

families. Decreased tourism and recreation during a bloom event can also result in the loss of millions of dollars to local coastal economies. Even worse, if contaminated shellfish are consumed it could result in paralysis or even death. Increased cases of respiratory distress, especially among seniors and children, have been reported in areas affected by these blooms.

Madam Speaker, I support the directive in H.R. 3650, which establishes a Federal task force that would develop regional action plans to address and respond to harmful algal bloom and hypoxia events around the country. Currently, hypoxic areas, or dead zones, have been recurring over large areas of the Pacific Northwest coastline for the last several years.

H.R. 3650 is a critical first step for developing strategies to mitigate the impacts of harmful algal blooms on regional coastal water quality, marine mammals and harvestable shellfish.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3650 to protect human health and coastal economies.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to support H.R. 3650, the Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2009, which recognizes the growing problem of harmful algal blooms in coastal and freshwater environments.

Unfortunately, I know all too well the need for this legislation. In September of 2009, a fish kill occurred in Dunkard Creek, a 38-mile creek on the border of West Virginia and Pennsylvania. According to news reports, this massive fish kill eliminated more than 160 species of fish, salamanders and endangered mussels from one of the most biologically-diverse streams in either State. The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection determined that golden algae caused the kill, but much remains unknown. How did the algae arrive in West Virginia? What factors contributed to the bloom? How can blooms be contained from moving throughout the watershed? More information is needed to develop a thoughtful process to mitigate and control the growth and spread of harmful algae.

Fortunately, the legislation under consideration today recognizes the increasing number of freshwater algal blooms, and establishes a partnership between NOAA and EPA to research, monitor and respond to those freshwater blooms. Ultimately, this legislation will put West Virginia in a better position to address existing blooms in the State and prevent further spread of golden algae.

For West Virginia, this is an ecological and economic issue. Our rivers, creeks and watersheds are recreation destinations, modes of transportation, and are critical to local economies. I am pleased to support this measure, and look forward to its enactment.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3650, "The Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendment Act of 2009." This bill requires the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere to utilize the resources of the Inter Agency Task Force on Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Task Force to establish and maintain a National Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Program. This program will help to develop and promote a national strategy to address and respond to one of the major problems facing our marine and freshwater ecosystems: algae blooms.

The need to address the ongoing harmful blooms and hypoxic events that increase daily, in our oceans, lakes, rivers and waterways, is long overdue. I applaud the fact that this bill allows for closer coordination between state and federal agencies through the use of innovative demonstration projects. Similarly, I also support provisions in this legislation that focus our efforts to educate our citizens about the causes and harmful environmental effects of pollution and algal blooms in our oceans, rivers, lakes, and waterways.

Water is our most critical natural resource and this legislation will improve our Nation's ability to provide safe water to all. As we continue to experience climate change, the threat posed by algal blooms will be a continuing challenge. This legislation addresses this threat in a measured, scientific manner and will improve our ability to address this issue in the future. I encourage my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. BAIRD. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3650, 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. BAIRD. 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.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO CHILE EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1144) expressing condolences to the families of the victims of the February 27, 2010, earthquake in Chile, as well as solidarity with and support for the people of Chile as they plan for recovery and reconstruction.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1144

Whereas, on February 27, 2010, an 8.8 magnitude earthquake, one of the largest ever recorded, struck off the coast of Chile;

Whereas casualty estimates, which number in the hundreds and continue to grow, as well as the destruction of entire coastal villages and extensive damage to highways, bridges, apartments, and infrastructure, have led to the Government of Chile's declaration of a "state of catastrophe";

Whereas an estimated 2,000,000 people, including upwards of 1,500,000 displaced persons, have been directly affected by the earthquake, the tsunami, and its aftermath;

Whereas aftershocks numbering over 100, including 8 aftershocks registering above a 6.0 magnitude, continue to affect the coast and the rest of the country after the initial 120-second tremor, the strongest and most damaging earthquake in Chile in the last 50 years;

Whereas Chile had already overcome the trials of more than a dozen previous 7.0-magnitude or greater earthquakes since the 1960 Valdivia 9.5-magnitude quake, the largest ever measured, which left thousands dead;

Whereas the tsunami caused by the earthquake, which came shortly after, with waves measuring over 19 feet, slammed 124 miles of Chile's coast and accounted for a significant percentage of the casualties and missing;

Whereas the threat of potential tsunamis across the "Ring of Fire" earthquake area prompted warnings and advisories issued from Hawaii to as far as the California coast and Alaska;

