

of our region will forever be linked to the mining of coal, a connection for which I hold great pride. For generations, residents of my district have fed their families from work in these mines, as they will for generations to come.

The loss of a miner is the loss of a brother and a friend. This loss cuts deep into the soul of our Appalachian towns and communities.

The deaths of these miners must not be in vain—we must take lessons from this tragedy to create a better future for mineworkers everywhere. The mineworkers of Appalachia deserve to go to work each day with peace of mind that their workplace is safe. Events like those that transpired earlier this month shake that trust, and we must determine the cause of the event if we are to properly ensure their future safety and to ensure the strength of the coal mining industry.

While we are truly blessed to live in a country bestowed with great resources, we hold a responsibility to protect those who risk life and limb to harvest them in the name of a greater, stronger nation. The strength of our Nation is a reflection of how we treat these soldiers of the coal mines, and we all must work to ensure their safety.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1236.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. 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.

CONGRATULATING DUKE UNIVERSITY ON WINNING THE NCAA BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Ms. FUDGE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1242) congratulating the Duke University men's basketball team for winning the 2010 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball National Championship.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1242

Whereas on April 5, 2010, the Duke University Blue Devils defeated the Butler University Bulldogs by a score of 61–59 in the finals of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (hereinafter referred to as the “NCAA”) Division I Men's Basketball Tournament in Indianapolis, Indiana;

Whereas the Blue Devils now hold 4 national men's basketball titles, winning NCAA championships in 1991, 1992, 2001, and 2010;

Whereas Blue Devils head coach Mike Krzyzewski improved his record to 868–279, won his 77th NCAA tournament game, the

most in NCAA history, and won his fourth national championship, making him tied with Adolph Rupp for second most championships in NCAA history;

Whereas Coach Krzyzewski and his coaching staff, including Assistant Coaches Chris Collins, Steve Wojciechowski, and Nate James, as well as each manager, trainer, and staff member, deserve praise and credit for helping the Blue Devils reach the pinnacle of college basketball;

Whereas the Blue Devil team roster included seniors Jordan Davidson, Jon Scheyer, Lance Thomas, and Brian Zoubek, juniors Steve Johnson, Casey Peters, Kyle Singler, and Nolan Smith, sophomores Seth Curry and Miles Plumlee, and freshmen Andre Dawkins, Ryan Kelly, Mason Plumlee, and Todd Zafirovski;

Whereas junior Kyle Singler was named the Most Outstanding Player of the Final Four, scoring 19 points and collecting 9 rebounds while playing all 40 minutes in the championship game;

Whereas Blue Devils Jon Scheyer, Kyle Singler, and Nolan Smith were each named to the all-tournament team;

Whereas during the 2009–2010 season, the Duke Blue Devils finished with a record of 35–5, tied for the most wins, and scored a total of 3079 points;

Whereas the Blue Devils went undefeated on their home court in Cameron Indoor Stadium for the 2009–2010 regular season;

Whereas the Duke Blue Devils won the 2010 Atlantic Coast Conference (hereinafter referred to as the “ACC”) Tournament, their record 18 such tournament championship, and won a share of the ACC regular-season championship with a conference record of 13–3;

Whereas the Duke Blue Devils have played in 15 Final Fours and have played in at least one Final Four in 6 consecutive decades;

Whereas the Blue Devils have amassed a record overall winning percentage of 75.8 percent in the NCAA tournament;

Whereas the Blue Devil players, coaches, and staff are outstanding representatives of Duke University, a top ten university that is recognized annually as a national leader in academics and research;

Whereas in addition to their skill on the court, the Duke men's basketball team upholds a high standard of academic excellence, achieving an overall graduation success rate of 92 percent;

Whereas the Duke men's basketball program has had 31 ACC All-Academic basketball teams over the last 14 years, has had at least one player on the ACC All-Academic basketball team for a record 16 straight years, has received 5 Academic All-America selections over the past 12 years, and has had at least one team member on the ACC All-Academic basketball team in 23 of the last 26 years for a total of 46 selections;

Whereas the Blue Devils showed tremendous dedication to their team, appreciation to their fans, sportsmanship toward their opponents, and respect for the game of basketball throughout the 2009–2010 season;

