

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

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

First of all, I want to thank again Mr. SARBANES for sponsorship. I want to thank you, Mr. DUNCAN. I didn't know you had that kind of relationship to baseball and to the Baltimore Orioles.

As I listened to Mr. DUNCAN and Mr. SARBANES, Madam Speaker, I was just reminded that, sitting on the Government Reform Committee, in that committee we dealt with the whole issue of steroids. We saw players come before our committee, many of them having to put their heads down when asked certain critical questions about character. And it is so good to know that there is somebody like Cal Ripken around, somebody who does not mind accepting the role as a role model and being just that.

So many young people look up to sports figures, and they try to emulate them. All you have to do is go to a baseball game and you will see them with the jerseys on with names of players on the back. And if you go to Memorial Stadium, now called Oriole Park, you will see a lot of jerseys with little kids, trying to dream the Cal Ripken dream, with his name on their backs.

So it is with great honor that I ask all of our Members to support this resolution.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3218, to designate a portion of Interstate 395 located in Baltimore, MD, as "Cal Ripken Way."

Cal Ripken, Jr. was not only a remarkable baseball player, he was an outstanding role model for the youth of America. He exhibited the utmost in professionalism and sportsmanship in every aspect of his life.

Cal Ripken, Jr. was known to many as the "Iron Man" for tirelessly overcoming many minor injuries to always be in the lineup for his team and for the fans. He took the field for the Baltimore Orioles on May 30, 1982 and did not miss a game until September 19, 1998. On September 6, 1995, millions of fans worldwide tuned in to watch Cal Ripken, Jr. surpass Lou Gehrig for the most consecutive games played, at 2,131 games. He ended his streak having played in 2,632 consecutive games.

By the time he retired from professional baseball, in October 2001, Cal Ripken had played 21 seasons with the Baltimore Orioles. During that time, Mr. Ripken had broken the team's record for career games played, at bats, runs, hits, doubles, homeruns, RBIs, total bases, and walks. He is a member of Major League Baseball's exclusive 3,000 hit club.

Cal Ripken stuck with his team through the good years and the bad years with a level of professionalism rare in sports today. He was a favorite among fans and holds the record for most All-Star votes received by any single player. He was voted to play in the All-Star game 19 times, and won the game's Most Valuable Player, MVP, honor twice. On Thursday, July 26, 2007, Cal Ripken, Jr. was inducted

into the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY, with the third highest percentage of votes ever received.

After his storied baseball career, Cal Ripken, Jr. continues to make a difference in his community and across the country. Along with his brother Billy, he formed the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation to give underprivileged children the opportunity to attend baseball camps around the country and to learn his beloved game.

Between 2001 and 2004, Ripken served as commissioner of the White House Tee Ball Initiative, in which he worked to promote the value of teamwork and volunteerism amongst young players. On April 9, 2007, Ripken announced a partnership with the recently formed "Reviving Baseball in the Inner City" program, with the donation of \$1 million in cash and equipment from the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3218, to dedicate a portion of our Nation's highway system to commemorate the tremendous career and outstanding leadership of Cal Ripken, Jr.

Mr. CUMMINGS. 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 Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3218.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING THE CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS, FIRST RESPONDERS, AND THE CITIZENS OF MINNESOTA FOR THEIR VALIANT EFFORTS IN RESPONDING TO THE COLLAPSE OF THE INTERSTATE ROUTE 35W MISSISSIPPI RIVER BRIDGE

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 606) honoring the city of Minneapolis, first responders, and the citizens of the State of Minnesota for their valiant efforts in responding to the horrific collapse of the Interstate Route 35W Mississippi River Bridge.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 606

Whereas the Interstate Route 35W Mississippi River Bridge located in Minneapolis, Minnesota, collapsed on August 1, 2007, during the evening rush hour;

Whereas Minneapolis police and fire officials have reported a rising number of fatalities and injuries resulting from the tragedy;

Whereas because rescue and recovery efforts are ongoing, the effect of the tragedy on the community and on Minnesota families is still unfolding;

Whereas the first emergency personnel on the scene responded to the tragedy without hesitation, risking their health and safety to rescue victims and to provide emergency care to the injured;

