

Irena Sendler was arrested by the Nazis in October 1943. She managed to hide critical information, including the addresses of the hidden children, before her capture. Although she endured torture and was sentenced to death, she refused to provide the location of the lists of names or the identity of her collaborators. She was spared execution only because other underground activists managed to bribe officials.

After her release, Sendler was forced to go into hiding, but she nevertheless continued to work to rescue Jewish children. Although the exact number of children she saved is unknown, it is widely estimated to be over 2,500. After the war, she unearthed the hidden lists and worked to reunite the children with their families. A large majority of the children had no surviving family members, and many were adopted by Polish families, while others were sent to Israel.

Irena Sendler's remarkable story garnered little attention after the war. She was recognized as Righteous Among the Nations by Israel's Yad Vashem on October 19, 1965, but her story was not widely known until 1999, when four high school students in Kansas wrote a play, *Life in a Jar*, based on her life. The play has since been performed across the United States, Canada, and Europe. In 2003, she was awarded the Order of the White Eagle, Poland's highest civilian decoration, and in 2007 she was honored by the Polish parliament, which unanimously approved a resolution honoring her for organizing the rescue of Jewish children. She was nominated for the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize.

Irena Sendler passed away in May 2008 at the age of 98. Even though her actions saved countless innocent children from a horrific death, she said that she always regretted being unable to do more.

In speaking about those non-Jews, like Irena Sendler, who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust, Elie Weisel stated, "In those times there was darkness everywhere. In heaven and on earth, all the gates of compassion seemed to have been closed. The killer killed and the Jews died and the outside world adopted an attitude either of complicity or of indifference. Only a few had the courage to care. These few men and women were vulnerable, afraid, helpless—what made them different from their fellow citizens? . . . Why were there so few?"

I introduced this resolution with the hope that Irena Sendler's legacy would help inspire people to fight for human rights and social justice. Her heroic story reminds us that the actions of one person can make a real difference in this world. As the Talmud teaches, "whoever saves a life, it is considered as if he saved an entire world." There is no higher act of selflessness than to protect people who cannot defend themselves.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, to pay tribute to Irena Sendler and to remind all of us to stand up against oppression and fight for those without a voice.

Mr. CHABOT. We will yield back the balance of our time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 361.

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.

□ 1045

CONGRATULATING ALBANIA AND CROATIA ON BEING INVITED TO BEGIN ACCESSION TALKS WITH THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1266) congratulating Albania and Croatia on being invited to begin accession talks with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and expressing support for continuing to enlarge the alliance, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1266

Whereas the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) met in April 2008 to enlarge the alliance, to reaffirm the purpose of NATO to defend the populations, territories, and forces in the Euro-Atlantic region, and to strengthen further the ability of NATO to confront existing and emerging 21st-century security threats;

Whereas NATO invited Albania and Croatia to begin accession talks to join NATO and indicated that those talks will begin immediately, with the aim of completing the ratification process without delay;

Whereas NATO expressed recognition of the hard work and commitment demonstrated by other countries that aspire to join NATO and commended those countries for their efforts to build multiethnic societies;

Whereas NATO invited Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro to begin an Intensified Dialogue on the full range of political, military, financial, and security issues relating to their aspirations to join NATO;

Whereas NATO expressed the desire to develop an ambitious and substantive relationship with Serbia, making full use of Serbia's membership in the Partnership for Peace, and to make more progress toward integrating Serbia into the Euro-Atlantic community, including through an Intensified Dialogue following a request by Serbia; and

Whereas NATO's ongoing enlargement process has been a historic success in advancing stability and cooperation and reaching the transatlantic goal of ensuring that Europe is whole and free, and united in peace, democracy, and common values: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates Albania and Croatia on being invited by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to begin accession talks and recognizes the historic nature of that achievement, earned through years of hard work and a demonstrated commitment to common security and the shared values of NATO members;

(2) congratulates Albania and Croatia on the signing of the Accession Protocols by NATO members on July 9, 2008, opening the way for full NATO membership for both countries;

(3) expresses strong support for the timely completion of the accession process with Albania and Croatia;

(4) fully supports the invitations to initiate an Intensified Dialogue between NATO and Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Serbia;

