

veterans, preventing our veterans from ending up incarcerated, or even the public perception of veterans and the way veterans think about and understand themselves as veterans—we know the dangers that are out there, thanks in no small part to Vietnam veterans working together, and we know we have to act aggressively to make sure we fulfill our commitment to our newest veterans.

For my part, I see no more important task as a member of Congress and of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

But I also have to say, I think something else has started to happen as we as a country have worked to honor and do justice to the veterans of our current conflicts—regardless of how we feel individually about the war itself. I think just as Vietnam veterans have done for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans what World War I veterans did for World War II veterans, supporting the next generation of veterans, I think our society's treatment of our newest veterans has begun a really renewed appreciation for and a different, more positive public perception of Vietnam veterans themselves.

What you all went through when you came home is something that never should be repeated. And it should not have happened in the first place. But it says something about you as a group and America as a society that we have finally, I think, started to move away from the ugliness of that time, and from the stereotypes and clichés about Vietnam veterans.

The new congressional majority that I was a part of forming in 2006 committed to making our military and our veterans an absolutely top priority. And we did that last Congress, and we continue to do that in this new Congress. Last Congress, we passed the largest veterans funding increase in history, increasing pay for our military and providing them with more of the protection they need when they go into battle, passing into law a historic new GI Bill that should do for our 21st century veterans what the original GI Bill did after World War II.

And we will continue that work in this Congress, putting America's veterans first and working to provide them with the care and benefits they deserve.

The debt we owe those who serve our country honorably in the military is never fully paid. But we owe that obligation to our veterans, and it begins with a full welcome home. The Nation can never fully repair the damage done with the failure to immediately and fully welcome home our veterans from Vietnam. But it is never too late to continue recognizing the obligation we owe you, and thanking you for what you have done and what you continue to do.

Mr. MCMAHON. Mr. Speaker I rise in support of House Resolution 234.

Designating March 30th as "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" is long overdue.

This day is not only in remembrance of the over 58,000 members of the Armed Services that lost their lives in Vietnam, but serves as a lesson in conduct and appropriate public debate in regards to our veterans.

March 30th, 1973, has taught us lessons that unfortunately will soon be very relevant to the present day.

No matter the various views of the war in Iraq, I am confident that our servicemen and

women will return home to an atmosphere of appreciation and reception.

Unfortunately, the 543,000 troops that returned from Vietnam did not all receive the same respect, but their legacy has ensured a brighter future and degree of tolerance exercised towards the next generation of armed servicemembers.

Mrs. HALVORSON. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to unanimously support House Resolution 234.

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 gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. HALVORSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 234.

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.

RECOGNIZING 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 55) recognizing the 30th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 55

Whereas April 10, 2009, will mark the 30th anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act (Public Law 96-8), codifying in law the basis for continued commercial, cultural, and other relations between the United States and the Republic of China (Taiwan);

Whereas the Taiwan Relations Act has been instrumental in maintaining peace, security, and stability in the Taiwan Strait since its enactment in 1979;

Whereas when the Taiwan Relations Act was enacted, it affirmed that the United States' decision to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China was based on the expectation that the future of Taiwan would be determined by peaceful means;

Whereas the Taiwan Relations Act declares that peace and stability in the area are in the political, security, and economic interests of the United States, and are matters of international concern;

Whereas the Taiwan Relations Act states that it is the policy of the United States to provide Taiwan with arms of a defensive character to maintain the capacity to resist any resort to force or other forms of coercion that would jeopardize the security, or the social or economic system, of the people on Taiwan;

Whereas the Taiwan Relations Act also states that "it is the policy of the United States to preserve and promote extensive, close, and friendly commercial, cultural and other relations between the people on Taiwan, as well as the people on the China mainland";

Whereas the relationship between the United States and Taiwan has strengthened with—

(1) Taiwan's evolution into a free society and a full-fledged, multi-party democracy;

(2) the development of Taiwan's robust free-market economy;

