

that we are here today, still repeating those horrible statistics about over 1 billion who lack access to safe drinking water, more than 2 billion who lack access to sanitation.

I would only take exception to my good friend from Florida's comments a moment ago, because I have been told that a child dies needlessly every 15 seconds. But whether it is 20 seconds or 15 seconds, it is absolutely scandalous that in this day and age, when we know what to do, when for less than the price of a take-out pizza per year per family, the United States alone could be transformational on that. One reflects on what difference it would make, not just those children that wouldn't die needlessly. It would translate into over one-quarter billion additional days in school. It would save over \$7 billion in unnecessary medical costs. It would allow one-third of a trillion working days for young people from age 15 to 39 worldwide. And, make no mistake about it, it makes a difference for those of us in the United States.

First of all, pollution any place in the world finds its way into the water supply and makes a difference for us. Make no mistake, that at a time when virtually no one in the world is more than 24 hours away from anybody else watching disease break forth unnecessarily, it is not just a tragedy in some remote village or some southern hemisphere megacity. It can make a difference for the health of Americans here and abroad. And when the CIA has identified urban instability and decay as one of the seven greatest causes of threats to our security, this compounds our problem with global unrest and terrorism.

I am pleased that we have been able to work together with Mr. PAYNE. In my prior tenure on the Foreign Affairs Committee, we passed the Water for the Poor Act in 2005 and acknowledged the late Mr. Lantos and former colleagues Leach, Hyde and Senator Frist. But we are not even fully implementing that legislation 3 years later. I commend the gentleman for his oversight hearing to help the Department of State to understand what is going to be necessary to fully implement this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, we are halfway through the International Year of Sanitation. It is time for us to reflect on what we are going to do about this problem. This isn't some remote goal that is beyond our capacity. Girl Scout troops, churches, synagogues and Rotary Clubs know what to do and in fact they are acting at a grassroots level to do something about it. We in Congress need to do our job supporting Mr. PAYNE with the accountability of the State Department.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SERRANO). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. PAYNE. I yield an additional minute to the gentleman from Oregon.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. One of the most important things we can do is to work

to transfer unnecessary military assistance. The United States is lavishing huge sums of money for military aid on countries like Egypt and Pakistan, where it is dubious in terms of the outcome of security for us or anybody else, but they have populations that are desperately in need of clean water and sanitation. We need to reorder our priorities to be able to achieve this goal.

Back in 2002 when we added sanitation, 2015 seemed like a long way away. Well, we are halfway there, in terms of time, but we are not halfway there in terms of accomplishment. I hope that this resolution will be a little nudge to us all to make sure that we do our part. I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy and his leadership.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, so I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say that I urge support of this resolution. As the previous speaker indicated, we passed legislation called Water For the Poor, and in our oversight hearing I was looking for places like Burkina Faso in Niger that had no water, but found that the money was allocated to Iraq and Afghanistan. "Water for the Poor" was what it was called, not "Water for the War."

So we need to be sure that when we pass legislation, that it goes to the intended recipients and not for other purposes. If other purposes must be done, put them in another budget. There is plenty of money in other budgets and no one ever opposes them. So put it over there, and leave our Water for the Poor for the countries that are actually and really poor.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SERRANO). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 318, 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. PAYNE. 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.

HONORING SEEDS OF PEACE

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 337) honoring Seeds of Peace for its 15th anniversary as an organization promoting understanding, reconciliation, acceptance, coexistence, and peace in the Middle East, South Asia, and other regions of conflict.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 337

Whereas Seeds of Peace, founded by the late John Wallach, is a program that brings together young people and educators from regions of conflict to study and learn about coexistence and conflict resolution;

Whereas these young people study and learn primarily at an international conflict resolution summer camp operated by Seeds of Peace in Otisfield, Maine, and also through its regional programs such as the facilitation training course in the Middle East, the homestay programs in South Asia, and international regional conferences;

Whereas the first international conflict resolution camp welcomed Israeli, Palestinian, Jordanian, and Egyptian youths in the summer of 1993, and has since expanded to involve youths from other regions of conflict, including from Greece, Turkey and divided Cyprus, the Balkans, India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan;

