

time she became known for her willingness to tackle fleeing criminals, worked her way up to detective, and was up for a promotion to sergeant.

In October 2000, Lyles saw a chance to pursue a lifelong dream and left the Fort Pierce Police Department. Through employment with United Airlines as a flight attendant, Lyles found new experiences and opportunities to travel.

Sadly, her life ended less than a year later, on September 11, 2001. Lyles was among the heroic crew on United Flight 93, which, along with the passengers on board that day, overtook the terrorists and prevented them from completing their diabolical plot.

Ultimately, the plane crashed in a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, killing the 44 people on board, but saving an untold number of American lives, including, perhaps, many of us as that plane almost certainly was headed for this building. Moments before the plane went down, Lyles called her husband and prayed for her family, herself and everyone aboard the plane.

CeeCee Ross Lyles was a loving wife and mother and a devoted member of her community whose life was cut short by the tragic events on September 11, 2001. I urge my colleagues to support this bill in her memory.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Florida, Representative MAHONEY.

(Mr. MAHONEY of Florida asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6772, my bill to name the United States Post Office at 1717 Orange Avenue in Fort Pierce, Florida after CeeCee Ross Lyles, a true hero from my district who died tragically on September 11, 2001.

I would like to thank Chairman WAXMAN and his staff for their help in moving this very important piece of legislation to the floor. I would also like to acknowledge my distinguished colleague, Mr. HASTINGS, who also represents Fort Pierce, for his support of the bill, and all the other colleagues who represent the State of Florida who unanimously support this important piece of legislation.

CeeCee Ross Lyles was a flight attendant on United Airlines Flight 93, which crashed in a Pennsylvania field on September 11. Passengers on the flight, along with CeeCee and other flight attendants, fought back against the hijackers after learning that other planes had been flown into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Shortly before Flight 93 crashed, CeeCee called her husband, Lorne, and told him she loved him and she loved her children.

CeeCee was born and raised in Fort Pierce where she served as a police officer for 6 years. In those years as a police officer, she had worked her way

from patrol officer to detective, and was respected for her willingness to tackle fleeing criminals.

Fulfilling a lifelong goal to travel, she became a United Airlines flight attendant in 2000, where she served with distinction.

CeeCee had a true and giving spirit. She loved her volunteer work at a women's shelter that two of her aunts helped found in Fort Pierce. Through her work at the shelter she served as a role model, showing women that they could make their own way if they tried hard enough.

I am proud to name this post office in honor of a true American hero, CeeCee Ross Lyles. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this most worthy hero.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6772, a resolution designating the post office located at 1717 Orange Avenue in Fort Pierce, Florida, as the "CeeCee Ross Lyles Post Office Building." As a cosponsor of this legislation, I would like to like to express my appreciation for the effort of my good friend from Florida, Congressman TIM MAHONEY, for introducing this important legislation. He and I share the privilege of representing Fort Pierce in the House.

Through the designation of this post office we honor the memory of Ms. CeeCee Ross Lyles. Ms. Lyles was a flight attendant aboard United Flight 93 on that fateful day, 9/11 over 7 years ago. Shortly before the plane crashed, Ms. Lyles called her husband to tell her that she loved him. While her time on earth was cut short by terrorists, her memory will live on in our community. This post office designation will forever commemorate the life of Ms. Lyles.

Ms. Lyles was a true Fort Pierce Floridian through and through. She was born and raised in Fort Pierce and later served as a police officer for 6 years there. In 2003, the City of Fort Pierce erected a statue of Ms. Lyles in the Liberty Garden at Veteran Memorial Park.

The legislation before us today ensures the memory of Ms. Lyles and all other 9/11 victims live on in our collective memory. I urge swift passage of this legislation to properly recognize and memorialize the heroes of 9/11 and the life of Ms. CeeCee Ross Lyles.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 6772, and yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6772.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. FOXX. 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.

