

from hazardous facilities next door to their school campus.

These problems can contribute to absenteeism, the need for medication use amongst students and can contribute also to learning difficulties, sick building syndrome, staff turnover and liability issues for our school districts across this great country.

Children are more vulnerable than adults to environmental hazards in their schools simply because of their developing immune systems and small bodies. Poor indoor environmental quality has been linked to asthma and other illnesses in our children. With one out of every 13 children suffering from asthma, the number one cause of missed school days, it is very important that we address these issues and address them boldly.

Research shows that simple steps can be taken to make our Nation's schools healthier. Heating and ventilation equipment can be improved upon to enhance indoor air quality. New schools can be built with a healthy design and can be located at nonpolluted sites. Nontoxic products can be used for cleaning, for maintenance and for teaching. The use of natural light should be encouraged. Certainly we can improve on that dynamic heavily.

Many States have adopted guidelines for building healthy high-performing schools that incorporate these steps and more. H.R. 2187, the 21st Century Green High-Performing Public Schools Facilities Act, which we will be considering in this body later this week, would do just that. It would require States to adopt similar guidelines.

I was very proud to work with my colleagues at the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to develop New York State's High Performance Schools Guidelines. I would suggest that they are some of the most effective and most rigid guidelines in the country and will score wonderful opportunities for our students.

National Healthy Schools Day draws attention to the importance of having a safe and a healthy school environment for all of our Nation's children.

National Healthy Schools Day is supported by the Healthy Schools Network, the EPA, the National Educational Association and many more organizations.

I am proud to be counted as a supporter of National Healthy Schools Day and look forward to working with my colleagues here to ensure that every student has a healthy environment in which to learn. Our students require that, and our students deserve that.

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

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, again, let us join with the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) and send a strong message to the public that we are committed to ensuring the develop-

ment and growth of healthy learning environments and schools for our children by supporting House Resolution 370.

With that, I ask my colleagues to join us.

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 agree to the resolution, H. Res. 370, 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: "Resolution expressing the support of the House of Representatives for the goals and ideals of National Healthy Schools Day."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 84) supporting the goals and objectives of a National Military Appreciation Month.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 84

Whereas the vigilance of the members of the Armed Forces has been instrumental to the preservation of the freedom, security, and prosperity enjoyed by the people of the United States;

Whereas the success of the Armed Forces depends on the dedicated service of its members, their families, and the civilian employees of the Department of Defense and the Coast Guard;

Whereas the role of the United States as a world leader requires a military force that is well-trained, well-equipped, and appropriately sized;

Whereas the Federal Government has a responsibility to raise awareness of and respect for this aspect of the heritage of the United States and to encourage the people of the United States to dedicate themselves to the values and principles for which Americans have served and sacrificed throughout the history of the Nation;

Whereas service in the Armed Forces entails special hazards and demands extraordinary sacrifices from service members and their families;

Whereas the support of the families of service members enhances the effectiveness and capabilities of the Armed Forces;

Whereas the observance of events recognizing the contributions of the Armed Forces is a tangible and highly effective way of sustaining morale and improving quality of life for service members and their families;

Whereas, on April 30, 1999, the Senate passed S. Res. 33 (106th Congress), entitled "Designating May 1999 as 'National Military Appreciation Month'", calling on the people of the United States, in a symbolic act of unity, to observe a National Military Appreciation Month in May 1999, to honor the current and former members of the Armed Forces, including those who have died in the pursuit of freedom and peace;

Whereas, on March 24, 2004, the House of Representatives passed H. Con. Res. 328 (108th Congress), entitled "Recognizing and honoring the United States Armed Forces and supporting the goals and objectives of a National Military Appreciation Month", and on April 26, 2004, the Senate passed H. Con. Res. 328 by unanimous consent; and

Whereas it is important to emphasize to the people of the United States the relevance of the history and activities of the Armed Forces through an annual National Military Appreciation Month that includes associated local and national observances and activities: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) supports the goals and objectives of a National Military Appreciation Month; and

(2) urges the President to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States, all Federal departments and agencies, States, localities, organizations, and media to annually observe a National Military Appreciation Month with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Madam 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 yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 84, sponsored by my friend and colleague from Tennessee (Mr. WAMP), a resolution supporting the goals and objectives of National Military Appreciation Month.

