

case of Robert Levinson at every opportunity. It also urges officials of the Government of Iran to fulfill their promises of assistance to the family of Robert Levinson, and calls upon Iran to share the results of its investigation into his disappearance with the FBI. Passage of this resolution sends a clear signal that the Congress stands with the Levinson family and believes all efforts should be exhausted to ensure Robert Levinson is found and brought home safely.

I want to once again express my unwavering solidarity and backing for the Levinson family and offer all of my support in their efforts to return Robert Levinson home. I urge all of my colleagues to support the passage of this resolution.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 36, 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.

The title was amended so as to read: "A concurrent resolution calling on the President and the allies of the United States to raise in all appropriate bilateral and multilateral fora the case of Robert Levinson at every opportunity, urging Iran to fulfill their promises of assistance to the family of Robert Levinson, and calling on Iran to share the results of its investigation into the disappearance of Robert Levinson with the Federal Bureau of Investigation".

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### MOURNING VICTIMS OF GUATEMALA LANDSLIDE AND COSTA RICA EARTHQUAKE

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 76) mourning the horrific loss of life in January 2009 caused by a landslide in Guatemala and an earthquake in Costa Rica and expressing the sense of Congress that the United States should assist the affected people and communities, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

##### H. RES. 76

Whereas, on January 4, 2009, millions of tons of earth fell onto a road in the Alta Verapaz area north of Guatemala City, Guatemala;

Whereas it is suspected that a geological fault triggered the movement of earth, sending 10,000,000 tons of mud and rock down a hillside onto a road that runs from San Cristobal Verapaz to Chicaman, north of Guatemala City;

Whereas at least 36 people were confirmed dead and up to 60 were missing, many of whom are coffee workers in the region;

Whereas rescue organizations, volunteers, and agencies from throughout Guatemala had been working at the site until danger of another landslide shut down the operation;

Whereas, on January 8, 2009, at 1:21PM, a 6.1 magnitude earthquake shook the Capital region of San Jose, Costa Rica, including the areas of Sarapiquí, Varablanca, and Poasito;

Whereas the earthquake's epicenter was 20 miles from San Jose at a depth of 21.7 miles and the shaking continued for 40 seconds;

Whereas 23 individuals were confirmed dead, over 100 were treated for injuries, and nearly a dozen went missing, including many buried by the resulting landslides;

Whereas 518 homes were destroyed to the point where they were uninhabitable, 26 kilometers of road were unusable, and 61 communities were affected;

Whereas roads, businesses, government buildings, and the popular tourist sites at the Poas Volcano and the La Paz waterfalls were severely damaged; and

Whereas Guatemala and Costa Rica have been frequently impacted by significant natural disasters, including those in the aftermath of Hurricane Stan in Guatemala in 2005 that led to hundreds of deaths: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved, That—*

(1) the House of Representatives—

(A) mourns the terrible loss of life caused by the landslide that occurred on January 4, 2009, in Guatemala and the earthquake on January 8, 2009, in Costa Rica;

(B) expresses its deepest condolences to the families of the many victims; and

(C) applauds the prompt humanitarian responses to these natural disasters by the Governments of Guatemala and Costa Rica; and

(2) it is the sense of the House of Representatives that it should be the policy of the United States to—

(A) continue technical assistance to Central American governments in order to strengthen their capacity at the national, provincial, and local levels in the area of disaster management coordination and preparedness, including implementing information and communications systems to help with the response to natural disasters; and

(B) work closely with the governments of these countries to improve disaster mitigation techniques and compliance among all key sectors of their societies.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. 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 Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, first I want to thank Congressman DAN BURTON for introducing this very important and timely resolution, which mourns the terrible loss of life caused by two natural disasters that occurred 4 days apart in Cen-

tral America in January of this year. The first was a landslide that occurred on January 4, 2009, in Guatemala. The second was an earthquake on January 8, 2009, in Costa Rica.

The resolution before us conveys the deepest condolences of Congress to the families of the victims and urges that the United States Government maintain technical assistance to Central American countries regarding disaster management and mitigation.

