

(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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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

numbers of crowds of people, had no choice but to allow the East German citizens to pass through, and pass through they did. They charged to freedom through checkpoints, including the famous U.S. Checkpoint Charlie.

Once across, East Germans were greeted by their friends, the West Germans, who danced on top of the Berlin Wall in celebration while others hammered away at the wall on both sides until a section came down, at which point more East Germans walked through and shouted, "Freedom. Freedom. Just once, freedom."

November 9, 1989, was that date. It did go down in history as an important day for world peace and for world liberty.

Madam Speaker, today, we stand here to recognize the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. It continues to live in history, not just in the pages of books or in resolutions but in the hearts and minds of people all over the world who were freed that night because that wall came down. They will continue to remember and to celebrate the day that democracy, freedom of the people, triumphed over Communism—the day the Berlin Wall fell and was torn down.

And that's just the way it is.

□ 1915

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, that's just the way it is.

I commend my good friend from Texas for his most eloquent statement and am in support of his resolution.

I have no additional speakers at this time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The Berlin Wall has fallen, Germany will be reunited, the Communist regimes in East Germany and across East Europe are falling. For decades during the Cold War, to hear those words spoken was the greatest hope and the most powerful dream of millions of people living behind the Iron Curtain. Today, that hope and that dream are indeed a reality, but we ought to recall why they were so powerful for so many people in those days.

Perhaps some of us have not given thought for some time to the powerful images from the night of November 9, 1989, when thousands of people in East Berlin pushed past overwhelmed border guards at the Berlin Wall and began tearing down the concrete and barbed wire barrier. Their expression of joy as they embraced friends, family, and even strangers on the other side of that wall indeed moved us all who witnessed it.

Why were those people so desperate for freedom on that night almost 20 years ago? Well, the oppressive totalitarian aspect of Communist East Germany had been clearly articulated by the long-time leader of that regime, Walter Ulbricht, in his favorite saying, "It has to look democratic but we must have everything under our control."

So while claiming to be democratic, the Communists had, in 1961, begun to literally wall in their own citizens. That regime began constructing the Berlin Wall in the dead of night on August 12, 1961. Behind the new prison wall in Berlin and across all of East Germany, the regime's secret police worked to infiltrate every institution and everyone's personal lives, creating an atmosphere of mistrust, oppression, and insecurity among the people in East Germany.

Under that totalitarian rule, there were at least 15 different separate definitions of who was an enemy of the state. Many living in East Berlin and East Germany were so desperate to escape to freedom that they risked their lives in those attempts. Over the years, a total of 238 people were killed while trying to escape to the West, 120 were injured, and approximately 100,000 were arrested and sent to prison for their attempts.

However, on November 9, 1989, just as the construction of the Berlin Wall in August 1961 marked the beginning of the Communist consolidation of power, so did the destruction of the Berlin Wall in November 1989 mark the beginning of the collapse of the East German Communist regime and ultimately the collapse of the Soviet Union itself.

With this resolution, we commemorate November 9, 1989, as the day when freedom so clearly broke free of oppression. We honor the brave men and women who lost their lives in the pursuit of liberty.

I urge my colleagues to support passage of this important resolution. I commend my colleague, my friend from Texas, for its introduction.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers at this 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 American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 496, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

CONDEMNING TERRORIST ATTACK IN INDONESIA

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 675) condemning the July 17, 2009, terrorist bombings in Indonesia and expressing condolences to the people of Indonesia and the various other coun-

tries suffering casualties in the attacks.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 675

Whereas, on July 17, 2009, 2 unidentified terrorists carried out twin suicide bombings at the J.W. Marriott and Ritz-Carlton hotels in the central business district of Jakarta, killing at least 7 people and wounding at least 50;

Whereas the majority of the victims of the attacks were Indonesian citizens, according to reports;

Whereas in addition to the Indonesian victims, citizens of Australia, New Zealand, and Singapore lost their lives in the attacks, and citizens of Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, India, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, South Korea, the United Kingdom, and the United States were injured, according to reports;

Whereas this tragic bombing was the first suicide attack in Indonesia since September 2005, demonstrating the progress that the Government of Indonesia has made in combating terrorism in recent years;

Whereas Indonesia is the most populous Muslim-majority country in the world and is founded on principles of religious tolerance and moderation;

Whereas Indonesia is developing into a strong multiparty democracy, as demonstrated by its April 2009 parliamentary elections, in which 9 different parties won seats in the People's Representative Council (DPR) and voter turnout exceeded 60 percent, and its July 2009 presidential election, which was characterized as free and fair by preliminary reports;

Whereas the continued development of Indonesia's democratic norms and institutions will be critical to stemming the tide of violent extremism and therefore is in the mutual interest of the United States and Indonesia; and

Whereas the United States Congress has worked in support of Indonesian democracy through the Congressional Caucus on Indonesia and the House Democracy Assistance Commission, which has had a productive partnership with the DPR since 2006 and remains firmly committed to continuing this partnership: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns in the strongest terms the July 17, 2009, attacks in Jakarta and all other terrorist attacks against targets in Indonesia;

(2) expresses its condolences to the people of Indonesia and the various other countries suffering casualties in the attacks;

(3) supports the efforts of the Government of Indonesia to investigate and prosecute the attacks to the fullest extent of the law, and calls upon Indonesia and its neighbors to work together to combat terrorism in Southeast Asia;

(4) expresses its confidence that Indonesia remains a reliable partner in the global struggle against terrorism and a stable destination for trade, travel, and investment; and

(5) reaffirms the long-term commitment of the United States to the strengthening of democratic institutions and the promotion of peace, prosperity, and ethnic and religious tolerance in Indonesia.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms.