

Administration, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and the Research and Innovative Technology Administration. These employees were furloughed through no fault of their own. They became unwitting victims of an arcane practice in the upper Chamber that allows one Member's objection, irrespective of merit, to grind to a halt the work of the American people.

As my colleagues will recall, an objection by one Senator from Kentucky led to the lapse of authorization for the Highway Trust Fund despite the objections of 21 of his Republican colleagues, a majority of the Republican caucus, who supported the ultimate extension on a 78-19 vote.

This bill does two simple things: It authorizes those workers who were furloughed to be compensated at their normal rate of pay for the 2 days in which they were laid off, and it ratifies actions taken by DOT during those 2 days to maintain minimum essential services. The Congressional Budget Office says this legislation has no new costs associated with it, as the chairman indicated, as the funding will come from existing expenses. By taking action now, this Congress will prevent a 20 percent cut in the next bi-weekly paycheck for these dedicated public servants.

There is a clear precedent for this type of restorative action dating back to the much longer government shutdown in the late 1995-early 1996 period during the Clinton administration. During that period, there were two funding gaps totaling 26 days which affected more than 800,000 Federal workers. As part of the final appropriations bill for FY 1996, the Republican-controlled Congress restored compensation for those employees. It was the right thing to do then, and it is the right thing to do now.

I thank Chairman OBERSTAR for his leadership and for his collaboration and generosity on this important legislation. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I wish to express my great appreciation to Mr. MICA, the senior Republican on our committee and my partner and good friend and co-participant, in all of the works of our committee.

I share with him this tragic fact of the loss of pay for these 1,922 employees. He immediately said, We have to fix that. We have got to make it right by them, and he volunteered to cosponsor the legislation, which he has done.

I am delighted he designated the gentleman from North Carolina, Mr. Speaker, who a great advocate for our committee, a great participant in all of our work and who is also a very good, fair and decent-minded Member.

Today, we will do something really good and decent. We can all go home and feel we have accomplished something useful in a very specific and di-

rect fashion for 1,922 career professionals in transportation of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Again, I express admiration for Secretary LaHood for taking the initiative to bring this issue forward and to find a funding solution for it as well.

We have got to be able to pass this on a voice vote and to do good by these 1,922, and we need to set a good example for the other body as well.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4786.

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.

□ 1045

COMMEMORATING THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF BLOODY SUNDAY

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 249) commemorating the 45th anniversary of Bloody Sunday and the role that it played in ensuring the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 249

Whereas brave people in the United States, known and unknown, of different races, ethnicities, and religions, risked their lives to stand for political equality and against racial discrimination in a quest culminating in the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965;

Whereas numerous people in the United States paid the ultimate price in pursuit of that quest, while demanding that the Nation live up to the guarantees enshrined in the 14th and 15th Amendments to the United States Constitution;

Whereas the historic struggle for equal voting rights led nonviolent civil rights marchers to gather on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, on March 7, 1965, a day that would come to be known as "Bloody Sunday", where their bravery was tested by a brutal response, which in turn sent a clarion call to the Nation that the fulfillment of democratic ideals could no longer be denied;

Whereas, March 7, 2010, marks the 45th anniversary of Bloody Sunday, the day on which some 600 civil rights marchers were demonstrating for African-American voting rights;

Whereas Congressman John Lewis and the late Hosea Williams led these marchers across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, where they were attacked with billy clubs and tear gas by State and local lawmen;

Whereas during the march on Bloody Sunday, Congressman Lewis was beaten unconscious, leaving him with a concussion and countless other injuries;

Whereas footage of the events on Bloody Sunday was broadcast on national television that night and burned its way into the Nation's conscience;

Whereas the courage, discipline, and sacrifice of these marchers caused the Nation to respond quickly and positively;

Whereas eight days after Bloody Sunday, President Lyndon B. Johnson called for a comprehensive and effective voting rights bill as a necessary response by Congress and the President to the interference and violence, in violation of the 14th and 15th Amendments, encountered by African-American citizens when attempting to protect and exercise the right to vote;

