

achievements, and contributions of Charlton Heston and extending its deepest sympathies to the family of Charlton Heston for the loss of such a great generous man, husband, and father, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1091

Whereas the United States of America has lost a great patriot with the passing of Charlton Heston;

Whereas Charlton Heston first became beloved by the Nation as a great actor and portrayed many heroic figures, including Moses, Michelangelo, Andrew Jackson, John the Baptist, Mark Antony, and El Cid in epic movies of the 1950s and 1960s, and won the 1959 Best Actor Oscar for the lead character in "Ben-Hur";

Whereas Charlton Heston was a leader in many areas of life outside of acting, including serving as President of the Screen Actors Guild, which he helped to integrate with Ronald Reagan and was Chairman of the American Film Institute;

Whereas Charlton Heston was an active supporter of the civil rights movement, including protesting the showing of his film at a segregated movie theater in Oklahoma City and participating in and leading the Arts Group in the 1963 civil rights march on Washington;

Whereas in the last major public role of his life, Charlton Heston was President of the National Rifle Association from June 1998 until April 2003;

Whereas as President of the National Rifle Association, Charlton Heston was a stalwart advocate of the position that the 2nd Amendment gave citizens the right to keep and bear arms;

Whereas Charlton Heston was an active promoter of wildlife management through hunting;

Whereas, in 2003, Charlton Heston was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Nation's highest civilian honor;

Whereas Charlton Heston was born in Illinois on October 4, 1923, and his parents moved to St. Helen, Michigan, where he grew up;

Whereas, in 1943, Charlton Heston enlisted in the Army Air Force and served as a radio-gunner in the Aleutian Islands of Alaska, and in 1947, he was discharged from the Army;

Whereas, in 1944, Charlton Heston married the love of his life, Lydia Clarke, to whom he had been married 64 years at his death;

Whereas the Hestons were the parents of two children, Fraser Heston and Holly Heston Rochell; and

Whereas Charlton Heston passed away on April 5, 2008, and the contributions he made to his family and his Nation will not be forgotten: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) honors the life, achievements, and contributions of Charlton Heston; and

(2) extends its deepest sympathies to the family of Charlton Heston for the loss of such a great generous man, husband, and father.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CLAY. 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 Missouri?

There was no objection.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I present for consideration H. Res. 1091, which seeks to recognize the life of Charlton Heston for his accomplishments both and off the big screen. Not only did Heston command an overwhelming presence in theaters, but his actions in support of the civil rights movement during the 1960s and on behalf of other social causes throughout his life deserve recognition. For example, Charlton Heston joined Martin Luther King, Jr., in the march on Washington, D.C. in 1963, and was an early civil rights activist long before Hollywood found it fashionable.

H. Res. 1091 was introduced by Representative DON YOUNG of Alaska on April 8, 2008, and was considered by and reported from the Oversight Committee on April 16, 2008, by voice vote after being amended by the panel.

The measure has the support of well over 100 Members of Congress and is evidence of a wide, national appreciation for the enduring legacy that this great American citizen left behind.

Heston was born on October 4, 1923, in No Man's Land, Illinois. In 1944, Heston enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, spending 2 years of his life as a B-25 radio operator and gunner in the Alaskan Aleutian Islands.

In August of 2002, after a long and illustrious acting career, Heston publicly announced that he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. In 2003, Mr. Heston was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in commemoration of the positive impact he has had on our culture and country.

In memory of his life of greatness and activism, I urge swift passage of H. Res. 1091.

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

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, rather than my making a statement, I would like to yield to the sponsor of the resolution, our very distinguished veteran, Mr. YOUNG from Alaska, and just advise him I am going to yield him such time as he may consume, letting him know that the former chairman of the Rules Committee would like some time as well.

(Mr. YOUNG of Alaska asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I thank my chairman of the subcommittee and Mr. SHAYS and the chairman of the full committee.

It is indeed an honor that I will speak on Charlton Heston today. We have already heard some of the roles that he played in "Planet of the Apes,"

"Julius Caesar," "Antony and Cleopatra," "Omega Man," and I can go on down the line. His famous roles, of course, were Moses, Michelangelo, Andrew Jackson, John the Baptist, Mark Antony, El Cid, and Ben Hur.

