

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

have 5 legislative days within which to discuss 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 myself such time as I may consume.

On behalf of the Oversight Committee, I now present House Resolution 734 for consideration. This resolution expresses support for the goals and ideals embodied in Constitution Day. House Resolution 734 was introduced on September 10, 2009, by my colleague, Representative ROBERT LATTA of Ohio, and favorably reported out of the Oversight Committee on September 24, 2009. In addition, this resolution enjoys the support of over 60 Members of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 734 expresses our support for Constitution Day, which is routinely celebrated on September 17. Eleven years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence, 55 delegates from the first American States came together in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to create a Constitution for a Federal Republic. After much hard work and careful deliberation, the Constitution of the United States was signed on September 17, 1787, by 39 delegates from 12 States.

As the supreme law of the United States, the Constitution provides the basic structure for the organization of the American Government. It is no exaggeration to say that the United States Constitution is one of the most important documents in history, often referred to as a living document. This framework from our representative and democratic system of government has served the American people for over 200 years, making it the oldest Federal Constitution still in use in the world. With its separation of powers, its checks and balances and preservation of rights, the Constitution is a worthy example to burgeoning democracies everywhere.

Furthermore, the values and principles it enshrines continue to be central to our Nation's identity. I am sure my colleagues share my pride in serving, protecting and defending the United States Constitution, and I am pleased that we are taking the opportunity today to honor this most treasured document of our democracy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting House Resolution 734.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to my distinguished colleague from the State of Ohio, the author of H. Res. 734, Mr. LATTA.

Mr. LATTA. I thank my colleague.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 734, which I introduced on September 10, honoring and supporting Constitution Day. I have always been grateful that so many of our country's greatest leaders and statesmen were able to be on Earth at the

same time and place to draft the Constitution. Within this document are the fundamental principles of the American system of liberty. Our Constitution has been that beacon upon the hill, that guiding star at night in that shining city that millions of people around the world have long been guided by within their own countries.

The Constitution took 4 hard, acrimonious months from May to September 1787 to actually bring it to fruition through their hard labor. Again, the citizens that attended the convention in Philadelphia were some of our greatest leaders and scholars of government and history: Madison, Franklin, Hamilton, Morris, and Washington. Many different ideas were brought to the convention. Were they only empowered to amend the Articles of Confederation? There is great debate about that. Could they go farther and start from scratch? Many a discussion was held in Philadelphia's boarding houses and taverns.

These members began debates on creating three branches of government: legislative, executive, and judicial. James Madison, the Father of our Constitution, was one of the first to arrive in Philadelphia, and he brought with him his specifically researched ideas while others had theirs. You know, it turned out to be a very hot summer that year. There was no air conditioning. Secrecy was enforced. The proceedings mandated that all windows and doors be shut. Tempers flared, but through it all they worked because these men knew that they were creating a document that would be there for a Nation and for the ages.

The birth of a new Nation was being watched by the powers around the world. As mentioned, 55 delegates attended the Constitution Convention with 39 of them signing the document. What emerged was a document containing 4,400 words. The story goes that when asked what kind of new government was formed, Benjamin Franklin replied, "A Republic, if you can keep it." The Constitution is both the oldest and shortest written constitution of any form of government in the world.

Again, personally I marvel at what these individuals did and what they could accomplish in 4 months. Today, citizens should look to guidance from our Forefathers. All Americans should read this great document because, since the Constitution's ratification, it has been the framework for our great Nation. Not only did great men bring forth great ideas, but for 222 years, this great experiment that we call America has been paid for by hundreds of thousands of lives, the lives of our brave military men and women. Let the living always remember to give thanks to our honored dead, who have paid the ultimate sacrifice that the Constitution of the United States remains our guiding light.

Too few citizens today have read this important document and understand its importance. It is short, and it

should be learned, and it should be studied. The preamble of our document states that "We the People of the United States, 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 to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America." The words "We the People" affirm that any power of the Federal Government is given to by the people of this great land, and we in Congress must always remember that.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, we have no further speakers at this time, and I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to support the passage of H. Res. 734, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for their remarks and support of this resolution. I urge them to support Mr. LATTA and his lead sponsorship of this resolution in support of the goals and ideals of Constitution Day, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting House Resolution 734.

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. 734, 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.

The title was amended so as to read: "A resolution expressing support for the goals and ideals of 'Constitution Day'".

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1545

COMMUNICATION FROM THE
CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 29, 2009.
Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, The Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on September 29, 2009, at 11:06 a.m.:

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 3614.

That the Senate passed S. 1717.

That the Senate passed with an amendment; requests a conference with the House of Representatives and appointed conferees H.R. 2996.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.