Whereas a bipartisan Congress approved the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and on August 6, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed this landmark legislation into law;

Whereas the Voting Rights Act of 1965 stands as a tribute to the heroism of countless people in the United States and serves as one of the Nation's most important civil rights victories, enabling political empowerment and voter enfranchisement for all people in the United States;

Whereas the Voting Rights Act of 1965 effectuates the permanent guarantee of the 15th Amendment that "the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude";

Whereas the Voting Rights Act of 1965 has increased voter registration among racial, ethnic, and language minorities, as well as enhanced the ability of those citizens to participate in the political process and elect representatives of their choice to public office; and

Whereas the citizens of the United States must not only remember this historic event, but also commemorate its role in the creation of a more just society and appreciate the ways in which it has inspired other movements around the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) commemorates the 45th anniversary of Bloody Sunday;

(2) observes and celebrates the 45th anniversary of the enactment of the Voting Rights Act of 1965;

(3) pledges to advance the legacy of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to ensure its continued effectiveness in protecting the voting rights of all people in the United States; and

(4) encourages all people in the United States to reflect upon the sacrifices of the Bloody Sunday marchers and acknowledge that their sacrifice made possible the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to 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 gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, just this past Sunday, on March 7, we commemorated the 45th anniversary of Bloody Sunday, one of the most significant moments in the

civil rights movement. It was a day in which I was in Selma, Alabama, with JOHN LEWIS, one of the heroes of this United States of America, one of the great saints and heroes of this United States Congress. Other Congress people were there from both sides of the aisle.

We first went to Brown Chapel in Selma for a prayer service, where Rev. C.T. Vivian led us with a wonderful sermon. It was a civil rights pilgrimage that the Faith and Politics Institute put on.

The culmination of that, after going to Birmingham, where we went to the 16th Street Church and the Civil Rights Institute, and to Montgomery, where we saw the Rosa Parks Museum and went to Rev. Ralph Abernathy's church at the First Baptist Church and the Dexter Avenue Church, the church of Dr. Martin Luther King, as well as the Center for Poverty Law headed up by Morris Dees, culminated in Selma, and it was significant.

JOHN LEWIS marched there 45 years earlier. Alabama State troopers and Alabama police, the government, stopped them with horses and sticks and gas and all other means of oppression to stop people who were marching simply to have the right to vote and participate in this country's great democracy.

Voting is essential, and African Americans were denied voting. After the Civil War, they had the right to vote up until about the turn of century. But then Jim Crow laws came into place, and the effort to protest those, with JOHN LEWIS being a leader, culminated in Selma, where they were beaten.

After that and the retreat to Brown Chapel, the government came to the aid of JOHN LEWIS and others and saw to it they could march, and Dr. King joined that march and Ralph David Abernathy joined that march. They marched down Highway 80 from Selma to Montgomery, culminating just across from the capital, going straight to the capital. Just around the corner is the Dexter Avenue Church of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Eventually, the Voting Rights Act was passed, which Lyndon Johnson, in a speech to this Congress right from that lectern, said was the most important legislation that that Congress had passed and one of the most important pieces of legislation ever passed by this House.

It was fought by a lot of people, fought by a lot of people from the South. But that voting rights act was so important, and it started because a group of people said, We are not going to stand it anymore. We are going to stand up for our freedom. We are going to march and bring attention to this issue and participate in this democracy and start a change that is going to fulfill America's purpose and promise. That started in Selma. It started with JOHN LEWIS, and it culminated with that great march.

So it is important that this Congress take time to recognize the 45th anni-

versary of Bloody Sunday that forced this Nation to live up to its ideals of justice, freedom, and equality in society, generally, and in the realm of voting rights, specifically.