(3) Taiwan's determined effort and collaboration with the United States to combat global terrorism, as demonstrated in part by its participation in the Container Security Initiative and its generous contribution to the Pentagon Memorial Fund; and

(4) the leadership role Taiwan has demonstrated in addressing transnational and global challenges, including its active engagement in humanitarian relief measures, public health endeavors, environmental protection initiatives, and financial market stabilization efforts; and

Whereas Taiwan's democracy has deepened with the second peaceful transfer of power from one political party to another after the presidential election in March 2008: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the Taiwan Relations Act as the cornerstone of relations between the United States and Taiwan;

(2) reaffirms its support for Taiwan's democratic institutions; and

(3) supports the strong and deepening relationship between the United States and Taiwan.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROSLEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. 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 California?

There was no objection.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the resolution and yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution recognizes the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act 30 years ago and reaffirms congressional support for that law. I would like to thank my good friend, Representative SHELLEY BERKLEY of Nevada, for her leadership both as co-chair of the Taiwan Caucus and as the chief sponsor of this resolution.

The Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 forms the official basis for friendship and cooperation between the United States and Taiwan. It has been instrumental in maintaining peace and security across the Taiwan Straits and in East Asia. Since the lifting of martial law in 1987, Taiwan has evolved into a robust and lively democracy. The U.S.-Taiwan relationship, once based solely on shared interests, is now based on shared values.

This remarkable political evolution proves beyond any doubt that the notion of "Asian values," often used to justify one-man or one-party rule, is a fallacy. Taiwan's democratic ideals have become even more engrained in its national identity following its second peaceful transfer of power in last year's presidential election.

Taiwan has also developed into a vibrant free-market economy and a major trading partner of the United States. Taiwan's impressive political and economic achievements give it the potential to play a very constructive role in international affairs. I would urge that special consideration be given to Taiwan's desire to gain observer status at the World Health Assembly later this spring.

Taiwan has extremely important social and economic ties with China, and it would benefit both governments to take additional steps towards reducing cross-Strait tensions. The act was enacted 30 years ago with the expectation that the future of Taiwan would be determined only by peaceful means. It is encouraging that China's top leadership recently stated that it was ready to hold talks with Taiwan to create conditions for ending hostilities and concluding a peace agreement between the two sides.

I applaud this development and urge China to do more to reach out to both the government and the people of Taiwan. I'm confident that the Taiwan Relations Act will remain the cornerstone of our very close friendship with Taiwan. I strongly support this resolution. I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, to start the discussion on our side of the aisle, I'm honored to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida, my colleague, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART, who is the co-chair of the House Taiwan Caucus as well as a prime sponsor of this important resolution.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank my distinguished colleague for the time.

I am honored to speak on this resolution commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act. This resolution reaffirms the United States' commitment to the Republic of China on Taiwan and describes the Taiwan Relations Act as the "cornerstone" of U.S.-Taiwan relations.

The Taiwan Relations Act stresses the concept of peace through strength. It has served as a key impediment to Communist Chinese military aggression and its attempts at forced reunification under communism with the people on Taiwan.

As Members of the United States Congress, we will do all that is necessary so that the Republic of China on Taiwan continues to have the tools it needs to defend itself. This resolution is especially important because over the past 30 years, through six administrations, Congress has remained a steady and loyal friend and ally of the Republic of China on Taiwan. The strong support of Congress was evident once again by the fact that over 120 Members of Congress rushed to lend their name to this resolution in less than 1 month. As the 30th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act is just a

few weeks away, the action by the United States Congress today reaffirms, once again, the close relationship between Taiwan and the United States.

Although the Republic of China on Taiwan has achieved the tremendous economic successes of a flourishing market-based economy and one of the highest standards of living in the world, the U.S.-Taiwan friendship rests on much more than shared economic interests and trade. Our friendship stems from a shared commitment to the fundamental ideals of the rule of law, freedom and opposition to totalitarianism.

The United States of America must never waiver in our support of the Republic of China on Taiwan. We must, and we will, continue to remind the world that Taiwan's security is of the utmost importance to the United States Congress, to the American Government, and to the American people.

