

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.

RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS OF THOSE WHO SERVE THEIR COMMUNITIES ON MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 43) recognizing the efforts of those who serve their communities on Martin Luther King Day and promoting the holiday as a day of national service.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 43

Whereas the King Holiday and Service Act, a law designating Martin Luther King Day as a national day of volunteer service, was signed into law in 1994;

Whereas millions of Americans have been inspired by the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to serve their neighbors and communities every third Monday of January;

Whereas serving one's community for the betterment of every individual speaks to the high character, transformative world view, and everyday practice of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.;

Whereas the efforts of national service volunteers have been a steadfast foundation of our Nation's infrastructure, supporting not only individuals and families in need, but acting in response to national catastrophes and natural disasters;

Whereas citizens have the opportunity to participate in thousands of already scheduled events all across the country, as well as create and implement a community service project where they identify the need;

Whereas the Corporation for National and Community Service, is working with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Non-violent Social Change, and thousands of other nonprofit, community, national service, and education organizations across the country to encourage Americans to serve on this holiday and throughout the year; and

Whereas leaders at the Federal, State and local level are planning to use the Martin Luther King Day and Inauguration Day to rally our Nation to commit to serve and to make an ongoing commitment to service: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) encourages all Americans to pay tribute to the life and works of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through participation in community service projects on Martin Luther King Day;

(2) recognizes the inherent value of community service and volunteerism in the creation of civil society and as a means of non-violent community progress consistent with the works of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.;

(3) recognizes the benefits of the collaborative work by the many organizations that promote, facilitate, and carry out needed service projects nationwide;

(4) encourages its members and colleagues to urge their constituents, both in congressional districts and those visiting the District of Columbia on Inauguration Day, to participate in community service projects; and

(5) acknowledges that by serving one's country, one's community and one's neighbor our Nation makes progress in civility, equality, and unity consistent with the values and life's work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PLATTS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on House Resolution 43 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise today in support of the resolution before us, which recognizes the critical role of service and those who give of their time to give back to their communities.

□ 1445

This resolution also reminds us that Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is a national day of service and encourages everyone to take part.

It is fitting that the day named in honor of the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., is also a day for neighbors, for friends, young and old, to give back to their communities. Dr. King's leadership in the ministry and public service produced epic and societal change to this great nation. He set an example for all of us to follow.

His words offer us very simple directions. In his "drum major instinct" speech he said, "You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You don't have to know about Plato and Aristotle to serve. You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love."

Over the last few years, the United States has endured and survived the terrorist attacks of 9/11 and hurricanes and floods that devastated families and communities. Without hesitation, volunteers across the Nation rallied together to help stabilize and to rebuild our devastated communities. And just as critical, during times of peace and calm in communities across this country, people hear the call of service and provide assistance in the classroom, in hospitals, in parks, and to children, the elderly, and to each other.

I want to thank the Service Caucus and my friend and colleague Representative TODD PLATTS of Pennsylvania for bringing this resolution forward and reminding us that our country was built on the idea of service. And while we set aside Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as a day of service, there are opportunities to give back each and every day.

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

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 43 and yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 43 promotes the Martin Luther King holiday as a day of national service and recognizes the efforts of the countless Americans who will volunteer their services on behalf of many worthy causes. I am proud to have introduced this resolution with my fellow co-Chairs of the National Service Caucus, Representatives DORIS MATSUI and DAVID PRICE.

In 1994, President Bill Clinton signed into law the King Holiday and Service Act to officially establish Martin Luther King Day as a day of national service in recognition of Dr. King's selfless and courageous service to his fellow citizens. Since this time, millions of Americans have recognized this holiday as "a day on," not "a day off," by volunteering in soup kitchens, organizing charity drives, mentoring children or aiding in urban revitalization efforts.

