

Dunn	King (NY)	Ramstad
Ehlers	Kingston	Regula
English	Kirk	Rehberg
Everett	Kline	Renzi
Feeney	Knollenberg	Reynolds
Ferguson	LaHood	Rogers (AL)
Flake	Latham	Rogers (KY)
Foley	LaTourette	Rogers (MI)
Forbes	Lewis (CA)	Rohrabacher
Franks (AZ)	Lewis (KY)	Ros-Lehtinen
Frelinghuysen	Linder	Royce
Gallegly	LoBiondo	Ryan (WI)
Garrett (NJ)	Lucas (OK)	Ryun (KS)
Gerlach	Manzullo	Saxton
Gibbons	McCotter	Schrock
Gilchrest	McCrery	Sensenbrenner
Gillmor	McHugh	Sessions
Gingrey	McInnis	Shadegg
Goode	McKeon	Shaw
Goodlatte	Mica	Sherwood
Goss	Miller (FL)	Shimkus
Granger	Miller (MI)	Shuster
Graves	Miller, Gary	Simmons
Green (WI)	Moran (KS)	Simpson
Gutknecht	Murphy	Smith (MI)
Hall	Musgrave	Smith (NJ)
Harris	Myrick	Smith (TX)
Hart	Nethercutt	Souder
Hastert	Neugebauer	Stearns
Hastings (WA)	Ney	Sullivan
Hayes	Northup	Sweeney
Hayworth	Norwood	Tancredo
Hefley	Nunes	Terry
Hensarling	Nussle	Thomas
Herger	Osborne	Thornberry
Hobson	Ose	Tiahrt
Hoekstra	Otter	Tiberi
Hostettler	Oxley	Toomey
Hunter	Paul	Turner (OH)
Hyde	Pearce	Vitter
Isakson	Pence	Walden (OR)
Issa	Peterson (PA)	Walsh
Istook	Pickering	Weldon (FL)
Jenkins	Pitts	Weldon (PA)
Johnson (CT)	Platts	Weller
Johnson (IL)	Pombo	Whitfield
Johnson, Sam	Porter	Wicker
Jones (NC)	Portman	Wilson (NM)
Keller	Pryce (OH)	Wilson (SC)
Kelly	Putnam	Wolf
Kennedy (MN)	Quinn	Young (AK)
King (IA)	Radanovich	Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—16

Bell	Fossella	Neal (MA)
Berman	Frank (MA)	Tanner
Burton (IN)	Gephardt	Tauzin
Conyers	Houghton	Taylor (NC)
Culberson	Hoyer	
DeMint	Hulshof	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised that 2 minutes remain in this vote.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. THOMPSON of California (during the vote). Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The gentleman may inquire.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, everyone has voted. How long does the Chair plan to keep the roll open?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. It is a minimum 5-minute vote.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. So what is the maximum, Mr. Speaker?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There is no maximum.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I thought that we had House rules that limited the time that the roll could be kept open.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There is no House rule that limits the time. Rule XX provides a minimum time.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, how long will the Chair keep the role open on this particular vote?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Until all the Members wishing to vote have voted.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, how long has the roll been open?

Mr. Speaker, I have a point of parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman may inquire.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, how long has the roll been open on this 5-minute vote?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Thirteen minutes on this minimum 5-minute vote.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. How much longer does the Chair plan to keep the roll open?

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

Mr. SPRATT (during the vote). Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman may state his inquiry.

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, if the purpose of setting the vote at 5 minutes was to save time, the House's time, what purpose is served by allowing the roll to stay open for more than 20 minutes?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair is exercising his discretion.

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, but if the original purpose was to save time, why are we now extending time?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair is exercising his discretion and can do so under the rule.

Mr. SPRATT. Can the Chair give us an estimate of when he expects to close the roll and announce the vote?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair cannot predict the future.

Mr. RANGEL. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman may inquire.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, could the brilliant Chair share with us the basis of his discretionary decision on this most important vote?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has the discretion as to when to close a vote.

Mr. RANGEL. I know that, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. After the minimum time has expired.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, we will never challenge the Chair's discretion, because we appreciate the intelligence which he brings to this august body. So that is the reason why we should like to support the Chair if he could only share with us the basis of his decision.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Another Member has entered the Chamber to vote.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I think this one vote has answered my question. The Chair wanted just one more affirmative vote.

