

years we had pretty much taken control in World War II.

So I would just like to mention that Rosy the Riveter, the Victory Gardens, and all of those things that took place at that time were critical. And it was so critical that everyone pulled together, everyone was willing to sacrifice, everyone was willing to give up something from their own family, from their own well-being to serve the troops. So we appreciate the support of this particular resolution.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR).

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time.

I too rise in support of H. Con. Res. 161 and salute the people and the communities that volunteered and donated to North Platte Canteen. I can remember our own canteen in my hometown of Chisholm, Minnesota, in World War II when I was just a youngster.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY), cosponsor of the resolution.

(Mr. TERRY asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, I want to compliment the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) for introducing this. He represents the North Platte area.

This is such a magnificent piece of our Nebraska history, and it really represents the comradery and spirit of America here. The gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) had mentioned that even in a town of 12,000 that over the period of the months of this canteen, there were literally tens of thousands of volunteers that came to help the servicemen and provide them services at this canteen in North Platte. And this canteen needed all of the support that it could get.

And word spread, literally spread, around the community and all of Nebraska; 125 communities came together to join in this effort. And due to fuel rationing, volunteers often carpooled from nearby communities to North Platte. Cities throughout Nebraska gave, through donations, time, money, supplies, food, meat. And it is really an incredible example of what it means to be an American at that time. The entire community gathered together to support and comfort these troops. Men, women, children all gave their time, money, efforts. Though it may not have been well known throughout the rest of the world, the memory of the North Platte Canteen still glows in the hearts of many Nebraskans. In fact, my own press secretary's mother talks proudly of peeling potatoes as a young child to help her older sisters at the canteen.

□ 1515

Lorene Huebner, of Hershey, Nebraska, just a teenager during this

time, still remembers the piano in the canteen, and how it was always being played by either a volunteer or one of the troops and how packed the canteen would get with people talking, having coffee and laughing. She still feels that the whole U.S. was opened up to her through the troops from all across the country that she met in this canteen.

From December 25, 1941, through April 1, 1946, a total of 54 months, over 6 million troops were served at the North Platte Canteen. The outreach of communities to support each other remains an enduring mark of compassion and patriotism. That spirit is with us today in a different form, yes, but no less potent.

It is with great honor that I cosponsored this with my colleague, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE), and really look forward to the vote on this.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), another cosponsor of this resolution.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I am here to lend my support for not only this resolution, but for the epitome that it represents, the story it tells about folks from the middle of the country, in this case from Nebraska.

Sometimes, particularly during football season, it is unusual for any Kansan to be here speaking about something good happening in Nebraska, but it is this story that the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) tells about an historic event that is still part of people's lives of Nebraska and how it affected Kansas. In fact, it affected many soldiers across the country who made the trek across Nebraska on the train and stopped in North Platte at the canteen. In fact, the first soldiers that were cared for at the canteen were from my State of Kansas.

The gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) explained this story to me one day 4 or 5 months ago, and as he was talking about the sacrifice that those Nebraskans made, those individual farmers, those families, those young men and women, those kids, to try to make a difference in the lives of soldiers who were facing an uncertain future, I could just sense the emotion that the gentleman had for the sacrifice that was made. In fact, it seems to me that tears kind of welled up in the eyes of the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE).

Again, I think those of us who come from middle America recognize the kind of people that we have the honor to represent, recognize the people who make up the history and tradition of our States and what a difference they make, how much they care.

So I am here to join the gentleman from Nebraska in honoring something that happened that was great about middle America, but really exemplifies not only America then, not only middle America, but all of America, and, most importantly, exemplifies what still goes on in our country today, the

concern for our soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines.

Once again, as our country is calling our men and women in active duty to service in the war on terror, it is an appropriate time for us to recognize those who cared in the past, and once again call upon all Americans to serve and sacrifice for the soldiers and families who serve our country so nobly today.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I am so pleased to have this opportunity today to join with my colleagues in thanking the people of North Platte for setting such a fine, genuine example of support and patriotism for our troops and for our country.