#### CELEBRATING THE 221ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1356) celebrating the 221st anniversary of the signing of the Constitution of the United States of America, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 1356

Whereas the Constitution of the United States of America was formally signed on September 17, 1787, by 39 delegates from 12 States;

Whereas the Constitution of the United States was subsequently ratified by each of the original 13 States;

Whereas the Constitution of the United States was drafted in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty for citizens of our Nation;

Whereas the liberties enjoyed by the citizens of the United States today are rooted in this cherished document that gave birth to our Nation;

Whereas the Constitution of the United States serves as the foundation for citizens of the United States to accomplish a level of prosperity, security, justice, and freedom unsurpassed by any other country;

Whereas the Constitution of the United States is a model for establishing freedom in other countries;

Whereas the Members of the House of Representatives take an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States; and

Whereas September 17, 2008, is the 221st anniversary of the signing of the Constitution of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) celebrates the 221st anniversary of the signing of the Constitution of the United States of America;

(2) honors the efforts of the 42 delegates who attended the majority of the Constitutional Convention meetings and the 39 signers of the Constitution of the United States;

(3) acknowledges the significance of the ideals established by the Constitution of the United States, including the principle of a limited Federal Government with a system of checks and balances between the 3 branches;

(4) recognizes the Constitution of the United States as the source responsible for our Nation's ability to withstand calamity and preserve national stability, or as Thomas Jefferson wrote, "Our peculiar security is in the possession of a written Constitution"; and

(5) encourages the citizens of the United States of America, who have the privilege to share in the freedoms recognized in the Constitution of the United States, to join with the House of Representatives in this historic celebration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM) and the

gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Minnesota.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. 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 gentlewoman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today marks the 221st anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution, the document that is the basis for our country and the government it is built upon. House Resolution 1356, as introduced, is designed to pay tribute to this historical event.

The supreme law of the land, the U.S. Constitution was adopted on September 17, 1787, by the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, thereby replacing the Articles of Confederation. Shortly after the signing of the Constitution, each State held individual conventions in order to ratify the document in the name of the people.

Since its inception, the Constitution has been amended 27 times, with the first 10 amendments, of course, being our Bill of Rights and other significant amendments, including the 13th amendment abolishing slavery, the 14th amendment which bestowed the right of due process upon all citizens, and the 19th amendment which forbid the denial of the right to vote based on gender.

Mr. Speaker, much can be said about the growth and development of our Nation and the fact that through all of it, whether in times of peace or war, the U.S. Constitution has withstood the test of time. On this, the 221st anniversary of the signing, let us stand in unison, putting aside our partisan distinctions and differences in order to celebrate, as Americans, strong and mighty, the framing document of our country, the U.S. Constitution.

I thank the gentleman from New Jersey for offering this measure, and I am sure my colleagues will join me in supporting the passage of House Resolution 1356.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor to be able to be here today and speak on the anniversary of our Constitution. On this day, 221 years ago, the Constitution of the United States was signed in Philadelphia. Today we honor the hard work and commitment of the 42 delegates to that Constitutional Convention. In retrospect, the accomplishment of those delegates continues to grow and sets a bar for legislative effectiveness for nations all over the world to try to equal.

When I go out and talk to school groups about serving in Congress, I al-

ways use the Constitution as my point of reference, and I try to point out to them what a radical idea this entire country is and was. At the time that we sought our independence from Great Britain, no people in the world had ever sought to set themselves up in the way our government did. The Constitution is the basis of all that has helped make us and keep us great.

The Constitution signed that day contained only 4,400 words. It is the oldest and shortest written Constitution of any major government in the world. Yet in those few words, the framers laid out a plan for self-government which has insured American liberty, adapted to technological and cultural changes, and expanded civil liberty in this Nation over the past two centuries.

I also point out to those school children that in my opinion the most important words written, outside the Bible, are the words "We the People" which begin the preamble to the Constitution, because, again, that was a radical notion in those days.

