

music. Subsequently, the school of music was named after Dr. Frost and his wife, Patricia.

Dr. Frost's broad background in medicine, science, business, and culture will be a valuable asset to the Smithsonian.

And, Madam Speaker, just as a personal aside, I have a personal relationship with Dr. Phil Frost. He is a renowned philanthropic contributor both in the community in south Florida and across this country. I have worked with him on several projects and also would like to note his deep commitment and involvement in the Jewish community in south Florida, and I am privileged to be able to stand before this House today and ask unanimous support for this resolution.

I urge my colleagues to support House Joint Resolution 81 so that this joint resolution can be signed into law before the May meeting of the Smithsonian regents.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of House Joint Resolution 81, which appoints Dr. Phillip Frost as a Citizen Regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution. Dr. Frost and his wife Patricia have long been ardent supporters of the arts, especially in my Congressional District of South Florida.

Dr. Frost grew up living above his father's shoe store as a child in Philadelphia. While in college at the University of Pennsylvania, he traveled to Paris for a year to study French Literature. While in Paris, his life long commitment to the arts began.

Dr. Frost came to South Florida to complete a one-year senior residency at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami. Fortunately for South Floridians, he has remained for over forty years. In 1966, he joined the faculty of the University of Miami School of Medicine. From there he moved on to Mount Sinai Medical Center in 1972, chairing their Department of Dermatology until 1990.

Dr. Frost's success in medicine translated into business, and he has used his success to enhance the South Florida Community. Dr. Frost has distinguished himself nationally as a business leader. It came as no surprise that in 2001; he received the National Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award.

Dr. Frost's contributions to our community in South Florida have been invaluable. Dr. Frost has been a huge supporter of the University of Miami's Music Department, which is now named after he and his wife.

In 1993, Florida International University presented him with an honorary degree for his many contributions in medicine, business, and community service. He also has been a strong advocate of the Miami Art Museum.

I would like to commend Dr. Frost for his dedication to enriching the lives of South Floridians through the arts. I urge my colleagues to support House Joint Resolution 81 and promote Dr. Frost as a Citizen Regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

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

Mr. EHLERS. 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 Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 81.

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. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. 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 question will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.J. Res. 81.

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

There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR THE REAPPOINTMENT OF ALAN G. SPOON AS A CITIZEN REGENT OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 82) providing for the reappointment of Alan G. Spoon as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.J. RES. 82

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, in accordance with section 5581 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (20 U.S.C. 43), the vacancy on the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, in the class other than Members of Congress, occurring by reason of the expiration of the term of Alan G. Spoon of Massachusetts on May 4, 2006, is filled by the reappointment of the incumbent for a term of 6 years. The reappointment shall take effect on May 5, 2006.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) and the gentleman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

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

House Joint Resolution 82 provides for the reappointment of Alan G. Spoon as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

Alan Spoon has served as a member of the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History Board of Regents

since 2000 and, by all accounts, has done an excellent job. His diverse background in finance, management, and technology has served the institution very well. We would be privileged to have him continue to serve as a member.

Mr. Spoon has a unique skill-set, stemming from his 25 years of service in various dynamic business atmospheres. Mr. Spoon currently serves as a managing partner of Polaris Venture Partners, which invests in Internet-related businesses, networking, biotechnology, and medical technology.

Prior to his position with Polaris, he served in a variety of capacities at The Washington Post Company. These included positions as president, chief financial officer, chief operating officer, president of Newsweek, head of newspaper marketing, and head of corporate business development.

Prior to serving on the Board of Regents, Mr. Spoon served on the National Museum of Natural History's Board of Directors. Mr. Spoon received his BA at M.I.T., his MS at M.I.T.'s Sloan School of Management, and his JD from Harvard Law School.

In light of his distinguished service with the Smithsonian Institution, I urge my colleagues to support House Joint Resolution 82 and reappoint Mr. Spoon to an additional 6-year term.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I too support H.J. Resolution 82 to reappoint Alan G. Spoon of Massachusetts for a new 6-year term as a citizen regent of the Smithsonian Institution.

I want to mention that my colleague, the Hon. Congressman BARNEY FRANK, joins me in the support of this resolution as well.

Alan Spoon was previously appointed to the Board of Regents by Congress in 2000. He is a member of the executive committee of the board and chairman of the Finance and Investment Committee. As was mentioned, Mr. Spoon is the managing partner of Polaris Venture Partners, an investment company, and was previously president of The Washington Post Company. Prior to that experience, Mr. Spoon also served as president of Newsweek magazine, an impressive accomplishment. He also brings previous experience to the Smithsonian as a member of the National Museum of Natural History's advisory board.

I believe the Smithsonian will continue to benefit from Alan Spoon's financial, marketing, and management background and continuing experience on the Board of Regents.

I urge my colleagues to support House Joint Resolution 82 so that this joint resolution can be signed into law before the May meeting of the Smithsonian regents.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 82.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.J. Res. 82.