Whereas as there are questions that remain unanswered about the tragedy, it is clear that the commitment and heroism exhibited by first responders in the minutes and hours following the tragedy saved countless lives;

Whereas the people of Minnesota and the Nation recognize that the dedication of first responders will remain steadfast throughout the ongoing recovery, repair, and rebuilding efforts;

Whereas scores of ordinary people became extraordinary citizens following the tragedy by rushing to the aid of their fellow Minnesotans;

Whereas the residents of Minneapolis should be commended for their bravery and tireless efforts following the tragedy on behalf of their neighbors and their city;

Whereas there was an immediate outpouring of support and assistance from surrounding communities following the tragedy, including over 50 organizations and local units of government; and

Whereas the heartbreaking images coming out of Minneapolis have captured the attention and sympathy of the Nation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) honors the city of Minneapolis, first responders, and the citizens of the State of Minnesota for their valiant efforts in responding to the horrific collapse of the Interstate Route 35W Mississippi River Bridge;

(2) praises the people of Minneapolis and Minnesota for their great courage in this time of crisis;

(3) recognizes the leadership and passionate commitment of the elected officials representing the people of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, and the State of Minnesota;

(4) honors the emergency responders, within and beyond Minneapolis, for their bravery and sacrifice following the tragedy;

(5) extends its heartfelt sympathies to the families of all those lost in the tragedy; and

(6) reaffirms its support and commitment to all of the Nation's law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians as they selflessly serve their communities, regardless of the peril or hazard to themselves.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 606.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I strongly support House Resolution 606, introduced by my colleague Congressman ELLISON, my friend and fellow Minnesotan. Congressman ELLISON represents the Fifth Congressional District of Minnesota, which includes the city of Minneapolis. I am grateful to Congressman ELLISON for his work in introducing this resolution and getting it to the floor in a quick manner.

On August 1, the Interstate 35W bridge collapsed over the Mississippi River. The images of that disaster are now etched in our collective memories in this country. We can all recall the strange and surreal sight of a bridge lying crumpled and broken, laying in that great river. And we can all recall the images of vehicles that were crushed by the debris as well as those like the school bus that was full of children that sat amongst all that disaster and carnage and its occupants, and thankfully, escaped unharmed.

Unfortunately, not everyone on the I-35 bridge that Wednesday made it home safely. Thirteen of our fellow Minnesotans, husbands, wives, sons, daughters, grandchildren, grandparents, were killed in the tragedy. That those numbers were not higher was due in no small part to the hundreds of firefighters, police, emergency personnel, and ordinary citizens who rushed to the aid of their fellow citizens. The direct action of these civil servants and citizens immediately following this tragedy undoubtedly saved countless lives and eased suffering. Ordinary residents of the city of Minneapolis displayed extraordinary courage and compassion on August 1.

This resolution recognizes the outstanding work and effort of the first responders, the city officials, and the residents of Minnesota for their quick and compassionate response. I am pleased to join Congressman ELLISON and all of the Minnesota delegation in this effort, and I extend my gratitude to those whose dedication and duty was so evident on August 1.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1330

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 606 introduced by Mr. ELLISON of Minnesota. This resolution recognizes the city of Minneapolis, first responders, and the citizens of the State of Minnesota for their selfless actions in responding to the collapse of the Interstate Route 35W Mississippi River bridge.

The first responders to the scene acted without hesitation, risking their safety in the dangerous conditions, to rescue the victims of this tragedy. This resolution honors their sacrifice in the immediate aftermath of the bridge collapse and their commitment to save lives, regardless of the peril or hazard to themselves. Additionally, this resolution is a fitting commendation to the people of Minneapolis for their heroism and compassion for their fellow citizens. I extend my heartfelt sympathies to those affected by this tragedy and to their families.

I support the resolution and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague from

Missouri for the kind words and compassionate response. The overwhelming response from the Members of this body was truly heartfelt and truly put action into words in getting Minnesota and Minneapolis moving forward.

At this time, Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to the main sponsor of this bill, the distinguished gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON) in responding to this disaster that occurred in his district.

