

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the more than 20,000 peace officers from around the country who will come to Washington, D.C. this next week, and in fact all the peace officers, the 1 million or so peace officers of one kind or another throughout the Nation. They are coming for National Police Week to commemorate the lives, as we have already heard, the 145 peace officers who died last year in the line of duty.

Today, we recognize May 15 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day and pay tribute to the commitment, sacrifice, and public safety services these officers provide for all Americans on a daily basis.

As we all know, September 11, 2001 stands out as one of the most tragic days in American history. On that fateful Tuesday, we lost 72 police officers, the largest loss of law enforcement personnel in a single day in our Nation's history. While September 11 offered an extreme glimpse of law enforcement's services and sacrifice, similar acts of heroism, individual acts of heroism and valor, are performed every day in every community by police officers across our great Nation.

Last year, more than 145 officers are killed in the line of duty nationwide, and, thankfully, these police officers killed last year is well below the decade-long average of 166 deaths, and slightly less than in 2002. The deaths have decreased in each of the last 2 years, and, hopefully, this is a lasting trend.

Peace officers in every community have an admirable record of services and sacrifice, yet too many Americans lack true understanding and appreciation, I feel, of law enforcement's work. That is why I worked a few years ago to help establish the National Law Enforcement Museum in Washington, D.C., and this week, 362 names of brave men and women will be added to the memorial, 145 from 2003 and 217 from prior years.

Unlike most other jobs, peace officers face unprecedented risks while bravely protecting our communities and our freedoms. I hope my colleagues will join me today in paying tribute to our Nation's fallen officers and expressing our gratitude for the work these men and women perform.

We feel very strongly here in the Congress, I think, about paying honor to the brave men and women in uniform. And when we say that, we usually mean those that serve in the Armed Services of our country. But there are other brave men and women in uniform we need to pay tribute to, and that is why I offer this resolution today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I would simply congratulate the gentleman from Colorado for his introduction of this legislation and urge its passage.

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I also want to thank the gentleman from Colorado for his work on House Resolution 622. It is a great piece of legislation, and I urge its adoption.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the well-being of all people of the United States is preserved and enhanced as a direct result of the vigilance and dedication of law enforcement personnel. More than 957,500 law enforcement personnel, the highest amount ever in the United States, serve their fellow citizens as guardians of peace.

Peace officers are on the front line in preserving the right of the children of the United States to receive an education in a crime-free environment, a right that is all too often threatened by the insidious fear caused by violence in schools. 145 peace officers across the Nation were killed in the line of duty during 2003, well below the decade-long average of 166 deaths annually, and a major drop from 2001 when 230 officers were killed, including 72 officers in the September 11 terrorist attacks.

As chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, I express my deep appreciation for what the Peace Officers do support the children of America, by focusing on crimes against our children. Every year, 1 out of every 9 peace officers is assaulted, 1 out of every 25 peace officers is injured, and 1 out of every 4,400 peace officers is killed in the line of duty.

On May 15, 2004, more than 20,000 peace officers are expected to gather in Washington, D.C. to join with the families of their recently fallen comrades to honor those comrades and all others who went before them. I am pleased to be joined by my colleagues in the House of Representatives to support the goals and ideals of Peace Officers Memorial Day to honor Federal, State, and local peace officers killed or disabled in the line of duty. Also, I want to call upon the people of the United States to observe such a day with appropriate ceremonies and respect.

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support of House Resolution 622, "Supporting the Goals and Ideals of Peace Officers Memorial Day." Now more than ever our nation relies on the valor and commitment of our peace officers to protect our families and communities each day and in times of crisis. I am privileged to know many fine police officers, including my Uncle Les, a dedicated and long time officer with the Chicago Police Department.

Last year, 145 police officers were killed in the line of duty. While this is a significant drop from previous years, the death of any officer is a tragedy and loss felt deeply in our communities. I join with my colleagues in honoring the memory and sacrifices of these heroes, and I applaud the continued service of law enforcement and all public safety workers who face danger every day to protect our streets and our schools.