Some people may not remember his role in politics. He became very active as president of the Screen Actors Guild. Before every actor in the world got involved politically, he was involved in the Screen Actors Guild. He was also very active and involved, as mentioned by the chairman, in civil rights. He marched with Martin Luther King. And one of my interests was that he enlisted in the Army Air Force in World War II and served 2 years as a B-25 gunner in the Aleutian chain, a God-awful place it was, but part of my great State of Alaska, and defended against the enemy at that time with great honor.

He had two children. He married the love of his life, Lydia Clarke, in 1944, and was married to her for the rest of his life.

He was the president of the NRA from June 1998 until April 2003, and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Bush.

I have to say I knew him personally. I never called him Chuck or Charles, it was always Mr. Heston or Mr. President because he was president of an organization which I am very proud of, and that is the NRA, the National Rifle Association. He probably did more to protect the freedoms of America in his actions as president of that organization than any other individual. And that may not be proper with certain people in this body, but he did guarantee us, through the second amendment, the right to protect ourselves, the right to protect the castle which we live in, the right to be able to protect those that we love against those who would do us harm. He believed in it, as I believe in it. It is very, very important.

If America were to recognize one individual who probably contributed most to our individual freedoms, it would be Charlton Heston.

□ 1545

Not his movie and acting career, not his Guild presidency, but his action as the NRA president, National Rifle Association of America; his role in being able to assure that each person could carry, on his hip, if necessary, against those that invade our domicile. And for that alone, we should recognize his great contribution. His civil rights, yes, his activities willing to speak out, and his great acting capability, yes, but the ability, and what he has left us in the legacy under the second amendment, because it will be under attack.

Let's not kid ourselves. It's under attack by those that would like to have the government do everything for you. They want to give you all your health care. Of course you won't have health care. They would like, in fact, to have

you taken care of from the birth until the death, and they might decide when you will die and even when you will be born.

And they definitely don't want the American citizen to be armed. They don't want the American citizen to be able to protect themselves from those who would do you harm. It will be under attack.

But he left a great legacy. We have 37 States in the Union today who have the "Right to Carry Law," and it's all because of Charlton Heston, because he saw the need to protect the United States of America against those who would take away the great nation that we know.

So, with great honor, I was able to take and introduce this legislation to just recognize himself and his family for what he contributed to those he leaves behind, the freedom of the great United States of America.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve my time.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the former chairman of the Rules Committee, now its ranking member, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER).

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by expressing my appreciation to Messrs. CLAY and SHAYS for their leadership on this and, most important, to our good friend, DON YOUNG, for having stepped forward to author this resolution.

And I want to say that as I listened to our friend, DON YOUNG, talk about Charlton Heston, I was struck by a story. DON began by taking the acting career, which, since I represent Los Angeles, I'm particularly proud of people who have great acting careers, and Mr. Heston was certainly one of those. I was struck by the fact that DON YOUNG drew from that to the fact that he focused on reality.

And as he was saying that, Mr. Speaker, I'm reminded of a story that Mr. Heston used to enjoy telling with regularity. When he was in the midst of rehearsals for that famous movie, Ben Hur, he would regularly say to people around him, I really want to make sure that I do this right because I want to make sure that I win this race. And he was constantly assured that he was going to win the race because the outcome was clearly predetermined.

But he understood full well that there was a great disparity between the roles that he played, as a great actor, and the fact that the reality of life is something that is much different, and it does take a great deal of vigilance and hard work.

Now, all of my colleagues have spoken about the role that he played as a civil rights leader. Mr. YOUNG has talked about the fact that he played such an important role in preservation of second amendment rights, which was very important.

He was always involved, Mr. Speaker, in public policy issues. Again, as a Representative from Los Angeles, I had the opportunity to regularly discuss with him issues, and he exercised his first amendment rights with me with great regularity. He would call. And I will say that even though he was ill, I had the privilege of talking with him about, I think it was a year and a half, 2 years ago. And I knew that he had been ill, but he still was asking me questions about things that were going on here in this institution, making sure that we were staying on the right path.

And so it's difficult to imagine a greater patriot than Charlton Heston. And I have to say, Mr. Speaker, that still, to this day, our thoughts and prayers are with Lydia and the wonderful Heston family. And I know that at this moment he's probably up there playing tennis, which was one of his great loves, and looking down and working to make sure that we, as Members of the United States Congress, and as leaders in our great Nation, do everything that we can to preserve these very, very precious liberties that he loved so dearly.

