege to work with my fellow board members and the Commission to educate our Nation about my kinsman and role model.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting S. 858 and honoring the legacy of Abraham Lincoln. Without his leadership, our Nation would not be the strong, unified United States we are today.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, as Representative for the 17th Congressional District in Illinois, a district encompassing Springfield, Illinois, where Abraham Lincoln got his political start, I pledge my support for the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission.

Abraham Lincoln first came to Illinois in March of 1830, and like so many of us he came to love the beautiful state, its good people, and its bountiful opportunities. Abraham Lincoln was a patriotic man and a courageous leader. He led our Nation through one of the darkest times in its history, and helped to shape it into the great country that it is today.

The Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission is dedicated to preserving and honoring the legacy of Abraham Lincoln. It will provide education to the American public about President Lincoln's accomplishments, as well as striving to honor his works.

I encourage everyone to visit Illinois and see the many sites commemorating President Lincoln, not only in Springfield, but throughout the state. It is important to continue to urge Americans to learn about the history of our Nation and the people who have made it so great. Abraham Lincoln is one of the most important figures who contributed to this rich history of which we are so proud.

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of Senator RICHARD J. DURBIN's bill, S. 858, to extend the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission and to inform the American public about his selfless dedication and sacrifice to our country.

It is my privilege to represent Illinois in the House of Representatives just as Abraham Lincoln did more than a century and a half ago. I am honored to share this association with one of our nation's greatest lawyers, legislators, and presidents.

Toward the end of this decade, on February 12, 2009, we will recognize the 200th anniversary of President Lincoln's birth. Passage of this bill authorizes the Bicentennial Commission to explore the best possible ways to honor his lasting accomplishments.

Our state slogan, "Land of Lincoln" reflects how proud Illinoisans are of his enduring contribution to America's unity and strength. His home in Springfield, Illinois is a National Historic Site administered by the National Park Service, and his tomb in Oak Ridge Cemetery, also in Springfield, is among the most visited sites in our state.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Senator DURBIN for introducing this legislation to make certain that a hero to all in my home state of Illinois and throughout the nation is honored appropriately. I strongly encourage all of my colleagues to

vote for S. 858, authorizing the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission to help preserve the memory of his noble vision, statesmanship and humanity forever in American history.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 858.

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. SOUDER. 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.

TEMPORARY AUTHORITY FOR CONGRESSIONAL HUNGER CENTER TO AWARD BILL EMERSON AND MICKEY LELAND HUNGER FELLOWSHIPS

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2474) to require that funds made available for fiscal years 2003 and 2004 for the Bill Emerson and Mickey Leland Hunger Fellowships be administered through the Congressional Hunger Center, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2474

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

SECTION 1. TEMPORARY AUTHORITY FOR CONGRESSIONAL HUNGER CENTER TO AWARD BILL EMERSON AND MICKEY LELAND HUNGER FELLOWSHIPS.

Notwithstanding the Congressional Hunger Fellows Act of 2002 (section 4404 of Public Law 107-171; 2 U.S.C. 1161), funds appropriated for fiscal years 2003 and 2004 for the purpose of providing the Bill Emerson and Mickey Leland Hunger Fellowships shall be made available to the Congressional Hunger Center for the purpose of awarding the fellowships, except that any such funds provided in excess of \$3,000,000 in fiscal year 2003 or \$3,000,000 in fiscal year 2004 shall be appropriated to the Congressional Hunger Fellows Trust Fund established by such Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE).

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in support of H.R. 2474, a bill that provides for the continuation, for 2003 and 2004, of a fellowship program honoring our colleagues, the Honorable Bill Emerson and the Honorable Mickey Leland.

Last year, Congress authorized the Congressional Hunger Fellows Program

as a part of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002. This provision was included in both the Committee on Agriculture bill and the law as a memorial to the Honorable Bill Emerson, a former member of the Committee on Agriculture, and the Honorable Mickey Leland. The purpose of the fellowships is to develop and train future leaders of the United States in humanitarian service.

The law establishes an independent agency in the legislative branch of the U.S. Government, creates a board of trustees to supervise and direct the program, establishes a Congressional Hunger Fellows trust fund in the Department of the Treasury that will provide funds from the interest to help run the program, and authorizes \$18 million for the fund.

