

Ros-Lehtinen	Shuster	Udall (CO)	Boren	Frank (MA)	Marshall	Scott (GA)	Spratt	Walberg
Roskam	Simpson	Udall (NM)	Boswell	Franks (AZ)	Matheson	Scott (VA)	Stark	Walden (OR)
Ross	Sires	Upton	Boucher	Frelinghuysen	Matsui	Sensenbrenner	Stearns	Walsh (NY)
Rothman	Skelton	Van Hollen	Boustany	Gallegly	McCarthy (CA)	Serrano	Stupak	Walz (MN)
Roybal-Allard	Slaughter	Velázquez	Boyd (FL)	Garrett (NJ)	McCarthy (NY)	Sessions	Sullivan	Wamp
Ruppersberger	Smith (NE)	Visclosky	Boyd (KS)	Gerlach	McCaul (TX)	Sestak	Sutton	Waters
Rush	Smith (NJ)	Walberg	Brady (PA)	Giffords	McCollum (MN)	Shadegg	Tanner	Watt
Ryan (OH)	Smith (TX)	Walden (OR)	Brady (TX)	Gillibrand	McCotter	Shea-Porter	Tauscher	Waxman
Ryan (WI)	Smith (WA)	Walsh (NY)	Braley (IA)	Gingrey	McCrery	Sherman	Taylor	Weiner
Salazar	Snyder	Walz (MN)	Broun (GA)	Gohmert	McDermott	Shuler	Thompson (CA)	Welch (VT)
Sali	Solis	Wamp	Brown (SC)	Gonzalez	McGovern	Shuster	Thompson (MS)	Weldon (FL)
Sánchez, Linda T.	Souder	Waters	Brown, Corrine	Goode	McHenry	Simpson	Thornberry	Westmoreland
Sarbanes	Space	Watt	Brown-Waite,	Goodlatte	McHugh	Sires	Tiahrt	Wexler
Saxton	Spratt	Waxman	Brown, Waite,	Gordon	McIntyre	Skelton	Tiberi	Whitfield
Schakowsky	Stark	Weiner	Buchanan	Granger	McKeon	Slaughter	Tierney	Wicker
Schiff	Stearns	Welch (VT)	Burgess	Graves	McMorris	Smith (NE)	Towns	Wilson (OH)
Schmidt	Stupak	Weldon (FL)	Burton (IN)	Green, Al	Morris	Smith (NJ)	Turner	Wilson (SC)
Scott (GA)	Sullivan	Westmoreland	Butterfield	Green, Gene	McNerney	Smith (TX)	Udall (CO)	Wolf
Scott (VA)	Sutton	Wexler	Buyer	Grijalva	McNulty	Smith (WA)	Udall (NM)	Woolsey
Sensenbrenner	Tanner	Whitfield	Calvert	Gutierrez	Meek (FL)	Snyder	Upton	Wu
Serrano	Tauscher	Wicker	Camp (MI)	Hall (NY)	Meeks (NY)	Solis	Van Hollen	Wynn
Sessions	Taylor	Wilson (OH)	Cannon	Hall (TX)	Melancon	Souder	Velázquez	Yarmuth
Sestak	Thompson (CA)	Wilson (SC)	Cantor	Hare	Mica	Space	Visclosky	Young (FL)
Shadegg	Thompson (MS)	Wolf	Capito	Harman	Michaud			
Shays	Thornberry	Wu	Capps	Hastert	Miller (FL)			
Shea-Porter	Tiahrt	Wynne	Capuano	Hastings (FL)	Miller (MI)			
Sherman	Tierney	Yarmuth	Cardoza	Hastings (WA)	Miller (NC)			
Shuler	Towns	Young (FL)	Carney	Hayes	Miller, Gary			
	Turner		Carson	Heller	Miller, George			
