

RFA broadcasts into China, Tibet, North Korea, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Burma in nine local languages and dialects. It provides timely, objective news to people who are denied the benefit of a free press in their own homeland.

Not only did Congress create and fund that surrogate broadcasting service, we also urged RFA to increase its transmissions to particularly vulnerable populations, such as the people of North Korea, as we did in the North Korea Human Rights Act of 2004 and last year's reauthorization of that law. We are proud and supportive of the good work that Radio Free Asia continues to do.

While the authorization of appropriations for RFA was previously extended, it appears that the statutory section detailing RFA's grant-making authority was inadvertently omitted from that reauthorization, leaving it to expire at the end of this month. Therefore, we have this one-sentence bill before us today to correct that oversight. In the time when we see bills of over 1,000 pages in length which many have not read, it is wonderful to see a very simple bill, a brief bill, but a very important bill.

Both Republican and Democrat versions of The Foreign Relations Authorization Act introduced in this Congress include a provision that would remove the sunset of RFA authority, making it permanent. I look forward to working toward a long-term reauthorization of the RFA on a bipartisan basis during the year ahead. I urge support for this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the author of this legislation and the individual behind the United States' international broadcasting of Radio Free Asia, Mr. ROYCE of California.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that. I rise in support of this bill. I just want to take a moment here to thank Chairman BERMAN and also Ranking Member ROS-LEHTINEN for their assistance in moving this bill so expeditiously to the floor. There is a timing issue here. We need to pass this out soon, and this, of course, will allow us to broadcast for an additional year. September 30 is the day on which this authority will expire. I wish we could do more. I do.

Earlier this year, as you know, Chairman BERMAN passed a State Department authorization bill out of this House that would have established permanent authority for RFA. The other body, the Senate, has yet to take up this legislation. We wish they would.

We can debate the merits of a long-term extension versus sunset repeal, but there is one thing certain in all of this, and that is that the target countries that we broadcast into, countries like North Korea and China, like Burma and Vietnam, they give no indication of allowing a free local press any time soon.

At a practical level, I understand that RFA's sunset restriction has ham-

pered RFA's operations. It hampers the ability to go out and hire, obviously, on a permanent basis. You can't negotiate a lease or capital improvements and so forth. So it is important that we address this issue.

I think it is important that we focus on the success of Radio Free Europe-Radio Liberty and Radio Free Asia. Radio Free Asia was founded in 1996, and it attempts to replicate what RFERL did in Eastern Europe. Its mission is to act as a surrogate news service, performing as a free press would if it was allowed to operate in any of these countries. Quite simply, its broadcasts are devoted to the enlightenment of people, to letting people know what is actually happening in their country and around the world.

My interest in these broadcasts stems from a trip I took to Dresden, East Germany, years ago, where a man told me about the damage that these broadcasts were inflicting on Soviet tyranny and shared with me the effect that they seemed to be having, an effect without firing a shot, an effect in which the world was changed without the loss of a human life.

Surrogate broadcasts, mainly radio but increasingly these new media, provide people with the news and information about their countries that otherwise they couldn't possibly obtain. As one observer has noted, this type of broadcasting irritates authoritarian regimes. It inspires democracies. It creates greater space for civil society. Yes, it does. It does change societies.

Irritate totalitarian regimes? Yes, that has happened. China has attempted to erect a "great wall of sound" to block RFA transmissions. They are not successful, but they block some of them. Vietnam has heavily jammed RFA since the first days of the broadcast. You may not be able to get it inside the capital, but you can get it in the countryside.

We know what news these Communist regimes are afraid of. In North Korea, broadcasting such as this is one of the only sources chipping away at Pyongyang's propaganda machine. When I talk to defectors out of North Korea, as often as not they have listened to these broadcasts, especially the senior civil servicemembers. And military members who defect tell about how it changed their view of the world.

All around the globe, an information war is at play. Iran is spending heavily to block our broadcasting, while beaming its own message into Afghanistan and even the Balkans to sow division. Russia is broadcasting into southeastern Europe as well. Hugo Chavez is crippling local media while bolstering Venezuela's state broadcasts around Latin America, and he is preaching anti-Americanism with those broadcasts. Then there are the 150 sharia-friendly radio broadcasts in Pakistan's Swat Valley. Those are the broadcasts that the Taliban are making in Afghanistan and in northwest Pakistan.

So, from Caracas to Tehran to Pyongyang, these totalitarian regimes understand that controlling information is central to their being. Radio Free Asia is one of our pieces on this chess board.