This year, the Corporation for National & Community Service, America's Promise Alliance and AmeriCorps NCCC are hosting a food drive across Capitol Hill to restock the shelves at the Capital Area Food Bank. Washington, D.C. schools will be closed for a 5-day weekend with the Martin Luther King holiday and the Presidential inauguration this coming week, leaving over 50,000 students without nutritious meals they would have otherwise received through the school lunch and breakfast programs.

Non-perishable canned food items can be delivered through this Thursday, January 15, to either my office or the offices of Representatives DORIS MATSUI, DAVID PRICE and MIKE HONDA. On Thursday, AmeriCorps NCCC students will pick up the canned food items and ensure their delivery to the Capital Area Food Bank.

Finally, there are numerous opportunities for individuals to serve their communities on Martin Luther King Day. I urge my fellow Members of Congress and constituents to take time out of their daily lives and give back to their communities. A list of volunteer opportunities is available online at mlkday.gov.

I cannot think of a more appropriate way to honor the heroic life and accomplishments of Dr. Martin Luther King than by serving one's community, and encourage all Americans to do so. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI), who serves on the Rules Committee and the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding me this time.

I rise today to offer, along with my National Service Caucus co-Chairs, of which the gentleman from Pennsylvania is one, a resolution highlighting the men and women who inspire and actively pursue a better country, those who serve the communities on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Since 1994, we have celebrated the King holiday by making it “a day on,” not “a day off,” observing every third Monday in January as a national day of service. Dr. King’s legacy guides us to work for equality and social justice, towards common understanding and shared experiences. Serving one’s neighbor, one’s community and our country allow every individual in our Nation to walk down the road with Dr. King, looking forward, continually focused on reaching the promised land.

This coming Monday, millions of Americans will participate in thousands of already-planned events across this country. Thousands more will come to our Nation’s capital to see history in the making and answer our President-elect’s call to service. As we embark on a new era of optimism and hope for a better tomorrow, we should start our journey by not only observing change, but by honoring the legacy of Dr. King and actively creating it.

I commend and join with President-elect Obama and Vice President-elect BIDEN in calling for a new attitude toward service in our country. When we ask what we can do for our country, the call shouldn’t be answered only one day a year.

It is my hope that this year’s Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of National Service marks a starting point that will continue throughout the year and engage millions of Americans in a new commitment to service.

This year’s national day of service promises to be larger than ever before. Efforts by the many service organizations, as well as the Presidential Inaugural Committee and the corporation for National and Community Service, have organized like never before. Right here on Capitol Hill, as has been previously mentioned, the organization America’s Promise, along with the Corporation for National and Community Service, are sponsoring a food drive to support local food banks. These groups have utilized technology and the Internet to make opportunities easy to find and easy to do.

The fact that this year’s King Day of Service is one day before the inauguration of President-elect Obama provides a unique opportunity to reach millions of Americans with a message to serve. I ask my colleagues to join with me in promoting service on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and encouraging all of those constituents, both at home and those traveling to Washington, D.C. for the inauguration, to serve.

Thank you once again.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 4 minutes to my good friend, the gentleman from the State of Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), a gentleman who

serves on the Ways and Means Committee and has served and distinguished himself on our Committee on Education and Labor.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Let me first of all thank my good friend and chairman of our subcommittee. As a matter of fact, I am already beginning to feel disappointed and underprivileged because I will not have the opportunity to serve with him this year as a result of leaving the Education Committee. But I want to thank him for yielding time, and I want to thank him for his tremendous leadership.

Mr. Speaker, next Tuesday will usher in a new era of hope, a new chapter in the history of America, when President-elect Obama takes office. This historic moment brings renewed energy to Dr. King’s mission and memory. We must not forget that we have reached this place in history partly because of Dr. King’s remarkable life. Today I would like to honor his memory and those who work tirelessly for his cause.