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I am proud to rise on the floor today to speak on behalf of H. Res. 606, a resolution that honors the city of Minneapolis and the first responders and citizens of Minnesota for their valiant efforts in responding to the horrific collapse of Interstate 35W Mississippi River bridge.

Madam Speaker, while we honor the city of Minneapolis, there are also numerous cities in the area of Minneapolis, such as New Hope, Golden Valley, and many, many others, all that sent their first responders to the aid of the victims. And each and all of these cities deserve honor and respect. Thank you.

At 6:05 p.m. on August 1, 2007, Interstate 35W bridge in Minneapolis, Minnesota collapsed into the Mississippi River, killing 13 people and injuring nearly 100 people. The 13 victims were mothers, fathers, children, workers, good people, each and all.

I'm honored today to stand with my colleagues from Minnesota to honor the work of the first responders and the entire community of Minnesota and the Nation for stepping up to the plate to assist our community on August 1 in responding to the horrific bridge collapse.

Without any hesitation or any regard or consideration for their own safety, Minnesota first responders, firefighters, police, emergency medical personnel all rushed to the bridge collapse scene, and it is clear that the commitment and heroism in the minutes and hours that followed the tragedy saved countless lives.

Additionally, scores of ordinary Minnesotans became good Samaritans. For example, Madam Speaker, Jeremy Hernandez, a 20-year-old employee of a Minneapolis nonprofit organization, was riding on a school bus with over 50 children when the bus dropped towards the Mississippi River gorge as the bridge collapsed. Jeremy immediately took charge and evacuated the bus, ensuring that all staff and children got off the bus safely. This is America and Minnesota at its best when ordinary citizens become extraordinary citizens.

But let me conclude, Madam Speaker, by respectfully asking this Congress to regard this tragedy as a national call to action, to focus our public energy on the reconstruction of our public infrastructure.

On August 1, we as a Nation were united in grief for the victims, and we were united in the recovery and healing efforts. Now let us all stand united

in rebuilding our country's ailing public infrastructure. For if the Nation is a body, our infrastructure is the skeleton that holds it up.

I look forward to working with Members of Congress. I thank you, Madam Speaker. I thank you, Mr. WALZ, for your excellent energy. I also would be remiss if I did not commend your community, our community, and southern Minnesota for its own tragedy that we suffered collectively. And we stand with the people of southern Minnesota in solidarity and in brother- and sisterhood. Thank you very much.

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. BACHMANN).

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I thank my dear colleague for allowing me this moment to address the body.

I, too, offer my condolences and sympathy to the Members and families of our Minnesota community who endured one of the most horrific losses that anyone can imagine. When it's a beautiful, wonderful evening in Minnesota in August, August 1, when people are on their way to the Twins game and home from work, their minds are on the BBQ and what they're going to do when they go home, what they're going to say to their husband, what they're going to say to their wife, going to their child's T-ball game or their soccer game, those were the kind of things that were on the minds of Minnesotans when all of a sudden, inexplicably, this bridge that is the most traveled bridge in the State of Minnesota went down. Something no one would ever imagine could happen happened.

The Saturday after the bridge collapse occurred, I had the opportunity to go back and meet with some of the first responders, as my colleagues did as well. And I think to a person we can say what we saw that day was nothing short of just the joy and the grief, all of the emotions mixed together on the faces of the firemen, faces of the policemen, faces of the health care professionals as well who were there, who saw that horror firsthand and did what we expect that they would do, be first responders. Seems like an ordinary thing that they should do their job, but it's never an ordinary thing to lay down your life for your fellow man. That's what a police officer does every day when they put on that uniform. That's what a fireman does every day when they put on that uniform. And that day they were called upon to do that duty, make that sacrifice. They did it. And I'll tell you what, I could not be more proud of those first responders.

And it was wonderful, too, Madam Speaker, to see how in this body this wasn't a Republican or Democrat issue, this was about being human, this was about loving our fellow man. And I can't say enough about the effort of the two parties to come together and unanimously making the right decision, and that is, authorizing the

money for this bridge to get it up and built again, and then hopefully now appropriate that money to get it up again.

