

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3908.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHL,
Clerk of the House.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 10, 2004.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on September 10, 2004 at 1 p.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he transmits a copy of a notice extending the emergency as a result of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHL,
Clerk of the House.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN TERRORIST ATTACKS— MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 108-212)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1622(d), provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. Consistent with this provision, I have sent to the Federal Register the enclosed notice, stating that the emergency declared with respect to the terrorist attacks on the United States of September 11, 2001, is to continue in effect for an additional year.

The terrorist threat that led to the declaration on September 14, 2001, of a national emergency continues. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue in effect after September 14, 2004, the national emergency with respect to the terrorist threat.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, September 10, 2004.

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 6 of rule XX.

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

SALUTING THE LIFE AND COURAGE OF THE LATE COMMANDER LLOYD "PETE" BUCHER

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 407) saluting the life and courage of the late Commander Lloyd "Pete" Bucher, United States Navy (retired), who commanded the U.S.S. *Pueblo* (AGER-2) at the time of its capture by North Korea on January 23, 1968.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 407

Whereas on January 28, 2004, Commander Lloyd "Pete" Bucher, United States Navy (retired), died and was subsequently buried with honors at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery in Point Loma, San Diego, California;

Whereas Lloyd Bucher was appointed as a commissioned officer in the Navy in June 1953 and in May 1967 was assigned command of the U.S.S. *Pueblo* (AGER-2), an auxiliary light cargo ship designated as an environmental research vessel;

Whereas the U.S.S. *Pueblo*, while under the command of Commander Bucher and in international waters conducting an intelligence mission off the coast of North Korea, was attacked by three North Korean torpedo boats and a North Korean sub chaser on January 23, 1968;

Whereas the U.S.S. *Pueblo* was armed only with two .50-caliber machine guns, and the attack resulted in the death of one Navy sailor and the capture of Commander Bucher, his crew, and the U.S.S. *Pueblo*;

Whereas Commander Bucher and his crew were starved and tortured for 11 months, and were repeatedly beaten, burned on steam radiators, and otherwise brutally treated by their North Korean captors;

Whereas Commander Bucher bore the brunt of the wrath of the North Koreans;

Whereas crewman James Kell said, "We were all beaten, we all were tortured. But [Commander Bucher] had it double, triple, quadruple what we got.;"

Whereas crewman Stu Russell said, "[Commander Bucher] was a giant. No matter who did what, he was always punished. I simply don't know where he got the strength and courage to go through what he did.;"

Whereas on December 23, 1968, the crew of the U.S.S. *Pueblo* was released, some of whom were crippled or nearly blind because of the brutality and malnourishment they endured;

Whereas Commander Bucher retired from the Navy in 1973; and

Whereas Commander Bucher is survived by his wife, Rose, their two sons, and several grandchildren: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) salutes the life and courage of the late Commander Lloyd "Pete" Bucher, United States Navy (retired), who commanded the

U.S.S. *Pueblo* (AGER-2) at the time of its capture by North Korea on January 23, 1968, and who passed away on January 28, 2004;

(2) praises Commander Bucher for his exemplary bravery and sacrifice, which were an inspiration to his crew and the United States, while he and his crew were held in captivity for 11 months in North Korea;

(3) praises the bravery of the crew of the U.S.S. *Pueblo*; and

(4) expresses its heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of Commander Bucher.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. AKIN) and the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. AKIN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the concurrent resolution currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, some observers have argued that the United States won the Cold War without firing a shot. While we may have secured our victory without a large-scale military conflict with the former Soviet Union, there are many Americans whose lives were indelibly marked by this not-so-Cold War. One of those Americans was Commander Pete Bucher. I rise today to honor this American patriot and the men who served under his command on the USS *Pueblo*.

On January 23, 1968, the USS *Pueblo* was commanded by Pete Bucher and was monitoring Communist ship movements and intercepting messages in international waters near the North Korean coast when it was attacked by North Korean naval forces. As a result of the attack, one Navy sailor, Fireman Duane Hodges, was killed and the remaining crew members were captured. Their incarceration marked the beginning of a nearly yearlong ordeal for Commander Bucher and the crew of the USS *Pueblo*.

Held in concrete cells for 11 months, Commander Bucher and the *Pueblo* crew were starved and tortured by the North Koreans. Mostly fed turnips, many of the malnourished crew members began to lose their sight. They were repeatedly beaten and burned. According to Crewman Bob Chicca, the North Koreans would use "rifle butts or pieces of wood, whatever they had handy, to beat us."

By all accounts, Pete Bucher bore the brunt of the North Koreans' wrath. According to crewman Stu Russell, Bucher "was a giant." As commanding officer, Bucher was the focus of the North Korean efforts. Russell recalled that "he took the brunt of everything. No matter who did what, he was always punished. I simply don't know where he

got the strength and courage to go through what he did." Eventually Bucher, when he was wounded when the *Pueblo* was shelled, was beaten and tortured into signing a "confession," an act he also felt would save the lives of his crew.

During her husband's captivity, Rose Bucher, a native of my home State of Missouri, worked hard to make sure Americans did not forget the men of the *Pueblo*. Rose handed out bumper stickers reminding the public to "Remember the *Pueblo*." Finally, 2 days before Christmas 1968, Commander Bucher and the crew of the *Pueblo* were released one by one across the "Bridge of No Return" from North to South Korea. At the time Bucher stated, "It was like coming out of the grave."

