

Born in the tiny town of Hope, Arkansas, on August 19, 1946, President Clinton demonstrated from an early age the determination and vision that would ultimately take him to the White House and enable him to lead our country to a period of economic prosperity that has been unrivaled in American history.

As a man who always fought for those who could not always fight for themselves, Bill Clinton spurned private practice after graduating from Yale Law School and began a career in public service. He began his political career after being elected attorney general of Arkansas in 1976. He went on to serve as Governor and by the time Governor Clinton left Arkansas for the White House, the State of Arkansas had been transformed from a State that faced large deficits and polarizing issues into a shining example of what government can do for its citizens when those in government put aside partisan differences in the interest of what is right.

As America's 42nd President, Bill Clinton faced an even more daunting task than the one he faced as Governor. In 1992, the American people were fed up with government. The economy was in bad shape, unemployment was at a record high, and it was a time when many American parents struggled with basic financial decisions, such as what holiday presents they could afford to buy their children. By the time President Clinton left office 8 years later, he had led our country out of this darkness and into one of the brightest eras in American history, a time that was marked by the lowest unemployment rate in modern times, the lowest inflation rate in 30 years, the highest homeownership rate in United States history, and dropping crime rates in many American cities. Contrary to the unjustified stereotype thrown at Democrats, President Clinton proposed the first balanced budget in decades. He balanced the budget, and then went on to produce a surplus.

Since leaving office, President Clinton has continued his lifelong odyssey of working for those in need. Working from his office in Harlem, President Clinton has remained engaged in many social issues. In July, President Clinton addressed the United Nations Economic and Social Council in an effort to sustain the momentum on the recovery efforts in regions devastated by last December's tsunami. In 2003, he brokered an historic agreement with four generic drug companies in order to provide low-cost AIDS drugs in developing countries.

The world is a better place today because of the 59 years President Clinton has given us so far, and we look forward to many more.

Mr. Speaker, oftentimes in a country where we put great emphasis on personal wealth, as one having the ability to emerge and rise to high public office, I have searched and searched, and nowhere did I find in Bill Clinton's his-

tory any great personal wealth before he got involved in doing public service. Noplace did I find any great family pedigree. He was simply a person who used himself as effectively as he could to become one of the most influential persons in the history of our country. I wish him a happy birthday.

Mr. Speaker, I will include for the RECORD the statement of the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY).

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, on August 19th, William Jefferson Clinton, our 43rd president, will celebrate his 59th birthday—today, we honor him. We honor him not just for being one of 43 Americans to have led history's greatest Nation from its highest office, we honor him for the legacy the current President Bush described as, "a deep and far-ranging knowledge of public policy, a great compassion for people in need, and the forward-looking spirit Americans like in a President."

Since his last birthday, President Clinton characteristically responded to one of the most devastating natural disasters in modern history with the compassion for people in need that President Bush talked about. In the aftermath of the tsunami in Southeast Asia, President Clinton showed the diplomacy and humanity he has always displayed in a career filled with good works. Together with former President Bush, President Clinton helped generate billions of dollars in donations for the tsunami-torn nations. As a representative of our generous and caring Nation, he showed the world America's compassion. And he and former President Bush rolled up their sleeves and lent helping hands to the recovery efforts when they traveled to southeast Asia.

In two terms in the White House, President Clinton stewarded our Nation's longest-ever economic expansion, largest-ever budget surplus, and the growth of 22 million jobs. He helped broker the Good Friday Accords for Northern Ireland, engaged in Middle East peace talks, and brought an end to ethnic cleansing in the Balkans. And he encouraged Americans to care for their fellow man and woman, creating AmeriCorps, which engages more than 50,000 Americans each year in community service.

We in Congress are thankful that President Clinton's health has improved since his recent heart surgeries, and we pray that he continues to be healthy and strong.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman DAVIS and the House leadership for bringing this resolution to the floor in time for President Clinton's birthday.

Mr. Speaker, from his birth in a town called Hope in the State of Arkansas, to his education at Georgetown University, Oxford and Yale Law School, to his service in Arkansas as attorney general, Governor and chairman of the National Governors Association, to his two terms as President of the United States to now, as a private citizen still showing the world humanity and compassion, we honor President Clinton.

President Clinton, happy birthday.