I look forward to the passage of this legislation and to working with the chairman and ranking member to seek a more important standing for this critical organization.

Mr. FALEOMAVEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3593, which amends the United States International Broadcasting Act of 1994 to extend for an additional year the grant-making authority of the Broadcasting Board of Governors regarding Radio Free Asia (RFA). Without this legislation, that grant-making authority will expire this week, putting the important services of RFA at risk.

The U.S. International Broadcasting Act of 1994 called for RFA to engage in "the continuation of existing U.S. international broadcasting, and the creation of a new broadcasting service to people of the . . . countries of Asia, which lack adequate sources of free information and ideas [to] enhance the promotion of information and ideas." Reflecting its mandate, Radio Free Asia describes its mission as providing "accurate and timely news and information to Asian countries whose governments prohibit access to a free press." One of RFA's ultimate aims is "to serve as a model on which others may shape their own emerging journalistic traditions."

Guided by its core principles of freedom of expression and opinion, RFA has provided domestic news and information to its listeners since 1996. Each RFA broadcast—in nine different languages—is distinctive as each reflects the unique culture and preferences of its listeners.

As a result of its rigorous journalistic standards and hard work, RFA has won numerous honors. This year, for example, Radio Free Asia was named Broadcaster of the Year by the prestigious New York Festivals Radio Programming and Promotions Awards.

That recognition is well deserved as Radio Free Asia is an important voice for millions of listeners, and this legislation will ensure that RFA's voice will be heard for another 12 months. For this reason, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3593.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATSON. 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 gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3593.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REAFFIRMING THE HISTORIC TIES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE NETHERLANDS

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 178) expressing the sense of the Congress that

we honor, commemorate and celebrate the historic ties of the United States and the Netherlands by recognizing the Quadricentennial celebration of the discovery of the Hudson River and the settlement and enduring values of New Netherland which permeate American society up until today, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 178

Whereas the Netherlands and the United States are two countries united by shared values and historic ties;

Whereas 2009 marks the Quadricentennial year that Henry Hudson captained the ship "Halve Maen" under the auspices of the Dutch East India Company and discovered the Hudson River;

Whereas the discovery of that river and its fertile lands gave rise to the establishment of the New Netherland settlement and the ensuing positive relations between the Netherlands and America;

Whereas the Netherlands was the first country to salute the U.S. flag in 1776 at St. Eustatius;

Whereas the drafters of the Declaration of Independence were influenced by the Dutch Constitution;

Whereas the Netherlands has remained a friend and staunch ally of the United States, from providing necessary loans during the Revolutionary War to standing shoulder-to-shoulder in Afghanistan in defense of democratic values, protection of human rights and promotion of the rule of law;

Whereas the New Netherland settlement left a legacy of values such as open-mindedness, entrepreneurship, democracy, tolerance and hard work, as well as freedom of religion and speech;

Whereas the bonds of free trade, open markets and commerce have continuously linked the Dutch and the Americans to such an extent that the Netherlands remains among the top four foreign investors in the U.S.;

Whereas the Netherlands provided immediate assistance in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and continues today by sharing expertise in water management that will help rebuild New Orleans and its levees; and

Whereas the heritage of 400 years of friendship between the Netherlands and the United States is a laudable example and should be properly extolled: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that we reaffirm the historic ties and friendship between the United States and the Netherlands by recognizing the Quadricentennial celebration of the discovery of the Hudson River and honoring the enduring values of the settlers of New Netherland that continue to permeate American society.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATSON. 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 concurrent resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) for introducing this resolution marking the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's voyage up the river that now bears his name. Hudson and his crew of 20 Dutch and English sailors got as far as present day Albany before concluding that the river was unlikely to take him to India.

Though his voyage may not have led to the discovery of the Northwest Passage, Henry Hudson and the Dutch East India Company planted the seeds for the establishment of the New Netherland settlement and four centuries of American-Dutch relations. The legacy of New Netherland is plainly evident in the values such as tolerance, entrepreneurship and freedom of speech and religion which we hold so dear. This was echoed by Benjamin Franklin when he wrote, "In love of liberty and in the defense of it, Holland has been our example."

From our partnership in NATO to our immense trade and investment links, the bonds of friendship between our two countries today remain just as strong as when the Netherlands became the first European country to grant diplomatic recognition to the United States.