I commend Congressman ELLISON, Congressman WALZ, I commend Congresswoman MCCOLLUM and everyone in our delegation who came together to get behind this bridge. But more importantly, it's the first responders who came together and laid down their lives.

One of the people who did that was a constituent of mine. I just want to mention him a little bit. His name is Gary Babineau, 24 years old, lives up in Blaine. He is a construction worker. Gary was coming home from work that night, like most Minnesotans, thinking about what he was going to do. His wife is due with their first baby 2 weeks later. And that's what he was thinking about, that new little baby that was about to come 2 weeks from now, when all of a sudden he was right across from that yellow school bus that we all saw on the news. And Gary's truck was on the bridge, and he felt the bridge go down. And in a moment of time, his black pickup truck fell 30 feet down to the bottom. He never thought he would wake up again. He never thought he would open his eyes again, but he did. And he couldn't believe it, he could move. His back was severely hurt, but he could move. He got out of that truck and he went and he helped person after person get out of their vehicle, carried people to safety. And then Gary remarkably, here in the midst of having a severely injured back, he jumped off the bridge, got onto the ground, got back on the bridge, not knowing that the bridge would be stable, got on that bridge and went immediately to that yellow school bus. And he then assisted those 50 children getting off that bus. And as a matter of fact, it was reported in the paper it said, Gary Babineau said, "I could see the whole bridge going down, and I was going down, too," he said. "I have a baby coming in 2 weeks and that's all I could think about. We hit bottom, and I couldn't believe that I could open my eyes, I couldn't believe that I could move."

Gary Babineau was an ordinary man, but he became a first responder and he helped save lives. At the moment that he was needed he did it. We kind of expect that that's what Americans would do. We're just good people, we help each other in time of need. And here in this tragedy, as we have seen other tragedies that have befallen our Nation, when things didn't go exactly right in the recovery effort, here in Minnesota we saw that things were right. It happened right. And the reason why it happened right was because of first responders, official first responders, nonofficial first responders. But they did what was right because they acted out of love, out of a heart of love for their fellow man.

So I thank those first responders, the firemen, the policemen, the average Joes, the Gary Babineaus in their

truck. And I thank the Federal officials, our President, our Members of Congress. I thank the county officials, the city officials, the State officials. Everybody did what was right.

But thank you, Congressman ELLISON. This was the right resolution to bring forward today to honor these selfless individuals who none of us could live without. Thank you, first responders. I encourage my colleagues to give us a unanimous vote to this wonderful resolution.

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, we in Minnesota rarely refer to Minneapolis without mentioning our sister city of St. Paul, our Twin Cities, and we are fortunate that these two cities have excellent representation in their two Representatives.

It's a real pleasure for me to yield as much time as she may consume, her dedication and leadership in this matter has been outstanding, and I give as much time as needed to Congresswoman MCCOLLUM.

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Congressman WALZ, it would go without saying that the Twin Cities, my district, is doing whatever we can in support both with volunteers, with thoughts, with prayers, and with anything that would come forward in a special session to support the tragedy that has taken place in southern Minnesota. And much of what we can say about our first responders we can also say about the first responders in your district.

Madam Speaker, it has been just over a month since we saw the unthinkable happen in Minneapolis; the collapse of the I-35W bridge into the Mississippi River shocked our Nation. For Minnesotans, it was only the beginning of an ordeal that we will never forget.

In the hours and days that followed, we waited quietly for the word of missing loved ones. We watched anxiously as skilled Navy and FBI divers searched the treacherous wreckage and felt our hearts grow heavy again when we heard the news of each recovered victim. A month later, we continue to grieve for the 13 who lost their lives that evening, six of them my constituents.

Our prayers are with the survivors, whose deep physical and emotional injuries have yet to heal. But along with the twisted metal and sunken concrete, the aftermath of the bridge collapse also brought us the unforgettable images of courage and hope. The off-duty firefighter, without any diving gear, going under the water again and again to search cars for trapped victims; the bus driver, counselors, and others on the bridge who threw open the emergency exit of a yellow school bus and made sure that all 61 of the children got to safety.

The bridge's collapse may have shocked the Nation, but the response of Minnesota's emergency personnel, public servants and ordinary citizens awed and inspired the Nation. Again and again my colleagues in Congress have

approached me to express their amazement at the compassion and strength of our community.

