

on many leadership roles throughout her career, including President of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and her thirty-three years of service with the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA).

Her wise counsel has been sought by many American leaders such as First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. She has also earned several awards, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom and I was proud to add my name to a bill in 2003 that was supported unanimously in Congress to award Dr. Height the Congressional Gold Medal. Though we are saddened by Dr. Height's recent passing, it is my firm belief that she will be an inspiration for future generations of Americans and will always be remembered for her hard work, courage, and determination in the fight for equality and opportunity for all.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a cosponsor of this resolution to honor and celebrate the life of Dr. Dorothy Irene Height.

Widely recognized as the godmother of the civil rights movement, Dr. Height devoted her life to the cause of equality and justice for all people. A social worker by training, Dr. Height served on the staff of the Young Women's Christian Association for thirty three years and as president of the National Council of Negro Women for four decades. With uncommon dignity and her trademark hats, Dr. Height advised Presidents from Dwight Eisenhower to Barack Obama. In the 1960s, she organized the "Wednesdays in Mississippi" initiative to further understanding between white women and black women in the north and the south. She penned a regular column called "A Woman's Word" in the venerable African-American weekly the New York Amsterdam News. And she chronicled her unique experience in the leadership of the civil rights movement in her 2005 memoir "Open Wide The Freedom Gates". For her service to our nation, Dr. Height was presented with the Presidential Citizens Medal by President Reagan in 1989, the Presidential Medal of Honor from President Clinton in 1994 and the Congressional Medal of Honor in 2004.

Today, I add my voice to those celebrating her life's work and achievements, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I was saddened to hear of the loss of one of the foremost leaders of the civil rights movement and a true national treasure, Dr. Dorothy Height. I always say, when you're born you get a birth certificate, and when you die you get a death certificate—but it's what you do with the dash in between that really matters. And that saying really encapsulates the essence of Dorothy Height's life.

As an African-American woman and long-time Member of the Congressional Black Caucus, I am particularly grateful for the courage, wisdom and determination she employed to create opportunities for women and for African Americans in our country.

Dorothy Height began her career in 1937 by serving those in dire need as a welfare case-worker and had the ear of every President since Eisenhower. Most recently, she was an honored guest and seated dignitary at the inauguration of President Barack Obama. Along the way, Dr. Height was behind every major civil rights movement and progressive effort for social change throughout the century.

As president of the National Council of Negro Women for four decades, she tackled issues that affected all women, including child care for working mothers, health and nutrition, as well as providing housing for families in need. As a civil rights activist, Dr. Height participated in protests in Harlem during the 1930s, and went on to be instrumental in lobbying first lady Eleanor Roosevelt on behalf of civil rights causes a few years later. Dr. Height was also a key player in advocating for President Dwight D. Eisenhower to move more aggressively on school desegregation issues. Dr. Height is one of two people to earn all three of our nation's highest civilian honors: the Presidential Citizens Award (1989), the Presidential Medal of Freedom (1994) and the Congressional Gold Medal (2004).

My thoughts and prayers are with the family, friends, and loved ones of Dr. Dorothy Height. The nation will never forget her, the mother of the civil rights movement, especially those of us who have followed her lead in working for social justice.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1281.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMEMORATING 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF EARTH DAY

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 255) commemorating the 40th anniversary of Earth Day and honoring the founder of Earth Day, the late Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 255

Whereas Gaylord Nelson, former United States Senator from Wisconsin, is recognized as one of the leading environmentalists of the 20th Century who helped launch an international era of environmental awareness and activism;

Whereas Gaylord Nelson grew up in Clear Lake, Wisconsin, and rose to national prominence while exemplifying the progressive values instilled in him;

Whereas Gaylord Nelson served with distinction in the Wisconsin State Senate from 1949 to 1959, as Governor of the State of Wisconsin from 1959 to 1963, and in the United States Senate from 1963 to 1981;

Whereas Gaylord Nelson founded Earth Day, which was first celebrated on April 22, 1970, by 20 million people across the United States, making the celebration the largest environmental grassroots event in history at that time;