Whereas Seeds of Peace utilizes the summer camp to initiate dialogue between the youths of the United States and the youths from various conflict regions to dispel hatred and create religious and cultural understanding;

Whereas Seeds of Peace regional programs have trained hundreds of educators to teach peaceful conflict resolutions techniques in their classrooms, positively influencing thousands of students;

Whereas Seeds of Peace works to dispel fear, mistrust, and prejudice, which among others are root causes of violence and conflict, and to build a new generation of leaders who are committed to achieving peace;

Whereas Seeds of Peace reveals the human face of those whom youth may have been taught to hate, by engaging campers in both guided coexistence sessions and ordinary summer camp activities such as living together in cabins, sharing meals, canoeing, swimming, playing sports, and creative exploration through the arts and computers;

Whereas long-term peace between Arabs and Israelis, Indians and Pakistanis, and Afghans and Pakistanis can only be achieved with the emergence of a new generation of leaders who will choose dialogue, friendship, and openness over violence and hatred;

Whereas Seeds of Peace provides year-round opportunities via regional programming and innovative technology to enable former participants to build on the relationships forged at camp, so that the learning processes begun at camp may continue subsequently in the participants' home countries;

Whereas youth graduates of the camp, known as Seeds, currently number over 4,000, with an additional 567 adult delegation leaders also having completed Seeds of Peace training;

Whereas this graduate network receives continued support from Seeds of Peace in promoting professional cooperation;

Whereas Seeds of Peace is strongly supported by participating governments and many world leaders; and

Whereas continued partial Federal funding for Seeds of Peace demonstrates its recognized importance in promoting peaceful resolution of conflicts as a primary goal of United States policy: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) reaffirms that youth should be involved in long-term, visionary solutions to violent conflicts;

(2) honors the accomplishments of Seeds of Peace in its 15 years of promoting understanding, reconciliation, acceptance, coexistence, and peace among youth from the Middle East and other regions of conflict around the world; and

(3) views Seeds of Peace as a highly creative and successful effort to achieve reconciliation among peoples from areas of conflict, which inspires great hope that nations in conflict ultimately can learn to live together in peace, cooperation, and security.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that 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 Jersey?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 337, a resolution honoring Seeds of Peace for its 15th anniversary as an organization promoting tolerance and peaceful coexistence in the Middle East and around the world.

While the peace process has had its ups and downs over the last 15 years, Seeds of Peace has blossomed into a widely recognized organization that has facilitated interaction among thousands of young people and young leaders and educators from all around the world.

Seeds of Peace lays a foundation for sustainable peace by promoting dialogue among young leaders before their fears, mistrust and inherited prejudices have permanently shaped their vision of their enemy. We get them in time to prevent that from happening.

After a summer program in Maine, which also includes many American participants, these young seeds, as they are known, and their teachers, continue with regional and international programming that furthers the dialogue among and across nationalities and supports the development of future leaders. Seeds of Peace also fulfills an important recommendation of the 9/11 Commission, reaching out to young people, particularly in Arab and other Muslim countries, and offering them hope and a positive vision of the future.

A decade and a half ago, Seeds of Peace, founded by the late John Wallach, envisioned a handful of Israeli, Palestinian, Egyptian and Jordanian teenagers coming together in the woods of Maine and breaking down barriers of mistrust. Since its inaugural

camp session 15 years ago, the mission of Seeds of Peace has grown to include not just those from the Middle East, but young people from throughout South Asia and Afghanistan. Governments negotiate agreements, but Seeds of Peace has remained as the only people that can define a quality of peace.

Every new seed, you may recall that is what they are called when they complete the course, whether he or she is in Kabul or Tel Aviv, Ramallah or Islamabad, represents one more person who has the potential and the required skills to see through mistrust and prejudice and thereby to contribute to making and building peace. That is why we seek to honor the terrific organization Seeds of Peace. That is why I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this measure.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 337, which honors Seeds of Peace on its 15th anniversary. We in Congress and all people of goodwill worldwide want to see peace, stability and security prevail in the Middle East, and indeed in all regions of conflict. However, that goal remains illusive when leaders act in ways that distort, perpetuate and aggravate otherwise resolvable disputes between nations and peoples.

