

up the Hudson River for that observance.

In 1959, Congress created the Hudson-Champlain Celebration Commission to recognize the 350th anniversary and coordinate Federal participation in those commemoration events. New York, New Jersey and Vermont all participated in the anniversaries.

Then-Governor Nelson Rockefeller of New York proclaimed 1959 the Year of History. Events occurred day and night, such as art exhibits, performance of music, drama and historic reenactments. The Netherlands, Canada, Great Britain and France were all enthusiastically involved.

In order for our country to showcase to the world the monumental effect that exploration has had on today's society and to celebrate the beauty, history and culture of the Hudson River and Lake Champlain, Federal planning for the 400th anniversary must start now. The States are already planning for these anniversaries.

In 2002, the State of New York established a State Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Commission; and in 2003, the State of Vermont established a Lake Champlain Quadricentennial Commission.

A Federal commission is important to expand the scope of these State celebrations, attracting and organizing a national and indeed an international organization for these celebrations. The commission established by this bill will coordinate educational, cultural and historic projects, while cooperating in assisting the programs and activities conceived by New York, New Jersey and Vermont.

Specifically, the legislation will do the following: It will ensure a suitable national observance of the anniversary through cooperation with and assistance to the programs and activities of New York, New Jersey and Vermont.

It will cultivate international involvement in celebration activities and provide an excellent opportunity to strengthen our historic and cultural ties to nations such as the Netherlands, Canada, Great Britain and France.

It will also coordinate the activities of Federal Government agencies such as the Departments of Agriculture, Defense, State, Transportation, as well as the National Park Service, all of which have significant resources in the Hudson and Champlain Valleys.

It will encourage civic, patriotic, historical, educational, religious, economic and other organizations throughout the United States to organize and participate in anniversary activities that expand the understanding and appreciation of the significance of these voyages.

It will provide technical assistance to States, localities, nonprofit organizations to further the commemoration.

It will coordinate and facilitate for the public scholarly research on publication about and interpretation of the voyages of Henry Hudson, Samuel de Champlain and Robert Fulton.

□ 1400

It will support and facilitate marketing efforts for a commemorative coin, a commemorative stamp, and related activities for the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain 2009 observances. And it will also ensure that the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain 2009 anniversaries provide a lasting legacy and long-term public benefit by assisting in the development of appropriate programs and facilities.

I urge all Members to join me in supporting this legislation, and again, I express my appreciation to the gentleman here today for bringing this legislation to the floor.

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers, and 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 am pleased to join with the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY) in support of this legislation. The Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Commission, as established in this act, will plan and develop programs in 2009 that will celebrate the voyages of discovery made by Henry Hudson, Robert Fulton, and Samuel de Champlain.

The programs and activities will mark the 400th anniversary of the voyage of Henry Hudson, the first European to sail up the Hudson River; the 200th anniversary of the voyage of Robert Fulton, the first person to use steam navigation on a commercial basis; and the 400th anniversary of the voyage of Samuel de Champlain, the first European to discover and to explore Lake Champlain.

The exploration of the Hudson River and Lake Champlain and the introduction of steam navigation in maritime commerce played an important role in shaping New York State. In addition, these early explorers opened a part of North America that was crucial to international trade throughout eastern New York, the North Country and the Lake Champlain region.

The Hudson-Fulton-Champlain 400th Commemoration Commission represents a unique opportunity to celebrate New York, its history and its heritage.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain 400th Commemoration Commission Act, and I thank my colleague MAURICE HINCHEY for his leadership on this issue.

I am pleased that the bill under consideration today will establish a Commission charged with planning, developing and executing programs and activities appropriate to commemorate the voyages of three explorers. From these early explorations and "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" to today's waterfront development projects, the Hudson River has enriched life in New York for centuries. Safeguarding the rich historical legacy of these natural resources is a commitment we must all make, and we have an obligation to educate the public on the three explorers and their voyages.

