

commitment to restoring our planet. He initiated a joint declaration that it is man's duty to protect the Earth, signed by himself and Pope John Paul—the spiritual leaders of nearly one out of every five people in the world.

The moral force of his message is unassailable. Humankind must ensure that it exists in a world where there is fresh air to breathe, clean water to drink and pure soil from which to harvest our food. From the Phanar, the Ecumenical Patriarch has inspired millions of Christians, Jews, Muslims, and people of all faiths with his call upon humanity to honor its responsibility as a steward of the Earth's natural bounty.

We are so privileged to have Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew in the United States and to honor him for his continuing efforts to achieve a more peaceful and harmonious world.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 838, a bill to welcome His All Holiness Bartholomew, Archbishop of Constantinople, to the United States and to Washington, DC.

As the spiritual leader of nearly 300,000,000 Orthodox Christians around the world and millions of Orthodox Christians in the United States, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is recognized here and abroad for his leadership in the quest for world peace, for his work to promote responsible stewardship of the environment and for his global efforts to spread religious tolerance.

In addition to receiving the 1997 Congressional Gold Medal and the Sophie Prize of Norway for managing to raise the environmental awareness of 300 million members of the Orthodox Churches, His Holiness was recognized in 2008 by Time Magazine as one of the world's most influential people. Time Magazine said His Holiness was recognized for his successful efforts to "stake out a clear moral and spiritual vision that is dominated by his concern for the environment."

I am proud to stand in recognition of the pioneering efforts of His Holiness in linking faith to the environment, for his tireless efforts to promote justice and human rights and for his global spiritual leadership.

I welcome His Holiness to the United States and urge my colleagues to join me in support of this resolution.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time on this important resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CARNAHAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 838, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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.

ENCOURAGING IRAN TO REUNITE JOSHUA FATTAL, SHANE BAUER, AND SARAH SHOURED WITH THEIR FAMILIES

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 45) encouraging the Government of Iran to allow Joshua Fattal, Shane Bauer, and Sarah Shourd to reunite with their families in the United States as soon as possible.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 45

Whereas on July 31, 2009, officials of the Government of Iran took 3 United States citizens, Joshua Fattal, Shane Bauer, and Sarah Shourd, into custody near the Ahmed Awa region of northern Iraq, after the 3 United States citizens reportedly crossed into the territory of Iran while hiking in Iraq;

Whereas officials of the Government of Iran have confirmed that they are holding the 3 United States citizens; and

Whereas officials of the Government of Iran have allowed consular access by the Embassy of the Government of Switzerland (in its formal capacity as the representative of the interests of the United States in Iran) to the 3 young United States citizens in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, done at Vienna April 24, 1963; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) encourages the Government of Iran to allow Joshua Fattal, Shane Bauer, and Sarah Shourd to communicate by telephone with their families in the United States; and

(2) encourages the Government of Iran to allow Joshua Fattal, Shane Bauer, and Sarah Shourd to reunite with their families in the United States as soon as possible.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CARNAHAN. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of S. Con. Res. 45, a resolution encouraging the Government of Iran to allow the American prisoners Joshua Fattal, Shane Bauer and Sarah Shourd to reunite with their families in the United States as soon as possible.

On July 31, 2009, these three American hikers were taken into custody by

Iranian officials near northern Iraq. They were seized because the Iranians said they had crossed into Iranian territory while on a hike in a rural region near the Iraq-Iran border.

The three hikers certainly had no malicious or devious intentions. The area they were hiking through, part of Iraqi Kurdistan, is mountainous but not obscure. In fact, it is becoming increasingly popular with tourists. If the three Americans did, indeed, cross into Iranian territory, they almost certainly did so unknowingly and unintentionally.

At the time of her capture, 31-year old Sarah Shourd was teaching English in Damascus, Syria, where she was living with her boyfriend, Shane Bauer—a writer and photojournalist. Their friend and fellow University of California—Berkeley alumnus, Joshua Fattal, was traveling with them in Iraqi Kurdistan. Their adventure in Iraq turned into a nightmare when they were seized by the Iranians.

