

Whereas approximately 1,000 babies are born with Sickle Cell Disease each year in the United States, with the disease occurring in approximately 1 in 300 newborn African American infants;

Whereas more than 2,000,000 Americans have the sickle cell trait, and 1 in 12 African Americans carry the trait;

Whereas there is a 1 in 4 chance that a child born to parents who both have the sickle cell trait will have the disease;

Whereas the life expectancy of a person with Sickle Cell Disease is severely limited, with an average life span for an adult being 45 years;

Whereas, though researchers have yet to identify a cure for this painful disease, advances in treating the associated complications have occurred;

Whereas researchers are hopeful that in less than two decades, Sickle Cell Disease may join the ranks of chronic illnesses that, when properly treated, do not interfere with the activity, growth, or mental development of affected children;

Whereas Congress recognizes the importance of researching, preventing, and treating Sickle Cell Disease by authorizing treatment centers to provide medical intervention, education, and other services and by permitting the Medicaid program to cover some primary and secondary preventative medical strategies for children and adults with Sickle Cell Disease;

Whereas the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Inc. remains the preeminent advocacy organization that serves the sickle cell community by focusing its efforts on public policy, research funding, patient services, public awareness, and education related to developing effective treatments and a cure for Sickle Cell Disease; and

Whereas the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Inc. has requested that the Congress designate September as Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month in order to educate communities across the Nation about sickle cell and the need for research funding, early detection methods, effective treatments, and prevention programs: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress supports the goals and ideals of Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H. Con. Res 210, which pays homage to a tradition that both the Senate and House have honored for over two decades.

In 1983, Congress first recognized September as the month to nationally commemorate sickle cell disease awareness. And it is in that same vein

today that I ask for support of H. Con. Res 210.

Sickle cell disease is an inherited blood disorder characterized by affected red blood cells that mutate into the shape of a crescent or sickle, and as such are unable to pass through small blood vessels. The horrific outcomes of this condition include considerable pain in one's arms, chest, legs and abdomen, anemia, gallstone, strokes, as well as damaging tissue in the liver, spleen, kidney, and death.

This disease affects over 70,000 Americans and cripples over 1,000 newborn babies each year in the United States. By supporting H. Con. Res 210, we acknowledge the importance of raising awareness for advance in sickle cell disease research, prevention treatment and potential cure.

As the sponsor of H. Con. Res 210, I would urge all of my colleagues to support swift passage of this bill.

I would also just note, Mr. Speaker, that the devastation of this disease on those who are affected by it is, indeed, tremendous. I have had firsthand experience with it by virtue of having run a sickle cell community education project for the University of Illinois in Chicago and came in contact with many of the patients and their families; saw the pain and suffering firsthand. And so I would urge passage of this resolution.

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

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

I congratulate Mr. DAVIS for bringing this important resolution to the floor.

This resolution seeks to bring attention to sickle cell disease and to support the designation of September as Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month.

Sickle cell disease is a deadly genetic blood disorder that strikes primarily people of African descent. Those affected by the disease most often appear to be healthy, but their lives are disturbed by sporadic and painful attacks in their arms, legs, chest and abdomen. SCD also causes the rapid destruction of sickle cells that results in multiple medical complications, including anemia, jaundice, gallstones, strokes, and restricted blood flow causing tissue damage, cardiovascular and organ damage.

Approximately 80,000 African Americans suffer from sickle cell disease, and millions are affected worldwide. Statistics shockingly show that one in every 350 African American babies born in the United States has the disease, and one in eight African American babies carry the sickle cell trait. There is a one-in-four chance that a child born to parents who both carry the sickle cell trait will have the disease. Life expectancy is limited, as an average life span for an adult with the disease is only about 45 years.

A universal cure, though, remains elusive. However, early diagnosis through newborn screening and education has improved survival and qual-

ity of life for those who suffer from SCD. Because SCD affects so many people and research funding is critical to effectively treating and ultimately preventing the disease, we are grateful for organizations such as the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America that continue to shine the light of hope for all of those affected.

Therefore, I ask my colleagues to support the designation of the month of September as National Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month so that communities throughout the country will become aware of this disease and the need for additional research, effective treatments and prevention programs that will ultimately lead to a cure.

