

ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 863, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. 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.

CONGRATULATING THE INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 858) congratulating the Inter-American Foundation (IAF) on its 40th anniversary and recognizing its significant accomplishments and contributions.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 858

Whereas the IAF was originally created as an independent Federal agency to provide a new alternative model to traditional United States foreign assistance that promotes greater community-ownership and self-sustainability of development initiatives;

Whereas the IAF has enabled millions of marginalized and poor people in Latin America and the Caribbean to improve their lives through nearly 5,000 self-help grants for income and employment generation, civic education and citizen participation, access to credit and public resources, food security, environmental sustainability, and cultural and social development;

Whereas the IAF has proven that its people-to-people approach to foreign assistance, delivering aid funds directly to grassroots groups and local organizations of poor communities, is remarkably cost-effective, targeting aid funds to those with the greatest need and those who will use them best;

Whereas each year, hundreds of thousands of IAF grant participants benefit from improved nutrition, medical care, access to clean water, agricultural and vocational skills, microcredit loans, small business management training, increased educational opportunities, and knowledge of sustainable agricultural techniques and environmental practices;

Whereas many grassroots leaders supported by the IAF have gone on to leadership roles at the local and national levels;

Whereas the IAF's beneficiary-driven, responsive approach has fostered trust between Latin American and Caribbean citizens and the United States Government by listening and responding to needs the people have identified, partnering with community-based groups and investing in projects that utilize and validate local knowledge and expertise;

Whereas the IAF's status as an independent United States Government aid agency allows for a streamlined grant-making process, the flexibility to respond quickly and adapt to people's needs on the ground, and the ability to maintain a positive United States presence in the region;

Whereas the IAF continues to demonstrate the political, diplomatic, and strategic value of an independent United States Government

aid agency with the ability to reach those on the economic, social, and cultural fringes of society in neighboring countries, facilitating greater access to the licit economy, markets, and public policy decisionmaking processes;

Whereas the IAF's projects complement and strive to maximize the impact of other larger United States aid agencies operating in Latin America and the Caribbean by enabling an important link between poor communities and larger-scale development activities; and

Whereas the IAF was designed with strong bipartisan support and has maintained this balanced support throughout the four decades of its operations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates the Inter-American Foundation (IAF) on its 40th anniversary;

(2) recognizes that the IAF has demonstrated that its grassroots model for United States foreign assistance is effective; and

(3) declares that the IAF is a vital component of United States foreign policy in the Americas and of the United States development agenda.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. 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 the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise in strong support of H. Res. 858, a resolution I offered congratulating the Inter-American Foundation, or the IAF, on its 40th anniversary, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I first of all want to thank Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman HOWARD BERMAN and Ranking Member ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN for their support of this resolution. And, I am particularly grateful to CONNIE MACK, the ranking member of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, which I chair, for being my colead on this resolution.

Over the years, the Inter-American Foundation has enabled millions of marginalized and poor people in Latin America and the Caribbean to improve their lives through grants promoting income and employment generation, civic education and citizen participation, access to credit and public resources, food security, environmental sustainability, and cultural and social development.

During Democratic and Republican administrations alike, the IAF has been an important model of grassroots foreign assistance in Latin America and the Caribbean.

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Furthermore, it is a vital component of United States foreign policy in the Americas and of the United States development agenda.

As chairman of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee, I have had the pleasure of visiting Inter-American Foundation projects throughout the region in Latin America and the Caribbean, both places. In Ecuador, I visited with the Community Corporation and Action Foundation, CACMU, a women's microcredit cooperative where I saw firsthand the benefits reaped by IAF's relatively small investment. During that same visit, I also had the privilege of meeting with representatives of the Agro-ecology and Agro-tourism Foundation, a community organization focused on food security and natural resource management.

The IAF's work does not simply provide tangible benefits to the poor. It is also extremely useful in maintaining a positive United States presence in Latin America and the Caribbean.

As President Obama reengages with our neighbors in the hemisphere, the work of the IAF is more important than ever. In April, I had the pleasure of attending the Summit of the Americas in Trinidad and Tobago as the leader of the U.S. congressional delegation. At the summit, President Obama pledged that the United States would "be partners in helping to alleviate poverty" in the region.