This important resolution calls on the Government of Iran to provide these three innocent, young Americans, at a minimum, the opportunity to speak with their families by phone. It also encourages the Government of Iran to free them so they can be reunited with their families in the United States as soon as possible.

Of course, Joshua, Shane and Sarah are not the only Americans currently being held in Iran. The Iranian-American scholar, Kian Tajbakhsh—an urban planner with a doctorate from Columbia University—was arrested in July, and was sentenced last week to 15-years' imprisonment for his involvement in the peaceful demonstrations that followed the July 12 election fraud.

Another Iranian-American, 71-year old Reza Taghavi, has been imprisoned since May 2008 without a trial or formal charges.

In April, this body passed House Concurrent Resolution 36, regarding the case of the former FBI agent, Robert Levinson, who has been missing in Iran since 2007.

As the United States and the international community engage Iran on its nuclear weapons program, we must not forget the plight of these innocent Americans. I commend Undersecretary of State William Burns for raising this issue with his Iranian counterpart at the October 1 Geneva meeting. I encourage him to continue to do so at all subsequent meetings with Iranian officials until our fellow citizens are freed.

A New York Times editorial this past Saturday said it well, entitled "More Iranian Injustice." The editorial called for the immediate release of the imprisoned Americans, and it went on to read, "Iran may sit at the negotiating table with the United States and other world powers, but it will never earn the respect it craves if it continues these kinds of human rights abuses."

I commend Senator ARLEN SPECTER for introducing this timely resolution

in the Senate, and I commend our colleague from Pennsylvania, ALLYSON SCHWARTZ. This deserves our deep appreciation for their leadership on this issue.

Madam Speaker, we care passionately about the freedom of our fellow citizens, and it is in that spirit that I urge all of my colleagues to support this important resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, on July 31 of this year, the Iranian regime detained three U.S. citizens—Joshua Fattal, Shane Bauer and Sarah Shourd—who were hiking in northern Iraq and who allegedly strayed across the border by accident. Almost 3 full months later, Iran still holds them captive. This case should alert us once again to the true nature of the Iranian regime.

Almost 30 years ago, on November 4, 1979, this regime took 53 American hostages at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, and it held them for 444 days. Three decades later, this is a regime that continues to hold American citizens hostage. This is a regime that remains the largest state sponsor of terrorism in the world—from Beirut to Buenos Aires. This is a regime that continues to support Iraqi and Afghan violent Islamist groups, which are responsible for the deaths of Americans. This is a regime that openly seeks to wipe out our ally, the democratic, Jewish State of Israel, off the map, and it acts accordingly. This is a regime that continues to relentlessly pursue unconventional weapons and the missiles to carry them.

Using conventional means, Iran has inflicted considerable damage on U.S. citizens, on our interests and on our allies during its 30-year war against America.

I strongly support Senate Concurrent Resolution 45, which draws attention to the fact that Iran continues to hold U.S. citizens hostage. The regime must release these young Americans immediately and unconditionally, and the United States and other responsible nations must fully recognize the nature of the regime, and they need to apply every form of economic and political pressure in our arsenal—now, not later—to compel the regime to abandon its dangerous course.

Madam Speaker, with that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCHWARTZ).

Ms. SCHWARTZ. I appreciate the opportunity to speak on this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of three young American citizens who have been detained by the Government of Iran for nearly 3 months now.

On July 31, 2009, Joshua Fattal, Shane Bauer and Sarah Shourd were taken into custody after purportedly crossing into the Iranian territory while hiking in Iraqi Kurdistan. It is a peaceful region of northern Iraq which

has become increasingly popular as a hiking destination for many Westerners. During the hike, it seems they accidentally crossed over an unmarked border into Iran.

As a result, these three young Americans, all graduates of the University of California-Berkley, have since been detained in Iran. While Swiss diplomats were finally permitted access to Josh, Sarah and Shane on September 29, the three have still not been allowed to have any contact with their families.

In response to this action, I have sponsored in the House—and Senator ARLEN SPECTER has spearheaded in the Senate—Senate Concurrent Resolution 45, which encourages the Government of Iran to allow Josh, Shane and Sarah to communicate by telephone with their families in the United States. More importantly, it also encourages the Government of Iran to allow them to reunite with their families here in the United States as soon as possible.