Whereas Duke students, faculty, staff, alumni, and all fans of the Blue Devils are to be congratulated for their sportsmanship, dedication, and support of their team; and

Whereas the Blue Devils' 2010 NCAA championship further solidifies the tradition of basketball excellence that exists in the State of North Carolina, whose universities have won 4 of the last 10 NCAA championships: Now, therefore, be it—

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates the 2010 national champions, the Duke University Blue Devils, for their win in the 2010 National Collegiate

Athletic Association Division I Men's Basketball Tournament;

(2) recognizes the achievements of the players, coaches, students, and support staff who were instrumental in the Blue Devils' victory;

(3) invites the Duke University men's basketball team to the United States Capitol Building to be honored; and

(4) directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make available enrolled copies of this resolution to Duke University President Richard H. Brodhead, Athletic Director Kevin White, and Head Coach Mike Krzyzewski for appropriate display.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. CAPPS). Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) and the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. MCMORRIS ROGERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair now recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FUDGE. Madam Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous materials on H. Res. 1242 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. FUDGE. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Duke University men's basketball team for winning the 2010 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball National Championship.

When the final buzzer sounded in the 2010 Men's Basketball NCAA Championship game, two exceptional college basketball programs' seasons came to an end. Both the Duke University Blue Devils and the Butler University Bulldogs played with exceptional talent and dedication. The ball pressure and stifling defenses from both teams led to a low-scoring, yet entertaining, game. The game included five ties, 15 lead changes, and two potentially game-winning shots. In the end, Duke seized their fourth NCAA Men's Basketball Championship, cementing its legacy in college basketball history.

With a 61–59 victory Monday night at Lucas Oil Stadium, the Duke University Blue Devils proved that they are still one of the country's most elite college basketball programs. The Blue Devils finished their regular 2009–2010 season strongly, with a 35–5 record, followed by winning the 2010 Atlantic Coast Conference Tournament. In addition, they were cochampions of the ACC with a record of 13–3, while earning an NCAA tournament number 1 seed. In a tournament where the top seeds were falling and upsets were ample, the Blue Devils consistently dominated their opponents.

This Blue Devils men's basketball season marked Coach Mike Krzyzewski's 30th season at Duke and his fourth NCAA Men's Basketball Championship. Better known as Coach K, Coach K has led Duke to the Final Four 11 times during his time with the

team, and this game was his 868th career win as a coach. The 2010 NCAA championship game marked his 77th NCAA tournament game, the most in NCAA history. He won his fourth national championship and tied Adolph Rupp for second most in NCAA history.

Kyle Singler was named the Final Four's Most Outstanding Player, scoring 19 points and collecting nine rebounds while playing all 40 minutes in the championship game. He has been a leader and a remarkable asset to the Blue Devils all season. Kyle Singler, Jon Scheyer, and Nolan Smith were each named to the all-tournament team. I congratulate these men and all of the players on a great victory.

The alumni, faculty, and staff have much to be proud of. With over a 75 percent winning rate in the NCAA tournament, the rest of the country measures themselves to Duke.

Once again, I congratulate Duke on winning the national championship. I thank Representative PRICE for bringing this bill forward.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of House Resolution 1242, congratulating the Duke University men's basketball team. The Duke University Blue Devils men's basketball team has a national reputation for excellence. The team has won four NCAA Division I National Championships, and has been among the Final Four 15 times since 1980. Seventy-one Duke players have been drafted into the NBA, and 11 players have been named the National Player of the Year. Duke has won the most Atlantic Coast Tournament championships and has also had numerous successful regular seasons.

In the 2010 NCAA championship game, Duke took the victory over Butler with a final score of 61-59. Butler played a very competitive game, keeping the score incredibly close throughout the entire game; however, Duke pulled ahead by one point each half to take the victory.

Although we are celebrating Duke's athletic excellence, we should take a moment to recognize the quality of Duke's academic programs.

Duke University has two undergraduate schools and nine graduate and professional schools. In the 2010 edition, U.S. News & World Report ranked the university's undergraduate program 10th among national universities, and ranked the medical, law, and business schools among the top 12 in the United States. Duke also is known to be among the Nation's top research universities.

