

Christ of Latter-day Saints was also represented for the first time.

Because religious leaders can be a decisive factor in maintaining peace and security in the world, I encourage my colleagues to vote in favor of House Resolution 535. This resolution supports freedom of religion and conscience throughout the world as a fundamental right and as a source of stability for all countries and commends the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions for the work it is doing to advance tolerance and understanding. Again, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 535. This resolution commends the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions and expresses support for freedom of religion as a fundamental human right and a source of stability for all countries. I support this resolution and the broader cause of promoting freedom of religion.

However, I have some concerns about this measure. Kazakhstan initiated the effort to establish the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions and its capital served as the location for the past three gatherings. However, our U.S. Department of State's report on international religious freedom, as well as a number of human rights NGOs, underscore that Kazakhstan has considerable problems with its treatment of some of its religious minority groups. Some of the reported instances of religious intolerance in Kazakhstan include police officials disrupting religious meetings in private homes, confiscation of religious literature, fines, detentions, harassment and deportation of unregistered missionaries.

It has also been reported that the government-controlled media in Kazakhstan has increased its negative coverage of what they consider non-traditional religions such as Evangelical Christians, Jehovah's Witnesses, Hare Krishnas and Scientologists, depicting those groups as dangerous sects. Although we should support the efforts of the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, we must be careful not to inadvertently provide political legitimacy to the government of Kazakhstan in its treatment of some of its religious minorities. Furthermore, Kazakhstan will assume the chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in 2010, and it is important that those responsible nations hold it accountable to the commitments that it has made to implement democratic reforms and to protect human rights.

Again, I would like to express my support for this resolution, although with some reservation, and I ask my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. 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 American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 535, 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.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. 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.

RECOGNIZING DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 550) recognizing the "Day of the African Child" on June 16, 2009, devoted to the theme of child survival and to emphasize the importance of reducing maternal, newborn, and child deaths in Africa.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 550

Whereas the "Day of the African Child" has been celebrated on June 16 each year since 1991, when it was first initiated by the Organization of African Unity;

Whereas the African Union has designated child survival as the theme of the "Day of the African Child", June 16, 2009;

Whereas the African Union Heads of State and Government decided to make child survival a theme of their 15th Ordinary Session in July 2010;

Whereas according to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), sub-Saharan Africa remains the most difficult place in the world for a child to survive;

Whereas every year in sub-Saharan Africa, 1.2 million babies die in the first month of life and roughly 1 in every 6 children fail to reach their fifth birthday, and the actual number of children under five years old dying each year is increasing;

Whereas an estimated 9 out of 10 women in sub-Saharan Africa will lose a child during their lifetime, and an estimated 700 women will die each day of pregnancy-related causes;

Whereas the top five killers of children under five in sub-Saharan Africa are preventable diseases (neonatal causes, such as respiratory infections, pneumonia, malaria, diarrhea, and HIV/AIDS) which we know how to treat and cure;

Whereas the high level of maternal and child mortality and morbidity in Africa can be attributed, according to African Union Ministers of Health, to weak health systems, a low level of skilled attendance at birth, poor health infrastructure, and inadequate financial resources;

Whereas some sub-Saharan African countries have sustained high annual rates of reduction in child mortality through strong political will, sufficient investment, and concerted action;

Whereas over the past three decades, United States international child survival and maternal health programs have helped save millions of lives in Africa and elsewhere; and

Whereas last year the G8 Summit leaders, meeting in Hokkaido, Japan, stated on July 8, 2008, "We reiterate our support to our African partners' commitment to ensure that by 2015 all children have access to basic health care (free wherever countries choose to provide this).": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the "Day of the African Child";

(2) affirms its solidarity to address the challenge of maternal, newborn, and child mortality;

(3) salutes the health professionals and community health workers on the front lines in Africa who are extending health care and hope to families across the continent; and

(4) reaffirms the importance of United States partnership with African leaders and communities in reducing child, newborn, and maternal deaths from treatable and preventable causes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from American Samoa.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam 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 American Samoa?

