

astronomy by either discovering the brightest near-Earth object or by the cataloging of near Earth objects. What better way to get our children interested in science and in paying tribute to this great American.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KOLBE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1023.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### EXPRESSING SUPPORT OF THE HISTORIC MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY TO PROMOTE THE CIVIL SOCIETY IN CUBA

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 193) expressing support to the organizers and participants of the historic meeting of the Assembly to Promote the Civil Society in Cuba on May 20, 2005, in Havana.

The Clerk read as follows:

##### H. RES. 193

Whereas Fidel Castro's terrorist regime has continued to repress all attempts by the Cuban people to bring democratic change to Cuba and denies universally recognized liberties, including freedom of speech, association, movement, and the press;

Whereas thousands of political prisoners are currently imprisoned by Fidel Castro's totalitarian regime;

Whereas in March 2003 Fidel Castro carried out a massive, island wide crackdown on members of Cuba's pro-democracy movement, under which pro-democracy activists were arrested, subjected to "summary trials", and sentenced to up to 28 years in prison for their pro-democracy activities;

Whereas the Department of State's 2004 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, in referring to Castro's Cuba, states: "Members of the security forces and prison officials continued to beat and abuse detainees and prisoners, including human rights activists. . . . Prison conditions remained harsh and life threatening, and the Government restricted medical care to some prisoners as a method of control. Prisoners died in jail due to lack of medical care.";

Whereas on May 20, 1902, the Republic of Cuba obtained its independence;

Whereas in the spirit of Jose Marti, many of the future leaders of a free Cuba have called for a meeting of the Assembly of the Civil Society in Cuba, an organization that consists of over 360 opposition and civil society organizations in Cuba;

Whereas on May 20, 2005, the Assembly to Promote the Civil Society in Cuba seeks to convene an historic meeting in Havana on the 103rd anniversary of Cuban Independence;

Whereas the Assembly to Promote the Civil Society in Cuba will focus on bringing democracy and liberty to the enslaved island of Cuba;

Whereas the Assembly to Promote the Civil Society in Cuba is led by three coura-

geous pro-democracy opponents of the Castro regime—Martha Beatriz Roque Cabello, Felix Bonne Carcasses, and Rene Gomez Manzano;

Whereas organizers and participants are convening a meeting of the Assembly to Promote the Civil Society in Cuba at great risk to themselves and their families; and

Whereas President George W. Bush stated in his second inaugural address on January 20, 2005: "All who live in tyranny and hopelessness can know: the United States will not ignore your oppression, or excuse your oppressors. When you stand for your liberty, we will stand with you. Democratic reformers facing repression, prison, or exile can know: America sees you for who you are—the future leaders of your free country." Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) extends its support and solidarity to the organizers and participants of the historic meeting of the Assembly to Promote the Civil Society in Cuba on May 20, 2005, in Havana;

(2) urges the international community to support the Assembly's mission to bring democracy to Cuba;

(3) urges the Administration and international community to actively oppose any attempts by the Castro regime to repress or punish the organizers and participants of the Assembly; and

(4) shares the pro-democracy ideals of the Assembly to Promote the Civil Society in Cuba and believes that this Assembly and others will hasten the day of freedom and democracy for the people of Cuba.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEXLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. 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. Res. 193.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 193, and I commend the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART) for writing this important measure and bringing it to the floor. I would like to also thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and the ranking member of the Committee on International Relations, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), as well as the House leadership, for helping us bring this resolution to the floor in such an expeditious manner.

Mr. Speaker, even the most violent and repressive dictatorships cannot extinguish freedom when it lives in people's hearts, and Cuba is no exception. The dictator Fidel Castro has always used fear to keep himself and his cronies in power.

Two years ago, the tyrant again attempted to silence the cries for liberty and democracy that emanate from every corner of the Cuban gulag. He arrested over 75 dissidents and sentenced them to prison terms each up to 25 years. What were their crimes? Simply daring to exercise their fundamental freedoms, for daring to be free men and women.

