

Poland's struggle against communism and its emergence as a free and democratic nation are a great chapter in the history of the 20th century. In recent years, Poland has strongly supported the United States diplomatically and militarily, helping to combat global terrorism and contributing troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution and in conveying America's thanks to the Polish people. Poland has been one of our Nation's best friends and strongest allies. We must honor this relationship and make sure that we work to continue it and work to strengthen that relationship with great respect.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS), a member of the Armed Services and Judiciary Committees and the co-Chair of the House Missile Defense Caucus.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. I thank the gentlelady, as always.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege for me to stand here today in strong, wholehearted support of our cherished ally, the nation of Poland, and in strong support of House Resolution 266. And I want to thank Mr. LIPINSKI, a cherished friend of mine, for his willingness to put forth this resolution.

After the recently announced decision by the Obama administration abandoning our promised missile defense interceptors in Poland, our allies' newspaper headlines stated the situation in rather stark terms, Mr. Speaker. One Polish newspaper had the headline, "Betrayed! The USA has sold us to the Russians and stabbed us in the back."

Now, Mr. Speaker, it's a travesty beyond words that the United States of America, the bastion of freedom throughout the entire world, would give reason to a loyal ally like Poland to write headlines like that. Poland has strongly supported the United States diplomatically and militarily and has joined with us courageously in combating global terrorism and has contributed troops to the coalitions led by the United States of America both in Afghanistan and in Iraq.

For these reasons and so many others, Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to stand here today with my colleagues to warmly congratulate the Polish people on their remarkable accomplishments as a free nation and to express our gratitude for Poland's steadfast partnership with the United States and to affirm our clear and unwavering support for the free democratic nation of Poland.

Mr. Speaker, I would go one step further by stating that one of the best ways we could demonstrate our deep love and appreciation for the nation and people of Poland would be to prove that we mean this by extending the Visa Waiver Program to our Polish allies. We've already extended the Visa

Waiver Program to 35 other allies, including other European nations like Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia, and I strongly believe we should have extended this same courtesy to our allies in Poland long ago. Poland repealed its own visa requirement back in 1991 and allows Americans to travel throughout Poland without the use of a visa.

The nation of Poland has proven time and again, Mr. Speaker, its steadfast dedication to the cause of human freedom as well as its friendship with the United States, and it is appropriate that they understand that America is grateful. And I just reiterate my gratitude to Mr. LIPINSKI and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 1½ minutes to my good friend, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO).

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in wholehearted support of this resolution. I thank Representative LIPINSKI for his outstanding work that he has done to bring this resolution to the floor.

In 1919, the United States established diplomatic relations with the newly formed Polish Republic. After 90 years of diplomatic relations, our relations have never been stronger.

Over the last 90 years, the Polish people have overcome profound challenges, and Poland has emerged as a beacon for democracy and economic revitalization. In the 1980s, Polish workers rose against the Soviet elite, and despite significant oppression, forced democratic elections in 1989 and was a significant factor in the fall of the Iron Curtain. Despite the decades of Soviet control, over the last 20 years, the Polish economy has expanded dramatically and now is one of the economic engines of Europe.

Over the years, Poland has cooperated closely with the United States on issues such as democratization, nuclear proliferation, human rights, regional cooperation in Eastern Europe, and reform of the United Nations.

Today we can recognize these great contributions and reaffirm our commitment to our relationship with this great ally by voting in support of this resolution. I urge my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, to vote in support of House Resolution 266.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to also join in support of H. Res. 266, celebrating 90 years of diplomatic relations between the United States and the Polish Republic.

In those years, Poland has suffered invasion, and then the cruel domination of communism.

The religious faith and the courage of Poland's people carried them out of those dark years, and Poland today is a beacon of democracy to the rest of the world.

With an impressive history, Poland is also poised to be a leader of Europe's future.

I visited Poland with a group of other Members, so I have a firsthand sense of the hospitality of Poland, and also of Poland's commitment to freedom and national security.

I am very disappointed in President Obama's decision not to follow through with the placing of ground-based missile defense systems in Poland. In the United States House of Representatives and in the Senate, there are still many supporters of such a system.