As Members of Congress, we have a responsibility to support our nation's law enforcement officers and supply them with all of the tools and resources they need to ensure their safety and ours. Our support means action, not just empty rhetoric. The men and women in blue have asked us to take action on renewing the 1994 Assault Weapons Ban, set to expire on September 13th. Indeed, a

broad coalition of law enforcement advocates, including the membership of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National Association of Police Organizations, the International Brotherhood of Police Officers, and the American Probation and Parole Association are among many others who have urged Congress to pass an extension of this legislation, which has proven an effective and life-saving law. To date, their call for this common sense remedy to gun crimes has gone unanswered.

These organizations and the police officers they represent support the ban because it works. Before the 1994 Assault Weapons ban, one in five police officers killed in the line of duty were attacked with assault weapons. The year after the ban passed, that figure dropped to zero. This single statistic speaks volumes for its effectiveness. Another case in point: In 1991, assault weapons were used in eight percent all gun crimes. By 2003 it was only one percent. If we allow the ban to expire, our peace officers will be subjected to the proliferation of assault weapons and their lives will be needlessly placed in greater danger.

This past Sunday—Mothers Day 2003—thousands of women gathered on the west lawn of the Capitol to mourn the death of children lost to gun violence. This coming Saturday, 20,000 peace officers will gather at the same place to remember their fallen brothers and sisters. What better way to express our support for them than by renewing the assault weapons ban. I believe Congress should go a step further by closing the gun show loophole and enacting sensible safety protections. We owe it to the families of our fallen heroes to pass these life-savings measures.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Gentleman from Colorado for introducing this important resolution, and I urge my colleagues to vote for it. I also urge the leadership to bring the Assault Weapons Ban to the floor for a vote. That would be the most meaningful and effective demonstration of our support and to honor America's peace officers and their invaluable role in the safety of our families and communities.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 622.

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. DAVIS of Illinois. 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.

#### RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF VIETNAM HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to resolution (H. Res. 613)

recognizing and honoring the tenth anniversary of Vietnam Human Rights Day.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 613

Whereas May 11, 2004, is the 14th anniversary of the issuance of the Manifesto of the Non-Violent Movement for Human Rights in Vietnam and the tenth anniversary of Vietnam Human Rights Day, as designated on May 11, 1994, by Public Law 103-258;

Whereas Vietnam Human Rights Day recognizes the important contributions of the author of the Manifesto, Dr. Nguyen Dan Que, and uncounted numbers of innocent Vietnamese, including religious leaders and ethnic minorities who have been tortured, imprisoned, or held under house arrest by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam because of their nonviolent struggle for freedom and human rights;

Whereas the Manifesto, which calls upon Hanoi to respect basic human rights, accept a multiparty system, and restore the right of the Vietnamese people to choose their own form of government through free and fair elections, reflects the will and aspirations of the people of Vietnam;

Whereas the leaders of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam are expanding diplomatic and trade relations with the rest of the world; and

Whereas the United States, as leader of the free world, has a special responsibility to safeguard freedom and promote the protection of human rights throughout the world: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) honors and recognizes the 10th anniversary of Vietnam Human Rights Day;

(2) supports the designation of a "Vietnam Human Rights Day"; and

(3) urges all Americans to share in this commemoration so as to have a greater appreciation of the role Vietnam Human Rights Day has played in helping to defend and further the liberties and freedom of all Vietnamese people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H. Res. 613, the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, 10 years ago, the Congress designated May 11, 1994, as Vietnam Human Rights Day through a joint resolution that became Public Law 103-258. The resolution was introduced in response to the issuance of the Manifesto of the Nonviolent Movement For Human Rights in Vietnam. That manifesto, written by the great human rights leader Dr. Nguyen Dan Que, intended to push pressure on the Social-

ist regime in Hanoi to respect the human rights of all Vietnamese citizens.

