

very rare day when somewhere in the world an Arthur Miller play is not performed.

As a means of saluting Mr. Miller, then-president of the University of Michigan, now president of Columbia University, Lee Bollinger, had the idea that we should build a theater on the University of Michigan campus and name it after Arthur Miller. And as the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) indicated, Arthur Miller, by a postcard to the university, said yes, that would be okay.

So in March 2005, following Mr. Miller's death at the age of 88, the regents of the University of Michigan approved plans to build the Arthur Miller Theater, a 250-seat performing venue on the campus of the University of Michigan; and this resolution honors the late Arthur Miller and the University of Michigan, Mr. Miller for his contributions to American theater, and the University of Michigan, I think, for playing a part in educating Mr. Miller and in recognizing the fact that he indeed was America's greater playwright of the 20th century.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I would just like to make a few closing comments. I was struck by the fact that Mr. Miller spent some time working in an auto-parts warehouse. There must be some relationship between that and the University of Michigan because my youngest son also spent some time working at an auto-parts warehouse because he did not intend to go to college or a university. After a short time, he decided to go to college and today is a faculty member in geophysics at the University of Michigan. So for those wishing to succeed at the University of Michigan, they may consider starting to work at an auto-parts warehouse.

I also want to recognize the importance of the preeminent play that Mr. Miller wrote, "Death of a Salesman." Very few works of the theater or cinema have affected me as much as that, simply because it struck me as someone who is a generation removed from the time of that particular play. I was just astounded at the generosity of Willy Loman's neighbor who recognized that Willy was in trouble, tried to help him, and every once in awhile would slip him \$20 and say, "Do not worry about repaying it. Whenever you get it, just give it back to me."

What struck me about that was there was no widespread social network in those days, and people depended on their neighbors. This is something we have lost today. Handing a neighbor \$20 in the 1930s and early 1940s is equivalent to handing them more than \$100 today; and how many of us would casually slip \$100 to a neighbor and say, Here, do not worry about it, just pay it back when you can. I think that encapsulates the spirit of that era. It was very tough times in the 1930s after the Great Depression, yet everyone helped each other, and that is how we as a Nation survived and became the great Nation we are today.

I have many personal differences with Mr. Miller and his stance and position on various issues, but I think it is appropriate to recognize genius when and where it exists, and it is certainly appropriate for us to honor him today. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to adopt this resolution honoring Mr. Miller and the University of Michigan for its role in naming a theater after him.

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 Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 216, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

OBSERVING 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF FALL OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM TO THE COMMUNIST FORCES OF NORTH VIETNAM

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 228) observing the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Republic of Vietnam to the Communist Forces of North Vietnam, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 228

Whereas the Vietnamese who resettled in the United States after the events of April 1975 have, through perseverance and hard work, been able to rebuild their lives and form a vibrant community across the United States, nearly a million and a half strong, which contributes in many significant ways to the richness and diversity of American society;

Whereas the large flow of refugees to the United States and elsewhere was caused by the fall of the Republic of Vietnam to the Communist forces of North Vietnam in April 1975, resulting in a world refugee crisis of historic proportions, the exodus of millions of Vietnamese, and hundreds of thousands of deaths at sea;

Whereas since 1975, Vietnamese Americans have worked tirelessly to promote freedom and democracy in Vietnam;

Whereas the United States honors all members of the United States Armed Forces and members of the South Vietnamese forces who fought in the Vietnam conflict, including those individuals who gave the ultimate sacrifice, their lives, for the cause of freedom during such conflict; and

Whereas the interests of the United States with respect to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam will be best served when the Vietnamese people fully enjoy the exercise of their basic human rights regardless of politics, religion, gender, or ethnic origin: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) honors the significant contributions of Vietnamese Americans to the richness, diversity, and success of American society;

(2) observes the 30th anniversary of the large exodus of refugees from Vietnam when the Republic of Vietnam fell to the Communist forces of North Vietnam;

(3) supports all individuals taking part in events in Washington, D.C. and across the United States to commemorate these momentous events in world history;

(4) honors the memory of those Vietnamese who lost their lives in that refugee exodus; and

(5) urges all citizens of the United States to share in remembering these events and working toward the full realization of freedom, democracy, and equality for all the people of Vietnam.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FORTENBERRY. 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 on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I would like to first start by thanking the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) for introducing this timely resolution honoring the contributions of Vietnamese Americans to American society over the past 3 decades.

