

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

resolution before us. And I particularly want to commend my neighbor and colleague, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD), for introducing this very important resolution. She has been a true leader on Indian-Americas issues, and we are all grateful to her.

Mr. Speaker, America is a Nation of immigrants and is the world's preeminent power because of the diversity of its people and the strength each ethnic group has brought to our Nation. It is hard to think of an ethnic group that has made such an enormous contribution to our Nation in such a short period of time as America's more than a million and a half citizens of Indian descent. In business, in science, in academia, in medicine, Indian Americans have assumed leadership roles; and they have given back to the communities in which they live.

In the field of medicine alone, our Nation is blessed to have over 35,000 Indian-American physicians, many of whom work with residents of rural and inner city communities. Another 10,000 Indian-Americans are currently in medical school or are working as interns. Indian-Americans have also made enormous contributions to the economy of our country, and to my district in particular. Technology firms in Silicon Valley depend heavily on the brain power of our Indian-Americans. Over 300,000 Indian-Americans are working in cutting-edge technology firms, and they play a critical role in generating new start-up companies.

In academia, more than 5,000 Indian-Americans today serve as faculty members at institutions of higher learning. Two Americans of Indian ancestry have been awarded the Nobel Prize, one in medicine, one in physics.

In the cultural world, millions of Americans have relied upon self-help books and spiritual teachings of men like Deepak Chopra or enjoyed the cinematic productions of M. Night Shyamalam.

□ 1600

Of course, Mr. Speaker, we all remember the unique contribution and sacrifice made by Dr. Kalpana Chawla, the first Indian American to fly in the U.S. space shuttle. While Dr. Chawla perished in the horrendous Columbia shuttle disaster, we must never forget her enormous contributions to science and to our space program.

Indian Americans have also worked to further develop the political, economic and security ties between the United States and India. These ties between our nations are unbreakable. After all, the world's largest democracy and the world's oldest have much in common. India has become a vital American ally in the fight against global terrorism. In the same manner that the United States and India have forged strong economic and commercial links, so too have we strengthened our partnership for peace and our collaboration to battle terrorist groups

who wish to destroy freedom and democracy both in India and the United States.

Mr. Speaker, we currently have over 75,000 Indians studying at our institutions of higher learning. I have no doubt that these young Indian men and women will be the next generation of leadership in India's political, economic and cultural worlds. Their experience in the United States will ensure positive relations between our two great nations for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of our colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 352.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding me this time. I rise in strong support of this resolution honoring the contributions of Indian Americans in the United States and honoring our strong U.S.-India relations. As a cosponsor of this bill, I urge all of my colleagues to support this much-needed and well-deserved legislation.

As the founder and former cochair of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans, I have for a number of years advocated on behalf of my Indian American constituents and worked toward creating stronger U.S.-India policies.

India is the largest democracy in the world and shares common ideologies with the United States which has led to our natural relationship as allies. India has also been an important ally in the war against terrorism and has historically served as the key stabilizing force in the volatile south Asia region. Our economic, political, and defense relations with India are now more important than ever and I am pleased that our cooperation in the areas of nuclear activities, civilian space programs, high-technology trade, and missile defense continue to grow.

In addition, people of Indian origin who have emigrated to the U.S. serve as an outstanding community within American society. 1.8 million strong, their contributions are tremendous and span fields such as engineering, technology, business development, health and medical care, public service, social justice, education, philanthropy, literature and the arts. Whether it is combating domestic and global HIV/AIDS, pursuing nuclear nonproliferation, promoting democracy, advocating for health and education rights, enhancing stability of the world economy, eliminating poverty, fighting terrorism or expanding and strengthening global trade, Indian Americans are on the forefront and these goals can be achieved by maintaining India as a strategic partner.