□ 1222

Messrs. DUNCAN, OSE, SMITH of Michigan and WHITFIELD changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Mr. OWENS changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the motion was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on rollcall 97, the motion to instruct conferees. I was attending a memorial service for the wife of a very dear friend and, therefore, could not attend. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted for the motion to instruct, which I understand would have made the tally 210 for and 209 against.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Without objection, the Chair appoints the following conferees: For consideration of the Senate concurrent resolution and the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. NUSSLE, PORTMAN and SPRATT.

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6, rule XX.

RECORD votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

WELCOMING THE ACCESSION OF BULGARIA, ESTONIA, LATVIA, LITHUANIA, ROMANIA, SLOVAKIA, AND SLOVENIA TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

Mr. BEREUTER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 558) welcoming the accession of Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 558

Whereas since 1949 the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has played an essential role in guaranteeing the security, freedom, and prosperity of the United States and its allies in Europe and North America;

Whereas since 1994 Congress has repeatedly endorsed the enlargement of NATO through the NATO Participation Act of 1994, the NATO Enlargement Facilitation Act of 1996, the European Security Act of 1998, the Gerald B. H. Solomon Freedom Consolidation Act of 2002, the Transatlantic Security and NATO Enhancement Resolution of 2002, and House Concurrent Resolution 209 (2003);

Whereas NATO heads of state and government, meeting in Prague on November 21, 2002, invited Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia to commence accession negotiations with NATO;

Whereas on March 26, 2003, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia signed accession protocols to the Washington Treaty of 1949;

Whereas on May 8, 2003, the Senate voted 96-0 to give its advice and consent to ratification by the United States of the seven accession protocols;

Whereas on March 2, 2004, NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer announced that all 19 NATO members had deposited with the United States Government their instruments of ratification of the accession protocols;

Whereas Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia have reformed their political and economic systems in preparation for NATO membership;

Whereas Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia have undertaken defense reform programs that will enable each country to contribute to NATO operations and are working to meet the financial responsibilities of NATO membership by spending or committing to spend at least two percent of their gross domestic product on defense;

Whereas Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia have contributed to military operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Afghanistan, and Iraq;

Whereas Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia became members of NATO on March 29, 2004, and are expected to be welcomed by NATO heads of state and government when they meet in Istanbul on June 28 and 29, 2004;

Whereas Albania, Croatia, and Macedonia, the remaining countries currently in NATO's Membership Action Plan, signed the United States-Adriatic Charter on May 2, 2003, thereby affirming their commitment to the values and principles of NATO, their willingness to contribute to the peace and security of southeast Europe, and their desire to join the Alliance at the earliest possible time;

Whereas in 2003 Congress, in House Concurrent Resolution 209, urged NATO to invite Albania, Croatia, and Macedonia to join NATO as soon as each of these countries respectively demonstrates the ability to assume the responsibilities of NATO membership through the Membership Action Plan;

Whereas the Governments of Albania and Macedonia supported Operation Iraqi Freedom and are contributing forces to stabilization operations in Iraq and to the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan; and

Whereas the Government of Croatia elected in November 2003 has demonstrated its commitment to implementing reforms and meeting conditions for integration into Euro-Atlantic institutions, including the defense reforms necessary for NATO membership, and has contributed forces to the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) welcomes with enthusiasm the accession of Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO);

(2) reaffirms that the process of NATO enlargement enhances the security of the United States and the entire North Atlantic area;

(3) agrees that the process of NATO enlargement should remain open to potential membership by any interested European democracy that meets the criteria for NATO membership as set forth in the 1995 Study on NATO Enlargement and whose admission would further the principles of the Wash-

ington Treaty of 1949 and would enhance security in the North Atlantic area; and

(4) recommends that NATO heads of state and government, meeting at Istanbul on June 28 and 29, 2004, should agree to review the enlargement process, including the applications of Albania, Croatia, and Macedonia, at a summit meeting to be held no later than 2007.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BEREUTER. Madam 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. 558, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, this Member is extremely pleased to offer this resolution welcoming the accession to NATO membership of seven Central European democracies: Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

Yesterday, these seven nations became America's newest allies when their prime ministers presented Secretary of State Powell with their instruments of accession. Secretary Powell recalled their struggle for freedom and promised that "by joining NATO's bond of collective security, Article 5 and all, you will remain free."

Later, President Bush yesterday publicly welcomed their leaders to the alliance on the south lawn of the White House. In his remarks, the President noted, "The countries we welcome today were friends before they were allies, and they were allies in action before becoming allies by treaty."