This past week marked the 30th anniversary of the fall of Saigon, a tragic anniversary on many levels. Those events signified the fall of the Republic of Vietnam to the Communist forces of North Vietnam, and also marked the start of several successive waves of people fleeing their homeland in a refugee exodus that ultimately involved millions of Vietnamese. Of those who fled as boat people in the late 1970s, countless thousands died at sea.

The resolution before us honors the memory of those victims as well as the many sacrifices made by the Armed Forces of the United States and of South Vietnam during the Vietnam Conflict. But more centrally, the resolution honors the significant contributions of Vietnamese Americans to the richness, diversity, and success of American society.

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Adversity reveals the mettle of a people. The hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese who braved those circumstances to relocate in the United States have since grown into a vibrant American community nearly 1.5 million strong. In addition to thriving in their newfound homeland, Vietnamese

Americans have also worked tirelessly in their attempts to realize freedom and equality for all people in Vietnam, an ideal that remains a work in progress.

This week, many Americans are gathering in Washington, D.C., and elsewhere to commemorate the events of 30 years ago. Thus, it is a particularly fitting time for all Americans to join them in remembering the hardships and accomplishments of the past as well as our shared hopes for the future. For these reasons, House Resolution 228 deserves our unanimous support.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in strong support of this resolution. At the outset, I would like to commend the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) for introducing this important resolution and the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) for ably managing it on the floor.

Madam Speaker, 30 years ago, the fall of South Vietnam caused a refugee crisis of enormous proportions. Three million Vietnamese fled their homeland, with more than 1.5 million ultimately arriving in the United States. While a few left from the top of the U.S. Embassy in helicopters in the hurried rush at the end of the war, millions were loaded with their families onto rickety, overcrowded boats to flee Vietnam for freedom.

The resolution before us observes the 30th anniversary of this huge exodus of refugees from Vietnam and honors the significant contributions made by Vietnamese Americans after their arrival in the United States.

Madam Speaker, we are a Nation of immigrants, and Vietnamese Americans have warmly embraced the values and ethics of previous immigrant generations: hard work, education, an emphasis on family, and a strong embrace of our democratic system. Many Vietnamese Americans arrived with little more than the clothes on their back and have made new, prosperous lives for themselves here in the United States. Vietnamese Americans have become astronauts, television anchors, NFL football players, attorneys general and software entrepreneurs. They have made significant contributions to our society and to our culture, and their positive influence on our Nation will continue to grow.

Vietnamese Americans have also made the ultimate sacrifice for their newly adopted Nation. On March 22, 2004, Marine Lance Corporal Andrew Dang was killed by enemy fire while on patrol near Ramadi in Iraq. Andrew joined the Marines about a month after the start of the war in Iraq and was assigned to Camp Pendleton in my home State of California. After his death, a fellow Marine wrote about Andrew, and I quote, "Everyone could count on him

and no one questioned his loyalty. He believed in what the United States was doing against terror and so do we. None of us who knew Andrew will ever forget him."

Madam Speaker, our condolences go out to Andrew's family as does our great appreciation for his willingness to serve our Nation.

Vietnamese Americans are increasingly part of the fabric of American society, working hard, caring for their families, and giving back to their adopted homeland. Our resolution recognizes the evolution of the Vietnamese-American community and their lasting contributions to our entire Nation.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted to yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ).

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding me this time.