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

□ 1430

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

Mr. Speaker, approximately a year ago, we honored former President Wil-

liam Jefferson Clinton in a very similar way on his 58th birthday. Then we were doing it, to a great extent, because of his quadruple bypass. It seemed appropriate to honor this immediate former President in a time of personal and family concern.

This year, though, we honor President Clinton for what he has done since that time, coming out of the hospital, coming to the aid of people around the world, but particularly in Asia after the December 26 earthquake and tsunami. President Clinton and President Bush, former President Bush, have shown the value of former Presidents.

President Clinton's leadership in this very elite former Presidents' club is a tribute to what can be done by people who stay engaged and involved. And so although it is likely that most people know that I probably did not vote for President Clinton in either of his elections, I certainly would be happy to vote today to honor the President on his 59th birthday because of what he has done since leaving the White House.

Mr. Speaker, 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. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 329.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL HEALTH CENTER WEEK

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 289) supporting the goals and ideals of National Health Center Week in order to raise awareness of health services provided by community, migrant, public housing, and homeless health centers, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 289

Whereas community, migrant, public housing, and homeless health centers are non-profit, community owned and operated health providers and are vital to the Nation's communities;

Whereas there are more than 1,000 such health centers serving more than 15,000,000 people in over 3,600 communities;

Whereas such health centers are found in urban and rural communities in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands;

Whereas such health centers have provided cost-effective, high-quality health care to the Nation's poor and medically underserved (including the working poor, the uninsured, and many high-risk and vulnerable populations), acting as a vital safety net in the Nation's health delivery system;

Whereas these health centers provide care to 1 of every 7 uninsured individuals, 1 of every 9 Medicaid beneficiaries, 1 of every 7

people of color, and 1 of every 9 rural Americans, all of whom would otherwise lack access to health care;

Whereas these health centers are engaged with other innovative programs in primary and preventive care to reach out to over 621,000 homeless persons and more than 709,000 farm workers;

Whereas these health centers make health care responsive and cost-effective by integrating the delivery of primary care with aggressive outreach, patient education, transportation, translation, and enabling support services;

Whereas these health centers increase the use of preventive health services such as immunizations, Pap smears, mammograms, and glaucoma screenings;

Whereas in communities served by these health centers, infant mortality rates have been reduced over the past 4 years even as infant mortality rates across the country have risen;

Whereas these health centers are built by community initiative, and run by the patients they serve;

Whereas Federal grants provide seed money empowering communities to find partners and resources to recruit doctors and needed health professionals;

Whereas Federal grants on average contribute 25 percent of such a health center's budget, with the remainder provided by State and local governments, Medicare, Medicaid, private contributions, private insurance, and patient fees;

Whereas there are more than 100 health centers that receive no Federal grant funding, yet continue to serve their communities regardless of their patients' ability to pay;

Whereas health centers tailor their services to fit the special needs and priorities of their communities, working together with schools, businesses, churches, community organizations, foundations, and State and local governments;

Whereas health centers contribute to the health and well-being of their communities by keeping children healthy and in school and helping adults remain productive and on the job;

Whereas health centers encourage citizen participation and provide jobs for nearly 100,000 community residents; and

Whereas National Health Center Week raises awareness of the health services provided by health centers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Health Center Week; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I will be brief, because, in fact, the minority member, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) who is managing this, is the author of this bill.

This bill, House Resolution 289, honors our Nation's community health centers and their invaluable contributions to thousands of Americans, perhaps millions of Americans, in need. Health centers provide primary and

preventative medical, dental, and pharmaceutical services; and their work acts as a vital safety net in the health care delivery system.

Mr. Speaker, I urge that we give this resolution immediate consideration.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as one who began much of what I would call my public career working in community health centers, I worked at the Martin Luther King Community Health Center, and I worked at the Miles Square Community Health Center, I was around during the days when we decided to organize a National Association of Community Health Centers and ultimately had the pleasure of serving as its president.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the proud sponsor of this resolution to establish a national community health center week.

I would like to thank the cochairs of the Community Health Care Center Caucus, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BONILLA), and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. CAPUANO), for their constant voice to better community health centers.

I would also like to thank the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BRADLEY) for joining the cochairs of the caucus as a main sponsor of this legislation.

As we continue to discuss health care, and as we continue hopefully to move towards enactment of a national health plan that covers everyone without regard to their ability to pay, we can take great pride in some of our accomplishments in health care. One of the most important and effective accomplishments since the enactment of Medicare and Medicaid has been the development of community health centers.