The decision to admit former communist nations from Central and Eastern Europe, Madam Speaker, into the Atlantic Alliance, is one of the great successes of American and Alliance foreign policy since the end of the Cold War. It is a bipartisan success promoted by Republicans and Democrats in the Congress and by both the Clinton and Bush administrations. It is also a success in which the House of Representatives has played an important role.

Since 1994, the House has repeatedly declared its support for NATO enlargement and the fundamental role of NATO in transatlantic security. We recognize that throughout its history NATO has succeeded not only in keeping its MEMBERS free, but in extending that freedom to new lands that have long yearned for freedom's blessings.

Already, the three nations that joined NATO in 1999, Poland, Hungary

and the Czech Republic, have been contributing to the Alliance and its operations in Bosnian and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Afghanistan. Furthermore, Poland has been a major contributor to Operation Iraqi Freedom and currently commands a multinational force in south central Iraq.

The current round of enlargement, the fifth in NATO's history, will further erase the dividing lines across Europe that were drawn at Yalta and will further extend the zone of peace and security in the North Atlantic region.

Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia are already contributing to the Alliance, with each of these new allies contributing to one or more of NATO's ongoing operations. In addition, six of them have forces on the ground in Iraq.

That is far from their only contribution. Last year as president of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, this Member traveled to all seven of these countries; and after those visits, this Member is confident that they and their membership will reinvigorate the Alliance. In fact, the new vigor is already being felt.

Because the citizens of these new MEMBER countries have recent memories of living under oppressive dictatorships, they are especially committed to NATO and its collective defense guarantee.

Having fought so long and hard to gain their freedom, they know how precious freedom is and how fundamentally important the defense of freedom remains. They have pledged that they are ready to defend their freedom and ours, and we are very fortunate to be able to call them our allies.

In addition to noting the accomplishments of the incoming NATO members and welcoming their accession to the Alliance, this resolution also reaffirms the support of the House for the process of NATO enlargement and for keeping NATO's doors open.

Finally, this resolution expresses our support for the remaining candidates for NATO membership, at this point, Albania, Croatia, and Macedonia.

To ensure that the enlargement process continues after the accession of the seven new members, the resolution recommends that the leaders of the NATO nations at this summer's Istanbul Summit "should agree to review the enlargement process, including the applications of Albania, Croatia and Macedonia, at a summit meeting to be held no later than 2007."

This language is consistent with the language of the relevant communique from the 1999 Washington Summit at which Alliance leaders welcomed Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic to NATO membership. That communique called for a summit meeting to review the enlargement process to be held "no later than 2002," that is, 3 years after that summit.

Scheduling a 2007 enlargement summit would also establish a 5-year cycle for NATO enlargement. Three nations

received invitations in 1997 at Madrid, and seven nations were invited in 2002 in Prague. This Member believes that this is a reasonable timetable, one that gives NATO time to incorporate the seven new members, while absolutely ensuring that the three remaining candidates are not forgotten and that they have met the necessary requirements to be full-fledged partners in NATO.

Madam Speaker, yesterday was a historic day for America's seven newest allies as they joined the most successful Alliance in history and thereby secured the freedom that they had fought so hard to gain. This Member urges his colleagues to vote for this resolution in order to welcome these countries to NATO and to ensure that NATO's door remains open to Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, and probably to countries to follow.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution.

Madam Speaker, first I want to commend my friend, the distinguished gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER), for his outstanding leadership as the current president of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and as a long-time champion of NATO in our Congress over many years. He is serious and thoughtful in his leadership, and he has served our Nation well through his commitment to NATO and in many other ways.

Madam Speaker, it gives me pleasure and a sense of personal delight to welcome seven new members to NATO. I passionately believe that in NATO we have a powerful group of allies who share our democratic values and objectives.

Congress has consistently led the way in supporting NATO enlargement and in promoting a strong and robust role for NATO. NATO is the longest effective alliance in our time, and it has endured because it is comprised of free and democratic nations. No country was ever forced to join the Alliance by a larger and stronger power. There can be no better endorsement of NATO's success than the eagerness of the newly emerging Central and East European democracies to be part of it.

□ 1230

The accession of seven countries is a milestone in Central and Eastern Europe where, not long ago, some people were skeptical about the fate of democracy and human rights. Some argued that the American emphasis on democracy in this region was misplaced and that our Nation's efforts would fail. We proved the skeptics wrong.

These new NATO allies have taken positive steps to advance their integration into Europe, and they have already contributed to the security and the stability of that continent. They

have acted as de facto NATO allies by contributing forces to both peace-keeping and other military operations, both within and outside of Europe, in Afghanistan and in Iraq.