I rise today in support of House Resolution 228, which marks the 30th anniversary of the fall of Saigon. Last weekend, thousands of Vietnamese Americans from across the country came to Washington for the Vietnam Freedom March. This event celebrated the freedom and the heritage of the Vietnamese-American community, honored the sacrifices of American and Vietnamese veterans, and highlighted the desperate need for freedom and basic human rights in Vietnam today. I am proud to have been an honorary cohost of this event, along with over 20 of my House colleagues, and I look forward to the support of this entire body for the resolution in today's vote. As the congressional representative of the largest Vietnamese community outside of Vietnam, it is a great privilege to bring this legislation to the floor today on their behalf.

Madam Speaker, the gentleman from California is right. The Vietnamese community here in America has done an incredible job. They are hard workers, they are business owners, they are in the top universities, they are getting educated, they are beginning the political process, having now been elected in many of the areas, in Orange County and also in Texas, and, I believe, in Virginia.

It is great to see the strides that they have made as an immigrant community here in the United States. But the truth of the matter is that the people, especially people back in Orange County and around here that are Vietnamese Americans, are still worried about the situation in Vietnam. We know that the people of Vietnam awaken every day under a very harsh and repressive regime, and events such as the Vietnam Freedom March remind those of us here in Washington that even 30 years after the fall of Saigon, there remains much to be done before the Vietnamese people can enjoy the freedom and the liberty that we here in America often take for granted.

I hope that my colleagues will work with me and with the Vietnamese community of the United States to work on the human rights issues still left there in Vietnam. They came here because they were seeking freedom and liberty. We fought and we lost 58,000 Americans in that war trying to find freedom and liberty. I hope we will continue as Americans to fight for freedom and liberty.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE).

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution honoring the contributions of Vietnamese Americans to American society over the past 3 decades. After the events of April 1975, many brave Vietnamese migrated to the United States. Through perseverance and hard work, they rebuilt their lives to form a vibrant community across this country.

I take great pride in representing a part of Orange County's thriving Vietnamese-American community, and I have witnessed the community's growth over the years. There are now more than 3,500 Vietnamese-American-owned businesses straddling the cities of Garden Grove, Santa Ana and Westminster. Little Saigon is no longer "little." It is the cultural and commercial capital for close to 300,000 Vietnamese Americans, the largest concentration outside Vietnam.

I have seen the community grow not only economically but politically as well. Van Tran, who used to work for me in the State senate, has now been elected to the State assembly, the highest Vietnamese American elected to public office. Rightly, these Vietnamese Americans are focused on promoting democratic ideals in Vietnam. The U.S. must be a strong advocate of human rights, particularly when basic freedoms are being wantonly disregarded as they are in Vietnam. We must continue to shine a light on repression in that country.

I am sorry to say that in the 30 years, not much has changed in Vietnam. Not much has changed since the Communists launched their disastrous Socialist Republic of Vietnam because political, religious and economic freedoms have been systematically squashed. This is a government that continues to deny citizens of Vietnam the right to change their government. When I visited Vietnam, I saw firsthand the Communist Party's harassment of those Vietnamese citizens who decided to peacefully set forth dissenting political and religious views. When I met with the venerable Thich Quang Do and Le Quang Liem, I was immediately denounced by that Communist government.

But I must share with you that there is a strategy that is working to bring information to Vietnam. Radio Free Asia is an effective tool listened to across the country. I have carried legislation to expand those broadcasts.

But I would share with you in my conversations with Vietnamese that in the same way that Lech Walesa in Poland listened to those radio broadcasts and in the same way the members of solidarity had a chance to have their story told across Poland, in the same way that Vaclav Havel used to tune into Radio Free Europe, Radio Liberty broadcasts, today people across Southeast Asia, in Burma and in Vietnam have that same opportunity to listen to the news not only about what is happening in the world but what is happening inside their own country, and that is shaping the values and the attitudes and the knowledge of a new generation of young Vietnamese.

The Vietnamese-American community has not lost sight of the struggle in their original homeland for freedom, for religious freedom, for freedom of speech, even for the right of young people to sit down in an Internet cafe and have a dialogue without censorship. They are a part of this effort to make certain that those ideals stay alive so that in the same way that eastern Europe came to evolve into a democratic, market-oriented, tolerant society, that there will be that opportunity in the future for Vietnam.

