

It made available special non-quota immigrant visas available to the victims of the earthquakes and volcanoes, and it was extended until 1963, that allowed even more refugees to come to the United States.

Between 1960 and 1980, over 175,000 Azoreans have come to establish and develop their roots in the United States and, at the same time, maintain their family relationships to their friends and their members of their families in the Azores and in Portugal. In fact, the 2000 U.S. Census showed that there were almost 2 million Portuguese-Americans in the United States, many of them of Azorean descent.

Mr. Speaker, these Portuguese immigrants have contributed greatly to the fabric of our Nation, not only in the Northeast and New England, but in California as well. As has been noted, they have participated in all walks of life. In my district and Mr. CARDOZA and Mr. NUNES' the Portuguese-Americans have been dominant in the San Joaquin Valley, not just in the dairy industry, but yes, they've also become teachers and doctors and judges and yes, even Members of Congress.

The Portuguese culture is thriving in the San Joaquin Valley, and there are many festas throughout the year, family reunions, the exchanges of those traditions and the ties that bind us quite well.

It's important to note that we have, as I mentioned a moment ago, a visiting delegation. Up in the gallery we have the President of the Assembly of the Republic of Portugal, President Jaime Gama. With him are the former Speaker, Joao Moto Amaral, next to him is a member of the House of Deputies, Antonio Filipe, as well as Ricardo Rodrigues. And we're very appreciative that they be could be here to witness this 50th anniversary and this acknowledgment, because we need to understand that it's more than just like immigrants before and immigrants since. We have had a solid relationship with Portugal with the largest Air Force base, military strategic diplomatic involvement as it relates to just not Europe but the Middle East and Africa, all very vital to America's interests.

Again, we want to recognize all those Portuguese-Americans for their contributions to our Nation, the Azoreans who came to America under this Azorean Refugee Act. We want to thank our Portuguese Caucus, Congressman NUNES, CARDOZA, Congressman FRANK, Congressman KENNEDY and McGOVERN, all who are cosponsors of this resolution who represent significant Portuguese communities.

We also want to thank Chairman CONYERS, Ranking Member LAMAR SMITH and the leadership on both sides for moving this resolution in an expedited fashion through the committee process and onto the floor. We urge an "aye" vote.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is reminded that it is improper to refer to guests in the gallery.

Ms. SUTTON. May I inquire how many more speakers the gentleman from North Carolina has?

Mr. COBLE. I have no more speakers, and I yield back, Mr. Speaker.

Ms. SUTTON. I thank my friend from North Carolina, not only for his work in support of this resolution, but for all the things that we're able to work together on in the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 1438 is an important bill to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Azorean Refugee Act and celebrate the extensive contributions of Portuguese-American communities to our Nation.

I commend the distinguished gentleman, Mr. COSTA, for his leadership on this issue. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by taking us back 50 years ago, to the islands of the Azores, in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. At that time, the peaceful communities of these islands relied on each other to maintain their livelihood, and the mainly agrarian lifestyles of its peoples were sustained by this interconnectedness. Then, in 1957, a tragic and unexpected turn of events, brought about by a natural disaster, severely destabilized the lives of these proud and hard-working people.

It was September 27, 1957, when the island of Faial experienced a series of volcanic eruptions that lasted for over a year and immediately shattered its economic infrastructure. In its aftermath, the Capelinhos volcano left behind overwhelming material, physical and psychological damage.

The cohesive Portuguese communities already present in the United States at the time rallied behind the victims of this volcano, and unified into a great movement that called for special quotas to allow these victims into the United States. In 1958, in great part resulting from these efforts, Senator John Pastore from Rhode Island introduced S. 3942, the Azorean Refugee Act. This bill proposed the issuance of 1,500 non-quota visas to the Faial victims, providing relief in face of such devastating tragedy. Senator John Fitzgerald Kennedy co-sponsored this bill, and along with Senator Pastore, became one of the leading proponents of this legislation. Their efforts finally materialized on August 18, 1958, when the Azorean Refugee Act was finally signed into law, becoming Public Law 85-892.

