

servicemen and women ever since. I commend the efforts of those six civilian agencies—the Salvation Army, Young Men's Christian Association, Young Women's Christian Association, National Catholic Community Service, National Travelers Aid Association and the National Jewish Welfare Board—that came together in support of our troops in creating the USO, bringing about its official incorporation in New York on February 4, 1941.

The USO has strong ties to Guam. Beginning with U.S. military personnel following the liberation of the island, the USO first came to Guam in the early 1950s. Delivering entertainment and laughs to those serving on Guam, the USO's work on Guam was but a small glimpse of its work lifting the morale of servicemen and women around the world.

The combat zones of the past included Korea, Vietnam and Kuwait. Today the USO brings entertainment to our men and women serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa among many other places. For 65 years, wherever you found America's military, you found the USO, no matter the location or the danger.

The USO not only brings entertainment, a piece of home and a smile to troops deployed abroad through its shows, but serves as a "home away from home" for servicemen and women in 124 centers around the world. I am pleased to state that this proud tradition will soon be resurrected on Guam. The USO will re-open its Guam branch on March 23, 2006. With the military presence on Guam steadily growing, the USO has once more answered the call to service. With growing unease in Asia, the strategic location of Guam is increasingly valued. The men and women who serve on the island provide stability to the region and security to our Nation. The USO will once again ensure that these men and women, their families and their guests nonetheless always have the support they need. No doubt this branch will also bring to Guam many of the USO's trademark shows.

Let me take this chance to say, on behalf of the people of Guam, welcome back to the USO. As we say on Guam, Hafa Adai and Si Yu'os Ma'ase (thank you) for their work.

Our Nation enjoys a spirit of brotherhood, of service and of charity that is a reflection of a national value of selfless service. The USO embodies this national value. And the people who are the USO live this national value. Over 12,000 volunteers donate over 450,000 hours annually thereby allowing the USO to serve our Nation's greatest servants. Not to be forgotten are the celebrities and entertainers that often headline USO tours, lending their time and talents to honor those people who provide them the very opportunity to live the American dream they have realized. And providing the foundation upon which the USO can operate are countless thousands of U.S. donors, both private and corporate, who make giving a centerpiece of their lives.

I join my colleagues in commending the USO and all of the men and women who over time and who now make up this great organization for the service they provide to those who serve our Nation in uniform. Like our military men and women, you too are heroes. You are what makes America great. God Bless the USO, God Bless our men and women serving around the world today and God Bless America.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the United Service Or-

ganizations, whose world headquarters are located in my district and this year will celebrate its 65th anniversary of serving the men and women of our armed forces.

At the direction of President Franklin D. Roosevelt the USO was formed in 1941 as a means of promoting troop morale by providing entertainment, recreation and support. Relying solely on charitable contributions and the generosity of individuals, the USO has served troops in each American conflict since World War II.

Perhaps at its most well known during World War II, the USO provided over 400,000 shows and performances to our armed forces, sending 7,000 performers overseas and performing as many as 700 shows in a single day. It was during this time that the great Bob Hope first performed for our soldiers. His famous USO career spanned six decades, headlining over 60 tours and delivering countless one-liners. In 1997, the USO successfully worked with Congress to designate Bob Hope the first honorary veteran of the U.S. armed forces.

Today the USO is still going strong. In 2005, the USO sponsored over 50 celebrity entertainment tours, visiting nearly 200,000 service members in over 30 countries. The volunteer base has grown to over 12,000 people who donate over 450,000 hours of service each year.

The USO, however, provides more than just uplifting entertainment to our troops. Over 750,000 handmade care packages were sent to service members deploying to Iraq and Afghanistan last year. Additionally, the USO has made communication to the home front more affordable and accessible through the Operation Phone Home which distributed over one million prepaid phone cards to deployed troops.

