

*Resolved*, That the United States House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals highlighted through National Volunteer Week;

(2) acknowledges the diligent efforts of our major federally funded community service and volunteer programs;

(3) recognizes with gratitude the contributions of the millions of dedicated and caring individuals who have chosen to serve others through volunteerism; and

(4) encourages all American people, of any age and background, to seek out opportunities to serve through volunteerism.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days in which Members may have the opportunity to insert material relevant to H. Res. 1119 into the RECORD.

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, I rise today to support the designation of April 27 to May 3, 2008, as National Volunteer Week, and to laud the efforts of volunteers who serve without reward to support America's communities.

National Volunteer Week is an opportunity to engage individuals throughout the Nation in a common goal of service to better our Nation. This year's theme, Volunteer to Change the World, hopes to inspire all people to connect with their community and truly make a difference through working together to effect positive change. In addition to many volunteer opportunities, the week will recognize deserving volunteers with the President's Volunteer Service Award and other significant signs of thanks.

Next week, volunteers across the Nation will work on a wide variety of projects. Activities range from community arts projects, school renovations, park rehabilitation, and many more equally engaging projects. With a large force of volunteers working together, National Volunteer Week will demonstrate the power of volunteerism and highlight the strength of compassion. The large number of volunteers will continue to inspire the Nation to mobilize for positive change and help people discover their ability to make a difference.

Volunteering has far reaching positive impacts on the community as a whole, and even on individual volunteers themselves. Research has shown that communities with high levels of social capital have a higher quality of life. Communities with strong volunteer networks, therefore, are healthy and dynamic places to live and work. Additionally, data shows that individ-

uals who volunteer live longer than those who do not. Individuals and communities reap numerous constructive benefits from volunteering and can be the center of positive social change.

So, Mr. Speaker, once again I express my support for National Volunteer Week, and recognize all the hard work that volunteers put in on a daily basis. I encourage more people to become volunteers and recognize the fact that, by working together, we can more effectively meet the challenges our Nation face. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today in support of House Resolution 1119, which supports the goals and ideals highlighted through National Volunteer Week. I am proud to have introduced this resolution, with my National Service Caucus cochair, Representatives CHRIS SHAYS, DAVID PRICE, and DORIS MATSUI, as well as Representative BUCK McKEON.

Mr. Speaker, National Volunteer Week was created in 1974, when President Richard Nixon signed an executive order to establish the week as an annual celebration of volunteering. Every year since that time, each President of the United States, along with many Governors, mayors, and other elected officials, have signed a proclamation promoting National Volunteer Week.

This year, National Volunteer Week is being recognized this very week, April 27 to May 3. Various events are being held throughout the Nation to promote the 2008 theme of "Volunteer to Change the World."

Throughout the history of the United States, Americans have valued an ethic of service. Volunteering not only has a positive impact on local communities, but also on the volunteer himself or herself. Those Americans who give their time to serve are valuable assets to our local communities, and National Volunteer Week is our opportunity to thank them for their service and to encourage others to serve.

Across our country, Americans of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities are donating their time and talents to schools, churches, hospitals, and local nonprofits in an effort to improve their communities and serve a purpose greater than themselves. According to data collected over the past 30 years by the United States Census Bureau, Americans are volunteering at historically high rates. Between September 2006 and September 2007, 61.2 million Americans donated their time to help others, by mentoring students, beautifying neighborhoods, restoring homes after disasters, and much more.

In fact, earlier this week I had the pleasure of participating in a recognition ceremony at a local senior center, the Red Land Area Senior Center in York County, Pennsylvania, where dozens of senior volunteers and others were recognized for thousands of hours of donated volunteer service time in

2007. In fact, the top two volunteers recognized, Jim Fitzkee and Leona Deardorff, each contributed almost 700 hours of volunteer service to this center in 2007.

Volunteering is not only a rewarding but a necessary aspect of meeting the most pressing needs facing our Nation, including combating crime and gangs, poverty, disasters, illiteracy, and homelessness. Volunteering is also an important part of maintaining the health of our citizens, as research consistently shows that those who volunteer, especially those 65 years of age and older, lead healthier lives than those who do not engage in their communities. The intangible benefits alone, such as pride, satisfaction, empowerment, and accomplishment are worthwhile reasons to serve and give back.