□ 1700

This resolution was unanimously passed by the Senate on October 6.

Josh, whose family is from Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, which I represent; Sarah; and Shane did not commit any malicious acts. They were three young Americans who have traveled extensively throughout the world seeking to learn about different societies and different cultures. Unfortunately, they made a single mistake: They got lost. For that they have been held for nearly 3 months with almost no contact with the outside world.

As a mother, I can well imagine the pain and frustration the families of the three young adults feel as they wait, hoping, doing all that they can but with little power to compel action by Iran to free their children. I know, especially through my conversations with Mrs. Fattal, how important this resolution is to them and their families.

I urge the Government of Iran to reunite Josh, Sarah, and Shane with their families, and I ask my colleagues to support this concurrent resolution and the strong but compassionate plea for action that it contains.

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased now to yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of California. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank him also for carrying this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I am in strong support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 45, which encourages the Government of Iran to allow the three American citizens detained in Iran to reunite with their families as soon as possible.

Since July 2009—I think it was July 31—Joshua Fattal, Shane Bauer, and Sarah Shourd have been detained by the Government of Iran after inadvert-

ently, inadvertently, crossing the unmarked border with Iran while attempting to hike in the mountains in Iraqi Kurdistan. Now, Sarah is a constituent, but Joshua and Shane, they are all graduates of the University of California in Berkeley, which is located in my district.

I have had the opportunity to talk with family members of Sarah, and I know how difficult it is for them during these trying times and I know how they are doing everything they can do to seek their release.

Reports indicate that for 3 months, the families of these young American citizens have had no contact with the detained, whether in person or by telephone. The lack of information regarding the whereabouts and welfare of their loved ones, as well as any indication of a timeline for their release, is deeply troubling.

Under article 36 of the Vienna Convention, consular officers shall be provided access to an arrested, detained, or imprisoned national without delay. I was relieved to hear that on September 30, 2009, Swiss officials were finally granted consular access to the three detained American citizens. However, like my colleagues, like all of us, we are deeply concerned that these officials and the three lack freedom of communication, which is also provided for by the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations.

This resolution importantly calls upon the Government of Iran to allow for Joshua, Shane, and Sarah to communicate by telephone with their families in the United States, who continue to passionately appeal to the Government of Iran for their timely and safe release. On September 22, President Ahmadinejad stated his intent to ask the Iranian judiciary to “expedite the process” of this case, as well as to “look at the case with maximum leniency.”

In accordance with this resolution, I hope that the Government of Iran will live up to its promise and act without delay to ensure that these young American citizens may be reunited with their families and loved ones.

I stand in support of this resolution today. I want to thank the State Department and all of our colleagues for doing so much to try to gain the release of these three young individuals as soon as possible.

I thank my colleagues for their support of this resolution.

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CARNAHAN) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the concurrent resolution, S. Con. Res. 45.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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.

HONORING CONFUCIUS' 2560TH BIRTHDAY

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 784) honoring the 2560th anniversary of the birth of Confucius and recognizing his invaluable contributions to philosophy and social and political thought.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 784

Whereas September 28, 551 B.C., is recognized as the date on which Confucius was born in the town of Qufu, in what is now the Shandong Province of China;

Whereas Confucius, who is one of the greatest thinkers, teachers, and social philosophers in history, developed a philosophy that has deeply influenced, and continues to influence, the social and political thought of countries around the world, including China, Korea, Japan, Taiwan, and Vietnam;

Whereas Confucius counseled introspection, self-cultivation, sincerity, and the observance of respect within social relationships as a means of achieving justice and attaining morality in personal and public life, reflecting a moral fiber of the highest degree;

Whereas the teaching of Confucius that "what one does not wish for oneself, one ought not to do to anyone else; what one recognizes as desirable for oneself, one ought to be willing to grant to others" is a model for ethical behavior and for the promotion of harmony among us;

Whereas Confucius taught that an ideal government is founded upon loyalty, respect for elders, and recognition of the importance of family; and

Whereas Confucius taught that politicians must be models of truthfulness and morality, which serves as a reminder to all of our duty to serve with the utmost honor and respect: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives honors the 2,560th anniversary of the birth of Confucius and recognizes his invaluable contributions to philosophy and social and political thought.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam 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 Missouri?