While the necessary process to establish a congressional Hunger Fellows Program has begun, the process is not complete. H.R. 2474 allows the current process to continue utilizing the Congressional Hunger Center just until the program authorized by the farm bill is completed. These fellowships provide a way to continue the legacy established by our former colleagues Bill Emerson and Mickey Leland and move towards achieving the valued goal of training future leaders of the United States in humanitarian service, goals I know Members share with me.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, the wife of the late Congressman Bill Emerson, the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. EMERSON), and his successor, for introducing this legislation; and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2474.

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

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such times as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2474, which requires that funds made available for the Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellowship and the Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellowships are to be awarded through the Congressional Hunger Center. This piece of legislation is needed to ensure that funds already appropriated to provide hunger fellowships in the fiscal year 2003 are able to be used for that purpose. In addition, it will ensure that funds made available in fiscal year 2004 are also available for these fellowships.

In the farm bill, we created the Congressional Fellows Hunger Act of 2002, which authorizes \$18 million to a trust to be used as an endowment to provide domestic and international hunger fellowships. The program is overseen by a board of trustees, which only recently was appointed. Because of the time needed to establish the program as envisioned by the authorizing language, the funds provided for the fellowships in the fiscal year 2003 agricultural appropriations act are not available. This bill will allow those funds to be used by the Congressional Hunger Center for hunger fellowships.

The Congressional Hunger Center was formed in 1993 with a mandate to

lead, speak, and act on behalf of the poor, the hungry, and the victims of humanitarian emergencies both on a domestic and international level. The Congressional Hunger Center, through its leadership development programs and its education, research, and advocacy programs has, as of 2002, graduated over 500 antihunger leaders who address hunger at the community, national, and international levels.

The fellowships originally awarded by the Congressional Hunger Center and codified in the Congressional Fellows Hunger Act of 2002 were designed, as we have heard, to honor the memories of Bill Emerson and Mickey Leland, who, during their careers in public service, were deeply interested in helping those in need by their words and by their actions. Bill Emerson, the distinguished late Representative from the eighth district of Missouri, and George T. Mickey Leland, the distinguished late Representative from the 18th district of Texas demonstrated their commitment to solving the problem of hunger in a bipartisan manner.

Providing the \$3 million in funding to the Congressional Hunger Center for fiscal years 2003 and 2004 will ensure that the spirit of these two leaders will live on through the fellowships by making sure that there will be a future generation of leaders who will pursue careers in humanitarian service related to hunger.

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to thank the gentleman from Texas for his support and leadership on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. EMERSON), who has carried on the fight against hunger here in the United States and around the world that her late husband, Bill Emerson, was so well noted for. I thank her for that work.

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) for yielding me this time and for the graciousness which he has shown, as well as that of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM), in allowing us to make the corrections on the legislation that will permit the Hunger Fellows to proceed with the remarkable work that they do.

I also want to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), because this bill also goes through IR, and I want to thank Kevin Kramp and Lynn Gallagher from the Committee on Agriculture, and Frank Record from the Committee on International Relations, because without their great assistance we would not be here today.

I also want to thank both the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM) for the wonderful words they had to say about my late husband, Bill Emerson, and the commitment he had throughout his lifetime to prevent hunger wherever it is found.

Mr. Speaker, passage of this bill is critical for the future of the Bill Emerson and Mickey Leland Hunger Fellowships. The funding for the 24 Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellows and the 50 Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellows will expire, as my colleagues have said, unless this legislation passes.

These 39 Fellows fight hunger and poverty worldwide. They each earn just \$10,000 helping nutritionally vulnerable populations in urban and rural communities get food. For example, the Emerson Fellows assist low-income communities in getting access to fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as helping to do the same for Federal nutrition programs for school-aged children and the elderly. The Leland Fellows work with national and international agencies and faith-based groups to get school lunches to over 300 million children overseas.

In their work, the Fellows are constantly faced with things that we do not normally see on a daily basis, threats of terrorism, crime, AIDS, and, most recently, SARS, while helping the communities in which they are living formulate solutions to ending hunger and poverty.