There was no objection.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, and I yield myself such time as I may consume. I certainly want to thank our senior ranking member of our House Foreign Affairs Committee, my good friend, the gentlelady from Florida, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for her support of this legislation, as well as the chairman of our Foreign Affairs Committee, the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN).

Madam Speaker, the Day of the African Child has been celebrated on June 16 each year since 1991 when it was first initiated by the Organization of African Unity, the precursor of the African Union. According to the United Nations Children's Fund, or UNICEF, sub-Saharan Africa remains the most difficult place in the world for a child to survive. Every year in sub-Saharan Africa, 1.2 million babies die in the first month of life. Roughly 1 in every 6 children fail to reach their fifth birthday. Despite significant overall progress in decreasing mortality rates for children under age 5, each year an

estimated 9.2 million newborns and children die from preventable and treatable causes.

The top five killers of children under five include neonatal causes such as respiratory infections, pneumonia, malaria, diarrhea and HIV/AIDS. According to African Union Ministers of Health, the high level of maternal and child mortality and morbidity in Africa are attributed to weak health systems, a low level of skilled attendance at birth, poor health infrastructure, and inadequate financial resources.

Progress in reducing maternal newborn and child deaths can be achieved through increased coverage of proven solutions. Over the past three decades, U.S. international child survival and maternal health programs have helped save millions of lives in Africa and elsewhere. We join in solidarity with national leaders across Africa, UNICEF and many other humanitarian groups in marking the Day of the African Child with a continued commitment to boost child survival. I strongly support this resolution and urge my colleagues to support this measure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 550, recognizing the Day of the African Child, which is observed each year on June 16. Since 1991, June 16 has served as the day to draw attention to the ongoing threats to child survival in Africa and to highlight the need to reduce newborn and child deaths in Africa. According to UNICEF, 11 million children die each year. In sub-Saharan Africa, which is the most heavily impacted region in terms of child mortality, 1.2 million babies will die in the first month of their life each year. An estimated 1 out of every 6 African children will never reach their fifth birthday.

□ 1900

Of the top 10 countries in the world with the highest rates of mortality for children under 5, nine are in Africa. Unfortunately, that figure does not significantly improve as you look further afield. Of the top 50 countries with the highest rates of child mortality, 41 are in Africa, but perhaps even more devastating than these figures is the fact that many of these deaths are preventable.

According to UNICEF, 70 percent of all child deaths are attributable to six causes, including diarrhea, malaria, neonatal infection, preterm delivery, and lack of oxygen at birth.

More than half of these could be avoided through low-tech, evidence-based, cost-effective interventions, such as vaccines, antibiotics, nutritional supplements, bed nets treated by insecticide, and improved family care practices.

Again, with strong political will, targeted investments in health systems and with concerted action to confront the underlying causes of these high

rates of child mortality, many of these deaths can be averted. As the resolution indicates, Madam Speaker, United States international child survival and maternal health programs have helped save millions of lives in Africa and beyond over the past three decades.

Since 1986, the United States Agency for International Development, USAID, has provided over \$7 billion in assistance. With other international and private-sector partners, the U.S. has succeeded in reducing child deaths by 50 percent since 1990 from diseases related to diarrhea. The U.S. has provided over 100 million immunizations to children each year, and the U.S. has reduced malnutrition by 25 percent among children under the age of 5, but much more needs to be done. For this reason, I support H. Res. 550.

I reserve the balance of my time, Madam Speaker.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. I yield such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I want to commend the distinguished chairman of our Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health, and I would like to commend his ranking member, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), not only for their leadership but for their tremendous commitment and efforts in trying to help establish programs that are helpful to the citizens of Africa.