The pilgrimage was one of the best experiences I have had. I am from Memphis, Tennessee, where Dr. King was slain on April the 3rd. There were times when Mr. LEWIS and other Members came up to me and asked me to go on the pilgrimage. I thought, I was from Memphis. I had spoken at Mason Temple. I had been to Mason Temple. I had been to the Civil Rights Museum. I had been to the Lorraine Hotel so many times, and I knew about civil rights history.

But nobody really knows it until they go to the battleground, where this country's future and its promise was turned around and brought to bear because of a group of students and ministers, both black and white, who came together to march for civil rights and to make this country fulfill its destiny and its promise.

Mr. LEWIS is a man we are lucky to serve with, and I am lucky to serve with, and I appreciate him getting me to go, and for what I learned this weekend from being with him on the Edmund Pettus Bridge where the first march ended in violence, and later started on the long struggle to Montgomery and to freedom and to voting rights. Six hundred civil rights marchers stood strong in solidarity in the march to Montgomery 45 years ago.

Our democracy reflects a government of the people and by the people, a principle that had been articulated by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863. But until Bloody Sunday and Dr. King's participation and the successful march and the passage of the Voting Rights Act by Congress, it wouldn't have happened.

It had not been a government of the people and by the people. It was a government of the white people. It was a government of the wealthy people, the propertied people. In Alabama, there were literacy tests and there were taxes, and these stopped people from having the right to vote. There were intentional impediments to letting people participate in a democracy that you wouldn't have thought would happen in a country with our great Constitution. But the words in our Constitution were simply words. They needed to have purpose and a spirit put behind them and a fulfillment, and that didn't happen until Montgomery and Alabama.

Besides voting rights, that march led to other issues. There is economic justice as well as social justice, and we are working in those areas. Access to education, housing, health care, and more have not been available to all. Dr. King, in his famous speech in New York at the Riverside Church, talked about not only racism, but militarism and materialism.

There are still problems in this world today and problems that affect this

Congress, when too many times we do work on military solutions rather than peaceful solutions, and we worry about materialism rather than spiritual goods. We worry too much about people who have and not people who don't have enough. That is part of Dr. King's dream and part of the legacy that has not been fulfilled in this country, and this Congress needs to do more. That is why jobs bills are so important, to give people opportunities, and job training bills that we are working on.

So it was fortunate that we had this opportunity to participate in the pilgrimage. This country needs to reflect back on what happened 45 years ago, understand that the promise is not fulfilled, pay homage to those individuals that participated and made this country a better country, but know that the dream is not finished, the dream endures. We need to fulfill that destiny, and there are opportunities to do it here on this floor with jobs, with tax policy, and with other issues.

I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I support House Concurrent Resolution 249. This resolution commemorates the 45th anniversary of Bloody Sunday and the role it played in ensuring the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

On Bloody Sunday, March 7, 1965, JOHN LEWIS, now Congressman JOHN LEWIS and Chairman JOHN LEWIS, and the late Hosea Williams, led a march in Selma, Alabama, to demand racial and political equality in the United States.

They led 600 civil rights marchers east out of Selma, Alabama, toward the State's capital in Montgomery. They got as far as the Edmund Pettus Bridge six blocks away, where State and local lawmen attacked them with clubs and tear gas and forced them back into Selma. Congressman LEWIS was beaten unconscious, leaving him with a concussion and many other injuries.

The events on Bloody Sunday were televised nationally, and the Nation responded to these actions. As a result, within eight days, President Lyndon Johnson called for a comprehensive voting rights bill to protect African Americans and other citizens' right to vote, which is already guaranteed in the 15th Amendment.

Bipartisan majorities in both Houses of Congress approved the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and President Johnson signed this historic legislation into law on August 6, 1965, less than 5 months after Bloody Sunday.

I totally support this resolution's observance and celebrate the 45th anniversary of the Bloody Sunday marchers, whose sacrifices made it possible for the Voting Rights Act to come into being. I urge my colleagues to join in supporting this resolution.