I urge my colleagues to support House Concurrent Resolution 210.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Illinois, Representative BIGGERT, for her support of this resolution.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 210.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. 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 motion will be postponed.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS DAY

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 663) supporting the goals and ideals of Veterans of Foreign Wars Day.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 663

Whereas veterans of the Spanish-American War and Philippine Insurrection, the Nation's first major foreign conflicts, faced hardships to include a complete lack of medical care and pensions upon discharge from the service;

Whereas on September 29, 1899 the American Veterans of Foreign Service and in December 1899, the National Society of the Army of the Philippines, were established to advocate for the rights and benefits then denied to veterans of the Spanish-American War and Philippine Insurrection;

Whereas, in subsequent years, membership in these and other veterans organizations continued to grow;

Whereas these veterans organizations, recognizing their common goals and the importance of unity, merged to form the present-

day Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States in 1914;

Whereas membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars continued to grow and reached nearly 200,000 in 1936 when the organization received its Congressional Charter;

Whereas the 2.3 million members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Ladies Auxiliary remain committed to the organization's mission of "ensuring rights, remembering sacrifices, promoting patriotism, performing community services, and advocating for a strong national defense";

Whereas the organization continues this honorable mission by effectively advocating for our Nation's veterans, to include helping establish the present-day Department of Veterans Affairs, creating the Montgomery G.I. Bill, developing the national cemetery system, and assisting combat wounded veterans receive compensation for their injuries; and

Whereas the members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars celebrate the organization's establishment and achievements on September 29th while carrying on the vital mission of their predecessors; Now, therefore, be it:

Resolved, That the House of Representatives supports the goals and ideals of Veterans of Foreign Wars Day.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

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

As a Member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague in the consideration of H. Res. 663, a bill supporting the goals and ideals of Veterans of Foreign Wars Day.

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H. Res. 663, which has 57 cosponsors, was introduced by Representative JOHN KLINE on September 19, 2007. H. Res. 663 was reported from the Oversight and Government Reform Committee on September 20, 2007, by a voice vote.

Mr. Speaker, in 1899, veterans of the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection were upset by the poor treatment they received following their return from America's first major overseas conflict. As a result, the American Veterans of Foreign Service and the National Society of the Army of the Philippines were established to advocate for the rights and benefits then denied to veterans of foreign conflicts.

In 1914, these veteran organizations, recognizing their common goals and the importance of unity, merged to form the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the VFW, of the United States. In the 108 years since the VFW's founding, mem-

bers have proudly carried on the organization's mission of ensuring rights, remembering sacrifices, promoting patriotism, performing community services, and advocating for a strong national defense. The VFW has advocated for our Nation's veterans to include helping establish the present-day Department of Veterans Affairs, creating the Montgomery GI Bill of Rights, developing the national cemetery system, and assisting combat-wounded veterans in receiving compensation for their injuries for service to our Nation. I support the goals and ideas of Veterans of Foreign Wars Day, which honors our veterans' achievements and their service to our country.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague, Representative JOHN KLINE, for introducing this legislation, and I urge swift passage of this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the present-day Veterans of Foreign Wars organization traces its origin to 1899 when two organizations were founded to achieve benefits and recognition for United States veterans of the Spanish-American War. These veterans were committed to ensuring that their efforts in that conflict were recognized, honored, and respected by their government.

As the United States became involved in later foreign conflicts, the number of members of the VFW grew. The VFW received its congressional charter in 1936. Currently, there are 2.3 million members of the VFW and the Ladies Auxiliary. Efforts by the VFW were instrumental in establishing a Department of Veterans Affairs, the GI Bill, the national cemetery system, and assisting combat-wounded veterans to receive compensation for their injuries.

In recognition of their achievements in peacetime and the role of its members in wartime, I would ask that my colleagues honor the VFW and declare a Veterans of Foreign Wars Day. I urge my colleagues to join in supporting House Resolution 663.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, we have no further requests for time. I think there is no doubt there is no greater group of citizens in our country than those who have served and fought in foreign wars. I urge swift passage of this resolution.

Mr. KLINE of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, as a lifetime member of VFW Post 210 in Lakeville, Minnesota, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 663, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The VFW traces its roots back to 1899, when veterans of the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection founded local organizations to secure rights and benefits for their service.

Before that time, many of our veterans would return home wounded or sick. There was no medical care or veterans' pension for

them, and they were left to care for themselves.