Whereas Gaylord Nelson called on Americans to hold their elected officials accountable for protecting their health and the natural environment on that first Earth Day, an action which launched the Environmental

Decade, an unparalleled period of legislative and grassroots activity that resulted in passage of 28 major pieces of environmental legislation from 1970 to 1980, including the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the National Environmental Education Act;

Whereas Gaylord Nelson was responsible for legislation that created the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore and the St. Croix Wild and Scenic Riverway and protected other important Wisconsin and national treasures;

Whereas Gaylord Nelson sponsored legislation to ban phosphates in household detergents and to ban the use of Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT), and he worked tirelessly to ensure clean water and clean air for all Americans;

Whereas in addition to his environmental leadership, Gaylord Nelson fought for civil rights, enlisted for the War on Poverty, challenged drug companies and tire manufacturers to protect consumers, and stood up to Senator Joe McCarthy and the House Un-American Activities Committee to defend and protect civil liberties;

Whereas Gaylord Nelson was a patriot, who as a young soldier honorably served 46 months in the Armed Forces during World War II, and then, as Senator, worked to ban the use of the toxic defoliant Agent Orange;

Whereas, in 1995, Gaylord Nelson was awarded the highest honor accorded civilians in the United States, the Presidential Medal of Freedom;

Whereas Gaylord Nelson's legacy includes generations of Americans who have grown up with an environmental ethic and an appreciation and understanding of their roles as stewards of the environment and the planet; and

Whereas Gaylord Nelson was an extraordinary statesman, public servant, environmentalist, husband, father, and friend, and who never let disagreement on the issues become personal or partisan: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress commemorates the 40th anniversary of Earth Day and honors the founder of Earth Day, the late Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 255. This measure was introduced by my colleague the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) on March 19, 2010. It was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which ordered it reported by unanimous consent on April 14 of this year. The measure has the support of 70 cosponsors.

Madam Speaker, tomorrow marks the 40th anniversary of Earth Day. Our planet faces serious environmental

challenges, challenges we must face not just in the coming years but now. Right now.

The effects of the most serious challenge, global climate change, are happening today, and if we do not act deliberately now, right now, the future consequences for our country and our planet will be grave. I encourage everyone working towards this end to continue their efforts, and I hope that we in Congress will stand up and demonstrate further leadership to address this threat.

Of course, Earth Day is also a reminder of the other environmental challenges we face, such as developing sustainable and renewable sources of energy, preserving wildlife and their habitat, protecting our water and our air, cleaning up pollution, and so much more. As Representatives, I encourage all of us to stand with our constituents this week who are lending their time and services to activities to clean up our environment. Across the country thousands of events have been organized in the cities, in the countryside, along our roadways and parks and on our beautiful coast to put words into action.

One town in my district expects over 5,000 people to dedicate their time and effort to clean up the local shoreline, and I will be there, and I know that all of my colleagues will be just as fortunate to witness similar local efforts in their districts.

Earth Day is truly about service and it's a great opportunity for friends and neighbors to come together on behalf of our planet. The relationships we can build with one another as we do this work are lasting, and I am confident that they will foster even greater work in the years to come.

Once again, it is incumbent upon us in Congress to transform the work our constituents do at the local level into solutions for our country. Protecting the environment is the right thing to do, but as we all know, it's also a win-win for our economy and for our national security.

We have made great strides on this front since the first Earth Day. The 1970s saw the establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency as well as a series of important environmental laws, including the Clean Air Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Safe Drinking Water Act. But much work still lies ahead, and, unfortunately, some of our most important environmental policies have been watered down in recent years. No pun intended.

However, I know that the efforts of millions of people in the United States and around the world who support the goals and ideals of Earth Day will pay off. I commend them for their work, and I look forward to seeing what we in Congress will further do to support them.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FLAKE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 255, commemorating the 40th anniversary of Earth Day and honoring the founder of Earth Day, former Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin.