The delegates who gathered in Philadelphia faced a daunting task. The Nation had already experienced failure in the form of the Articles of Confederation which did little to unify the States into a coherent national unit.

So the question was certainly an open one: Could these delegates, who came from every corner of the Nation and every walk of life, find a new way to create a functioning, unified nation while still respecting the rights and needs of each individual region and State?

They succeeded beyond their wildest expectations. The form of government developed by these delegates wasn't perfect, but the foundation they laid sustained us through wars and times of internal tumult.

The question for all Americans today is, what can we learn from the accomplishment of the framers of our Constitution?

Certainly they taught us there's no shame in contending forcefully for your convictions. But they also taught us that the discipline of respect for your adversary and the virtue of understanding how and when to strike the best compromise possible are the foundations of civil discourse. These are lessons every American would do well to remember.

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

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL), who brought this forward for us to debate today, to have 5 minutes of time.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, this is a very important piece of legislation because we not only recognize the Constitution of the United States, but we do what President Clinton said just a few weeks ago in Denver, and that is, that we will be known by the power of our example, rather than the example

of our power. This is what makes America the greatest country in the world.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate both the signing of the Constitution and the fundamental principles of the document that each of us pledge to uphold and defend when we take our oath of office.

And I am proud to wear this every day by my heart, as with our great patriarch in the Senate, Senator BYRD.

Alexander Hamilton once said, "The sacred rights of mankind are not to be rummaged for among old parchments or musty records. They are written, as with a sunbeam, in the whole volume of human nature, by the hand of the divinity itself; and can never be erased or obscured by mortal power."

The Constitution upholds our rights. We are given these rights by our Maker. That's what makes us all equal at birth, regardless of our religious background, our ethnicity or anything.

Hamilton understood that the rights our founders enshrined in the construction come not from men but from God. That's what makes us all equal, not the Constitution.

Today, 221 years after its signing, public school students across the country will be studying the history of the Constitution. They will learn about James Madison, the father of the Constitution and his vision for the Federal Government. They will learn about the separation of powers into a legislative branch, and executive and judiciary branches, and they will learn about the checks and balances designed to keep one of those departments, one of those areas, those branches from growing too powerful.

Hear me, Mr. Speaker. These are the enduring principles that have stood the test of time. They've become the inspiration and the basis for the governments of countless countries around the globe.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if, on this day when we celebrate this Constitution, I did not discuss the willful disregard for the fundamental principles of our Republic that we have seen over the last 8 years.

Today we have an executive that has disregarded the checks and balances enshrined in the Constitution that have sustained our government for the past two centuries. They have shown complete contempt for article I, section 8, which defines the powers of the Congress in their management of the war and of our economy. I am sad to say that we all have allowed this power to be ceded, both sides of the aisle. Neither party has been a sentinel of our precious Constitution.

□ 1515

We have seen nothing but obstruction in our attempts to perform meaningful oversight of our Federal Government.

The administration's secrecy and unwillingness to cooperate with the Congress' constitutionally mandated oversight powers have reached the point of

ridiculousness. We have actually had to sue the Federal Government—hear this—the Congress had to sue the Federal Government because they refused to comply with duly authorized subpoenas. This is not a respect of the Constitution. This is a disregard.

The fourth amendment bans “cruel and unusual punishment” and the fourteenth guarantees “due process under the law.” Sadly, America is now seen as a country that will hold detainees indefinitely and torture them without bringing charges.

The Constitution prohibits “unreasonable searches and seizures,” yet we do know that this administration established a program to secretly wiretap on Americans who did no harm to their country, who love their country.

Today, the Congress honors the Constitution. Over the past 8 years, it seems like the Executive has forgotten even its existence. This is not hyperbole. This is documented. The redactive administration has corrupted the ideals of our forefathers. They fondled fear to cover up their addiction to secrecy and will be held accountable soon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. PASCRELL. The Constitution belongs to neither political party, neither party, nor is it a document to be possessed solely by the President’s attorneys. The most egregious apologists of the constitutional interpretation are those down at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue who thought it was the throne they were defending.