Whereas according to the United States Geological Survey (USGS), Concepcion, Chile's second largest city, was 70 miles from the earthquake's epicenter and suffered some of the worst damage, and its hundreds of thousands of residents initially remained largely cut off from the remainder of the country without many basic necessities, including running water and electricity;

Whereas the coastal town of Dichato and its 4,000 residents were among the hardest hit, and is reportedly 80 percent destroyed;

Whereas 80 percent of Talcahuano's 180,000 residents living on the Chilean coast were left homeless by the earthquake;

Whereas initial estimates of the damage costs range from \$15,000,000,000 to \$30,000,000,000;

Whereas basic necessities across the country, including electricity, clean water access, telephone access, and communication systems, continue to be restored on a progressive basis in many zones;

Whereas the Government of Chile continues to deliver aid to affected citizens to the best of its ability, including airlifting supplies to remote towns;

Whereas the Government of Chile has taken significant measures to maintain order and public security in the streets to prevent more widespread panic and chaos as damage assessments are made and relief is delivered;

Whereas Chile is a political and economic leader and a close ally of the United States in Latin America;

Whereas the people and Government of Chile have stood resolute and steadfast in the face of a long history of destructive earthquakes;

Whereas Chile's stringent building codes, which one local architect called "our proud building standards", as well as the Government of Chile's ability to implement them, greatly mitigated the impact of this catastrophic natural event both in terms of casualties and physical damage to the infrastructure of the country;

Whereas Chile showed its deep generosity and responsibility as a regional ally when it deployed Chilean earthquake rescue teams, which Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton has described as among the best in the world, to Haiti following its devastating earthquake earlier this year;

Whereas these search and rescue teams continue to work tirelessly to save more lives from collapsed buildings and neighborhoods struck by the earthquake in Chile;

Whereas several international urban search and rescue teams remain prepared to deploy to Chile if the need arises;

Whereas sitting Chilean President Michelle Bachelet declared the natural disaster "a catastrophe of such unthinkable magnitude that it will require a giant effort to recover";

Whereas incoming Chilean President Sebastian Pinera, to be sworn in March 11, 2010, expressed that "The future government is working tirelessly and will continue to confront the emergency that Pres. Bachelet is facing, because the emergency will not be

over in five days. We are set to tackle something even more difficult, which is to lift Chile up, to reconstruct our country";

Whereas President Obama declared that the United States "stands ready to assist in the rescue and recovery efforts and we have resources that are positioned to deploy should the Chilean government ask for our help.";

Whereas Secretary Clinton visited Chile on March 2, 2010, delivering crucial communication equipment, and vowed that "We'll be here to help when others leave because we are committed to this partnership and this friendship with Chile."; and

Whereas the world stands ready to swiftly aid those affected by this epic natural disaster: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) mourns the significant loss of life, as well as the physical damage, caused by the February 27, 2010, earthquake and resulting tsunami in Chile;

(2) expresses its deepest condolences and sympathy to the families of the victims of this horrific tragedy, and solidarity with the millions of affected Chileans;

(3) recognizes that Chile is and remains a close ally and friend of the United States;

(4) recognizes that Chile's embrace of democratic ideals and the Government of Chile's ability to implement strict building standards due to its strong governance structure greatly mitigated the impact of this natural disaster;

(5) commends the rescue, relief, and recovery actions, still underway, taken by the Government of Chile;

(6) commends the United States Government, the entire international community, and nongovernmental organizations for their prompt deployment of assistance to Chile;

(7) urges the President to continue to support the Government of Chile, as it assesses its relief and recovery needs; and

(8) pays tribute to the resilience, strength, and courage of the people of Chile as they begin the recovery and rebuilding process.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. 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 Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and yield myself as much time as I may consume.

This resolution, introduced by my good friend and colleague from Texas, RUBÉN HINOJOSA, marks the tragedy of a second powerful earthquake in as many months to strike a country in the Western Hemisphere, this time our close friend and ally Chile.

On February 27, an 8.8-magnitude tremor struck just 70 miles away from Chile's second largest city, Concepcion, and has left a terrible toll in its wake. The Chilean people have a long history

of resolve in the face of past earthquakes. Last month's quake was one of the largest ever recorded, and the worst to hit the country since a 1960 earthquake, the strongest ever measured.

The tsunami and aftershocks from this quake, one of which measured 6.3 this past Friday, led to the declaration of a state of catastrophe for this economic and political leader in Latin America. The Chilean people are now faced with an unprecedented challenge to recover and rebuild, and they deserve our support.

