

In the United States, while 1 in 1,000 infants are born with the disease, the rate of disease for African-American infants is 1 in 500. The sickle cell disease gene is carried by 2,000,000 Americans, yet this number is 1 in 12 within the African-American community. If both parents of a child have sickle cell, there is a 1 in 4 chance that their child will inherit the disease. Millions of people world-wide suffer from sickle cell disease, and those of African and Caribbean ancestry are primarily affected.

Despite these devastating statistics, a cure has not been found. Researchers are hopeful that if sickle cell disease is properly treated and diagnosed early, it will not interfere with the growth and mental development of afflicted children. Educating our communities about this disease will enable researchers and advocacy organizations to develop effective treatments and ultimately a cure.

I thank Congressman DANNY K. DAVIS for introducing this legislation and look forward to working with my colleagues to raise awareness of sickle cell disease.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 186, Supporting the Goals and Ideals of Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month. Mr. Speaker, the State of Georgia has over 7,000 individuals, from diverse backgrounds, many of whom are my constituents living in DeKalb County, living with sickle cell anemia. I have tirelessly advocated on their behalf to support the Georgia Comprehensive sickle cell center, which is located at nearby Grady Hospital. While sickle cell anemia is found in more diagnosed at a higher rate among African Americans and Latinos, it has also found among people of Greek, Turkish, and Saudi Arabian descent. I strongly support H. Con. Res. 186 and I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution.

Sickle cell anemia is a major health problem that affects millions of people worldwide. More than 70,000 people in the United States have inherited sickle cell anemia, while more than 2 million carry the sickle cell trait, including 1 in 12 African-Americans. There is a 25 percent chance that parents carrying the Sickle Cell trait will pass the disease onto a child. This chronic disease deserves our attention and I applaud the efforts of this Congress to ensure that mire is done.

While there is no widely available cure, the goal of sickle cell disease management is to alleviate the painful symptoms associated with the disease, including gallstones, strokes, tissue, liver, and spleen damage. There has been a glimmer of hope for a small number of those infected; bone marrow transplants have proven to be a successful treatment for the disease. Over the past 30 years, advances in advocacy and awareness, and improvements in medicine have led to increases in early diagnoses, improved disease management, and longer life spans for individuals diagnosed with sickle cell anemia.

It is my hope that in the near future, we can develop a cure for this chronic illness, and ensure that people living with Sickle Cell Anemia live full, productive lives.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend

the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 186.

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.

CONGRATULATING LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD SERIES CHAMPION CHULA VISTA PARK VIEW

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 725) congratulating the Chula Vista Park View Little League team of Chula Vista, California, for winning the 2009 Little League World Series Championship.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 725

Whereas on Sunday, August 30, 2009, the Chula Vista Park View Little League Baseball Team from Chula Vista, California, rallied to defeat the Taoyuan, Taiwan (Chinese Taipei) Little League Team by a score of 6 to 3 to win the 2009 Little League World Series Championship at South Williamsport, Pennsylvania;

Whereas Chula Vista Park View is in its 41st season of playing little league baseball and is the fourth team from San Diego County to play in the Little League World Series championship game;

Whereas the 2009 Chula Vista Park View Little League World Championship Team consists of players Isaiah Armenta, Oscar Castro, Jr., Nick Conlin, Kiko Garcia, Bulla Graft, Seth Godfrey, Markus Melin, Jensen Petersen, Daniel Porras, Jr., Luke Ramirez, Andy Rios, and Bradley Roberto;

Whereas the 2009 Chula Vista Park View Little League World Championship Team is led by Manager Oscar Castro, Coach Ric Ramirez, and Park View Little League President Rod Roberto;

Whereas the Chula Vista Park View Little League team was successful because of solid coaching and execution of fundamentals and discipline;

Whereas the fans of the Chula Vista Park View Little League team showed enthusiasm, support, and courtesy for the game of baseball and all of the players and coaches;

Whereas the performance of the Chula Vista Park View Little League team demonstrated to parents and communities throughout the United States that athletic participation builds character and leadership in children; and

Whereas the achievement of the Chula Vista Park View Little League Baseball Team is the cause of enormous pride for the Nation, the State of California, and especially for the city of Chula Vista: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates the Chula Vista Park View Little League Baseball Team from Chula Vista, California, on winning the 2009 Little League World Series Championship;

(2) recognizes and commends the hard work, dedication, determination, and commitment to excellence of the members, parents, coaches, and managers of the Chula Vista Park View Little League team;

(3) recognizes and commends the people of Chula Vista, California, for the outstanding loyalty and support that they displayed for

the Chula Vista Park View Little League team throughout the season; and

(4) respectfully requests that the Clerk of the House transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the City of Chula Vista and each player, manager, and coach of the Chula Vista Park View Little League Baseball Team.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the lead sponsor of this resolution, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER).

Mr. FILNER. Mr. LYNCH, I thank you. I thank Chairman TOWNS and the Speaker for getting us this resolution so quickly.

We celebrate today and congratulate the Chula Vista Park View Little League team for winning the 2009 Little League World Series.

I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, for several weeks last month, our whole region, the San Diego region and the city of Chula Vista in particular, was enthralled by these 12 young men on the little league team who managed to win victory after victory, some with dramatic comebacks from behind.

They hit home runs whether they were 5 foot 1 or 6 foot 2 and, in fact, set the little league world series record for number of home runs. Their defensive play was incredible, making some fantastic double plays that were worthy of the Major Leagues.

Running the bases or just cheering on the team, every one of these 12 young men played a very important role, and our whole region was enthralled by them.

