

COMMUNICATION FROM LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR OF HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Anthony Reed, legislative director of the Honorable J. DENNIS HASTERT, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 29, 2004.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a criminal subpoena for testimony issued by the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

ANTHONY REED,
Legislative Director.

COMMUNICATION FROM STAFF ASSISTANT OF HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Luke Hatzis, staff assistant of the Honorable J. DENNIS HASTERT, Member of Congress:

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a criminal subpoena for testimony issued by the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

LUKE HATZIS,
Staff Assistant.

IRAQ BECOMES SOVEREIGN NATION AND U.S. ALLY

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last week on June 28, Iraq became a sovereign nation as control was handed over from coalition forces to a new Iraqi Government headed by Prime Minister Iyad Allawi and President Ghazi al-Yawer. This is an extraordinary achievement for President George W. Bush, the American military, and our coalition partners.

Despite attacks from political opponents, President Bush firmly acted to protect American families from future terrorist attacks by liberating Iraq from one of history's most brutal dictators. Today, only 15 months after the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime, Iraq has turned from an enemy to a developing democracy. No longer a sup-

porter of international terrorism, today's Iraq, along with Afghanistan, represents a beacon of hope in the Middle East for freedom and democracy.

As the Iraqi people continue their struggle for a better future, our brave men and women in uniform continue to work with Iraqi forces to hunt down and stop the depraved enemy who is desperate to stop the march for freedom.

In conclusion, may God bless our troops; and we will never forget September 11.

SENATORS KERRY AND EDWARDS ARE OUT OF STEP WITH MOST AMERICANS

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, so Senator KERRY has picked Senator EDWARDS as his running mate. That means the Senator with the most liberal voting record has picked the person with the fourth most-liberal voting record. That does not sound like mainstream to me, and certainly their views do not represent the majority of the American people.

Both Senators KERRY and EDWARDS voted against the ban on partial birth abortion. Both have opposed all of the recent tax relief legislation.

Both Senators voted against sending our troops in Iraq and providing them with body armor, and both favor amnesty for illegal immigrants.

Mr. Speaker, Senators KERRY and EDWARDS are out of tune, out of line, out of touch, and out of step with most Americans.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of 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 8 of rule XX.

RECORD votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

RECOGNIZING THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 410) recognizing the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and recognizing the Marshall Islands as a staunch ally of the United States, committed to principles of democracy and freedom for the Pacific region and throughout the world, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 410

Whereas the Marshall Islands were ruled under a succession of colonial regimes, in-

cluding under Spanish and German rule, followed in the 20th century by Japanese rule under the League of Nations system for governance of territories;

Whereas military activities of Imperial Japan based in the Marshall Islands before and during World War II established the strategic importance of the Marshall Islands in the Pacific;

Whereas the Marshall Islands were liberated from Japanese military occupation in some of the most horrific battles of World War II, during which brave Marshallese people risked their lives to aid the Armed Forces of the United States and its allies;

Whereas in 1947 Congress approved a trusteeship agreement with the United Nations Security Council under which the United States became the administering power with plenary powers of government in the Marshall Islands;

Whereas during the United Nations trusteeship period the United States fulfilled its commitment to promote the progress of the Marshall Islands toward democratic self-government and self-determination, leading to the establishment of local self-government that culminated in a constitutional convention in which delegates representing the people of the Marshall Islands proposed that they be constituted as a self-governing nation;

Whereas in accordance with the enabling measures adopted by the United States as administering power of the Marshall Islands, which encouraged and fully supported the emergence of the Marshall Islands as a duly constituted nation based on the freely expressed will of the people, in 1979 the people of the Marshall Islands adopted their own constitution and subsequently declared their form of government to be a republic;

Whereas the Constitution of the Republic of the Marshall Islands established a parliamentary governmental system with separation of powers and a "Bill of Rights," guaranteeing democracy and freedom for the Marshallese people based on the rule of law, limited government, and individual liberty;

Whereas the United States and the duly constituted Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands adopted a Compact of Free Association to define government-to-government relations between the United States and the Marshall Islands as two sovereign nations under mutually agreed terms upon termination of the United Nations trusteeship for the Marshall Islands;