Madam Speaker, this resolution honors the courage and selflessness of all Minnesotans involved in this disaster. It honors the first responders who rushed to the scene evacuating scores of victims and saving countless lives. It honors the medical personnel who worked and still work tirelessly to heal the injured. It honors the local and national recovery teams who carried out the excruciating and difficult search of the wreckage and bringing closure to the family and friends of the victims. It honors ordinary Minnesotans who were at every step of the way, from those who dove into the water to save lives immediately after the collapse to those who continue to offer time, material support, emotional comfort for grieving families today.

Our recovery effort is not over yet. The Twin Cities community will feel the consequences of the bridge's collapse for years to come. As we turn to the task of adjusting our daily commutes and planning to rebuild the bridge, we must also begin to repair and rebuild the other bridges and infrastructure in Minnesota that are in danger. We also must work to rebuild the infrastructure across this Nation.

This resolution honors the strength, the sympathy, the steadfastness of the people of Minnesota that we saw so clearly in the wake of this tragedy. And I have faith that these same courageous qualities will see us through the challenges ahead.

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota, Congressman KLINE.

□ 1345

Mr. KLINE of Minnesota. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today in support of H. Res. 606 to honor all of those who so bravely risked their lives in the face of this catastrophe. I had the privilege of meeting with many of the first responders, volunteer organizations, local and State officials in my tours of the site of the collapse.

The first emergency personnel on the scene responded to the tragedy without hesitation, as has been discussed by my colleagues here today. They risked their health and safety to rescue victims and to provide emergency care to the injured. Scores of ordinary people did, indeed, become extraordinary citizens following the tragedy by rushing to the aid of their fellow Minnesotans. The outpouring of support and assistance from surrounding communities, including more than 50 volunteer organizations, was tremendous. Throughout the rescue and recovery mission, there have been countless stories of the generosity by the citizens of Minnesota. From organizing blood drives to caring for the needs of the bridge recovery workers, Minnesotans continue to go above and beyond the call of duty. In a

time of sadness and sorrow for so many, we remain thankful for the true kindness and compassion of Minnesotans.

Madam Speaker, I would like to take just a minute here to discuss, as some of my colleagues have alluded to, another catastrophe which struck the State of Minnesota in Mr. WALZ's district. My family has a farm down in Houston, Minnesota, in the very southeastern tip, and I spent 3 days there at the end of the August break. It is distressing. It is an awesome power that we saw when those creeks and rivers flooded and the destruction is immense. Again, it is not just the first responders in Minneapolis and the surrounding communities, but I am sure that my friend and colleague from the First District, Mr. WALZ, can attest to the fact that first responders throughout the State came to the aid of those in southeast Minnesota.

So, Madam Speaker, as always, we are mindful of the lives that were lost in both tragedies and our thoughts and prayers continue to be with the victims and their families and with all Minnesotans as we recover and rebuild.

I want to thank the gentleman, my colleague, Mr. ELLISON, for offering this legislation and bringing it forward and Mr. WALZ for his leadership.

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this very fitting resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, first of all, to my colleague from Missouri, I thank him so much for helping manage on this. The poignant comments made by my fellow Minnesotans was heartfelt and I think put best maybe by Representative BACHMANN that this issue truly brought us together. I want to send a special thank-you to this entire body for the response that was given to the people of Minnesota in light of this tragedy.

As we speak, the dean of our delegation, Chairman OBERSTAR, is holding hearings on this very issue of bridges across America to make sure we don't have a repeat of this incident and understand everything that we can do to hopefully prevent this type of tragedy. He is meeting with Secretary of Transportation Peters and the mayor of Minneapolis, Mayor Rybak, is in town talking on this very issue.

So it is appropriate that we honor those that sacrificed and gave so much in light of this tragedy and it is appropriate that we move forward to prevent it in the future.

I also thank my colleague and friend from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE) for his kind words. He is very familiar with my district. His family has roots there. He has a farm there. He knows firsthand the devastation that was wrought on those counties. We lost seven of our fellow Minnesotans. We had seven counties that are national disasters.