On January 4, 2009, millions of tons of earth fell onto a road in the Alta Verapaz area, north of Guatemala City in Guatemala. Apparently, a geological fault triggered the movement of earth, sending 10 million tons of mud and rock down a hillside onto a road that runs from San Cristobal Verapaz to Chicaman, north of Guatemala City. At least 38 people were confirmed dead and up to 60 were missing, many of whom were coffee workers in the region.

Four days later, on January 8, 2009, a 6.1 magnitude earthquake shook the capital region of San Jose, Costa Rica. The earthquake's epicenter was 20 miles from San Jose at a depth of 21.7 miles, and the shaking continued for 40 seconds. Twenty-three individuals were confirmed dead, over 100 were treated for injuries, and nearly a dozen went missing, including many buried by resulting landslides.

Guatemala and Costa Rica have been frequently impacted by significant natural disasters including those in the aftermath of Hurricane Stan in Guatemala in 2005 that led to hundreds of deaths.

I agree wholeheartedly that it should be the policy of the United States to continue technical assistance to governments in the region at the national, provincial, and local levels in the area of the disaster management coordination. It is also essential that the United States take a long-term view with its regional partners and help them improve disaster mitigation techniques.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this very important and necessary and timely resolution.

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank my colleague from Georgia, DAVID SCOTT, for cosponsoring this resolution.

I think everybody in this body is very concerned about the tragedies that befall human beings here and around the world.

As my colleague said, this past January two significant natural disasters wreaked havoc on the Central American nations of Costa Rica and Guatemala and took a terrible and destructive toll on people in these communities.

In Guatemala, as coffee workers were returning from long days of work in the Alta Verapaz region, thousands of

tons of mud and rock fell in a landslide. As a result of this catastrophe, the nation mourned the deaths of as many as 36 while over 60 are still missing.

Only 4 days later, a 6.1 magnitude earthquake shook the capital region of Costa Rica, resulting in the destruction of over 500 homes and the deaths of at least 20.

I join my colleagues today to express my sincere sympathy and our sincere sympathy and support to our Latin American friends who have suffered as a result of these disasters. I would like to commend the courage and perseverance of the Costa Rican and Guatemalan Governments, along with the private citizens and relief organizations who worked tirelessly in the rescue effort. The prompt humanitarian response carried out in the aftermath of these disasters clearly contributed to the ability of these nations to overcome the damage wrought by these two tragedies.

As I said before, I would like to thank Mr. SCOTT for cosponsoring this, and I would like to thank our chairman, Mr. BERMAN, and our ranking member, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN of Florida, for helping move this important resolution to the floor. And, again, we extend our heartfelt condolences to the Guatemalan and Costa Rican people and their families who suffered as a result of these horrible disasters.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I certainly again want to commend Mr. BURTON for showing the leadership and at the same time showing the greatness of America, which has always been the timely response to other nations in their moment of great need and crisis.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 76, "Mourning the horrific loss of life in January 2009 caused by a landslide in Guatemala and an earthquake in Costa Rica and expressing the sense of Congress that the United States should assist the affected people and communities." I would like to thank my colleague, Representative DAN BURTON, for introducing this legislation.

Natural disasters are one of the most difficult things to deal with as a nation. As a Representative of Houston, TX I have seen devastation and heartbreak come from devastating natural disasters. Our city alone has faced and returned stronger after natural disasters like tropical storm Allison, as her waters flooded our streets and entered our homes. Within the past few years the people of the 18th Congressional District of Texas dealt with damage and evacuation troubles when shortly after a storm called Katrina ripped through the homes of our neighbors, Hurricane Rita threatened our city and our lives. Most recently, we had the electricity taken from our city, roofs stripped from our houses, and windows shattered into our living rooms. Because of Hurricane Ike our city has seen the impact of horrific situations before and after natural disasters ravage through our streets. These challenges, although largely difficult to recover from, already would have been virtually impos-

sible to recover from had the Federal Government not assisted.