These 75 are just some of the most recent ones. There are many more Cuban prisoners of conscience who languish in squalid jail cells. However, Mr. Speaker, all of Cuba is an island prison; and today we rise to commend and support the activities of Cuba's peaceful internal opposition.

On May 20, Cuba's democratic opposition will convene in an Assembly to Promote the Civil Society in Cuba. This historic meeting will discuss ways to bring democracy and liberty to the nation of Cuba, which has suffered under a brutal dictatorship for more than four decades. May 20, 2005, will also mark the 103rd anniversary of the Cuban Republic, of Cuba's birth as a free nation.

Yet the Cuban opposition is determined to correct this injustice and reclaim their rights as free people in a free, democratic, and sovereign nation. The May 20th Assembly to Promote Civil Society in Cuba is an important step toward the fulfillment of this goal.

Martha Beatriz Roque Cabello, Felix Bonne Carcasses, and Rene Gomez Manzano and many others are the organizers of this landmark meeting. Despite the risks and the constant threats that the dictator holds over their heads, they are living examples to their countrymen of courage and determination, of how to follow in the footsteps of Pope John Paul, II, and be not afraid.

Just recently, a group of young Cubans held an essay contest focusing on a democratic transition in Cuba. One of the finalists, Edgar Lopez Moreno, struck a chord that doubtless resonates with the vast majority of his countrymen. He wrote: "After 46 years of political ostracism and imposition by the Communist Party and its maximum leader, today the process of transition to democracy on the island is closer than ever."

The winds of freedom are behind the Cuban opposition. The just nature of their cause has given them wings. Soon democracy will take flight in Cuba. Soon the Cuban people will free themselves from the grip of this dictator, but they need our help. They need our support, and it begins here and now.

I urge my colleagues to stand with these brave Cubans by joining me in voting for the resolution of the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART) today.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution. Mr. Speaker, I too

want to commend the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and the ranking member, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), for facilitating consideration of this resolution. I also want to thank my good friend, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART), the sponsor of this resolution, and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the ranking Democrat on the Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, for his never-ending battle for human rights in Cuba.

Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago on the House floor, we chastised the Cuban regime for its inexorable continued detention of political dissidents, many of whom are jailed because of their conviction to seek freedom and democracy in Cuba. Unfortunately, there is no indication from Castro that he ever plans to implement political and economic reforms that would give hope to the approximately 11 million citizens on the island who have suffered for far too long.

Many internationally recognized human rights groups like Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have denounced Castro's brutal dictatorship over the years and called for reforms, the release of political prisoners, and urged the totalitarian government to respect basic human freedoms.

This year the Human Rights Commission called attention to the injustices which continue to be inflicted upon those innocent individuals who toil in Castro's prisons. Undeterred, thousands of brave Cubans have sought to bring about political change through opposition and civil society organizations which are loosely coordinated by the Assembly of the Civil Society in Cuba.

The assembly is planning a historic meeting next week on the 103rd anniversary of Cuban independence. Mr. Speaker, I would like to encourage the organizers of the meeting of the assembly to include in the meeting political dissidents who may disagree with them about whether to engage officials within Castro's government on the transition process, in particular, the supporters of the Varela Project, a grassroots, non-violent, citizens' movement in Cuba that seeks fundamental political change by petitioning the Cuban government for a referendum on reform according to that country's constitution.

These groups should feel as though they are welcome within the broader coalition that opposes Castro's policies. Regardless of which groups of political activists attend the assembly, I am concerned that Castro's henchmen will once again try to suppress dissent through the use of force. As a result, I strongly concur with the sentiment expressed in the resolution urging the administration and the international community to stand ready to respond to such an atrocity.

This resolution demonstrates our unequivocal commitment to stand shoulder

to shoulder with the Cuban people if such an unjustified response were to occur. As a result, Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 193.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART), the author of the resolution.

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Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Florida, also my dear friend the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEXLER) from West Palm Beach.

Today, Congress is supporting these brave individuals in Cuba who, despite all of the dangers, are standing up for freedom, are standing up for democracy, from within Cuba, from within that totalitarian island.

The three main organizers, Martha Beatriz Roque Cabello, Felix Bonne Carcasses, and Rene Gomez Manzano, all three of which have suffered prison time by the Cuban dictatorship, are standing up because they know that the answer to the problems that the Cuban people face is simply just one: It is freedom, total, absolute freedom.

That entails the release of all political prisoners. It entails political parties. It entails freedom of press. It entails free elections, and they are standing up from within Cuba and with many other hundreds of their countrymen who are standing up, having this event on May 20 to express their sentiment and also to prepare and work for a free Cuba.

This resolution, Mr. Speaker, extends and supports solidarity to the organizers and to the participants of the Assembly to Promote the Civil Society, which again is on May 20 in Havana.

It urges the international community to support the assembly of these heroes that are standing up for freedom despite the risk.

It urges the administration and also the international community, Mr. Speaker, to oppose any attempts by Castro's terrorist regime to punish or repress the organizers and the participants.

It obviously shares, also, Mr. Speaker, the pro-democracy ideals of the assembly.

The commissions, Mr. Speaker, that these individuals are working with are hard to believe. The Department of State's 2004 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, referring to the Castro regime, states the following:

"Members of the security forces and prison officials continued to beat and abuse detainees and prisoners, including human rights activists. Prison conditions remained harsh and life threatening, and the government restricted medical care to some prisoners as a method of control. Prisoners died in jail due to lack of medical care."

President Bush said, Mr. Speaker, in his second inaugural address, and I am quoting him now, "All who live in tyranny and hopelessness can know: The United States will not ignore your oppression or excuse your oppressors. When you stand for your liberty, we will stand with you."

The Cuban people are standing tall, Mr. Speaker, for their freedom. Today, by voting for this resolution, the United States Congress stands with them, lets them know that they are not alone, that despite all the risks, despite the horrendous conditions that they are facing on a day-to-day basis, the United States Congress stands with them, admires them and supports what they are doing.

Cuba will be free because of the efforts of the heroic Cuban people, and it is wonderful, Mr. Speaker, to see that the Congress of the United States, once again, is supporting the Cuban people in their efforts, in their struggle to be free.

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART).

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from south Florida (Mr. WEXLER) for the time.

This resolution is very important because it continues the very important, historic tradition begun here in this Congress, by this Congress in April of 1898 when, after a century of fighting by the people of Cuba for the independence of Cuba, the United States, because of the Congress of the United States, came out in support of Cuban independence. In April of 1898, this Congress passed what is very well-known in Cuban history, the joint resolution that recognized that Cuba is and of right ought to be free and independent. So this Congress began a tradition in April of 1898 that continues to this day, a tradition in support of the right of the Cuban people to be free.

For the last 46 years, the Cuban people unfortunately have been under the boot of a totalitarian dictatorship that, while it has perhaps been the most inept, certainly one of the most inept of the Communist dictatorships in having achieved the systematic, utter destruction of what was one of the most prosperous economies in this hemisphere; in that sense, it has been absolutely inept. In terms of totalitarian control, it has been quite effective, and it maintains an absolute, intense oppression over the Cuban people to this day.

My colleagues have mentioned the onslaught of 2 years ago that was condemned by a resolution offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) a few weeks ago, and it was condemned by this House, the absolute campaign, if you will, of the march of 2003 that arrested dozens and dozens and dozens, almost 100 pro-democracy leaders and threw them in prison, but the campaign continues.

The campaign of oppression and intimidation, beginning in January of this year, the totalitarian Communist regime in Cuba has begun a systematic campaign of ethnic cleansing. Hundreds of young people, mostly young men, 95 percent of whom are black, have been rounded up and thrown in prisons beginning in January of this year in what the dictator calls Operation Containment, containment of the young people.

Now, this assembly was organized, as has been mentioned by my distinguished colleagues, by Martha Beatriz Roque Cabello and Felix Bonne Carcasses and Rene Gomez Manzano, is an important, historic development. There are some people who now say that we must reject the subterfuge seeking to attack this assembly, that they have not invited all pro-democracy groups. All pro-democracy groups, the organizers of this assembly have invited all individuals and organizations within Cuba who support democracy. Some say then they have not been invited. In fact, they have been invited, but that is not the problem of the organizer. That is the problem of somebody else, very important.