I have always had tremendous admiration for the Republic of China, for its history in China and its renaissance on Taiwan. And I look forward to continuing to work to deepen cooperation between the United States and the Republic of China on Taiwan.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to yield 2 minutes to the sponsor of the resolution, the gentlelady from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY).

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his extraordinary leadership on this resolution. I would also like to thank the delegate from American Samoa and the ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee for their support on this important resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the co-chairman of the Taiwan Caucus and as a prime sponsor in support of this resolution and in support of our growing and continuing relationship with Taiwan. Three decades ago, Congress declared that the U.S. would stand with Taiwan against any use of force that would jeopardize its security. We have kept our commitment, and we can now proudly commemorate this historic anniversary marking 30 years of an ever-strengthening U.S.-Taiwan relationship.

For 30 years, the Taiwan Relations Act has been instrumental in maintaining peace, security and stability in the Taiwan Strait. Over that period, Taiwan has transformed itself into a vibrant democracy, holding several free and fair elections along with two peaceful transitions of power. Taiwan is an inspiring story of expanding freedom, a robust capitalist economy and a strong trading partner of the United States. We must do everything in our power to continue protecting it and ensuring its survival.

As Taiwan enters a new era in cross-Strait relations and faces new economic and security challenges, Congress today reaffirms, through this resolution, its commitment to the Taiwan Relations Act, to Taiwan's democracy

and to our deep, long-standing friendship.

I thank the gentleman once again.

I urge support for the resolution.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would now like to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), who is the ranking member of our Subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I won't take the whole 2 minutes.

I think everything that is going to be said about the Republic of China on Taiwan can be boiled down to just a few words. They are our true friend. They have been with us through thick and thin. There have been times when we haven't been as good a friend to them as I think we should have been. But they have always been there for us. Ever since they left the mainland and went to Taiwan, they have been a strong free country that has grown into one of the biggest economic countries in the entire world, certainly one of our greatest trading partners.

So I would just like to say that I am very happy to be here to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act and to say to all of my friends, all of our friends in Taiwan, thank you, thank you, thank you for being such great friends.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers on the floor now, so I will reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1445

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would now like to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida, my colleague, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART, who is also a sponsor of this resolution.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlelady from Florida, and also all the sponsors of this legislation.

I rise today in recognition of the 30th anniversary of this landmark legislation, the Taiwan Relations Act. It codifies into law the basis for the continued special relationship between the United States and the Republic of China on Taiwan. Our two nations share so many common beliefs and values. We both cherish freedom, human rights and democracy.

And last year, during the most recent Presidential election, they once again showed that, yes, of course they are a true, vibrant democracy. The Republic of China on Taiwan continues to be our strong ally on the war on terrorism. And they continuously prove that they are a true partner of the people of the United States of America.

Now contrast that, Mr. Speaker, with what just took place a month ago when the Communist Chinese dictatorship sent a number of ships to harass an unarmed U.S. Naval surveillance ship. This provocative action, and many others like it, should serve as a cause for concern when dealing with that nation that regularly violates human rights. Again, that highlights the importance that the people of Taiwan know and

that the world knows the United States Congress stands with this strong and proud democracy.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for this resolution, for having the opportunity to support this resolution, and make sure that our friends in Taiwan understand that Congress stands with them, really stands with them.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), the ranking member of our Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Trade.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution, which recognizes the 30th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act. This is a historic occasion. Taiwan, of course, is a beacon of democracy in Asia. We have a strong partnership that stretches back over half a century with this country. Today our relations remain strong, as Taiwan is a cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy in Asia.

This was signed 30 years ago, and the Taiwan Relations Act laid into the law the basis for the continued commercial, cultural and defense relationship between the U.S. and Taiwan. As this resolution states, it has been instrumental in maintaining the peace, the security and the stability in the Taiwan Straits.