Today I would like to recognize the diligent efforts of our major federally funded community service and volunteer service programs, thank the millions of dedicated and caring volunteers for their service, and encourage all Americans to give of themselves to make a difference in their local communities. I urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 1119.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this resolution.

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. 1119.

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.

#### EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF APRIL 2008 AS NATIONAL SARCOIDOSIS AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1149) expressing support for the designation of April 2008 as National Sarcoidosis Awareness Month, and supporting efforts to devote new resources to research the causes of the disease, environmental and otherwise, along with treatments and workforce strategies to support individuals with sarcoidosis, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 1149

Whereas sarcoidosis is a noncontagious systemic disease of unknown origin and is commonly diagnosed with the detection of inflamed, microscopic growths called granulomas that grow and often affect the lungs, skin, eyes, and nervous system;

Whereas sarcoidosis can affect any organ of the body and more than one organ at any given time;

Whereas the inflammation of such vital organs may cause seizures, blindness, disfiguring lesions, and heart failure;

Whereas many individuals stricken with sarcoidosis eventually develop a serious disabling or potentially fatal condition;

Whereas sarcoidosis was once thought to be an uncommon condition, but is now known to affect tens of thousands of people throughout the United States;

Whereas sarcoidosis afflicts African-Americans up to 8 times more frequently than other races;

Whereas as many people with sarcoidosis have no symptoms, it is difficult to measure how many people have the condition;

Whereas sarcoidosis is a disease that affects Americans nationwide and people around the world, and yet its causes and potential treatments remain a mystery;

Whereas skin-related symptoms of this chronic, multisystemic disease were first recognized more than 100 years ago, but the effects of the disease on other organs were not observed until the first quarter of this century;

Whereas sarcoidosis was the chief diagnosis of the death of fluorescent light bulb workers in Salem, Massachusetts in the 1940s;

Whereas sarcoidosis was the first diagnosis for an overwhelming majority of rescue workers' health conditions on September 11, 2001;

Whereas sarcoidosis has been documented to be disproportionately found among factory workers and Navy deckgrinders;

Whereas today, researchers are still trying to learn more about the causes, cures, and overall nature of this affliction;

Whereas the American Lung Association has actively advocated for more research to better understand how environmental and occupational exposures may increase the risk of sarcoidosis;

Whereas the National Sarcoidosis Society strives to serve those afflicted by the disease by focusing its efforts on public policy, research funding, patient services, public awareness and education, and finding a cure; and

Whereas April 2008 would be appropriate to designate as National Sarcoidosis Awareness Month to increase public awareness of the need to support individuals with sarcoidosis, to raise awareness of the environmental and occupational issues associated with sarcoidosis, and to educate medical professionals who care for individuals with sarcoidosis: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Sarcoidosis Awareness Month;

(2) recognizes that sarcoidosis has played a prominent yet hidden role in America's workforce history;

(3) acknowledges the diligent efforts of individuals and organizations who observe National Sarcoidosis Awareness Month with appropriate activities to further promote awareness of the disease; and

(4) supports research efforts to better understand the links between sarcoidosis and specific occupations where sarcoidosis is disproportionately represented.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PLATTS) 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 Members

may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert material relevant to H. Res. 1149 into the RECORD.

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 might consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 1149, commemorating April 2008 as National Sarcoidosis Awareness Month.

According to the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, tens of thousands of Americans nationwide are afflicted with this disease. However, currently, there is no cure, no definitive identification of exactly what causes sarcoidosis, no known measures to prevent it, and many people who have sarcoidosis do not exhibit any symptoms. So one might ask the question, what is sarcoidosis?

Sarcoidosis is characterized by the inflammation associated with the production of tiny lumps of cells in various organs of our bodies called granulomas because they look like grains of sugar or sand. These grain-like cells grow and clump together in an organ, affecting how the organ works.

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The increase of these growths can inflame vital organs like the lung, brain, skin, eyes and nervous system, causing seizures, blindness, disfiguring lesions, heart failure and sometimes even death.