Whereas the promulgation of a national constitution made possible the termination of the United Nations trusteeship in 1986 and the emergence of the Republic of the Marshall Islands as a sovereign nation in free association with the United States under the Compact of Free Association, forming an alliance that preserves the close and special political, social, economic, and military relationship between the two countries that developed during the trusteeship period;

Whereas the United States has no closer alliance with any nation or group of nations than it does with the Republic of the Marshall Islands under the Compact of Free Association, which continues the strategic partnership and role of the Marshall Islands in United States strategic programs based in the Marshall Islands, which began at the end of World War II and has continued under the trusteeship and Compact to promote the mutual security of the United States and the Marshall Islands;

Whereas the Republic of the Marshall Islands is a model for transition of formerly non-self-governing territory ravaged by war to a sovereign political status as a stable democracy, a success story for institution building and recovery from conflict not only

for the Pacific region but throughout the world;

Whereas in light of the shared history of the United States and the Republic of the Marshall Islands and special relations under the Compact of Free Association, it is entirely fitting for Congress to recognize the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, recalling the importance of duly constituted self-government in the self-determination process leading to national sovereignty for the Marshall Islands; and

Whereas the Republic of the Marshall Islands has remained one of the staunchest allies of the United States during the cold war and the war on terrorism, and the voting record of the Republic of the Marshall Islands as a member state in the United Nations General Assembly is unparalleled by any other country, further demonstrating the shared commitment of the two nations to promote democracy and global peace: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) recognizes the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of the Marshall Islands; and

(2) recognizes the Republic of the Marshall Islands as a staunch ally of the United States, committed to principles of democracy and freedom for the Pacific region and throughout the world.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days 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 Arizona?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the United States and the Marshall Islands share deep bonds of history and friendship. We have enjoyed the uniquely close alliance over the past half century. The ties between us stretch back to World War II when we struggled together to liberate the Marshall Islands from Japanese occupation.

During the intervening decades, these bonds of blood have grown into an abiding alliance. The Congress reaffirmed that alliance late last year when we approved the amended Compact of Free Association between the United States and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, which extended the strategic and economic ties between our two countries.

When the Marshallese people adopted their Constitution in 1979, they formed a democratic government, committed to the rule of law and individual liberty. It was a critical development in their transition from the U.S.-administered trust territory into a sovereign independent nation.

The people of the United States saw our shared ideals of freedom and democracy take root among our friends in the Pacific; and when full sovereignty followed in 1986, we gained a stalwart ally in the community of nations.

I commend this effort to commemorate that event and our continuing alliance with the Republic of the Marshall Islands, which deserves our unanimous support.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the opportunity a couple of times now to visit the Marshall Islands, once years ago and again this January, and to be able to visit with President Note and other members of the Parliament and other ministers as well and to visit a couple of the islands and to witness the friendship firsthand with the Marshallese people.

It is significant to note that nearly a hundred Marshallese citizens have actually been serving with our Armed Forces in Iraq and other theatres of war. They have been a very staunch ally of ours, and I think it is also significant to note that in the United Nations, the United States has no better friend and ally than the Marshallese. The Marshall Islands votes with the United States 99 percent of the time. That is something that is not shared with any other country or nation. So we owe a debt of gratitude to the Marshallese people; and to recognize them for the adoption of their Constitution 25 years ago, I think, is a significant step. It means a lot to them, and it should mean a lot to us.

There is also another reason that it is important that we recognize the Marshall Islands for what they do and have done for us in the past. Our nuclear testing dates back to the 1950s when we did Operation Bravo and in other operations where we tested nuclear devices, and the Marshallese people have cooperated and helped us in that regard for over a half century; and for that we owe a debt of gratitude.

From the military base at Kwajalein, I was able to see our base there and see what we are currently doing today; and it is a great operation there, and we have the full cooperation of the Marshallese, which makes it much easier to accomplish what we need to.

They have been a stable democracy in the Pacific for over 25 years, and this is due in part to the fact that the United States during the U.N. trusteeship period fulfilled its commitment to promote democratic self-government and self-determination for the Marshall Islands. These efforts led to the establishment of local self-government, and this culminated in a constitutional convention in which delegates representing the people of the Marshall Islands proposed that they be constituted as a self-governing nation.