Frederick Douglass once said, “A battle lost or won is easily described, understood, and appreciated, but the moral growth of a great nation requires reflection, as well as observation, to appreciate it.” Today, we do just that. Today we reflect on one life that changed the course of so many others. We reflect on the commitment and integrity of a man who stood up to those who said he was nothing. We reflect on a man who had his priorities in line, who knew what was important and never forgot it. And we reflect so that we can learn what we must do as a nation to realize Dr. King’s dream.

Born January 15, 1929, Dr. King grew up to be a man who would change American history by fighting for fairness, dignity and equality for all under the law and through the eyes of his fellow citizens. But his journey was never easy. Martin Luther King attended Georgia’s segregated public schools. Like so many others, Dr. King was told by society that he was a lesser being and that he could never be as good, as human, as his peers.

But his journey was never easy. Despite the hardships, the bombings, the fire hoses, the dogs, the relentless beatings and the death of those devoted to his cause, Dr. King was able to rally his followers to rise to the occasion by his purpose-driven actions and unforgettable rhetoric.

In the great example of Dr. King’s influence, 250,000 men and women, white and black, gathered for the famous march on Washington. It was there that Dr. King delivered his “I have a Dream” speech to the Nation.

Dr. King’s legacy reminds us that there are some things we must continue to fight for. And although the rocky road that Dr. King traveled is somewhat smoother today, this Nation must continue to promote equal opportunity and fairness for all Americans. As we face today’s many challenges, we remember that Dr. King’s hope for a better tomorrow is very much alive.

So I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to participate in this discussion, and again I want to thank my friend and colleague from the great State of Texas for giving me the opportunity.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the honorable gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) so that he can speak to this House resolution.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, let me begin by expressing my appreciation to my good friend and colleague Mr. HINOJOSA for his leadership and his management of this, and to my friend Mr. PLATTS as well, and Ms. MATSUI and Mr. DAVIS for their very thoughtful remarks.

I, of course, rise in very strong support of the resolution. I was looking forward to voting for it, but I didn’t intend to address it until I listened to the remarks of Mr. DAVIS in which I was reminded of a very thoughtful interview I heard this morning with the Reverend Joseph Lowery, who, as we know, next Tuesday at the age of 87 is going to be participating in the historic inauguration of Barack Obama.

He was talking about the Reverend Martin Luther King and the level of activism that he had in the civil rights movement, and he ended his interview by saying, Mr. Speaker, that he very much appreciated the fact that at age 87 he had lived long enough to be able to see the history that we will all witness next Tuesday.

This resolution is focused on ensuring that we encourage the level of volunteerism that is necessary to deal with what is a very, very serious societal challenge that we face at this moment, and that is the hunger problem; the fact that there are so many people who, because of the economic downturn through which we are going, are suffering.

So I want to join with my friends, encouraging my constituents in California, those here in the metropolitan area, and others around the country to support the effort that Mr. PLATTS talked about, by contacting offices and doing what they can at food banks to provide assistance. It is being done in the names of Barack Obama, the Reverend Joseph Lowery, and, of course, Dr. Martin Luther King.

So I again thank my colleagues for their effort and the focus on this very, very important issue, and again urge all of us to support this resolution.

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support for H. Res. 43, a resolution that promotes the Martin Luther King Holiday as a day of national service.

For me, one of the most powerful images of Washington is the image of Dr. King conveying his dream during his 1963 “March on Washington”, on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

Dr. King understood government has a fundamental responsibility to meet the needs of all Americans regardless of race or economic class.

As our Nation prepares to celebrate Martin Luther King Day, and the inauguration of the

next President, we remember Dr. King as a beacon of change.

He gave people the faith and courage to work peacefully for change to stop racial discrimination, and promote equality and opportunity across America.

So on the day of remembrance named in his honor, let us all truly recommit ourselves to changing and working to bring about opportunity for all Americans.

We call on our Nation to serve, and recognize the determination of those men and women who continue to work to make the world a better place for future generations.

