

On October 15, 2004, Lance Corporal Schramm was on his second tour of Iraq when he became the first resident of the 26th Congressional District to be killed in action in Iraq. He was 22.

Brian made the ultimate sacrifice to protect the values that sustain this country, family, community, hard work and freedom. That is why I introduced this proposal to rename the post office in his honor just a few miles down the road from where Brian had grown up.

This is one way to pay tribute not only to Brian's sacrifices, but those of his loved ones as well, his parents, Keith and Mary Ellen; his older sister, Jennifer; and his two younger brothers, Kyle and Michael.

Keith and Mary Ellen, who I've had the privilege to meet, have honored their son's legacy by becoming very active in local veterans' issues. Mary Ellen recently started the Rochester chapter of Gold Star Mothers.

Being part of a military family requires a great amount of courage, and in Keith and Mary Ellen, the town of Greece has two everyday heroes.

This post office would certainly not be the last tribute to Brian's memory. Each year a student at Brian's alma mater of Greece Olympia High School receives a scholarship in his name. This award is a testament to Brian's incredible work ethic and his lifelong desire to help others.

Today, western New Yorkers seek to take another step towards repaying the great debt of gratitude we owe to Lance Corporal Schramm by redesignating a Federal facility in his honor.

This legislation will make it so that children growing up in the town of Greece now and years to come will ask their parents, who was Brian Schramm? And then they will come to know about the selfless individual and brave patriot who gave his life to protect this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I can think of no better way to ensure that Brian's legacy endures.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, we have no further speakers, but I continue to reserve.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, we have no further speakers. And I just ask that my colleagues would give unanimous support for the renaming of this post office for this fallen hero.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I join with the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. LEE) in asking our Members to unanimously support this designation of this post office in memory of Brian Schramm.

I yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1595.

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. LYNCH. Mr. 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.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR VIETNAMESE REFUGEES DAY

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 342) expressing support for designation of May 2, 2009, as "Vietnamese Refugees Day".

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 342

Whereas the Library of Congress' Asian Division together with many Vietnamese-American organizations across the United States will sponsor a "Journey to Freedom: A Boat People Retrospective" symposium on May 2, 2009;

Whereas Vietnamese refugees were asylum-seekers from Communist-controlled Vietnam;

Whereas many Vietnamese escaped in boats during the late 1970s, after the Vietnam War and by land across the Cambodian, Laotian, and Thai borders into refugee camps in Thailand;

Whereas over 2,000,000 Vietnamese boat people and other refugees are now spread across the world, in the United States, Australia, Canada, France, England, Germany, China, Japan, Hong Kong, South Korea, the Philippines, and other nations;

Whereas over half of all overseas Vietnamese are Vietnamese-Americans, and Vietnamese-Americans are the fourth-largest Asian American group in the United States;

Whereas, as of 2006, 72 percent of Vietnamese-Americans were naturalized United States citizens, the highest rate among all Asian groups;

Whereas Vietnamese-Americans have made significant contributions to the rich culture and economic prosperity of the United States;

Whereas Vietnamese-Americans have distinguished themselves in the fields of literature, the arts, science, and athletics, and include actors and actresses, physicists, an astronaut, and Olympic athletes; and

Whereas May 2, 2009, would be an appropriate day to designate as "Vietnamese Refugees Day": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives supports the designation of "Vietnamese Refugees Day" in order to commemorate the arrival of Vietnamese refugees in the United States, to document their harrowing experiences, and subsequent achievements in their new homeland, to honor the host countries that welcomed the boat people, and to recognize the voluntary agencies and nongovernmental organizations that facilitated their resettlement, adjustment, and assimilation into mainstream society in the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I stand to join my colleagues in the consideration of House Resolution 342, which expresses our support for the designation of May 2, 2009, as "Vietnamese Refugees Day."

And House Resolution 342 was introduced by the gentleman from Louisiana, Congressman CAO, on April 21, 2009, and was considered by and reported from the Oversight Committee on April 23, 2009, by unanimous consent. This measure has the support and cosponsorship of 67 Members of Congress.

Basically, Vietnamese refugees were asylum-seekers from Communist-controlled Vietnam. In the late 1970s, many Vietnamese escaped in boats and by land across the Cambodian, Laotian and the Thai borders into refugee camps in Thailand after the Vietnam war. Over 2 million Vietnamese boat people and other refugees are now spread across the world, in the United States, Australia, Canada, France, England, Germany, Japan, China, Hong Kong and South Korea, also in the Philippines and other nations. Over half of all overseas Vietnamese are Vietnamese-Americans, and Vietnamese-Americans are the fourth largest Asian American group in the United States.