The Constitution truly completed our separation from Great Britain, thank God. We are no longer their possession, nor are we the possession of the executive branch of government. We will be known by the power of our example, and not the example of our power.

I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to my distinguished colleague from the State of New Jersey and the author of this resolution, Mr. GARRETT.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. I thank the gentlelady for her shepherding this through. She should get a gold star for all of her work on the floor today. I also thank the Chair and the ranking members for helping facilitate this bill going through committee and now coming to the floor today.

As was already indicated, today, September 17, marks a very important anniversary, the signing of our Constitution 221 years ago. Our Founding Fathers in this country came together in an attempt to form something, form a more perfect union, to establish justice and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and to our posterity.

I’m honored to be the sponsor of this resolution, which recognizes those 39 extremely brave men who gave all they

had in signing our Nation’s founding document. Too often, we forget not only the names of these men but the challenges that they faced and what they put at risk when they came together to do this.

For example, our Founding Fathers originally met in Philadelphia to rework the Articles of Confederation. That was the document, you see, which had governed the country after the time of the War of Independence, and really, no one was expecting them to draft an entirely new system of government. And yet, that’s what they did, and none of them were certain at that time that this new document would be ratified at all, and I doubt they even recognized the ingenuity of their final product.

Yet today, here we are over 200 years later. I think we really take our system for granted and I hope this resolution in some small way will help remind us that the Constitution is a profound document. Our prosperity today and over the 200-some-odd years is built upon the stability of the Constitution. And our posterity to the future has to thank the liberties and freedoms that are set forth and guaranteed in this document.

We see other nations around the world have followed in our footsteps by promoting the principles found in our U.S. Constitution, and although it’s already been pointed out the U.S. Constitution is a relatively short document, the Founders really get too little credit for their clear and clever direction in it. They intended to set up a Republic of essentially sovereign, self-governing States, with a very small and central but limited government, operating under clearly defined, and as they say, limited powers.

It was James Madison who wrote in the Federalist Papers at No. 45 that: “The powers delegated by the proposed Constitution to the Federal Government are few and defined. Those which are to remain in the State governments are numerous and indefinite.”

Every time any Member of Congress comes to the floor and they take out their card, about to vote on a particular piece of legislation, they should do what we’re doing right now, and that is to reflect upon the U.S. Constitution. And they should be asking themselves is what they’re about to vote on constitutional.

The gentleman from New Jersey—I’m pleased to see him on the floor with me tonight—raised some of those very same questions. And in light of his comments, I guess we should all have raised those questions last night, as well, as we dealt with the energy package in legislation that came through this House, because, as I indicated a moment before and as, actually, the gentleman from New Jersey already indicated, we were breaking away from Britain at that time to provide the liberties and the freedoms here for the respective States in this country through the War of Independence and then es-

tablished here in the Constitution. So, too, did our Founding Fathers intend those rights would, as they indicated with Federalist No. 45, remain with those States.

What we did last night was abrogated those rights, took away those rights from them, from the respective States, to a very basic source of income and power to those States, to direct what should become of their futures with regard to an important issue such as energy. Legislation that we did last night put on severe restrictions as to the 50 States, at least our coastal States, as to what they can do and what remuneration they might see if they did take particular action with the developing resources, in this case, energy resources, within their States.

And so although a lot of the discussion yesterday was on the political ramifications and some of the discussion was on the environmental ramifications, I’m not sure that there was any discussion on the constitutional implications of what was done yesterday and whether we, as Members of Congress, as we took our card and put it in there voting “yes” or “no,” were considering whether we had the constitutional authority actually to take those rights away from the people that we represent back at home in our respective States, whether we had the constitutional authority to say to those States, no, we’re prescribing, no, we’re placing limits on your ability to have freedom and prosperity for this generation and future generations, as well, by the limits Congress is placing on them.