I urge my colleagues to honor the legacy of Dr. King and those who continue to follow his example, and support H. Res. 43.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with the great pleasure of supporting of H. Res. 43, which recognizes the hard work of those who serve in their communities on Martin Luther King Day and promotes the holiday as a day of national service.

During Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s lifetime, he worked tirelessly towards creating a more just America, seeking to not only heal this nation's racial divides, but to empower all Americans to take responsibility for bettering their communities through service. Recognizing this legacy, Congress passed the King Holiday and Service Act in 1994, designating the King Holiday as a national day of volunteer service and asking Americans of all backgrounds and ages to honor Dr. King's legacy by engaging in service projects in their communities. Since Congress passed the act 14 years ago, millions of Americans have come together on the third Monday of January to engage in service projects ranging from mentoring children to building homes. By bringing together neighbors who might not normally meet, the King Day of Service strengthens our communities and country by breaking down barriers that have historically divided us and promoting civic engagement.

Although participation in the King Day of Service has increased each year, many Americans remain unaware of the service component of the holiday, making it essential for more organizations to promote this fitting tribute to Dr. King's memory. As the Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, I am proud to join the Congressional Black Caucus, Congressional Hispanic Caucus and the National Service Caucus in co-sponsoring a food drive to support the Capitol Area Food Bank, whose resources are running thin. In Washington, DC alone, 56,000 children are at risk of being hungry on any day of the year. But with the convergence of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal holiday and the Presidential Inauguration, these children face a long 5-day weekend when the school breakfasts and lunches upon which they depend will not be available.

I am proud to recognize the millions of Americans inspired by the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to serve their communities and encourage all my colleagues in Congress and our fellow Americans to join their neighbors in community service projects on this important day and throughout the year.

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H. Res. 43, a resolution recognizing the efforts of those who serve their communities on Martin Luther King Day and promoting the holiday as a day of national service.

I am proud to have this opportunity to highlight the importance of national service as well as honor a national leader and hero, Martin Luther King, Jr.

Next Monday, we will celebrate this extraordinary man and the legacy of service he engrained on our Nation through our dedication to service.

This year, our celebration of Dr. King's life and his commitment to improving the lives of all Americans is more significant than ever as the country swears in our first African American president, Barack Obama, the very next day.

The extraordinary work of Dr. King and his enduring message of providing equal opportunities for all Americans—in conjunction with the inauguration of our new president—provide proof that our Nation is capable of great change and proof that through service, our Nation can accomplish whatever it dreams.

As our country swears in President Obama on January 20, I know that Martin Luther King, Jr. will be in my thoughts, as well as in the thoughts of many proud Americans. It is people like Dr. King that make our country great, that make me proud to be a citizen of this great Nation, and that inspire me to serve.

I am pleased to join my colleagues in recognizing the amazing service of this man that continues to inspire in our Nation year after year.

I urge my colleagues to not only join me in supporting today's resolution, but join me in continuing the call for service in our communities on this special day, and throughout the year.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 43, and thank my colleague Congressman TODD PLATTS, authoring this important resolution.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Nation observed for the 21st time the Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday. Each year this day is set aside for Americans to celebrate the life and legacy of a man who brought hope and healing to America. The Martin Luther King holiday reminds us that nothing is impossible when we are guided by the better angels of our nature.

Dr. King's inspiring words filled a great void in our Nation, and answered our collective longing to become a country that truly lived by its noblest principles. Yet, Dr. King knew that it wasn't enough just to talk the talk; he knew he had to walk the walk for his words to be credible. And so we commemorate on this holiday the man of action, who put his life on the line for freedom and justice everyday.

We honor the courage of a man who endured harassment, threats and beatings, and even bombings. We commemorate the man who went to jail 29 times to achieve freedom for others, and who knew he would pay the ultimate price for his leadership, but kept on marching and protesting and organizing anyway.