This is an important, extremely valiant effort that over 360 civil society groups, pro-democracy groups within the island have called for, and they seek to meet on May 20. So what this Congress today is saying is: We support you. We know what you are doing. We know the courage that it entails to say, within a totalitarian state, that a meeting will be held in support of freedom and democracy and free elections and the legalization of political parties and freedom of religion and freedom of the press and freedom of expression. Within the totalitarian state, to say that there will be a meeting engaged in such discussion is really a heroic act, and so today, what we are saying is that we recognize that, and we support you.

Simply to end, Mr. Speaker, as I commend the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART) for having brought forth this resolution today in such an important and timely manner, I simply want to read the names of some of the thousands of political prisoners who cannot have their voices heard. Obviously, they all deserve to be heard, but I would like to read some of their names.

It is my privilege and honor to serve in this Congress with my brother Mario, where there are two brothers who are serving in prison in Cuba simply because they came out publicly in support of freedom and democracy. One brother, Jose Daniel Ferrer Garcia, was sentenced to 25 years in the gulag for his support of democracy. The other one, Luis Enrique Ferrer Garcia, was sentenced to 28 years in the gulag because he supports democracy.

Someone who I admire very much, I have followed his long and distinguished fight for freedom for many years, has been languishing since 1990,

mostly in solitary. His name is Jorge Luis Garcia Perez, also known as Antunez. He was sentenced to 18 years because, ever since he was in high school, he said he favors democracy and rejects totalitarianism, and so he has suffered the consequences since then.

Juan Carlos Herrera Acosta, 20 years in the gulag.

Diosdado Gonzalez Marrero, 20 years in the gulag.

Felix Navarro Rodriguez, 25 years.

Prospero Gainza Aguero, 25 years.

Hector Maseda Gutierrez, 20 years.

Claro Sanchez Altarriba, 15 years.

Victor Rolando Arroyo, 26 years.

And perhaps the best known, certainly someone who is a symbol of resistance, character, dignity, as all these men and women are, Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet, 25 years.

There are thousands, Mr. Speaker, of men and women like this, many, by the way, charged with what they call in the totalitarian system common crimes, like seeking to leave, seeking to flee to freedom. That is a common crime. So the regime does not even recognize them as political prisoners. There are thousands of political prisoners in Cuba such as these men whose names I have read. We owe them our solidarity.

Today, we are expressing our solidarity, and specifically through this resolution, our solidarity with the meeting convened for May 20, which will seek to develop ways to hasten what is inevitable, and that is an end to the totalitarian nightmare and the commencement of the dawn of freedom.

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my strong support for this resolution—sponsored by my distinguished friend and neighbor, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida—which recognizes the upcoming Assembly To Promote Civil Society in Cuba.

I am proud to associate myself with causes that seek to increase freedom, security, and prosperity for people throughout the world. On May 20th, we will mark Cuban Independence Day. This is the day Cuba proclaimed to the world its sovereignty and independence. Sadly, freedom for the Cuban people was short-lived. The world stood by as Cuba lost its liberty and slipped into the abyss of authoritarian rule and the clutches of Fidel Castro's thuggish regime.

Madam Speaker, today Cuba is a lonely island nation separated by 90 miles from the greatest beacon of freedom the world has ever known—the United States. Many in Cuba thirst for the waters of liberty, only to see those yearnings suppressed by a brutal dictator.

America has always stood for freedom, and always will. Under the leadership of President George W. Bush, we have endeavored to spread liberty to the Middle East and throughout the world. It is past time to shine the light of freedom on the despotic regimes in our own backyard.

Madam Speaker, I strongly support the right of the Cuban people to live in a free and democratic society. I am confident that the Assembly To Promote Civil Society in Cuba will

help spark the flame of liberty on the island and the rest of the Americas. I urge my colleagues to stand for liberty and to champion the spirit of freedom for the people of Cuba.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam Speaker, I am proud to join a bipartisan group of original co-sponsors of this resolution which supports the development of democracy and civil society in Cuba. As you know, on May 20th, opposition leaders are organizing a historic Assembly on the 103rd Anniversary of Cuban independence.