By November of 1959, the 1,500 special quota visas allowed by the Azorean Refugee Act had already been issued, with more than 3,000 persons from Faial having already immigrated to United States. With the rippling effects of the Capelinhos volcano still being felt in the Azores, the number of visas was elevated to 2,000 in 1960, and then in 1961, a new law permitted the entrance for 2,500 additional Azorean refugees. In total, more than 5,000 visas were issued, effectively shifting the formerly restrictive immigration laws of our country.

The Portuguese community's push to liberalize our immigration policies transformed this Act into one of the most important special laws in our history. In this sense, it was the

most important contribution of the Portuguese-American community to the eventual reform of American immigration policy in 1965. As a direct result of the Azorean Refugee Act, the United States Government began to liberalize its immigration laws, and around 25,000 Portuguese citizens eventually immigrated to this country. This law revitalized the long history of Portuguese immigration to the United States, and once again, allowed our great Nation to benefit from the many qualities these people had to offer.

The immigrants arriving from the Azores reached the shores of the United States as manual laborers, and without much proper education they relied solely on the fruits of their hard work to earn their living. Portuguese immigrants distinguished themselves in farming, fishing, and other trades, and built for this Nation a solid foundation of honesty and pride in their work. Subsequent generations have rested upon this heritage to succeed in our society, with a great many Portuguese-American communities producing professors, lawyers, physicians, judges, politicians and other leading figures of our society.

Fifty years later, the admirable successes of Portuguese-American communities throughout California, New England, and elsewhere are a testament to their remarkable work ethic and integrity, which truly inspire us all. Their story is one of sweat, toils, and struggles before a new land, and in itself reflects the very spirit of this nation.

For all of that, this resolution recognizes the great importance, of the Azorean Refugee Act, and the vast contributions made by these Azorean communities, who truly turned tragedy into triumph. Let us never forget that America's strength rests on the inclusion of people from all parts of the world and in the generosity that flows from our ideals of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Ms. SUTTON. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. SUTTON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1438.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF AARP

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1464) recognizing and honoring the 50th anniversary of the founding of AARP.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1464

Whereas AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization with over 40 million members that is dedicated to improving the quality of life of people 50 and over as they age;

Whereas AARP was founded in 1958 by Ethel Percy Andrus, a retired educator from

California, around the principles of promoting independence, dignity and purpose for older Americans and encouraging current and future generations "To Serve, not to be served";

Whereas AARP's vision is "A society in which everyone ages with dignity and purpose and in which AARP helps people fulfill their goals and dreams";

Whereas AARP's mission is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for all as we age, leading positive social change and delivering value to members through information, advocacy, and service;

Whereas AARP's nonpartisan advocacy activities help millions of individuals participate in the Nation's legislative, judicial, and administrative processes;

Whereas AARP is a trusted source of reliable information on health, financial security, and other important issues of the 50+ population;

Whereas AARP provides an opportunity for volunteerism and service for its millions of members to better their families, communities, and the Nation;

Whereas AARP Services is a leader in the marketplace by being a force influencing companies to offer new and better services for AARP's members;

Whereas AARP Foundation, its philanthropic arm, delivers information, education, and direct service program to the most vulnerable age 50+ Americans;

Whereas AARP Foundation's Tax Aide, the Nation's largest, free, volunteer-run tax preparation program has helped over 40 million low- and middle-income taxpayers;

Whereas AARP Foundation's job placement program has helped over 400,000 low-income older Americans find jobs, giving them purpose and dignity;

Whereas AARP's Driver Safety Program has helped over 10 million old drivers sharpen their driving skills; and

Whereas, in 2008, its 50th anniversary, AARP renews its commitment to improving the quality of life for all older Americans and helping people of all generations fulfill their goals and dreams: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives recognizes and commends AARP for 50 years of outstanding service, promoting the lives and retirement security of older persons age 50 and older, and to future generations for aging Americans.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on House Resolution 1464 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and privilege that I rise in support of House Resolution 1464 in commemoration and recognition of the AARP's 50th anniversary.

