

made. However, it was more or less patchwork rather than true repairs.

Madam Speaker, as the Sultana sailed past Memphis, a combination of disastrous circumstances, including poorly maintained boilers, the powerful current on the Mississippi, and the overcrowded conditions, led to the catastrophic explosion. Thankfully, hundreds of the passengers survived primarily through the help of other steamboats in the area that rushed to the scene. Most remarkable was the willingness of the good people of Memphis to help the injured Union soldiers, who just weeks before had been their enemy.

Sadly, Madam Speaker, although this was an enormous disaster in American history, it remains relatively unknown because, remember, this happened in April 1865, a very special month. What happened in that month? Well, on April 9 the Appomattox surrender occurred. Then President Lincoln was assassinated. Then on April 26 John Wilkes Booth was arrested. And then, finally, General Johnson surrendered and Jefferson Davis was arrested. So you can well see how such a remarkable tragedy found itself in the back pages of the local newspapers.

With that in mind, it is fitting today for all of us Americans to remember the tragic loss of over 1,800 souls on the SS Sultana that happened so many years ago, and I, therefore, strongly urge all Members to support this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SNYDER. Madam Speaker, at this time I have no further requests for time, and I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FLEMING. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for a closing statement.

Madam Speaker, this, as I said, is a remarkable event in history, and, quite frankly, until recently I was unaware of it, and I, among many others, am a Civil War buff. And it happened between my two home States, Louisiana and Mississippi. So I appreciate very much that this has been brought to light and that we can learn more about it and certainly recognize it for the future.

I do want to point out, however, that this turned out to be an example to some extent of unfettered greed; that is, that there was no control over the captain of the ship as well as Army officers. They were in it for profit, and I think they took advantage of the poor Union soldiers who were coming out of desperate situations and so desperately wanted to go home. So I think that's a lesson we can learn for the future, that we need to put our own individual interests at hand and look out for the better good of all.

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

Mr. SNYDER. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the leadership of my colleague on this event.

These House resolutions, we know today that we're not passing a statute, we're not changing a law, we're not creating a memorial. What we are trying to do is call attention to what we believe is a very significant event in our Nation's history. And to the families and relatives of the folks who were lost or survived the sinking of the Sultana, to the day they died, they regretted that their country did not pay more attention to what happened. So there are lessons to be learned.

As we are doing this right now on the floor of the House, in Memphis there is an event going on recognizing this event. I want to call attention to my colleague, Congressman STEVE COHEN, as a cosponsor of our resolution from Memphis.

So it is just another thing that we can do to say, hey, America, there is something to learn from our rich, rich history from an event that we all may not know enough about as we would like. And I commend the books that I mentioned to folks and to seek out opinions about what occurred on April 27, the anniversary today, in 1865 on the Mississippi River just north of Memphis.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. SNYDER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 329, as amended.

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. SNYDER. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

**SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK**

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 335) supporting the goals and ideals of National Volunteer Week.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

**H. RES. 335**

Whereas National Volunteer Week will be observed during the week of April 19 through April 25, 2009;

Whereas National Volunteer Week honors the nationwide impact of volunteers in every day American communities;

Whereas the theme of this year's National Volunteer Week is "Celebrating People in Action", which recognizes individuals who dedicate themselves to taking action and solving problems in their communities;

Whereas National Volunteer Week has been an annual celebration since 1974 and

every President since that time has signed a proclamation honoring National Volunteer Week;

Whereas many State and local officials from around the country have actively engaged their communities in celebrating National Volunteer Week;

Whereas data from the Corporation for National and Community Service shows that 61,803,000 volunteers dedicated 8,003,840,108 hours of service to community organizations in 2008;

Whereas volunteers can play a critical role in helping struggling nonprofit organizations with fundraising, directing services to individuals and communities in need, and other skill-based assistance;

Whereas nonprofit organizations are reporting an increase in the number of inquiries from both baby boomers and young people who are ready to serve our Nation;

Whereas "Celebrating People in Action" is the recognition that every citizen can make a difference in their community by taking action through activities like building a ramp to ensure accessibility for people with disabilities, tutoring a child struggling to read, serving food at a homeless shelter, assisting the unemployed with job readiness skills, and many other services; and

Whereas National Volunteer Week provides a moment in time to honor all those who serve locally, nationally and internationally to change lives, rejuvenate communities, and embody the best of the American spirit of responsibility and civic engagement: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Volunteer Week;

(2) recognizes the critical role of our national and community service programs;

(3) honors the contributions of all those hard-working American volunteers who make a difference in their communities every day of the year; and

(4) invites all Americans to answer the call to serve through volunteerism in any form.

□ 1430

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise, extend and insert extraneous materials on House Resolution 335 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands?

There was no objection.

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of House Resolution 335, which supports the ideals and goals of National Volunteer Week. People who volunteer and engage in community service play a vital role in neighborhoods across the country. National Volunteer Week invites all Americans to give back to the community in some form of service.

Last week, President Obama signed into law the Edward M. Kennedy Serve

America Act. The law recognizes the necessary role volunteerism and service play in our country and creates 175,000 new service opportunities over the next several years. Through four new service corps, the Serve America Act will engage volunteers to work in their communities in the areas of health, education, green work and programs to support veterans and their families.