(5) supports the enlargement of NATO and believes that continued engagement with all countries that aspire to join NATO will strengthen security for all countries in the Euro-Atlantic region;

(6) supports the declaration of NATO at the Bucharest Summit, which states that NATO's door should remain open to European democracies willing and able to assume the responsibilities and obligations of membership, in accordance with article 10 of the North Atlantic Treaty, signed at Washington April 4, 1949 (TIAS 1964); and

(7) affirms the statement in that declaration that any decision with respect to the membership of countries in NATO will be made through consensus, by members of NATO, and no country outside of NATO has a vote or veto with respect to such decisions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BERMAN. Madam 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 California?

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to support this resolution, which was introduced by my good friend, the ranking member of the Europe Subcommittee, ELTON GALLEGLEY, the gentleman from California, a resolution that congratulates Albania and Croatia on receiving an invitation to begin accession talks with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and expresses support for further expansion of the alliance.

At the NATO summit held in Bucharest this past April, the alliance made notable progress on integrating the Balkans into this important Euro-Atlantic institution. Most significantly, NATO invited Albania and Croatia to begin accession talks. I was pleased to see that accession protocols were signed with both countries on July 9th.

These two countries, Albania and Croatia, have made remarkable progress in reforming their political institutions and strengthening their military capabilities in recent years. They will make important contributions to international security, as well as to the stability of Southeastern Europe.

NATO has also recognized the hard work and commitment demonstrated by other countries in the region. The alliance responded positively to a request from Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina to intensify their engagement. Both countries have been active

participants in NATO's Partnership for Peace program for the last 18 months and will begin an intensive dialogue with NATO on a wide range of political, military and financial issues.

NATO leaders also extended a hand of friendship to Serbia, inviting the country to similarly upgrade its engagement to Intensified Dialogue, even though Belgrade has yet to indicate its interest in enhanced cooperation at this stage.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, House Resolution 1266 congratulates the countries of Albania and Croatia on their recent invitation to join the NATO Alliance. Both countries have struggled to implement significant democratic and economic reforms over the past two decades. The invitations for these countries to join NATO are recognition of the progress that they have both made in spite of such obstacles.

This resolution also recognizes the importance of continued expansion of the NATO Alliance to include other European countries that may meet NATO's membership standards. The expansion of the alliance and the finalization of Membership Action Plans with countries that have not yet been invited to join NATO is a necessary next step for countries like Georgia and Ukraine, for example, that have not yet been invited to join NATO.

As this resolution notes, NATO's continued enlargement will strengthen security in the Euro-Atlantic region.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL).

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 1266, a resolution congratulating Albania and Croatia on being invited to begin accession talks with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. I support this continuing enlargement of the alliance.

These nations have been preparing for NATO for 8 years and are undergoing a historic process. They have made important improvements in the areas of ethnic diversity, human rights, free market economic principles and the promotion of good neighborly relations. Their unique geo-strategic position will be an asset to NATO. I commend the governments of these deserving nations for this historic achievement.

However, it bears mentioning there were three nations being considered for NATO membership this year, Croatia, Albania, and Macedonia. Unfortunately, Macedonia's bid for NATO accession was blocked due to an ongoing dispute with another NATO member.

It is a shame that Macedonia, our steadfast ally who just this year com-

mitted to doubling its troop level in Iraq and has military serving in Afghanistan, was treated in this manner. I remember Macedonia took over 35,000 refugees, I was there at the time, as Milosevic tried to wipe out Kosovo.

Macedonia's strong and sincere commitment to transforming their country into one dedicated to the principles of free market economics, pluralistic democracy and the rule of law cannot be denied. The exclusion of Macedonia from NATO will only serve to diminish regional stability, which I think is what we want, and will discourage other developing democracies from making needed political, economic and military reforms.

Its omission was purely political. As a Member with both Macedonian and Greek constituents in my district, the 8th District of New Jersey, I have been involved in this dispute for a long time. I strongly believe we should be bringing nations together, not keeping them apart.

We are talking about objecting because of what Macedonia calls itself. Thomas Friedman has written about this time and time again. This is the 21st century. What are we doing to ourselves? This nation has responded every time the United States has asked, and yet we have accepted the denial. And the State Department agrees with my position.

