

rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 435, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE REPUBLIC OF SAN MARINO

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 236) recognizing the close relationship between the United States and the Republic of San Marino, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 236

Whereas the Republic of San Marino is the oldest republic in the world;

Whereas the Republic of San Marino was founded by those fleeing the religious persecution of the Roman Empire, and has adhered to the principles of tolerance and individual liberty throughout its history;

Whereas the United States and the Republic of San Marino have long held close ties based on common interests and common values;

Whereas the special bond between the Republic of San Marino and the United States was first expressed nearly a century and a half ago in an exchange of letters between President Abraham Lincoln and the Captains Regent of San Marino;

Whereas President Lincoln expressed in his letter his deep respect for the Republic of San Marino as “one of the most honored in all of history” and took encouragement from its example that a “government founded on republican principles is capable of being so administered as to be secure and enduring”;

Whereas the Republic of San Marino has been a steadfast ally of the United States in many international organizations, such as the United Nations and the International Monetary Fund;

Whereas the Republic of San Marino has been a close collaborator on a number of key economic issues, such as the protection of intellectual property;

Whereas the Republic of San Marino has been a close collaborator in the fight against terrorism, including efforts to combat international terrorist financing;

Whereas through its chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, the Republic of San Marino has worked to promote inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue;

Whereas earlier this year, the United States and the Republic of San Marino upgraded their diplomatic relations to ambassador-level, and exchanged the first bilateral Ambassadors in our history;

Whereas Paolo Rondelli, the first Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of San Marino to the United States, presented his credentials to President Bush at a ceremony at the White House on July 25, 2007; and

Whereas the Honorable Ronald P. Spogli presented credentials to the Captains Regent (co-Heads of State) in a ceremony in San Marino’s Palazzo Pubblico on March 8, 2007; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes the close relationship between the United States and the Republic of San Marino;

(2) expresses its deep gratitude to the Republic of San Marino for its close collaboration and support in issues of critical importance to our economic and national security interests; and

(3) commemorates the first bilateral exchange of Ambassadors in the history of our long relationship.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I would like to thank my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), for introducing this resolution that recognizes a small but important friend of the United States.

It is often said, Mr. Speaker, that good things come in small packages, and in the case of San Marino, this is certainly true. San Marino is the third smallest country in Europe, only Vatican City and Monaco being smaller.

San Marino, which is home to 29,000 inhabitants in a territory one-third the size of the District of Columbia, attracts several million visitors a year. The tourist industry makes up over 50 percent of the country’s GDP.

San Marino is said to be the oldest republic in the world. It was founded in 301 A.D. by Marinus of Rab, a Christian fleeing from religious persecution by the Roman Emperor.

Its constitution, which dates back to 1600, is the world’s oldest written constitution, and remains in effect to this day.

San Marino has been an active player at the international level, including the United Nations, International Monetary Fund, and Council of Europe. Through these bodies, San Marino has sought to promote interreligious and intercultural dialogue, as well as the protection of intellectual property.

San Marino has also cultivated a close friendship with the United States based on our shared values and interests. This relationship was first expressed when President Abraham Lincoln exchanged letters with the Captains Regent of San Marino.

Nearly 150 years after these letters were sent, the United States and San Marino upgraded their bilateral relations to include the first ever exchange

of ambassadors. President Bush welcomed San Marino’s new Ambassador, Paulo Rondelli, during a White House ceremony on July 25. U.S. Ambassador Ronald Spogli presented his credentials to the Captains Regent in San Marino’s Palazzo Pubblico on March 8. I welcome this development in our bilateral relations, and look forward to ever closer cooperation with our European ally.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution which recognizes the close relationship between our two countries, expresses gratitude to San Marino for its friendship and support, and commemorates the first ever exchange of ambassadors.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, let’s take a moment to recognize an ally whose relationship with the United States certainly exceeds its size. Completely surrounded by Italy, the European microstate of San Marino has the smallest population of all the members of the Council of Europe. Yet, San Marino has made a strong ally of the United States, most notably within a number of international institutions, including the United Nations and the International Monetary Fund. In fact, the U.S. and San Marino have collaborated closely on several key issues such as combating international terrorist financing and protecting intellectual property rights.

Moreover, San Marino has been a leader in promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue within the European Union. The value of our relationship was marked earlier this year by the first exchange of ambassadors between the U.S. and San Marino.

I, therefore, ask my colleagues to join me in supporting Ranking Member DREIER’s H. Con. Res. 236, recognizing our close relationship with the Republic of San Marino.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I reserve my time.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the author of this resolution, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) such time as he may consume.

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), for their very thoughtful remarks on this resolution.

I also want to join in expressing my appreciation to my fellow Californian, the distinguished Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Mr. LANTOS and, of course, the ranking Republican, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.

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I think both of the sets of remarks offered underscore something that is extraordinarily important, and that is that we thank and express our appreciation to our allies, no matter how

large or how small their populations, in dealing with the challenges that we face internationally.

But I will say I have a particular interest in the world's oldest republic because I am privileged to represent its namesake, the City of San Marino, California.

I had the privilege, Mr. Speaker, of leading the first bipartisan delegation to what, as my friend from New York correctly said, is the oldest republic on the face of the Earth, and we took this delegation back in 2004 to the Republic of San Marino. I had the opportunity to present to the Captains Regent, as was said, the co-heads of their state, of their government, a proclamation passed by the San Marino City Council expressing its greetings and appreciation for the friendship that they share.