As the co-founder of the Hudson River Caucus, I have worked to help realize the full educational, environmental, and economic potential of the Hudson River and its waterfront. The event that will take place in 2009, commemorating the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's voyage, the 200th anniversary of the voyage of Robert Fulton, and the 400th anniversary of the voyage of Samuel de Champlain, will help to achieve these goals. This legislation will celebrate and cherish these significant explorers and voyages, and help ensure historic preservation and increase public awareness for generations to come.

I am happy to support this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to pass this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LINDER). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2528, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 489) supporting the goals and ideals of National Preparedness Month.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 489

Whereas devastating acts, such as the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, have left many Americans concerned about the possibility of future terrorist incidents and their potential impact;

Whereas terrorists are attempting to acquire or develop weapons of mass destruction, such as biological, chemical, nuclear, and radiological weapons;

Whereas terrorist attacks and other emergencies have, and can again, disrupt hundreds of thousands of lives, resulting in significant numbers of casualties, causing serious damage to buildings and our Nation's infrastructure, and costing billions of dollars;

Whereas the Department of Homeland Security and other Federal, State, and local entities have been working diligently to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks and other emergencies;

Whereas all Americans can assist in promoting the Nation's overall emergency preparedness by preparing themselves and their families for terrorist attacks and other emergencies;

Whereas Americans can prepare for the unexpected by, among other things, assembling an emergency supply kit, developing a family emergency communications plan, and keeping informed about possible emergencies;

Whereas additional information about citizen preparedness can be obtained through the Department of Homeland Security's Ready campaign, by telephone at 1-800-BE-

READY, and on the Internet at www.Ready.gov;

Whereas the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Education, the America Prepared Campaign, the American Red Cross, and a coalition of more than 50 national organizations will launch National Preparedness Month on September 9, 2004;

Whereas all 56 State and territorial governors have pledged to mark National Preparedness Month with local events; and

Whereas the designation of National Preparedness Month will promote public awareness about the numerous ways that Americans can better prepare themselves and our Nation for terrorist attacks and other emergencies: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Preparedness Month;

(2) supports the designation of National Preparedness Month; and

(3) urges the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, other entities, and the people of the United States to observe National Preparedness Month with appropriate events and activities that promote citizen and community preparedness for terrorist attacks and other emergencies.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OSE. 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. Con. Res. 489.

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

There was no objection.

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

As Election Day nears, many Americans are understandably nervous about terrorism. Each day brings news of terror warnings at home, terror attacks or other developments abroad and ways the entire world has changed since the international war on terror began. Literally, we can be overwhelmed by the constant bombardment of these frightening updates.

Indeed, since September 11, our Nation has profoundly changed. Homeland security immediately became America's greatest priority. First responders, military personnel and law enforcement officials have vigilantly defended our homeland against further terrorist attacks. Meanwhile, many Americans want to help shoulder some of the burden in protecting the United States. They may, unfortunately, believe that they can do little more than worry. This resolution intends to increase awareness about how Americans can better prepare themselves and our Nation for terrorist attacks and other emergencies.

Mr. Speaker, this is September, the month in which our Nation was brutally attacked. Consequently, the De-

partments of Homeland Security and Education, the American Red Cross and dozens of national organizations have joined together to appropriately designate this month as National Preparedness Month. I join with the distinguished chairman of the House Select Committee on Homeland Security, the gentleman from California (Mr. COX) to support the critical goals of National Preparedness Month.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. COX) for introducing House Concurrent Resolution 489, and I look forward to his words on the resolution.

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, a year after the Department of Homeland Security began its ad campaign to educate the American people on how to prepare for a terrorist attack, a USA Today/CNN/Gallup poll published in March found that most Americans have not heeded the government's advice by stocking up on food and water, formulating a plan to contact family members and identifying a "safe room" in their homes.

This statistic is very troubling, because it demonstrates that the government has not done an adequate job in communicating how important it is to be prepared in the event of an emergency or terrorist attack. Being prepared could mean the difference between life and death.