I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. CLAY. I continue to reserve, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, may I ask how much time we have left.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Connecticut has 13 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Missouri has 18 minutes remaining.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) such time as he may consume.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding. And I want to thank Mr. YOUNG from Alaska for offering this resolution. I'm certainly proud to support this resolution honoring Charlton Heston's iconic life.

Charlton Heston has done much for this country in many, many different areas of public involvement and public service. He appeared in over 100 films during 60 years, but he's best remembered by me as Moses. To many Americans, Moses died on April 5, 2008.

As a kid, I actually thought Heston was Moses. I can remember sitting in a Sunday school class as a young kid when the teacher asked me if I'd ever read about Moses and the 10 Commandments in the Bible. And I said no, but I saw the movie version.

Charlton Heston brought Moses to life in a way that no one else could. As Moses, Heston lifted his staff in the 10 Commandments to rally the Israelites. But in his personal life he lifted his musket to rally millions of Americans. The second amendment was his tablet of stone, proclaiming the right to bear arms.

Heston was quite the intense actor, and wonderful patriot. Heston once said, "It's been quite a ride. I loved every minute of it." And his life was certainly extraordinary.

So, Mr. Speaker, I thank "Moses Heston" for bringing life to history and

for being a great American during his life.

Mr. CLAY. I continue to reserve, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I rise today in support of this resolution honoring the life of one of the great American personalities in the century, the late Charlton Heston.

Truly, a man of legends, whether from his epic contributions as an actor, to his passionate and momentous involvement in our politics and society, Mr. Heston touched us all.

Born in 1923 in Evanston, Illinois, John Charles Carter spent his childhood in Michigan. Following his parents' divorce in the 1930s, his mother remarried to Chester Heston, and the family moved to the Chicago suburb of Winnetka. It was here that his acting career took flight.

After enrolling in the theater program at his new high school, he earned a drama scholarship to attend Northwestern University. It was here that he met another aspiring thespian, future wife, and "the queen of his heart," Lydia Clarke.

Enlisting in the Army Air Forces in 1942, he spent 2 years serving as a radio gunner in the Aleutian Islands during World War II.

After experiencing limited success on Broadway after the war, Heston emerged on the big screen in 1950. He captivated audiences with his statuesque appearance and his historic epic roles. He scaled Mt. Sinai as Moses in the 10 Commandments, rebelled against the Romans in his Oscar winning performance in Ben Hur, remained loyal to his king at all costs in El Cid, and masterfully decorated the Sistine Chapel as Michelangelo.

Who can forget his gritty performance in such noir classics as Touch of Evil, and groundbreaking science fiction classics like Planet of the Apes?

Though he spent more than 60 years on camera and appeared in over 100 movies, he is also known by many for his passion for politics and commitment to a life outside of Hollywood.

A staunch supporter of civil rights in the early 1960s, Heston called Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the "20th century Moses for his people."

A vocal participant in a number of marches and protests, he demonstrated his support long before Hollywood found it fashionable.

Like his friend, Ronald Reagan, Heston's political views gradually began to align more with the Republican Party, and by the late 1980s, he had become a prominent orator on behalf of conservative politicians and against the debasement of American culture.

In 1998, the passionate Heston, well in his 70s, was elected president and spokesman of the NRA, a position he held until his resignation in 2003.

After a bout with prostate cancer, Heston announced in August 2002 he had been diagnosed with symptoms

consistent with Alzheimer's. On April 5, 2008, at the age of 84, Charlton Heston passed away.

He once joked, "I have played three presidents, three saints, and two geniuses. If that does not create an ego problem, nothing does." But arrogance does not describe this humble man, who pursued life as he did each of his roles, a constant pursuit of unattainable perfection.

Despite numerous accolades, including an Oscar, a Kennedy Center Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the loving husband, devoted father of two and grandfather of three, believed that his family was his proudest achievement.

In his August 2002 announcement regarding his declining health, he emotionally stated that, "For an actor there is no greater loss than his audience. I can part the Red Sea, but I can't part with you."

Though he may have left us in body, his spirit and legacy live on, a lifetime of passionate commitment to freedom in the truest sense.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution honoring a man who was as much a hero on the big screen as he was a hero in life.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back my time.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I want to first thank my friend, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), for bringing this resolution, and urge my colleagues to honor this great American by voting in favor of the resolution.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in supporting H. Con. Res. 1091 and honoring the life and contributions of the late Charlton Heston.