			Carter	Hensarling	Mitchell			
			Castle	Herger	Moore (KS)			
			Castor	Higgins	Moore (WI)			
			Chabot	Hill	Moran (KS)			
			Chandler	Hinche	Moran (VA)			
			Clarke	Hinojosa	Murphy (CT)			
			Clay	Hirono	Murphy, Patrick			
			Cleaver	Hobson	Murphy, Tim			
			Clyburn	Hodes	Murtha			
			Coble	Hoekstra	Musgrave			
			Cohen	Holden	Myrick			
			Cole (OK)	Holt	Nadler			
			Conaway	Honda	Napolitano			
			Conyers	Hoyer	Neal (MA)			
			Cooper	Hulshof	Neugebauer			
			Costa	Inglis (SC)	Nunes			
			Costello	Inslee	Oberstar			
			Courtney	Israel	Obey			
			Cramer	Issa	Olver			
			Crenshaw	Jackson (IL)	Ortiz			
			Crowley	Jackson-Lee	Pallone			
			Cubin	(TX)	Pascrell			
			Cuellar	Jefferson	Pastor			
			Culberson	Johnson (GA)	Payne			
			Cummings	Johnson (IL)	Pearce			
			Davis (AL)	Jones (NC)	Pence			
			Davis (CA)	Jones (OH)	Perlmutter			
			Davis (IL)	Jordan	Peterson (MN)			
			Davis (KY)	Kagen	Peterson (PA)			
			Davis, David	Kanjorski	Petri			
			Davis, Lincoln	Keller	Pickering			
			Davis, Tom	Kennedy	Pitts			
			Deal (GA)	Kildee	Poe			
			DeFazio	Kilpatrick	Pomeroy			
			DeGette	Kind	Porter			
			DeLahunt	King (IA)	Price (GA)			
			DeLauro	King (NY)	Price (NC)			
			Dent	Kingston	Pryce (OH)			
			Diaz-Balart, L.	Kirk	Putnam			
			Diaz-Balart, M.	Klein (FL)	Rahall			
			Dicks	Kline (MN)	Ramstad			
			Dingell	Knollenberg	Rangel			
			Doggett	Kuhl (NY)	Regula			
			Donnelly	LaHood	Rehberg			
			Doolittle	Lamborn	Reichert			
			Doyle	Lampson	Renzi			
			Drake	Langevin	Reyes			
			Dreier	Lantos	Reynolds			
			Duncan	Larsen (WA)	Richardson			
			Edwards	Latham	Rodriguez			
			Ehlers	LaTourette	Rogers (AL)			
			Ellison	Lee	Rogers (KY)			
			Ellsworth	Levin	Rogers (MI)			
			Emanuel	Lewis (CA)	Rohrabacher			
			Emerson	Lewis (GA)	Roskam			
			Engel	Lewis (KY)	Ross			
			English (PA)	Linder	Rothman			
			Eshoo	Lipinski	Roybal-Allard			
			Etheridge	LoBiondo	Ruppersberger			
			Everett	Lofgren, Zoe	Rush			
			Fallin	Lowe	Ryan (OH)			
			Farr	Lungren, Daniel E.	Ryan (WI)			
			Fattah	Lynch	Salazar			
			Ferguson	Mack	Sánchez, Linda T.			
			Finer	Mahoney (FL)	Sarbanes			
			Flake	Maloney (NY)	Saxton			
			Forbes	Manullo	Schakowsky			
			Fortenberry	Marchant	Schiff			
			Fossella	Markey	Schmidt			
			Fox					