The founders of the VFW sought to remedy that and provide support and encouragement to all of our veterans who had served in foreign wars. Their mission statement was straightforward, "to honor the dead by helping the living." Over time their mission expanded to "ensuring rights, remembering sacrifices, promoting patriotism, performing community services, and advocating for a strong national defense."

They have a rich history of advocacy. The VFW has been instrumental in establishing the Veterans Administration, creating a GI bill for the 20th century, the development of the national cemetery system, and the fight to ensure combat wounded veterans from all wars receive proper compensation.

In addition, they have been a powerful force behind the creation of the Vietnam, Korean War, World War II and Women in Military Service Memorials.

Today, the organization has grown to more than 2.3 million members worldwide and continues to advocate for all of our foreign veterans.

I applaud the work of these individuals. Their continued commitment to each other and this great country of ours is truly inspirational. I am humbled by the work they have done for our veterans and I am honored to be bringing this resolution to the floor.

Today, as we stand to celebrate the establishment and achievements of an organization that was born of patriotism, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, I would ask each of my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 663.

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding work the Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 696 in Owensboro, Kentucky continue to do to improve their community. Post 696 has exemplified the mission of the VFW: Honor the dead by helping the living.

The Post has donated over \$22,000 to local and state organizations in the past year. Beneficiaries of their generosity have included local schools, the Boy Scouts, shelters, and churches. Their generosity has also been extended to organizations such as the Wendell Foster Center, Shriners Hospitals, the Children's Wish Foundation, the Disabled American Veterans, and JEVCO.

Post 696 recently sponsored a going away picnic for the members of Ft. Campbell's Alpha Troop and their families being deployed to Iraq. The City of Owensboro adopted Alpha Troop through the Americans Supporting Americans' Adopt-a-Unit-Program. I thank the members of the troop for their service and the City of Owensboro for this commitment to these brave soldiers.

The VFW Post 696 Honor/Color Guard has been busy serving the community as well. Since 2001, they have participated in over 400 Veteran funerals and 50 community events in Daviess County.

I want to recognize the leaders of Post 696 Commander Richard "Ike" Eisenmenger Jr., Ladies Auxiliary President Marilu Goodsell, and Color/Honor Guard Commander Joseph Hayden. They have worked tirelessly to serve veterans and improve their community.

It is my privilege to honor the members of VFW Post 696 today, before the entire United States House of Representatives, for their past service to our country and continued dedication to serving their community.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 663.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. 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 motion will be postponed.

HUDSON-FULTON-CHAMPLAIN QUADRICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION ACT OF 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1520) to establish the Champlain Quadricentennial Commemoration Commission, the Hudson-Fulton 400th Commemoration Commission, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1520

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial Commemoration Act of 2007”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—FINDINGS AND PURPOSE

Sec. 101. Findings and purpose.

Sec. 102. Coordination.

TITLE II—CHAMPLAIN QUADRICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION COMMISSION

Sec. 201. Definitions.

Sec. 202. Champlain Quadricentennial Commemoration Commission.

Sec. 203. Audit of Commission.

Sec. 204. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE III—HUDSON-FULTON 400TH COMMEMORATION COMMISSION

Sec. 301. Definitions.

Sec. 302. Hudson-Fulton 400th Commemoration Commission.

Sec. 303. Audit of Commission.

Sec. 304. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE I—FINDINGS AND PURPOSE

SEC. 101. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

(1) The first European exploration of the Hudson River and Lake Champlain and the introduction of steam navigation to maritime commerce were events of major historical importance, both in the United States and internationally.

(2) In 1609, Englishman Henry Hudson, acting in the service of the Dutch East India Company, was the first European to sail up the river later named for him in the vessel HALF MOON. Also in 1609, French explorer Samuel de Champlain was the first European to see the lake later named for him, as well as the shores of Northern New York and Vermont.

(3) These voyages were two of the most significant passages in the European exploration and discovery of America, and included two of the earliest contacts in the New World between Native Americans and Europeans.

(4) These explorations led to the establishment of Fort Orange, a Dutch (and later English) settlement of what is now the capital city of the State of New York, as well as the establishment of French trading posts, military posts, and settlements as far south as Lake George. From these early establishments came trade, commerce, cultural, and religious impact deep into the Mohawk Valley and as far west as Lake Erie. These settlements influenced the Nation's history, culture, law, commerce, and traditions of liberty that extend to the present day, and that are constantly reflected in the position of the United States as the leader of the nations of the free world.

