

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 peacekeeping 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

1998 to reauthorize the United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2131

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. REAUTHORIZATION OF UNITED STATES ADVISORY COMMISSION ON PUBLIC DIPLOMACY.**

Section 1334 of the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6553) is amended by striking "October 1, 2009" and inserting "October 1, 2010".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) and the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROSLEHTINEN) 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 bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. WATSON. This legislation would extend by 1 year the mandate of the U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy, a bipartisan panel created by Congress and appointed by the President that reports on the public diplomacy work of the State Department, the Broadcasting Board of Governors, and other United States Government agencies. The commission reports its findings and recommendations to the President, Congress and the Secretary of State. Its products provide a window into what works and what does not work in our public diplomacy efforts.

For example, the commission's 2008 report on the human resource dimension of public diplomacy has been used as a guide by both Congress and the new administration on ways that the recruitment and training of public diplomacy staff at the State Department can and should be improved.

Mr. Speaker, the United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy serves a very useful purpose. We should reauthorize it for another year of operation, and I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation to do just that.

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

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

I rise in support of H.R. 2131, introduced by my good friend Ambassador Watson. In terms of commerce, culture, military power, and just about any other field of human endeavor, our Nation is a key actor in the complex world of the 21st century. Sometimes, however, our goals and our intentions

are misunderstood or are deliberately misinterpreted by those who mean us harm. People cannot fully understand American interests without understanding American ideals, economic and personal freedom, democracy and human rights; and people will not fully grasp those American ideals without having a sense of the diverse genius of the American people whose resolve, good will and generosity constitute the true heart of our Nation. We cannot take that knowledge for granted, Mr. Speaker. Showing the true face of America to the people of the world is the lofty aim of our U.S. public diplomacy efforts.

In the wrenching aftermath of the Second World War, Congress created the United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy in 1948.

□ 1145

According to its current charter, the Commission "appraises U.S. Government activities intended to understand, inform and influence foreign publics."

For example, just last year, the Commission issued a 36-page report critiquing and making recommendations for personnel practices of the current Public Diplomacy bureaucracy in areas such as recruitment, training and integration into broader State Department operations.

This short bill before us today will keep the Commission's legislative authorization from expiring at the end of this month. This will give the Foreign Affairs Committee and this Congress another year to assess the work and the efficacy of the Commission and its relationship with our broader Public Diplomacy apparatus before undertaking a more comprehensive, longer-term reform effort.

I would like to again thank my colleague from California, Ambassador Watson, for introducing this measure, and I support its adoption by this House.

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

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I certainly thank the young lady.

Mr. FALCOMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2131, which amends the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 to reauthorize the United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy through September 30, 2010.

The Advisory Commission is a bipartisan panel created by Congress and appointed by the President to formulate and recommend to the President, the Secretary of State, and Members of Congress policies and programs to carry out public diplomacy of the U.S. Government, and to assess the effectiveness of ongoing public diplomacy activities. Such programs and activities constitute our effort to understand, inform and influence foreign publics in support of U.S. foreign policy objectives.

Public diplomacy has never been more important to the security of our nation than it is today. Fortunately, President Obama enjoys a

wellspring of support overseas, offering the United States a chance to repair its image. According to a new survey released on September 9, 2009 by the German Marshall Fund of the United States, for example, European support for President Barack Obama's handling of foreign policy is currently at 77 percent, four times greater than that of George W. Bush when he left office. In the Asia Pacific region and throughout the rest of the world, support rates for our new President have climbed at similarly dramatic rates.

Yet, the challenges confronting U.S. public diplomacy are varied, and there is no easy means to address them. As Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, Judith A. McHale, said in testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee during her nomination hearing, "An important lesson of recent years is that we must do a better job of thinking and planning strategically, with a clear mission and a steady eye on long-term global goals, accompanied by careful assessment of programs, personnel and expenditures. This will allow us to craft proactive, purposeful and integrated programs that further U.S. policy interests and resonate with foreign publics."

The Advisory Commission was created specifically to assist in devising such strategic plans and in providing objective criticism. It has done an excellent job in this regard and deserves to continue its work for another year, and this is why I am hopeful that my colleagues will join me in supporting H.R. 2131.

Ms. WATSON. 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. 2131, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REDUCING GLOBAL TRAFFIC DEATHS

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 74) supporting the goals and ideals of a decade of action for road safety with a global target to reduce by 50 percent the predicted increase in global road deaths between 2010 and 2020, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 74

Whereas according to the 2004 World Report on Road Traffic Injury Prevention, 40,000 people in the United States and 1,300,000 people globally die in road crashes each year;

Whereas another 20,000,000 to 50,000,000 people globally are injured each year as a result of speeding motor vehicles and the increased use of motor vehicles;

Whereas road crashes are the leading cause of death globally for young people between the ages of 10 and 24 years around the world;