In the meantime, this resolution commends the success of the Vietnamese-American community. I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) and the other cosponsors of this resolution and urge its passage.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I thank the ranking member very much for yielding me this time and the sponsor of this legislation and my colleagues, because I believe that we come unanimous to the floor to acknowledge the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Republic of Vietnam to, unfortunately, the Communist forces, but to stand tall with the resolved in Vietnam that fought steadfastly against those forces and to applaud the Vietnamese community which I have the opportunity of interacting with and, of course, working with in my own community of Houston.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this legislation and to have supported the recent event this past weekend commemorating the contributions and, of course, the commitment of the Vietnamese people and their longstanding commitment to Vietnam. Truly, the Vietnam War has had a lasting impact on our Nation and, indeed, the world in the 30 years since it has ended. The nation of Vietnam today is showing signs of economic revival. Much like China, Vietnam is realizing that market reforms that are more open and free can yield a greater fiscal growth and development.

However, again like China, Vietnam must also take the same approach in

respecting opposition and, of course, freedom and civil liberties. Unfortunately, the citizens of Vietnam must still endure arbitrary arrests, detentions without trial and the censorship of peaceful expressions of political and religious beliefs. These practices are not uncommon because they are written into the national constitution. Specifically, article 4 of the constitution of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam ensures the supremacy of the Vietnamese Community Party as the only political party in the country. At the same time, the government continues to enforce an extra-legal administrative decree to detain or place under house arrest any dissidents or civilians for up to 2 years, without trial, under the pretext of endangering national security.

That is why, Madam Speaker, I have been concerned about establishing trade relations that has not answered the question of the freedom of people in parts of Vietnam and particularly in the Communist areas. I also believe it is important to stand up to demand that those who have been incarcerated and detained are released and to say to those who are here, the Vietnamese community, that we stand with them in order to ensure the reuniting of their family members, many of them separated now for decades.

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But that has not stopped the Vietnamese community in Houston, in Texas, and around the Nation from being strong advocates and supporters of their individual communities. They are business persons, they are artists, they are teachers, they are community leaders.

I want to thank the community in Houston for raising over \$100,000 and coming to the aid of the victims of the tsunami by working with Houston's Solution for Tsunami Relief. I would like to acknowledge their artistic activities by saluting the Vietnamese Dance Company, saluting the first Vietnamese who was elected to the State legislature in the last election, and of course to salute those individuals who befriend and take care of their senior citizens. They have one of the best citizens programs for many of these elderly Vietnamese citizens who do not speak the language because they came to this country way after the prime of their life, but there is no more group that loves freedom as much as the Vietnamese community. And my senior citizens, who may not be able to speak English very well, I can assure Members that freedom is in their hearts, that they love this Nation, that they realize that they are in a country that is free and respects them.

So I am proud to recognize the achievements of Vietnamese Americans in 3 decades since the end of the Vietnam War. And I am proud to say that the city of Houston is home to about 160,000 Vietnamese who maintain an active and vibrant community.

They live at Bellaire. They have a Vietnam town there. One can find Vietnamese shops and restaurants, places of worship, but I will say they are very welcoming. 900 AM is Radio Saigon in Houston. They believe in being part of this Nation.

On April 30, 1975, the Republic of Vietnam fell to the Communist forces; but now we are standing to say that even as it fell, it yielded 3 million refugees, at least 500,000 individuals who died at sea trying to escape from danger, but they came to the United States and they stand together as free and united.

I congratulate the community, and I thank the distinguished ranking member for his leadership also.

I rise today as a cosponsor of H. Res. 228, which observes the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Republic of Vietnam to the Communist forces of North Vietnam. In addition, this resolution honors the contributions of Vietnamese Americans to American Society over the past three decades. Truly, the Vietnam War has had a lasting impact on our Nation and indeed the world in the 30 years since it ended.