This is the tenth anniversary of the Vietnam Human Rights Day, which is the focus of House Resolution 622, before us today. The distinguished chairman of the Committee on Government Reform, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS), brought forth this important resolution, and I commend him for introducing this important measure.

Mr. Speaker, while progress has been made in the fight for a free and democratic Vietnam, the regime there continues to imprison, to attack, torture, kill, and otherwise persecute many of those who publicly express their views. This resolution aims to generate valuable awareness to Hanoi's uncivilized treatment of political dissidents, and I am pleased the House is considering it this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, it is easy to take for granted our Nation's priceless freedoms of speech and expression and, conversely, to lose track of the reality that countless people around the world in fact pay a great price to express their view. On its tenth anniversary, the principles of Vietnam Human Rights Day continue to act as an important defense of the liberties and freedoms of the Vietnamese people.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 613 and commend the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS), chairman of the Committee on Government Reform, for his introduction of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, as an American, I take great pride when I see that nations value human rights. It brings me a great deal of joy to stand before you on the anniversary of Vietnam Human Rights Day and to honor the nation of Vietnam for its commitment to human rights. Ten years ago, in Hanoi, a brilliant man by the name of Dr. Nguyen Dan Que wrote a manifesto that called upon the people of Vietnam to respect human rights, to accept a multiparty system, and to restore the right of the Vietnamese people to choose their own form of government through free and fair elections.

Today we honor that manifesto, as well as the many innocent people who were tortured, imprisoned, or held captive against their will for their peaceful protests against oppression by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Those of us in the United States were reminded last week that we are not perfect. In fact, we are far from it. Because we are imperfect, it is important that we recognize the struggles other nations have undertaken in the pursuit of freedom so that we may never forget what a special privilege freedom is.

I stand before my colleagues today as a Member of this honorable body to

honor and to recognize the tenth anniversary of Vietnam Human Rights Day and to urge all Americans to share in this commemoration so that we may all have a greater appreciation of the role that Vietnam Human Rights Day has played in helping to shape, defend, and to further the liberties and freedom of all Vietnamese people.

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS), the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Government Reform.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time, and I rise today to support H. Res. 613, recognizing and honoring the tenth anniversary of Vietnam Human Rights Day.

Vietnam Human Rights Day serves as an important commemoration of the extensive struggle the Vietnamese people have endured for many years in their ongoing fight for basic human rights and freedom.

□ 1545

Ten years ago, the United States ended its trade embargo with Vietnam and normalized relations with Hanoi. While the U.S. continues to open diplomatic relations with Vietnam, we must remember that many issues remain unresolved, including human rights violations, lack of religious freedom, and government corruption.

I traveled to Vietnam in 1998 to learn about these issues firsthand, as well as to raise these concerns with high-level officials. In addition, the large Vietnamese-American community in the 11th district, which I represent, continues to update me on continuing concerns.

As a member of the Vietnam Caucus, I am dedicated to promoting awareness and public policy debates among the U.S. Congress, the American public, and the international community about the greater need for fundamental human rights in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

House Resolution 613 recognizes the important contributions made by Nguyen Dan Que, the author of the Manifesto of the Non-Violent Movement for Human Rights, and uncounted numbers of innocent Vietnamese for their nonviolent struggles for freedom and human rights.

Dr. Que is one of the most vocal advocates for freedom, democracy, and human rights in Vietnam. Since 1975, Dr. Que has refused to leave Vietnam, and he has turned down an offer to resettle in the United States or to live in exile. He has consciously chosen to stay in Vietnam to speak out and defend human dignity and the rights of all Vietnamese people. He is a profile of courage.

The Vietnamese Communist government has arrested Dr. Que three times for his unrelenting pursuit of human

dignity and freedom. He has been imprisoned off and on for nearly 20 years, beginning in 1978 through the present. During Dr. Que's captivity, he was imprisoned without trial, tortured, beaten, and put into solitary confinement in chains, accused of trying to overthrow the government, charged with espionage, and is now being held in strict incommunicado.