I rise today to congratulate Duke University's men's basketball team and Coach K for winning the 2010 NCAA National Championship. I ask my colleagues to join in support of this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FUDGE. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the gentleman

from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE) for as much time as he may consume.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague (Ms. FUDGE) for yielding, and I thank her and Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS for their support of H. Res. 1242 and their help in bringing it to the floor.

I am the proud sponsor of this resolution, which congratulates the Duke University men's basketball team for winning the 2010 NCAA Division I National Championship. I have introduced the resolution as the Member of this body privileged to represent Duke University, and I'm pleased to say that it has the support of the entire North Carolina delegation.

From its roots as tiny Trinity College in 1838 to its current status as one of the world's premiere research and educational institutions, Duke University, like its basketball team, is a testament to the virtues of hard work, determination, and excellence—in the classroom, in the community, and in Cameron Indoor Stadium as well.

I actually have the distinction, not always enviable, of representing both sides of college basketball's most intense rivalry. UNC-Chapel Hill is just down the road from Duke. It's also in the Fourth District. I've had an interesting vantage point, having attended UNC and having taught at Duke. Trust me, I understand the importance of team loyalties to Members of Congress, and I also understand the need, occasionally, to balance these loyalties. But I think we can all agree today that the Blue Devils should be commended, and they should be commended unanimously, for reaching this pinnacle of men's college basketball.

At the risk of stoking the flames, let me just talk about the record for a moment. I'd be remiss if I didn't remind my colleagues that the Duke Blue Devils have a long history of success at men's basketball. They've played in 15 Final Fours, and this is their fourth title win in the last two decades.

Despite this record, the team wasn't favored to win a national championship at the beginning of this season. But they peaked at the right time. They finished the year with 10 straight wins. They shared the ACC regular season championship and won outright the ACC tournament championship and the national championship. They finished the season with a 35-5 record, a tie for the most wins this season nationally.

This improbable end to this season underscores that anything is possible in basketball as in politics. It's also a testament to the very idea of what a team should be, greater than the sum of its parts, an idea Duke teams have long exemplified.

I will enclose in the RECORD at the end of this statement the full roster of this remarkable team, the men on the team and their hometowns.

Special credit is due to head coach Mike Krzyzewski, known far and wide as Coach K, who's built one of college basketball's most stellar programs

since he came to Duke in 1980. This season Coach K brought his overall record to 868-279. He won his 77th NCAA tournament game, and he won his fourth national championship. Needless to say, this places this Hall of Famer in elite company. Only Adolph Rupp and John Wooden have won an equal or greater number of national championships.

But his achievements have not been bounded by the baselines of the court. Coach K's success is about mentoring young men, about coaching them to succeed, not just on the court, but also in the classroom and in life. His teams consistently uphold a high standard of academic excellence, achieving a graduation success rate of 92 percent and boasting a strong tradition of Academic All-Americans.

Each step of the way the team was buoyed by its fans, its incredible fans—the Cameron Crazies, they're called—who make Duke's Cameron Indoor Stadium one of the toughest places to win in the country. That again proved true this year when the Blue Devils went undefeated on their home court.

This year's national championship game was considered by many to be one of the closest and most exciting title games in tournament history. It literally came down to the last shot.

Butler University and Coach Brad Stevens are also to be congratulated for their strong season and for their effort in a title game that reminded us anew of why the American people simply can't resist March Madness. Both teams deserve recognition for their dedication to sportsmanship and fair play throughout the entire season.

So it's a unique privilege, Madam Speaker, to introduce, I have to note for the second year in a row, the resolution in this body recognizing the NCAA Men's Basketball National Champion. And I'd like, Madam Speaker, for the RECORD to reflect that I'll be perfectly happy to introduce such a resolution again next year.

In the meantime, I and Duke's many friends and alumni in this body look forward to welcoming the Blue Devils to the White House and to Capitol Hill.

Duke Blue Devils Roster 2009-2010 Season:
 #2 Nolan Smith—Upper Marlboro, MD
 #3 Seth Curry—Charlotte, NC
 #5 Mason Plumlee—Warsaw, IN
 #12 Kyle Singler—Medford, OR
 #20 Andre Dawkins—Chesapeake, VA
 #21 Miles Plumlee—Warsaw, IN
 #30 Jon Scheyer—Northbrook, IL
 #34 Ryan Kelly—Raleigh, NC
 #41 Jordan Davidson—Melbourne, AR
 #42 Lance Thomas—Scotch Plains, NJ
 #51 Steve Johnson—Colorado Springs, CO
 #52 Todd Zafirovski—Lake Forest, IL
 #53 Casey Peters—Red Bank, NJ
 #55 Brian Zoubek—Haddonfield, NJ

□ 1415

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) for such time as he may consume.