I reserve balance of my time.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the majority leader, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), who joined us on this civil rights pilgrimage. I was so proud to be with him. He is one of the most constant attendees, and it reflects on his character that he goes and participates.

Mr. HOYER. I thank my friend for yielding, and I thank the ranking Republican for his comments. I thank Mr. COHEN for his leadership on this issue.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

So spoke our Founding Fathers. Our Founding Fathers spoke, however, without a clear understanding of the impact of their words. Even as great as our Founding Fathers were, they did not live out the promise of those words in this land. Some were slave owners. Clearly, the contradiction between our words and the actions of our day-to-day lives were a contradiction from our stated values to our practices.

Martin Luther King, Jr., called America's attention to that paradox, to that contradiction, to that schizophrenic life that we had led. Martin Luther King, Jr., had a lieutenant who was a giant of a leader in his own right, and we are honored to serve with him; in my view, the most historic figure that serves among the 535 of us who have been given the privilege to represent our people and defend the Constitution and protect and preserve our democracy. JOHN LEWIS is a giant among us; a quiet, self-effacing, humble giant, but a giant nonetheless.

Forty-five years ago, civil rights activists attempted to march from Selma to Montgomery to demand that their Governor honor their right to vote and their God-given equality. Remember Jefferson's words, that our rights are not given by the majority. They are not given by Congress. They are not even given by the Constitution. They are given to us by a power higher than us. That is the glory of America, that every individual is an important being, endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights.

The world knows what happened to those marchers; how they were stopped by State troopers at the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, how they were savagely beaten with nightsticks, and how this 23-year-old giant, whose name was then not known, this young man from Troy, Alabama, JOHN LEWIS, who was helping to lead the march from the front with Hosea Williams, was beaten to the ground and took life-threatening injuries.

Today, as a Member of Congress, JOHN LEWIS still bears those scars, but he does not bear resentment. What a lesson for all of us who suffer the verbal slings and arrows almost daily in this public profession which we pursue.

But JOHN LEWIS took more than rhetorical slings and arrows. He was beat-

en, subjected to hate, spit upon, subjected to prejudice and division and segregation and rejection. But still, Christ-like, JOHN LEWIS, following Gandhi's example, turned the other cheek and said, I seek justice, and I will continue to seek justice for myself and for others, no matter the opposition.

□ 1100

I will not do so violently. I will not do so by assaulting those who assault me. But I will appeal to the conscience of the Nation. I will appeal to the promise in our declaration, in our Constitution, and in the principles for which this Nation stands. And it was a powerful appeal.

This weekend, I and others—Mr. CAO was with us—were privileged to walk with that giant of a man, JOHN LEWIS, across that bridge. It is a bridge across a river, but it is also a bridge to brotherhood; a bridge to a realization of America's promise; a bridge to a better America; a bridge to a better country; a bridge, as my friend and brother JOHN LEWIS would say, to the beloved community; a bridge, then, over troubled waters, who have to some degree been stilled, but not silenced.

There is still prejudice in this land. There is still division in this land. There is still not the reconciliation that America still strives for. And that is why I return almost every year with my friend JOHN LEWIS to walk over that bridge, to remind myself—and I have taken my granddaughter to remind her as well—that although the mission of Martin Luther King, Jr., was extraordinarily successful, and the mission of JOHN LEWIS, which continues to this day, has been successful, it is not over. The mission and the commitment must continue. That is what we must remember on this anniversary of March 7, 1965, when a group of our fellow citizens peacefully walked to register to vote. Is there any more sacred right in a democracy than that—the ability to express your opinion, unbowed by government or unbowed or dissuaded by threats? That was JOHN LEWIS's mission then. He was so successful. But the mission is not over. And as we vote on this resolution, we ought to all commit ourselves to walking with the wind of justice, of which JOHN LEWIS spoke, of which he has written. But, much more importantly, the life that he has led teaches us the power of conscience, the power of peacefully standing up for the rights of which Jefferson spoke: the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

God has blessed America through the life of JOHN LEWIS and so many others whose courage and convictions have made us better. Support this resolution. But, more than that, live out its promise for all of our citizens.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CAO).