In what started as a campaign to obtain affordable health care for retired teachers, AARP founder, Ethel Percy

Andrus, began a movement dedicated to serving and advocating for its nearly 40 million members and all Americans over the age of 50. For the past 50 years, the AARP has advocated tirelessly to address the needs of the elderly, contributing immensely to the greater well-being of some of our most vulnerable citizens.

During this time, the AARP has also provided trusted research and information that continues to shape public policy. This national organization exemplifies the ideals of service and advocacy, and has been a tremendous force in enhancing opportunities for older Americans in their search for quality health care, pension and retirement security, financial and overall well-being.

In addition, I would also like to thank and congratulate AARP's CEO, Bill Novelli and the countless volunteers and staff for their leadership and commitment to furthering the organization's mission of a healthy and secure elderly population in the United States. I would like to extend my congratulations and appreciation to the AARP for their exceptional dedication and service, and I wish this organization continued success in years to come.

I urge the adoption of this resolution, and reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleague from California in support of House Resolution 1464, recognizing and honoring the 50th anniversary of the founding of the AARP. While I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, I must also remind all of my colleagues that we, in Congress, must do our part to serve our constituents over the age of 50 by approving an all-of-the-above comprehensive energy package that will put our Nation on the path to energy independence, a real energy policy, and not one that just pays lip service to parts and parcel of energy policy, one that really looks at solving our energy problems going forward.

With that, I would say that I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I urge my Democratic colleagues to work with us across the aisle and to serve those constituents that the AARP serves in approving essential energy policy as well.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOUSTANY. I yield back.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and privilege that I rise in support of H. Res. 1464, in commemoration and recognition of the AARP's 50th anniversary of providing outstanding service and advocacy on the behalf of America's aging citizens.

In what started as a campaign to attain affordable healthcare for retired teachers, AARP founder Ethel Percy Andrus began a movement that has become a committed organization championing the needs of nearly 40 million members and all Americans over the age of 50.

The AARP has enjoyed 50 years of nonpartisan advocacy for consumer rights, has provided trusted research and information that continues to shape public policy, and has addressed consumer needs of the elderly, contributing immensely to the greater necessities of some of our most vulnerable citizens.

This national organization exemplifies the ideals of service and outreach, and has been a tremendous force in enhancing opportunities for older Americans in their search for quality healthcare, pension and retirement security, financial and overall well-being.

I would like to extend my congratulations and appreciation to the AARP for their exceptional dedication and service, and I wish this organization continued success in the great work that they do for years to come.

I would also like to thank and congratulate AARP's CEO, Bill Novelli, and the countless volunteers and staff, for their leadership and commitment to furthering the organization's mission of a healthy and secure elderly population in the United States.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this resolution, and yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1464.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1500

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION HURRICANE RECOVERY RELIEF

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6890) to extend the waiver authority for the Secretary of Education under section 105 of subtitle A of title IV of division B of Public Law 109-148, relating to elementary and secondary education hurricane recovery relief, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6890

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

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF WAIVER AUTHORITY TO EASE FISCAL BURDENS.

Section 105 of subtitle A of title IV of division B of Public Law 109-148 (119 Stat. 2797) is amended—

(1) in the second sentence of subsection (b), by striking "2008" and inserting "2009"; and

(2) in subsection (c)(2), by striking "for fiscal year 2006 or 2007" and inserting "for any fiscal year".

SEC. 2. HOLD HARMLESS FOR LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES SERVING MAJOR DISASTER AREAS.

In the case of a local educational agency that serves an area in which the President has declared that a major disaster exists in accordance with section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170), related to severe storms, tornadoes, or flooding in the