For the past 3 years, many may know that agricultural appropriations and private foundations have funded the Emerson-Leland Fellows through the Congressional Hunger Center. As my colleagues have mentioned, the farm bill did authorize an endowment for the Congressional Hunger Fellows program, which incorporated the current Fellows program operated by the Congressional Hunger Center. But because operating funds for the endowment are not yet in place, the Congressional Hunger Center is left without operating funds to recruit for their future classes. This legislation will allow the program to continue while we establish the endowment.

So, again, I want to thank the chairman, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), and my good colleague, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), who helps co-chair the Congressional Hunger Center, for all the work that they do in helping a problem that should not exist but, sadly, it does, and, hopefully, one day soon, we will find a means to make certain that no person on Earth goes hungry.

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN).

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from Texas for yielding me this time, and I also applaud his incredible work on behalf of the hungry around the world and here in the United States. I also want to thank the chairman of the committee, the gentleman from Virginia, for bringing this bill so quickly to the House floor for consideration.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2474, authorizing the Bill Emerson and Mickey Leland Hunger Fellowships and urge its swift passage by this House. I want to acknowledge the leadership of my friend and colleague, the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. EMERSON), and to thank her for her many contributions to ending hunger here at home and abroad. She has honored the memory of her husband and our former colleague, Bill Emerson, in whose honor the National Hunger Fellowships at the Congressional Hunger Center are named.

I have had the privilege of working closely with the gentlewoman from Missouri over the past few years, first when we helped create the Global Food for Education Initiative, known as the George McGovern-Robert Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program, and now when we serve together as the co-chairs of the Congressional Hunger Center. I admire her leadership and determination, and I hope to learn a great deal more from her about how best to end hunger, honor America's farmers, and contribute to increasing food security for all nations.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2474 will correct a simple error in last year's farm bill reauthorization that authorized funding for the Bill Emerson and Mickey Leland Hunger Fellowships, but inadvertently channeled the monies to the Congressional Hunger Center's endowment rather than through the Center's program budget. Passage of H.R. 2474 will ensure that the two fellowship programs are administered and funded through the Congressional Hunger Center for fiscal year 2003 and fiscal year 2004.

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This adjustment will allow for the endowment to have enough time to build so it may sustain funding for the Congressional Hunger Center over the long term without interrupting the Bill Emerson and Mickey Leland Hunger Fellowships program in the short term. I also thank the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. EMERSON), the gentleman from Texas (Chairman BONILLA), and the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), the ranking member on the subcommittee for agricultural appropriations, for including the appropriate allocations for these hunger fellowships in the fiscal year 2004 agriculture appropriations bill. I also would like to express my appreciation to Jim Dyer, the majority staff director for the Committee on Appropriations, for his help and support on this matter.

Mr. Speaker, today I have had the privilege of meeting the newest class of Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellows who are in Washington for their initial orientation. The Congressional Hunger Center received 155 applicants for these fellowships, which were narrowed to 50 finalists, and 15 young men and women were chosen to receive these fellowships.

The Leland Fellows will work for 2 years on hunger issues, including a 1-year field placement in countries throughout South Asia, sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America. The class of 2003-2005 will work in Thailand, Uganda, Malawi, Ethiopia, the Philippines, Indonesia, Guatemala, Bangladesh, Mexico, Mauritania, and in East Africa. Their field placements include national and international nongovernmental organizations, private commercial organizations, and bilateral and multilateral agencies. They will spend their second year in the headquarters of the organizations that sponsor their field placements where they will focus on policy-making to address the root causes of hunger.

I know that our friend and former colleague, Mickey Leland, is looking down on these dedicated young people and is proud that the work they are doing in his name will create future leaders in the fight on hunger and poverty.

The Bill Emerson National Hunger fellows Program annually selects around 20 participants who work for 6 months in rural and urban community-based organizations across the country involved in fighting hunger at the local level. Their 6 months is spent in national nonprofit organizations engaged at the national level in antihunger and antipoverty work. This year, 24 men and women will represent the 10th class of Emerson Fellows.

Together, these two hunger fellowship programs, administered and coordinated by the Congressional Hunger Center, are having a significant impact on the fight to end hunger in America and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) and our former colleague Tony Hall, who were instrumental in establishing the center 10 years ago. Congress can take great pride in the support for the Congressional Hunger Center and the Bill Emerson and Mickey Leland Hunger Fellowship programs. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2474.