As the founder and chairman of the Constitution Caucus, I urge my fellow Members here in Congress today going forward then to renew our dedication to faithfully fulfilling our responsibility to the U.S. Constitution. Likewise, I encourage all Americans to take the time today and throughout the rest of the year to reflect upon this important doctrine, to reflect upon the U.S. Constitution, to ensure that freedoms set forth in it, the rights that are set forth in it, are preserved today and for our posterity.

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I very much appreciate the comments by both of our colleagues from New Jersey, and I am very grateful for the leadership that Congressman GARRETT has given to us in the Constitution Caucus.

I want to say that, as I’ve said before, I often speak to school groups, and when I do, I always make sure that I use the Constitution as my beginning point. And one of the things that I talk about is the fact that the article I, which enumerates the power of the Congress, is not an accident. The Framers of the Constitution, the Founders of this country, wanted the majority of the power to remain within the elected bodies, and particularly in the House of Representatives, which is

elected every 2 years, and we're known as the people's House.

I want to say that I agree with my colleague from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) that one of the major problems that exists in this Congress now is the fact that we seem to have ignored amendment 10 of the Constitution, which says, "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."

I think that one of the reasons some of our colleagues believe that we've abrogated our responsibilities of oversight to the executive branch, which the Framers never expected to be very powerful, is that we have become engaged in way too many things in this Congress and we can't stick to our knitting. We don't look after the things that we should be looking after because we're doing the things that the States should be doing and that the people should be doing, and if we would adhere to the Constitution, we could do a much better job of what we came here to do or at least what many of us came here to do.

So I would say that the problem is within the Congress itself because we don't leave enough time to do the things that we should be doing and that are given to us by the Constitution, and we get involved in doing things that the States should be doing and the people themselves should be doing.

And certainly, the bill last night that was passed on this floor is an excellent example of that, and I thank my colleague for bringing it up as an excellent example.

I reserve the balance of our time.

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I do want to talk a little bit more about this issue of the Constitution and the problem that we're having again right now with our not adhering to our responsibilities in this Congress.

Article I, again, is what gives power to the Congress. There's nowhere in the Constitution where the President has the power to do what we should be doing right now, which is opening up the supply of oil and gas for the people of this country.

We have that power. Day after day, night after night, members of the other party come to the floor and blame our sitting President for every ill in this country. Unfortunately, we simply cannot pass off our responsibilities for the things we should be doing and blame them all on the sitting President. My guess is he's going to be blamed over and over and over for probably a long period of time for those things.

But the American people are smarter than that. They know that the Congress itself has the responsibility for doing many of the things that we do not do, and again, the bill yesterday is an example of that.

We had a great opportunity to pass a bill yesterday that would have created more American energy, but my colleagues on the other side don't seem to be in favor of more American energy. They seem to be anti-American energy, just as many other things that they support seem to be anti-American power and anti-American control.

We can completely eliminate our dependence on foreign sources of oil, and we should be doing that, but we aren't doing that. I urge the American people to pay attention to who is in charge of the Congress right now and say to your Members on the other side, we want you to bring real bills, not sham bills, not illusory bills, but real bills to the floor to be voted on.

□ 1530

I reserve the balance of my time.

#### PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask if you heard that the gentlewoman said that the Democrats on this side of the aisle were anti-American.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentlewoman from Minnesota stating a parliamentary inquiry?

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Yes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman will state her parliamentary inquiry.

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. The last speaker just referred to the Democrats, including myself, as anti-American. Is that a custom and usage of this House to refer to one another in such a manner?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair doesn't give advisory opinions, but the Chair would ask that all Members address their remarks to the Chair and maintain proper decorum.

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I thought I had been addressing my comments to the Speaker.

I want to say, again, that I thank the gentlemen from New Jersey for bringing this resolution, H. Res. 1356, to the Congress today to vote on. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank both of the gentlemen from New Jersey for discussing the Constitution today.