Establishing a National Preparedness Month will focus the public's attention on emergency preparedness and help to resolve issues people may have, such as where to go and how to contact family members during an emergency.

As elected officials, we have a responsibility to help protect and to educate our constituents about the threats facing our Nation. H. Con. Res. 489 would help us to do exactly that.

There is no such thing as a perfect plan to protect the American people from an attack, but we can work to make our plan as perfect as possible. While the poll suggests that Americans are not as prepared as we should be, it does serve as a wake-up call.

So I urge my colleagues to take advantage of this opportunity to vote in favor of H. Con. Res. 489 and to help make sure that we are as prepared as a nation as we can possibly be.

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

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. COX), the chairman of the Select Committee on Homeland Security and the sponsor of House Concurrent Resolution 489.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 489, which supports the objectives of National Preparedness Month and commends the Department of Homeland

Security for initiating this bold and timely program.

I recently introduced this bill, along with my distinguished colleague, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. HARMAN). Her strong leadership on the Select Committee on Homeland Security on behalf of this measure has contributed significantly to keeping our citizens prepared, informed and protected from the continued threat of terrorism. Since September 11, this Congress has worked tirelessly to improve the security of every town and city across America.

This month, September 2004, more than 80 organizations across the United States in every one of the 56 United States and territories are joining with the Department of Homeland Security to encourage Americans to be prepared in our homes, in our businesses and in our schools.

As recent tragic events in Beslan have made it clear, even our children, even our schools are not immune from terrorism.

As we continue to secure our transportation systems and other critical infrastructure, we must also make it a priority to educate our citizens. Moms, dads, students, teachers, businesses and professional men and women, every American at his and her place of work can contribute to the counterterrorism mission. In order to work, this critical mission has to be a partnership, a broad partnership involving not just Federal, State and local governments but each and every citizen.

That is why National Preparedness Month is so important and so relevant to President Bush's strategy for homeland security. It is a creative but practical program that emphasizes clear, commonsense steps that we can all take to secure our communities, to safeguard our neighborhoods and to protect our children.

Every one of us has an important role to play in this effort. We can make emergency communications plans. We should have emergency kits. We can work with our neighbors to promote public awareness and public preparedness.

As Secretary Ridge has reminded us, national preparedness is not just a 30-day exercise. It is not going to be finished and forgotten. It should be for all of our citizens the renewal of a 365-day, 24-7 effort, a commitment to defeat international terrorism in our own homes. National preparedness must be a way of life in defense of our home.

The unthinkable happened on September 11, and we are making sure that it never happens again. The Department of Homeland Security is working to ensure that our capable and courageous police, firefighters and emergency medical personnel are properly trained and equipped. These first responders must be prepared to respond to terrorist attacks and other emergencies, especially if they involve biological weapons or WMDs.

We have come a long way since 9/11, but as the President tells us time and

again, there is still much more to do to keep America safe. Each and every one of us, as I said, has an important role to play in this effort. By staying informed and active in our communities, we can all help accomplish this.

I commend Secretary Ridge and the Department of Homeland Security for inaugurating National Preparedness Month, which is keeping us all focused on this important goal.

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

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the adoption of House Concurrent Resolution 489, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 489.

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.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL LONG-TERM CARE RESIDENTS' RIGHTS WEEK

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 772) supporting the goals and ideals of National Long-Term Care Residents' Rights Week and recognizing the importance to the Nation of residents of long-term care facilities, including senior citizens and individuals living with disabilities.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 772

Whereas there are nearly 1.7 million individuals living in 17,000 nursing homes and 1 million individuals living in 46,000 board and care and assisted living facilities in the United States;

Whereas residents of long-term care facilities, including senior citizens and individuals living with disabilities, are one of the Nation's most valued resources;

Whereas residents of long-term care facilities include the "Greatest Generation" of Americans who protected our freedoms in World War II and helped rebuild the world in the postwar years;

Whereas almost 160,000 people younger than 65 years of age live in the Nation's nursing homes;