Again, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H. Con. Res. 352 in an effort to honor the contributions of the Indian Americans and to commit to working together with India in promoting global peace and prosperity.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY), a member of the Committee on International Relations.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for yielding me this time. I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 352. As the cochair of the Caucus on India and Indian Americans and the representative of the second largest concentration of Indian Americans in the United States, I would like to speak in strong support of the gentlewoman from California's resolution recognizing the contributions of people of Indian origin to the United States and the benefits of working together with India. I know firsthand the contributions that Indian Americans are making to the United States because of my close relationship with my constituents and the Indian-American community across the country.

One Indian American that many Members may not know is the first and only Indian American ever elected to Congress. His name was Dalip Singh Saund. Congressman Saund first came to the United States to study at the University of California where he received his master's and Ph.D. Even with Congressman Saund's high level of education, he had little job opportunity because of the prejudice that existed against Asians at that time. Despite the prejudice that existed, Congressman Saund went on to become politically active, to give something back to his community and was influential in working with Congress to pass the Luce-Cellar Act which was signed into law by President Truman in 1946. This act gave Asian Indians the right to become naturalized citizens.

Congressman Saund was elected to the House of Representatives in 1952, just 6 years after his work to secure citizenship for Indian Americans. He served as a distinguished Congressman from California for three terms before he suffered a stroke during his campaign for a fourth term in the House. This is just one Indian American that has made a major contribution to the United States.

I would like to thank the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) for introducing this resolution. I am proud to be supportive of it and an original sponsor of it.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to be here this afternoon, and I want to especially thank my good friend, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) for her work in bringing us together here to recognize the contributions of people of Indian origin to the United States and the benefits of working together with India.

Mr. Speaker, there are vital Indian-American communities in Texas. In fact, Texas's Indian-American community is one of the leading ethnic groups in my home State, and its members have made important contributions to the local economy and culture.

As the largest immigrant group other than Mexicans, Indians account for 4.3 percent of North Texas's foreign-born population. Indian immigrants in this area come from all over the subcontinent, but especially the western Gujarat province.

Many of Texas' Indian-Americans are professionals who play key roles in sectors like the technology industry and the field of medicine. Many others are business owners.

About 1 million Indian-Americans live in the United States. Many Americans assume that Indian-Americans, because they are often well-educated, do not face the same problems as other minorities. They are wrong. In many parts of this country Indian-Americans are victims of hate crimes and racial harassment. They are victims of discrimination in business and in education. We in Congress cannot allow people who come to this country seeking out the American Dream to be victimized or subjected to bigotry.

Indian-Americans are proud of the tremendous strides their homeland has made. By the year 2050 India will be the most populous democratic country in the world. India and the United States today represent the greatest democracies on the face of the earth: the oldest and the largest.

The United States is also one of India's largest trading partners. India's economy has been advancing rapidly, with a large stock market and strong high-tech enterprises like aircraft, a computer industry, and its own space program. We must promote greater understanding between the United States and India, particularly in the economic, political and cultural areas.

Mr. Speaker, again I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude and appreciation to the Indian-American community. I know my colleagues join us in recognizing the profound contributions Indian-Americans have made to American society and their descendants throughout the world.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by commending Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD for introducing this bipartisan bill. H. Con. Res. 352 recognizes 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.

As the world's 2nd most populous nation and the largest democracy in the world, India and the United States have forged a long-lasting friendship. For the past month, peoples from all over the country of India went to the polls and marked their choice for Parliament. This act of citizenship shows India's neighbors, and nations across the world, that democracy works. Reports indicate that over 50 percent of the population voted in this year's elections.

India shows us that the commitment to democracy is strong and that the ties between India and the United States are even stronger. The everlasting bond that is forged by the 1.7 million Indian-Americans living in the United States is a shining example of our commitment to one another. Indian-Americans lead thriving lives in communities throughout the U.S.—the contributions to our society demonstrate the resilience and fervor of the Indian-American spirit. It is that spirit that holds the future between our two nations together.

Mr. Speaker, following the September 11th cowardly and evil terrorist attacks on the

United States, Indian Prime Minister Vajpayee offered to cooperate with the Bush Administration "in the investigation of this crime and to strengthen our partnership." The following day, the Indian Cabinet Committee on Security voted unanimously to offer the United States the use of Indian facilities for any U.S. military operation in pursuit of the perpetrators of the terrorist attacks.

Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld states that, "the United States and India share important interests in fighting terrorism. . . ."

In the past two years, the United States and India have held numerous joint exercises involving all military branches. Last September U.S. and Indian special forces soldiers held a two-week joint exercise in Ladakh near the India-China border, and the largest-ever "Malabar 2003" joint naval exercises off the southern coast of India that included an American nuclear submarine.

In the 2002 report of the National Security Strategy of the United States, the White House made the following statement: "The United States has undertaken a transformation in this bilateral relationship with India based on a conviction that U.S. interests require a strong relationship with India. We are the two largest democracies, committed to political freedom protected by representative government. India is moving towards greater economic freedom as well. We have a common interest in the free flow of commerce, including through the vital sea-lanes of the Indian Ocean. Finally, we share an interest in fighting terrorism and in creating a strategically stable Asia." I could not agree more.

Another great example of this fruitful bond is the fact that trade between India and the United States has shown a healthy growth in recent years. Last year, U.S. exports and imports from India totaled \$5.0 billion and \$13.1 billion, making India the 24th largest U.S. export market and the 18th largest supplier of U.S. imports. With a GDP of \$390 billion and an annual growth rate of 6.8 percent, India is not only an important ally in defense, but also a key ally in international trade. Bilateral trade now stands at around \$15 billion, with software exports at another \$3 billion—emphasizing the true relationship between our two countries.

As the world comes together and joins forces to help its people, I am positive that the strong ties between India and the United States will serve as an example of fruitful and positive bilateral relations.

Mr. Speaker, H. Con. Res. 352 is truly fitting. I stand here and pay special recognition to the proud and resilient people of Indian origin in the United States. Their devotion and hard work have brought great prosperity to countless communities in the United States. I am proud to be cosponsor of this bill and proudly congratulate all peoples of Indian origin for their perseverance.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise today to join my colleagues in recognizing the many contributions made by people of Indian descent and in celebrating the strong allegiance we share with the nation of India. In Northwest Indiana, like the rest of the Nation, Indian-Americans have shown themselves to be leaders in every field and in every endeavor. It is my pleasure to join today in expressing my admiration and gratitude to these Americans, as well as my hopes that our relationship with India remains strong and productive.

As a proud member of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans, I am well aware of the importance of our nation's commitment to cooperation. It is the strength of this commitment that will lead us both toward our mutual goals of peace, prosperity, and freedom among all countries of the world. We stand shoulder to shoulder with the government of India in combating the challenges facing the international community.

While the nation of India has been a trusted friend in international affairs, people of Indian descent who have chosen to immigrate to this Nation have consistently contributed to our prosperity at home. Through their participation in the U.S. space shuttle program, their technological contributions that power the computer and the Internet, and their significant breakthroughs in modern medicine, Indian Americans have helped to make the United States the world leader in countless fields. Furthermore, Indian-Americans teach at, and are leaders of, many U.S. institutions of higher learning, thus passing on their legacy to our future world leaders.

In my home district of Northwest Indiana the contributions of the Indian-American community are no less great. I would like to name but a few of the outstanding leaders, educators, and citizens who help to make the Indiana First such wonderful place. Doctors Bharat Barai, Panna Barai, Vijay Gupta, Padma Neelaveni, Vijay Dave, Shaun Kondamuri, Avtar Dhindsa, Beno Sikand, Harish Shah, Vidya Kora, Jagdish Patel, Kalpna Patel, Ravi Kanakamedela and Sandhya Kanakamedela have given tirelessly of their selves to serve our community and improve the health and well-being of my constituents.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing and paying tribute to India and Indian-Americans. Again, I express my hopes for continued cooperation between our nations, and my gratitude for the role that Indian-Americans have played in making this Nation great.

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

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I urge a strong, unanimous vote for the resolution.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HAYES). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 352.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.