This happened, and in 1979 the people of the Marshall Islands adopted their own Constitution and declared themselves a republic. This Constitution established a parliamentary govern-

mental system with separation of powers and a bill of rights guaranteeing democracy, freedom, and limited government for the Marshallese people.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and would first like to commend my colleague, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), for introducing this important measure as well as the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE), and the ranking member, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), for their strong support for this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, House Concurrent Resolution 410 recognizes the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Given the extremely close bilateral relationship between our two nations and the important role played by the people of the Marshall Islands in our Nation's victory in World War II, it is appropriate that we commemorate this important day in the history of the Marshall Islands.

The United States has no greater friend in the Western Pacific than the government of the Marshall Islands. The United States maintains an important military facility at Kwajalein Atoll, and young Marshallese men and women serve in the United States Armed Forces. The Marshall Islands has been a strong supporter of American policy at the United Nations and a good friend to an embattled ally of the United States, the State of Israel.

The Marshall Islands is also a strong and flourishing democracy, having recently completed free and fair elections in 2003 for its legislature. In fact, Members of Congress welcomed Marshallese President Kessai Note to Washington, D.C. a few weeks ago. President Note discussed the future of relations between the United States and the Marshall Islands and the need for the U.S. Congress to carefully examine the Changed Circumstances Petition submitted by the Marshall Islands.

In short, Mr. Speaker, the Marshall Islands is a strong, democratic ally of the United States and a strategically important position. We must do all we can to further solidify relations between our two nations.

I urge my colleagues to support House Concurrent Resolution 410.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON).

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, it brings me a great deal of fulfillment and joy to recognize the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Given the extremely close bilateral relationship between our two nations, and the important

role played by the people of the Marshall Islands in our Nation's victory in World War II, it is appropriate that we commemorate this important day in the history of the Marshall Islands.

On the personal side, I had the pleasure to be the Ambassador to Micronesia. As you know, Micronesia and the Marshall Islands are right in the same region, and the islands of Micronesia are under a Compact of Mutual Agreement, as are the Marshall Islands. As they work their way into the 21st century, it is with our support as they build their democracy in islands that are thousands of miles away. We can be proud of the relationship we have had with them for the past 20 years as they build their nations into a brighter, more prosperous future.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's comments and just to say again that we had the opportunity, myself and the gentleman from California (Chairman POMBO) of the Committee on Resources, to travel with Secretary Gale Norton, Secretary of the Interior, to the Marshall Islands earlier this year, and were able to meet with the President and others. I know they appreciate this gesture, and we have no greater friend than the Marshall Islands.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 410, to recognize the 25th anniversary of the Constitution of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and that the Marshall Islands is a staunch ally of the United States. I want to begin by commending my friend, the Gentleman from Arizona Mr. FLAKE, for his leadership in introducing this worthwhile resolution of which I am an original cosponsor.

The Republic of the Marshall Islands suffered for 400 years under the colonial regimes of Spain and Germany. In the 20th century, under the League of Nations system for governance of territories, Japan governed the Marshall Islands. During World War II, the Marshall Islands were liberated from Japanese rule through the cooperation between the Marshallese people and the Armed Forces of the United States.

In a 1947 agreement between Congress and the United Nations Security Council, the United States assumed trusteeship of the Marshall Islands. During the period from 1947 to 1979, the United States promoted democratic self-government and self-determination in the Marshall Islands. In 1979, the Marshall Islands adopted their own constitution and declared themselves the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Since that time, the Republic of the Marshall Islands has proved itself a staunch ally of the United States and a model for transition from a non-self-governing territory ravaged by war to a stable and democratic example of institution building for the Pacific region and the rest of the world.

On June 17, 2004, President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Kessai Note wrote to U.S. Senator DANIEL AKAKA expressing his

continued concern for the people of Ailuk Atoll near which the United States tested the thermonuclear weapon Bravo in 1954. The people of Ailuk and others still suffer from the fallout of those tests. I support President Note in his desire to have the people of Ailuk receive the support and assistance they badly need.

Mr. Speaker, this is worthy resolution, which is deserving of all our support and I urge all my colleagues to support its passage. And I look forward to the continued friendship of the United States and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and to pay tribute to a staunch ally of the United States and a people committed to the principles of democracy and freedom for all people of the Pacific region and the world.