Undaunted, during his time he remained the strongest voice inside Vietnam for equality and dignity. On May 11, 1990, Dr. Que founded the Non-violent Movement For Human Rights, issuing a manifesto that appealed to individuals and groups inside Vietnam and throughout the world for support of his moderate, nonviolent struggle to establish human rights for all Vietnamese people.

The arrests of Dr. Que, along with many others, demonstrate the ongoing human rights abuses and lack of religious freedom in Vietnam. We must continue to bring attention to these issues, generate pressure on Vietnamese officials, and hold the Vietnamese Government accountable.

It is only through the hard work and effort of individuals such as Dr. Que and the support of the international community that we can bring an end to human rights abuses and religious persecution in Vietnam. My resolution urges all Americans to share in the commemoration of Vietnam Human Rights Day and to have a greater appreciation of the role it has played in helping to defend and further the liberties and freedom of all Vietnamese people.

I am hopeful H. Res. 613 will serve as a small stepping stone towards the ultimate liberation and freedom of the Vietnamese people. However, at the least, I believe it will bring much needed additional awareness to the atrocities committed by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam every day on its own citizens. I urge my colleagues to join me in the passage of this important resolution.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ).

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 613, the resolution which recognizes the 10th anniversary of Vietnam Human Rights Day, which is today, May 11. I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) for sponsoring this resolution and allowing me to be an original cosponsor; and I am proud to share with the gentleman membership in the Vietnam Caucus, along with the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH). The initiatives of the caucus, including this bill, are examples of what we can accomplish when we decide to work together in a bipartisan manner.

Mr. Speaker, I represent the largest Vietnamese community in the world outside of Vietnam in Orange County, California. It is fitting then to speak on the House floor about this anniversary of Vietnam Human Rights Day. More importantly, it is the 14-year anniversary of the Manifesto of the Non-violent Movement For Human Rights. This was written by a courageous and bright man, Dr. Nguyen Dan Que. I have had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Que. In fact, I went to his home in 1998 when I was in Vietnam. As we were meeting, his home all locked up, the military police came to the home to try to get me out of there. Of course we had locked up the house, and we continued our conversation.

One of the things that Dr. Que said to me was that it was important for America and Americans to continue to push for human rights in Vietnam. What type of human rights are we talking about here? Well, the right to assemble as we do here today, that is not allowed in Vietnam. The right to choose your own God and the way you want to worship that God, that is not allowed. You have to only do it through the official church or churches that the state of Vietnam approves. The right to free press. Every piece of paper written to be distributed must be done by the state in Vietnam. In fact, when I was meeting with the cardinal of the Catholic Church of Vietnam, he said one of the things that he cannot do is to hand out a newsletter to people that come to church on Sunday. The right to collectively bargain one's labor for decent wages and a decent place to work.

All of these things are not allowed in Vietnam, and this is what Dr. Que speaks to. He speaks to the human rights issues within Vietnam. I guess the most important thing that Dr. Que said to me that day in 1998 was that the reason we need to keep pushing for human rights in Vietnam is that it inspires and it gives hope and it gives courage to those within Vietnam who are fighting for basic human rights. Religious leaders like the Venerable Tic Kwzug Doh; a geologist like Gizug; and General Do, whom I had an opportunity to meet with, who had been a former communist and understood what was going on in the country and decided he would speak out; and, yes, Dr. Que.

Mr. Speaker, these are just a few of the dissidents within Vietnam who speak every day; and yet each and every one has been imprisoned, either taken away without charges or with false charges, or imprisoned in house arrest.

I hope today we will vote this unanimously to send a strong message that human rights are important in every country, and in particular for those who have not seen them for a long time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I just also note that yesterday was my father's 93rd birthday, and I take this

opportunity to wish him a happy 93rd birthday, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be here today to recognize, House Resolution 613, recognizing and honoring the tenth anniversary of Vietnam Human Rights Day. H. Res. 613 observes the fourteenth anniversary of the issuance Manifesto of the Non-Violent movement for Human Rights.