All of this would not be possible were it not for the dedication of the USO staff and volunteers who so graciously give their time and energy to help those who are defending our Nation. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in commending the USO and its members for all of their work and in congratulating them on 65 years of dedicated services to our troops.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISSA). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 322, 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. MILLER of Florida. Mr. 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.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF A DAY OF HEARTS, CONGENITAL HEART DEFECT DAY

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 629) supporting the goals and ideals of a Day of Hearts, Congenital Heart Defect Day in order to increase awareness about congenital heart defects, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 629

Whereas congenital heart defects are structural problems with the heart that are present at birth;

Whereas such defects range in severity from simple problems, such as "holes" between chambers of the heart, to very severe malformations, such as the complete absence of one or more chambers or valves of the heart;

Whereas more than one million Americans have some form of a congenital heart defect and such defect is the number one cause of death in infants;

Whereas out of 1000 births, eight babies will have some form of a congenital heart disorder, and approximately 35,000 babies are born with such defects each year;

Whereas twice as many children die each year from congenital heart disease compared with childhood cancers, yet funding for pediatric cancer research is five times higher than such funding for congenital heart disease;

Whereas cardiovascular disease is the Nation's leading killer in both men and women among all racial and ethnic groups;

Whereas the United States has a severe shortage of cardiac centers that are fully equipped to provide care for adults living with complex heart defects;

Whereas almost one million Americans die of cardiovascular disease each year, resulting in up to 42 percent of all deaths in the United States;

Whereas the presence of a serious congenital heart defect often results in an enormous emotional and financial strain on young families who are already in a vulnerable stage of their lives;

Whereas severe congenital heart disease requires that families dedicate extensive financial resources for assistance and care both within and outside of a hospital environment;

Whereas congenital heart defects exceed more than \$2.2 million a year for inpatient surgery alone; and

Whereas February 14, 2006, would be an appropriate day to recognize A Day for Hearts: Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives supports the goals and ideals of A Day of Hearts: Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Day to—

- (1) increase awareness about congenital heart defects;
- (2) encourage research with respect to the disease; and
- (3) support the millions of Americans who are affected by this disease.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. 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 the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H. Resolution 629, offered by the distinguished gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE), would support the goals and the ideals of a Day of Hearts, Congenital Heart Defect Day.

Today in the United States, heart disease and stroke, the basic components of cardiovascular disease, are the first and third leading causes of death for both men and women, accounting for nearly 40 percent of all deaths. Over 900,000 Americans die of cardiovascular disease each year, Mr. Speaker, which amounts to a death every 34 seconds. Even though this dangerous disease attacks those over the age of 65 most commonly, the number of sudden deaths from heart disease among people between the ages of 15 and 34 has increased dramatically.

Along with the individual effects of this vastly growing disease, there is also a widespread economic impact. The U.S. health care system continues to be hit with the cost of heart disease and stroke in the U.S. Coronary heart disease is the leading cause of permanent disability in the U.S. workforce, and there are over 6 million hospitalizations each year due to this disease. As our population ages, the cost of heart disease and stroke was projected to be \$394 billion in 2005, last year, which includes health care expenditures and lost productivity from death and disability.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all Members to support H. Resolution 629 with the hope that, because cardiovascular disease is preventable, increased awareness and research could enable us as Americans to cut down on the unnecessary deaths due to this disease each year in our country.

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

□ 1445

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

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the resolution to recognize the goals and ideas of a Day of Hearts, and I commend the gentleman from Georgia for making use of Valentine's Day as a way of highlighting and bringing awareness to one of our major health problems and health issues.

Every year, eight out of every 1,000 children are born with some form of

congenital heart defect, or CHD. CHDs are the number one killer of infants in the United States, and while treatment is available for many of these defects, a number of them are not treatable. Sadly, too, many families lack the resources necessary to obtain proper treatment for even the most common and easily treatable defects.

Because CHDs are long-term or often lifelong afflictions, the life of a child who survives a CHD is made more difficult by restricted behavior and the laborious effort needed to carry out the daily tasks of life.

A Day of Hearts is an international effort to raise awareness of this all-too-common problem. CHD lacks the visibility of some of the diseases we all know well, yet the effects are no less tragic. Much progress needs to be made in fighting the disease and in finding and funding facilities that are dedicated to cutting-edge research related to all aspects of CHDs, especially factors that contribute to their occurrence.

In addition, developing countries are far behind the developing world in treating CHDs. Defects that are easily treatable here in the United States can be killers in those countries, and our sense of humanity can no longer tolerate easily preventable deaths from CHDs.