The community health center network is available throughout the Nation to help those in need, such as those who get displaced by job status or other economic conditions. Community health centers have become the safety net within the health care delivery system, serving more than 15 million people in over 3,600 communities.

They care for one out of every seven uninsured individuals, one out of every nine Medicaid beneficiaries, one out of every seven people of color, and one out of every nine rural Americans. In addition they reach out to over 621,000 homeless persons and more than 709,000 migrant and seasonal farm workers.

Community health centers are established in almost every corner of our Nation, representing every aspect of any congressional district, whether it is assisting the working poor in the inner city, or in the rural farmland, migrant workers or even those who have insurance but do not have access to any other health facilities.

One of the most amazing and important aspects of community health cen-

ters is the involvement of the community. Each center tailors its services to best meet the needs and priorities of the communities in which they reside. Citizens in these communities become active participants in their communities' health care decision-making.

Health centers even provide approximately 100,000 jobs to the residents in communities of these areas. These health centers provide high-quality, cost-effective health care as they continue to meet escalating health needs and assist in reducing health disparities.

With the weakened economy and soaring number of uninsured Americans, our Nation's health centers will continue to feel the brunt of increasing numbers of patients.

By establishing a week to raise awareness of community health centers, we will also be highlighting each year the great accomplishments these nonprofit community-owned and -operated health centers offer to many communities throughout the Nation.

With recent numbers indicating that the Nation's uninsured population is even higher than once thought, possibly as high as 60 million, if our Nation will not realize the need for universal health care, we need at least to realize the importance of funding our community health centers.

The United States spends nearly \$100 billion per year to provide uninsured residents with health services, often-times for preventable diseases that physicians could treat more efficiently with early diagnosis.

Community health centers are one of the keys to such earlier diagnosis and crucial to lowering the overall cost of health care on the uninsured throughout the country.

Therefore, I am pleased with the significant increase in the fiscal year 2006 budget that our community health centers will receive so that they can continue to serve their patients and expand their services.

Mr. Speaker, community health centers are indeed the safety net which is committed to serving all individuals with the mission that everyone deserves quality health care services regardless of where they reside, whether or not they can pay, or whether or not they have insurance.

They are vital to ensuring that even the poor and disadvantaged in this country have the greatest opportunity to be healthy. These centers are indeed a hallmark of our Nation's health care delivery system.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that I can stand and be a part of promoting the awareness or their existence and the accomplishments which they have achieved.

I urge my colleagues to stand beside me in supporting this resolution, and I want to thank especially the gentleman from Virginia (Chairman DAVIS) the ranking member; the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN); and the Speaker, the gentleman from

Illinois (Mr. HASTERT), for helping to make sure that this resolution got to the floor before August, because that is the time that we celebrate the initiation and institution of these centers throughout the country.

I also want to commend Tom Van Coverden, who is the president, and Mr. Hawkins, two individuals that I worked with when I used to work in the community health centers. They have both stayed all of that time. Tom is now the president and Dan Hawkins is the vice president. And I commend them for their longevity and great service.

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

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I just want to take a moment to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for offering this important legislation and speaking so eloquently on it.

The gentleman's passion for these important centers is evident in the words he said here today.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H. Res. 289 designating the week of August 7 as "National Health Center Week". Community Health Centers provide primary health services to low income, working poor, Medicaid and Medicare enrollees and uninsured individuals.

Community Health Care Centers provide a larger range of services including primary care, cancer screenings, pre-natal care and emergency medical services in medically underserved communities without regard to the patient's ability to pay for the services. This past year almost 35% of all Illinois health center patients were uninsured. Throughout the state of Illinois over 40 percent of those seeking services at community health centers are Medicaid eligible and health care centers are often the only medical support offered to homeless individuals.

The first district in Illinois, which I have the honor and privilege to represent, has ten facilities as part of a statewide network of 250 primary health care delivery sites that will serve 850,000 patients this year. My Illinois colleague, Representative DANNY DAVIS, who introduced this resolution, credits the health centers for contributing to the health and well being of minority communities by keeping children healthy and providing preventive health care so that parents and adults can remain employed.