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Each May since 1999, Congress has taken the time to honor our Nation's bravest men and women serving in the Armed Forces. Throughout our history, they have put themselves in harm's way all over the world in order to protect and defend our country. They continue to do so today, and they deserve our gratitude.

In the wake of the tragic shooting yesterday at Camp Victory in Baghdad, we are reminded of the perils and the stress that our Armed Forces face constantly during periods of deployment. It is important, I think, that we always show our appreciation for their service, but as we continue to face two long wars, they need and deserve our support now more than ever. I am glad we are taking the time today to thank them for their service, and I know that all my colleagues keep them and their families in our thoughts and prayers.

This measure was introduced this year on March 26 by Representative WAMP of Tennessee and was referred to

the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. The committee reported the bill by unanimous consent on May 6, and it comes to the House floor today with the bipartisan support of over 75 cosponsors.

Mr. Speaker, every single day our soldiers, sailors, airmen and air women, marines, and their families, make tremendous sacrifices in service to our country. I have seen this firsthand on many, many deployments by these soldiers during my regular visits to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Our country is at war, and our military is certainly deserving of our support now more than ever. Today I ask my colleagues to join all Americans in giving thanks to our men and women in uniform.

Mr. Speaker, House Concurrent Resolution 84 gives us the opportunity to show our appreciation and respect to members and veterans of the armed services, men and women that hail from all walks of life but are bound together by one noble characteristic and take one simple but profound act. They have put on the uniform of our country, and they are together committed to protecting Americans and their liberties that we hold so dear.

Thus, to the military personnel from my own congressional district and to those of every congressional district represented in this body, we sincerely thank you, our men and women in uniform, for your service to our country.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of our time.

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

Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 11th anniversary of National Military Appreciation Month, which was first passed as Senate Resolution 33, designating May 1999 the first National Military Appreciation Month.

Although it is important that we recognize our servicemembers every year, it is during times of conflict when one can truly put their sacrifices into greater perspective. These outstanding men and women sacrifice much so that we may continue to reap the many benefits of freedom in our land. While we enjoy the comfort of our homes and families, these brave soldiers are stationed far from home across our country and throughout the entire world.

Those who serve are our mothers, fathers, aunts, uncles, cousins and closest friends. These are the individuals who comprise our Nation's Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard, and we salute them and pledge to them our gratitude. While expressing our gratitude to the military, it is also important to recognize the thousands of families who often endure hardship and loneliness while their loved ones are serving our country. They must relocate, often putting additional strain on the family.

On this day, we must also remember and show appreciation for those who served our country in the past and have

played a critical role in making America the great country that it is today.

Mr. Speaker, we live in the greatest Nation in the world, and we owe much of our success to the men and women in uniform who answered the ultimate call of duty to serve and protect our Nation's citizens. Although this concurrent resolution serves to honor and support the goals and objectives of National Military Appreciation Month during the month of May, I hope our soldiers realize that their service is appreciated each and every day of the entire year.

I ask all Members, therefore, to join me in unwavering support of our military by supporting House Concurrent Resolution 84.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers at this time; however, I will continue to reserve.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, so I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, again, I would like to urge my colleagues to join with Mr. WAMP, the gentleman from Tennessee, who is the chief sponsor of this resolution, to show our support for our men and women in uniform by supporting this measure.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 84, "Supporting the goals and objectives of a National Military Appreciation Month." I would like to thank Representative ZACH WAMP of Tennessee for introducing this resolution. We often take our National Military for granted, and I welcome this opportunity to reach out and recognize the importance of the National Military in the United States.

I do not believe there is a person in this body, or a person in this building, who does not feel a remarkable pride in the presence of the men and women who serve in our nation's military. The success of the Armed Forces depends on the dedicated service of its members, their families, and the civilian employees of the Department of Defense and the Coast Guard. Their incredible sacrifices and courage in the face of innumerable hazards have been critical to the preservation of the freedom, security, and prosperity enjoyed that we as Americans have come to love, enjoy, and even expect.