For the past 40 years, citizens all across the United States have come together once a year to celebrate the wonder of planet Earth on Earth Day. Every April 22 Americans from all parts of the country, from coastal regions to mountainous regions to forested regions and the many other incredibly diverse regions of this country, take time to admire and enjoy the beauty and splendor of our environment. Earth Day allows all people to realize the importance of ensuring that our children and grandchildren can continue to enjoy the beauty of the planet for generations to come.

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Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin founded Earth Day because of his love for our planet and the environment. As Senator NELSON said in a speech on Earth Day, "Earth Day is dramatic evidence of the broad new national concern that cuts across generations and ideologies. It may be symbolic of a new communication between young and old about values and priorities."

A veteran of World War II and Governor of Wisconsin, Gaylord Nelson served in the Senate from 1963 to 1981. During his career in both State and national politics, he promoted many environmental causes and worked tirelessly to preserve the planet for future generations. In 1995, he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his public service throughout his career. Despite his many accomplishments, Earth Day was his most important and lasting legacy.

Just on a personal note, one thing that he advocated, and I think we advocate with Earth Day, is to get outside in the environment and enjoy what's around us. Last year I did that to the extreme, I think. I was dropped off on a little island in the middle of the Pacific. And for a week I didn't see another person, I didn't see a plane, I didn't see an automobile, I didn't see a boat, I saw nothing. Just a lot of fish and hermit crabs and others.

Mr. KIND. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FLAKE. I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. KIND. What the gentleman, my good friend from Arizona, is alluding to is his week of isolation on an island in the South Pacific all by himself communing and being one with nature. And I think he has assured me that I could be his special agent when Hollywood comes calling to do the reality TV show of having a Member of Congress stranded on some deserted island for a while contemplating the deeper thoughts and philosophy of life. So I am ready to go when he is ready to go with that Hollywood production.

Mr. FLAKE. I thank the gentleman for that. I doubt I will need an agent or

that they will come calling. Contrary to popular belief, this was not a metaphor for the fate of congressional Republicans, being isolated on an island either.

But it was a great opportunity, without any outside influences at all, to be there and to see nature at its finest.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I am glad the gentleman from Arizona said that and not me.

I now have the pleasure of yielding 5 minutes to the gentleman who is the author of this legislation, and a great leader from the State of Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY).

Mr. OBEY. I thank the gentlewoman for the time.

Madam Speaker, 41 years ago my friend and mentor, Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson, had a surprisingly simple idea. At the time, the country was fighting an unpopular and unwinnable war, and students were rising up in protest and holding teach-ins on college campuses all over the country. Senator Nelson looked around him and realized that those teach-ins were an invaluable tool in helping to educate people and calling attention to the need to end the war once and for all.

In 1969, when the Senate contained such environmental giants as Ed Muskie, Scoop Jackson, Gaylord Nelson, and Bob Stafford, he gave a pivotal speech at the Seattle Science Center. In that speech he suggested that just as Americans had been involved in teach-ins to protest the Vietnam war, that they should also set aside a day to call attention to the environmental problems facing the planet and to demand real leadership from public officials on producing solutions. Wire services carried the story from coast to coast. And as history shows, the response was overwhelmingly positive. Earth Day was born.

The first Earth Day launched an Environmental Decade, an unparalleled period of legislative and grassroots activity that resulted in passage of 28 major pieces of environmental legislation from 1970 to 1980 alone, including the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the National Environmental Quality Education Act, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and others. And Gaylord was at the center of them all.

Forty years later his legacy endures, and half a billion people in 180 countries are expected to gather this week to help clean up their communities and to demand leadership and real solutions to the very real problems facing the planet today, problems like toxic pollution, mercury in our air and water, and climate change.

As we celebrate the 40th anniversary of Earth Day, it is fitting that we pass this resolution honoring the founding father of that day. When he initially set the date for it he was roundly criticized by, of all groups, the John Birch Society, because they attacked him for selecting the same day that Lenin was

born. Gaylord pointed out that since there were only 365 days in a year, that each day was bound to be the birthday of both good and bad people throughout the world. And he pointed out, for instance, that, yes, it was the birthday of Lenin, but it was also the birthday of St. Francis of Assisi. But he said, "more importantly, it's also the birthday of my Aunt Tilly."