The response has been fantastic from both State, local and Federal officials. When you get 17 inches of rain in 24 hours, it brings great tragedy.

President Bush was kind enough and showed leadership in coming to Minnesota, promising a quick response and delivered. He also made a comment and made sure that one of our towns that was virtually destroyed, Rushford, Minnesota, needed to get back defending their State football championship. I am glad to report that they won Friday night, quite convincingly.

This disaster and the response from it, the silver lining of this is the great human qualities of compassion, courage, selfless service were shown by our first responders and everyone involved. It is a pleasure for me to put my name to a piece of legislation like this.

I thank and urge my colleagues to vote unanimously for H. Res. 606.

Mr. RAMSTAD. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution honoring the city of Minneapolis, first responders and Minnesota citizens for their heroic efforts following the I-35W bridge collapse.

No Minnesotan will ever forget August 1, 2007, the day the 8-lane bridge collapsed into the Mississippi River.

No Minnesotan will forget the tragic loss of 13 people, the serious injuries and incredible devastation caused by the falling bridge.

And Minnesotans will never forget the countless acts of heroism they witnessed that day from first responders and concerned bystanders that ignored danger and rushed to help victims.

In spite of the devastation, chaos and confusion, there was a highly organized response from Minnesota officials, firefighters, law enforcement and EMS personnel, the Minnesota National Guard, the Twin Cities Red Cross, local hospitals and the individuals, charities and businesses that donated time, money and goods. It made me proud to be a Minnesotan.

America also witnessed an incredible story in the midst of that terrible disaster—the school bus on the collapsed bridge filled with children who miraculously survived the ordeal.

Our deepest gratitude goes to every person who responded to this disaster, saving lives, caring for the injured and comforting victims and their families.

A special thanks to Governor Pawlenty for his great leadership, as well as Hennepin County Sheriff Rich Stanek, Minneapolis Mayor R. T. Rybak, the author of this resolution, Representative KEITH ELLISON, and the dean of our Minnesota Congressional delegation, JIM OBERSTAR, for his leadership in moving bridge funding legislation last month.

Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to support this resolution honoring the people who responded so bravely to the Minnesota bridge collapse.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 606, introduced by my colleague from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON). I extend my gratitude for his work to introduce this resolution and bring it forth for consideration on the House floor.

On August 1, 2007, at 6:05 p.m., during the evening rush hour, the bridge on Interstate 35 W spanning the Mississippi River suddenly collapsed. The eight-lane, steel truss bridge span carried approximately 140,000 vehicles

each day. This horrific catastrophe claimed the lives of 13 people; 123 other individuals were injured.

Visions of this tragedy and the destruction left in the wake of the bridge collapse remain etched in our memories. Yet the scenes of the damage have been softened by the touching images of the hundreds of fire fighters, police officers, including the University of Minnesota police, and emergency response personnel that rushed to aid their fellow citizens. The direct actions of these civil servants and citizens immediately following this tragedy are examples of extraordinary courage.

The brave men and women who were first on the scene, and remained working around the clock after the collapse, helped to minimize the toll of this tragedy and undoubtedly saved lives. The aftermath of the collapse has also been made easier to bear with the help from over 50 organizations and local governments and a national outpouring of sympathy and prayers.

A few months ago, the people of Minnesota suffered a different kind of catastrophe: a raging forest fire. The blaze began on May 5, 2007, in the Gunflint Trail area in far northeastern Minnesota, roared across the Canadian border, and then returned to Minnesota to devastate my district. It consumed nearly 76,000 acres and destroyed 140 structures. Many first responders heeded the call to this fire. The dedicated men and women of the Gunflint Trail Volunteer Fire Department were among the first to arrive on the scene, followed by firefighters and fire departments from across the region. In all, over 1,000 personnel assisted in fighting this blaze. No lives were lost, there were only 11 minor injuries, and 759 structures were saved thanks to the efforts of these responders.

The responses to these disasters are just two examples of the countless selfless acts that our Nation's first responders carry out every day simply by doing their job. Twenty-four hours a day, every day of the year, all over this country, when any type of tragedy enters our lives, from a medical emergency facing a neighbor to a large-scale natural disaster, terrorist attack, or other incident, our Nation's emergency responders are the first on the scene to provide professional services, expert help, aid and comfort. These well-trained, highly-skilled individuals are truly on the front lines in preparing for, responding to, and mitigating damages from a variety of hazards.