The nation of Vietnam today is showing signs of economic revival. Much like China, Vietnam is realizing that market reforms that are more open and free can yield greater fiscal growth and development. However, much like China, Vietnam must also take the same approach of open opposition and freedom for its civil liberties. Unfortunately, the citizens of Vietnam must still endure arbitrary arrests, detentions without trial, and the censorship of peaceful expressions of political and religious beliefs. These practices are not uncommon because they are written into the nation Constitution. Specifically, Article 4 of the Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam ensures the supremacy of the Vietnamese Communist Party as the only political party in the country. At the same time the government continues to enforce an extra-legal administrative decree to detain or place under house arrest any dissidents or civilians for up to 2 years, without trial, under the pretext of "endangering national security." As a Member of Congress I have always stood for human rights and these practices go against all tenants of good governance. Truly, any nation in this era that hopes to have its place in the international community must maintain proper standards in human rights.

I am proud to recognize the achievements of Vietnamese Americans in the 3 decades since the end of the Vietnam War. I am proud to say that the City of Houston is home to about 160,000 Vietnamese, who have maintained an active and vibrant community. In the Southwest Houston Area at Bellaire Street, there is an area the community refers to as Vietnam Town, where you can find many of the Vietnamese shops, restaurants, and places of worship. In addition, the Vietnamese community in Houston has established their own radio stations including 900 AM Radio Saigon Houston.

On April 30, 1975, the Republic of Vietnam fell to the Communist forces of North Vietnam, resulting in a world refugee crisis of historic proportions, and yielding approximately 3,000,000 refugees around the world and at least 500,000 individuals who died at sea trying to escape from danger. One million five

hundred thousand of those Vietnamese resettled in the United States and like the Vietnamese community in Houston they have contributed to the diversity and vibrancy of our Nation.

As we commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War we should take this time to reflect on our current war in Iraq. Much like the final years of Vietnam we are confronted with the question of how do we end this war and when can we bring our fighting men and women home to be with their families and loved ones? There have been 1,763 coalition troop deaths in Iraq, 1,585 of which have been Americans. At least 12,243 U.S. troops have been wounded in action and their lives will be changed forever because of this war. In addition, the latest attacks in Iraq by insurgents have killed hundreds of innocent Iraqi civilians. We must work vigorously to ensure that we have a proper exit strategy in Iraq. We can not allow more American troops to die without doing all we can to extract them from this danger. We must work to bring the current state of chaos in Iraq to be under control.

Can I thank the good people of Vietnam who came but to this Nation or refugee, who now serve us well. I believe we must likewise find resolve to fix the problem in Iraq.

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

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

I wish to thank the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for his profound remarks today.

Madam Speaker, this resolution honors the accomplishments of the Vietnamese Americans who have proudly contributed in so many ways to American society, and I am personally grateful for so many friends in eastern Nebraska, including Loan Vu, Bich and Brian Bui, Tha and Cuong Nguyen, and Phi Huynh, who have opened their homes to me, sharing personal stories of hardship and escape, of hope in seeking to rebuild their lives in America, and gratitude for the blessings of our country.

I am grateful for the opportunity to offer this resolution, which I hope my colleagues will support.

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank my colleague, the co-chairs of the Congressional Caucus on Vietnam, Representatives TOM DAVIS, ZOE LOFGREN, CHRIS SMITH and LORETTA SANCHEZ for their leadership in bringing H. Res. 228 to the floor. This resolution honors the contributions to the United States made by the Vietnamese Americans since their arrival nearly 30 years ago.

Today, there are 1.2 million Vietnamese Americans living in the U.S. More than 484,000 Vietnamese live in my home state of California, giving us the largest Vietnamese American community outside of Vietnam; my hometown of San Jose the largest Vietnamese population of any city outside of Vietnam. The Vietnamese community makes up the largest population of Southeast Asian refugees to have settled in the United States.