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. I rise today to begrudgingly support this resolution and offer my congratulations to Duke, Coach K, and to all of those outstanding players for the NCAA men's national championship game.

Now that being said, I would be remiss, since I will have been married 25 years to a graduate of Butler University, to fail to also rise and commend Coach Brad Stevens and the small but mighty basketball team that America became enamored of in this year's tournament, simply known as "Them Dogs" back in Indiana and the Butler University Bulldogs to the rest of the country.

Taking nothing away from Duke, an outstanding university and an outstanding program, or Coach K, I have to tell you I was especially moved when I think it was the day before the basketball game when there was all of the talk about David and Goliath, all the talk of underdogs, and Coach K, being the class act that he is, went before the national press and said, Enough of this talk about underdogs. Butler is a really good basketball team. And anyone who tuned in that night—and my ears are still ringing from Mrs. Pence's enthusiasm that night—saw that the case was proved.

Ultimately, Duke carried the day, but with the news that coach Brad Stevens has signed a long-term contract to stay in Indiana—and I think we're only losing one player next year—I say to my distinguished colleagues, representing and speaking on behalf of Duke, See you next year. Congratulations.

Ms. FUDGE. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the gentlewoman from California (Ms. RICHARDSON) for 3 minutes.

Ms. RICHARDSON. I rise today to congratulate the Duke University men's basketball team for winning the 2010 Division I National Championship and in support of H. Res. 1242.

Now, after listening to talk about "Them Dogs" and the "Blue Devils," being a Bruin and a Trojan myself, I thought we needed to weigh in and extend our congratulations.

This spectacular season by the Duke Blue Devils capped by a thrilling, hard-fought victory against the Butler Bulldogs in the NCAA tournament finals last Monday night is another proud chapter in Duke's very long history of success. As a graduate of both UCLA and USC—and that's USC, University of Southern California, not University of South Carolina—as I found since coming to Congress here—I'm a former basketball player and I understand what it takes in terms of hard work, intense focus, and a tireless dedication required by both players, team members and the university itself.

Particularly when we look at the Duke men's basketball team that, as has already been stated, has 15 Final Four appearances, 11, I believe, under the name of Coach K, when you consider that accomplishment, it will long

be filled with the histories of college basketball, of the incredible commitment that this university has done not only on the court but off the court as well.

When I look at Coach K and we hear about all of his commitment to his players and we consider his record, the fourth national championship and how Coach K has now tied Adolph Rupp, I would like to point out, though, that he still has six more to catch my alma mater, which is John Wooden of UCLA. But we welcome that challenge.

In addition, when we talk about Coach K, Mr. PENCE talked about his mentorship, and I read a little bit about his commitment, of being a role model and the positive impact he wants to have on young men—not only with Duke University but the other young men who were watching how Duke played and were carrying themselves.

But, finally, I would like to commend Congressman DAVID PRICE not only for sponsoring this resolution but for his success, something many of us in Congress could figure out how to do, how he can represent both the Duke Blue Devils and the University of North Carolina Tar Heels who won the championship last year, as he mentioned.

Any college basketball fan knows that the Duke-UNC rivalry is only second to the UCLA-USC rivalry. And I've got to tell you, it's tough living in my household having those battles. It takes exceptional skill and diplomacy to successfully represent both ends of Tobacco Road, skills that my colleague from North Carolina possesses in abundance.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Congressman PRICE. And in terms of the resolution next year, I'm willing to wager a bet.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. I would like to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON).

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Let me just say that I am a great admirer of Duke University. I lean a little more toward Butler since I'm from Indianapolis, Indiana, and I thought Duke played a great game. And I want you to know, there is no truth to the rumor that Butler intentionally missed that last basketball shot because they didn't want to hurt Duke's feelings. Are you listening over there?