Without the leadership of the late Senator Gaylord Nelson, the air we breathe would not be as clean, we would not be swimming in lakes and rivers as safe as they are today, and we would not be enjoying the beauty of public lands that we were able to protect under the laws he championed. We are certainly a long way away from perfection on those grounds, but we are a whole lot better off than we were when Gaylord started the movement. And we would not be holding Earth Day celebrations around the globe each April 22nd either.

Today we honor Gaylord Nelson and celebrate the 40th anniversary of Earth Day. No wonder he was awarded the Nation's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, by President Clinton in 1995. His leadership is still felt today.

Mr. FLAKE. I continue to reserve my time.

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I would now like to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND).

Mr. KIND. I thank my good friend from California for yielding me this time.

Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from California and my friend from Arizona for managing this resolution. I proudly rise in support of the resolution commemorating not only the 40th anniversary of an important day in all of our lives, Earth Day, but especially to pay tribute to the father of Earth Day, a political hero of mine as a kid growing up, a member of the greatest generation who fought and served during the Second World War, a political icon still in the State of Wisconsin and throughout the Nation and the rest of the world, former Senator Gaylord Nelson.

I am sure that if young Gaylord was told as a kid growing up in Clear Lake, Wisconsin, which is close to my wife's hometown of Cumberland, a population of less than 400 people, that he would one day rise and become the father of the modern environmental movement and the creator of Earth Day, which is celebrated in over 167 Nations throughout the globe on April 22nd, he would have thought you were kidding. It's a true American success story. He lived the all-American story.

And he left an important legacy and a reminder to all of us as inhabitants on this beautiful, yet very fragile planet of ours, that we are mere stewards of the precious resources that the good Lord has saw fit to bless us with. And as stewards of those resources, we have a special moral and personal responsi-

bility to utilize those resources reasonably and sensibly, so we leave a legacy to future generations to also be good stewards of this planet.

I am proud to represent a congressional district in western Wisconsin which was actually home to the very first watershed project throughout the United States in the Coon Valley area, which became the model of what is today the current conservation title of our farm bills. The title is based on voluntary and incentive-based land and water conservation programs that our farmers are able to utilize in order to set up sound land and water management practices on their farms. And it has spread nationwide.

Gaylord Nelson and his wife were the subject of a chapter in Tom Brokaw's book *The Greatest Generation*. Like everyone in this Great Generation, he was an ordinary individual who did extraordinary things.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. SPEIER. I yield the gentleman 1 additional minute.

Mr. KIND. Today I still miss Senator Nelson greatly. As a young Member of Congress, I always made a point of calling him in his office in Washington at least once a week just to discuss the issues of the day, get his feedback on the policy proposals that we were working on and seek his guidance.

I am still a proud member of the Natural Resources Committee. With the work I was doing there, I was able to work very closely with Gaylord Nelson, trying to enhance his legacy. But he knew, as I hope all of us realize, that Earth Day is not an event to be celebrated just one day a year, but a mission to practice each and every day throughout the year. It is that message especially to the younger generation that I think is his greatest legacy, where the Earth Day lessons are being taught in schools and school rooms throughout the Nation and throughout the world at least on April 22nd, if not more throughout the year.

I commend the leadership and especially Representative OBEY for bringing this resolution and encourage my colleagues to support it.

Mr. FLAKE. Madam Speaker, in closing, I just want to urge my colleagues to support the resolution. It's a great cause. And certainly I think we all owe it to our constituents and to the country to recognize the stewardship that we have to ensure that we pass on the planet as good as we got it or better to future generations.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, today is the 40th anniversary of Earth Day, the annual global celebration of the bounty and natural wonders of our planet and a reminder of our individual and collective obligation to be good stewards of it.

Managing our natural resources and minimizing the impact of human activity on the environment are both profound and fundamental responsibilities. The very survival of the human race depends upon our ability to effectively fulfill these responsibilities.