There are approximately 500 million people who live in Africa. Recognizing the children of Africa and recognizing the tremendous health problems that they're confronted with, I think, is certainly something that our government has a moral responsibility to do, and we must do what we can to be of assistance.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I am proud to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank my good friend, Ranking Member ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, for her leadership, and I want to thank my good friend ENI FALEOMAVAEGA and, of course, Chairman PAYNE, who is the author of the resolution before us.

Madam Speaker, as ranking member of the subcommittee and as a cosponsor of this resolution, I share Chairman PAYNE's deep and abiding concern regarding child survival, which was the theme of this year's event.

For the record, as a Member of Congress, I've worked for most of the last 29 years on child survival initiatives. I began in the early 1980s with the four pillars of child survival and with the famous Jim Grant, the former UNICEF director, who was a passionate defender of those very low-cost interventions that could literally save lives—including vaccinations, oral rehydration therapy, growth monitoring, and breastfeeding, which can effectuate miracles in the lives of children and their families.

Madam Speaker, there is a universal recognition that our children are our Nation's most precious, vulnerable citizens who demand every protection and safeguard society can provide. In no way is this protection and assistance needed more today than on the continent of Africa.

Africa is home to just over 10 percent of the world's population; yet it accounts for some 44 percent of all children who die before they reach the age of 5. There are estimates that some 4.6 million African children under 5 lose their lives each and every year. The circumstances under which a baby is born and the first few days of life outside the mother's womb are critical.

In the 2009 State of the World's Children report, the U.N. Children's Fund reports that, in 2004, the highest rates of neonatal deaths—deaths within the first 28 days after birth—occurred in West and Central Africa at the rate of some 45 per 1,000 live births. Eastern and Southern Africa also had the highest rates at 36 neonatal deaths per 1,000 live births. That compares to about 3 deaths per 1,000 live births in industrialized nations.

Even within this short window of time, there are great variations in the baby's likelihood of survival. The greatest risk is during the first day after birth when an estimated 25 to 45 percent of neonatal mortalities occur. Almost three-fourths of all neonatal deaths occur within the first week after birth.

As UNICEF points out, a baby's chance of survival is not determined at the moment of birth. The report points out "the health of mothers and newborns is intricately related, so preventing deaths requires, in many cases, implementing the same interventions." Among those interventions are adequate nutrition, prenatal care for the unborn child, antenatal care, skilled birth attendants, and access to emergency obstetric care when necessary.

Basically, we now know that we must treat expectant mothers and their unborn children as two patients to ensure the survival and the sustainable health of both. Therefore, the resolution correctly emphasizes the necessity of improving child, newborn and maternal health in order to ensure child survival in Africa.

Again, I want to thank Mr. PAYNE for introducing the resolution.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I have no other speakers, so I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I do want to again commend my good friend from New Jersey for his most eloquent statement and for his commitment in helping our people in Africa, and I would like to commend the senior ranking member of our House Foreign Affairs Committee for her support of this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from American Samoa

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 550.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. 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.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 496) recognizing the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 496

Whereas November 9, 2009, marks the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall and the symbolic end of the Cold War;

Whereas the Cold War was an enduring struggle between communism and democracy throughout the second half of the 20th century;

Whereas the last United States President to speak at the Brandenburg Gate prior to the destruction of the Berlin Wall was President Ronald Reagan, who, in June 1987, stated, "General Secretary Gorbachev, if you seek peace, if you seek prosperity for the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, if you seek liberalization: Come here to this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!";

Whereas two years later, in September 1989, protests that the East Germans called the "Peaceful Revolution" broke out, with protestors at first chanting "We want out!", and then gradually changing that protest cry to "We're staying here!", demonstrating their desire for democracy in their part of Germany;

Whereas on November 9, 1989, in response to protests that had grown to include over 1,000,000 people in Berlin's Alexanderplatz, Gunter Schabowski, the communist East German Minister of Propaganda, announced that the border would be opened for "private trips abroad";