One of the best ways that Congress can stand with President Obama in supporting a robust social agenda in the hemisphere is through continued strong support of the Inter-American Foundation. So I congratulate the IAF on its 40th anniversary, and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today and join my colleagues in congratulating the Inter-American Foundation, the IAF, on its 40th anniversary. I would like to thank Congressman ENGEL and his staff for working to put this resolution together.

The foundation began as part of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1969 as an alternative to the larger USAID. The foundation presented a new model for funding grass-roots development with an emphasis on improving lives at the community level, not just on the national level. The foundation receives its funds through annual allocations by Congress and from the Social Progress Trust Fund. Since beginning its operations in 1972, the IAF has made 4,578 grants for more than \$586 million.

For 40 years now, the IAF has used small-dollar, targeted grants to make significant, long-lasting changes in the lives of people throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. By focusing on self-help development projects, the IAF encourages partnerships directed at improving the quality of life for poor

people and strengthening democratic practices.

While the economic benefits of these efforts cannot be dismissed, it is the sense of ownership at the grass-roots level and the pride these grants help to cultivate that has made the real difference in hundreds of thousands of lives.

Empowering people to take control of their own future, allowing parents to provide for their families, supporting communities to strengthen stability and prosperity, these are the keystones for strengthening democracy in the region.

As country after country in our hemisphere faces new and increasing challenges to their democracies, their institutions and the rule of law, our shared goal must be to advance U.S. interests and, in so doing, help to preserve and protect democratic institutions and fundamental freedoms around the world.

We must listen to the people of these nations and remain committed to our founding values and democratic principles. It is through the efforts of organizations like the Inter-American Foundation, the IAF, that we are able to do this.

I would like to commend and thank the Inter-American Foundation for its hard work and commitment and congratulate them on their 40th anniversary.

I rise in strong support of this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentleman from Texas for his good words.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 858.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. 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.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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.

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 addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EDITORIAL COMMENTS OF BOB SCHIEFFER

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, tonight I would like to read the words of Bob Schieffer. I watched his show, "Face the Nation," last Sunday, and I was very impressed with his editorial.

His editorial is as follows: "As the President tries to develop a new strategy in Afghanistan, I wonder if this is the real lesson that we've learned in Afghanistan so far: that nation-building, like charity, probably begins at home (at least the way we seem to be going about it in Afghanistan.)

"Now, don't get me wrong, terrorism poses a threat to America's national security, but is trying to build a Western-style nation in Afghanistan by funneling money to its leaders really the best way to combat terrorism?"

"I guess what set me off was that story about how we've secretly put the President of Afghanistan's brother on the CIA payroll. He's the one who's supposed to be mixed up in the drug trade. The idea was that, by doing that, he'll help us pave the way to building a democracy there. Now, that's good work if you can get it, but I don't see how that is making us safer.

"Whatever the size of the military force the President decides on for Afghanistan, I think he needs to be paying more attention to where the money is going for the non-military spending there. Incredibly, no one really seems to know."

Mr. Schieffer further stated: "To judge by what we've gotten from it so far, we'd be much better off with some nation-building back home. Our infrastructure is already a mess. We could start at the Oakland Bay Bridge where a 5,000-pound part of the top fell off into the traffic below. That would certainly make us safer for sure.

"In Afghanistan, we're having to relearn what we should have already known—that we can help others but we can't do it for them, and when we have to pay others to help themselves, I don't see how that helps anyone but the guy getting paid."

Again, that is from the editorial comments of Bob Schieffer this past Sunday on "Face the Nation."

Mr. Speaker, I want to say, in addition to what Mr. Schieffer said, I want to thank the President for taking his time and fully trying to understand the options and the trials facing our country in Afghanistan. Our men and women in uniform are very brave, they have done a great job for this country for the last 9 years, and yet we must be sure that we have a goal that can be achieved. And we must have a full definition of victory if we continue to send more troops into Afghanistan.

With that, Mr. Speaker, before I close, as I do each and every night on the floor, I ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform. I ask God

to please bless the families of our men and women in uniform. I ask God, in his loving arms, to hold the families who have given a child dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq. And I ask God to bless the House and Senate. I ask God to give wisdom, strength and courage to the President of the United States. And I will ask three times, God please, God please, God please continue to bless America.

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

(Mr. CUMMINGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. MASSA addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)