Sarcoidosis is overrepresented among African Americans compared to other races and ethnic groups, and afflicts African Americans more severely than other races in this country.

By documenting the prevalence of sarcoidosis among fluorescent light bulb workers in the 1940s and among U.S. Navy deck grinders, and recognizing that sarcoidosis disproportionately affects factory workers and was the first diagnosis for an overwhelming majority of rescue workers in New York after the September 11, 2001, attacks, researchers at the American Lung Association have uncovered a link between certain types of occupations and this disease.

More careful monitoring of a sarcoidosis diagnosis can dramatically improve public health, including the health of civilian and military workers. It is my hope that by passing this legislation, we will promote more careful examination and investigation of sarcoidosis diagnosis, and lead to the reduction of morbidity and mortality of workers, as well as reduce costs.

By supporting House Resolution 1149 designating April 2008 as National Sarcoidosis Awareness Month, we as the House of Representatives of these United States of America will demonstrate our acknowledgment of and commitment to the importance of rais-

ing awareness for the purpose of uncovering the causes of sarcoidosis disease, environmental and otherwise, and the promotion of strategies to support and protect our thriving workforce. I urge passage of this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1149, expressing support for the designation of the month of April 2008 as National Sarcoidosis Awareness Month to bring attention to this disease, its potential causes, and the need for research on the causes and potential treatments.

Sarcoidosis is a noncontagious systemic disease of unknown origin that causes inflamed, microscopic growths called granulomas that often affect one or more systems in the body, including the lungs, skin, eyes, and nervous system. This disease is sometimes difficult to diagnose.

The American Lung Association reports that more than 90 percent of the people diagnosed with sarcoidosis experience some degree of problem with their lungs which may reduce their ability to absorb oxygen. Because of scarring caused by the inflammations, between 20 and 30 percent of people with pulmonary sarcoidosis end up with some degree of permanent lung damage. Although death is relatively uncommon, mortality can occur due to lung failure or if the disease causes serious damage to a vital organ other than the lungs.

It has been observed that the disease occurs throughout the world in all races and both sexes, although gender and ethnicity may have an impact on the risk of developing sarcoidosis and its severity. Women and people of African descent, along with those of Scandinavian, German, Irish and Puerto Rican descent, are particularly prone to the disease and its more chronic and serious manifestations. The reasons for this are yet unknown.

The cause or causes of sarcoidosis remain a mystery. Our best medical evidence to date has not discovered the extent to which lifestyle, environment, or heredity affects the development, severity, or length of this disease.

The American Lung Association reports that most researchers believe that the disease involves an altered immune system. Some studies suggest sarcoidosis is caused by a respiratory infection triggered by bacteria or a virus, or even by exposure to burning wood. Others suggest possible occupational or environmental risks. And some studies also show that sarcoidosis may run within families, suggesting a genetic link.

Medical science has developed treatments that manage the symptoms of the disease, but no treatment is clearly effective for a prolonged period, and there is no cure.

Considering the broad reach of this disease, across people of different genders and ethnicities throughout the

world, and the lack of scientific evidence as to its cause or a cure, it is important to acknowledge the efforts of individuals and organizations to observe National Sarcoidosis Awareness Month and work on promoting awareness and the search for the cause and effective treatments. I am pleased, therefore, to stand in support of this resolution and ask for a "yes" vote.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve.

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased to be the sponsor of this resolution, and I want to commend and thank all of the sarcoidosis activists who have visited my office, who have called me, who have written letters and telegrams and e-mails urging that we do something to further promote and raise awareness around this illness. I am pleased we have this resolution on the floor today. I urge its passage.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 1149, which expresses support for the designation of April 2008 as National Sarcoidosis Awareness Month.

Sarcoidosis is an inflammatory disease that produces tiny lumps of cells called granulomas in the lungs, lymph nodes or skin. The cause of sarcoidosis is unclear, but it has been associated with exposures to organic and chemical dusts, metals, silica and wood dust or smoke.

We know that New York City Fire Fighters who responded to the World Trade Center collapses in the aftermath of 9/11 have markedly higher rates of sarcoidosis. In the year immediately following 9/11, there was a 6-fold increase from pre-9/11 levels.