Mr. CAO. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolu-

tion 249 to commemorate the 45th anniversary of Bloody Sunday and the role that it played in ensuring the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Today, we remember a momentous occasion in our history. On March 7, 1965, 600 marchers, led by my esteemed colleague from Georgia, Congressman JOHN LEWIS, were savagely attacked by State and local police as they attempted to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge into Selma, Alabama. These brave marchers used the power of non-violence to demand that most basic of democratic rights of a citizen: the right to vote. In return, the marchers were met with billy clubs and tear gas. But the marchers confronted terror with courage. Their dignity in the face of brutality moved this House to pass the Voting Rights Act, which reaffirmed this Nation's commitment that every citizen has the right to participate fully in the political life of the Nation.

This past weekend, my family and I traveled to Selma to honor the 45th anniversary of Bloody Sunday. Kate, my wife, our two daughters, Betsy and Sophia, and I marched from Brown Chapel to the top of Edmund Pettus Bridge. Along the way, not only did we learn of the significance of the march, but also the love and admiration that the people still have for the historical marchers. Among those was JOHN LEWIS. I commented then and firmly believe today that I owe so much of my personal and political success to the struggles of the African American community. Because of their perseverance and sacrifice, doors have been opened permanently to every minority community in America.

Mr. Speaker, it was an honor to have been a part of this momentous commemoration, to work with dedicated public servants like my good friend from Georgia, and I ask my colleagues to support this important resolution.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman who responded to Martin Luther King when he first met him as a young man in Alabama, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS).

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. I want to thank my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Memphis, Tennessee, Mr. COHEN, for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, 45 years ago, on March 7, 1965, Hosea Williams and I led 600 peaceful, nonviolent protestors attempting to march from Selma, Alabama, to the State capitol in Montgomery to dramatize to the world that people of color wanted to register to vote. We left Brown Chapel AME Church that afternoon on a sacred mission, prepared to defy the dictates of man to demonstrate the truth of a higher law. Ordinary citizens with extraordinary vision walked shoulder-to-shoulder, two-by-two, in a silent, peaceful protest against injustice in the American South.

We were met on the Edmund Pettus Bridge crossing the Alabama River by

a sea of blue—Alabama State troopers. Some were mounted on horseback, but all of them were armed with guns, tear gas, billy clubs, and beyond them were deputized citizens who were waving any weapons they could find on that day. Some even had bullwhips.

Then we heard, “I am Major John Cloud. This is an unlawful march. You cannot continue. You have 3 minutes to go home or return to your church.” We were preparing to kneel and pray when the Major said, “Troopers advance.” And these troopers came toward us, beating us, spraying tear gas, chasing us. I was hit on the head by a State trooper with a nightstick and I fell unconscious on the bridge. On that day, Mr. Speaker, I thought I was going to die. I thought I saw death. The most brutal confrontation of the modern-day civil rights movement became known as Bloody Sunday. It produced a sense of righteous indignation in this country and around the world that led this Congress to pass the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Eight days after Bloody Sunday, President Lyndon Johnson addressed a joint session of the Congress and made what I believe is the greatest and most meaningful statement of speech any President has ever made on the importance of voting rights in America. He began by saying, “I speak tonight for the dignity of man and for the destiny of democracy.” President Johnson went on to say, “At times, history and fate meet at a single time, in a single place, to shape a turning point in man’s unending search for freedom. So it was at Lexington and Concord. So it was a century ago at Appomattox. So it was last week in Selma, Alabama.”