Official casualty estimates number in the hundreds, while another 2 million people, including as many as 1.5 million displaced persons, were directly affected by the temblor and the crashing 19-foot waves that soon followed. In addition to the human toll, estimates of the cost of physical damage range from \$15 to \$30 billion, including the destruction of entire coastal villages, damages to roads, bridges, residences, and other infrastructure.

The international community rallied behind Chile with financial contributions, donations of telecommunications equipment, and offers of expert technical help in the immediate aftermath of this 120-second quake, which was 500 times more powerful than the 7.0-magnitude tremor that hit Haiti just over 6 weeks prior. In this context, it is important to highlight Chile's generosity in dispatching some of its own outstanding earthquake rescue teams to Haiti in that country's time of desperate need just weeks before.

It is also worth noting that Chile's embrace of good governance, and specifically its ability to create, implement, and enforce strict building codes played a major role in mitigating the effects of this terrible event, which could have had so much more by way of loss of lives.

In spite of this epic natural disaster, the Chilean people and their government remain committed to the principles of unity and rebuilding their lives and restoring their country. This resolution makes it clear that as they go about this critical task, the United States stands with them.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution, and reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today as a proud original cosponsor of the bill before us, House Resolution 1144, and join my colleagues in expressing our heartfelt sympathy to all of those impacted by the devastating earthquake in Chile 2 weeks ago. The strength and the magnitude of this quake and its resulting tsunami caused hundreds of lives to be lost and left countless survivors homeless.

As the Government of Chile continues to carry out its immediate relief and recovery efforts and complete its damage assessments, we are just begin-

ning to get a sense of how much this destruction has brought about. Nearly 1.5 million homes are reported to have been damaged, and many historic structures collapsed. An estimated 2 million people in Chile were displaced by the quake and the subsequent tsunamis that swept away entire coastal towns. However, the democratic stability and the strong government structures in place prior to the earthquake will undoubtedly enable Chile to respond responsibly to this disaster. In particular, its commitment to free market principles will allow private sector actors to immediately respond to certain damaged sectors such as water and sanitation. This will help to minimize the tremendous challenges facing the government of Chile in the aftermath of the crisis. It will allow domestic and international assistance to go only where it is absolutely needed.

The U.S. Southern Command, SOUTHCOM, based in my home district of Miami, Florida, has played a vital role in providing necessary assistance to the people of Chile. While we are carrying out important relief efforts in Haiti, here the U.S. military has helped to provide important satellite communications equipment to the emergency operation and response officials in Chile. What an incredible statement that is for our wonderful men and women serving our Nation's Armed Forces.

Our military is also in the process of deploying an Expeditionary Medical Support team, EMEDS unit, to help increase crucial medical capabilities in that country. And we thank them for their prompt action.

I join my colleagues in expressing our condolences to those impacted by this terrible disaster. The United States will continue to stand side by side with the people of Chile as they begin to recover.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend and colleague from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), the ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

I now yield 4 minutes to the chairman of the Higher Education Subcommittee, my friend from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA).

Mr. HINOJOSA. I thank the gentleman from Virginia for yielding time.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1144. The resolution expresses the House of Representatives' condolences for the families of the victims of the powerful earthquake in Chile, as well as solidarity with and support for the people of Chile.

Let me first thank Chairman BERMAN, Subcommittee Chairman ENGEL, and my friend and colleague Ranking Member ROS-LEHTINEN for helping bring this resolution to the floor. I would also like to thank my colleagues in the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, who are unanimously in support of H. Res. 1144.

Chile and the United States have a long-standing and important partnership. It is one of mutual respect and understanding. Both countries understand their democratic and economic prosperity are aligned, and that we need to work together for our mutual benefit. The Congressional Hispanic Caucus has worked to build on this relationship by recognizing the rich cultural heritage both nations share.

As chairman of the CHC's task force on commerce and international relations, I am committed to working with my colleagues to strengthen our relations with our neighbors in the Western Hemisphere.

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The devastating disaster that has struck Chile is a humanitarian imperative requiring immediate action. Millions of families have lost their home or been displaced by the gigantic earthquake and the following tsunami and strong aftershocks. Hundreds have died and many are still missing. Hundreds of thousands of families in Chile remain without running water or power.

The United States has been quick to respond to President Bachelet's call for help and is providing much-needed equipment to reestablish communication and has deployed two C-130 cargo planes to help transport humanitarian cargo. The United States stands ready to provide whatever additional aid is necessary to help the victims of this natural disaster. We have seen the generosity of the American people during the recent disaster in Haiti, and I am confident that spirit of generosity will also be extended to the people of Chile.