Whereas the Nation should honor and celebrate long-term care residents, recognize their rich individuality, and reaffirm their rights as community members and citizens, including the right to vote;

Whereas the Federal Nursing Home Reform Act of 1987 guaranteed important rights, such as the right to privacy, the right to be treated with dignity, the right to exercise self-determination, the right to participate in the review of one's care plan, the right to be fully informed in advance of any changes in treatment, and the right to voice grievances without discrimination or reprisal;

Whereas long-term care ombudsmen, citizen advocates, facility staff, and family and resident councils work to educate and empower residents in the exercise of their rights;

Whereas the week beginning October 3, 2004, should be celebrated as National Long-Term Care Residents' Rights Week;

Whereas in recognition of National Long-Term Care Residents' Rights Week, individuals and groups around the country will be affirming the importance of quality of care and quality of life for long-term care residents; and

Whereas National Long-Term Care Residents' Rights Week originated in 1980, with resolutions introduced by Representative Claude Pepper and Senator David Pryor to designate a Nursing Home Residents Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Long-Term Care Residents' Rights Week; and

(2) encourages the President to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe that week with appropriate ceremonies and activities to demonstrate the importance of long-term care residents to our everyday lives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OSE. 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 resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, this resolution supports the goals and ideals of National Long-Term Care Residents' Rights Week. Many Americans may not be aware that dozens of national, State and local organizations observe National Long-Term Care Residents' Rights Week during the first week of October. As we approach that time, I am pleased that the House is considering this resolution.

As the U.S. population grows older, long-term care facilities become increasingly important resources for more American families. These homes provide invaluable services by helping people with the day-to-day care of their elderly loved ones.

Nearly 2 million Americans today live in assisted living homes. These people are our parents, our grandparents, our great grandparents, our mentors, neighbors and friends. They have lived full lives, but they have much more living to do. We should always value and respect their dignity as that transpires.

I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) for his efforts on House Resolution 772, and I urge its adoption.

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, almost 1.7 million Americans live in a long-term care facility somewhere in the United States. With improvements in medicine and the aging of the baby boomer generation, that number is likely to increase. Therefore, it is important that we take the steps necessary to secure the safety, dignity and happiness of our senior citizens.

In 1987, the Federal Nursing Home Reform Act was created as an important first step towards protecting the rights of senior citizens. The act guaranteed seniors the right to self-determination, to be treated with dignity and the right to voice grievances without reprisal. However, much more can be done to educate seniors about their rights.

Creating a National Long-Term Care Residents Rights' Week is a step in the right direction. One week each year, Americans will be educated about long-term care facilities and the quality of care and the quality of life that our seniors deserve.

Our seniors are a national treasure that should be valued and treated with the utmost respect. There is no question that we are a stronger, safer and more prosperous nation because of the hard work and sacrifices made by the generations that have come before us.

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We are without doubt in their debt. I support the goals and ideals of National Long Term Care Residents' Rights Week, and I encourage the President to issue a proclamation that calls upon the people of the United States to observe National Long Term Care Residents' Rights Week beginning October 3.

We also need to seriously look at what is being done about the pay of individuals who work in nursing homes and especially those at the lower levels. Even as I speak today, I think of my father who is 93 years old and who is probably breathing out his last breath in a facility today, so I have a great deal of concern for those individuals who work in these facilities and who often times are paid wages that are not commensurate with the importance of the work that they do.

I also would like to express appreciation to the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) for his leadership on this important piece of legislation.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 772, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Long-Term Care Residents' Rights Week and recognizing the importance of residents of long-term care facilities to our everyday lives.

I want to thank Representative TOM DAVIS and Representative DANNY DAVIS for working with me to bring this resolution to the floor in a timely manner. I also want to recognize Representative JOHN MCHUGH for joining me in sponsoring this National Long-Term Care Residents' Rights Week resolution.

Since coming to Congress 30 years ago, one of my top priorities has been improving the health care received by senior citizens and