There's no doubt that many heroes of 9/11 are sick because of their exposure to Ground Zero toxins. Raising awareness of sarcoidosis and encouraging funding for research into the disease is one small way we can honor the heroes and heroines of 9/11.

I thank the gentleman from Illinois for introducing this resolution, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. 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. 1149, 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.

#### SUPPORTING THE MISSION AND GOALS OF WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1154) supporting the mission and goals of Workers Memorial Day in order to honor and re-

member the workers who have been killed or injured in the workplace.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 1154

Whereas each year, more than 5,500 workers are killed due to workplace-related injuries in the United States, and more than 2,000,000 workers across the world die of workplace-related accidents and diseases;

Whereas each day, an average of 16 workers are killed due to workplace injuries in the United States;

Whereas there are more than 4,000,000 occupational injuries and illnesses in the United States annually;

Whereas tens of thousands of Americans with workplace injuries or illness become permanently disabled;

Whereas worldwide, more people are killed each year at work than in wars;

Whereas observing Workers Memorial Day allows us to honor and remember victims of workplace injuries and disease; and

Whereas observing Workers Memorial Day reminds us of the need to strive for better worker safety and health protections: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes Workers Memorial Day to honor and remember workers who have been killed or injured in the workplace;

(2) recognizes the importance of worker health and safety standards;

(3) encourages the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, industries, employers and employees to support activities aimed at increasing awareness of the importance of preventing illness, injury, and death in the workplace; and

(4) calls upon the people of the United States to observe such a day with appropriate ceremonies and respect.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PLATTS) 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 Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert material relevant to H. Res. 1154 into the RECORD.

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, it is my pleasure to yield such time as she might consume to the sponsor of this resolution, the distinguished gentlewoman from the State of Texas, Representative EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. I thank the gentleman from Illinois for bringing this bill to the floor.

On Monday of this week, millions of people worldwide recognized Workers Memorial Day. I introduced H. Res. 1154 because each year this country has thousands of workers who are killed due to workplace-related injuries, and tens of thousands more die of occupational illnesses. It is staggering to

think that each day an average of 16 workers are killed due to injuries on the job. Worldwide, more than 2 million workers die of occupational illness and injuries annually. That means more people are killed on the job each year than in wars.

The bottom line is that everyone deserves a safe and healthy workplace. Many of us may take this basic right for granted. But for millions of Americans, the threat of being permanently disabled or even killed on the job is very real.

Workers Memorial Day not only recognizes and honors those who have been killed or injured on the job, it also reminds us of the overwhelming need to improve health and safety standards in our Nation's workplaces.

It has been 38 years since the creation of OSHA, and over this time worker health and safety standards have vastly improved. However, there is still work to be done, as evidenced by the Sago mine disaster and the recent combustible dust explosion at the Imperial Sugar refinery in Georgia that killed 12 workers.

Today we will take a step toward improving those safety standards by considering the Worker Protection Against Combustible Dust Explosion and Fire Act. This bill represents a pressing need for OSHA standards to prevent combustible dust explosions which have killed more than 100 workers since 1980. That's 100 workers who went to work in the morning but never returned home to their families and loved ones. Workers Memorial Day remembers those workers who gave their lives and the families they left behind.

I would like to thank House leadership and Chairman MILLER for his support in bringing this resolution to the floor today; and, of course, Mr. DAVIS. I would also like to thank the House Labor and Working Families Caucus, and in particular Congresswoman LINDA SÁNCHEZ, for their assistance in bringing this resolution forward. I urge my colleagues to support recognizing this Workers Memorial Day.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1154, supporting the mission and goals of Workers Memorial Day in order to honor, remember and pay tribute to the workers who have been killed or injured in the workplace.

Monday, April 28 marked the 20th annual Workers Memorial Day, a day to honor our Nation's workers who were injured or lost their lives as a result of incidents in the workplace.

I was honored in my district in York, Pennsylvania, to participate with the York Adams County Central Labor Council in a Worker Memorial Day ceremony where three individuals were remembered following their deaths in the workplace in 2007, and pay tribute to them, with their families being in our thoughts and prayers and our sympathies going out to them on the loss of their loved ones.