In closing, I want to say that the resolution recounts the tragic events that have unfolded in Chile so I will not read it again. The resolution reaffirms the House of Representatives' commitment to the people of Chile to aid in their speedy recovery. We applaud the resolve and the resilience of those affected by the earthquake. The people of Chile on other occasions have come together to help their friends and neighbors rebuild. Today we want to assure them that we will stand by their side to help as they recover from this tragedy.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this important resolution.

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

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I want to thank Mr. HINOJOSA for his leadership on this important resolution, and I thank my colleague from Florida.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1144.

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. CONNOLLY of Virginia. 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.

SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING ASSISTANCE TO MEXICO IN FIGHT AGAINST DRUG VIOLENCE

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1032) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States should continue to assist the Mexican Government in fighting the drug cartels and curbing violence against Mexican and United States citizens, both in the United States and abroad, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1032

Whereas Mr. Agustin Roberto "Bobby" Salcedo, a United States citizen and resident of California, was senselessly murdered on December 31, 2009, at the young age of 33 while vacationing with his family in the city of Gomez Palacio, Durango, Mexico;

Whereas Bobby Salcedo was a rising star in the community, had just been elected to his second term as a member of the El Monte City School Board, and served as the vice principal and football coach at his alma mater, Mountain View High School;

Whereas Bobby Salcedo was studying for his doctorate in educational leadership at the University of California, Los Angeles, after having earned his bachelor's degree in history from California State University, Long Beach, and a master's degree in educational administration from California State University, San Bernardino;

Whereas Bobby Salcedo, the son of immigrant parents, sought to chart a better course for his entire community, serving as a local leader for such organizations as the South El Monte/Gomez Palacio, Durango, Mexico Sister City Organization;

Whereas, on December 31, 2009, Mr. Salcedo was having dinner in Mexico in a restaurant with family and friends when a group of armed and masked men burst in and forcibly removed Mr. Salcedo and 5 other men;

Whereas Mr. Salcedo was killed execution-style with a single gunshot to the head;

Whereas Bobby Salcedo's body, along with the bodies of the 5 other men, was found several hours later dumped in a field near a canal;

Whereas the Federal Bureau of Investigation has been asked by the Government of Mexico to assist in investigating the death of Mr. Salcedo;

Whereas innocents are directly impacted by drug-related violence in Mexico;

Whereas the Mexican drug cartels are major producers and suppliers to the United States market for heroin, methamphetamine, and marijuana and the major transit country for 90 percent of the cocaine sold in the United States;

Whereas the National Drug Intelligence Center, a component of the U.S. Department

of Justice, has identified Mexican drug trafficking organizations as "the greatest drug trafficking threat to the United States";

Whereas the illegal trafficking of firearms, including from the United States to Mexico, contributes to drug-related violence, and the United States-Mexico Joint Statement on the Merida Initiative on October 22, 2007, stated that the United States will "continue to combat trafficking of weapons and bulk currency to Mexico";

Whereas the Mexican drug cartels have become increasingly violent, killing at least 5,600 people in 2008 and more than 7,000 people in 2009;

Whereas the Mexican State of Durango, where Bobby Salcedo's execution took place, is one of the most violent with more than 700 recorded gang related killings in 2009;

Whereas the Government of President Felipe Calderon has significantly stepped up Mexico's efforts to confront the drug cartels and end the violence, deploying some 45,000 troops and 5,000 police throughout Mexico; and

Whereas the United States Congress has appropriated over \$1,300,000,000 under the Merida Initiative to help Mexico break the power and impunity of the drug cartels, assist the Government of Mexico in strengthening its judicial and law enforcement institutions, curtail gang activity in Mexico, and disrupt demand for and distribution of drugs in the region: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses sorrow at the death of Mr. Agustin Roberto "Bobby" Salcedo;

(2) supports continued cooperation between the United States Government and the Government of Mexico to help identify and convict Mr. Salcedo's killers;

(3) calls on the Governments of the United States and Mexico to increase cooperation to prosecute those responsible for the drug-related killings of innocents in Mexico, be they United States or Mexican citizens; and

(4) reaffirms its continued support for bilateral cooperation with Mexico to break the power of the Mexican drug cartels and turn the tide of violence.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which 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 Virginia?

There was no objection.

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

On December 31, Mr. Agustin Roberto "Bobby" Salcedo, a high school vice principal and school board member, and a young leader of several local organizations, was brutally murdered while on a family vacation in Durango state, Mexico, at the hands of violent men with ties to Mexican drug cartels.