While this resolution highlights many of the positive attributes of the U.S.-Taiwan relationship, language detailing our important economic relationship was regrettably struck. As the original version states, Taiwan is the ninth largest trading partner of the U.S., with United States exports totaling over \$26 billion. Imports from Taiwan are important too.

The truth is that trade is very important to Taiwanese security. Security isn't based on weapons alone.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from California.

Mr. ROYCE. I suspect it is wishful thinking with this administration, but I would like to see movement on a trade agreement with Taiwan. Certainly, if we throw up trade barriers, it would do much to destabilize Taiwan's economy. We shouldn't give trade short shrift.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, we have no further requests for time, so I will reserve to the ranking member.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support as an original cosponsor of House Concurrent Resolution 55. This resolution recognizes the Taiwan Relations Act as the cornerstone of the unbreakable relations which exist today between the people of the United States and the people of Taiwan.

The Taiwan Relations Act stands out as one of the key pieces of foreign pol-

icy legislation passed by Congress in the 20th century.

Congress was prompted to act by the decision of President Jimmy Carter to suddenly cut off, as of January 1, 1979, our historic relations with a traditional ally, and to provide nothing further for its continued security nor defensive needs.

Taiwan has stood with the United States, both during the Second World War and in the Cold War, yet little thought was given to the fate of the then approximately 18 million people living on the island. Is this the way to treat an old friend? The response from the House of Representatives 30 years ago was a resounding "no."

On March 28, 1979, the House passed the Taiwan Relations Act by an overwhelming bipartisan majority of 339-50. It is this anniversary that we commemorate this coming Saturday and, in so doing, Mr. Speaker, reaffirm our commitment to strengthen the U.S.-Taiwan relationship and our support for the defensive needs of the Taiwanese people.

Thirty years ago Taiwan was put forward as the sacrificial lamb for our own apprehensions, ready to be surrendered to Beijing's unyielding demands. The Taiwan Relations Act put an end to that defeatist way of thinking.

In the three decades since the Taiwan Relations Act, Mr. Speaker, the economic and democratic evolution of Taiwan has been beyond even the most optimistic projections at that time. Taiwan's robust, free-market economy made the island the ninth largest trading partner of the United States in 2007.

Taiwan, as a young democracy with a record of two peaceful transitions of power, is blossoming amidst a sea of Chinese communism. It has become a beacon of hope to all who aspire to democracy in the Chinese cultural world.

Now, more than ever, we must ensure that our robust ties with the people of Taiwan are maintained and even strengthened. Now, more than ever, we must ensure that the people of Taiwan are provided with defensive weapons needed to ensure that no sudden change in the status quo by the use of force undermines their political aspirations. Now, more than ever, we must ensure that Congress is fully consulted on a regular basis on both our overall relations with Taiwan, and our planned future arms sales.

The best means to achieve these goals, Mr. Speaker, is through overwhelming Congressional support for this resolution as a sign of our unwavering recommitment to the Taiwan Relations Act on its 30th anniversary.

Let us send a strong, unequivocal message to Beijing that we are unwavering in our commitment to democracy, to free markets, and to the people of Taiwan. Now more than ever, we must all stand by Taiwan on this important anniversary.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise as a proud co-sponsor of H. Con. Res. 55 and I

want to commend Chairman FALOMAVAEGA and Ranking Member MANZULLO for moving this timely resolution forward.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join in recognizing the 30th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act. Since 1979, the TRA's clarity of purpose as the framer of U.S.-Taiwan relations and its singular role in shaping our relationship with the Peoples Republic of China has few equals in terms of foreign policy legislation produced by the Congress.

Under the TRA, Taiwan, and I dare say the mainland, have both prospered and are vastly different places from what they were before the TRA was enacted. The TRA has facilitated Taiwan's evolution into a full-fledged, multiparty democracy with a robust free market economy. And as Taiwan has evolved domestically, its role internationally has changed as well. Taiwan is an active participant in addressing transnational threats and has been deeply engaged in humanitarian relief efforts, addressing public health and environmental protection initiative as well as financial stabilization efforts.