Dr. King once said that we all have to decide whether we "will walk in the light of creative altruism or the darkness of destructive selfishness. Life's most persistent and nagging question, he said, is 'what are you doing for others?'"

When Martin talked about the end of his mortal life in one of his last sermons, on February 4, 1968, in the pulpit of Ebenezer Baptist Church, even then he lifted up the value of service as the hallmark of a full life. "I'd like somebody to mention on that day Martin Lu-

ther King, Jr. tried to give his life serving others," he said. "I want you to say on that day, that I did try in my life . . . to love and serve humanity."

Mr. Speaker, during these difficult days when the United States is bogged down in a misguided and mismanaged war in Iraq; calamities on Wall Street—Main Street—and in the American automobile industry; we should also remember that the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who was above all, a person who was always willing to serve to help his fellow man.

This year thousands of Americans across the country will celebrate the national holiday honoring the life and work of Martin Luther King, Jr. by making the holiday "a day on, not a day off."

The King Day of Service is a way to transform Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life and teachings into community service that helps solve social problems. That service may meet a tangible need, such as fixing up a school or senior center, or it may meet a need of the spirit, such as building a sense of community or mutual responsibility. On this day, Americans of every age and background celebrate Dr. King through service projects that:

Strengthen Communities—Dr. King recognized the power of service to strengthen communities and achieve common goals. Through his words and example, Dr. King challenged individuals to take action and lift up their neighbors and communities through service.

Empower Individuals—Dr. King believed each individual possessed the power to lift himself or herself up no matter what his or her circumstances—rich or poor, black or white, man or woman. Whether teaching literacy skills, helping an older adult surf the Web, or helping an individual build the skills they need to acquire a job, acts of service can help others improve their own lives while doing so much for those who serve, as well.

Bridge Barriers—In his fight for civil rights, Dr. King inspired Americans to think beyond themselves, look past differences, and work toward equality. Serving side by side, community service bridges barriers between people and teaches us that in the end, we are more alike than we are different.

These ideas of unity, purpose, and the great things that can happen when we work together toward a common goal—are just some of the many reasons we honor Dr. King through service on this special holiday. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation and the man who epitomized community service—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. King's legacy and to commemorate this day of national service.

Dr. King once said, "Everybody can be great . . . because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

It is that idea, that together we can make a difference, in this Nation and in the lives of others, that has prompted this day of service. I believe that the message of change resonates greatly this particular Martin Luther King Day.

This past year, I have seen young people who have never before been involved in service working to change their communities. The

ideals for which Dr. King gave his life have energized a new generation of peaceful activists. These young people may not have experienced the words and spirit of Dr. King during their lifetime, but his legacy drives their efforts and enthusiasm.

It is a testament to his greatness that Dr. King's message has transcended time and generations. Dr. King called on all of us to no longer stand alone in silence, but to stand up together as a voice against injustice. He inspired us to fight for change through non-violent means, and paved the road for us to continue that fight even after his death.

Dr. King left us with the challenge to courageously fight and secure the civil rights for all, from the impoverished and disenfranchised underclass to the politically and economically endowed. And while we have made great progress, there is still work to be done. We must remain diligent and engaged in defining how our Nation will achieve this equality.

Today's Martin Luther King Day is as much about the past as it is about the present and the future. Dr. King's dream is truly timeless, and I hope all will participate in this day of service to honor his faith and vision.

Mr. BARROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 43 honoring the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and thanking those who continue to honor his memory by giving back to the communities in which they live.

Dr. King once said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" Enacted in 1994 by Congress, the Martin Luther King, Jr., Day of Service was started to honor Dr. King's legacy by giving folks the opportunity to answer that question. Its theme, "Make it a Day On, not a Day Off," urges Americans everywhere to spend their day off working to create a better society—as Dr. King did.