Such leaders make peace impossible by programming their citizens into viewing other nations and other people as wicked, inhumane and worthy of hatred and death. The most obvious example of this phenomenon is the unceasing dissemination by Arab countries of anti-Israel and anti-Semitic propaganda. Children in the Arab world and Iran are taught using textbooks and official media to hate Israel, to hate the Jews and to forfeit their own lives in order to kill as many Israelis and Jews as possible.

Fortunately, Seeds of Peace has spent 15 years bringing together youth from the Middle East and other conflict-torn regions and encouraging them to engage their peers as fellow human beings worthy of respect and tolerance. Programs like Seeds of Peace cultivate the young leaders who can oppose violent extremism and hateful propaganda, who can promote a culture of life and seek peaceful, rational and mutually beneficial solutions to seemingly intractable conflicts.

Mr. Speaker, given that Seeds of Peace is devoted to promoting peaceful resolution of the world's most dangerous conflicts, it is important to note that the allocation of vital and scarce resources contributes to conflicts around the globe. In the Middle East, oil and natural gas resources enable many authoritarian governments to resist reform and to finance desta-

bilizing actions, including weapons programs and sponsorship of Islamic jihadists. Therefore, it is especially important for our national security and for the cause of peace worldwide for the United States to stop our dependence on foreign sources of energy.

I thank my good friend and colleague from Maine (Mr. ALLEN) for introducing this Seeds of Peace anniversary resolution. I urge the House to adopt it.

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON), chairperson of the Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.

□ 1430

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Let me thank the Chair and the subcommittee chairs of these committees.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Representative ALLEN in bringing forth this House Concurrent Resolution 337 honoring the Seeds of Peace for its 15th anniversary as an organization.

The importance of peace in the world today is often overlooked due to the severity of constant conflict. As a mother and a lawmaker, the reality of war concerns me for the future of our Nation and the world.

Seeds of Peace is dedicated to empowering young leaders from regions of conflict with the leadership skills required to advance reconciliation and coexistence. I am proud to say that I worked with them here in Washington and in Dallas, and I have partnered with Congressman BARNEY FRANK at times to host them.

Due to its proven impact and success in the Middle East, Seeds of Peace has earned international recognition as an effective model for resolving conflict worldwide, and these are young people who have not been kept away from communication or a part of irritation of Israel.

I firmly support Seeds of Peace because I believe peace ultimately depends upon breaking down barriers and mistrust among people from these regions of conflict. Governments negotiate agreements, but only people can define the quality of peace. Innovative people-to-people programs like Seeds of Peace successfully accomplish this goal on a rather modest budget.

I am proud to support the passage of this resolution and urge my colleagues to support it. I thank Mr. PAYNE for allowing me to make these statements.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 337, "Honoring the Seeds of Peace for its 15th Anniversary as an Organization." I would like to thank my colleague Congressman

ALLEN for introducing this important resolution, which I am proud to cosponsor, as well as the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Congressman BERMAN, for his leadership in bringing this resolution to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, fifteen years ago, in 1993, Seeds of Peace hosted its first international conflict resolution camp. In that first year, amidst regional conflict and fighting a history of hatred, the organization brought together Israeli, Palestinian, Jordanian, and Egyptian youth. Founded by journalist John Wallach, Seeds of Peace initially brought together 46 Israeli and Arab youth. Since that time, Seeds of Peace has offered summer camps for youths from conflict regions around the world and from the United States, involving young people from the initial countries as well as from Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, the Balkans, India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. These summer camps have made enormous strides toward fostering cultural and religious understanding.

Seeds of Peace empowers a new generation of leaders with the tools they need to overcome prejudice and to communicate and negotiate effectively. The summer camps help these youth to develop empathy, respect, and confidence, while giving their "enemies" a human face. The young people who attend these summer camps are the same people who will grow up to build a future of peace and stability. There are now nearly 4,000 young Seeds of Peace leaders who are working to make a positive difference in some of our world's most troubled regions.

As Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, I strongly believe in investing in our children. By doing so, we are investing in our future. Long-term peace between warring parties, including Arabs and Israelis, Indians and Pakistanis, and Afghans and Pakistanis, is dependent on the emergence of a new generation of leaders able and willing to engage in constructive dialogue.