Anyhow, congratulations to Duke University and to Butler University. Butler is a very small school. It's a private school in Indianapolis, and for them to reach the final game in the national championship is a real tribute not only to the school and the players but to a great young coach who's only been coaching for 3 years. And of course the Duke Blue Devils are always tough, and I'm very proud to say we want to congratulate them. But the Bulldogs did a great job. They were a great team, and next year we're going to get them.

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1242, a resolution

congratulating the Duke University Men's Basketball team for winning the 2010 NCAA National Championship. As a cosponsor of H. Res. 1242, I would like to commend my colleague from Chapel Hill, Mr. PRICE, for bringing this bipartisan resolution to the floor today, particularly since he previously served as a Professor in Political Science at Duke before coming to Congress.

On Monday, April 5, 2010, the Duke Blue Devils outlasted an outstanding team from Butler University by a score of 61–59 to win the NCAA National Championship. In the closest National Championship game played since 1989, the Blue Devils—with the starting line up of Jon Scheyer, Kyle Singler, Nolan Smith, Lance Thomas, and Brian Zoubek—captured the school's fourth national title behind the leadership of Head Coach Mike Krzyzewski.

Madam Speaker, the Blue Devils finished the season with a record of 35–5, and on the way to the National Championship, they set a school record in home victories by going undefeated with a mark of 17–0 at historic Cameron Indoor Stadium. Furthermore, Duke won a share of the Atlantic Coast Conference regular-season championship with a record of 13–3 and won a record 18th ACC Tournament title.

While this National Championship was truly a team effort, it is difficult to overlook the individual contributions that guided this championship run. Kyle Singler was named Final Four Most Outstanding Player and ACC Tournament MVP. Jon Scheyer and Nolan Smith were also named to the all-tournament team, and Brian Zoubek averaged 10 rebounds per game throughout the NCAA Tournament. These contributions, among many others, led the Blue Devils to the championship.

Madam Speaker, in his 30th year at the helm of the Blue Devils, Head Coach Mike Krzyzewski coached his 1,000th game at Duke, led the Blue Devils to his 11th Final Four appearance—tying the legendary North Carolina Coach Dean Smith—and 8th National Championship game appearance. In leading Duke to the 2010 National Championship, Coach K tied legendary Kentucky Coach Adolph Rupp with four national championships.

During his time at Duke, Coach K has built a program that embraces the idea of the student-athlete. In addition to the numerous athletic accomplishments, the Blue Devils have also excelled in the classroom. In a study conducted by the Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport at the University of Central Florida, the Duke Blue Devils achieved a 92% graduation rate, ranking Duke among the highest of the 65 schools that qualified for the 2010 NCAA Tournament.

Madam Speaker, I believe Duke students, alumni, and fans in my Congressional District in Western North Carolina—as well as across the state and nation—can take pride in the accomplishments made by the 2009–2010 Duke Blue Devils. This team represented Duke University, the State of North Carolina, and the ACC in a way that truly embodies the spirit of college athletics. I urge all of my colleagues to support H. Res. 1242.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. I yield back the balance of our time.

Ms. FUDGE. Madam Speaker, I ask support for House Resolution 1242, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1242.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. 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.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY TO THE PEOPLE OF POLAND

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1246) expressing sympathy to the people of Poland in the aftermath of the tragic plane crash that killed the country's President, First Lady, and 94 others on April 10, 2010.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1246

Whereas the Polish President Lech Kaczynski and 95 other people, including Poland's First Lady, deputy foreign minister, deputy defense minister, dozens of members of Parliament, the chiefs of the army and navy, and the president of the national bank, were killed in a plane crash in western Russia on April 10, 2010;

Whereas President Kaczynski and his colleagues were traveling to Katyn, Russia for a memorial service to mark the 70th anniversary of the Soviet secret police killing of more than 20,000 Polish officers, prisoners, and intellectuals who were captured after the Soviet Union invaded Poland in 1939;

Whereas Ryszard Kaczorowski, who served as Poland's final president in exile before the country's return to democracy, perished;

Whereas Anna Walentynowicz, the former dock worker whose firing in 1980 sparked the Solidarity strike that ultimately overthrew the Polish communist government, was also killed in the crash;