Despite all the hardships and discrimination he experienced in his lifetime, Dr. King never lost his profound love for all mankind. I'd like to thank those Americans who spend their holiday volunteering in their communities, helping out their brothers and their sisters. Your selflessness and sense of civic duty move America one step closer to Dr. King's vision of the "Beloved Community." That is worth a day's work from any of us.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H. Res. 43, which recognizes the efforts of those who serve their communities on Martin Luther King Day and promotes the holiday as a day of national service.

Fifteen years ago, the enactment of the King Holiday and Service Act officially designated Martin Luther King Day as a national day of volunteer service. Each year since, millions of Americans across the country, and thousands in my congressional district, have been inspired to serve their neighbors and communities every third Monday of January.

This is an impressive achievement but it is a fitting tribute to one of the greatest figures in world history. Dr. King dedicated and, ultimately, sacrificed his life to serve others, especially "the least of these." As he famously observed, "Everybody can be great because everybody can serve."

Mr. Speaker, at this defining moment in history our country faces enormous challenges and given the enormity of unmet needs, every contribution—big and small—matters.

All across our land, there are children and adults to educate; seniors to care for; hungry

persons to feed; jobless to train and employ; the environment to protect; and justice to pursue. In short, there is much unfinished work to be done.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the Corporation for National and Community Service, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, and thousands of other nonprofit, community, national service, and education organizations across the country for encouraging Americans to serve their communities this holiday and throughout the year.

I urge all Americans to honor Dr. King by making the holiday in his honor a "day on," not a day off. Dr. King could always be found serving others. So should we.

□ 1445

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 43.

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. HINOJOSA. 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.

IMPEACHMENT INQUIRY OF JUDGE G. THOMAS PORTEOUS

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 15) authorizing and directing the Committee on the Judiciary to inquire whether the House should impeach G. Thomas Porteous, a judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 15

Resolved, That in continuance of the authority conferred in House Resolution 1448 of the One Hundred Tenth Congress adopted by the House of Representatives on September 17, 2008, the Committee on the Judiciary shall inquire whether the House should impeach G. Thomas Porteous, a judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

SEC. 2. The Committee on the Judiciary or any subcommittee or task force designated by the Committee may, in connection with the inquiry under this resolution, take affidavits and depositions by a member, counsel, or consultant of the Committee, pursuant to notice or subpoena.

SEC. 3. There shall be paid out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives such sums as may be necessary to assist the Committee in conducting the inquiry under this resolution until a primary expense resolution providing for the expenses of the Committee on the Judiciary for the

first session of the One Hundred Eleventh Congress is adopted. Any of the amounts paid under the authority of this section may be used for the procurement of staff or consultant services.

SEC. 4. (a) For the purpose of the inquiry under this resolution, the Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to require by subpoena or otherwise—

(1) the attendance and testimony of any person (including at a taking of a deposition by counsel or consultant of the Committee); and

(2) the production of such things;

as it deems necessary to such inquiry.

(b) The Chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, after consultation with the ranking minority member, may exercise the authority of the Committee under subsection (a).

(c) The Committee on the Judiciary may adopt a rule regulating the taking of depositions by a member, counsel, or consultant of the Committee, including pursuant to subpoena.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI) and the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 15.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 15 provides for a continuation of the authority provided in H. Res. 1448, as adopted by the House in the 110th Congress. H. Res. 15 states that in continuance of H. Res. 1448, the House directs the Committee on the Judiciary to inquire whether the House should impeach G. Thomas Porteous, a judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, as my good friend from Sacramento, my Rules Committee colleague, has just said, this resolution will allow the Judiciary Committee to continue its very important oversight work by reauthorizing an investigation of G. Thomas Porteous.

The committee's ongoing inquiry into his conduct and the question of whether to pursue impeachment by the House should continue in this 111th Congress. This is a bipartisan ongoing effort. In fact, Mr. Speaker, it is so utterly bipartisan and noncontroversial that our colleagues could very reasonably expect that this measure would have been considered by unanimous