Today, we, as Members of Congress, have seen the streets around the Capitol and the Halls of Congress filled with young school students, the very future of our country. They're here to learn about our Government and to better understand our Constitution. So let us, we, who have the honor to represent the people, join together in unison for support for House Resolution 1356.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1356, Celebrating the 221st anniversary of the signing of the Constitution of the United States of Amer-

ica and honoring the efforts of the 42 delegates who attended the majority of the Constitutional Convention meetings and the 39 signers, introduced by my distinguished colleague Representative GARRETT. This legislation acknowledges the significance of the ideals established by the Constitution, including the principle of a limited Federal Government with a system of checks and balances, and recognizes the Constitution as the source responsible for our Nation's ability to withstand calamity and preserve stability.

#### QUOTE

"Don't interfere with anything in the Constitution. That must be maintained, for it is the only safeguard of our liberties."—Abraham Lincoln.

#### BACKGROUND

The members of the Constitutional Convention signed the United States Constitution on September 17, 1787, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Constitutional Convention convened in response to dissatisfaction with the Articles of Confederation and the need for a strong centralized government. After 4 months of secret debate and many compromises, the proposed Constitution was submitted to the States for approval. Although the vote was close in some States, the Constitution was eventually ratified and the new Federal Government came into existence in 1789. The Constitution established the U.S. Government as it exists today.

The Constitution represents the founding of our Government as we know it today. For 221 years, the United States has fought to maintain a democracy that equally represents everyone that resides within the boundaries of our Nation. Without this sacred document, the rules that govern our Nation would be obsolete. The concrete separation that ensures the stability of our Government and thus, our Nation is due to the Constitutional Convention that we recognize today.

#### TEXAS

Texas became a member of this great Nation in 1845. Since that moment, Texas has been proud to be a member of such a great nation like the United States, and as a Representative for the 18th District of Texas I am proud to represent my constituents within the legislative branch of this Government. It takes the help of every branch of governments at a number of different levels to accomplish all the things our government is capable of, and today, I am proud to be a Representative of Texas and the United States. It is a privilege to represent the people of my State and my district in Washington, DC.

#### CONCLUSION

I believe we must pass this resolution to demonstrate how proud we are to celebrate the success of our Founding Fathers and to acknowledge those who put our system of government on paper allowing the United States to become such a renowned nation. This resolution encourages us to remember those intelligent men who put their hearts and souls into developing a system to give equality and representation to all people, and as we stand together now, after 221 years, we must recognize their important part in developing the Constitution that governs our great Nation today.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1356.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. FOXX. 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.

#### ALLOWING USE OF PASSENGER FACILITY FEES FOR NOISE REDUCTION AT CALIFORNIA SCHOOLS

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 996) to amend title 49, United States Code, to expand passenger facility fee eligibility for certain noise compatibility projects.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of the Senate bill is as follows:

S. 996

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. EXPANDED PASSENGER FACILITY FEE ELIGIBILITY FOR NOISE COMPATIBILITY PROJECTS.

Section 40117(b) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(7) NOISE MITIGATION FOR CERTAIN SCHOOLS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the uses specified in paragraphs (1), (4), and (6), the Secretary may authorize a passenger facility fee imposed under paragraph (1) or (4) at a large hub airport that is the subject of an amended judgment and final order in condemnation filed on January 7, 1980, by the Superior Court of the State of California for the county of Los Angeles, to be used for a project to carry out noise mitigation for a building, or for the replacement of a relocatable building with a permanent building, in the noise impacted area surrounding the airport at which such building is used primarily for educational purposes, notwithstanding the air easement granted or any terms to the contrary in such judgment and final order, if—

“(i) the Secretary determines that the building is adversely affected by airport noise;

“(ii) the building is owned or chartered by the school district that was the plaintiff in case number 986,442 or 986,446, which was resolved by such judgment and final order;

“(iii) the project is for a school identified in 1 of the settlement agreements effective February 16, 2005, between the airport and each of the school districts;

“(iv) in the case of a project to replace a relocatable building with a permanent building, the eligible project costs are limited to the actual structural construction costs nec-

essary to mitigate aircraft noise in instructional classrooms to an interior noise level meeting current standards of the Federal Aviation Administration; and

“(v) the project otherwise meets the requirements of this section for authorization of a passenger facility fee.