So today, Madam Speaker, as we raise seven European flags at NATO headquarters, we again reaffirm the close friendship and partnership we have with Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia; and we express our desire that this friendship grows stronger and even more vibrant within NATO.

Madam Speaker, let me just say a few words about Russia's relationship to NATO. It is evident that as Russia strives to join the international community of democracies, it is in Russia's interests to have the arena of stability and prosperity in Europe expanded to Russia's borders. It is clear that if democratic forces gain strength within Russia, these democratic forces will welcome the enlargement of NATO and the growth of stable democracies in adjacent countries. It is not in Russia's interests to have a country on its border which is a totalitarian and authoritarian state, like Belarus. It is in Russia's interests to have countries nearby which are democratic, such as Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, prosperous, free, and proud members of NATO.

During the Cold War, Madam Speaker, I never accepted the notion that NATO threatened Russia, and I do not accept it now. There is no NATO leader who has the slightest ambition to invade or act in a way that is contrary to Russia's long-term interests. NATO's leadership hopes for the evolution of a democratic and prosperous and stable Russia. The leadership and the members of NATO want nothing more for the Russia people than an improvement in their economic conditions and an improvement in their political and civil liberties.

In conclusion, let me just say a word about the responsibility of NATO out of area. When NATO was established, Madam Speaker, it was designed as a shield against the Soviet Union. Thanks to our efforts, the Soviet Union no longer exists, and NATO must find for itself a new *raison d'être*. That new *raison d'être* is in places like Afghanistan and Iraq, where the free and democratic way of life we enjoy and other NATO members enjoy is threatened.

Now, NATO today performs a very limited function in Afghanistan. I call upon NATO leadership to dramatically increase its presence in Afghanistan. Short of that happening, the new Afghanistan will collapse, and we will have countless hearings as to the reasons why. Well, we know what the reasons would be. It is the failure of NATO members to have a presence in Afghanistan commensurate with the need.

In Iraq, NATO has a profound responsibility. While NATO members were divided initially with respect to moving into Iraq, today there is not a NATO member who has not benefited by the establishment of stability in that coun-

try. I call upon the leaders of all NATO countries, old NATO countries and the seven new ones, to recognize that for NATO to have any reason for existence, it must be present in a robust way in places that can desperately use NATO's presence. I call upon our leadership and the leadership of all NATO countries to recognize this. And I look forward to the time in the very near future when NATO will be present in both Afghanistan and in Iraq, in a major and robust way, that can guarantee success in these two important areas.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BEREUTER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for a brief set of comments, and I want to thank the gentleman for his outstanding statement and for his generous remarks directed toward this Member.

I would say to the gentleman with respect to Iraq and with respect to Afghanistan, the two subjects that the gentleman addressed towards the remaining part of his time, I certainly am in absolute agreement. The gentleman will recall, of course, that the House and the Senate have both expressed their view that NATO should take a larger role in Iraq and that, in fact, we should call upon the resources of the United Nations where appropriate. I am sure the gentleman is concerned about the lack of resources from NATO countries being directed towards Afghanistan at this critical time.

Madam Speaker, it is now my pleasure to yield time shortly to the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS), who is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy and who had the experience of being an infantry officer in a combat unit stationed on the Czechoslovakian border before, in fact, the Wall came down and before we moved to now admit, some 3 or 4 years ago, the Czech Republic to NATO. The gentleman has taken an outstanding interest and involvement in the NATO Parliamentary Assembly as a rapporteur or co-rapporteur on a number of important reports for the Defense and Security committee and, I might also say, he has a special interest in our Baltic neighbors who are, by actions yesterday, joining NATO.

Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS).

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, it is a wonderful day. Actually, the great day was yesterday, and it is an honor to be here on the floor with the gentleman from Nebraska (Chairman BEREUTER) and the gentleman from California (Ranking Member LANTOS), who have become great friends in this battle. It is a battle that I have really been fortunate to join, really at the closing of it. It is an important step forward to President Bush's goal and others within the administration's goal of a Europe whole, free, and at peace.

It was great at the ceremonies yesterday when, on the lawn, on the east lawn, not only was the current administration there, but representatives of previous administrations: the Honorable Jean Kirkpatrick was there, the Honorable Madeleine Albright was there, Sandy Berger was there. So it really shows that NATO enlargement is really something that has lasted the test of time.