In this speech, President Johnson condemned the violence in Selma, and called on the Congress to enact the Voting Rights Act. He closed his speech by echoing the words of the civil rights movement, and he said over and over again, “And we shall overcome. And we shall overcome.” I was sitting next to Martin Luther King, Jr., in the home of a local family in Selma, watching President Johnson on television as he said, “And we shall overcome.” And tears came down Dr. King’s face. He started crying. And we all cried a little to hear the President say, “And we shall overcome.” And Dr. King said, John, we will make it from Selma to Montgomery, and the Voting Rights Act will be passed. Congress did pass the Voting Rights Act, and on August 6, 1965, it was signed into law by the President.

Mr. Speaker, this past weekend we have heard from the majority leader and my colleagues, Mr. COHEN and Mr. CAO, that we went back to Selma, along with MIKE PENCE and Senator BROWNBACK and several others with the Faith and Politics Institute on the journey. During this journey, we brought our fellow Members of Congress on this unbelievable trip of the historic Civil Rights Act, not just in Selma, but Montgomery and Bir-

mingham. We ended our time together in Selma by crossing one more time on the Edmund Pettus Bridge, crossing that bridge.

I know at times here in this body we talk, we debate, maybe sometimes in not such a nonviolent way, but on this bridge we didn’t see ourselves as Democrats or as Republicans or adversaries. We saw ourselves as Americans on a journey to discover not just our history but to help create a more perfect union to help move us closer to a truly beloved community, truly closer to a multiracial democracy. We all come away from this journey with a deeper appreciation of our democracy and the power of people to make a difference in our society.

Mr. Speaker, with this resolution we honor the sacrifice and courage of those brave and courageous souls who used the power of peace, the power of love, the power of nonviolence to redeem the soul of our democracy; to remind ourselves that freedom is really not free; and that we must continue to struggle every day.

On this 45th anniversary of Bloody Sunday, we must use this occasion to renew our pledge to protect the right to vote for every American citizen. We have come a distance. We’ve made a lot of progress. But there’s still a distance to travel.

□ 1115

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I think it’s well said, as our majority leader pointed out, that in the Declaration of Independence, the basis for who we are, states “that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights.” In other words, we get our rights from the Almighty. We don’t get our rights from government or from others or from the king. We get our rights because we get them from the Almighty. And as it states in the Declaration of Independence, that governments are instituted to secure those rights. And first it was the 15th Amendment, and yet there needed to be more legislation. Because of the events that occurred on Bloody Sunday, ironically a President from the South signed the Civil Rights Act of 1965, President Lyndon Baines Johnson from Texas. This was a bipartisan piece of legislation in that in this House of Representatives, the majority of the Democrats, 217, and the majority of the Republicans, 111, voted for this legislation with about 20 percent or less in both parties voting against it. Bipartisan legislation passed with a vast majority of both the Republicans and the Democrats, a sign that bipartisanship on important pieces of legislation is necessary, and it is effective.

So I totally support this resolution. I commend those folks 45 years ago when you and I, Mr. Speaker, were just in—I guess you’d be in elementary school. I was in junior high. And this event oc-

curred, those noble 600 that walked through the streets of Alabama, and thus, the Civil Rights Act, as we have today.

So I yield back the balance of my time, totally supporting this resolution.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to thank each of the speakers, particularly Mr. LEWIS, whom we are privileged to serve with and I was privileged to go to Montgomery with; and Leader HOYER, who made such eloquent remarks; and the other gentlemen and ladies who were on the trip, Mr. BARROW, Dr. McDERMOTT, Mr. FILNER, Ms. KIRKPATRICK, and others.

I want to remind, Mr. Speaker, this House that this is an important event to remember. And there are people that go to Montgomery and go to Selma and go to Birmingham to reflect on their history. And in Brown’s Chapel, there was a full church in Selma on Sunday, including Ms. Ruby Wharton, a distinguished attorney in my city and the mayor’s wife of my city, AC Wharton. She goes every year. Also there was John Nixon, district court judge in Middle Tennessee and then a Sixth Circuit Court judge. He goes every year because he was with the Civil Rights Division in 1965 when the march that succeeded with Dr. King took place. There are people that go back every year to renew their thoughts and their experiences because we shall overcome someday, and I submit that day hasn’t occurred yet, Mr. Speaker.