As of 2006, 72 percent of Vietnamese-Americans were naturalized United States citizens, the highest rate among all Asian groups. Vietnamese-Americans have made significant contributions to the rich culture and economic prosperity of the United States.

Vietnamese-Americans have distinguished themselves in fields of literature, the arts, science and athletics, and include actors and actresses, physicists, an astronaut, and Olympic athletes and so on. And on May 2, 2009, many will come together to recognize what has been designated as "Vietnamese Refugees Day."

Mr. Speaker, with this bill, we have the opportunity to commemorate the arrival and integration of Vietnamese refugees into the United States and remember the arduous task that many citizens and the citizens of the world have had to travel to attain for their liberty, safety and prosperity.

I thank the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CAO) for authoring such an important resolution, and I urge my colleagues to join all of us here on the floor now in support of the bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, and I wish to yield as

much time as he may consume to my distinguished colleague from the great State of Louisiana (Mr. CAO), the original sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. CAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 342, to designate May 2, 2009, as “Vietnamese Refugees Day.”

As the Vietnam war came to an end, millions fled Communist-controlled Vietnam by boat and by land, across the Cambodian, Laotian and Thai borders into refugee camps.

Like me, many of the conflict’s refugees came to the United States. In fact, it was April 28, 1975, exactly 34 years ago today, that, as Saigon fell, I climbed aboard a C-130 destined for the United States and my new life. To date, over 2 million Vietnamese boat people and other refugees of the conflict remain dispersed globally.

In the United States, as of 2006, 72 percent of Vietnamese Americans are naturalized United States citizens, the highest rate among Asian groups. Vietnamese Americans have made significant contributions to the cultural and economic prosperity of the United States. They count among their ranks artists, singers, actors, scientists, astronauts, restaurateurs, Olympians and elected officials. While Vietnamese Americans’ accomplishments are significant and notable, it is critical that their history and the history of their ancestors be recorded.

Mr. Speaker, on May 2, 2009, the Library of Congress Asian Division is joining many Vietnamese American organizations across the United States in sponsoring a symposium entitled “Journey to Freedom: A Boat People Retrospective.” In honor of this significant event, I ask my colleagues to support House Resolution 342 to designate May 2, 2009, as “Vietnamese Refugees Day.” By doing so, we enshrine in the hearts and consciousness of Americans the tragic, heroic and uplifting stories of perseverance and the pursuit of freedom of millions of Vietnamese refugees to ensure those stories will stand as an inspiration to generations of Americans to come.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, we have no further speakers, but I continue to reserve my time.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to my distinguished colleague from the State of Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY), and my good friend and classmate, a great American.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. I thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) for the time and for recognizing our valuable partnership in this fine august body.

Mr. Speaker, today I also rise, as the Vietnamese community in my district gathers for their regular meeting, to express my support for a national Vietnamese Refugees Day.

Throughout the past years, I have listened with great interest and admiration to the poignant stories of hardship and triumph that many members

of the Vietnamese community have shared with me. I am deeply moved by their dedication to the principles of liberty that have distinguished our American experience. This is expressed in the difficult decisions to leave their beloved homeland of Vietnam and to embrace our Nation’s founding principles, principles that those of us who have never experienced life under oppression and communism invariably run the risk of taking for granted.

Even today, Vietnamese American refugees gather across this Nation to raise awareness of concerns affecting their loved ones back in Vietnam. Lincoln’s Vietnamese American community has been particularly concerned with religious freedom and Vietnam’s two-child policy. And I have tried to make it a priority to urge the Government of Vietnam to uphold its stated commitments to religious freedom. I deeply value the active civic engagement of the Vietnamese American community in Nebraska with regards to these and other important human rights issues.

It is my privilege to serve the Vietnamese American community. And I want to thank Congressman CAO, who, as he mentioned, at 8 years old, 34 years ago today, fled his homeland of Vietnam on a United States of America C-130 transport plane, for bringing this important resolution forward and allowing us to reflect on the profound commitment of the Vietnamese refugee population to the well-being of our Nation.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, we continue to reserve.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, it’s my privilege to yield 3 minutes to my friend and colleague from the State of New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 342, offered by my good friend and colleague, Mr. JOSEPH CAO. The “Vietnamese Refugees Day” resolution sets aside May 2, 2009, as a day of remembrance and celebration for the growing Vietnamese American community in the United States and throughout the world.