So I urge my colleagues to join me on this important anniversary by supporting this resolution and recognizing the historic ties of the United States and the Netherlands.

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

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Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA), a cosponsor of this measure and the ranking member of the Select Committee on Intelligence who obviously has deep roots, having been born in the Netherlands.

Mr. HOEKSTRA. I thank my colleague for yielding. I also would like to express my appreciation to Representative VAN HOLLEN for working together to develop this resolution and to now move it forward on the House floor.

This honors the 400 years of friendship, a unique friendship, between the Dutch and the Americans, between the Netherlands and the United States of America. In 1609, the Dutch ship the *Halve Maen*, commanded by Henry Hudson, arrived in New York. That really started a phenomenal friendship, a friendship that has gone uninterrupted for over 400 years. We share so many things. We share values, freedom, tolerance, pursuit of happiness. We share a strong military relationship, and we've developed an immense economic bond between the two countries.

The Netherlands continues to be the fourth-largest investor in the United States. They also trade in the range of \$73 billion per year with the United States of America. In 2008, the United States exported over \$40 billion worth of products to the Netherlands. In manufacturing and finance, the Netherlands is the fourth largest investor to our country. But I think more importantly, this opportunity now in 2009 is to recognize this very, very unique relationship. Think about it; 400 years of continuous friendship during which the world has gone through one crisis after another. But there has been one thing that has been constant, and that is the commitment of America and the Netherlands to work through the differences that we have had and to always find a common bond and to always focus on those things that recognize that we have much more in common than what separates us, and that we have used these 400 years to build, to develop and to strengthen this relationship.

So it's very appropriate that this resolution come to the House floor today, that this body will recognize this unique relationship and that this body will recognize it and encourage it and say that, you know, maybe we can go forward for another 400 years. I thank my colleagues for bringing this resolution to the floor, and I encourage all of my colleagues on the House floor to vote in favor of this resolution.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I proudly yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY).

Mr. HINCHEY. I want to express my deep gratitude and appreciation for the initiation of this quadricentennial celebration of the discovery of the Hudson River by a vessel which was directed by the Netherlands after hiring a British captain by the name of Henry Hudson. It is a remarkable event. The 400 years of our direct relationship with the Netherlands is something upon which we need to be most recognizing and deeply grateful.

If you look back at the history, you see in the 1600s and even earlier how the Netherlands had become one of the most open and democratic places anywhere on this planet, how the population of that country had been so integrated and so involved with people from various places around Europe but also outside of the continent, including Africa. The discovery of the Hudson River was made by the Half Moon, led by Henry Hudson—the river now bearing his name—and the ensuing settlement of the southern part of Manhattan, how that settlement came about was so similar to the way in which the Netherlands was organized back then. That settlement, again, brought in people from all over Europe and elsewhere, including Africa as well. The integration of that settlement, the diversity of that settlement led, in many ways, to the diversity and deep understanding of the growing United States of America.

We owe the Netherlands a great honor and recognition for all that they

have done. The celebration of our relationship has been going on for a long time in a very interesting way. During the 350th anniversary celebration, the Queen of the Netherlands came to the United States and spent a good deal of time here. Of course while she was here, she was highly recognized and deeply appreciated for spending time here and engaging in that 350th celebration back in 1959. Last April I had the opportunity to meet her again and to spend some time with her in Amsterdam and to deeply appreciate all the leadership that she has provided and all the others have provided that have had such a beneficial effect on the United States of America.

This quadricentennial celebration now is going on, and it is being recognized and appreciated throughout all of New York State and many other places across our country. The Prince of the Netherlands is here, and he is engaging with us in this celebration. Again, in the context of this celebration, one of the most important things for us to remember and recognize and express a great deal of appreciation for is the influence that the Netherlands has had on the development of this country, the way in which it was settled, how lower Manhattan and New York State became the most diversely populated place on this continent and, in many ways, it still is. The initiation of that came about as a result of the exemplary way in which the Netherlands conducted its organization, its leadership, its integration, its openness. We owe them a great deal, and we express that deep gratitude to them in many ways, but particularly in the context of this quadricentennial celebration, recognizing this wonderful 400-year history of the Hudson River and the very positive contributions that that made to the settlement of the city of New York and the openness of our country.