The 110th Congress passed a resolution apologizing for slavery and Jim Crow. And in that resolution, passed by voice vote by everybody up here, we said that we’re going to rectify the lingering effects of slavery and Jim Crow. And lingering effects include seeing that life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness are truly part of the American Dream. And you can’t have life without health care, and many of the people without health care don’t have it because they’ve been denied the opportunities to participate in the economic dream of America, to have jobs that give them insurance and to afford that opportunity. That’s part of what Bloody Sunday was about.

To pass this resolution is so important, but to pass it and not to carry out what will happen someday and overcoming the obstacles that have been placed before so many because of the horrific institution of slavery and those laws that were subsequent to it throughout this country of Jim Crow that denied people’s rights is wrong. So we must commit ourselves to someday, and that day is now—the fierce urgency of now that Dr. King talked to us about—and fulfill that life, which includes health care, and liberty and the pursuit of happiness, which gives people a job and an opportunity to participate. So I would ask all of the Members to vote “aye,” to pass this resolution today and move passage.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of

H. Con. Res. 249 to commemorate the 45th anniversary of Bloody Sunday and the role that it played in ensuring the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

As we commemorate this day, I am reminded of the pain and hardships that the African-American community faced prior to the enactment of the Voting Rights Act. The use of intimidation, literacy tests, and poll taxes throughout the South ensured the disenfranchisement of most blacks, and while we have a difficult time fathoming these realities today, these practices were very common in the period before this historic legislation became law.

It is often regarded that the marches from Selma to Montgomery in 1965 were key in bringing about the Voting Rights Act, and perhaps the first march, which took place on March 7, 1965, or Bloody Sunday, was the most important of these. On that day, roughly 600 people led by Hosea Williams and JOHN LEWIS were beaten and bombarded with tear gas at the Edmund Pettus Bridge on the Alabama River. From this, two subsequent marches took place that culminated with the gathering of roughly 25,000 people on March 25, 1965 on the steps of the Alabama capitol. A few short months later, on August 6, 1965, the Voting Rights Act was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson to outlaw discriminatory voting practices.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to mention briefly how privileged I am to work with an American Hero and civil rights leader, Congressman JOHN LEWIS. His dedication to civil rights is unfaltering, and I am so fortunate to consider him a dear friend.

Mr. Speaker, Bloody Sunday and the march on Selma will continue to be infamous subjects in American history, and it is important for us to reflect on these events with solemn hearts. However, we have never been a nation to forget the future either, and as we continue to look towards tomorrow, we must not disregard our hope for that which is to come. For this reason, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in commemorating the 45th anniversary of Bloody Sunday so that we can honor the civil rights leaders of yesterday and encourage the generation of tomorrow to continue to work towards a more democratic America.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H. Con. Res. 249 which honors the 45th anniversary of Bloody Sunday and acknowledges the role that it played in ensuring the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. I would also like to commend Representative LEWIS, the sponsor of this resolution, for his continued commitment to preserving the importance of Bloody Sunday and to also acknowledge the unwavering courage of Congressman JOHN LEWIS, and all of those men and women who suffered the brutality of Alabama State Police on that Sunday on March 7, 1965. Much blood was shed when all white troopers and sheriff's deputies used tear gas, nightsticks and whips to break up the march. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 is pertinent today as it continues to provide much needed protection for minorities in my District and Americans across the country. Because of Bloody Sunday and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, all of my constituents in the Fourth District of Georgia have the opportunity to exercise their rights under the Fourteenth and Fif-