Vietnam Human Rights Day serves as an important commemoration of the extensive struggle that Vietnamese have endured for many years, in their ongoing fight for basic human rights.

H. Res. 613 recognizes the important contributions made by Dr. Nguyen Dan Que, the author of the Manifesto, and uncounted numbers of innocent Vietnamese, including religious leaders and ethnic minorities who have been tortured, imprisoned, or held under house arrest by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam because of their nonviolent struggle for freedom and human rights.

This measure urges all Americans to share in this commemoration so as to have a greater appreciation of the role Vietnam Human Rights Day has played in helping to defend and further the liberties and freedom of all Vietnamese people.

These arrests demonstrate the increasing human rights abuses and lack of religious freedom and free speech in Vietnam. As we consider our ongoing economic relations with Vietnam, our goal in Congress must be to continue to bring attention to these issues, generate pressure on Vietnamese officials, and hold the Vietnamese government accountable.

We all realize that U.S. economic relations with Vietnam have improved in recent years. In 1994, the United States lifted its trade embargo with Vietnam and normalized relations with Hanoi. However, I will continue to fight for better human rights for all Vietnamese people and the right for families from Vietnam to reunite with their families in America.

H. Res. 613 indicates how far Vietnam has come in its struggle for human rights. This is an anniversary that deserves to truly be celebrated.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, during the month of May, we celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage to commemorate the contributions Asian Pacific Americans have made to the fabric of our communities and to this nation as a whole. I could easily spend this month, and longer, describing the tremendous accomplishments of Asian Pacific Americans.

However, today is the tenth anniversary of Vietnam Human Rights Day and we sadly must recognize that Vietnam has not come far enough in respecting the human rights of its citizens.

Just one month ago, on Easter Week, Human Rights Watch reported that peaceful protests by indigenous minority Christian Montagnards turned violent when police used tear gas, electric truncheons, and water cannons on protestors. Reports indicate that police arrested several individuals, many whose whereabouts are currently unknown. Worse yet are reports of torture, police beatings, and deaths associated with this crackdown on the Montagnards.

Today, my colleagues, Congressman CHRIS SMITH, TOM DAVIS, LORETTA SANCHEZ and I

are introducing a Congressional resolution recognizing the countless number of innocent Vietnamese "who have been tortured, imprisoned, or held under house arrest by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam."

Also today, Congressman SMITH is leading an effort, with over 100 cosponsors, to pass House Concurrent Resolution 378 to call on Vietnam to immediately release Father Thaddeus Nguyen Van Ly and condemn the "violations of freedom of speech, religion, movement, association, and the lack of due process afforded to individuals in Vietnam."

Ten years ago, the Congress and the Senate passed a resolution designating today, May 11th, as Vietnam Human Rights Day, recognizing that "the United States, as the leader of the free world, has a special responsibility to safeguard freedom and promote the protection of human rights throughout the world."

Unfortunately, President Bush and his Administration have not heeded that responsibility to safeguard human rights. Although this Administration tells me they are "deeply troubled by the restrictions that the government of Vietnam places on its citizens' freedom of expression, as well as other human rights," this Administration has been initiating a new friendly relationship with the communist regime in Vietnam without demanding protection of human rights as a condition of our friendship.

The Bush Administration's hypocrisy and apathetic attitude towards human rights is unacceptable. As long as the people of Vietnam are oppressed, abused, and imprisoned, our President should first demand protection of human rights before getting friendly with a communist regime that oppresses its people.

On this 10th Anniversary of Vietnam Human Rights Day, I urge our President to condemn the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for violating human rights and I call on the Vietnamese government to protect the human rights of its citizens.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PUTNAM). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 613.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### RECOGNIZING CONTRIBUTIONS OF PEOPLE OF INDIAN ORIGIN TO UNITED STATES AND BENEFITS OF WORKING TOGETHER WITH INDIA

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 352) recognizing the contributions of people of Indian origin to the United States and the benefits of working together with India towards promoting peace, prosperity, and freedom among all countries of the world.