A larger than life figure, Charlton Heston was a World War II veteran, president of the Screen Actors Guild, and chairman of the American Film Institute. He was celebrated—as an Academy Award-winning actor and a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Throughout his life, when he saw injustice, Charlton Heston did not hesitate to take action. It did not matter to him whether his position was popular. He protested segregation, marching alongside the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King during his campaign for civil rights, and described Dr. King as a "20th century Moses for his people."

Never shy to take a stand, Charlton Heston picketed a segregated movie theater premiering one of his own movies. All of us should commend his principled commitment to civil rights.

His support for our Nation's Bill of Rights extended to the second amendment. Indeed, for many of us, Charlton Heston's most memorable contribution may have been his fierce advocacy for our right to keep and bear arms. As president of the National Rifle Association, NRA, Mr. Heston famously rallied millions of Americans by holding a rifle over his head and declaring that the Government would take it only "from my cold, dead hands."

When our rights were threatened by the Federal Government, Charlton Heston—the face of the NRA—inspired millions of us. This legacy is lasting. And it never mattered to him

that his stance wasn't fashionable with Hollywood elites.

Not until the onset of Alzheimer's disease did Charlton Heston begin to withdraw from public life.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my heartfelt condolences to the Heston family, especially Lydia, his wife of 64 years. They must be proud of Charlton Heston's life, legacy, and contributions. We all are here.

Mr. CLAY. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1091, 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. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF MOTHER'S DAY

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1113) celebrating the role of mothers in the United States and supporting the goals and ideals of Mother's Day.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1113

Whereas Mother's Day is celebrated on the second Sunday of each May;

Whereas the first official Mother's Day was observed on May 10, 1908, in Grafton, West Virginia, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania;

Whereas 2008 is the 100th anniversary of the first official Mother's Day observation;

Whereas in 1908, Elmer Burkett, a U.S. Senator from Nebraska, proposed making Mother's Day a national holiday;

Whereas in 1914, Congress passed a resolution designating the second Sunday of May as Mother's Day;

Whereas it is estimated that there are more than 82,000,000 mothers in the United States;

Whereas mothers have made immeasurable contributions toward building strong families, thriving communities, and ultimately a strong Nation;

Whereas the services rendered to the children of the United States by their mothers have strengthened and inspired the Nation throughout its history;

Whereas we honor ourselves and mothers in the United States when we revere and emphasize the importance of the role of the home and family as the true foundation of the Nation;

Whereas mothers continue to rise to the challenge of raising their families with love, understanding, and compassion, while over-

coming the challenges of modern society; and

Whereas May 11, 2008 is recognized as Mother's Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives celebrates the role of mothers in the United States and supports the goals and ideals of Mother's Day.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CLAY. 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 Missouri?

There was no objection.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, with the annual mother's holiday just a few short days away, I am pleased to join in the consideration of H. Res. 1113, which aims to recognize and celebrate the role of mothers in our country by supporting the goals and ideals of Mother's Day.

□ 1600

H. Res. 1113 was introduced by JEFF FORTENBERRY of Nebraska on April 16, 2008, and was considered and reported from the Oversight Committee on May 1, 2008, by voice vote. Currently, the bill is cosponsored by 54 Members of Congress and provides us all an opportunity to pay tribute to the importance of mothers and motherhood in general.

It was on May 10, 1908, that our country first officially observed Mother's Day. On this day, church services, organized by Mother's Day founder Anna Jarvis in honor of her own recently deceased mother Ann Marie Reeve Jarvis, were held in Grafton, West Virginia, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Following these services, the notion of celebrating motherhood gained a widespread popularity across the Nation leading to the creation of the Mother's Day International Association, which came into being on December 12, 1912, to promote and encourage meaningful observances of the role of mothers. However, it wasn't until May 9, 1914, that a presidential proclamation was issued that declared the second Sunday of May was to be observed as Mother's Day in America to honor all mothers.

And now, here we are 100 years later and Mother's Day continues to hold a special place in the hearts of countless Americans as they set aside the second Sunday of every May to show their appreciation, love, and gratitude for the role of mothers.

Mr. Speaker, let's also lift our voices in praise and thanks not only for the role in which our own mothers play, but for the contributions the 82.5 million American mothers make on a