At a time in our country where there seems to be great divisiveness, one unifying aspect is NATO enlargement. I am proud to be a Member of the House where I think all enlargements, actually, the momentum has always started, I think from the Madrid enlargement to even this most recent round. I think the other body gets a lot of credit because of their votes, but we do not want to shy away or take a second seat to anybody in our position and our push for NATO enlargement.

I have enjoyed the relationship with the American citizens who still have a great respect and honor for their ethnic heritage and their home countries. These American citizens, who have fought in our wars and have given their lives for freedom and democracy, really ask their government to do a simple thing and help return that type of stability, peace, and freedom to their home countries, the countries of their birth, the countries of their forefathers. NATO does that.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization brings a collective self-defense mission to again address that area of a Europe whole and free, so it is just a very important and exciting day. So I appreciate the resolution, because we should be part of the celebratory aspect and make sure that we are on record saying a job well done.

There is still much work to go before us, as both the gentleman from Nebraska (Chairman BEREUTER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) have mentioned. But we are going to be much stronger as a united world, united under basic principles of freedom and democracy and the rule of law when we address totalitarian regimes than we would be to continue to have a fractured environment in Europe.

We know what these new entrants are already doing. Actually, they have come through the membership action plan, which was not an easy task. When we have these democracies move from a centralized market economy to a free market economy, that creates a lot of stress on the way that the government used to provide services. These governments had to decide whether they needed to move aggressively with large parts of their dollars to transform themselves to be prepared to enter NATO. That is not easy, when you are changing from a system where the government is providing for all of the basic needs and now you are taking money away to increase the ability for self-defense. So they need to be applauded. They have gone through the process of reform in the military, in

the economy, the rule of law; and the membership action plan really helped do that.

Now they have also come to the forefront in the war on international terrorism. I know a lot of folks understand that it is important what they have given after September 11, their involvement in Afghanistan and for many their involvement in Iraq; and it is not a small task to ask these new emerging democracies to send their sons and daughters overseas for a cause of freedom, peace, and security in the world.

So this is really appropriate that we do this. Bulgaria is focused on engineers and mine-sweepers; Romania on unmanned aerial vehicles and mountain troops; Slovakia, nuclear, biological, and chemical defense units; Slovenia, mountain warfare troops; Estonia, military divers and mine countermeasures; Latvia, explosive ordnance disposal; and Lithuania, Bulgaria, Latvia, Slovakia, and Slovenia will provide special operations forces.

So they are going to be additive to NATO. But where they are really going to be more additive, actually a multiplier, is really their heart and soul. These countries still have the scars of totalitarian regimes. They still hurt as they look at what has occurred to their countries over the decades. They bring an understanding of the cause for freedom and democracy. That is a message that sometimes those of us who have experienced and benefited from democratic governance for many years, we sort of take for granted and forget. Not after September 11, of course. But they are reenergizing NATO. They are bringing their commitment, their heart and soul.

I wholly applaud, really, the international community, the United States for our leadership, and really the membership countries for saying, this is the right thing to do at the right time. The world will be stronger and more at peace because of the most historical organization in the history of the world that has kept the peace for over 50 years, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. I am honored to have the chance to be on the floor to recognize them. I look forward to their added power as we move forward in this very dangerous and difficult time in this world.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE), our distinguished colleague and my good friend.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), and the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) as well.

I represent an enormously diverse district. I am reminded of the Kosovo war and the refugees that wound up in Albania. We found ourselves in Houston hosting a number of those individuals who had come for refuge during that terrible time of ethnic cleansing.

As I reflect upon that, I reflect on how important it is for this Nation to remain engaged internationally and to be able to promote democratization and collaboration.

□ 1245

My first introduction to this was joining the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) and the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) at the European Union. I want to acknowledge their leadership, the respect that they receive internationally, and certainly in that body, when we discussed the opportunities for Central and Eastern European countries to be part of the NATO Alliance.

I recall visiting the NATO Alliance, which is a very, if you will, strong structure and I think has a very deliberative leadership at that Alliance and noted the importance of that institution to Europe's safety. But, as we spoke, we recognized that, as these nations would attempt to join the Alliance, there were several things that they had to engage in. As my good friend who just spoke on the floor of the House acknowledged, they had to overcome the scars of the kind of dictatorships and the kinds of governments that they had had in the past.

I was very proud to note that they were eager to do so, to diversify their economy, to begin to look at opportunities for all of their citizens to be part of the dream of promoting a diverse economy and a diverse political system.