These centers have significantly increased the availability of preventive health care for minorities, migrant and homeless individuals and families. I am glad to join my colleague in support of this resolution to recognize the efforts of the community based organizations in providing these important services.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H.R. 289, 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.

A DAY OF COMMEMORATION OF THE GREAT UPHEAVAL

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 294) supporting the goals of "A Day of Commemoration of the Great Upheaval", and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 294

Whereas on March 3, 1699, France established the French colony of Louisiana, and this event was commemorated in 1999 as FrancoFête 99 and the Congrès Mondial Acadien-Louisiane 1999;

Whereas on December 9, 2003, a royal proclamation was signed in Canada in which Queen Elizabeth II acknowledged for the first time the wrongs committed in the name of the English Crown during the Acadian deportation of 1755;

Whereas this royal proclamation sets July 28th of every year, beginning in 2005, as "A Day of Commemoration of the Great Upheaval";

Whereas the 10,000 men, women, and children exiled from Nova Scotia two and a half centuries ago are the ancestors of many of south Louisiana's French-Acadian or Cajun people;

Whereas in 1803, President Thomas Jefferson purchased the Louisiana territory from France, and the French Napoleonic Civil Code was adopted as the basis of Louisiana's civil law system which continues to the present;

Whereas in 1968, the Louisiana Legislature created the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL) and mandated that the agency promote French for economic, educational, and touristic purposes;

Whereas since its creation, CODOFIL has recruited teachers from the international community to come to Louisiana to teach French in Louisiana schools;

Whereas there are 30 French immersion schools in Louisiana, and Louisiana leads the Nation in bilingual education;

Whereas Louisiana is officially bilingual pursuant to section 51 of title 1, Louisiana Revised Statutes, which states "Any act or contract made or executed in the French language is as legal and binding upon the parties as if it had been made or executed in the English language";

Whereas in 2004, the Louisiana Legislature declared Acadian Heritage Week to be the third week in September and urged schools in Louisiana to teach children about their Acadian history, culture, and heritage; and

Whereas in 2005, the world will memorialize the 250th anniversary of the Acadian deportation and observe a day of remembrance of the suffering of the Acadian people as a result of their deportation by the British Crown (as memorialized in Queen Elizabeth II's Royal Proclamation dated December 9, 2003): Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals of Acadian Heritage Week; and

(2) supports the goals of "A Day of Commemoration of the Great Upheaval", as established by Queen Elizabeth II's Royal Proclamation, signed on December 9, 2003, in which the sufferings of the Acadian people were acknowledged.

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 294, which was introduced by the distinguished gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY).

This legislation tells the story of the Great Upheaval, which is an event that, while perhaps little known to many Americans, helped shape the culture and history of the State of Louisiana.

The Great Upheaval refers to the expulsion of the Acadian population of Nova Scotia by the British in the mid-18th century, which is the origins of these original French settlers of the land that is now the eastern Canadian province of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.

The Treaty of Utrecht, signed by the British and French at the conclusion of the War of the Spanish Succession in 1713, ended a series of land trades between the world's powers by finally awarding to the British the region inhabited by the Acadians.

Consequently, by 1730, all Acadians were compelled to swear an oath that gave their allegiance to the British, but the oath further forced them to agree to bear arms against the French or Indians.

However, in 1794 when the French and Indian War broke out, the majority of Acadians refused and disregarded this commitment to fight the French. Consequently, the British deported these Acadians, more than 10,000 strong, who would not commit their loyalty to the British Crown.

The King of France encouraged the displaced French citizens to ultimately settle in Louisiana. These thousands of Acadians exiled from Nova Scotia 2½ centuries ago are the ancestors of many of today's French Acadian, or Cajun, citizens in Louisiana.

Largely due to the Great Upheaval, French influence is still very strong in south Louisiana. The third week of September is officially Acadian Heritage Week in Louisiana. In addition, in December 2003, Queen Elizabeth signed a royal proclamation that acknowledged the mistreatment of the Acadians and designated July 28 of every year a day to commemorate the Great Upheaval.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Great Upheaval, also known as the Great Expulsion, was the eviction of the Acadian population from Nova Scotia between 1755 and 1763.

In 1755, colonial authorities began a process of uprooting and deporting 10,000 men, women, and children who had settled on British land. British Lieutenant Governor Charles Lawrence and Massachusetts Governor William Shirley began by seizing colonists' firearms to prevent them from using force to resist.