Across the country, the millions of men and women who serve this nation as police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel, including those in Minnesota, place themselves in great danger every day in order to protect each one of us. They deserve our deepest thanks and respect.

I stand with Congressman ELLISON in recognizing the outstanding work and effort of the first responders in response to the tragic bridge collapse in Minnesota and laud their unflinching dedication to duty. While we can never adequately express our gratitude to the brave men and women, this resolution is a fitting tribute.

I strongly support this resolution and urge its passage.

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the good people of Minnesota who have banded together to begin the healing process. When

that bridge fell on August 1st, every citizen of my state felt the grief and the pain together. It has certainly been a difficult month for everyone, but I am so proud of the first responders, of the volunteers, and of my colleagues here in the House. I'd like to give a special thanks to Chairman OBERSTAR, for acting so quickly. He has represented the State of Minnesota, and the House very well. I'd also like to say that Representative ELLISON has done a remarkable job in representing his district during these trying times.

It is a shame that it sometimes takes the worst events to bring out the best in people, but I am so proud of the wonderful actions Minnesotans have taken to help the victims of the I-35W Bridge. I think the people involved in the recovery actions have truly demonstrated the incredible character of Minnesota's citizens.

Nothing can replace what was lost on August 1st. No amount of money will do that. Neither will a new bridge. But the strength of the community has shown through during this long road to healing. Thank you Representative ELLISON, thank you to the members of the Minnesota Delegation and thank you to all my colleagues who have helped support the citizens of my State.

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. 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 Minnesota (Mr. WALZ) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 606.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

- H. Res. 552, by the yeas and nays;
- H. Res. 629, by the yeas and nays;
- H. Res. 508, by the yeas and nays;
- H. Res. 544, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA TO REMOVE BARRIERS TO UNITED STATES FINANCIAL SERVICES FIRMS DOING BUSINESS IN CHINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 552, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. MARSHALL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 552.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 401, nays 4, not voting 27, as follows:

[Roll No. 850]