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

Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill. It is a good program. It has the kind of leadership and oversight from the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) and the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. EMERSON) that we in Congress appreciate very much. I urge support of the bill. I thank the chairman for his leadership in this endeavor.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2474. The Congressional Hunger Center was established 10 years ago with a mission of fighting hunger by developing leaders. They have been doing that ever since.

When I think of the Congressional Hunger Center, I think of my good friend Ambassador Tony Hall. It was Tony who first got me involved in fighting hunger. In 1984, he persistently encouraged me to travel to the Horn of Africa to witness the devastation of the famine. As many of you know, that experience changed my life.

Many of the Congressional Hunger Center fellows are having similar experiences right now. There are Bill Emerson fellows who are having life-changing experiences in 12 locations across the country and Leland International Fellows in 15 locations throughout the world. The combination of the life-changing practical and the policy experiences will equip these young people to be active leaders on hunger issues wherever they may go.

One of the program's most committed international fellows is Robert Oliver Davila. Robert was a Peace Corps volunteer in Africa for three years. He joined the first class of international fellows after being a manager at the Worcester County Food Bank. Robert visited schools all over Ethiopia helping them implement the World Food Programme Global School Lunch Program. Robert monitored and evaluated the impact of the program on the lives of children, families and communities. Robert is now working with the Global School Feeding Support Unit in the Strategy and Policy Division of the World Food Programme.

Sarah Boron, from Dennison University in Ohio, helped develop a model to assess food and farm issues at Food for Lane County in Eugene, Oregon. Sarah is now helping local groups form food policy councils through the Community Food Security Coalition.

Many of us who have supported the Congressional Hunger Center over the years have maintained a vision of self-sufficiency for the organization in the future. As some of you know, Congress has been providing the bulk of the Hunger Center's operating budget each year through annual appropriations. Last year, the dream of self-sufficiency came closer to being a reality.

In the 2002 Farm Bill, Congress authorized an endowment to move the Hunger Center's fellows programs toward self-sufficiency. Unfortunately, when the appropriations committee provided funding for the newly authorized endowment, the Congressional Hunger Center was not able to access any funds for operating the fellows program.

H.R. 2474 will allow the Congressional Hunger Center to access the funds it needs to operate the fellows program, equipping people like Roger and Sarah to become leaders in fighting hunger. Equally important, this legislation does not detract from the vision of an endowment that allows the fellows program to operate self-sufficiently.

In closing Mr. Speaker, I encourage all my colleagues to support this legislation, which makes the technical corrections necessary to allow the Congressional Hunger Center fellows program to continue uninterrupted, growing leaders to fight hunger around the world.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2474 requesting that funds be made available for fiscal years 2003 and 2004 for the Bill Emerson and Mickey Leland Hunger Fellowships to be administered through the Congressional Hunger Center.

The Bill Emerson and Mickey Leland Fellowships provide an opportunity for young people to invest their time, energy, and dedication to the cause of fighting hunger around the world. The fellowship was established in memory of the outstanding contributions of the Honorable Bill Emerson and the Honorable Mickey Leland both of whom were former members of Congress.

Each year approximately twenty participants are selected to participate in the highly selective Emerson and Leland Fellowship program. The fellows spend the first six months of their internship working on local level hunger issues, primarily through community food banks and local advocacy initiatives. The fellows then spend another six months in Washington, D.C. working with national organizations involved in the anti-hunger and poverty movement. This unique and challenging opportunity embodies the ideals and legacy of both Mr. Leland and Mr. Emerson.

Mickey Leland in addition to serving as a respected representative of the 18th Congressional District in Texas, Mr. Leland also served as a renowned yet humble humanitarian bringing both national and international attention to several causes including hunger and famine. With a "heart as big as Texas", Mickey Leland served as an active voice for social change. I am proud to follow him as a representative of the 18th District. And Bill Emerson over the span of five decades, contributed significantly to the strengthening of U.S. public policy and the process to achieve common sense solutions to legitimate real world problems, namely hunger. Thus the Emerson/Leland Fellowships provide an opportunity for young people to continue in the footsteps of these revered statesmen.