Madam Speaker, I offer my sincere congratulations to Albania and Croatia on their achievement.

And I will tell you how far this went, Madam Speaker: The denial on the floor of the Senate, holding up the U.S. Ambassador to Macedonia, Philip Reeker, apparently because he was not talking enough "pro-Greece."

I am pro-Greece. I am pro-Macedonia. We cannot afford to have this happen, because we stand for the little guy, remember, the United States of America. Macedonia is a very small country, less than 2.5 million people. It doesn't have a great standing army.

I ask us not only to congratulate Croatia and Albania, but do everything in our power to make sure Macedonia sits at the table.

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. GALLEGLY), the author of this resolution and also the ranking member and former chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee's Subcommittee on Europe.

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

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1266, a resolution I introduced that congratulates Albania and Croatia for the decision by NATO to invite these two countries to become full members of the alliance.

On April 3rd of this year, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization at its summit meeting in Bucharest invited Albania and Croatia to begin accession

talks to join the organization. This decision was in recognition of wide-ranging political, economic and military reforms undertaken by these two aspiring members.

Both Albania and Croatia have made significant progress in establishing civilian control in their armed forces and ensuring those forces are closely integrated with the militaries of NATO members. Both have made substantial progress in holding free and fair elections, establishing democratic institutions and building their free market economies.

Regarding Albania, I want to single out the assistance of their military in three areas of operation: Albania's participation in the NATO-led peacekeeping mission in Bosnia; its contribution of 140 men to the NATO operations in Afghanistan; and the participation of Albanian Special Forces as part of the U.S.-led coalition in Iraq.

With respect to Croatia, it has been and continues to be a significant contributor to peacekeeping missions in Bosnia and Kosovo. In Afghanistan, Croatia has been a supporter of the NATO-led mission and in the past year has sharply increased their military forces in that country. In addition, Croatia has strongly backed international efforts in the areas of non-proliferation and the fight against illegal trafficking of weapons, drugs and persons.

I have traveled to Croatia on numerous occasions and can attest to the fact that the Croatians and Americans enjoy a close friendship based on common interests and common values. Today we enjoy the closest bilateral relationship with Croatia since the country achieved its independence in 1992.

Madam Speaker, Albania and Croatia are two strong allies that have shown that they are ready, willing and able to become full members of NATO. I urge the passage of H. Res. 1266, and also urge the Senate to move quickly to ratify amendments to the NATO treaty that would allow these two nations to join our most important international alliance.

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Chicago (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 1266. I have a strong relationship with the Croatian-American community in my district, and I strongly support it.

□ 1100

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH), who is also the cochairman of the House Croatian Caucus.

Mr. RADANOVICH. I thank the gentleman from Ohio, the gentleman from California, and also Mr. GALLEGLY for introducing this important statement in support of Croatia and Albania.

Over the last 17 years, we have seen the bilateral relationship between Croatia and the United States grow to the

point where today Croatia stands as a steady and reliable friend in Southeast Europe and the Balkans. Exemplified by President Bush's successful trip there in April of this year, Croatia has become a true partner on a global scale. The U.S. and Croatia share joint efforts in the war against global terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and international organized crime, which represent the most dangerous threats to national and international security.

As an active contributor to NATO-led operations in Afghanistan, Croatia has already demonstrated itself willing and capable to assume responsibilities of NATO membership, and will prove to be an effective contributor to the collective defense and overall alliance mission. In total, Croatia currently participates in 17 international peace-keeping missions and is a current non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council.

As cochair of the Croatian Caucus, it has long been a goal of ours to see Croatia receive an invitation to join NATO, and I was pleased when the invitation to begin accession discussions came earlier this year. The government and the people of Croatia have worked very hard, and NATO has taken notice of their political, social, and military reforms. All Croatians and Croatian Americans deserve to feel true national pride in this accomplishment. I know that I speak for myself, my cochair Mr. VISCLOSKEY, and other members of the Croatian Caucus when I say that we look forward to continuing to work with Croatia and their very capable embassy here in the United States on a variety of issues of mutual concern.