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

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I would just remind all of us that we are fortunate to have people like those in North Platte, Nebraska, that have such a patriotic spirit and are so committed to serving our troops. I would encourage my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 161, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### RECOGNIZING AND HONORING MILITARY UNIT FAMILY SUPPORT VOLUNTEERS

Mr. KLINE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 486) recognizing and honoring military unit family support volunteers for their dedicated service to the United States, the Armed Forces, and members of the Armed Forces and their families.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 486

Whereas members of the Armed Forces and their families make significant sacrifices on behalf of the United States;

Whereas the military necessity of long deployments, frequent relocations, and infrequent family contact for members of the Armed Forces can be extremely challenging for members and their families;

Whereas, in response to these sacrifices and challenges, military unit family support volunteers from each branch of the Armed Forces have stepped forward to provide members of the Armed Forces and their families critical support while members are deployed;

Whereas military unit family support volunteers consist of the Army Family Readiness Volunteers, Navy Ombudsmen, Air

Force Spouses Together and Ready volunteers (STARs), and Marine Key Volunteers (KVs);

Whereas military unit family support volunteers are generally spouses of members of the Armed Forces, and they provide assistance to military families while also enduring the challenges of military life;

Whereas military unit family support volunteers are motivated by the desire to improve the lives of other military families and to assist future generations;

Whereas military unit family support volunteers serve as liaisons between military commands and families, often serving as information conduits between the two groups;

Whereas military unit family support volunteers also connect the community with military families and local military installations, often leveraging donations and resources to the advantage of the military families; and

Whereas military unit family support volunteers provide their services on a voluntary basis, with little public recognition and no financial assistance, and often contribute their own resources to help other military families: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring).* That Congress recognizes and honors the military unit family support volunteers of each branch of the Armed Forces who selflessly devote their time, talent, and energy in service to the United States and commends military unit family support volunteers for their dedicated contributions to the Armed Forces and the quality of life of members of the Armed Forces and their families.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KLINE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Con. Res. 486.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 486. This resolution recognizes and honors the men and women behind the unparalleled support structure that serves the families of our service members.

The men and women of the United States Armed Forces face a great challenge each day. We ask our active duty service members and citizen soldiers to provide safety and security at times when these words seem little more than lofty ideals.

We also ask a great deal of the families of these young men and women. For each of the 1.4 million active duty service members and the 875,000 citizen soldiers who have served our Nation since September 11, 2001, someone has been left behind to balance the demands of providing emotional and moral support to their loved ones in the field while maintaining their own

spirits and carrying on with their everyday lives. These friends and family members make it possible for our armed service members to carry out their work. But who supports them in their important mission?

Fortunately, military family support volunteers take it upon themselves to do just that. These brave volunteers help shoulder the burden of our military families. They provide a source of strength for the families who stay behind while their loved ones serve far away.

Family support volunteers offer this assistance freely, without asking for pay or recognition. Often the spouses of long-serving members of our Armed Forces, these individuals are motivated by the desire to share their wisdom with families who are new to these trials. Because they have also experienced the anxiety that comes with deployment, they understand better than anyone the struggles that come in times of war.

As a young officer, my family and I benefited from these volunteers. As a senior officer, when I was commanding thousands of Marines and sailors far off in Somalia, I was reassured and they were reassured to know that our families back home were being supported by such volunteers. Now, as a Member of Congress, it is my great honor to join my colleagues in providing the recognition the military unit family support volunteers deserve.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the passage of H. Con. Res. 486.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 486. This resolution recognizes and honors the selfless service of America's military unit family support volunteers, who provide such dedicated support to the members of our Armed Forces and their families.

We are all aware of the tremendous sacrifices our service members make in the defense of the United States. Since September 11, 2001, our 1.4 million active duty service members and 875,000 citizen soldiers, the National Guardsmen and Reservists, have served our Nation honorably in the war on terrorism. Many have served in extremely dangerous conditions in Afghanistan and Iraq. Their bravery and sacrifice are an honor to our Nation.

But we must not forget the sacrifices of those whom they leave behind at home. As the poet John Milton said, "Those also serve who only stand and wait."

