

and a desperate need for clean water, food, shelter, and basic sanitation, Haiti faces reconstruction burdens that may exceed \$14 billion. With such expenses in the future, Haiti is in no position to repay the debts it owes wealthy international creditors.

Madam Speaker, with that in mind I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4573, legislation I cosponsored that would promote debt relief for our Haitian brothers and sisters.

The bill urges the Secretary of the Treasury to instruct the United States executive directors at the International Monetary Fund, IMF, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and other multilateral development institutions to use the "voice, vote, and influence of the United States" to cancel immediately and completely all debt owed by Haiti to such institutions; suspend Haiti's debt service payments to these institutions until the debts are canceled completely; and provide additional assistance from these institutions to Haiti through grants so that Haiti does not accumulate additional debt.

Despite significant debt relief last summer, Haiti owes a total of \$828 million in debt to multilateral financial institutions, including \$447 million to the Inter-American Development Bank, \$284 million to the IMF, \$39 million to the World Bank, and \$58 million to the International Fund for Agricultural Development. Haiti also owes about \$400 million to other individual countries.

Madam Speaker, it is abundantly clear that extraordinary circumstances render impossible Haiti's timely repayment of this debt. Furthermore, our humanity should compel us to extend a compassionate hand to our neighbors in need.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of H.R. 4573.

As my colleagues have explained, this bill calls on the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury to take certain measures to enable Haiti's debt relief and to provide additional assistance to Haiti from multilateral development institutions in the form of grants.

The United States cancelled all of Haiti's outstanding debt to the U.S. in September of last year.

Similarly, Haiti has already received hundreds of millions of dollars in debt relief from the World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank, IDB.

However, it still retains significant debt to various bilateral donors, the IMF, and the IDB.

By passing this measure, we can help to minimize the enormous fiscal pressures facing the Government of Haiti in the aftermath of its tragic earthquake so that its limited resources may be used for more immediate priorities.

Also, by encouraging the use of grants versus loans, Haiti will have the opportunity to take advantage of certain resources from these institutions without increasing its future financial burdens.

This bill will help prevent Haiti from getting in over its head at a time when every penny counts.

It also recognizes the important role that other bilateral donors play in the long-term recovery efforts of Haiti.

By calling on other bilateral, multilateral and private creditors to provide debt cancellation to Haiti, H.R. 4573 underscores the concept of shared responsibility.

An integrated approach based on a coordinated and transparent distribution of responsibilities will prove essential to a successful response to Haiti's catastrophic disaster.

I thank Congresswoman WATERS for introducing this important measure.

Mr. MEEKS of New York. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4573, as amended.

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

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to urge the Secretary of the Treasury to instruct the United States Executive Directors at the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and other multilateral development institutions to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to cancel immediately and completely Haiti's debts to such institutions, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO IRAN—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 111-97)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication stating that the Iran emergency declared on March 15, 1995, is to continue in effect beyond March 15, 2010.

The crisis between the United States and Iran resulting from actions and policies of the Government of Iran that led to the declaration of a national emergency on March 15, 1995, has not been resolved. The actions and policies of the Government of Iran are contrary to the interests of the United States in the region and pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to Iran and maintain in force comprehen-

sive sanctions against Iran to respond to this threat.

BARACK OBAMA,
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 10, 2010.

SUPPORT NASA'S CONSTELLATION PROGRAM

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the President's proposal to cancel the NASA Constellation Program, which covers the Orion Crew capsule, the Altair Lunar Lander, and the Ares I and Ares V rockets. These programs, which together comprise our human spaceflight program, were authorized in both 2005 and 2008 by Republican and Democratic Congresses.

It is under the Constellation Program that NASA is currently developing new launch vehicles and spacecraft capable of traveling to the Moon, Mars, and other destinations. Not only does canceling the Constellation Program jeopardize America's leadership role in human space exploration, but it will have detrimental effects on our economy.

The issue is it will take years for the commercial spaceflight industry to get up to speed to where the level of competence exists in NASA today. Our government has already invested literally years and billions of dollars in this program. We should build upon these investments and not abandon them.

Our country can support the commercial spaceflight industry, but not at the expense of our human spaceflight programs.

It is my hope, Madam Speaker, that this Congress will continue NASA's Constellation Program.

PROVIDING FOR NASA SPACE EXPLORATION

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring H. Con. Res. 1150, which establishes NASA and all of its assets as a national security interest.

We need to work with the President in moving forward on restoring the funds for the Constellation Program and to reemphasize and recommit ourselves to human space exploration. In the current budget of the NASA program, funds have been increased, but funds have been taken away from the Constellation Program. In essence, it has been canceled.

My request is that we have our task before us, and the answer is simple: to reprogram the funds that are in the NASA budget to ensure that this great asset of NASA, NASA Johnson, the NASA centers in Alabama and Mississippi and Florida and elsewhere, are maintained.

The international space station has been built over the last 10 years. It has been built with the genius, the intellect, and the research of the United States. That research and genius and that kind of data requires protection as a national security interest. The funding that needs to be restored will help create this opportunity and save jobs.

Let us save jobs and provide for NASA space exploration.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BRIGHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BRIGHT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HONORABLE CHARLIE WILSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ORTIZ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, today we are here to honor the life and work of my good friend Representative Charlie Wilson, whom I had the pleasure of serving with in the House of Representatives for 13 years. Charlie was a unique person, one of a kind, and he will be missed dearly by his family, friends, and colleagues in the House.