It is perhaps fitting that on May 29, 2004, America dedicated the National World War II Memorial in recognition of the duty, sacrifices, and valor of the members of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in World War II. The beginnings of our Nation's close relationship with the people of the Marshall Islands are deeply rooted in that titanic struggle. In 1944, risking their lives to aid the Armed Forces of the United States and our Allies, the Marshallese people joined with the U.S. to liberate the Marshall Islands from Japanese military rule. Some of the most horrific battles of World War II occurred on the Marshall Islands before the Japanese military occupation was finally put to an end. The momentous events brought together the people of these two great lands in a common bond that has resulted in more than five decades of friendship and strategic solidarity between the Marshall Islands and the U.S. That relationship is as strong today as it ever was.

Comprising 30 atolls and 1,152 islands, the Republic of the Marshall Islands represents a total land mass that is almost equivalent in size to Washington, D.C., but covers roughly 770,000 square miles of the western Pacific Ocean. Unfortunately, due to the vastness of the world's largest ocean, and the distance between us, the culture, history, and people of the Marshall Islands are largely unknown to most Americans, except perhaps as the place where the United States tested more than 67 nuclear weapons during the development of our Nation's strategic arsenal. Although that testing left a legacy that we continue to address to this day, it would prove critical to the success of our country during the Cold War.

The United States nuclear testing program put the people of these remote islands on the front line in the Cold War struggle to preserve international peace, promote nuclear disarmament, support nuclear nonproliferation, and provide facilities critical to the development of a deployable missile defense system. The hardships and suffering endured by Marshall Island citizens during the testing program directly contributed to the positive and peaceful end to the Cold War. Their importance to the emergence of democracy across the globe cannot be understated. The people of the United States, and indeed the entire Free World, owe the people of the Marshall Islands an enormous debt of gratitude for their sacrifices.

The Republic of the Marshall Islands has an unmatched record of working in conjunction

with the United States in the pursuit of international peace and security, the rights and well-being of the peoples of the world, and in the War on Terror. I have been fortunate to have many great friends who hail from the Marshall Islands, and I will never forget the openness and kindness with which I was received. I congratulate the people of the Marshall Islands on the 25th Anniversary of their Constitution; and I commend them for the undying commitment to democracy and freedom. The United States is fortunate to have such a loyal friend and ally in the Pacific region. I look forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship between our two great Nations for many more years to come.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, throughout my tenure in Congress, I have worked closely with the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) on many issues arising in the Pacific region. The RMI has always been, and continues to be, a great ally of the United States and is dedicated to international peace and freedom. Therefore, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 410.

By the beginning of the 1900's, the RMI was annexed by Spain, Germany, and Japan. In 1934, the Allied invasion and occupation of the RMI began. In 1947, the RMI became one of six entities in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands established by the United Nations with the United States as the Trustee. Throughout all these years of being occupied, the people of RMI never lost their self-identity or hope for their own country. This hope grew in the decades after World War II as a local form of self-government was established. This led to the convening of a constitutional convention.

In 1979, the people of the RMI adopted a constitution and chose their form of government, a republic. With separation of powers and a Bill of Rights listing guaranteed rights, the RMI is based on the same principals and freedoms that the United States was founded on hundreds of years ago. Similar to our founding, it was the will of the people driving the process and making the decisions.

The RMI is now a sovereign nation. As a sovereign nation, the RMI has aligned itself closely with the U.S., particularly in a number of defense and strategic issues. Recently, we have renewed our mutually beneficial relationship by reauthorizing the Compact of Free Association. This has guaranteed that our alliance will continue for another 15 years.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution and recognize the 25th anniversary of the adoption of RMI's constitution. Their commitment and dedication to peace and democracy should be commended.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 410, 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. FLAKE. 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Wanda Evans, one of his secretaries.

EISENHOWER EXCHANGE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM TRUST FUND ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2121) to amend the Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship Act of 1990 to authorize additional appropriations for the Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship Program Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2121

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship Program Trust Fund Enhancement Act of 2003".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) 2003 marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship program.

(2) The Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship program was founded to honor the 34th President, Dwight D. Eisenhower, for his character, courage, patriotism, and commitment to international understanding through exchange.