When Saigon fell to the communists 30 years ago, the first wave of Vietnamese fled Vietnam. Approximately 135,000 Vietnamese

refugees fled to the U.S.; a majority of them were ex-military and government officials who were our allies during the Vietnam War.

The second migration of refugees came from the southern portion of the newly reunified nation of Vietnam. Of the countless thousands who tried to flee the country in makeshift boats, as many as half perished at sea. Those who succeeded found refugee camps in Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Hong Kong.

In the late 1970s, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) negotiated an agreement under which the government of Vietnam would allow an orderly departure for those with relatives who had resettled abroad. From 1975 to 2002, a total of 759,000 Vietnamese refugees fled Vietnam and resettled in the United States.

The Vietnamese American community has made and continues to make positive contributions to the U.S. Vietnamese Americans can be found in any profession, becoming doctors, lawyers, actors, politicians, scientists, professional athletes, and entrepreneurs.

In 1992, Tony Quang Lam became the first Vietnamese American elected to public office; he served as a City Council Member in Westminster, CA until 2002. Eugene Trinh became the first Vietnamese American Astronaut for the Space Shuttle *Columbia* in 1992. Recently in the 2004 elections, Hubert Vo became the first Vietnamese American to win a Texas State Legislature seat, representing District 149 of Texas.

Madam Speaker, the list of accomplished Vietnamese Americans goes on, and these are just some examples of the vibrant Vietnamese American community. As we move forward and honor the accomplishments of this community, we must also address the disparities that still exist in this community, such as college graduation rates and the number of those living below the poverty level.

As we recognize the history and contributions of Vietnamese Americans, we continue to honor their stories of hardship, their noble struggles, and their extraordinary accomplishments.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 228 which recognizes the 30th anniversary of the tragic fall of the Republic of Vietnam and honors the 1.5 million Vietnamese-Americans who have settled in the U.S. and worked to promote democracy and prosperity in the U.S. as well as back in their homeland.

As this Congress is aware, the tragedy of the fall of the Republic of Vietnam displaced approximately 3 million Vietnamese. Many of these individuals sought refuge in the United States. The people of Guam have a special relationship with these Vietnamese-Americans, 150,000 of whom arrived in Guam as refugees after the fall of Saigon in April 1975. To give you some perspective on the impact of this refugee crisis and the magnitude of Operation New Life, the current population of Guam today is 157,000. At the time of Operation New Life, Guam grew by 150 percent in a matter of days.

My late husband Ricardo J. Bordallo was Governor of Guam at the time of Operation New Life, and I remember how the Guam community came together in solidarity with the Vietnamese people and worked hard to help comfort these brave individuals who had left all their worldly possessions behind in the

name of freedom. The people of Guam empathized with the Vietnamese refugees, and we opened our hearts as well as our island home to them. Schools were closed because the buses and classrooms were needed to respond to this human emergency. The Asian refugee camp became our largest village overnight. One of my assignments as First Lady was to organize the care for the hundreds of orphan babies that arrived in Operation Baby Lift. This was a moving experience that has remained one of my fondest memories of my husband's first term as Governor of Guam.

Today, many of the Vietnamese refugees who landed in Guam continue to live and prosper in the Guam community and throughout the United States. They have had families, opened businesses and contributed to our national life. They represent the finest ideals of political freedom.

Many of the Vietnamese refugees have used their skills to create new businesses and to improve their lives and the lives of their fellow refugees. I am proud to call attention to one example of how Vietnamese-Americans have become an American success story. I recently learned of a new business venture in southern California called the First Vietnamese American Bank, which, when fully operational, will serve the Vietnamese-American community as well as prime the economic pumps for business relationships between Vietnam and the United States. The visionary board of the First Vietnamese American Bank gives us all hope that economic ties will lead the way towards stronger relationships between the Vietnamese people and the American people. I congratulate them on this bold endeavor and I wish them success in serving their community as well as building bridges to their former homeland. I commend the Chairman of the Board, Dr. Chan Q. Kieu, and the Directors, Mr. Pedro (Sonny) P. Ada, Mr. Arthur B. Birtcher, Mr. Walter L. Hannen Sr., Mr. Alex L. Hoang, Mr. Joe Keleman, Dr. Hieu T. Nguyen, Ms. Loan (Lynn) T. Nguyen, and Mr. Masao Tsuzura. I also commend the President and Chief Executive Officer Dr. Hieu T. Nguyen, and senior managers Mr. Binh S. Hoang, Mr. John A. Podlesni and Mr. Douglas M. Shearer.