Charlie had a very special and unique side to him. He knew when to be tough, he knew when to laugh, he knew when to speak his thoughts, but, above all, he knew how to serve the people of this great country and his district.

At the age of 23, after graduating with a bachelor of science degree from the U.S. Naval Academy, Charlie joined the United States Navy, where he attained the rank of lieutenant. After serving as a surface fleet officer for 4 years, he was assigned to the Pentagon as part of an intelligence unit that studied the Soviet Union's nuclear forces.

At the age of 27, Charlie was elected to the Texas Legislature, and in 1961 he was sworn into office in the State's capital in Austin, Texas. For more than 12 years, Charlie was known as the tough dog in the State capitol, and he was also often called the "liberal from Lufkin, Texas." During his time in the State legislature, he fought for Medicaid, tax exemptions for the elderly, the Equal Rights Amendment, and a minimum wage bill.

In 1972, while I was an elected county commissioner in Texas, Charlie was elected to the House of Representatives from the Second District of Texas near Houston. He served in Congress for 11

terms and did not seek reelection to the 105th Congress and resigned on October 8, 1996.

Charlie was known in the Halls of Congress as "Good Time Charlie," but it was an appropriate name for him. He was very funny, joyful, and full of life—and very humorous. After he retired from Congress, he settled down, he got married, and he was at peace with himself and looked more comfortable and at ease. Charlie truly enjoyed life.

In 2006, we asked him to come and visit with us in Corpus Christi, and this was when his book came out, "Charlie Wilson's War." He gave time to the people in the district and signed and autographed every book.

I remember one of the stories—and some of the stuff that I know about Charlie we probably wouldn't be able to say here in the House, but he enjoyed life. He brought a beautiful young lady from Russia to visit the United States, and they asked Charlie, "Are you going to give her secrets?" He said, "The only thing I am going to give her are Victoria's Secrets."

That was Charlie Wilson. He was a great guy.

There is much I can say about Charlie—he was one-of-a-kind. I served with him diligently in the House of Representatives. I will miss him dearly, as well as my colleagues from the Texas Delegation. We all loved and cared for Charlie dearly, and I know we will continue to work together in unison for the betterment of our state and country.

On February 10, 2010, this country lost a great person and my friend, Charlie Wilson. May he rest in peace.

I offer my condolences to Charlie's wife, Barbara Alberstadt. May God bring peace to her, his family, friends and loved ones. May Charlie be with the Lord.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE of Texas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Madam Speaker, today during the debate about Afghanistan, I joined Mr. KUCINICH and several others in our concerns about Afghanistan, and I wanted to further read to the House. I had used a Marine Times article that has a photograph of a marine who is retired now and his son, Joshua, who was killed in Afghanistan. The article says "Caution Killed My Son. Marine Families Blast Suicidal Tactics in Afghanistan."

In addition to this article about his son and the tighter rules of engagement, "families voice outrage over new restrictions in Afghanistan," they also

have an article about four marines who were killed that asked the Army to give them cover. The Army didn't say "no"; they just didn't even respond.

The rules of engagement are so different for our troops that I think at some point in time we in the Congress, particularly on the Armed Services Committee, I am going to ask for a hearing about the rules of engagement.

I want to explain and then read a couple of comments from the father which was in this article, Sergeant Bernard, retired Marine, whose son Joshua was killed. What had happened was the marines had been in a firefight. Then there was an Afghan that came to the marines and said, Listen, there are other Taliban enemy down the road, and if you follow me, I will show you where they are located.

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This is where I want to pick up the story by the father's writing. He said, When the ambush began, the tipster could not be found, and the interpreter took cover, raising questions in Bernard's mind about whether they led the Marines into a trap. There's no question they did. I further quote Sergeant Bernard, who's retired now: "Call me cynical if you want, but some rogue element led them there. The bottom line is both of those guys were gone. It's just another indication of how this counterinsurgency strategy can't work."

I further want to read: "In an October 13 letter to Collins, Mullen addressed Bernard's concerns by saying that 'the new tactical directive did not change the ROE in Afghanistan, but rather provided more clarification and guidelines regarding the use of force. We have refined our procedures in order to reduce civilian casualties, but at no time have the ROE been modified to place our troops at greater risk,' Mullen wrote. 'Our troops still operate under a set of ROE that allows them to protect themselves against enemy actions in balance with the Afghan populace.'"

Sergeant Bernard, a retired Marine who served this Nation, said "the letter is 'smoke and mirrors' and overlooks his consistent concern: A counterinsurgency strategy won't work as long as Afghanistan is filled with warring tribes that have no empathy for the U.S. and its way of life."

I further want to read down in his response in the Marine Corps Times: "I already talked to Collins' office and said, 'Don't let him spin this crap.' There's no indication that Afghanistan has changed anywhere. Our mission should be very, very simple: Chase and kill the enemy."

Madam Speaker, that's exactly what they should be doing, instead of this other type of strategy.

Bernard said he is frustrated that the senator's office, one of his home State senators and a member of the Senate Armed Service Committee, has handled his complaints as that of a single constituent—and I'm not getting into