The resolution before the subcommittee today reaffirms the unwavering support of the United States Congress for Taiwan, its democratic institutions, and urges a deeper and stronger relationship between the United States and Taiwan. These are sentiments with which we can all agree, so I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution recognizing one of our strongest partners in business and in democracy, Taiwan. I would like to thank my colleague SHELLEY BERKLEY of Nevada for her continued strong leadership on issues affecting Taiwan, and Asia in general.

Whether you refer to it as the Republic of China, Formosa or Taiwan, this is a free society that has been a beacon of light and freedom in the Taiwan Strait.

April 10, 2009 will mark the 30th anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act, codifying in law the basis for continued commercial, cultural, and other relations between the United States and the Republic of China, or Taiwan. The Taiwan Relations Act has been instrumental in maintaining peace, security, and stability in the Taiwan Strait since its enactment in 1979.

When the Taiwan Relations Act was enacted, it affirmed that the United States decision to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China was based on the expectation that the future of Taiwan would be determined by peaceful means. I truly believe that all of Asia wants the future of Taiwan to be peaceful and that this glorious society continues to be a beacon of light, freedom and commercial opportunity.

My district in Texas is home to a very strong Taiwanese American community, and while I understand that Texas is not known for its Asian population, it is very vital and an important part of the tapestry of diversity that the state of Texas must get recognition for.

The Taiwan Relations Act makes it a policy of the United States to provide defense articles and defense services in such quantity as may be necessary to enable Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense capability. Our continued desire is that these articles remain unused.

The Taiwan Relations Act also makes it a policy of the United States to maintain the capacity to resist any resort to force or other

forms of coercion that would jeopardize the security, or the social or economic system, of the people of Taiwan. That is why we must remain vigilant on what happens in the Taiwan Strait. This is still one of the most peaceful and prosperous areas of the world. It also has one of the most steadily growing populations.

Taiwan's democracy has deepened with the second peaceful transfer of power from one political party to another after the presidential election in March 2008. The new President has made it a point of fostering an atmosphere of peace and harmony, while seeking to secure Taiwan's place as an economic growth engine. This is particularly important when the global economy is faltering.

The relationship between the United States and Taiwan has strengthened with Taiwan's evolution into a free society and a full-fledged, multi-party democracy and the development of Taiwan's robust free-market economy, with Taiwan becoming the 9th largest trading partner of the United States in 2007 and imports from the United States in that year totaling over \$26 billion. Our economic and trading relationship is one of our most important to both Taiwan and to the United States.

Also Taiwan's determined effort and collaboration with the United States to combat global terrorism, as demonstrated in part by its participation in the Container Security Initiative and its generous contribution to the Pentagon Memorial Fund are further evidence of our strong partnership.

I would also cite the leadership role Taiwan has demonstrated in addressing transnational and global challenges, including its active engagement in humanitarian relief measures, public health endeavors, environmental protection initiatives, and financial market stabilization efforts.

These reasons are why it is important that we continue to pursue peace and harmony in this region and why Secretary of State Hillary Clinton made Asia her first overseas trip in her new role. The symbolism is not lost on our Asian partners and why we must support this resolution.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I want to join my colleagues in recognizing the 30th anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act and America's commitment to U.S.-Taiwan relations and supporting H. Con. Res. 55.

As many of my colleagues know, the Taiwan Relations Act has been instrumental in maintaining peace, security, and stability in the Taiwan Strait since its enactment in 1979. Over the past 30 years, Taiwan has evolved into a model democracy that respects human rights and the rule of law. It has also transformed into one of the world's most dynamic economies and is counted among America's most important trading partners. To that end, it is critical that the United States Congress continue to highlight the importance of the TRA and take further steps to enhance our overall partnership with Taiwan which has been mutually beneficial for generations in both America and Taiwan.