In the Iraq War, Texas has suffered over 222 resident casualties, second only to California. As a Representative for the 18th District of Texas, H. Con. Res. 84 is very close to the hearts of those I represent. Many Texans hold a passion for protecting the integrity and strength of their nation, and as the recruitment numbers show, they often exercise their passion, by joining the military. In past studies, Texas has been the number one state for military recruitment; therefore, recognition of military involvement is an important issue in Texas and in Houston.

Texas is home to more than 194,965 military personnel including a number of Army, Navy and Marine, Air Force, and Coast Guard bases. H. Con. Res. will encourage the citizens of Texas to reach out to those whom are involved with the military and extend their gratitude for all that they do for our nation. Be-

cause there is a large population of military personnel in Texas, it is critical that we show them the support of their nation and their state for all the positive contributions they have brought. I firmly believe that H. Con. Res. 84 is a positive step for the recognition, acknowledgement, and gratitude that should be given to our military personnel, and I hope to see the National Military Appreciation Month become a special time for the state of Texas to recognize the national contributions.

My City of Houston stands as an example of America's relationship with its military. Just outside the city stands Ellington Air Force Base, which has recently been renamed Ellington Airport. It was established in 1917 during the height of World War I, when aviation was in its infancy. In World War II, it served as a pilot training center. In the Cold War, the base proved useful in a number of pilot training programs and for a number of famous NASA missions, as well as serving briefly as a naval base for antisubmarine aircraft.

As my city works with our active military, so do we do our part in the aid of our Nation's veterans. Within city limits stands the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center. It was awarded the Robert W. Carey Organizational Excellence Award in 2005, the Robert W. Carey Circle of Excellence Quality Award in 2007, and re-designation for Magnet Recognition for Excellence in Nursing Services in 2008.

The MEDVAMC serves as the primary health care provider for more than 120,000 veterans in southeast Texas and over 13,000 from Houston. Veterans from around the country are referred to the MEDVAMC for countless medical services, and their outpatient clinics logged nearly 900,000 outpatient visits in fiscal year 2008 alone. All this in a state with over 1.7 million veterans, 247,000 of which are disabled and over 25,000 buried in her soil.

Because of this undeniable fact of our Nation's existence, the Federal Government has a responsibility to raise awareness of and respect for this aspect of the heritage of the United States and to encourage the people of the United States to dedicate themselves to the values and principles for which Americans have served and sacrificed throughout the history of the Nation—the ultimate sacrifice of paying for our freedom and expectation of freedom with their lives.

Beyond helping to make Americans more aware of something so central to our country's liberty and prosperity, the observance of events recognizing the contributions of the Armed Forces is a tangible and highly effective way of sustaining morale and improving quality of life for service members and their families. Given that the support of the families of service members enhances the effectiveness and capabilities of the Armed Forces, this is more than enough reason for us to act today.

It is for these reasons that this Congress has made this resolution many times before. Ten years ago, on April 30, 1999, the Senate passed S. Res. 33, designating May 1999 as "National Military Appreciation Month". For that month, Congress called on the people of the United States, in a symbolic act of unity, to observe this remembrance, and to honor the current and former members of the Armed Forces, including those who have died in the pursuit of freedom and peace.

Less than 5 years later, on March 24, 2004, the House of Representatives passed H. Con.

Res. 328, "Recognizing and honoring the United States Armed Forces and supporting the goals and objectives of a National Military Appreciation Month", a bill I gladly supported. Less than a month later, on April 26, 2004, the Senate passed H. Con. Res. 328 by unanimous consent.

I have sought to do my part as well; earlier this year, I introduced to this body H.R. 228, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish and carry out a scholarship program for students seeking a degree or certificate in the areas of visual impairment and orientation and mobility.