Mr. Speaker, February 14 is a day that many people around the world associate with love and companionship, and the enduring symbol of Valentine's Day is the heart. I can think of no day more appropriately tailored towards raising the public's awareness of CHDs than Valentine's Day. Therefore, I join in support of this important resolution and call upon all of my colleagues to support this effort so that hopefully we will generate the kind of awareness and the kind of resources that are necessary to fight this tragic and debilitating illness.

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my distinguished colleague from the State of Georgia (Mr. PRICE).

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairwoman for allowing me to speak on this issue. I appreciate her leadership in this. I want to thank my Georgia colleagues and all colleagues on both sides of the aisle who have assisted in supporting this endeavor.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish a happy Valentine's Day to Sarah Anne Voyles. Sarah is a 15-year-old young lady who happens to live in my district. She is a special young lady who just happened to be born with a congenital heart defect who brought this whole issue to my attention.

As a physician, I practiced for nearly 20 years in my community and I understand the medical importance of being able to treat congenital heart defects. But as a Member of Congress the issue becomes all that more important as we work to bring attention to this remarkable challenge.

So I am proud to stand today and present and support H. Res. 629, a resolution that will identify today, Valentine's Day 2006, as a Day of Hearts, Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Day.

What is a congenital heart defect? Well, congenital means it is present at birth, so it is an abnormality that is present at birth. It is a birth defect. It is a birth defect of the heart. It is a birth defect, though, that we don't often hear about.

It occurs during the development of the heart, which begins for a baby shortly after conception. These defects can involve the walls of the heart, or the valves of the heart, or the blood vessels, the arteries and veins that supply the heart itself. They are often able to disrupt the normal flow of blood in the heart, slowing that blood down or having it flow in the wrong direction or wrong place, or it might even block the flow of blood altogether. They also can be conduction defects, defects that make it so the heart doesn't beat in the correct way.

More than 35,000 infants, about one out of every 150 births, are born with heart defects every single year; and these defects can be very minimal in nature and not even be noticed by the family or the child or the physicians, or they can be life-threatening. Heart defects are among the most common birth defects, and they are the leading cause of birth defect-related deaths in the United States.

The good news is that with significantly improving treatment over the past few decades there are now more adults living with congenital heart defects than ever before, having been treated in their infancy for those defects. And this means that there are new medical challenges that we as a society will confront, and confront them we will.

So it is perfectly fitting and appropriate that we pause today and recognize Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Day in order to do three specific things: One is to increase the awareness of congenital heart defects; two is to encourage research with respect to this disease; and, three, to support the millions of Americans who are affected by this disease.

So I join with the others and ask my colleagues to support this resolution and join me in wishing Sarah Anne Voyles, and all Americans living with congenital heart defects, a very happy Valentine's Day and a Day of Hearts for Congenital Heart Defect Day.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my distinguished colleague from the State of Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY).

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Dr. Price and my other colleagues who have cosponsored this Day of Hearts resolution, recognizing congenital heart defects and the impact they are having on American society and American families.

As has been mentioned, approximately 35,000 babies are born each year with some variety of a congenital heart defect. Five years ago, my wife Celeste and I had a beautiful baby girl, and we named her Kathryn, and she was one of those 35,000 babies. She was diagnosed shortly after her birth with a complete atrial ventricular septal defect.

It was a normal birth. Afterward, during a regular checkup, our family doctor heard something that almost jumped through his stethoscope. As we later found out, he was holding back his own emotion as he heard this. So that launched us then on a path, a very intense, difficult, 3-month period, until she had her first surgery.

But one of the most encouraging things that happened for us then were other parents who found out we were suffering through this and who took initiative to call us, to extend a hand of friendship. Because when this happens to you, your world spins around 360 degrees. It is very hard to know who to turn to and where to go. So the support network of parents who simply took their own initiative to contact us was very deeply meaningful and helped us through this very difficult time.

Kathryn, as many of your saw this past weekend, is a very vibrant, happy, 5-year-old. She wears a pacemaker, which obviously causes some security difficulties here and there, but, nonetheless, we are grateful to the advances that medicine has given us in the last 30 years to be able to deal successfully with this form of defect.