Again, I express my appreciation to the Queen of the Netherlands, to the Prince who was here and to the exemplary way in which Amsterdam and the Netherlands have opened up their examples and led us in a very, very positive way, and that relationship continues today. I express my deep appreciation to the sponsor of this legislation. I'm very happy to participate in this event.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

The United States and the Netherlands are strong allies. The roots of our close relationship stretch back for more than 100 years before our Nation's independence. In September of 1609, Henry Hudson explored a vast river and territory in what is now New York State while on an expedition for the Dutch East India Company. On his return from that expedition, Hudson wrote such glowing reports on the promise of the lands that he had discovered that Dutch citizens were inspired to cross the Atlantic and establish the New Netherland settlement.

The values of those early Dutch settlers—values of entrepreneurship, democracy, tolerance and hard work—continue to influence our society today 400 years later.

The friendship between the young United States of America and the Netherlands was tested when America was on the brink of bankruptcy due to the financial cost incurred in its fight for independence and reached out to the Netherlands for financial support. Ultimately, the Dutch provided the United States with a loan that proved vital to ensuring the survival of our young Nation. Subsequently, in another strong sign of friendship, the Netherlands was the first European country to diplomatically recognize the new United States of America.

Many of us have grown up with the story of brave young Hans Brinker who saved the people of the Netherlands by sticking his finger in the dam to prevent a devastating flood. Well, what many people don't know is that this story was actually made famous in 1865 by American author Mary Mapes Dodge to illustrate for American children the characteristic values of bravery, resourcefulness and self-sacrifice, associated with the people of the Netherlands. In this story, Hans Brinker stood alone. However, the history of the Dutch-American relationship demonstrates our commitment that should either be in need, the other will stand by them. This commitment has truly been in evidence whenever the Dutch and Americans have fought side by side through the second World War, the Korean War, the Gulf Wars, and numerous other global efforts. Today we're working together in Afghanistan and in Iraq to prevent extremists from unleashing devastating violence against the people of those countries and our own.

I am pleased to support this resolution today, which marks the 400th anniversary of the discovery of the Hudson River and the beginning of the deep and lasting friendship between the Netherlands and the United States of America.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman BERMAN and Ranking Member ROS-LEHTINEN for their efforts in bringing this resolution to the floor today. Also I want to thank the committee staffs, in particular Rick Kessler and Amanda Sloat for their efforts.

I am very proud to be a Co-chair of the Congressional Dutch Caucus with my colleague PETE HOEKSTRA of Michigan with whom I have worked on a bipartisan basis to further strengthen relations between the U.S. and the Netherlands. I am also very pleased to join with him in introducing this resolution.

This year we celebrate the quadricentennial of American and Dutch relations. Four hundred years ago, the Dutch ship, the *Half Moon*, sailed up the Hudson River. In 1776, when Dutch cannons at Fort Orange on the Caribbean island of Saint Eustace saluted visiting American warships, The Netherlands became the first nation to recognize the newly born United States of America. Over the last 400 years, our people have built an enduring and productive cultural, commercial, and strategic partnership.

The fruits of that partnership and the contributions made by Dutch Americans to the culture, prosperity, and security of this country are well known.

The Dutch helped settle and found New Amsterdam, Brooklyn, and Harlem. Their descendants rose to be Presidents of the United States and to build the great fortunes that helped America attain its stature as the most prosperous and powerful Nation this world has ever known. And it is widely recognized that Thomas Jefferson used the Dutch Declaration of Independence of 1689 as a guide when writing the American Declaration of Independence.

On issues of security, Dutch and American troops have stood "shoulder to shoulder" in combat and have partnered in global peace-keeping and stabilization efforts in Yugoslavia, Kosovo, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

The close cooperation and free and open communication resulting from our ties have strengthened our ability to confront with confidence the major challenges that the world faces today. Not only the stubborn, enduring challenges such as the unresolved crisis in Darfur or the efforts to establish a lasting peace in the Middle East, but also the warming of the planet and the ongoing threat of international terrorism. In the days and years ahead, the close historical bonds between the Dutch and Americans will be called upon to address these and other global challenges. Our continued cooperation will be key to our success.

The strength of our alliance and the endurance of our friendship have made both our countries stronger and the world more secure. I stand proudly today to honor and celebrate that friendship on the occasion of its 400th anniversary.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, having no further requests for time, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATSON. 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 gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 178, 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: "Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that we reaffirm the historic ties between the United States and the Netherlands by recognizing the Quadricentennial celebration of the discovery of the Hudson River and honoring the enduring values of the settlers of New Netherland that continue to permeate American society."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REAUTHORIZING UNITED STATES ADVISORY COMMISSION ON PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2131) to amend the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of