(3) Over the past 50 years the Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship program has exposed thousands of leaders throughout the world to the values of American political institutions, private sector commerce, educational opportunities, and cultural and societal traditions.

(4) Eisenhower Exchange Fellows worldwide have assumed positions of leadership in their respective countries, whether in the fields of government, industry, or civil society, and they retain links to the United States through their membership in Eisenhower Exchange Fellowships.

(5) The Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship is developing a new program to broaden its geographic base to emphasize the relationship of the United States with the Arab world.

(6) Congress has previously recognized the importance of the work of the Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship program when it granted the program a Federal Charter under section 3(a) of Public Law 101-454.

(7) The Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship is one of the best examples of public and private partnerships.

(8) Additional resources are required to achieve the goals and objectives of the Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship program in the 21st century.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE EISENHOWER EXCHANGE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM TRUST FUND.

Section 5 of the Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-454; 20 U.S.C. 5204) is amended—

(1) by striking "To provide" and inserting "(a) INITIAL ENDOWMENT.—To provide"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(b) ENHANCED ENDOWMENT.—In addition to the amount initially appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriation under subsection (a), there is authorized to be appropriated to the Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship Program Trust Fund \$12,500,000 for fiscal year 2004."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2121.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE) I am pleased to speak to a bill introduced by the distinguished gentleman from Kansas (Mr. TIAHRT). The measure authorizes an increase in the Eisenhower Fellows Trust Fund that was established in 1992. The proceeds of this trust fund finance this well-respected exchange program. The increase will be directed towards programs in the Middle East.

The Eisenhower Fellowships is a non-partisan, nonprofit organization created in 1953 to honor President Eisenhower. Eisenhower Fellowships promote international understanding and productivity through the exchange of information and ideas among emerging leaders throughout the world. The program brings rising leaders from other countries to the United States and sends American counterparts abroad with a custom designed program for each participant.

The fellowship program seeks to create a network of leaders whose ties to one another and the United States may foster peace, productivity and progress. This is accomplished by creating programs that enhance the capacities of men and women leaders likely to have an impact on their nation's development. Programs are designed to build on the individual's professional skills as well as develop contacts within the United States. These experiences are devoted to the growth of the individual Fellows, to the advancement of their effectiveness as leaders, and to their ability to contribute to progress and reconciliation among diverse groups.

The advantage to the United States in such interaction affords our citizens the opportunity to understand the aims, achievements and problems of different countries through meeting proven young leaders of these countries.

In closing, the Eisenhower Fellowships promote international under-

standing and productivity through the exchange of information, ideas and perspectives among emerging leaders throughout the world. This is important and useful to our future as a member of the globalized society.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation and I urge my colleagues to do so as well. This legislation reauthorizes an important public diplomacy program named after our 34th President, Dwight D. Eisenhower. The Eisenhower Fellowship Program, funded by both the private and public sectors, has made an enduring contribution to international understanding and furthering U.S. interests around the globe by promoting international understanding through the exchange of information, ideas and perspectives among emerging leaders worldwide. It brings rising foreign leaders to the United States and sends their American counterparts abroad, with a custom designed program for each participant.

Mr. Speaker, since its inception, over 1,500 fellows have become alumni of the program. Among them are four heads of government and 100 cabinet-level appointees. Numerous fellows have become ambassadors, legislators, university presidents, supreme court judges and governors. They head major corporations and nonprofit organizations involving health, environment and culture.

Mr. Speaker, this is the type of program that must be continued if we are going to try to improve our stature around the world and to change the misunderstandings that are being propagated by those who do not understand our great Nation.

Indeed, we must increase these types of programs if we are going to start to make inroads on the increasingly negative view of the United States that has been growing over the past 2 years. Recognizing this need, the Eisenhower program is developing an expanded program for Middle East and the Arab world.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support passage of this legislation, and urge my colleagues to do so as well.

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2121—the Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship Trust Fund Enhancement Act. The Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship honors former President Dwight D. Eisenhower for his character, courage and patriotism in both times of war and peace. Its programs are designed to advance international understanding by providing opportunities to emerging world leaders; exposing them to diverse experiences. Each year the program attracts approximately 45 leaders to the United States from countries around the world. Eisenhower Fellowships spend two months studying, learning and participating in democratic institutions at all levels of government.