I am just really thankful that Congress is taking the initiative today to actually propose a Day of Hearts, not only to bring more emphasis to the issue, because it does affect so many families, but to potentially help spur additional research into the potential of finding a cure, or at least helping parents who have to deal with the management of this issue for a lifetime.

Thank you, Dr. Price, for proposing this; thank you to my other colleagues who have cosponsored this; and I urge passage of H.R. 629.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is especially appropriate that today on Valentine's Day, when we celebrate love and affection from the bottom of our hearts, that this House passes a resolution that seeks to provide protection from our hearts being damaged from disease. I urge all Members to support the adoption of H. Res. 629.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H. Res. 629, supporting the goals and ideals of a Day of Hearts, Congenital Heart Defect Day in order to increase awareness about congenital heart defects. I think it's fitting that on Valentine's Day, we can discuss a resolution that will help protect our hearts.

Heart disease can affect every aspect of your life: your ability to work, your ability to get adequate insurance, your ability to exercise or play sports, and your ability to have children,

not to mention your ability to enjoy your life and live it to the fullest.

Estimates suggest that about 1 million Americans have a congenital heart defect. If time in the hospital and recuperating from heart conditions could be measured in years of life, over 91,000 life years are lost each year in the US due to congenital heart disease. For inpatient surgery alone, charges for care exceed \$2.2 billion every year.

Even our most vulnerable and innocent citizens are not exempt from the risk of heart disease: around 35,000 babies are born with a heart defect each year. Out of 1,000 births, 8 babies will have some form of congenital heart disorder, although for the most part, these are mild. Severe heart disease generally becomes apparent during the first couple of months after birth. Doctors know to watch for certain clues, including when babies are born blue, have very low blood pressure, breathing difficulties, feeding problems, or poor weight gain. In addition, most minor defects are diagnosed on a routine medical check up.

We've made significant improvements in the treatment of congenital heart conditions, from preventive treatment, to surgery, to research, to education and outreach. In the 1960s and 1970s the risk of dying following congenital heart surgery was about 30 percent and today it is around 5 percent.

However, recent statistics show that heart disease is still the No. 1 killer of American women, and heart failure is on the rise in the elderly. This bill is relevant and timely, and a noble effort to bring much needed awareness and crucial outreach to men, women and children across the Nation. Knowledge can make all the difference in quality of life, and a Day of Hearts is the perfect way to start the conversation and spread the word.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISSA). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 629.

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.

RAYMOND J. SALMON POST OFFICE

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4152) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 320 High Street in Clinton, Massachusetts, as the "Raymond J. Salmon Post Office".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4152

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. RAYMOND J. SALMON POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 320 High Street in Clinton, Massachusetts, shall be known and designated as the "Raymond J. Salmon Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Raymond J. Salmon Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. 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.R. 4152.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4152, offered by the distinguished gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), would designate the post office building in Clinton, Massachusetts, as the Raymond J. Salmon Post Office.

On April 16, 1923, Raymond J. Salmon was born in the town of Clinton, Massachusetts. In his younger years, Ray served his country as a Technical Sergeant in the U.S. Army in World War II. In 1950, he began his political career by working for Congressman Phillip Philbin of Clinton, Massachusetts, and served as his Chief of Staff until 1970. While working on Capitol Hill, Ray managed to complete law school and be admitted to the bar in 1952.

After several years as a sole practitioner, Ray was appointed the Clerk Magistrate of Clinton District Court in 1976, and he remained in this position until his retirement in 2000.

His service in this capacity did not go unnoticed by his community. He was loved and revered by the citizens of Clinton, and he remained involved in many other community activities. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, the American Legion, Turner Veterans, the Polish American Veterans, the Hibernian AOH Master of Ceremonies, President of the National Exchange Club, Exalted Ruler of the Clinton Lodge of Elks and President of the Clinton Democratic Town Committee.

It is an honor and privilege to be able to recognize such an unselfish and giving member of the community by passing H.R. 4152 and recognizing the efforts of such a committed individual.

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 a member of the Government Reform Committee, I am pleased to join my colleague in the consideration of H.R. 4152, legislation naming a postal facility in Clinton,