NOT VOTING—27

Bachmann	Lucas	Tiberi
Bachus	Mollohan	Wasserman
Davis, Jo Ann	Paul	Schultz
Herseth Sandlin	Platts	Watson
Hooley	Royce	Weller
Hunter	Sanchez, Loretta	Wilson (NM)
Jindal	Schwartz	Woolsey
Johnson, E. B.	Shimkus	Young (AK)
Johnson, Sam	Tancredo	
Kucinich	Terry	

□ 1442

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY AND PLEDGING SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF SEVERE FLOODING IN EASTERN KANSAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SARBANES). The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 544, 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 Vermont (Mr. WELCH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 544.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 397, nays 0, not voting 35, as follows:

[Roll No. 853]

YEAS—397

Abercrombie	Baker	Bilbray
Ackerman	Baldwin	Bilirakis
Aderholt	Barrett (SC)	Bishop (GA)
Akin	Barrow	Bishop (NY)
Alexander	Bartlett (MD)	Bishop (UT)
Allen	Barton (TX)	Blackburn
Altmire	Bean	Blumenauer
Andrews	Becerra	Blunt
Arcuri	Berkley	Boehner
Baca	Berman	Bonner
Bachus	Berry	Bono
Baird	Biggert	Boozman

NOT VOTING—35

Bachmann	Kaptur	Sanchez, Loretta
Campbell (CA)	Kucinich	Schwartz
Carnahan	Larson (CT)	Shays
Davis, Jo Ann	Loeback	Shimkus
Feeney	Lucas	Tancredo
Gilchrist	Mollohan	Terry
Herseth Sandlin	Paul	Wasserman
Hooley	Platts	Schultz
Hunter	Radanovich	Watson
Jindal	Ros-Lehtinen	Weller
Johnson, E. B.	Royce	Wilson (NM)
Johnson, Sam	Sali	Young (AK)

□ 1449

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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken tomorrow.

RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING ALL WHO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO FAMILIES AND CHILDREN OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 181) recognizing and commending all volunteers and other persons who provide support to the families and children of members of the Armed Forces, including National Guard and Reserve personnel, who are deployed in service to the United States.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 181

Whereas there are 1.2 million children who are the sons or daughters of members of the Armed Forces, including more than 153,000 children of members of reserve components,

and more than one third of these children are under the age of five;

Whereas the families of members of the Armed Forces, and in particular their children, provide unconditional love and support to their loved ones serving in the Armed Forces before, during, and after their deployment;

Whereas the Department of Defense recognizes that the family of a deployed member of the Armed Forces also serves and has made a commitment to military families by establishing goals for a New Social Compact with members of the Armed Forces and their families;

Whereas the Government makes significant resources available to families and children of members of the Armed Forces who reside on or near a military installation, however, resources for families and children of deployed Reserve and National Guard members are often difficult to access because the families do not reside near a military installation;

Whereas a number of nonprofit organizations have dedicated themselves to ensuring that children of military families receive the support they urgently need while they cope with the deployment of parents, in particular by providing essential extracurricular activities and programs for school-aged children of deployed Reserve and National Guard members;

Whereas these organizations include Our Military Kids, Inc., Parents as Teachers, Citizen Soldier Support program, Operation Homefront Inc., American Military Families, Inc., and Kids Serve 2; and

Whereas these programs and organizations have helped children of deployed members of the Armed Forces maintain as normal a life as possible by allowing funds to be used for a range of activities that might otherwise be unavailable to them: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress recognizes and commends all volunteers and other persons who provide support to the families and children of members of the Armed Forces, including National Guard and Reserve personnel, who are deployed in service to the United States and honors military families and the non-governmental organizations that support them.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ORTIZ) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, today we have the chance to thank the volunteers of nonprofit organizations who provide support for families and children of deployed members of the Armed Forces for their extraordinary contributions to those families.

I want to thank Congressman TOM DAVIS, Congressman JOE WILSON and others for their contributions and for helping us bring this resolution to the floor.

The families of United States troops serve this Nation by providing unconditional love and support for their deployed loved ones. While the government offers significant resources on military installations, when families live far away from a base, it is very hard to access those opportunities.

True patriots look at this kind of situation and ask, what can I do for my military families? That's what the patriots did who founded Our Military Kids, Kids Serve 2, and several other organizations that recognize and support military families.