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

There was no objection.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR DISASTER

Mr. LEACH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 703) recognizing the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster and supporting continued efforts to control radiation and mitigate the adverse health consequences related to the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 703

Whereas April 26, 2006, marks the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster;

Whereas serious radiological, health, and socioeconomic consequences for the populations of Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia, as well as for the populations of other affected areas, have been identified since the disaster;

Whereas the Chernobyl Forum, an initiative launched by the International Atomic Energy Agency and supported by the World Health Organization, the United Nations Development Program, and other United Nations agencies, as well as by the governments of Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia, examined the scientific evidence of the human health effects and the environmental impact of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster;

Whereas the findings of the Chernobyl Forum, issued in September 2005, significantly added to the understanding of the health consequences and economic impact caused by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster;

Whereas the Chernobyl Forum found that approximately 5,000,000 people live in areas of Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia that were contaminated by radioactivity;

Whereas the populations of the affected areas who were exposed as children have experienced significant increases in thyroid cancer;

Whereas the lives and health of people in the affected areas continue to be heavily burdened by the aftermath of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster;

Whereas numerous charitable, humanitarian, and environmental organizations from the United States and the international

community are committed to overcoming the extensive consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster;

Whereas the United States has sought to help the people of the affected areas through various forms of assistance;

Whereas humanitarian assistance and public health research into the consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster will continue to be needed in the coming decades when a large number of latent health effects are expected to emerge;

Whereas the United States strongly supports improving nuclear safety in Ukraine;

Whereas, in 1997, the United States, the European Union, and Ukraine developed the Shelter Implementation Plan for the purpose of protecting people and the environment from the dangers of the large quantity of highly radioactive material contained in the Chernobyl nuclear power plant;

Whereas as the United States is the largest single country donor to the Chernobyl Shelter Fund, which was created with the purpose of funding the Shelter Implementation Plan, having pledged a total of \$203,000,000; and

Whereas the most critical component of the Shelter Implementation Plan will be the construction of a new shelter designed to better protect people and the environment from the radioactive remains of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster and expresses sympathy for the ongoing effects of the disaster, including adverse health consequences and deaths;

(2) calls upon national and international health organizations to focus their research into the public health consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster into areas identified by the Chernobyl Shelter Fund, so that the global community can benefit from the findings of such research;

(3) supports continued United States assistance to the Chernobyl Shelter Fund, the Shelter Implementation Plan, construction of a facility to store spent nuclear fuel, and other efforts to mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster; and

(4) urges other countries and the European Union to continue to provide assistance to the Chernobyl Shelter Fund, the Shelter Implementation Plan, construction of a facility to store spent nuclear fuel, and other efforts to mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEACH. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days 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 Iowa?

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 703, a resolution introduced by Congressman ELTON

GALLEGLY, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Europe and Emerging Threats of the House International Relations Committee. House Resolution 703 recognizes the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster and supports continued efforts to control radiation and mitigate the adverse health consequences related to this terrible accident.

I would like to commend Mr. GALLEGLY for his hard work on this resolution as well as that of Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania; Ms. KAPTUR of Ohio; Mr. LEVIN of Michigan; as well as our distinguished ranking member, Mr. LANTOS of California, for their great interest in ensuring that the international community lives up to its obligations to assist Ukraine and other countries in the region to overcome the continuing health, environmental, and economic problems caused by the Chernobyl accident.

In just a few weeks, on April 26, the world will mark the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl power plant accident, the most devastating civilian nuclear disaster in human history. This disaster caused serious radiological, health, and socioeconomic consequences for the people of Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia. Millions of people, children in particular, suffered severe and debilitating health defects and were forced to flee from their homes.

Although 20 years have passed, the lives and health of individuals within the affected areas continue to be heavily burdened by the aftermath of the nuclear disaster. Ukraine must not only provide care for those affected but also ensure that the radioactive waste and environmental destruction from the explosion do not pose a threat to the region.

The sarcophagus currently encasing the remnants of the destroyed reactor is in disrepair and may collapse at any time. In response to this emergency, the United States, the European Union, and Ukraine developed the Shelter Implementation Plan for the purpose of protecting people and the environment from the large quantity of highly radioactive material contained in the reactor.

The most critical component of the Shelter Implementation Plan will be the construction of a new shelter designed to better protect the surrounding area from leakage of radioactive remains. The total cost of the shelter could well be in excess of \$1 billion. In addition, Ukraine must still deal with the health and economic impact of the Chernobyl disaster, including the treatment of thousands of people who were exposed as children and have experienced significant increases in thyroid cancer.

This legislation expresses the sympathy of the House for the ongoing effects of the disaster. In addition, H. Res. 703 calls upon the U.S. and other countries to continue to provide assistance for the construction of a new shelter and a facility to store spent nuclear