In this momentous meeting of 365 independent organizations, Cuba will hear a dialogue of freedom and progress. This Assembly will continue a discussion—from within Cuba—of how to begin the process of reconstructing a democratic culture, promoting civil society, combating poverty, and establishing labor rights. They are Cuba's bravest and brightest—they are Cuba's future.

Who among us would not be supportive of the right to peaceful assembly and public discourse? That is what this resolution and Cuban civil society is calling for on May 20th.

As we learned in a Western Hemisphere Subcommittee hearing early this year, the organizers and the participants in this event are risking their personal freedom for the freedom of the Cuban people.

This resolution makes it clear that we oppose any attempt by the Castro regime to repress or punish the organizers and participants of the Assembly, as Castro has done with so many others who have spoken out against repression. News reports indicate that Cuban dissidents who are choosing to participate in the Assembly are already being harassed.

This past April 20th—not even a month ago—three of these dissidents took the time to speak to many of us about their situation. They told of the beatings, detentions, interrogations, harassment and political slander which they and other dissidents are being subjected to as the Cuban regime continues to try to repress and de-legitimize their struggle for freedom.

And let us not forget the crackdown on human rights two years ago, when Castro arrested 75 dissidents, subjected them to summary trials, and sentenced them to long jail terms. Many of the prisoners, along with other prisoners of conscience, spent over a year in solitary confinement. Some have been deprived of adequate medical treatment, and reports from Cuba detail beatings and harassment.

Clearly, the Castro regime has no respect for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states in Article 4 that, "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

That is why I am proud of my resolution that passed with bipartisan support condemning Castro's brutal crackdown and demanding that the Cuban regime immediately release all political prisoners, legalize all political parties, labor unions, and the press, and hold free and fair elections.

On that day, we came together from both sides of the aisle, to stand together for a universal cause, human rights, and to celebrate the strength and perseverance of the Cuban people.

That is why I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution. This resolution

says again that we stand behind those who risk repression and harassment to bring freedom to their long-suffering people.

It says that the international community is watching Castro, and that we will not accept the abuses of human and civil rights that the Castro regime employs so indifferently.

And it says that we believe in the Assembly and the ability of a group of individuals with a strong faith in democracy to free their people from a tyrant's restrictive grasp.

To my brothers and sisters who suffer in Castro's jails, under his regime, to their families and friends both here in the United States and in Cuba, to the leaders and participants in the Assembly to Promote the Civil Society in Cuba, and to the Cuban people, I say that Castro's days are numbered. Over a hundred years ago, the Cuban people won the battle against brutality and oppression and fought for their freedom. I have no doubt that we will win again. I look forward to that day, which is coming soon, when on May 20, our independence day, we will all celebrate a free and democratic Cuba.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this resolution.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 193, which expresses support for the courageous advocates of freedom in Cuba, who are gathering ten days from now in Havana for the first Assembly to Promote the Civil Society conference which will focus on bringing democracy, liberty, and the rule of law to this enslaved island.

Madam Speaker, in recent years, this House has overwhelmingly passed numerous resolutions condemning the egregious human rights violations of the Castro regime. These violations, which have been continually cited through comprehensive, compelling reports, include the pervasive use of torture and vicious beatings of political prisoners. We know that this year the UN Convention on Human Rights in Geneva also passed a resolution condemning the government of Cuba's deplorable human rights record.

Today, we celebrate those brave Cubans who have been undaunted by Castro's reign of terror and who continue to speak out fearlessly for freedom in Cuba. Mr. Speaker, I note that on March 3, three of the main organizers of the Assembly to Promote the Civil Society testified via telephone at a joint hearing I chaired with the Africa, Global Human Rights, and International Operation Subcommittee and the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee. The hearing was appropriately entitled "Year Two of Castro's Brutal Crackdown on Dissidents."