These organizations' founders recognized the families' contributions and identified the need to provide opportunities and resources for their families, especially for the families and children of deployed Guard and Reserve troops.

The organizations' contributions are so significant that in May, General David Petraeus, the United States Army Commanding General of the Multinational Force-Iraq, personally thanked Our Military Kids for their great work and support for Guard and Reserve troops' families.

Our Military Kids is a nonprofit organization which is wholly devoted to offering financial resources and grants for children K-12 of deployed and severely injured Reserve and National Guard personnel. Our Military Kids helps families participate in sports, arts and tutoring programs that are so important to children during those stressful times.

Today my resolution puts the House of Representatives on record as supporting the excellent work these nonprofit groups do to support the children and families of deployed troops. I ask the House to support this resolution and thank the founders and volunteers at Our Military Kids and at the other nongovernmental groups that support military families.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the May 8 letter from General Petraeus be included for the RECORD.

MAY 8, 2007.

LINDA DAVIDSON,
Executive Director, Our Military Kids,
McLean, Virginia.

DEAR MS. DAVIDSON: On behalf of the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen serving in Iraq, especially our Reserve and National Guard component forces, I want to thank you for the support of your wonderful organization, Our Military Kids.

We ask a lot of today's military families. And I know that families of National Guard and Reserve forces, in particular, often feel a strain when their loved ones are called to active duty. These troopers not only leave their families at home, but they also leave their civilian jobs, adding financial stress to the other stresses associated with deployment. The support your organization provides through generous financial grants helps to mitigate that financial stress. In doing so, you are making tough deployments that much easier on the forces deployed and their families at home. I applaud the efforts of your organization.

Thanks again for the important assistance you provide to our servicemembers and their families.

Sincerely,

DAVID H. PETRAEUS,
General, U.S. Army, Commanding.

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 181, a resolution authored by Congressman SOLOMON ORTIZ, a dedicated member of the Armed Services Committee who is a proven friend of servicemembers and their families.

This resolution commends a large group of selfless and dedicated people, many of whom are volunteers, in organizations that provide support to the families and children of deployed Members of the armed forces.

As a 31-year veteran of the Army Reserve and National Guard, and as the proud father of four sons in the military, I know firsthand the rewards of service protecting American families and learning valuable skills.

Our military families face extraordinary demands, stresses and challenges related to the service of their loved ones. Every soldier, sailor, airman and marine understands the challenges they will face as well as the sacrifices their families must also make. These include extended deployments, risk of injury and death, frequent relocations, long and unpredictable hours, and the unfamiliar customs and lifestyles of foreign lands.

Many military families have multiple family members, which substantially outnumber the servicemembers themselves. According to a recent Army report, there are more than 1.8 million family members compared to 1.3 million active duty personnel. Beyond the statistics, however, is the reality that supporting and meeting the needs of military families is a matter of military readiness.

Every branch of the military as well as the Department of Defense provide significant resources to the spouses and children of members of the Armed Forces. Much of the excellent support is provided on and through military installations.

Actually, most military families do not live on military installations. Nearly two-thirds of the active duty Army family members live off post, and for virtually all the families of National Guard troops and reservists who reside in civilian communities, there is the challenge of ensuring access to the support they need, particularly during extended periods of mobilization and deployment.

To ensure that military families get the proper support wherever they live, numerous nongovernmental organizations have sprung up. This extraordinary community of volunteer and nonvolunteer groups seek to ease the challenges and promote the extraordinary opportunities of military life in many ways.

For example, some of their efforts include providing essential extra-curricular activities for school-aged children, assisting new parents, building support systems in school districts not located on military installations, building bridges between local communities and military families to improve access to State and local services, and providing emergency and financial assistance.