Whereas respected Chicago artist Wojciech Sewerny, whose father was killed in Katyn, and who recently completed a memorial to the victims of Katyn at St. Adalbert Cemetery in Niles, Illinois, which Polish President Kaczynski planned to visit in May, died in the crash as well;

Whereas Russia and Poland had begun to heal the deep wounds from the Katyn tragedy, with Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin recently joining Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk at a ceremony marking the event at Katyn;

Whereas Prime Minister Putin, the first Russian leader ever to attend the Katyn commemoration said "we bow our heads to those who bravely met death here";

Whereas more than 9,000,000 Americans of Polish descent now reside in the United States, including in major metropolitan areas such as Chicago, Detroit, and New York City;

Whereas the American people stood in support of the Solidarity movement as it fought against the oppression of the Polish communist government through peaceful means, eventually leading to Solidarity members being elected to office in partially free democratic elections held on June 4, 1989;

Whereas Poland joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in 1999 and has since contributed to military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

Whereas the United States and Poland share a strong bond of friendship and international cooperation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) mourns the death of President Kaczynski and the terrible loss of life that resulted from the plane crash of April 10, 2010;

(2) expresses its deepest sympathies to the people of Poland and the families of those who perished for their profound loss;

(3) expresses strong and continued solidarity with the people of Poland and all persons of Polish descent; and

(4) expresses unwavering support for the Polish government as it works to overcome the loss of many key public officials.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DELAHUNT. 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 Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of this resolution, which expresses sympathy for the people of Poland following the tragic plane crash last weekend that killed their President and so many others.

I wish to thank my colleagues and friends, Representatives DAHLKEMPER, KANJORSKI, and LIPINSKI for quickly preparing a text that enables this House to add its voice to the condolences being expressed around the world on this sad occasion.

Last Saturday we woke to the terrible news of a plane crash in western Russia. This accident took the lives of Polish President Lech Kaczynski, his wife, the deputy foreign minister, the deputy defense minister, the chiefs of the army and navy, the president of the national bank, dozens of members of parliament, as well as civilian and military staff.

Today, the House mourns the death of President Kaczynski and his colleagues. We express our deepest sympathies to the people of Poland as well to the families who have suffered such a grievous loss. We think, too, of the millions of Americans who claim Polish ancestry, as we know their hearts are also heavy.

We pledge to stand by the Polish Government as it seeks to reconstitute itself and reaffirm our enduring friendship for Poland.

Madam Speaker, what makes this accident even more tragic is that it occurred as President Kaczynski's delegation was traveling to commemorate one of the most brutal events of World War II—the execution of more than 20,000 Polish officers, prisoners, and intellectuals in Katyn Forest by the Soviet Secret Police in 1939.

Earlier in the week, there were encouraging signs that Poland and Russia were beginning to heal the deep wounds caused by these horrific wartime events. Russian Prime Minister Putin joined Poland Prime Minister Donald Tusk at a ceremony marking the 70th anniversary of this massacre—the first time a Russian leader has ever participated in this memorial.

The Russian people have been very supportive and responsive in the wake of the disaster, with Prime Minister Putin personally heading the inquiry into the crash.

Konstantin Kosachev, chairman of the International Relations Committee of the Russian State Duma—described the death of the Polish President as a great tragedy for both the Polish and the Russian peoples. Observing that both countries were mourning together, he solemnly noted, and these are his words: "Katyn took some more victims."

If anything positive is to come from these tragic deaths, it may be the development of closer ties between these two nations and their citizens.

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

□ 1430

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

Madam Speaker, I am saddened by the need for this resolution. The death of Polish President Lech Kaczynski, his wife Maria, and 94 other Polish officials and citizens in the plane crash in Russia on April 10 was sudden, unexpected, and truly a tragedy for the nation of Poland.

We have all seen the outpouring of grief and tributes since then by the citizens of Poland in support and in honor of their late President and all who died with him.

There is little that we can here do today to add to the honors bestowed upon the departed by their very own countrymen, but we can, however, offer our condolences to the strong and proud nation of Poland, which has been and remains a friend and an ally of the United States.

Despite the loss of their President, we can be certain that the Polish people will continue on the road toward democracy, prosperity, and security, the road that they have traveled since they broke free of the grip of Communist authoritarian rule in 1989.