teenth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution. Indeed, it was because of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that all Americans were extended the right to vote guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, in the century following reconstruction, African Americans faced tremendous obstacles to voting. Despite the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution, which had enfranchised black men and women, southern voter registration boards used poll taxes, literacy tests, and other bureaucratic impediments to deny African Americans their legal rights. Southern blacks also risked harassment, intimidation, and physical violence when they tried to register or vote. As a result, African Americans had little if any political power. Sunday, March 7, 1965 was certainly a milestone for the United States. I am proud to say we have come a long way from that time. It is an honor to be an African American representative from Georgia and to be a legacy of the day on which 600 civil rights marchers were demonstrating for African-American voting rights. It is through the work of leaders like Representative LEWIS and the late Hosea Williams—who was a DeKalb County Commissioner, reverend, political activist, and science teacher from Georgia—that helped to codify civil rights in both the law and the heart of America that I am able to have the privilege of representing the great State of Georgia in the House of Representatives today.

Mr. Speaker, as the 45th anniversary of Bloody Sunday has come to pass, let us not forget the work of the 600 men and woman who marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, and what they did for America and the world and let us recognize the importance of this anniversary.

I applaud Congressman LEWIS for his leadership in bringing this important legislation to the floor. Furthermore, I commend him for leading those brave marchers across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama to stand up for political equality and fight against racial discrimination. This resolution recognizes the heroism of these freedom fighters with respect to the events that occurred on Bloody Sunday and their commitment to ensuring equal voting rights for all Americans.

I strongly support H. Con. Res. 249.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 249.

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. COHEN. Mr. 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.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the reso-

lution (H. Res. 1081) supporting the goals and ideals of National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1081

Whereas dating, domestic, and sexual violence affect women regardless of age, and teens and young women are especially vulnerable;

Whereas approximately 1 in 3 adolescent girls in the United States is a victim of physical, emotional, or verbal abuse from a dating partner, a figure that far exceeds victimization rates for other types of violence affecting youth;

Whereas nationwide, 1 in 10 high school students (9.9 percent) has been hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by a boyfriend or girlfriend;

Whereas more than 1 in 4 teenagers have been in a relationship where a partner is verbally abusive;

Whereas 20 percent of teen girls exposed to physical dating violence did not attend school on 1 or more occasions during a 30-day period because they felt unsafe either at school, or on the way to or from school;

Whereas violent relationships in adolescence can have serious ramifications for victims, including higher risk for substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior, suicide, and adult revictimization;

Whereas teen girls who are physically and sexually abused are up to 6 times more likely to become pregnant, and more than 2 times as likely to report a sexually transmitted disease, than teen girls who are not abused;

Whereas nearly 3 in 4 children, ages 11 to 14 (hereinafter referred to as "tweens"), say that dating relationships usually begin at age 14 or younger, and approximately 72 percent of 8th and 9th grade students report "dating";

Whereas 1 in 5 tweens say their friends are victims of dating violence and nearly ½ of tweens who are in relationships know friends who are verbally abused;

Whereas more than 3 times as many tweens (20 percent) as parents of tweens (6 percent) admit that parents know little or nothing about the dating relationships of tweens;

Whereas teen dating abuse most often takes place in the home of one of the teens in the dating relationship;

Whereas a majority of parents surveyed believe they have had a conversation with their teen about what it means to be in a healthy relationship, but the majority of teens surveyed said that they have not had a conversation about dating abuse with a parent in the past year;

Whereas digital abuse and "sexting" are becoming new frontiers for teen dating abuse;

Whereas 1 in 4 teens in a relationship say they have been called names, harassed, or put down by their dating partner through cellular phones and texting;

Whereas 3 in 10 young people have sent or received nude pictures of other young people on their cellular phones or online, and 61 percent who have "sexted" report being pressured to do so at least once;

Whereas targets of digital abuse are almost 3 times as likely to contemplate suicide as those who have not encountered such abuse (8 percent versus 3 percent), and targets of digital abuse are nearly 3 times more likely to have considered dropping out of school;

Whereas the severity of violence among intimate partners has been shown to be greater