Today's resolution, introduced by my colleague, Representative SOLOMON ORTIZ, is a fitting way to celebrate and thank such organizations as Our Military Kids, Parents As Teachers, Kids Serve 2, Operation Homefront, American Military Family, and the Citizen Soldier Support Program, along with other volunteer groups who help families and children of deployed members of the Armed Forces maintain as normal a life as possible.

Again, as a 31-year veteran of the South Carolina Army National Guard and having a son, Alan, who served for a year in Iraq as a member of the Army National Guard, I have seen firsthand the many challenges and opportunities our National Guard troops and their families face.

Many members of my former unit, the 218th Brigade commanded by Brigadier General Bob Livingston and currently stationed in Afghanistan, have families and loved ones that can benefit from the types of assistance these organizations and programs provide.

I urge my colleagues to support House Concurrent Resolution 181 and to recognize and commend all the volunteers and others who help to take care of our military families and children. This new greatest generation deserves our support and assistance whenever and wherever we can be of service.

Additionally, with personal sadness, my sympathy to the families of our late colleagues, PAUL GILLMOR of Ohio and Jennifer Dunn of Washington State.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

Mr. Speaker, I yield so much time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE).

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. I thank the gentleman from South Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 181, a resolution to honor the efforts of those volunteers that support military families when a servicemember is deployed.

It is a superhuman task to fight for your country and take care of your family from thousands of miles away. Thanks to the efforts of volunteers and not-for-profit organizations across the country, deployments are made somewhat easier. Volunteers give their time, energy, and, most importantly, their prayers.

□ 1500

Some offer their time at after school programs, others may help around the

house. However, no matter what they give, the difference they make in the lives of our military families is immeasurable.

Many nonprofit groups go beyond and provide backpacks, clothes and emergency funds to help military families. Beyond helping families in time of emergency, these organizations help with the problems associated with everyday life.

In particular, I'd like to recognize Hernando Home Front for their work with the families of the National Guard members who were activated from Brooksville, Florida. Whether they were builders, who helped in case the spouse had a problem, either a leaking roof or perhaps a plumbing problem that needed fixing, or just plain simple carpentry, this group was there. The home builders, various people throughout the community pitched in to help the family members of those National Guard units that were called up.

Mr. Speaker, our men and women in uniform give everything for their country, and it gives me great pleasure to recognize those who care enough to give back to them.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 181, a resolution I was proud to cosponsor with my colleague Congressman ORTIZ, which recognizes and commends the many thousands of volunteers who provide support to the families of deployed military personnel, including those serving in the National Guard and Reserve.

We make significant resources available to families and children of members of the Armed Forces who reside on or near military installations. But resources for families and children of National Guard and Reserve members are often difficult to access. Of the 1.2 million young sons and daughters of members of the Armed Forces, approximately 153,000 are children of those serving in the National Guard and Reserve.

These children also need help when parents deploy. The heroic work of these volunteers stresses the importance of maintaining childhood routines during times of stress and sacrifice. Grants supporting extra-curricular activities, including tutoring, sports, art, camping and other educational opportunities that might be missing when a parent is gone, keep families active and linked to their communities. The help and support provided by these organizations tells military families, particularly the children, that they have not been left behind, but that we all recognize the personal sacrifices they are making when their family serves in the military.

It's gratifying that many private non-profit organizations have been created by caring and thoughtful Americans to help fill this gap for Guard and Reserve children. This resolution recognizes and honors their work.

One outstanding example is an organization called Our Military Kids, Inc, created by Linda Davidson and Gail Krusel of McLean, Virginia. It is a small corporation that has continued to expand nationally, providing assistance and grants to the children of deployed or severely-injured parents in over 35 states this year. The positive effect they have had on children of the National Guard and Reserve cannot be overstated.