Since April 22, 1970, people have gathered on this day to renew their commitment to making our planet greener and healthier, and to encourage their leaders to take action on critical environmental policy issues.

We have made substantial progress since that first Earth Day, when twenty million eco-pioneers brought environmental protection to the forefront of the national consciousness. Their advocacy gave birth to the green movement and a green generation that has been critical in shaping our society. The green generation spearheaded community support for passage of the laws that we still rely on to improve the quality of the air we breathe, ensure the availability of clean drinking water, and protect endangered species and fragile ecosystems.

But this struggle is not over. We continue to face significant environmental challenges, and as a nation, we must pursue policies that promote responsible stewardship here at home and provide leadership in the global arena as well.

Perhaps our most acute challenge—and one we have ignored for far too long—is climate change. This is no idle threat: Scientists tell us that we must reduce emissions by roughly 80 percent by mid-century to avoid a dangerous climate tipping point. As the world's largest per capita emitter of greenhouse gases, our nation has a unique responsibility to work towards a comprehensive emissions solution that includes a 21st century energy policy. We must find the political will to do just that.

We took a significant step forward in December, when President Obama played a critical role in establishing the international Copenhagen Accord. Although this is a non-binding agreement, it represents a major departure from the prior Administration's abandonment of the Kyoto Protocol, and demonstrates our nation's commitment to being a partner and a leader in finding a global solution to climate change.

I applaud the President's leadership on this issue and urge him to continue working with Congress to develop comprehensive, science-based legislation to provide climate and energy security for us and the generations to come. The House has approved robust legislation to address this issue, and today I call on my Senate colleagues to move forward as well.

I also urge the President and my colleagues in Congress to continue to promote policies that safeguard the environment and facilitate sound management of our natural resources. And I encourage all Americans to renew their commitment to the environment and to take actions in their individual lives to reflect it.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 255 to commemorate the 40th anniversary of Earth Day and to honor its founder, the late Senator Gaylord Nelson.

Every year we celebrate Earth Day to raise awareness about environmental issues and recognize the importance of protecting our planet. As we become a more modern and developed society, it is becoming increasingly necessary to take steps to ensure a green future. In truth, we have come a long way in the last 40 years with regard to protecting our environment, but we still have a long way to go to make sustainable development a priority.

Of particular importance is the need to protect two of our most precious resources—

clean water and clean air—which every person on this planet has an interest in protecting. In the United States, protections over waters and wetlands are essential to ensuring a long-term, sustainable water supply for the American people. When rivers and streams are placed at risk of pollution, many cities and communities which depend on these water bodies for sources of drinking water are equally placed at risk.

Additionally, clean air is one of the most basic necessities of life, and pollutants in our air can have devastating effects on both our health and our environment. Numerous studies that have shown that air pollution can cause respiratory and cardiovascular problems as well as result in asthma and other long-term and chronic health conditions. We must work to ensure that our air is clean and not polluted for the betterment of all people.

Madam Speaker, truly, the coming generations deserve to inherit a healthy planet with clean drinking water and clean air, and it is up to us to ensure that they do. I encourage all of our citizens to take a moment on this holiday to reflect on what they can do as individuals to help the environment, not just for us, but for people around the world as well. I ask my fellow colleagues to join me today in supporting this resolution that recognizes Earth Day and will help raise awareness for the need to protect our environment.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 255, to commemorate the 40th anniversary of Earth Day and to honor its founder, Senator Gaylord Nelson from Wisconsin. I was in Congress in 1969 when Senator Nelson proposed a national teach-in so that people across the country could show their elected officials that they wanted environmental protections to be included in the national agenda. The following spring, it is estimated that nearly 20 million Americans participated in environmental awareness and education events in schools and communities across the country on the first Earth Day. Like the civil rights movement and antiwar movement earlier that decade, this grassroots movement brought this issue to the forefront, and impacted the national political agenda.