Whereas thousands of people in East Berlin immediately flooded the checkpoints at the Berlin Wall and demanded entry into West Berlin causing the overwhelmed East German Border Guards to open the border checkpoints to allow people to cross into West Berlin;

Whereas people in West Berlin enthusiastically greeted those coming across from East Berlin, dancing atop the Berlin Wall and hammering chunks out of it until a section opened through which more East Germans walked and shouted out "Freedom! Freedom! Just once, Freedom!";

Whereas over 400,000,000 people were freed from the bondage of communism at the end of the Cold War in Russia, Belarus, Ukraine,

Moldova, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, East Germany, Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Bulgaria, Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania;

Whereas the victory of the United States in the Cold War will signify freedom from oppression for decades to come;

Whereas Berlin, Germany, will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall with the "Festival of Freedom"; and

Whereas the fall of the Berlin Wall was one of the most significant events of the 20th century and symbolized the triumph of democracy over communism: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall;

(2) celebrates 20 years of freedom from the bondage of communism with the people of the former communist countries; and

(3) acknowledges the symbolic triumph of democracy over communism.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from American Samoa.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I first want to commend the senior ranking member of our House Foreign Affairs Committee and the chairman of our committee, Congressman BERMAN, for their support of this legislation, and I commend my good friend, the gentleman from Texas, as the chief sponsor of this legislation.

I rise in strong support of this resolution that recognizes the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Twenty-two years ago, in June 1987, President Ronald Reagan spoke at the Brandenburg Gate and issued the now legendary call: "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall." Just over 2 years later, the wall was torn down, chipped away by euphoric citizens from both sides of a divided country following months of peaceful protests by brave men and women across East Germany.

Unforgettable to us are all of the pictures which were broadcast around the world of East and West Berliners dancing together atop a wall that, for over a quarter century, symbolized the tension and divisiveness of the cold war.

The fall of Berlin Wall contributed to a democratic domino effect across the Warsaw Pact region. Over the next 2 years, revolution swept through Eastern Europe as Communist governments were defeated in popular elections and

while exuberant citizens reclaimed their freedom and democratic liberties.

On November 9, the people of Germany will commemorate the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall with a Festival of Freedom. The United States will happily join with the German people in remembering the moving events of that autumn and of the democratic era they heralded.

As President Obama recently noted during his speech in Moscow, "The arc of history shows that governments which serve their own people survive and thrive; governments which serve only their own power do not."

This momentous occasion should not be used as a time for triumphalism. Rather, it provides an opportunity to celebrate the remarkable progress that has been made in achieving a Europe that is whole, free and at peace.

Indeed, the changes that have occurred in only two decades are stunning. East and West Germany have reunified into a single, strong and prosperous state. Ten countries that previously laid behind the Iron Curtain have joined the European Union and NATO, and democratic progress is slowly being achieved across the rest of the former Soviet region.

I support this resolution, and I welcome the opportunity to recognize this significant date in European history to reaffirm the strong ties between the United States and Germany and to celebrate the enduring power of democratic freedom of institutions that relate to a free people.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I am very pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE), the author of this measure.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida for yielding, and I thank the gentleman from American Samoa for his support of this resolution, H. Res. 496.

Madam Speaker, it started with these words: "General Secretary Gorbachev, if you seek peace, if you seek prosperity for the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, if you seek liberalization, come here to this gate. Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate. Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall."

Most everyone has heard these famous words spoken by President Ronald Reagan on the day he addressed a crowd of about 45,000 people at the Brandenburg Gate in West Berlin, Germany. However, it would be 2 years later before those fateful words issued that day would actually come to pass.

It happened on the night of November 9 after hearing East German Minister of Propaganda Gunter Schabowski announce in a live statement that East German citizens now had the right to travel abroad "immediately and without delay." Thousands of East Berliners charged forward towards the border crossings. Upon arrival, they were met by guards at the checkpoints, who, due to the massive