

fought under the United States flag during World War II.

Notwithstanding their contributions to America, we must continue to promote the study of Filipino American history and culture because of the important roles that Filipino Americans and other people of color have played in United States history. It is my hope that through this House Resolution, we can renew our commitment to ensuring that Filipino Americans and people of color are given their due recognition for their contributions to our nation.

I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 780 to honor our nation's Filipino Americans and our shared history with this community in the United States. Filipino Americans have altered America, their contributions are documented and forever enshrined in our history, and they deserve our recognition for the countless ways in which they make America great.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 780, legislation introduced by my colleague, Congressman BOB FILNER of California. H. Res. 780 recognizes the celebration of Filipino-American History Month and the important contributions made by the Filipino-American community throughout our Nation's history. Filipino-Americans have contributed to all facets of American society and have enriched our Nation with their lives and achievements.

Guam is home to a large population of Filipino-Americans who are active in all sectors of our community. Filipino-Americans have contributed to the economic, cultural and social success of Guam and have long played a part in the development of our island. The Philippines are culturally and historically linked to our community on Guam.

I would like to recognize the Filipino Community of Guam, an umbrella organization representing over fifty groups, working together for the benefit of our island. I also commend the Filipino Community of Guam for mobilizing and organizing relief efforts for the Filipino flood victims affected by this past year's natural disasters. Numerous members of the Guam Filipino community maintain close ties to their relatives in the Philippines and were eager to help those in need.

As a member of the U.S.-Philippines Friendship Caucus and the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus I join my colleagues in urging a "yes" vote on H. Res. 780.

Mr. LYNCH. 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 Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 780.

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.

HONORING NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE SENATE

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 159) honoring the New Hampshire State Senate for becoming the 1st statewide legislative body with

a majority of women in the United States, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 159

Whereas for over 200 years the citizens of the State of New Hampshire have elected State senators to serve in the legislature;

Whereas from 1931 to 1933, E. Maude Ferguson served as the first female member of the New Hampshire State Senate;

Whereas Vesta Roy served as the first female State senate president, and in 1983 she became the first female Governor of the State of New Hampshire;

Whereas women currently hold the offices of both the Speaker of the New Hampshire House of Representatives and the State Senate President of New Hampshire;

Whereas the New Hampshire State Senate was comprised of 13 women and 11 men for the legislative session beginning on December 3, 2008; and

Whereas the New Hampshire State Senate had nine women chairing committees and five men chairing committees for the legislative session beginning on December 3, 2008: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives honors the New Hampshire State Senate for becoming the 1st statewide legislative body with a majority of women in the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) 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 revise and extend their remarks and add any extraneous materials.

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 Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to present House Resolution 159 for consideration. This resolution pays tribute to the New Hampshire State Senate for becoming the first statewide legislative body in United States history with a majority of women members.

House Resolution 159 was introduced on February 11, 2009, by my friend and fellow New Englander, Representative PAUL HODES of New Hampshire. In addition, this resolution was favorably reported out of the Oversight Committee by unanimous consent on October 29, 2009, and enjoys the support of nearly 60 Members of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 159 honors the New Hampshire State Senate for the remarkable distinction of becoming the first statewide legislative body to consist of a majority of women members. According to 2008 Census Bureau estimates, women com-

prise roughly 50.7 percent of the American population, yet despite the extent of their representation in the U.S. population, women remain significantly underrepresented at local, State and Federal Government levels. Notably, out of the 435 Members of the House of Representatives, women hold 77 congressional seats. Moreover, in the United States Senate, women hold 17 of the Senate's 100 seats.

In light of these and similar statistics evidencing the underrepresentation of women in government, the advancement of female legislators in the New Hampshire State Senate can be characterized as a defining moment in our Nation's history.

Following the State legislature elections of November 2008, the State of New Hampshire began its current legislative session on December 3, 2008, with a historic female majority in the State Senate. Specifically, women legislators currently hold 13 of New Hampshire's 24 State Senate seats. In addition, nine female Senators are currently serving as Chairs in the State Senate, which consists of 14 standing committees. Moreover, the Honorable Sylvia Larsen is currently serving her second consecutive term as State Senate president with the Honorable Terie Norelli also serving her second consecutive term as Speaker of the New Hampshire House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize that this watershed moment in American history would not have been possible without the efforts of previous female leaders in New Hampshire politics, including the Honorable E. Maude Ferguson and the Honorable Vesta Roy. Senator Ferguson, who served in the New Hampshire State House from 1931 to 1933, has the distinction of becoming the first woman elected to the New Hampshire State Senate. Ms. Roy made history as the first woman elected to serve as president of the New Hampshire State Senate as well as the first woman to serve as the Governor of New Hampshire from 1982 to 1983.

Mr. Speaker, the remarkable achievements of these women legislators are as inspirational as they are historic, to all those Americans that are committed to the equality of all citizens regardless of race, ethnicity, religion or gender.