And so I join once again in not only giving my support for the goals and objectives of National Military Appreciation Month, but in urging the President to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States, all Federal departments and agencies, States, localities, organizations, and media to annually observe a National Military Appreciation Month with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to H. Con. Res. 84, a bipartisan resolution I authored, supporting the goals and objectives of a National Military Appreciation Month. First, I would like to thank my colleague, Congressman CHET EDWARDS, for being the lead cosponsor of this resolution and for his efforts in helping move this resolution forward. Congressman EDWARDS is a strong advocate on Military Quality of Life issues in Congress and I am pleased to have the opportunity to work with him on the vital issue of raising awareness of National Military Appreciation Month. In addition, I would like to thank the National Military Appreciation Month organization for their grassroots efforts in building support for the resolution. It truly has been a collaborative effort for an important cause. It is one of the highest honors of my career to pay tribute and recognize these great patriots who serve and defend our Nation.

National Military Appreciation Month provides a period encompassing both the history and recognition of our armed services with an in-depth look at the diversity of its individuals and achievements. It allows Americans to educate each generation on the historical impact of our military through the participation of the community with those who serve encouraging patriotism and love for America.

This month gives the nation a time and place on which to focus and draw attention to our many expressions of appreciation and recognition of our armed services via numerous venues and also to recall and learn about our vast American history.

It recognizes those on active duty in all branches of the services, the National Guard and Reserves plus retirees, veterans, and all of their families—well over 90 million Americans and more than 230 years of our nation's history.

Congress and the American people continue to stand by our service men and women. These brave warriors are working nonstop to protect our free-

dom and to keep every American safe. We should be grateful for their sacrifices and that of their families. We must do everything we can for the men and women who are put in harm's way for the sake of our nation. Let us celebrate them just as we celebrate the other important entities that make up this wonderful country of ours.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of this important resolution.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TONKO). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 84.

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.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS OF MOTHER'S DAY

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 388) celebrating the role of mothers in the United States and supporting the goals and ideals of Mother's Day.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 388

Whereas Mother's Day is celebrated on the second Sunday of each May;

Whereas the first official Mother's Day was observed on May 10, 1908, in Grafton, West Virginia, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania;

Whereas 2009 is the 101st anniversary of the first official Mother's Day observation;

Whereas in 1908, Elmer Burkett, a U.S. senator from Nebraska, proposed making Mother's Day a national holiday;

Whereas in 1914, Congress passed a resolution designating the second Sunday of May as Mother's Day;

Whereas it is estimated that there are more than 82,000,000 mothers in the United States;

Whereas mothers have made immeasurable contributions toward building strong families, thriving communities, and ultimately a strong Nation;

Whereas the services rendered to the children of the United States by their mothers have strengthened and inspired the Nation throughout its history;

Whereas we honor ourselves and mothers in the United States when we revere and emphasize the importance of the role of the home and family as the true foundation of the Nation;

Whereas mothers continue to rise to the challenge of raising their families with love,

understanding, and compassion, while overcoming the challenges of modern society; and

Whereas May 10, 2009, is recognized as Mother's Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives celebrates the role of mothers in the United States and supports the goals and ideals of Mother's Day.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) 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 yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, there are fewer great honors, I think, in Congress than to stand in support of this bill which affirms the goals of Mother's Day and celebrates the role of mothers in the United States. I first would like to thank Mr. FORTENBERRY, the gentleman from Nebraska, for his courage in going out on a limb here and introducing this legislation. I would also like to commend Chairman TOWNS and my colleagues on the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform for bringing this resolution to the floor by unanimous consent in their infinite wisdom.

On Sunday, we celebrated the 101st Mother's Day. It may come as a surprise to some, particularly our own mothers, that it took our country over 130 years to officially designate a day praising motherhood. Nevertheless, it is important to annually pause and recall that our lives and our country's history would have been much different but for the contributions of our mothers to our families and to our country.

I would not presume, nor am I brave enough, to speak on behalf of America's 82 million mothers; instead, I would simply like to speak to their importance in shaping our society and our future.

Mothers are indeed the backbone of the American family. With great love and compassion, they lay the foundation for all children to grow into honorable citizens. It is no stretch to say that our sustained national character of goodwill and moral strength is the result of dedicated motherhood.

Many of our greatest national heroes attribute their own successes to the guidance of their mothers. While examples are numerous, I will quote President Abraham Lincoln who once said of his own angel mother, "I remember my mother's prayers, and they have always followed me. They have clung to me all my life."

I am sure that similar thanks and acknowledgements are appropriate for