First, I would like to say a few words about Mr. CAO, the first Vietnamese-American elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. JOSEPH is a husband, proud father and man of deep and abiding religious faith and currently serves the people of Louisiana’s Second District with honor and distinction.

Mr. CAO is far too modest and humble to say it, but he is the quintessential example of a refugee success story.

JOSEPH CAO’s father, a lieutenant in the Army of the Republic of Vietnam, was captured by the North Vietnamese at the end of the war and was incarcerated for seven terrible years in a reeducation camp.

In 1975, at the age of 8, JOSEPH escaped Vietnam with two of his siblings. His mom and jailed father remained behind. JOSEPH CAO worked hard in his new adopted homeland. Smart, re-

sourceful, devout and generous to a fault, JOSEPH earned his Bachelor’s Degree at Baylor, his Master’s from Fordham University, and his J.D. from Loyola Law School.

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Never forgetting the plight of refugees, and wanting to make a difference in the lives of the disenfranchised, JOSEPH became an immigration lawyer. He worked tirelessly to aid refugees and to assist in unifying families. He served as a member of the board of directors of Boat People SOS, and he is now a member of the United States Congress and is a rising star in the House.

Mr. Speaker, JOSEPH CAO is an inspiration to all who escape tyranny and come to America. With persistence and hard work and faith, JOSEPH inspires a new generation of refugees and, really, everyone else as well that you can achieve much and do wonderful things if you put your mind to it and you persist.

JOSEPH’s legislation highlights the extraordinary work and the contributions made by Vietnamese Americans and the work of groups like Boat People SOS and the work of people like Dr. Thang, who have welcomed Vietnamese asylum seekers fleeing reeducation camps, harassment, and religious persecution, labor violations and other human rights abuses.

Over 2 million boat people and other refugees from Vietnam have received asylum in the United States and around the world. Half of those individuals have made their home in the U.S. Vietnamese Americans have made and continue to make a significant contributions to our country, bringing their rich heritage and culture and work ethic to the United States, their new, cherished permanent home.

The sad thing, Mr. Speaker, is that Vietnam’s government continues to repress its own citizens, and the human rights record of that country’s government remains deplorable. So many Vietnamese suffer each day at the hands of the government and secret police. It’s deplorable.

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

Mr. WESTMORELAND. I yield the gentleman 30 additional seconds.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Additionally, ethnic religious minority groups such as the Montagnards in the Central Highlands and the Khmer Krom Buddhists continue to face intense persecution, beatings and even death.

I would hope that Mr. CAO’s resolution causes this Congress to reexamine Vietnam’s human rights record and redouble our efforts to promote freedom and democracy in Vietnam and to remove hindrances for Vietnamese people seeking asylum in the U.S. and elsewhere around the world.

Again, I congratulate my good friend and colleague. His is a success story that needs to be held up in neon lights. JOSEPH CAO, you are an extraordinarily talented and courageous leader.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, we continue to reserve.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, Mr. CAO, for introducing this piece of legislation, and I urge my fellow Members to support the passage of H. Res. 342.

Mr. Speaker, in 1975, after the Vietnam War, a mass immigration to the United States of Vietnamese people began. These early Vietnamese immigrants were fleeing persecution by the Communists in power in that region of the world. They came to America, sometimes with barely the clothes on their back, seeking asylum and a better life.

Many of them can recount harrowing experiences in having to flee their homelands, some by boat, and others by land across Cambodia, Laos and Thai borders into refugee camps. In fact, over 2 million Vietnamese boat people and other refugees are now spread across the world, in the United States, Australia, Canada, France, England, Germany, China, Japan, Hong Kong, South Korea, the Philippines and other nations.

And yet despite these harrowing escapes from oppressive regimes, Vietnamese-Americans have made significant contributions to the rich culture and economic prosperity of the United States. Vietnamese-Americans have distinguished themselves in the fields of literature, the arts, science and athletics. In fact, just a few months ago, the people of Louisiana's Second Congressional District, elected the first Vietnamese-American and sent the author of this piece of legislation, Representative ANH "JOSEPH" CAO, to Congress.

According to Census Data, as of 2006, 72 percent of foreign-born Vietnamese are naturalized U.S. citizens. When combined with the 36 percent of Vietnamese born in America, a full 82 percent of Vietnamese are American citizens. Over half of all overseas Vietnamese are Vietnamese-Americans. What's more, there are well over 1 million people in the U.S. who identify themselves as Vietnamese alone or in combination with other ethnicities, ranking fourth among the Asian American groups.