The Clerk read as follows:

#### H. CON. RES. 352

Whereas India is the largest democratic country in the world and enjoys a close and mutual friendship with the United States based on common values and common interests;

Whereas people of Indian origin who have for decades immigrated to the United States have made extraordinary contributions to the United States, helping to make the United States a more efficient and prosperous country;

Whereas these contributions have spanned disciplines ranging from science, technology, business development, and public service, to social justice, philanthropy, literature, and the arts;

Whereas generations of doctors and nurses of Indian origin have attended to the sick in large cities as well as in rural regions of the United States that are otherwise underserved;

Whereas people of Indian origin have designed defense systems that protect United States naval ships while at sea, and have contributed to engineering, designing, and participating in the United States space shuttle program, at great personal sacrifice;

Whereas people of Indian origin have invented many of the technologies that power the computer and the internet, have created and directed laboratories that produced significant breakthroughs in modern medicine, and have taught at, and are leaders of, many United States institutions of higher learning;

Whereas people of Indian origin have made invaluable contributions to the vitality and viability of the United States economy through creative entrepreneurship and leadership in both large and small businesses;

Whereas people of Indian origin have shared and integrated their rich culture into the fabric of American daily life;

Whereas trade with India integrates a democratic country of more than one billion people into the flow of commerce, offering the United States a large and rapidly growing market and unlocking vast reservoirs of talent;

Whereas the United States is India's largest trading partner and a major source of foreign direct investment and foreign institutional investment in India;

Whereas United States exports to India are growing at 25 percent, making India one of the fastest growing foreign markets for United States goods and services;

Whereas India's industrial tariffs have fallen from 150 percent in 1988 to a peak rate of 20 percent today;

Whereas United States exports to India will accelerate as India continues reducing tariffs and instituting liberalization measures in its trade and investment regime, thereby expanding the trade relationship of the two countries and bringing mutual benefits;

Whereas India has been a key partner in the war against terrorism;

Whereas India and the United States have agreed to increase cooperation in the areas of nuclear activities, civilian space programs, high-technology trade, and missile defense;

Whereas multi-faceted cooperation between India and the United States will strengthen the bonds of friendship and commerce between the two countries, lead to the peaceful use of space technology, and increase global stability and security; and

Whereas United States efforts, whether in combating global HIV/AIDS, pursuing nuclear non-proliferation, promoting democracy, enhancing stability of the world economy, eliminating poverty, fighting terrorism, and expanding and strengthening

global trade, will be more effective and successful with India as a strategic partner: Now therefore, be it

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

(1) honors the contributions of people of Indian origin to the United States, and

(2) is committed to working together with India towards promoting peace, prosperity, and freedom among all countries of the world.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the concurrent resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H. Con. Res. 352 recognizes the contributions of people of Indian origin to the United States and the benefits of working together with India toward promoting peace, prosperity and freedom among all countries of the world. This is a noncontroversial resolution which was easily approved by the Committee on International Relations. It points out the many areas and disciplines to which Americans of Indian origin have contributed to a stronger America. Indeed, in communities throughout the U.S., we can find Indian Americans who are active citizens participating in all avenues of life. America is strengthened by ethnic diversity and a climate of achievement and progress.

This measure points out the ever-growing relationship between India and the United States and the benefits to each country resulting from increases in trade, cultural exchange, and the sharing of democratic values. This is indicative of U.S. relationships with the other countries of South Asia. These relationships are evolving; and we should encourage this progress, not only for the individual benefits to each country in the region but because it supports the collective goals of regional stability and economic development. I urge a strong "aye" vote on this measure.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and thank the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER); the chairman of the subcommittee, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH); the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA), the ranking member; and the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE) for bringing this important