I appreciate the serious debates and commitments Poland has made to be an ally of the United States on missile defense, and I will continue to urge full cooperation between the United States and Poland on this matter.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I have no further speakers and yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 266, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 140TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF MAHATMA GANDHI

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 603) recognizing the 140th anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

##### H. RES. 603

Whereas October 2, 2009, marks the 140th anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi; Whereas Mahatma Gandhi was a great political leader, devout and spiritual Hindu, and leader of India's nationalist movement;

Whereas all his life Gandhi courageously supported, and in fact gave his life for, the cause of Hindu Muslim amity;

Whereas Gandhi helped to make India the largest democracy in the world;

Whereas his philosophy of nonviolent civil disobedience has influenced people around the world for the betterment of mankind;

Whereas Gandhi developed the term Satyagraha, meaning vindication of truth, not by inflicting suffering on others but through nonviolent and patient self-suffering;

Whereas his autobiography "My Experiments with Truth" reveals the inner voice of one of history's most spiritual leaders;

Whereas Gandhi counseled humankind to "Hate the sin, and love the sinner", urged people everywhere to "be the change you want to see in the world", and reminded the world that "Freedom is not worth having if it does not connote the freedom to err"; and

Whereas as a result of his timeless legacy, Gandhi's name has come to symbolize freedom and justice around the world: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the 140th anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi;

(2) acknowledges and commends Mahatma Gandhi's unique and lasting role in the establishment of the state of India and its

democratic institutions, which will be revered for generations to come; and

(3) congratulates the visionary leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, which enhanced the rapidly deepening friendship between the United States and India, the world's oldest and largest democracy, respectively.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The gentleman from American Samoa is recognized.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the resolution and yield myself such time as I may consume.

This resolution recognizes the 140th anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi, one of the 20th century's greatest political leaders, a devout and spiritual Hindu, and the father of India's nationalist movement.

While much has been said about the great works of Gandhi's life, it is important that we never forget that without Gandhi, the fates of what is now the world's largest democracy, India, and the oldest democracy, the United States, would likely be far different.

Mahatma Gandhi served as an inspiration for a movement that ended the rule of the British Raj and created a free and independent Indian state. I might also add, Mr. Speaker, it ended the rule of the British Empire. But of equal significance, especially to us in this Chamber today, Mahatma Gandhi inspired the American civil rights movement that hailed one of America's most remarkable social and political transformations.

By advocating nonviolence, a radical new form of resistance, Mahatma Gandhi transformed the methods used around the world to protest oppression. Mahatma Gandhi developed the term "Satyagraha," meaning vindication of truth not by inflicting suffering on others but through nonviolent and patient self-suffering. He counseled humankind to "hate the sin and love the sinner" and urged people everywhere to "be the change you want to see in the world." The late Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., became the agent, an instrument, of that change here in the United States.

In India, at a time when sectarian tensions threatened to disrupt the independence movement, Mahatma Gandhi encouraged dialogue between Muslim and Hindu community leaders, working to cool passions and put an end to religious-based violence.

Though his life was cut tragically short by an assassin's bullet, his legacy is seen in the over 1.5 billion people who inhabit the free and independent countries of the Indian subcontinent and by our own embrace of the principles of nonviolent political action, unity, and religious tolerance within the United States.

I urge all my colleagues to honor the 140th anniversary of the birth of the great Mahatma Gandhi by supporting this resolution.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of House Resolution 603, a measure recognizing the 140th anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi. At the outset, let me express my deep appreciation to our distinguished chairman, Mr. HOWARD BERMAN, my good friend from California, for his strong support of this bipartisan resolution and to the co-Chairs of the India Caucus for their cosponsorship.

Mr. Speaker, I introduced this resolution to honor the extraordinary life and the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi. The broad outlines in the life story of this remarkable human being are, of course, generally well known: his struggles as a young lawyer in South Africa for the civil liberties and the political rights of Indian immigrants; his return to India and his leadership in the long and complex struggle for home rule and then independence; and his campaign against violent communalism and terror, a struggle that ultimately cost him his life.