The months of separation that military families endure can be filled with anxiety, loneliness and hardship. But life goes on for America's military spouses and their families while their loved ones serve overseas. There are doctors appointments, anniversaries,

home repairs, holidays, financial problems, graduation, car troubles, birthdays, and in some cases, births. All those joys and trials of life that are shared by a family can become somber days and monumental tasks when one's partner or parent is missing.

In my congressional district, I am honored by the opportunity to work with many Navy ombudsmen and Marine Key Volunteers, or KVs, as they are called. That is why I introduced House Concurrent Resolution 486, because I am constantly amazed by the stories they share with me.

I met one Marine spouse who was facing incredibly difficult circumstances after her husband was deployed to Iraq in June, leaving her with the responsibility of caring for her two sons on her own. In addition to the stress involved with caring for her family, she must also deal with the anxiety that comes when you know your loved one is in harm's way.

Her husband is fighting the insurgency in some of the most dangerous areas of Iraq. In the notes he writes to her, he describes what it is like to be on the front lines and what it is like to come under fire from insurgents.

Fortunately, this brave young woman was assigned a Key Volunteer who cares deeply and who can relate to her. Her KV speaks to her every day to provide comfort and guidance and to offer any other help that she can provide.

Just before the war in Iraq got under way, I heard from a Navy spouse who was 4 months pregnant and her husband was deployed for a 6-month tour. She was new to San Diego and had no family and few friends in the area. She would have to face the remainder of her pregnancy without her husband being there and give birth without him by her side.

However, she was assigned a Navy ombudsman, who went to great length to help her. The dedicated ombudsman contacted her several times to provide moral support and to offer assistance. She also made herself available 24 hours a day in case this young wife needed medical treatment, guidance or just a friend.

In every unit of our great military, groups of these volunteers gather to help support each other when their husbands and their wives deploy. This powerful network of volunteers that makes up the family support group starts out as a collection of spouses who are thrown together by circumstance and grows into a network of friends and extended family.

□ 1530

This family comes together to shoulder the burden and to share the joys for those coping with the absence of their loved ones.

No one can understand the anxiety and the hardship that deployment brings better than these family support group volunteers, because they too have experienced these hardships. In

many cases, family support volunteers are in the same position as those they seek to help. Their spouses are also deployed into harm's way, and I know that many of them have gotten involved as ombudsman persons because of some of the trauma that they experienced.

Madam Speaker, I cannot tell my colleagues how deeply honored I am today for the opportunity to recognize America's family support volunteers. These brave men and women give selflessly of themselves for no pay and no recognition, and they often contribute their own resources to those in need. They do it for their loved ones. They do it for their community, and they do it for their nation.

Our service members need these dedicated volunteers to help keep the home fires burning so that they can focus on the task of fighting the global war on terror, a task that is more difficult if they are worried about their families being home. Knowing their families have the full support of a dedicated volunteer helps to ease their fears and concerns.

I commend these volunteers who so selflessly serve our armed forces and our Nation. The support they give to our military families is truly invaluable, and our country owes them a large debt of gratitude.

Madam Speaker, I see that there are no further speakers. I am delighted to present this. I look forward to presenting it to the ombudspeople and the key volunteers in the San Diego region, and I know that they will be pleased with this recognition from the United States Congress.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KLINE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, only to thank the gentlewoman from California for introducing the resolution. This important resolution is long overdue in order that we recognize the wonderful members of the military family support volunteers.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 486.

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.

**COMMENDING THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION AND ITS EMPLOYEES FOR ITS DEDICATION AND HARD WORK DURING HURRICANES CHARLEY AND FRANCES**

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to

the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 488) commending the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and its employees for its dedication and hard work during Hurricanes Charley and Frances, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 488

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service consistently provides critical forecasts and warnings about severe weather to the Nation's citizens;

Whereas 2 hurricanes, Charley and Frances, recently hit the State of Florida back-to-back, an event which has not occurred since 1964;

Whereas Hurricane Ivan was the third hurricane in a month to hit the United States mainland;