YEAS—401

Abercrombie	Crowley	Hodes	Miller (MI)	Reichert
Ackerman	Cubin	Hoekstra	Miller (NC)	Space
Aderholt	Cuellar	Holden	Miller, Gary	Spratt
Akin	Culberson	Holt	Miller, George	Stark
Alexander	Cummings	Honda	Mitchell	Stearns
Allen	Davis (AL)	Hoyer	Moore (KS)	Stupak
Altmine	Davis (CA)	Hulshof	Moore (WI)	Sullivan
Andrews	Davis (IL)	Inglis (SC)	Moran (KS)	Sutton
Arcuri	Davis (KY)	Inslee	Moran (VA)	Tanner
Baca	Davis, David	Israel	Murphy (CT)	Tauscher
Bachus	Davis, Lincoln	Issa	Murphy, Patrick	Taylor
Baird	Davis, Tom	Jackson (IL)	Murphy, Tim	Thompson (CA)
Baker	Deal (GA)	Jackson-Lee	Murtha	Thompson (MS)
Baldwin	DeFazio	(TX)	Musgrave	Thornberry
Barrett (SC)	DeGette	Jefferson	Myrick	Tiaht
Barrow	Delahunt	Johnson (GA)	Nadler	Tiberi
Bartlett (MD)	DeLauri	Johnson (IL)	Napolitano	Tierney
Barton (TX)	Dent	Jones (NC)	Neal (MA)	Towns
Bean	Dicks	Jones (OH)	Neugebauer	Turner
Becerra	Dingell	Jordan	Oberstar	Sánchez, Linda
Berkley	Doggett	Kagen	Obey	Sarbanes
Berman	Donnelly	Kanjorski	Olver	Saxton
Berry	Doolittle	Kaptur	Ortiz	Schakowsky
Biggert	Doyle	Keller	Pallone	Visclosky
Bilbray	Drake	Kennedy	Pascarella	Walberg
Bilirakis	Dreier	Kildee	Pastor	Walden (OR)
Bishop (GA)	Duncan	Kilpatrick	Payne	Walsh (NY)
Bishop (NY)	Edwards	Kind	Pearce	Sensenbrenner
Bishop (UT)	Ehlers	King (IA)	Pence	Wamp
Blackburn	Ellison	King (NY)	Serrano	
Blumenauer	Ellsworth	Kingston	Perlmutter	
Blunt	Emanuel	Klein (FL)	Peterson (MN)	
Boehner	Emerson	Kline (MN)	Peterson (PA)	
Bonner	Engel	Knollenberg	Petri	
Bono	English (PA)	Kuhl (NY)	Pickering	
Boozman	Eshoo	LaHood	Pitts	
Boren	Etheridge	Lamborn	Poe	
Boswell	Everett	Lampson	Pomeroy	
Boucher	Fallin	Langevin	Porter	
Boustany	Farr	Lantos	Price (GA)	
Boyd (FL)	Fattah	Larsen (WA)	Price (NC)	
Boysa (KS)	Feeney	Larson (CT)	Skelton	
Brady (PA)	Ferguson	Latham	Pryce (OH)	
Brady (TX)	Filner	LaTourette	Putnam	
Braley (IA)	Flake	Lee	Smith (NE)	
Brown (GA)	Forbes	Levin	Smith (NJ)	
Brown (SC)	Fortenberry	Lewis (GA)	Rahall	
Brown, Corrine	Fossella	Lewis (KY)	Ramstad	
Brown-Waite,	Fox	Linder	Rangel	
Ginny	Frank (MA)	Lipinski	Regula	
Buchanan	Franks (AZ)	LoBiondo	Solis	
Burgess	Frelenghuisen	Loebsack	Rehberg	
Burton (IN)	Gallegly	Lofgren, Zoe		
Butterfield	Garrett (NJ)	Lowey		
Buyer	Gerlach	Lungren, Daniel		
Calvert	Giffords	E.		
Camp (MI)	Gilchrest	Lynch		
Campbell (CA)	Gillibrand	Mack		
Cannon	Gingrey	Mahoney (FL)		
Cantor	Gohmert	Maloney (NY)		
Capito	Gonzalez	Manzullo		
Capps	Goode	Marchant		
Capuano	Goodlatte	Markey		
Cardoza	Granger	Marshall		
Carnahan	Graves	Matheson		
Carney	Green, Al	Matsui		
Carson	Green, Gene	McCarthy (CA)		
Carter	Grijalva	McCarthy (NY)		
Castle	Gutierrez	McCaul (TX)		
Castor	Hall (NY)	McCollum (MN)		
Chabot	Hall (TX)	McCrary		
Chandler	Hare	McDermott		
Clarke	Harman	McGovern		
Clay	Hastert	McHenry		
Cleaver	Hastings (FL)	McHugh		
Clyburn	Hastings (WA)	McIntyre		
Coble	Hayes	McKeon		
Cohen	Heller	McMorris		
Cole (OK)	Hensarling	Rodgers		
Conaway	Herger	McNerney		
Conyers	Herseth Sandlin	McNulty		
Cooper	Higgins	Meek (FL)		
Costa	Hill	Meeks (NY)		
Costello	Hinchey	Melancon		
Courtney	Hinojosa	Mica		
Cramer	Hirono	Michaud		
Crenshaw	Hobson	Miller (FL)		

NAYS—4

NOT VOTING—27

Bachmann	Lewis (CA)	Tancredo
Davis, Jo Ann	Lucas	Terry
Gordon	Mollohan	Wasserman
Hooley	Paul	Schultz
Hunter	Platts	Watson
Jindal	Royce	Weller
Johnson, E. B.	Ruppersberger	Wilson (NM)
Johnson, Sam	Sanchez, Loretta	Young (AK)
Kirk	Schwartz	
Kucinich	Shimkus	

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Mr. McCOTTER changed his vote from "yea" to "nay."

Mr. BERRY, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, and Mrs. DAVIS of California changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 850, I was in a meeting in my district at the National Security Agency with NSA Director, General Alexander. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."