As a member of Congress who believes the United States should foster this relationship and create new avenues of cooperation, it is important in the context of this anniversary to recognize the bold efforts of Taiwanese President Ying-jeou Ma to bring peace and stability to the Taiwan Strait. I welcome President Ma's

efforts and the progress he has made to reduce tensions and to extend an olive branch to Beijing. While the issues that separate Taipei and Beijing are significant and the road ahead difficult, it is important for President Ma to fulfill his stated vision and continue to pursue a policy that lays down the "foundation for a century of peace and prosperity" in the region.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I was recently privileged to become one of the co-chairs of the House Taiwan Caucus, and I look forward to working to strengthen our country's relationship with Taiwan through the efforts of the Caucus.

Just this week, I was also pleased to have met Ambassador Yuan and Director General Tseng down at the Georgia Capitol where the Ambassador was being honored by the Georgia General Assembly.

I rise today in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 55, which commemorates the 30th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act. As stated in this resolution, the Taiwan Relations Act has served as the cornerstone of America's relationship with Taiwan since its enactment in 1979.

This resolution recognizes "Taiwan's evolution into a free society and a full-fledged, multi-party democracy." As the 9th largest trading partner of the United States in 2007, Taiwan has demonstrated its commitment to work with the United States and to collaborate on a range of issues—especially in regards to combating global terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan has also made clear its commitment to give back to the global community through humanitarian relief and other contributions to help stabilize global financial markets.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of this milestone anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in reaffirming our support for Taiwan's democratic institutions and commitment to our strong friendship with Taiwan.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of passage of House Concurrent Resolution 55 a resolution recognizing the 30th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act. The Taiwan Relations Act's passage in 1979 marked an important law that allowed for continued cultural and economic relations with the people of Taiwan. The resolution we are considering, H. Con. Res. 55, reasserts Congressional intent on this very important relationship. The Taiwan Relations Act helped the United States continue to foster a greater partnership that has resulted in economic benefits and stability for both of our people and that has contributed to peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region.

I appreciate the partnership that the people of Taiwan have with the people of Guam. The Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office on Guam, Mr. Vince Tsai, has been a valuable member of our island community and I appreciate his office's continued involvement with our local community in many social, business and civic activities. I also want to thank my good friend Congresswoman SHELLEY BERKLEY from Nevada for introducing this resolution and for her continued interest in Asian-Pacific affairs. I believe that this resolution will continue to encourage and foster the friendship and beneficial relationship between the people of the United States and the people of Taiwan, as the Taiwan Relations Act envisioned thirty years ago.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I urge strong support for the resolution, an "aye" vote, and yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 55, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING 188TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 273) recognizing the 188th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating Greek and American democracy.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 273

Whereas the ancient Greeks developed the concept of democracy, in which the supreme power to govern was vested in the people;

Whereas the Founding Fathers of the United States, many of whom read Greek political philosophy in its original text, drew heavily on the political experience and philosophy of ancient Greece in forming our representative democracy;

Whereas the Greek national anthem (Hymn to Liberty) includes the words, "Most heartily was gladdened George Washington's brave land";

Whereas Greek Commander in Chief Petros Mavromichalis, a founder of the modern Greek state, said to the citizens of the United States in 1821 that "it is in your land that liberty has fixed her abode and . . . in imitating you, we shall imitate our ancestors and be thought worthy of them if we succeed in resembling you";

Whereas the people of the United States generously offered humanitarian assistance to the Greek people during their struggle for independence;

Whereas Greece played a major role in the World War II struggle to protect freedom and democracy through such bravery as was shown in the historic Battle of Crete, which provided the Axis land war with its first major setback, setting off a chain of events that significantly affected the outcome of World War II;

Whereas the price for Greece in holding onto our common values in their region was high, as hundreds of thousands of civilians were killed in Greece during World War II;

Whereas, throughout the 20th century, Greece was one of a few countries that allied with the United States in every major international conflict;

Whereas Greece is a strategic partner and ally of the United States in bringing political stability and economic development to the volatile Balkan region, having invested over \$20,000,000,000 in the countries of the region, thereby creating over 200,000 new jobs, and having contributed over \$750,000,000 in development aid for the region;