In the course of this journey, Gandhi believed and developed the distinctive philosophy of nonviolence. This philosophy has influenced so many great figures of world history from Nehru to the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., to Aung San Suu Kyi.

Today, Cuban dissidents and political prisoners such as Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet turn to Gandhi's tenets of peaceful civil disobedience to challenge the Cuban tyranny and demand the freedom of the Cuban people.

In a world too often worked marked by violence and vast inequity, Gandhi said, "be the change you want to see in the world."

"Be the change you want to see in the world." This reminds us all of the need for personal integrity in the struggle for peaceful change and the fullest respect for human dignity.

Mr. Speaker, as we have all come to understand, the life and the teachings of this deeply philosophical and spiritual man have touched millions of people around the world. Indeed, in world affairs, the person who arguably affected change more than anyone else, more effectively than anybody else, was Mahatma Gandhi.

Mr. Speaker, ultimately, what was it about this complex and enigmatic man that made him one of the most iconic figures of the 20th century? As a recent

biographer noted, fundamentally, Gandhi was a man of vision and action, who asked many of the most profound questions that face humankind as it struggles to live in a community. It was this confrontation out of a real humanity which marks his true stature and which makes his struggles and glimpses of enduring significance to us all. As a man of his time who asked the deepest questions, even though he may not have had all of the answers, he became a man for all times and all places.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge support for this resolution, and with that, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I want to commend and thank the gentlelady from Florida, our ranking member of our House Foreign Affairs Committee, for authoring this resolution and giving remembrance to our Nation about the legacy and life of this great human being.

You know, the unusual thing about my reading about this great person, Mahatma Gandhi, was that he was a firm believer not only in the *Guida*, but also in the Bible. He believed in a lot of the principles that were taught by Jesus Christ in the Bible itself. And as I recall a statement of the Good Book saying, Love your enemies, do good to them who hate you, I think gives the great substance of what Gandhi had said, hate the sin, but not the sinner. And I think in the same way he tried to say to the British Empire, he loves the British people, but he did not like what the British Government was doing to his people.

I think it was at the time when he had just completed his legal studies from Oxford University that he was given an assignment to go to South Africa to help one of the Indian community people there with some of the problems.

And it was on that train ride that he purchased a first-class ticket on this train, and the porter there stopped him saying, You're not supposed to sit on that first-class trip; you are supposed to be out in the baggage area where all the nonwhite people are supposed to be sitting. And he protested and said, I bought a first-class ticket, I deserve it, and there should be no reason why I shouldn't sit in the first-class cabin on the train. And for that, he was not only beaten, but he was left to himself and the train went on.

It was in that given experience that Mahatma Gandhi said, Something is wrong here; and from there he started believing that the British colonial rule of his people just did not seem to fit right as far as the way that the Indian people were being treated by the British.

For that, Mr. Speaker, history has well spoken. I don't have the exact quote that was given by Albert Einstein that said no mortal in the last 100

years has ever been given as an example of this one human being that, by the way, the former Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, described him as a "naked fakir," in very derogatory terms, I suppose, in that respect because Mr. Winston Churchill believed that the British Empire should rule for another 1,000 years perhaps.

But I must say that, yes, there is absolutely no question that the life and the legacy of this great man, Mahatma Gandhi, literally transformed even the civil rights movement here in our own country. And for good, I say, yes, absolutely, influenced people like Rosa Parks, and especially the great and the late Martin Luther King, Jr. for what he has done to transform American Society, making it better than what it was.

I would like to quote to my colleagues what Albert Einstein said: "I believe Gandhi's views were the most enlightened of all the political men in our time."

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. To close on our side, Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), the ranking member on the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentlelady from Florida.

As cochairman of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans, I rise in support of House Resolution 603, recognizing the 140th anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi.

Today, we give special remembrance to one of the most revered people of the last century. Preaching nonviolence, Gandhi dedicated his life's work to helping others. As a leader in the Indian National Congress, Gandhi led campaigns to ease poverty. He led the campaigns to expand women's rights. And of course he is remembered for his efforts to build religious amity. Above all else, however, Gandhi worked tirelessly to free his nation and helped direct India into a new era of democracy.