We reflect today on the long road from the fall of Saigon to a new world that seeks peace and prosperity. The Vietnamese-Americans who inspire us also remind us of the cost of the freedom we enjoy. We hope that Vietnam will continue on its own political journey so that one day the freedom that Vietnamese-Americans enjoy in America can be shared by their families in Vietnam. That is a vision worth pursuing and in supporting H. Res. 228, Congress can express its solidarity with all those who share this vision for Vietnam.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 228, which I introduced to observe the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Republic of Vietnam to the Communist forces of North Vietnam.

As you know, the Republic of Vietnam succumbed to North Vietnamese Communist troops on April 30, 1975. This dark day was a great tragedy not only for Vietnamese people, but for all democratic governments and free people in the world. America reacted quickly by opening its hearts and borders to over one million Vietnamese refugees. Another one million people fled to Europe, Australia, and Canada, and almost one million died en route to freedom.

Many came here by surviving incredible hardships. They risked their lives on rickety boats facing pirates, starvation, and the perils of being at sea on open boats for weeks and months on end. Others escaped through dangerous mountainous and jungle terrain and those who were not so lucky were forced into so called "Re-education Camps" which were nothing more than concentration camps designed to torture and kill people who opposed the community regime. Soldiers, writers, journalists, members of the clergy and other religious leaders all suffered the same fate in these camps: humiliation, torture, and often, death.

We owe all those who gave the ultimate sacrifice during the Vietnam War, both American and Vietnamese, a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid. While we pay homage to these fallen heroes with resolutions and commemorations, the most fitting tribute is the enduring memory of their lives.

Madam Speaker, in 1994 the United States ended its trade embargo with Vietnam and normalized relations with Hanoi. While the U.S. continues to open diplomatic relations with Vietnam, we must remember that many issues remain unresolved, including human rights violations, lack of religious freedom, and government corruption.

I have traveled to Vietnam many times to learn about these issues first-hand, as well as to raise these concerns with high-level officials. In addition, the large Vietnamese-American community in my congressional district continues to keep me apprised of the situation. As a member of the Vietnam Caucus, I am dedicated to promoting awareness and policy debates among the U.S. Congress, the American public, and the international community about the greater need for fundamental human rights in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Madam Speaker, I urge every citizen of the United States to share in remembering this dark chapter in history. We must strive to have a greater understanding of the role these events had in hollowing the Vietnamese people of their liberty to provide the necessary leadership so that one day the Vietnamese people may enjoy freedom, democracy, and equality.

I am hopeful H. Res. 228 will serve as a sensible voice of reason and help move the Vietnamese people one step closer toward ultimate liberation and freedom. At the least, however, I believe it will help shed much needed light on the atrocities committed by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam everyday on its own citizens. I would like to thank the other co-chairs of the Vietnam Caucus, LORETTA SANCHEZ, CHRIS SMITH, and ZOE LOFGREN, for their support and urge my colleagues to join me in the passage of this resolution.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise as a coauthor in strong support of H. Res. 228, a resolution that marks the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Republic of Vietnam and that honors the contributions of Vietnamese-Americans to American society over the past three decades.

April 30, 1975 marked a very somber day for millions of people when the Republic of Vietnam fell to Communist forces from North Vietnam. Instantly, the world was faced with millions of refugees, many who resettled in the United States, but also hundreds of thousands who perished at sea in their attempt to escape

Communist forces. Those who remained in Vietnam were forced to re-education camps and detention as their punishment.