Today, more than 400,000 individuals have volunteered through AmeriCorps, one of the largest national service programs working in local communities across the Nation. Whether it's tutoring children in after-school programs, cleaning up parks or serving food to the homeless, volunteers answer unmet needs by partnering with nonprofit organizations, schools, faith-based and community agencies to volunteer their services in local communities. Amazingly, seniors working as part of the Senior Corps have generated more than 1 billion volunteer service hours.

Schools are also working to increase service opportunities in the communities. More than 1 million high school students participate in service-learning programs in their schools.

On a national level, volunteers have helped America alleviate some of its most pressing problems. During 9/11, millions of volunteers responded in our country's time of need through their churches, schools and oftentimes as individuals wanting to help their neighbor. More recently, over 80,000 volunteers traveled to Fargo, North Dakota, to fill sandbags, strengthen levees and help flood victims evacuate their homes. When the call is sounded, this Nation's citizens rally together to begin the rebuilding that is needed.

National Volunteer Week recognizes the critical role volunteers play in their communities. This week honors their hard work and contributions.

I want to thank Congressman PLATTS for bringing this resolution forward and reminding us of the importance of volunteerism.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of House Resolution 335, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Volunteer Week. Throughout the history of the United States, Americans have valued an ethic of service. Citizens have come together to support our troops, educate our children or work to ensure that less fortunate individuals have a place to live.

All of these activities support the theme of this year's National Volunteer Week, "Celebrating People in Action." This week gives us an opportunity to recognize those individuals who serve their country, not only through the military or through national service programs run by the Corporation for National and Community Service, but also those individuals who are donating their time to serve their local communities.

Just last week our President signed the latest reauthorization of the national service programs. This bill was crafted through a bipartisan process in both the House and the Senate and builds on the reforms and the corporations stated by the previous administration to ensure additional accountability in national service programs. The bill will help smaller organizations participate in national service and ensure that the unique skills of America's veterans are utilized.

Volunteerism is a way for Americans to connect to their communities, learn more about the problems facing their communities and to simply make a difference.

This week we salute all volunteers and national service program participants for their powerful impact, and we thank all community partners who make these efforts possible and bring more Americans into service.

I want to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues, Mr. PLATTS, Ms. MATSUI and Mr. PRICE for introducing this resolution, and I ask my colleagues to support this resolution.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 335, "Supporting the goals and ideals of National Volunteer Week". I would like to thank my colleague TODD PLATTS for introducing this legislation. H. Res 335 moves to observe the week of April 19 through April 25, 2009 as National Volunteer Week.

President Obama throughout his campaign for President and through the first 100 days of his administration has sent a steady reminder to the American people that the Government cannot solve all of their problems for them. He has encouraged Americans to get out and try to impact their own communities through acts of volunteerism. The President himself along with the help of former President Clinton and local D.C. children were seen planting trees for earth day. The first lady along with multiple spouses of congressional members has volunteered in multiple kitchens serving food to members of the community. This administration is showing clear signs that it is not only going to call upon the American people for action, but are clearly prepared to join them in their own community.

Just last week, President Obama and this new administration took another giant step toward encouraging and helping the American people to be active in their communities with the passage of, "The Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act". This landmark law recruits an army of 250,000 per year to engage in intensive service, and it focuses its work on today's challenges, including clean energy, education, health, veterans care, and economic opportunity. It creates new service opportunities for seniors, baby boomers, and young adults, and improves service learning in our schools. The law also creates a Social Innovation Fund. This fund looks for new ideas in communities and leverages private, nonprofit, and faith based support to invest in local innovation. The fund also allows us to test the impact of new ideas and expand successful programs to scale. Volunteering provides the opportunity to join and better a community. Every American who volunteers can become an integral part of a school, a hos-

pital, or a neighborhood. Those who give their time, join our Nation's proud history of service and helps preserve this tradition for generations ahead. During National Volunteer Week, we express heartfelt thanks to all who have worked hard in this effort, and we urge more Americans to reach out and meet the manifold unmet needs of fellow Americans.

Many events are planned around the nation, including numerous in the Houston area. I urge all Americans especially those living in the 18th Congressional district to participate in this national week of service. Madam Speaker I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 335, observing the week of April 19–25 as National Volunteer Week. Also I urge all Americans to get out and participate in the many volunteer opportunities to take place across the nation.

Mr. PETRI. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, I also encourage all my colleagues to support House Resolution 335.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 335.

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. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### COMMENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 344) commending the University of Connecticut Huskies for their historic win in the 2009 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Women's Basketball Tournament.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 344

Whereas, on April 7, 2009, the University of Connecticut Huskies defeated the University of Louisville Cardinals 76 to 54 in the final game of the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Tournament in St. Louis, Missouri;

Whereas the Huskies were undefeated with a record of 39–0, defeating each of their opponents by more than double digits;

Whereas the Huskies were undefeated for the third time since 1994–1995;

Whereas the Huskies have won 6 national titles, second most in NCAA Division I women's basketball history;

Whereas sophomore forward Maya Moore was chosen as the Naismith Award winner,