His methods to do this included leadership by example. It included his organizational ability. It also included peaceful civil disobedience as a tool and his power to persuade by force of argument. These were the ways in which he motivated those not only in his own nation, but around the world to this cause.

Having traveled to India during the second round of voting during India's recent election, the largest democratic display the world has ever seen, I would have to say that Gandhi himself would indeed have been proud of how far his nation has come. Under his guidance, India has become a pluralistic democracy of many religions and ethnic groups, I think probably as pluralistic as the United States. We are here today to help keep the spirit of Gandhi alive and to remember his remarkable achievements.

Before I close, I would also like to extend my best wishes to the millions of

people that will celebrate Diwali this Saturday; I certainly hope it will be a joyous occasion.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 603.

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.

#### EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR THE CITIZENS OF THE PHILIPPINES DEALING WITH TROPICAL STORM KETSANA AND TYPHOON PARMA

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 800) expressing sympathy for the citizens of the Philippines dealing with Tropical Storm Ketsana and Typhoon Parma, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 800

Whereas, on September 26, 2009, Tropical Storm Ketsana made landfall on the Philippines with the heaviest rainfall in 40 years equivalent to a typical month of rain during monsoon season;

Whereas 80 percent of the capital, Manila, was submerged under water as a result;

Whereas at least 3,000,000 persons have been affected by Tropical Storm Ketsana;

Whereas more than 135,470 families or 686,000 persons have been forced into evacuation centers;

Whereas the casualties, as of October 9, 2009, include at least 237 dead, 308 injured, and 37 missing;

Whereas more than 4,640 houses were damaged or destroyed;

Whereas Tropical Storm Ketsana has caused at least \$4,800,000,000 in damages;

Whereas following the devastation caused by Tropical Storm Ketsana, Typhoon Parma hit land October 2, 2009, bringing with it more torrential rain causing further flooding, landslides, crop damaged, and killing at least 193 more people;

Whereas the United States and the Philippines have a unique and enduring relationship that is based on shared history and commitment to democratic principles, as well as on strong economic ties;

Whereas the historical and cultural links between the Philippines and the United States remain important; and

Whereas the Filipino American community is the second largest Asian-American group in the United States with a population of approximately 3,100,000; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) mourns the terrible loss of life caused by Tropical Storm Ketsana and Typhoon Parma that occurred on September 26, 2009, and October 1, 2009;

(2) expresses its deepest condolences to the families of the many victims;

(3) urges President Obama to continue to support the Philippines with emergency relief supplies, logistical, transportation assistance, and financial support; and

(4) works closely with the Government of the Philippines to improve disaster mitigation techniques and compliance among all key sectors of their societies.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. Faleomavega) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from American Samoa.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution extends our profound sympathies and condolences to the good people of the Philippines for the terrible losses they suffered as a result of Tropical Storm Ketsana and Typhoon Parma. I would like to thank my good friend and colleague, Representative JACKIE SPEIER from California, for her leadership in introducing this important legislation.

On September 26, Typhoon Ketsana brought the heaviest rainfall in 40 years, leaving 80 percent of Manila under water. The storm killed more than 330 people, left nearly 40 missing, forced more than 135,000 families into evacuation centers, and destroyed or badly damaged nearly 40,000 houses. Eight days later, Typhoon Parma hit the Philippines, causing further destruction in areas that were still saturated by the previous storm and resulting in the loss of an additional 28 lives.

I certainly would like to express my deepest condolences and sympathies to the families who lost their loved ones in the storms and to those who were injured and displaced from their homes. It is my sincere hope that the good people of the Philippines will find strength and solace knowing that the world stands by them in these very trying times.

The United States and the Philippines continue to maintain close ties based upon historical relations, common interests, and shared values. The Filipino American community is the second largest Asian American group in the United States, and they make an invaluable contribution to our own country here in America.

This resolution reflects our steadfast commitment to this relationship, as well as our strong desire for a speedy recovery of our friends in the Philippines who are suffering from the aftermaths of these two major natural disasters.

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