According to 2006 Census Data, the Vietnamese American population has grown to 1.6 million and remains the second largest Southeast Asian American subgroup.

In light of the civic achievements of Vietnamese-Americans, I am pleased to support, and urge my colleagues to support this resolution, designating May 2, 2009 as "Vietnamese Refugees Day" in order to commemorate the arrival of Vietnamese refugees in the United States, to document their harrowing experiences and subsequent achievements in their new homeland, to honor the host countries that welcomed the boat people, and to recognize the voluntary agencies and nongovernmental organizations that facilitated their resettlement, adjustment, and assimilation into mainstream society in the United States.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to congratulate Mr. CAO on his leadership in sponsoring this resolution. I want to thank the gentleman from Georgia for his leadership as well.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 342 and the designation of May 2, 2009 as "Vietnamese Refugees Day."

Millions of Boat People and other Vietnamese refugees endured harrowing voyages

to escape the tyranny and deprivations of communist Vietnam. Hundreds of thousands of those refugees reached the United States, and we are all better for it. Like so many immigrants before and since, they came seeking freedom, and in turn became valuable members of their new communities. I have the privilege of representing many Vietnamese-Americans in San Jose, California, and can attest to this first-hand.

Unfortunately, I cannot speak with the same warmth about the situation inside Vietnam. To this day, the Vietnamese government refuses to respect the basic human rights of its own citizens. Reports by the State Department, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, and non-governmental and Vietnamese American organizations document egregious abuses of free speech and expression, religious liberty, and many other fundamental freedoms.

So today I rise to honor the experiences of Vietnamese refugees, and to commend the Vietnamese Americans who have successfully rebuilt their lives in the United States while fighting for the rights of those left in Vietnam.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 342.

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.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. CON. RES. 13, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

Mr. MCGOVERN (during consideration of H. Res. 357), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 111-90) on the resolution (H. Res. 371) providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 13) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2010, revising the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2009, and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2011 through 2014, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

SUPPORTING FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 357) supporting the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month 2009, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 357

Whereas personal financial literacy is essential to ensure that individuals are prepared to make informed financial choices, as well as manage money, credit, debt, and risk and become responsible workers, heads of households, investors, entrepreneurs, business leaders, and citizens;

Whereas personal financial management skills and lifelong habits begin to develop during childhood, making it all the more important to support youth financial education;

Whereas a 2008 survey of high school seniors conducted by the JumpStart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy revealed that students in 2008 answered correctly only 48.3 percent of the survey's questions, a decline from those posted by students in 2006, who correctly answered 52.4 percent of the questions;

Whereas 84 percent of undergraduates had at least one credit card in 2008, up from 76 percent in 2004, with the average number of cards increasing to 4.6 according to Sallie Mae's National Study of Usage Rates and Trends 2009 entitled "How Undergraduate Students Use Credit Cards";

Whereas personal saving as a percentage of disposable personal income was 4.2 percent in February, compared with 4.4 percent in January, and up from a 12-month average of 1.7 percent in 2008, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis;

Whereas the average baby boomer has only \$50,000 in savings apart from equity in their homes, according to the Federal Reserve Board's Survey of Consumer Finances for 2007;

Whereas studies show that as many as 10,000,000 households in the United States are "unbanked" or are without access to mainstream financial products and services;

Whereas public, community-based, and private sector organizations throughout the United States are working to increase financial literacy rates for Americans of all ages and walks of life through a range of outreach efforts, including media campaigns, websites, and one-on-one financial counseling for individuals;

Whereas bankers across the United States taught savings skills to young people on April 21, 2009, during Teach Children to Save Day, which was started by the American Bankers Association Education Foundation in April of 1997 and has now helped more than 72,000 bankers teach savings skills to nearly 3,200,000 young people;

Whereas staff from America's credit unions are making presentations to young people at local schools on financial topics such as student loans, balancing a checkbook, and auto loans during National Credit Union Youth Week, April 19-25, 2009;

Whereas more than 100 Federal agencies have collaborated on a website, www.consumer.gov, which helps consumers shop for a mortgage or auto loan, understand and reconcile credit card statements and utility bills, choose savings and retirement plans, compare health insurance policies, and understand their credit report and how it affects their ability to get credit and on what terms;

Whereas Members of the United States House of Representatives established the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus (FELC) in February 2005 to provide a forum for interested Members of Congress to review, discuss and recommend financial and economic literacy policies, legislation, and programs, collaborate with the private sector, and nonprofit and community-based organizations, and organize and promote financial literacy legislation, seminars, and events, such as "Financial Literacy Month"