The three who spoke at this hearing were Martha Beatriz Roque, an internationally renowned Cuban economist; Felix Bonne, a Cuban engineering professor; and Rene Gomez Manzano, a Cuban attorney. All three have spent time in Cuba's prisons for their pro-democracy activities and co-authored a book, "The Homeland Belongs to Us." The courage they demonstrated through testifying was truly inspiring and they provided a tremendous witness of the desire of the Cuban people to be free.

Martha Beatriz Roque was arrested in the now infamous March 2003 crackdown of Cuba's bravest and brightest were rounded

up, paraded before kangaroo courts on trumped up charges and given harsh prison sentences with sickening speed. She was sentenced to 20 years in prison but released in July of 2004 because of poor health. In an interview after her release, Roque said: "I leave prison without having accepted any sort of conditions. I am a dissident and I will remain one."

Madam Speaker, we gather today in support of Roque, Bonne, Manzano, and these other brave leaders as they prepare for this historic event. I have been invited to participate in the Assembly to Promote the Civil Society and sent my visa application through the Department of State to Cuba through the US Interest Section.

Madam Speaker, I note that in March of 2003, I also requested to travel to Cuba along with my colleague, Congressman FRANK WOLF, but we were denied visas. This is a regime that has strongly advocated for trade and travel with the United States, and yet the government of Cuba would not give visas to two Members of Congress, each of whom have served in the House of Representatives for nearly 25 years.

What do they hide? What do they fear?

I hope that the Cuban government will allow me to travel. I hope to be with the brave leaders of freedom in Cuba on this day of peaceful advocacy. The world will be watching next week Mr. Speaker, and I hope that the regime will allow this event to take place. If they fail to do so, they will continue to experience alienation from the world community.

Our hopes and prayers are with the brave leaders of the Assembly to Promote the Civil Society next week. I urge my colleagues to strongly support this resolution that supports the brave advocates for freedom in Cuba.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. CAPITO). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 193.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. 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.

#### SUPPORTING GOALS AND IDEALS OF A ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DAY

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 142) supporting the goals and ideals of a

"Rotary International Day" and celebrating and honoring Rotary International on the occasion of its centennial anniversary.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 142

Whereas Rotary International, founded on February 23, 1905, in Chicago, Illinois, is the world's first service club and one of the largest nonprofit service organizations;

Whereas there are more than 1.2 million Rotary International club members comprised of professional and business leaders in more than 31,000 clubs in more than 165 countries;

Whereas the Rotary International motto, "Service Above Self", inspires members to provide humanitarian service, meet high ethical standards, and promote international good will;

Whereas Rotary International funds club projects and sponsors volunteers with community expertise to provide medical supplies, health care, clean water, food production, job training, and education to millions in need, particularly in developing countries;

Whereas in 1985, Rotary International launched Polio Plus and spearheaded efforts with the World Health Organization, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the United Nations Children's Fund ("UNICEF") to immunize the children of the world against polio;

Whereas polio cases have dropped by 99 percent since 1988, and the world now stands on the threshold of eradicating the disease;

Whereas Rotary International is the largest privately-funded source of international scholarships in the world and promotes international understanding through scholarships, exchange programs, and humanitarian grants;

Whereas since 1947, more than 35,000 students from 110 countries have studied abroad as Rotary Ambassadorial Scholars;

Whereas Rotary International's Group Study Exchange program has helped more than 46,000 young professionals explore career fields in other countries;

Whereas 8,000 secondary school students each year experience life in another country through Rotary International's Youth Exchange Program;

Whereas over the past five years, members throughout all fifty States of Rotary International have hosted participants in Open World, a program sponsored by the Library of Congress, and therefore have earned the honor of serving as Open World's most outstanding host;

Whereas there are approximately 400,000 Rotary International club members in more than 7,700 clubs throughout the United States sponsoring service projects to address critical issues such as poverty, health, hunger, illiteracy, and the environment in their local communities and abroad; and

Whereas February 23, 2005, would be an appropriate date to observe Rotary International Day: Now, therefore, be it;

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of a "Rotary International Day" to celebrate the centennial anniversary of Rotary International; and

(2) recognizes Rotary International for 100 years of service to improving the human condition in communities throughout the world.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.