I salute the people behind Our Military Kids, Inc., and other organizations that have dedicated time, effort and money to assist our nation's military children. I ask my colleagues to stand up and join us in this resolution honoring their commitment and patriotic service.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 181 which recognizes and commends all volunteers and other persons who provide support to the families and children of members of the Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Reserve personnel, who are deployed in defense of the United States. I appreciate the work of my dear friend and our colleague, Congressman Solomon ORTIZ, in bringing this resolution to the floor today and commend him for his leadership on issues affecting military families. Congressman ORTIZ is Chairman of the Readiness Subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee. I think it is important to highlight that family readiness is first and foremost a readiness issue for our Armed Forces.

Never was this more apparent than on Congressman ORTIZ' recent Congressional Delegation to Guam in April 2007. The Congressional Delegation had the opportunity to meet with families and servicemembers of the Guam National Guard and Army Reserve. The Congressional Delegation heard firsthand accounts about the difficulties and challenges that are faced by military families during mobilization. The Congressional Delegation also heard how the families view their role in support of the soldier and reviewed the services that are available to them when a loved one is deployed. The testimonials of these families proved that our Nation is better served when families of deployed servicemembers are provided the best support and assistance at all times and from a variety of sources.

The Congressional Delegation also had the opportunity to meet with volunteers who help support families of Guard personnel and Reservists. It is volunteers that make the National Guard and Reserve family readiness programs a success. Volunteers in these readiness groups act as an extension of the unit by providing accurate command information. Most of the volunteers are the spouses of company commanders. The close ties of volunteers to company leadership also help foster a greater sense of community with shared benefits and help families navigate various issues at any time, but especially when a loved one is deployed. Without the support of thousands of volunteers across the country, many family readiness groups would not be able to provide the support that is needed for servicemembers families. It is important for these volunteers and the Congress to recognize the important role they fulfill in the readiness of our Armed Forces.

On Guam our families have recently endured many long deployments of their loved ones to the Horn of Africa and to other areas of the world associated with Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Volunteers have been crucial to the success of these family readiness efforts. In particular, in 2002 the Department of Defense recognized the family readiness group of Charlie Company, 411th Engineer Battalion of the Army Reserve for their instrumental service in

improving many facets of unit readiness, including a 99 percent retention rate and 90 percent attendance rate for drill. The family readiness group engaged in many community activities and each member attended special events of importance to the other families. It was these initiatives and community activities that helped bring the families of the deployed soldiers together and made enduring the long deployment more bearable.

The recognition awarded to the Charlie Company emphasizes the critical importance of providing the best family support possible during deployments. When families of the deployed soldiers are taken care of it relieves our soldiers of worrying about their daily tasks at home and helps them to focus on the mission at hand. Indeed, the readiness of our men and women in uniform goes beyond providing the best equipment or training that is available. It is required that we provide a strong sense of community for their families at all times. Family readiness must be viewed as a continuum of support that continues beyond a servicemember's mobilization. Without volunteers who donate countless hours to this effort, family assistance would not be as effective and the readiness of our Armed Forces would not be as strong as they are today. House Concurrent Resolution 181 raises appropriate awareness of the readiness of our Armed Forces and the value of military families. I hope that all of us will recognize the important ways in which families and family readiness groups contribute to the strength of our Nation's Armed Forces.

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, at this time I don't have any further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, at this time I have no further requests for time and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ORTIZ) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 181.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING THE SACRIFICE AND COURAGE OF THOSE WHO WERE KILLED IN THE CRANDALL CANYON MINE DISASTER, AND RECOGNIZING THE RESCUE CREWS FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING EFFORTS

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 631) honoring the sacrifice and courage of the six missing miners and three rescuers who were killed in the Crandall Canyon mine disaster in Utah, and recognizing the rescue crews for their outstanding efforts in the aftermath of the tragedies.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 631

Whereas on August 6, 2007, six miners, Kerry Allred, Don Erickson, Juan Carlos Payan, Brandon Phillips, Manuel Sanchez, and Jose Luis Hernandez, were trapped 1,800 feet below ground in the Crandall Canyon mine in Utah;

Whereas Federal, State, and local rescue crews worked relentlessly in an attempt to locate and rescue the trapped miners;