So we want to thank Isaiah, Oscar, Nick, Kiko, Garcia, Bulla, Seth, Markus, Jensen, Daniel, Luke, Andy, and Bradley for their incredible play in this World Series. The manager, Oscar Castro; the coach, Ric Ramirez; and the little league president, Rod Roberto, were key figures, of course, in this incredible victory.

These young men were dubbed the Blue Bombers. Their final victory was over Taipei in a 6-3 victory. They come from behind in that one, too.

They displayed the success that solid coaching brings and the execution of the fundamentals that little league stresses. Again, the whole region was thrilled by their performance—playing with poise, with class, with sportsmanship. They even invited the Chinese Taipei team to join them on their victory lap around the field at Williamsport to show their own incredible team spirit and sportsmanship.

Chula Vista is a city hard hit by foreclosures and the national recession. It often feels overshadowed by the bigger city of San Diego and affluent suburbs further north, so this victory was particularly sweet for the city of Chula Vista. It helped us all through some tough times. When our professional teams in the area were losing, the little league team was, in fact, victorious.

□ 1530

So all of us here today commend the hard work, dedication and determination of the members, the parents who came out always to support them and were with them the whole way, their coaches, their managers, and the community itself for the outstanding loyalty and support that they displayed to the team throughout the whole season. The welcome home ceremony was attended by 12,000 people in the stadium.

So I thank the House. I thank the Speaker. I thank Mr. LYNCH and Chairman TOWNS for joining me in congratulating and honoring the Chula Vista Park View Little League team for winning the 2009 World Championship game of the Little League World Series. I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise today to urge passage of the resolution, to congratulate the Chula Vista Park View Little League team of Chula Vista, California, for winning the 2009 Little League World Series championship. The players kept their sights high, even after falling behind by three runs early in the game. Through their perseverance, the players were able to come through with the win by a score of 6-3.

"We knew we could come back," said 13-year-old Kiko Garcia. "We always do." The fantastic attitude of these players definitely helped them in achieving victory. There were many notable achievements on the field, including Bulla Graft's single, which scored the go-ahead run in the fourth inning, and Kiko Garcia pitched three-plus scoreless innings of relief to lead the team to victory.

The amazing attitude and determination of the Chula Vista Little League team is not unique to this championship game. It is something that they have learned through hundreds of hours of practice and previous games played. Our Nation should be proud of the great sportsmanship displayed by the players, coaches and fans of the Chula Vista Park View Little League team.

After the win, the Chula Vista players invited the Taipei team players to join them in a victory lap around the stadium. These young men should be proud of the way they played the game of baseball, even more, the way that they represented their country.

It is for these reasons that I rise today to honor the Chula Vista Park View Little League team of Chula

Vista, California, for winning the 2009 Little League World Series championship.

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

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to support House Resolution 725 for consideration. This resolution congratulates the Chula Vista Park View Little League team of Chula Vista, California, for winning the 2009 Little League World Series championship. The measure before us was introduced on September 9 by my colleague and friend, Representative BOB FILNER of California, and it was favorably reported out of the Oversight Committee on September 24 by unanimous consent. Notably, this measure enjoys the support of over 50 Members of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 725 applauds the Chula Vista Park View Little League baseball team's Little League World Series championship run. Led by Coach Ric Ramirez and Manager Oscar Castro, this group of young men clinched the sixth Little League World Series title for the State of California and extended America's Little League World Series championship streak to 5 years.

In the championship game, the California club overcame a three-run deficit to beat a formidable team from Taipei, China, 6-3. These young men demonstrated the type of teamwork, camaraderie and never-say-never spirit necessary to succeed in all facets of life. I wish them the best in their future endeavors, and I hope if any pursue a career in baseball, they find their way to my beloved Red Sox.

I also want to applaud the Little League World Series organizers for orchestrating another successful tournament. The Little League World Series was first held in 1947, and although only American teams competed in the inaugural tournament, today the competition is a truly international event, welcoming teams from Canada, the Caribbean, Latin America, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

In closing, let us, as a body, applaud the Chula Vista Park View Little League baseball team for their hard work and success and congratulate the organizers of the Little League World Series for helping to instill the indispensable values of teamwork, sportsmanship, and dedication in today's youth. I encourage all of my colleagues to support this measure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H. Res. 725.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. I thank my colleague for his remarks. I want to ask all of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join with Mr. FILNER of California, the lead sponsor of this measure, to congratulate the Chula Vista Park View Little League team by agreeing to House Resolution 725.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 725.

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.

CONSTITUTION DAY

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 734) expressing the support for and honoring September 17, 2009 as "Constitution Day," as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

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

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

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

Whereas the Constitution has provided the means and structure for this Nation and its citizens that is unparalleled by any other country;

Whereas the Constitution's contributions to the welfare of the human race reach far beyond the borders of the United States;

Whereas the House of Representatives continues to strive to preserve and strengthen the values and rights bestowed by the Constitution upon the United States and its citizens;

Whereas the Constitution is recognized by many to be the most significant and important document in history for establishing freedom and justice through democracy;

Whereas the Constitution deserves the recognition, respect, and reverence of all people in the United States;

Whereas every person in the United States should celebrate the freedom and responsibilities of the Constitution;

Whereas the preservation of such values and rights in the hearts and minds of United States citizens would be advanced by official recognition of the signing of the Constitution; and

Whereas September 17, 2009, is designated as "Constitution Day": Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses support for the goals and ideals of "Constitution Day"; and

(2) calls upon the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may