This is truly a great accomplishment for the nation of Croatia, and it is very appropriate that as a Congress we stand together to honor the accomplishments of our friend and ally. I thank all the Members who cosponsored this resolution and helped to bring it to the floor, and encourage my colleagues to join me today in honoring Croatia and Albania.

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. POMEROY).

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution.

I am very pleased that Albania and Croatia were invited to join the alliance at the Bucharest summit in April of this year. Enlarging NATO has been hugely successful in advancing stability and cooperation among NATO's member states, and this invitation to Albania and Croatia to join the alliance is very welcome news.

Unfortunately, another friend and important ally, the Republic of Macedonia, was blocked from joining NATO at the Bucharest summit due to the objection of a single nation, Greece, over the official name of Macedonia. This is very disappointing.

Macedonia has made significant economic and political reforms. They have made a strong contribution to U.S.-led

military missions. They have been deemed to be fully qualified to become a member of the alliance.

Greece is our long-time friend, our valued ally, but their refusal to allow Macedonia into NATO over a bilateral name dispute represents, to my belief, the first time NATO membership has been denied any country due to a bilateral dispute unrelated to strategic defense considerations of the alliance. This is a very troubling precedent. It sets the stage for what could be a pattern, where member states leverage their advantage to nonmember states seeking to get into NATO and try and extract any measure of bilateral concession, all occurring at the expense of the alliance.

I strongly support a quick and expedient resolution to the name dispute between Greece and Macedonia so that Macedonia can join Albania and Croatia in signing accession protocols with NATO. I commend the United States diplomat that has led the efforts to resolve this issue. Both Greece and Macedonia have expressed their resolution to continue to work on getting a breakthrough. I encourage their efforts and I urge them, these great countries, these important friends of ours, to rise above the temptation to exploit nationalist themes for domestic political advantage in each of their respective countries. Put that aside, rise above that for the good of the alliance. Resolve this issue and let Macedonia in.

The resolution before us commends Albania and commends Croatia for the beginning of the accession process. They deserve this commendation. Please support this resolution.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Persons in the gallery are reminded to refrain from any exhibition, including applause.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1266, 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 SPECIAL OLYMPICS' 40TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1279) recognizing the Special Olympics' 40th anniversary.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1279

Whereas Eunice Kennedy Shriver organized the first international Special Olympics Summer Games, which were held on July 20, 1968, in Chicago's Soldier Field;

Whereas the Special Olympics World Games are held every 4 years;

Whereas the Special Olympics oath is "Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt," which was originally spoken by gladiators entering the arena in ancient Rome;

Whereas the Special Olympics is dedicated to empowering individuals with intellectual disabilities to become physically fit, productive, and respected members of society through sports training and competition;

Whereas the Special Olympics currently serves 2,500,000 people with intellectual disabilities in more than 200 programs in over 180 countries;

Whereas the Special Olympics currently has 700,000 volunteers and 500,000 coaches worldwide;

Whereas the Special Olympics programs offer year-round training and competition in 30 Olympic-type sports for both winter and summer;

Whereas at every Special Olympics awards ceremony, in addition to the traditional medals for first, second, and third places, athletes from fourth to last are presented a suitable place ribbon with appropriate ceremony;

Whereas the Special Olympics events are open to all intellectually disabled peoples that are above the age of 8 regardless of the degree of their disability;

Whereas the Special Olympics was officially recognized by the International Olympics Committee in February 1988 and is the only organization authorized by the International Olympics Committee to use the word "Olympics" worldwide;

Whereas the Flame of Hope is a symbol of the Special Olympics World Games and is lit in a special ceremony in Athens, Greece;

Whereas the Law Enforcement Torch Run is a multinational fundraising campaign for the Special Olympics programs in which the Flame of Hope is run by law enforcement officers to raise funds and awareness for the Special Olympics;

Whereas the cities of Lincoln and Omaha, Nebraska will be hosts to the Special Olympics in July 2010; and

Whereas the Special Olympics provides its athletes continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills, and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes, and the community: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives congratulates the Special Olympics on its 40th anniversary for the contributions and opportunities it provides to all its participants.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BERMAN. Madam 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 California?