The landslides in Guatemala claimed the lives of more than 30 people and caused destruction to many in this small country. The unfortunate loss of these men and women shall not only be remembered here today as we acknowledge this House resolution, but should be remembered everyday as the people of Guatemala try to recover from the devastation caused by this event. These events take time to recover from and in time just as the sadness fades the recovery will begin in this region.

Just like the people of Guatemala the people in Costa Rica did not expect the ground to start shaking bringing buildings to the ground. With over 14 lives claimed and dozens of people still missing the people of Costa Rica have been devastated by the effects the earthquake has brought them. The 6.2 magnitude earthquake shook the lives of all the people living in Costa Rica and like the people of Guatemala the wounds will take time to heal.

I have experienced firsthand the devastation of events like these and understand the difficulty in recovering from them. These people deserve all the help they can get. It is our moral responsibility to assist in any way we can in helping these countries rebuild. Supporting H. Res. 76 is a big step in helping these devastated nations. That is why I support H. Res. 76, "Mourning the horrific loss of life in January 2009 caused by a landslide in Guatemala and an earthquake in Costa Rica and expressing the sense of Congress that the United States should assist the affected people and communities" and I urge my colleagues to do so as well.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, 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 gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 76, as amended.

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

The title was amended so as to read: "A resolution mourning the horrific loss of life in January 2009 caused by a landslide in Guatemala and an earthquake in Costa Rica."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### SUPPORTING NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 109) supporting the mission and goals of 2009 National Crime Victims' Rights week to increase public awareness of the rights, needs, and concerns of victims and survivors of crime in the United States, and to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the enactment of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 109

Whereas 25,000,000 individuals in the United States are victims of crime each year, including over 6,000,000 victims of violent crime;

Whereas a just society acknowledges the impact of crime on individuals, families, and communities by ensuring that rights, resources, and services are available to help rebuild lives;

Whereas although our Nation has steadily expanded rights, protections, and services for victims of crime, too many victims are still not able to realize the hope and promise of these gains;

Whereas our Nation must do more to ensure that services are available for underserved segments of the population, including crime victims with disabilities, victims with mental illness, and victims who are teenagers, elderly, or from urban and rural areas or communities of color;

Whereas observing victims' rights and treating victims with dignity and respect serves the public interest by engaging victims in the justice system, inspiring respect for public authorities, and promoting confidence in public safety;

Whereas the people of the United States recognize that we make our homes, neighborhoods, and communities safer and stronger by serving victims of crime and ensuring justice for all;

Whereas 2009 marks the 25th anniversary of the enactment of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 ("VOCA"), the hallmark of the Federal Government's recognition of its commitment to supporting rights and services for victims of crime through the establishment of the Crime Victims Fund, that is paid for by criminal fines and penalties, rather than by taxpayers' dollars;

Whereas, since its inception, the Crime Victims Fund has collected more than \$9,000,000,000 from offender fines and penalties to be used exclusively to help victims of crime;

Whereas VOCA supports direct assistance and financial compensation to more than 4,000,000 victims of crime every year;

Whereas VOCA's imaginative transformation of offender fines into programs of victim rehabilitation has inspired similar programs throughout the worldwide crime victims' movement;

Whereas the theme of 2009 National Crime Victims' Right Week, celebrated April 26, 2009, through May 2, 2009, is "25 Years of Rebuilding Lives: Celebrating the Victims of Crime Act", which highlights VOCA's significant achievements and contributions in advancing rights and services for all crime victims; and

Whereas National Crime Victims' Rights Week provides an opportunity for the Nation to strive to reach the goal of justice for all by ensuring that all victims are afforded legal rights and provided with assistance to face the financial, physical, spiritual, psychological, and social impact of crime: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the mission and goals of 2009 National Crime Victims' Rights Week to increase public awareness of the impact of crime on victims and survivors, and of the constitutional and statutory rights and needs;

(2) recognizes the 25th anniversary of the enactment of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984; and

(3) directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the Office for Victims of Crime within the Office of Justice Programs of the Department of Justice.