On 28 January 2004, this courageous warrior passed from this world into the next. He was subsequently buried with honors at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery in Point Loma, San Diego, California. Three men who served under Pete Bucher on the *Pueblo* carried the flag-draped coffin to its final resting place overlooking San Diego Bay.

Today, I am pleased to be joined by 26 of my House colleagues, both Republican and Democrat, in offering this resolution to honor Commander Lloyd "Pete" Bucher and the crew of the USS *Pueblo*. Pete Bucher and his crew sacrificed that each of us may enjoy the liberty for which so many others have given the ultimate sacrifice. In passing this resolution, we continue to remember the *Pueblo*.

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

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

I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 407 introduced by my colleague, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. AKIN). I would like to recognize the gentleman for his leadership and work in bringing forward this resolution to salute the service and extreme bravery of Commander Lloyd Mark Bucher and the crew of the USS *Pueblo*.

Sadly, Lloyd Bucher, who went by the name of "Pete," passed away earlier this year. With his passing, the tragic event of the capture of the USS *Pueblo* in 1968 by North Korea once again brings light upon this exceptional individual. Commander Bucher did not just have the unfortunate privilege of being the commander of the USS *Pueblo* when it was attacked by the North Koreans on January 23, 1968. It was his bravery, loyalty and steadfastness to his men that distinguished him as an extraordinary leader during a dark and very challenging time.

Pete Bucher's life is an American story. He was born in 1927. His parents died when he was an infant. He was adopted, but tragically, his adoptive parents also died during his childhood.

After seeing the film "Boys Town," he wrote to Father Flanagan asking if he could live there. According to a Boys Town account, Father Flanagan

sent him a train ticket, and Pete Bucher finally found a permanent home in Omaha, Nebraska.

At 17 years of age, Pete Bucher enlisted in the Navy. He went on to college at the University of Nebraska, and after graduating he became a naval officer and served for 27 years before retiring in 1973.

He might have lived an ordinary naval life if not for the terrible events that unfolded on January 23, 1968. As commander of the USS *Pueblo*, an intelligence gathering ship, Commander Bucher was ordered to cruise off the eastern coast of North Korea to intercept communications and gather intelligence. While on their maiden voyage and in international waters, the *Pueblo* armed only with two .50 caliber machine guns was attacked by three North Korean torpedo boats and a North Korean sub chaser.

The attack ended with one American crewman killed and a number of crew wounded, including Commander Bucher.

□ 1415

Despite radio calls seeking air support, no help ever arrived. Instead, the crew and its captain were taken as prisoners. Beaten, tortured, and starved nearly to death, the crew endured this brutality for nearly a year. Pete Bucher, as the leader of the crew, took the brunt of these punishments.

According to James Kell, a *Pueblo* survivor, many more sailors would have died without Bucher's sense of bravery and leadership. He bore the worst of the tortures and inspired his men to hang on. It was his concern for saving the life of his crew that made him a sailor's sailor, a sign of respect and admiration from his crew. On December 23, 1968, 11 months after their capture, the crew and the captain of the USS *Pueblo* were released. Many were crippled or nearly blind because of malnourishment they endured.

Yet Commander Pete Bucher would not receive the support and recognition that he deserved from his commanding officers. Instead, he faced an official court of inquiry that criticized him for surrendering his ship and recommended a court-martial. But Bucher was never charged. He continued to serve in the Navy and retired in 1973.

Today, we remember the *Pueblo*, and we salute the life and the courage of this exceptional individual and recognize the bravery of all those who served with him aboard the USS *Pueblo*. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 407, of which I am an original co-sponsor, saluting the life and courage of the late Commander Lloyd "Pete" Bucher, United States Navy (retired) and the crew of the USS *Pueblo*.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that two of the USS *Pueblo* crew members, First Class Petty Officer Donald R. Peppard and Seaman Ramon Rosales, hail from my Congressional district of El Paso, Texas. Both were among

the gallant men who served their country honorably in the face of much hardship. As you know, the members of the USS *Pueblo*, under the leadership of Commander Bucher, endured 11 months of excruciating captivity at the hands of the North Koreans without knowing if they would return to their loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, this is merely a small recognition paying tribute to the late Commander Bucher and the crew of the USS *Pueblo*, for this country owes much more to them than we could ever reciprocate. I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the brave men of the USS *Pueblo* by supporting the passage of this bill.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ADERHOLT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. AKIN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 407.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING GRAVE CONCERN OF CONGRESS REGARDING CONTINUING GROSS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OF SYRIAN PEOPLE BY GOVERNMENT OF SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 363) expressing the grave concern of Congress regarding the continuing gross violations of human rights and civil liberties of the Syrian people by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 363

Whereas the Syrian Arab Republic is governed by an authoritarian regime which continues to commit serious human rights abuses, including the use of torture and arbitrary arrest and detention;

Whereas the Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2003 states that Syria "significantly restricts freedom of speech and of the press", that "freedom of assembly does not exist under the law", and that "the Government restricted freedom of association";

Whereas Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers";

Whereas Article 20 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states "Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association";

Whereas Syria's September 2001 press law permits the government to arbitrarily deny or revoke publishing licenses for vague reasons and compels media to submit all material to government censors;