Whereas three rescuers, Gary Jensen, Brandon Kimber, and Dale "Bird" Black lost their lives during the rescue attempt;

Whereas the loss of the miners has had a tremendous effect on the local community;

Whereas the emergency efforts coordinated by the Emery County Sheriff's Department have been exemplary;

Whereas Utah is one of the largest coal producing States in the Nation, producing over 21 million tons of coal in 2005;

Whereas coal continues to be the economic engine for many communities;

Whereas during the last century over 100,000 coal miners have been killed in mining accidents in the Nation's coal mines;

Whereas the Nation is greatly indebted to coal miners for the difficult and dangerous work they perform to provide the fuel needed to operate the Nation's industries and to provide energy to homes and businesses; and

Whereas many residents of Emery County and Carbon County, Utah, and the surrounding areas, came together to support the miners' families and the community has been steadfast in its efforts to help the families of the missing and deceased: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House—

(1) recognizes Kerry Allred, Don Erickson, Juan Carlos Payan, Brandon Phillips, Manuel Sanchez, Jose Luis Hernandez, Gary Jensen, Brandon Kimber, and Dale "Bird" Black for their sacrifice in the Crandall Canyon, Utah coal mine;

(2) extends the deepest condolences of the Nation to the families of these men;

(3) recognizes the many volunteers who participated in the rescue efforts and provided support for the miners' families during the rescue operations; and

(4) honors the long national heritage of coal mining families and supports the tradition for the future.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may insert material relevant to H. Res. 631 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, this resolution is sponsored by Representative MATHESON from Utah where, just last month, six miners and three rescuers were lost in a mine tragedy at the Crandall Canyon mines.

Let me begin by expressing the horror and outrage I felt as I, like millions of other Americans, watched this tragedy unfold last month. First, six min-

ers, working some 1,500 feet underground, were trapped when the mine collapsed. And then three rescuers were killed as they mounted a dangerous operation to rescue their fellow miners. The operation was so dangerous it was actually called off.

The Crandall Canyon disaster joins the other mine tragedies that have occurred in the last 2 years. My heart goes out to the families of the lost miners. My heart goes out to the rescuers who were also killed at Crandall Canyon.

This tragedy is compounded by the fact that the administration and the mining industry have not taken the necessary steps to stop them. There is a background piece on mine safety actually that has been prepared by the staff of the Education and Labor Committee and is available on the committee Web site. I really hope that Members will access this information. The paper actually provides background on the situation prior to the year 2006, the accidents that year, the enactment of the MINER Act, and the work of the committee so far this year. It also includes a summary of the legislation introduced in June of this year by Chairman MILLER, by Chairman RAHALL, myself and others that are particularly relevant to the incident in Crandall Canyon. And this piece has some initial thoughts on the lessons of Crandall Canyon.

The full committee will be holding a hearing on the Crandall Canyon incident on October 3. Thereafter, the committee will be holding a markup on the legislation on which my subcommittee held a legislative hearing just before the recess. I hope all Members on both sides of the aisle will join us in our effort to bring the mine safety and health laws of this country into the 21st century.

But today, we are not here to talk about deficiencies in the laws or in problems with particular mine operators; rather, we're here to honor those whose lives were lost in this tragedy, all those who tried bravely to rescue them, honoring their families and all who lent a helping hand.

I know Representative MATHESON spent hours at the site and with the families, and I commend him for his hard work and courage.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to join both of my colleagues from Utah, as well as, apparently, the chairman of the Natural Resources Committee in expressing our profound sympathies for the Utah families who lost their loved ones at the Crandall Canyon mine. I'm not a miner, but I have been told that unless one has been a miner, it's impossible to understand the profession, the mindset and the courage that is displayed by those who work daily under dangerous conditions so that the rest of us can live in an element of comfort.

Today, this body honors six competent, courageous men who labored to