San Marino, California, was named at its founding for the republic on the Adriatic Sea and displays in its seal Mount Titano, where the republic was first established. Today, like its namesake, San Marino, California, is known for its beauty. It is home to the Huntington Library and Gardens, one of Southern California's great treasures. But the relationship with the Republic of San Marino reaches far beyond beauty. It's my hope that this resolution will help to make us all more aware of the great bond the United States shares with this small, but very important, country.

The Republic of San Marino, as was said, was founded over 17 centuries ago by those who were fleeing the religious persecution of the Roman Empire. They founded a community based on liberty and tolerance 1,300 years before the Pilgrims would land on Plymouth Rock on a similar endeavor. Since those early days of the republic, San Marino has continued its strong tradition of democracy and freedom.

Our close bond, based on a shared commitment to these principles, was first, as my friend from New York said, recorded in history through an exchange of letters between President Lincoln and the Captains Regent. President Lincoln expressed in that letter his deep respect for the Republic of San Marino, saying, "as one of the most honored in all of world history."

Mr. Speaker, he took encouragement from its example that any "government founded on republican principles is capable of being so administered as to be secure and enduring." Those are the words of President Lincoln. Now, as our Nation faced a great crisis, Lincoln looked to the example of San Marino, which had endured for so long while standing with its small "r" republican foundation.

As the United States has faced new crises in the 20th and 21st centuries, it has again relied upon San Marino for its steadfast support within international institutions such as the United Nations. San Marino has been a close collaborator on a number of critical issues like combating international terrorist financing. This year

we have honored their friendship and support, as was said, by elevating our relationship to the ambassadorial level.

My good friend and fellow Californian Ron Spogli, as the first U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of San Marino, presented his credentials to the Captains Regent in a ceremony in San Marino's Palazzo Publico on March 8 of 2007. And as my friend from New York said, the exchange was completed when on July 25 of this year, Paolo Rondelli, the first Ambassador of the Republic of San Marino to the United States, presented his credentials to President Bush at the White House.

Mr. Speaker, today we honor this exchange of ambassadors, and we honor the close relationship between our Nation and the world's oldest republic and the fundamental values that bind us.

And, again, I thank my colleagues for their support of this resolution.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of Congressman DREIER's resolution.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, 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 New York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 236, as amended.

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. BOOZMAN. 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.

CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE OF ETHIOPIA ON ETHIOPIA'S SECOND MILLENNIUM

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 550) congratulating the people of Ethiopia on the second millennium of Ethiopia, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 550

Whereas Ethiopia is a proud country with a long, rich history;

Whereas the earliest known hominid, internationally known as Lucy and classified as the *Australopithecus Afarensis*, was found in Ethiopia;

Whereas in the 9th century, Ethiopians discovered coffee beans in what is now known as the Kaffa region;

Whereas Lalibela, a group of 11 medieval monolithic rock-hewn churches, was constructed in the 13th-century during the Zagwe Dynasty;

Whereas in 1978, Lalibela was recognized on the World Heritage List as a property considered to have outstanding universal cultural value by the World Heritage Committee of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO);

Whereas in the mid-19th century, Emperor Tewdros II began the modernization of Ethiopia and led a successful campaign to unify Ethiopia;

Whereas the proud and courageous people of Ethiopia defeated the invading Italian army in the Battle of Adowa in 1896;

Whereas United States-Ethiopian relations were established on December 27, 1903, by Emperor Menelik II and President Theodore Roosevelt;

Whereas since then, the Ethiopian-American community has grown to become the second largest African immigrant group in the United States;

Whereas in 1908, European colonial powers recognized Ethiopia's borders and sovereignty;

Whereas in 1923, Ethiopia officially banned the slave trade;

Whereas in 1923, Ethiopia joined the League of Nations;

Whereas Ethiopia is the only country in Africa that was never colonized, with the exception of the 6 years of occupation by the Fascist government of Italy;

Whereas Ethiopia played an important role in the struggle for freedom for many African countries during the colonial period;

Whereas in 1930, Ras Tafari Makonnen was crowned as Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia;

Whereas Emperor Haile Selassie modernized Ethiopia, kept the country united, and largely peaceful;

Whereas in 1974, Emperor Haile Selassie was ousted from power through a military coup by the Derg junta and Lt. Col. Mengistu Haile Mariam was installed as Head of State;

Whereas in May 1991, the brutal Mengistu dictatorship came to an end after a 17-year reign of terror;

Whereas Ethiopia was a founding member of the United Nations and one of the original drafters of the Security Council Charter;

Whereas Ethiopia played a pivotal role in creating the Organization of Africa Unity (OAU), which was founded on May 25, 1963;

Whereas Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, became the headquarters of the OAU and remains the headquarters of its successor, the African Union; and

Whereas the 8th African Union Summit, held from January 29-30, 2007, officially declared the second Ethiopian millennium as the second African millennium: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates the people of Ethiopia on the second millennium of Ethiopia;

(2) recognizes the long, rich history of Ethiopia;

(3) commends Ethiopia's contribution to peace and stability on the African continent through the role it played in the creation of the Organization of African Unity (OAU);

(4) recognizes the longstanding relationship between Ethiopia and the United States;

(5) commends the organizers of the second millennium celebration in Ethiopia and the United States; and

(6) commends the peaceful and jubilant celebration of the second millennium of Ethiopia.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) each will control 20 minutes.