They are now welcomed into the NATO family because they want to stand united against the war on terrorism or with us on the war on terrorism. They are eager, I think, to find a way to democratize, and I use that word in quotes, as it fits both their culture and their understanding. They desire to be allies.

And I would, just as I welcome them, extend this welcome on the grounds that we all work together for peace in this world. It is easy to enter into conflict and war but not so easy to extract oneself and to promote peace.

Because they have experienced the devastation of a divided and devious government, bloodshed, rebellions through a long history, it is a very fine statement of the NATO Alliance and the United States that we have worked closely with them to bring them to this point and that they have joined and accepted the criteria for admission into NATO.

I thank with great enthusiasm the number of Members of Congress who independently through their interaction on international parliamentary exchange have been at the forefront of working with these particular nations and to bring them to this point. So my hat is off to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) for his continued leadership and interest in collaboration and as well continued exchange in promoting democracy, peace and freedom, and certainly to my

good friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), the ranking member, who has steadfastly been a member of the Human Rights Caucus, ranking member on the Committee on International Relations in the House, and a continued voice for promoting democracy and justice. I want to applaud him for what he has been persistent in, the bringing to the table, if you will, of these nations to the table of equality and to the table of peace and to the table of discussion and to the table of strength, and that is with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

I ask my colleagues to enthusiastically support this legislation, H. Res. 558, as a commitment to the friendship that now exists with these countries in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I join my colleagues in strong support of House Resolution 558, welcoming the accession of Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

During my tenure in Congress, I have had considerable interaction with the leaders of these countries, as well as the opportunity to witness the transitions which have occurred. For several of our new NATO allies I first encountered as one-party communist states, as Warsaw Pact adversaries and as "captive nations." As Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I have closely monitored their human rights performance and encouraged their democratic development. The transition for some has been particularly difficult, particularly with the effects of regional conflicts, political or economic crises. Throughout, their peoples have been our friends. Now, they become our allies.

While we must congratulate these countries, first and foremost, on the progress which brought them to this historic point, we can also take some credit for the investments we decided to make, through the human resources and bilateral assistance which planted the democratic ideals that now have triumphed. In my view, the returns on those investments have been notable.

In addition to these seven new NATO members, the resolution before the House also encourages the three members of the Adriatic Charter to continue their efforts toward eventual NATO membership. I particularly want to comment on Croatia. That country has had a particular challenge since 1990. As Yugoslavia fell apart and Croatia asserted its independence, the country faced not only the challenges of democratic transition but of surviving the Yugoslav conflict. From 1991 to 1995, significant portions of the country were destroyed or occupied. The conflict in neighboring Bosnia led to massive inflows of refugees. Croatia itself was vulnerable to those leaders with highly nationalist and less than democratic instincts.

While all of this slowed their transition, Croatia has rapidly moved—especially since 2000—to meet their democratic potential. In the last elections, a smooth transition in government took place, and we have a bilateral relationship which continues to strengthen over time. In addition, Croatia has become a key contributor to stability in a part of Europe where stability is highly fragile.

It is my hope, Madam Speaker, that we recognize this progress as Croatia seeks membership in NATO. Once Croatia meets the criteria for membership, the invitation to join should be extended. I would hope that the upcoming Istanbul summit will make this clear and mandate an assessment of Croatia's progress in this regard. It would be wrong and counter to U.S. interests to leave Croatia or any other country otherwise qualifying for NATO membership waiting unnecessarily.

I believe that taking this action would also encourage its Adriatic Charter partners, Albania and Macedonia, in meeting the criteria for membership more quickly. Rather than abandon its partners, Croatia will help them make progress as well. Albania and Macedonia are also good friends of the United States and would benefit from this encouragement. Ultimately, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and Montenegro would benefit as well, all in the interest of European security and, therefore, U.S. security interests.

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, thank you for this opportunity to welcome the nine new members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

For the last 55 years, the United States and its allies have worked through NATO to "make the world safe for democracy." The accession of Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia to full NATO membership will further strengthen this alliance and enhance the security of the United States and all NATO countries.

I would like to extend an especially warm welcome to Slovakia. In the 107th Congress, I introduced, and the House passed, H. Res. 253 to commend the Slovak Republic for its progress toward political and economic liberty and efforts to meet the guidelines for prospective NATO members.

Slovakia, a once authoritarian regime, embraced a pro-Western government in 1998 and freed its citizens from international isolation. Since independence, the Slovak government has successfully held free and fair elections three times. In their last elections, over 70 percent of eligible voters turned out to express their newfound democratic right.