There was no objection.

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolu-

tion, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This resolution before us honors the birth of Confucius over 2,000 years ago and recognizes his contributions to philosophy and social and political thought. I would like to thank my friend, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) for introducing this resolution.

According to Chinese tradition, Confucius was born in 551 B.C. to a poor but noble family. He became a high-level government minister but later resigned his position after becoming disillusioned with the misbehavior and corruption of the rulers in feudal China.

Confucius then embarked on a long journey throughout the small kingdoms that made up China with a devoted group of students, expounding his political philosophy. He would return home to spend his last years teaching and compiling his wisdom into a set of texts that would become known as the "Confucian Classics."

After his death, Confucius would serve as the "spiritual ancestor" of later teachers, historians, philosophers, and literary scholars whose lives and works figure prominently in Chinese intellectual history. Indeed, he would become not only China's preeminent philosopher but also Asia's most influential thinker as well.

Confucius' birth over 2½ millennia ago was not only celebrated in China late last month but throughout Asia, including South Korea, Japan, and Taiwan.

He taught respect for one's elders and for understanding one's responsibility to others within the existing social structure. He believed that government officials should be chosen for their virtue and ability, not for their birth.

Confucius believed that the purpose of the government was the welfare of the people. And perhaps most importantly, he taught that a ruler who was not righteous and humane would forfeit the "Mandate of Heaven" and, thus, lose the right to govern.

Confucius' teaching developed into a system of philosophy known as Confucianism, which would have profound impact on the thought and life of East Asia. Some have compared his influence with that of Socrates in the West.

I strongly support this resolution and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution commemorating the 2,560th anniversary of the birth of that sage of Chinese culture, the philosopher Confucius.

Confucius is not only revered in his native China but also in Taiwan, Korea, Japan, and Vietnam. Confucius is best remembered for his promotion of social harmony and his emphasis on the virtues of education. His teachings

have long provided an ethical guidepost for millions of people living throughout East and Southeast Asia.

Confucius is another philosopher who taught us the golden rule: "Do not do to others what you do not want done to yourself." Confucius also taught that the path to both virtue and success is led through the discipline of study. His famous saying that "a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step" encouraged his disciples never to give up no matter what the hardships.

Inspired by him, thousands of Chinese, Taiwanese, Korean, Japanese, and Vietnamese scholars and scientists have made enormous contributions to the world's pool of knowledge. Young American scholars, drawn from these Asian communities influenced by Confucianism, have made impressive contributions to the mosaic of American life in the fields of science, law, medicine, engineering, music, and art.

So it is fitting today to pass this resolution honoring the birthday of a man who has been called "China's greatest teacher."

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased now to yield 5 minutes to the sponsor of this bill, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN).

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I think it appropriate that you be in the chair today because in Houston, Texas, in your district, I believe, we have a statue that has been erected in honor of Confucius. So I come here today and I thank you, Madam Speaker, and I thank the leadership for allowing this resolution to come to the floor. I thank the Honorable HOWARD BERMAN, the chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for allowing the resolution to pass the committee. I thank the Honorable ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN for allowing us to work with her and to manage this piece of legislation on the floor. I thank the Honorable RUSS CARNAHAN for acting as Democratic manager of the amendment.

This resolution honors the 2,560th anniversary of the birth of Confucius, recognizing his contributions to philosophy and to social and political thought. This resolution is a reflection of the diversity that we celebrate in the United States of America.

We are 46.9 million Hispanic and Latinos, 37.6 million African Americans, 16 million foreign-born naturalized citizens, 14 million Asian and Pacific Islanders. We speak 337 different languages. In my district, we have and we are African American, Latino, Vietnamese, Indian, Pakistani, Chinese, Nigerian, Somali, Ethiopian, Eritrean, Sudanese, Turkish, Ghanaian, and Taiwanese. And there are probably some that I have missed and I apologize to any constituent that was not properly mentioned.

On September 26, in our district, as I indicated earlier, this year, a bronze statue of Confucius was dedicated in Hermann Park in Houston, Texas.