By bringing young people from different backgrounds together in a recreational environment, Seeds of Peace lays a foundation for sustainable peace by facilitating interaction among young leaders before their fears, mistrust, and inherited prejudices have permanently shaped their vision of their "enemy." After spending a summer at camp in Maine, participants and teachers continue to interact through regional and international programming, furthering the dialogue among and across nationalities. Seeds of Peace supports the development of future leaders.

In addition to these summer camps for children from conflict regions, Seeds of Peace now operates a domestic program called "Maine Seeds," addressing ethnic and racial tensions between diverse communities in Maine. Also, in 2004, Seeds of Peace launched its "Beyond Borders" initiative, bringing teens from additional Middle East countries, such as Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait, to participate in a cultural exchange program between American and Arab youth.

Mr. Speaker, while the Arab/Israeli peace process has moved forward haltingly since 1993, Seeds of Peace has grown into a major organization that continues to foster interaction among thousands of young leaders and educators from around the world. It continues to build upon the basic premise the prejudices dispelled during youth will be prejudices dispelled for life.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution, honoring Seeds of Peace for its fifteen years of promoting reconciliation, coexistence, and peace among youth of the Middle East and other conflict areas.

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

Mr. PAYNE. 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 Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 337.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING THE SACRIFICES AND CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Con. Res. 336) honoring the sacrifices and contributions made by disabled American veterans.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 336

Whereas the people of the United States have a sincere appreciation and respect for members of the Armed Forces who suffered disabling wounds while serving in the United States military;

Whereas there are approximately 2,800,000 veterans receiving benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs for disabilities incurred while defending our Nation;

Whereas the current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have resulted in 30,000 disabled American veterans as a direct result of combat operations, and even more so from conditions simulating war, instrumentalities of war, and hazardous duty in combat-related training;

Whereas families throughout every State in America have been affected by loved ones returning disabled from their service to their Nation;

Whereas the American public supports the brave men and women who have defended the freedom of all in America;

Whereas America owes its very integrity to her sons and daughters in uniform, who risk the most for the least, and who epitomize the extraordinary meaning of service, sacrifice, and, most importantly, freedom; and

Whereas Americans should remember and honor our men and women in uniform who incurred disabilities while defending our Nation with a Disabled American Veterans Week: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) recognizes the great sacrifices made by disabled veterans and their families;

(2) calls on the people of the United States to honor all disabled American veterans and the freedom for which they sacrificed;

(3) encourages local, State, and national organizations and governmental institutions

to participate in the effort to honor the sacrifices of America's disabled veterans; and

(4) supports the goals and ideals of Disabled American Veterans Week.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

With House Concurrent Resolution 336, we honor the sacrifices and contributions made of our disabled veterans. The current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have added well over 30,000 of our sons and daughters to the roles of veterans disabled in defense of our Nation, with the number continuing to grow.

Collectively, there are approximately 2.8 million veterans receiving compensation for disability incurred in the line of duty. This resolution calls for the establishment of a single week dedicated annually to each and every one of our Nation's disabled veterans.

What better time would there be for groups large and small, national and local, private and public, to come together and remember in their own way the sacrifices of the Nation's heroes? Those great Americans gave the most for the least. They have earned our lasting remembrance and much more.

It is far too easy for many to forget the true costs of war, to forget the deaths of our servicemen and to ignore the wounds of those who return. It is too easy for too many of us to think that the cost of war ends when the last soldier returns.

Our disabled veterans continue to serve our country in so many ways, bearing their wounds as a reminder to all that freedom and liberty are not free. The men and women who return wounded and disabled from combat, and service to our Nation, remind us of the terrible price we pay, not only in costs measured in dollars, but the costs measured in lives lost and changed.

It is therefore right and proper that we remember the service and sacrifice of our disabled veterans and pay tribute and honor to them during this week of Disabled American Veterans Week.

When called, they answered. When needed, they served. All Americans owe them a debt of gratitude and a heartfelt remembrance for their sacrifice and service. I am reminded of the words of the first President of the United States, George Washington, whose words are worth repeating at this time. "The willingness with which our people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportioned as to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their country."

It is part of my service and duties to visit the veterans' hospitals and clinics