I am certain that as a member of NATO, Slovakia will contribute to the protection of member states and significantly benefit the security and peace of Europe and the region as a whole. Slovakia's leaders value their participation in our military alliance, and its citizens align themselves with NATO's common values and democratic mission.

The resolution we are voting on today reaffirms that NATO's enlargement enhances United States and North Atlantic area security, and agrees that NATO's enlargement should be open to membership by any European democracy that meets NATO membership criteria and whose admission would further the principles of the Washington Treaty of 1949 and enhance North Atlantic area security."

I am proud to vote for this resolution, and I believe that Slovakia, and the other new members, will greatly enhance our alliance's security and further its principles. I am pleased to be able to welcome them to NATO.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 558, which welcomes the accession of Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Earlier this month I celebrated the 86th anniversary of the declaration of independence of Lithuania with my constituents and the Lithuanian Society in Baltimore. I am very enthusiastic about the accomplishments of the Lithuanian people and my optimism for that nation's future. As you know, I am of Lithuanian heritage and share your special interest in Lithuania's development.

I am proud of the United States' strong support for Lithuania through the extension of membership to the NATO alliance, and the continued endorsement for the nation's integration into the European Union. In 2003 the U.S. Senate unanimously ratified Lithuania's inclusion into NATO, and praised Lithuania for "serving as an example to emerging democracies worldwide."

As an invited member of NATO and the European Union, the Republic of Lithuania plays a role in promoting security abroad and in combating international threats. Since 1994, the Lithuanian Armed Forces have demonstrated this commitment by deploying over 1,300 servicemen on missions to the Balkans and, most recently, Afghanistan and Iraq.

Lithuania's accession to NATO really marks the return of Lithuania to the Euro-Atlantic partnership and alliance, as we face the new challenges of the global war on terrorism.

Lithuania has made considerable progress towards a functioning market economy, and has enjoyed some of the highest domestic product growth rates in all of Europe. I am therefore pleased to see that Lithuania will shortly be joining the European Union (EU), which will grow from 15 to 25 members on May 1, 2004.

By joining the EU, the nation will greatly benefit from a larger, more integrated European marketplace. We should continue our partnership to further strengthen Lithuania's economic growth.

I am also pleased to report that in the last decade Lithuania has made great progress in the area of human rights, rule of law, and religious freedom all while pursuing further integration into European political, economic, and security organizations. As a member of Congress, I serve on the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, commonly known as the Helsinki Commission. I also serve as the Chairman of the Economic Committee of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. Lithuania, among other countries, has agreed to the terms of the Helsinki Final Act, which calls upon governments to respect religious freedom and minority rights as well as guarantee free speech and political dissent. Lithuania has successfully moved to establish a strong democratic government, holding fair elections since 1991 and supporting an independent judiciary—both of which are critical components for maintaining rule of law and fighting corruption in any country.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in supporting this resolution, in saluting the accomplishments of Lithuania and looking forward with great pride and expectation to the future. I urge my colleagues to take a moment to reflect on the unique Lithuanian culture and its contribution to the world.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, we have no additional speakers, and I yield back the balance of our time.

Mr. BEREUTER. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) for her kind

remarks and knowledgeable comments. I thank my colleague from California (Mr. LANTOS) again for his continued interest and leadership in this subject area.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to support this resolution. I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 558, 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. Madam 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.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE APPROPRIATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2004 THROUGH 2006

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3036) to authorize appropriations for the Department of Justice for fiscal years 2004 through 2006, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3036

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Department of Justice Appropriations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 2004 through 2006".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

Sec. 101. Authorization of appropriations for fiscal year 2004.

Sec. 102. Authorization of appropriations for fiscal year 2005.

Sec. 103. Authorization of appropriations for fiscal year 2006.

TITLE II—IMPROVING THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE'S GRANT PROGRAMS

Subtitle A—Assisting Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Agencies

Sec. 201. Merger of Byrne grant program and Local Law Enforcement Block Grant program.

Sec. 202. Clarification of number of recipients who may be selected in a given year to receive Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor.

Sec. 203. Congressional medal and plaque for public safety officers who responded to the attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001.

Sec. 204. Clarification of official to be consulted by Attorney General in considering application for emergency Federal law enforcement assistance.

Sec. 205. Clarification of uses for regional information sharing system grants.

Sec. 206. Integrity and enhancement of national criminal record databases.

Sec. 207. Extension of matching grant program for law enforcement armor vests.

