

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.

I am honored to tell you that today on the suspension calendar we honored His All Holiness Bartholomew, Archbishop of Constantinople, and I commend my colleague for bringing this to the attention of the House. It is not unusual for us to honor persons who are not Americans for their contributions to America and to global society. We have honored many persons, including Tony Blair, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom; Nicholas Sarkozy, President of France; Her Majesty Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands; and we've also honored the Honorable Desmond Tutu and Nelson Mandela, both of South Africa. We have honored events. We have honored what is known as the religious and historical event that is the Festival of Diwali, which was presented to this House in September of last year. And I am proud to say today that we are going to honor Confucius, an Asian teacher, scholar, and philosopher.

Confucius was born in 551 B.C., was one of the great thinkers of his time and of all time. He was a teacher of prosperity and a preacher of peace. He developed Confucianism, a philosophy that has deeply influenced the social and political thought of countries around the world, including China, Korea, Japan, Taiwan, and Vietnam, to name a few. He emphasized that personal introspection, self-cultivation, respect of social relationships, personal and governmental morality, justice and sincerity reflect a moral fiber of the greatest and highest degree.

□ 1715

He preached that politicians must always represent truth and morality. He taught the philosophy of reciprocity: never impose upon others what you would not choose for yourself.

He taught the "silver rule" which complements the Golden Rule: do not do unto others as you would not have do unto you.

He taught the importance of shame in an orderly society by indicating, if people be led by laws, and uniformity sought to be given by punishments, they will try to avoid punishment, but have no sense of shame. However, if they be led by virtue, and uniformity is sought to be given them by rules of propriety, they will have a sense of shame, and moreover will become good.

I would note that shame promotes good to prevent punishment, whereas punishment precedes bad, to promote good.

He reminded all that, When you have faults, do not fear to abandon them. In different words what he said was, It is virtuous to know one's faults and change. He explained that self-respect begets self-respect when he made this quote, Respect yourself and others will respect you.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. CARNAHAN. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. He gave us with a great degree of simplicity a

quote that I believe is one of his greatest when he articulated, To understand nothing is to understand everything.

I am honored to present this resolution today. I believe that the diversity that we celebrate in this country, the diversity that I have in my district which is 36 percent African American, 31 percent Anglo, 21 percent Latino, and 12 percent Asian, in my district I believe that my constituents are honored to have persons of Asian ancestry who honor and celebrate Confucius. But I think as a philosopher who has transcended time, he is someone we should recognize in the House of Representatives.

I beg that my colleagues would support this resolution, comparable to many others that we have had on the floor of the House.

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support House Resolution 784, honoring the 2560th anniversary of the Birth of Confucius and recognizing his invaluable contributions to philosophy, and social and political thought. This resolution is sponsored by my friend and executive board member of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), Congressman AL GREEN of Texas.

Confucius was born on September 28, 551 BC in the town of Qufu, in what is now the Shandong Province of China. Though he grew up in poverty, Confucius recognized the value of education in creating an informed and knowledgeable society. He lived his life by this principle and traveled throughout China as a teacher to counsel others in introspection, self-cultivation, sincerity, and the observance of respect within social relationships as a means of achieving justice and attaining morality in the personal and public life. In a chaotic time of internal feuds and wars, Confucius established a peaceful intellectual and personal evolution in the minds and hearts of the Chinese people. He began a global effort to move society in an enlightened direction, and his teachings in the principles of self-transformation, humaneness, strength of mind, and an orderly society have contributed to our advancement.

In addition to being known for his commitment to education and self-enlightenment, Confucius's thought also included the principle that politicians must be models of truth and morality. He believed that government must adopt the practice of moral correctness and that politicians must rule with justice and sincerity. These principles have helped build the foundation for political philosophy, and have been a cornerstone for past and future leaders in representing their constituents. Confucius's philosophical teachings have been studied by scholars throughout the world, and his words of wisdom have inspired many generations of dedicated followers.

Confucius is considered to be one of the greatest philosophers, whose teachings and philosophy still influence millions of people around the world today. I am proud to be a cosponsor of House Resolution 784 to honor Confucius's birth, life, and teachings. This resolution recognizes the importance of Confucius's edicts in today's society, and conveys the House of Representatives's deepest respect to this important philosopher.

I would especially like to thank Congressman GREEN for making this resolution a priority on the House floor. As a member of

CAPAC, Congressman GREEN is a committed and conscientious advocate on behalf of Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. I commend his efforts to recognize Confucius's great contributions to society, and I join him in asking you to support House Resolution 784.

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 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. 784.

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.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 832.

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

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCMAHON). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

HALLOWEEN HEALTH CARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this year at Halloween, the Feds will be going door to door playing trick or treat on seniors by taking their Medicare coverage. When they knock, seniors should not answer the door. When they peek through the peephole, the bureaucrats will be dressed as snake oil salesmen because they are cutting Medicare parts A, B, C and D. They are going to try to sell seniors on the new bill which we call Medicare part E, but it doesn't cover one senior citizen. Not one. Just call it Halloween health care because it is really scary.

What is in this Halloween health care bill? Well, just look at the latest and greatest Senate bill. You know, that is