Unfortunately, to this day, the Vietnamese Communist government continues to violate basic human rights of its own citizens. As it has been documented by various States Department reports, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, Amnesty International and various Vietnamese-American groups, the Vietnamese government has been an egregious violator of religious freedom, human rights, and free speech. The government in Vietnam has continuously imprisoned religious figures who simply want to practice their faith, journalists attempting to print basic information about the actions of their government, and democratic activists in Vietnam. Vietnamese-Americans are playing a vital role to ensure that the Vietnamese government improves its human rights record, but much work remains to be done.

Even though April 30th, 2005 marks the 30th anniversary of a very sad day for millions of Vietnamese and American families whose sons and daughters gave the ultimate sacrifice during the Vietnam War, it is also a day to enthusiastically commend countless contributions that millions of Vietnamese-Americans have made in the United States. In just 30 years, 1.5 million Vietnamese refugees rebuilt their lives to become leaders in education, business, and government in the United States and have greatly enriched the cultural diversity of our country.

So today I rise to remember the sacrifice of American and Vietnamese soldiers who fought for democracy in Vietnam and for their families who suffered their loss and injury. But I also rise to commend millions of courageous Vietnamese-Americans who have successfully rebuilt their lives in the United States while fighting to improve the human rights situation for their brothers and sisters left in Vietnam.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and 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 Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 228, 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. LANTOS. Madam 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.

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CALLING ON GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA TO TRANSFER CHARLES GHANKAY TAYLOR TO SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 127) calling on the Government of the Federal Republic of Ni-

geria to transfer Charles Ghankay Taylor, former President of the Republic of Liberia, to the Special Court for Sierra Leone to be tried for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 127

Whereas on January 16, 2002, as requested by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1315 (2000), an agreement was signed by the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and the United Nations to establish the Special Court for Sierra Leone;

Whereas the Special Court for Sierra Leone was given the power to prosecute persons who have committed and "bear the greatest responsibility" for war crimes, crimes against humanity, other serious violations of international humanitarian law, and certain crimes under Sierra Leonean law committed within the territory of Sierra Leone during that country's brutal civil war during the period after November 30, 1996;

Whereas on June 4, 2003, the Special Court for Sierra Leone unsealed an indictment issued on March 3, 2003, against Charles Ghankay Taylor, former President of the Republic of Liberia, charging him with seventeen counts of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other violations of international humanitarian law relating to his role in directly supporting and materially, logistically, and politically abetting the rebel Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and its actions, including its notorious, widespread, and systematic attacks upon the civilian population of Sierra Leone;

Whereas the indictment of Charles Taylor includes charges of terrorizing civilians and subjecting civilians to collective punishment, mass murder, sexual slavery and rape, abduction and hostage taking, severe mutilation, including the cutting off of limbs and other physical violence and inhumane acts, enslavement, forced labor, forced military conscription, including forced conscription of children, theft, arson, looting, and pillage, and widespread attacks upon the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) and humanitarian workers by the Revolutionary United Front combatants;

Whereas the Revolutionary United Front was notorious for brutally murdering and torturing civilians, including the amputation of limbs with machetes, and by carving "RUF" onto the bodies of thousands of victims, including women and children;

Whereas the Revolutionary United Front made widespread use of abducted children as laborers and soldiers and forced many of the abducted children to perform severe human rights abuses, constituting a serious crime under the jurisdiction of the Special Court for Sierra Leone;

Whereas on August 11, 2003, Charles Taylor departed Liberia for Calabar, Nigeria, where he was granted asylum and, according to press reports, agreed to end his involvement in Liberian politics;

Whereas in September 2003 the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria warned Taylor that it would "not tolerate any breach of this condition and others which forbid him from engaging in active communications with anyone engaged in political, illegal or governmental activities in Liberia";

Whereas the United States, Nigeria, and other concerned nations have contributed extensive political, human, military, financial, and material resources toward the building of peace and stability in Liberia and Sierra Leone;