Therefore, it is in the spirit of the work of both Mickey Leland and Bill Emerson that this Congress would like to administer funds secured from the 2003 and 2004 fiscal years for the Emerson/Leland Fellowship through the Congressional Hunger Center. The Congressional Hunger Center is a unique non-profit, anti-hunger leadership organization. The mission of the center is to train and develop individuals who feel they can serve in either a domestic and/or international capacity to become leaders in the fight against hunger and effectively bridge the gap between service and public policy. The Congressional Hunger Center serves as a lasting tribute to all those who work to eradicate hunger but especially Mickey Leland, who was one of the Center's founding members. As such, it seems only natural that the Emerson/Leland Fellowship Program receives its funding through the Congressional Hunger Center.

Mickey Leland once said: "I cannot get used to hunger and desperate poverty in our plentiful land. There is no reason for it, there is no excuse for it, and it is time that we as a nation put an end to it." And while we cannot easily put an end to hunger, we can certainly do our part both individually and collectively to take an active role in helping to increase awareness and action around global hunger.

Therefore, I stand in full support of H.R. 2474 and hope that my Congressional colleagues will also express their support for this resolution as well.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2474, 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. GOODLATTE. 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.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2474, the bill just considered, and on S. 858, the bill considered immediately previously.

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

There was no objection.

RECOGNIZING IMPORTANT SERVICE PROVIDED BY FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE ON OCCASION OF ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 49) recognizing the important service to the Nation provided by the Foreign Agricultural Service of the Department of Agriculture on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.J. RES. 49

Whereas, during the terms of President Dwight David Eisenhower and the era of Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson, it became apparent that the development of external markets was needed to ensure the financial viability of the agricultural sector of the United States;

Whereas the Foreign Agricultural Service of the Department of Agriculture was established on March 10, 1953, to develop and expand markets for, and improve the competitive position of, United States agricultural commodities and products;

Whereas the Foreign Agricultural Service has represented agricultural interests of the United States during a period of great expansion of United States agricultural exports from less than \$3,000,000,000 in 1953 to over \$50,000,000,000 in 2002;

Whereas the number of organizations engaged in the public and private partnership established by the Foreign Agricultural Service to promote United States agricultural exports has grown significantly, with market development and expansion occurring in nearly every global marketplace; and

Whereas March 10, 2003, was the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Foreign Agricultural Service: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress recognizes the Foreign Agricultural Service of the Department of Agriculture and its employees and partners for—

(1) cooperating with, and leading, the United States agricultural community in developing and expanding export markets for United States agricultural commodities and products;

(2) identifying the private partners capable of carrying out the mission of the Foreign Agricultural Service;

(3) identifying and expanding markets for United States agricultural commodities and products;

(4) introducing innovative and creative ways of expanding the markets for United States agricultural commodities and products;

(5) providing international food assistance to feed the hungry worldwide;

(6) addressing unfair barriers to United States agricultural exports;

(7) implementing strict procedures governing the use and evaluation of programs and funds of the Foreign Agricultural Service; and

(8) overseeing the efficient and effective use of Federal funds to carry out programs of the Foreign Agricultural Service.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE).

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Joint Resolution 49. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM) and I introduced this resolution to recognize the important service of the Foreign Agricultural Service of the Department of Agriculture on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service was established to develop and expand markets for United States agricultural commodities and products. Our farmers and ranchers are the most productive in the world and produce much more than we in the United States can consume. Therefore, a vibrant export market is very important to the success of U.S. agriculture.

FAS has contributed to that success; and as of 2002, the United States agricultural exports exceed imports by more than \$12 billion. Our exports have grown significantly over the history of the FAS and now exceed \$50 billion per year.

The FAS fosters the public and private partnership that is needed to promote United States agricultural exports and to develop and expand markets around the world. At this important time when free trade negotiations are ongoing, both in the WTO and through bilateral negotiations, the FAS is essential to represent United States agriculture and ensure that the challenges facing our agricultural producers are thoroughly addressed.

Another responsibility of the FAS is to provide food aid to needy people in developing countries and to help those countries to eventually become trading partners of the United States and buy our agricultural products. The FAS and its employees provide a significant service to the farmers and ranchers here at home so they can compete in worldwide markets. I congratulate them on their achievements and look forward to working closely with the FAS as the committee continues its work to expand markets for United States agriculture.