Subtitle B—Building Community Capacity to Prevent, Reduce, and Control Crime

Sec. 211. Office of Weed and Seed Strategies.

Subtitle C—Assisting Victims of Crime

Sec. 221. Grants to local nonprofit organizations to improve outreach services to victims of crime.

Sec. 222. Clarification and enhancement of certain authorities relating to Crime Victims Fund.

Sec. 223. Amounts received under crime victim grants may be used by State for training purposes.

Sec. 224. Clarification of authorities relating to Violence Against Women formula and discretionary grant programs.

Sec. 225. Expansion of grant programs assisting enforcement of domestic violence cases to also assist enforcement of sexual assault cases.

Sec. 226. Change of certain reports from annual to biennial.

Sec. 227. Clarification of recipients and programs eligible for grants under Rural Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Enforcement Assistance program.

Subtitle D—Preventing Crime

Sec. 231. Clarification of definition of violent offender for purposes of juvenile drug courts.

Sec. 232. Changes to distribution and allocation of grants for drug courts.

Sec. 233. Eligibility for grants under drug court grants program extended to courts that supervise non-offenders with substance abuse problems.

Sec. 234. Term of Residential Substance Abuse Treatment program for local facilities.

Subtitle E—Other Matters

Sec. 241. Changes to certain financial authorities.

Sec. 242. Coordination duties of Assistant Attorney General.

Sec. 243. Simplification of compliance deadlines under sex-offender registration laws.

Sec. 244. Repeal of certain programs.

Sec. 245. Elimination of certain notice and hearing requirements.

Sec. 246. Amended definitions for purposes of Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968.

Sec. 247. Clarification of authority to pay subsistence payments to prisoners for health care items and services.

Sec. 248. Office of Audit, Assessment, and Management.

Sec. 249. Community Capacity Development Office.

Sec. 250. Office of Applied Law Enforcement Technology.

Sec. 251. Availability of funds for grants.

Sec. 252. Consolidation of financial management systems of Office of Justice Programs.

Sec. 253. Authorization and change of COPS program to single grant program.

Sec. 254. Clarification of persons eligible for benefits under Public Safety Officers' Death Benefits programs.

Sec. 255. Research-based bullying prevention programs.

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 301. Technical amendments relating to Public Law 107-56.

Sec. 302. Miscellaneous technical amendments.

Sec. 303. Minor substantive amendment relating to contents of FBI annual report.

Sec. 304. Use of Federal training facilities.

Sec. 305. Privacy officer.

Sec. 306. Bankruptcy crimes.

Sec. 307. Report to Congress on status of United States persons or residents detained on suspicion of terrorism.

Sec. 308. Technical correction relating to definition used in "terrorism transcending national boundaries" statute.

Sec. 309. Increased penalties and expanded jurisdiction for sexual abuse offenses in correctional facilities.

Sec. 310. Expanded jurisdiction for contraband offenses in correctional facilities.

Sec. 311. Magistrate judge's authority to continue preliminary hearing.

Sec. 312. Recognizing the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and supporting the designation of an Equal Justice Day.

TITLE IV—KOBAYASHI ACT

Sec. 401. Short title.

Sec. 402. Findings.

Sec. 403. Establishment of an Office in the Department of Justice to undertake specific steps to facilitate the capture of terrorists who have harmed American citizens overseas and to ensure that all American victims of overseas terrorism are treated equally.

Sec. 404. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE V—MATTERS RELATING TO INTELLIGENCE AND COUNTERINTELLIGENCE

Sec. 501. FBI Office of Counterintelligence.

TITLE I—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 101. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004.

There are authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2004, to carry out the activities of the Department of Justice (including any bureau, office, board, division, commission, subdivision, unit, or other component thereof), the following sums:

(1) GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.—For General Administration: \$133,772,000.

(2) ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW AND APPEALS.—For Administrative Review and Appeals: \$197,420,000 for administration of pardon and clemency petitions and for immigration-related activities.

(3) OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL.—For the Office of Inspector General: \$70,000,000, which shall include not to exceed \$10,000 to meet unforeseen emergencies of a confidential character.

(4) GENERAL LEGAL ACTIVITIES.—For General Legal Activities: \$665,346,000, which shall include—

(A) not less than \$4,000,000 for the investigation and prosecution of denaturalization and deportation cases involving alleged Nazi war criminals;

(B) not to exceed \$20,000 to meet unforeseen emergencies of a confidential character; and

(C) such sums as may be necessary for administrative expenses in accordance with the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act.