“(B) ELIGIBLE PROJECT COSTS.—In subparagraph (A)(iv), the term ‘eligible project costs’ means the difference between the cost of standard school construction and the cost of construction necessary to mitigate classroom noise to the standards of the Federal Aviation Administration.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. RICHARDSON) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on S. 996.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, today we are considering S. 996, legislation to amend title 49 of the United States Code to expand passenger facility fee eligibility for certain noise compatibility projects.

Under the direction of Congressman COSTELLO, chairman of the Aviation Subcommittee, Americans in California living and attending schools in the vicinity of airports will now get relief.

The FAA predicts that 1 billion passengers will fly in the United States by 2016. One of the elements that will limit this national airspace capacity growth is noise. S. 996 will allow a 2005 agreement between the Los Angeles World Airports and the Lennox and Inglewood school districts to go forward providing over \$200 million towards noise mitigation in these school districts over 10 years.

This legislation was introduced by Representative JANE HARMAN in the House and Senators DIANNE FEINSTEIN and BARBARA BOXER who passed it in the Senate by unanimous consent on February 28, 2008, which represents an appropriate compromise to noise problems for schools surrounding the Los Angeles Airport.

S. 996 will enable new construction in some instances because sound insulation and other retrofitting of existing buildings do not always provide meaningful noise relief. Furthermore, this legislation defines eligible project cost for any new construction as limited to the difference in cost between constructing, ordinary building code standards for schools, and the cost of incorporating noise mitigation features in construction.

The House passed this language as part of H.R. 2881, the FAA Reauthoriza-

tion Act of 2007, on September 20, 2007. The Senate has not acted on the FAA reauthorization.

Mr. Speaker, I support S. 996, and I urge my colleagues both on and off the Aviation Subcommittee—and on both sides of the aisle to stay germane to the topic—to support this good legislation. Students and teachers deserve quiet classrooms in order to maximize learning.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 996. This bill is going to help alleviate the impact of airport noise in Los Angeles, California, by permitting passenger facility charges collected by the Los Angeles International Airport to be used for noise mitigation during the construction of a new school.

Furthermore, this bill defines the projects that are eligible to ensure that money intended for noise mitigation is used for exactly that and nothing else. This bill is yet another provision to be pulled from H.R. 2881, the Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Act of 2007, and moved as a stand-alone bill.

Unfortunately, our counterparts in the Senate have not been able to reach an agreement among themselves and pass a comprehensive 4-year bill, and time is running out to get just such a bill done this year.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge the Senate to settle their differences and allow the Congress to send much-needed relief to an agency in turmoil as well as the flying public.

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

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as she might consume to Congresswoman JANE HARMAN, the gentlelady from the great State of California.

Ms. HARMAN. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding to me. She is one of the newest Members of Congress, but she is a very active Member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, succeeding our late colleague, Juanita Millender-McDonald, in that position. I want to commend her for her interest in this issue and for all she does for the Ports of L.A. and Long Beach and for Los Angeles International Airport, LAX, which is near her district, surrounded by my district and represented by Ms. WATERS who is a coauthor of this legislation.

I rise in strong support of this bill, one that I introduced in the past two Congresses and which, as you heard, has already passed the Senate.

Imagine, Mr. Speaker, sitting at a desk trying to memorize a verse or tackle a math problem as jet planes roar overhead every 3 minutes. Let me repeat that. I have been there to see it. Every 3 minutes, a jet plane roars above the little school buildings in Lennox, California, immediately east of LAX.