(5) In 1807, Robert Fulton navigated the Hudson River from the city of New York to Albany in the steamboat CLERMONT, successfully inaugurating steam navigation on a commercial basis. This event is one of the most important events in the history of navigation. It revolutionized waterborne commerce on the great rivers of the United States, transformed naval warfare, and fostered international relations through transoceanic travel and trade.

(6) In 1909, the Congress authorized a Champlain Tercentennial Commission and supported its activities. The Congress recognized the 350th anniversary by establishing a similar commission to coordinate Federal participation in the 1959 celebration of Hudson's and Champlain's discoveries.

(7) The National Park Service owns and operates significant resources in New York related to the early history of the Nation and the Hudson River Valley.

(8) In 2000, Canada's Province of Quebec established a Quebec 400 Commission with a budget in excess of \$1,000,000, of which commemoration of the 1609 Champlain voyage into the Lake Champlain region is a part.

(9) In 2002, the State of New York established a Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Commission.

(10) In 2003, the State of Vermont established a Lake Champlain Quadricentennial Commission.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to establish the Champlain Quadricentennial Commemoration Commission and the Hudson-Fulton 400th Commemoration Commission, to—

(1) ensure a suitable national observance of the Henry Hudson, Robert Fulton, and Samuel de Champlain 2009 commemorations through cooperation with and assistance to the programs and activities of New York, Vermont, and the commemorative commissions formed by these States;

(2) assist in ensuring that Hudson-Fulton-Champlain 2009 observances provide an excellent visitor experience and beneficial interaction between visitors and the natural and cultural resources of the New York and Vermont sites;

(3) assist in ensuring that Hudson-Fulton-Champlain 2009 observances are inclusive and appropriately recognize the diverse Hudson River and Lake Champlain Valley communities that developed over four centuries;

(4) facilitate international involvement, including the involvement of the commemorative commission formed by Canada, in the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain 2009 observances;

(5) support and facilitate marketing efforts for a commemorative coin, a commemorative stamp, and related activities for the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain 2009 observances;

(6) assist in the appropriate development of heritage tourism and economic benefits to the United States; and

(7) support and facilitate the related efforts of the Lake Champlain Basin Program in the coordination of efforts to commemorate the voyage of Samuel de Champlain.

SEC. 102. COORDINATION.

The two commissions established under this Act shall ensure coordination of their activities to achieve seamless and successful commemorations, and ensure consistency with the plans and programs of the commemorative commissions established by the States of New York and Vermont.

TITLE II—CHAMPLAIN QUADRICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION COMMISSION

SEC. 201. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) COMMEMORATION.—The term “commemoration” means the commemoration of the 400th anniversary of Samuel de Champlain's voyage.

(2) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission” means the Champlain Quadricentennial Commemoration Commission established by section 202(a).

(3) LAKE CHAMPLAIN BASIN PROGRAM.—The term “Lake Champlain Basin Program” means the partnership with Federal agencies established by the States of New York and Vermont under section 120 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1270) to implement the Lake Champlain management plan entitled “Opportunities for Action”.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(5) STATES.—The term “States”—

(A) means the States of New York and Vermont; and

(B) includes agencies and other entities of each such State.

SEC. 202. CHAMPLAIN QUADRICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION COMMISSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a commission to be known as the “Champlain Quadricentennial Commemoration Commission”.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall be composed of 11 members, of whom—

(A) 2 members shall be employees of the National Park Service, of whom—

(i) one shall be the Director of the National Park Service (or a designee of the Director); and

(ii) one shall be an employee of the National Park Service having experience relevant to the commemoration, who shall be appointed by the Secretary;

(B) 4 members shall be appointed by the Secretary from among individuals who, on the date of the enactment of this Act, are serving as members of the State of New York's Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial Commission and are residents of the Champlain Valley;

(C) 4 members shall be appointed by the Secretary from among individuals who, on the date of the enactment of this Act, are serving as members of the State of Vermont's Lake Champlain Quadricentennial Commission and are residents of Vermont; and

(D) one member shall be appointed by the Secretary from among individuals who have an interest in, demonstrated their support for, and demonstrated expertise appropriate to, the commemoration, and are knowledgeable of the Champlain Valley.

(2) TERM; VACANCIES.—

(A) TERM.—Each member of the Commission shall be appointed for the life of the Commission.