Let us as a body take this opportunity to honor the great State of New Hampshire and its State Senate for this fine achievement by passing House Resolution 159. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

As I said in the previous resolution that I was managing here on the floor, while I am supportive of this legislation, the previous commemorating resolution and the additional one that the Oversight and Government Reform Committee is offering here for consideration today, I believe that Congress should be, instead, focusing on higher-priority initiatives. We're facing record

unemployment, deficits that threaten to bankrupt the country, and a stimulus that is failing to create new jobs. Congress should be considering legislation providing real and immediate economic solutions for the American people before naming and commemorating anything.

But having said that, I do think it is important to recognize the State of New Hampshire for their major milestone, and I rise in support of H. Res. 159, honoring the New Hampshire State Senate for becoming the first statewide legislative body with a majority of women in the United States. It is a significant achievement. As a result of the 2008 statewide elections, 13 of 24 seats in the Senate are now held by women, an increase of three members which resulted in their majority status. On the national level, less than one in four legislators is female and eight of 50 Governors is a woman. These numbers continue to grow with each election year throughout the country.

I'm pleased to salute the women of New Hampshire for their commitment to public service as well as women throughout the United States who choose to serve our citizens on the local, State and Federal levels as their elected representatives. We certainly commend the wonderful work and addition that New Hampshire has been able to meet by this wonderful milestone.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I will just point out that last week, we actually finally had an official draft of the health care reform bill. My colleagues on the other side have insisted, rightly, that they have 72 hours to review that bill; that it be placed online. I think it is a courtesy to keep controversial issues off the floor today to allow Members to consider that legislation because it is so important. I think if we jammed the schedule today with controversial matters, you might hear the complaint from my colleagues and others that they weren't given a full and fair opportunity to read that health care reform bill.

So, you're darned if you do sometimes, and you're darned if you don't. But I certainly do want to join with the lead sponsor and my colleague, the gentleman from North Carolina, but especially PAUL HODES from New Hampshire, who is the lead sponsor of this resolution, in congratulating the New Hampshire State Senate. I happen to be a member of the New Hampshire bar, so this is particularly a proud moment for me as well in celebrating their terrific accomplishment through the passage of House Resolution 159.

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. 159, 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.

HONORING PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 736) honoring President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address on "Dedication Day", November 19, 2009.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 736

Whereas, on November 19, 1863, Abraham Lincoln dedicated the Soldiers' National Cemetery on the battlefield at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, with the Gettysburg Address, which harkened back to the promises of the Declaration of Independence in the first sentence, "Four score and seven years ago, our fathers brought forth, on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal", and which called upon people of the United States to dedicate themselves to the principles of democracy so that government "of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth";

Whereas Congress adopted a joint resolution on August 7, 1946, declaring the Gettysburg Address to be "the outstanding classic of the ages", designating November 19 as "Dedication Day" in honor of the Gettysburg Address, and suggesting that the Gettysburg Address "be read on that day in public assemblages throughout the United States and its possessions, on our ships at sea, and wherever the American flag flies"; and

Whereas 2009 is the 200th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln and bicentennial tributes to his birth are expected throughout the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) honors President Lincoln's greatest speech, the Gettysburg Address; and

(2) encourages people in the United States to read the Gettysburg Address on "Dedication Day" in public places across the Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) 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 revise and extend their remarks and add any extraneous materials.

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 as much time as I may consume.

On behalf of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am proud to present House Resolution 736 for consideration. This resolution pays tribute to the historic Gettysburg Ad-

dress delivered by President Abraham Lincoln in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, on November 19, 1863.

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House Resolution 736 was introduced on September 10, 2009, by my great friend and colleague, Representative TODD PLATTS, Republican of the 19th District of Pennsylvania. In addition, this resolution was favorably reported out of the Oversight Committee by unanimous consent on October 29, 2009, and enjoys the support of over 50 Members of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 736 honors one of the most remarkable and significant political contributions in terms of speeches made by one of our greatest Presidents, the Gettysburg Address delivered by President Abraham Lincoln at the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, on Thursday, November 19, 1863. This resolution is not only fitting but also timely, as earlier this year we celebrated the bicentennial anniversary of the birth of President Lincoln, and on November 19 we will mark the 146th anniversary of Dedication Day and the Gettysburg Address.

In his invitation letter to President Lincoln, dated November 2, 1863, Gettysburg attorney David Wills requested that President Lincoln participate in the dedication ceremony by delivering "a few appropriate remarks," as Wills noted that former Senator Edward Everett of Massachusetts was already scheduled to deliver the central oration. Accordingly, the dedication address delivered by President Lincoln more than 4 months following the pivotal battle of Gettysburg is not remembered for its length, but rather for the depth of its content.

In less than 3 minutes and in only 10 sentences, President Lincoln eloquently commemorated the lives of those who had fallen on the hallowed battlefield, reaffirmed the founding principles of the then-divided United States of America, and set forth the impetus behind the continuation of the shared struggle to unify the Nation amidst a deadly Civil War.

As noted by President Lincoln at the conclusion his historic address: "It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus so far nobly advanced . . . that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this Nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from this Earth."

The elegance of President Lincoln's brief words was noted by Senator Everett, whose oration at Gettysburg preceded the President's address and lasted approximately 2 hours. In a letter that he sent to President Lincoln following the dedication ceremony, Senator Everett wrote: "I should be glad if I could flatter myself that I