Whereas the employees of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Tropical Prediction Center/National Hurricane Center and the employees of key Southern Region Weather Forecast Offices worked tirelessly and under great pressure to provide the most up to date information to the public, the media, and emergency management officials during Hurricanes Charley, Frances, and Ivan;

Whereas the employees of the National Hurricane Center conducted 656 live television interviews as well as 1227 telephone briefings to the media and others during Hurricanes Frances and Ivan;

Whereas the forecasts and information from the National Hurricane Center provided notice for the safe evacuation of more than 6,000,000 residents in the line of Hurricanes Charley, Frances, and Ivan and warnings to the residents of Florida, Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana;

Whereas the Hurricane Liaison Team, a joint National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Federal Emergency Management Agency partnership, provided support to the 25 different media outlets operating out of the National Hurricane Center;

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Hydrometeorological Prediction Center provided rainfall forecasts and hurricane track guidance to the National Hurricane Center;

Whereas the National Weather Service's National Data Buoy Center, in partnership with the United States Coast Guard, worked expeditiously after Hurricane Charley to fix data buoys that proved critical for forecasts of Hurricane Frances and Ivan;

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Ocean Service provided storm surge predictions and hydrographic information support to Federal partners before, during, and after Hurricanes Charley, Frances, and Ivan;

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service provided images of Hurricane Frances every 5 minutes over a 4-day period, an unprecedented number of images for hurricane tracking;

Whereas the Southern and Eastern Region Weather Forecast Offices of San Juan, Miami, Tampa Bay, Key West, Melbourne, Jacksonville, Tallahassee, Atlanta, Birmingham, Huntsville, Mobile, Morristown, Charleston, Morehead City, Wilmington, Wakefield, Taunton, Lake Charles, New Orleans, Jackson, Nashville, and Houston provided up-to-the-minute local details for residents throughout Hurricanes Charley, Frances, and Ivan;

Whereas employees from other offices within the Southern Region provided additional support to key Weather Forecast Of-

fices directly impacted by Hurricanes Charley, Frances, and Ivan;

Whereas more than 1,700 watches, warnings, advisories, and other statements were issued by key local Weather Forecast Offices during Hurricanes Charley, Frances, and Ivan;

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Marine and Aviation Operation's Hurricane Hunters logged 344 hours of flight time through and above the storms to assist the National Hurricane Center in tracking Hurricanes Charley, Frances, and Ivan;

Whereas the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron of the 403rd Wing of the Air Force Reserve Command at Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Mississippi, logged 537 hours of flight time through and above the storms to assist the National Hurricane Center in tracking Hurricanes Charley, Frances, and Ivan;

Whereas the Southeast River Forecast Center provided critical river flooding forecast information to Federal, State, and private partners during Hurricanes Charley, Frances, and Ivan and accurately predicted the amount of excessive rainfall over the Southeastern United States several days in advance; and

Whereas it is still the first half of hurricane season and all these employees remain engaged tracking tropical storms: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) commends the employees of the National Weather Service, especially the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Tropical Prediction Center/National Hurricane Center, Hydrometeorological Prediction Center, and National Data Buoy Center; the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron of the 403rd Wing of the Air Force Reserve Command at Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Mississippi; the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Aircraft Operations Center at MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Florida; the Hurricane Liaison Team; the National Ocean Service; and the National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service, for their extraordinary dedication and hard work during Hurricanes Charley, Frances, and Ivan;

(2) commends the Southern and Eastern Region Weather Forecast Offices of San Juan, Miami, Tampa Bay, Key West, Melbourne, Jacksonville, Tallahassee, Atlanta, Birmingham, Huntsville, Mobile, Morristown, Charleston, Morehead City, Wilmington, Wakefield, Taunton, Lake Charles, New Orleans, Jackson, Nashville, and Houston for their extraordinary dedication and hard work during Hurricanes Charley, Frances, and Ivan;

(3) thanks the commercial and media meteorologists for their contributions in disseminating the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration forecasts and warnings to the public; and

(4) expresses its support for the ongoing hard work and dedication of all who provide accurate and timely hurricane forecasts.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. EHLERS. Madam 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