Our country has made great strides in protecting our environment in the past 40 years. The Environmental Protection Agency was founded, and several historic bills including the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act were passed to address pollution and environmental degradation. Since then, the Federal Government has instituted additional measures to protect our air, land, food, water and homes from chemicals, waste and pollution.

The 111th Congress has continued this legacy to preserve and protect our resources by focusing on increasing energy efficiency. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act invested billions of dollars in clean energy, green jobs and the research and development of innovative equipment, including advanced battery technology. I was proud to support the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009, which would reduce pollution and ensure that our country becomes more energy independent by utilizing renewable energy and domestic alternatives to foreign oil.

While much progress has been made, many of the environmental issues that worried Senator Nelson still exist and new ones have emerged. Additionally, it is common to see the

devastating impacts of environmental degradation in low-income urban and rural communities, where residents face health issues related to industrialization and the mismanagement of waste.

I encourage all Americans to take small steps to make their households, places of work and neighborhoods more environmentally friendly. I look forward to working with my colleagues on policy that echo Senator Nelson's mission of improving the health of environment so that our air, land and water are protected for future generations, regardless of where they live.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 40th anniversary of Earth Day and, in particular, to honor Earth Day's Founder, the late Senator Gaylord Nelson (D-WI), whom I am proud to say chose to spend the latter part of his career in my hometown of Kensington, MD.

Senator Nelson's public service spanned more than three decades, including two terms as Governor and three terms as Senator from the state of Wisconsin. Although active on issues ranging from civil rights to consumer protection to the Vietnam War, Senator Nelson was perhaps best known for his pioneering advocacy on behalf of the environment. He cosponsored the 1964 Wilderness Act, and successfully fought for legislation protecting the Appalachian Trail, banning DDT and curbing phosphate detergent.

In 1970, Senator Nelson's call for a day of education and action on behalf of the environment drew 20 million people from across the United States to participate in the very first Earth Day. Since then, Earth Day has grown to become an international event involving 500 million people from 175 countries around the world.

After leaving the Senate in 1981, Senator Nelson joined the Wilderness Society as its first Chairman and continued to serve the organization until shortly before his passing in 2005. Senator Nelson received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Clinton in 1995 and was recognized along with President Teddy Roosevelt as one of the two most important political figures of the 20th Century by the Audubon Society. He was an extraordinary public servant, who was famously well liked by colleagues from across the political spectrum.

As we celebrate the 40th anniversary of Earth Day tomorrow, it is fitting that we pause to remember the vision of its remarkable founder Gaylord Nelson and recommit ourselves to the necessity of a healthy and sustainable environment that was his life's work.

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

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I would just like to echo the words of the great leaders from Wisconsin who have spoken already on this. We are indeed stewards. Earth Day should be something we celebrate every day. And this, the 40th anniversary of Earth Day, is a great time to start.

I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 255, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SILVER STAR SERVICE BANNER DAY

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 855) expressing support for designation of May 1 as "Silver Star Service Banner Day".

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 855

Whereas the House of Representatives has always honored the sacrifices made by the wounded and ill members of the Armed Forces;

Whereas the Silver Star Service Banner has come to represent the members of the Armed Forces and veterans who were wounded or became ill in combat in the wars fought by the United States;

Whereas the Silver Star Families of America was formed to help the American people remember the sacrifices made by the wounded and ill members of the Armed Forces by designing and manufacturing Silver Star Service Banners and Flags for that purpose;

Whereas the sole mission of the Silver Star Families of America is to evoke memories of the sacrifices of members and veterans of the Armed Forces on behalf of the United States through the presence of a Silver Star Service Banner in a window or a Silver Star Flag flying;

Whereas the sacrifices of members and veterans of the Armed Forces on behalf of the United States should never be forgotten; and

Whereas May 1 would be an appropriate date to designate as "Silver Star Service Banner Day": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives supports the designation of "Silver Star Service Banner Day" and calls upon the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) will each control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. SPEIER. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 855, a bill supporting Silver Star Service Banner Day. H. Res. 855 was introduced by my colleague, the gentleman from Missouri, Representative ROY BLUNT, on October 22, 2009. The measure was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government