

Reform, which reported it favorably by unanimous consent on April 14 of this year. The measure enjoys the support of over 50 cosponsors.

Madam Speaker, our Nation continues to face two long and difficult wars, and I am very glad that we can take time now to honor the men and women of our Armed Services. They deserve our thoughts, our prayers, and our support.

The Silver Star Families of America understand this well and work hard to help the American people recognize the sacrifices made by the wounded and ill members of the Armed Forces. Tens of thousands of American troops are fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan, risking their lives in service to our country. They also risk their lives in deployments throughout the world. I ask my colleagues to join me in giving thanks to them and to their families for the sacrifices they continue to make and for their service to our country.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FLAKE. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT).

Mr. BLUNT. I thank the gentleman from Arizona for yielding time.

Madam Speaker, I thank the committee for reporting this resolution to the floor. I want to recognize, along with my other colleagues, the Silver Star Families of America. This bill does that. It designates the 1st of May as Silver Star Service Banner Day.

Silver Star Families of America is not only reflective of all the families that have helped, but it is also a nonprofit organization that has been formed dedicated to supporting and assisting those whose families have earned the Silver Star, those who have been wounded, those who have become ill in a combat zone, recognizing those members of the Armed Forces and their families across all branches of the services, and Madam Speaker, for all wars.

This group was founded in Missouri's Seventh Congressional District in 2004. The Silver Star Flag and the Silver Star Banner are symbols of remembrance and honor for those wounded during battle, those who incurred an illness during battle, and those who have honorably served in the Armed Forces during that moment of sacrifice, and a sacrifice that is almost always shared by their family and their loved ones.

□ 1345

Thousands of cities and counties throughout the country have issued proclamations to set aside May 1 to honor our current troops, our veterans and their families, as well as Silver Star families and Gold Star families.

Last April, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Mike Mullen, recognized Silver Star families of America for their support of servicemembers and those who have earned the Silver Star.

Madam Speaker, I thank the committee for bringing this to the floor. I ask my colleagues to join me in support of House Resolution 855 which, of course, is a resolution in support of those service people and their families who have earned this recognition, who show this banner, who understand the implications of the Silver Star flag and the Silver Star banner.

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I now yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON), the great leader.

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, as an original cosponsor, I rise today in support of H. Res. 855, a resolution that expresses our Nation's appreciation for the sacrifices that have been made by so many dedicated servicemen and -women who've worn the uniform of the United States.

It's no small thing to raise one's hand and swear to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States, and it's the responsibility of every American to recognize that servicemembers who have been wounded or become ill in the line of duty have paid an especially high price for our freedoms.

I make it a point to visit servicemembers who are recovering at Walter Reed, and I know so many of my colleagues do just the same. Oftentimes, a spouse or a parent is there lending support and anxious to take their loved one home. I'm humbled by the strength and character of these servicemembers and their caregivers.

The Silver Star Families of America deserves recognition for the tremendous job its members do in reminding us of the debt of gratitude our Nation owes to wounded and ill servicemembers, veterans, and their families. By supporting the designation of May 1 as Silver Star Service Banner Day, Members of the House add the collective voice to this body of good works.

I thank my colleague and my friend, ROY BLUNT, for introducing this resolution.

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FLAKE. If the gentlelady has no additional speakers, I'm prepared to close.

Madam Speaker, it's important for us to take a moment to extend our gratitude to our loved ones who have endured the grief of losing loved ones, those brave soldiers in the battlefield who become wounded or sick. And I thank the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) for his comments. We're all grateful for the Silver Star Families of America, for their devotion, dedication to keeping us all aware of the sacrifices made by the wounded and ill members of the armed services.

I ask all Members to support this resolution supporting Silver Star Service Banner Day.

I rise today in support of House Resolution 855, expressing support for the designation of May 1st as 'Silver Star Service Banner Day'.

Recognizing all of our service members throughout the year is our privilege and desig-

nating May 1, 2010 as Silver Star Service Banner Day is an additional way to honor the wounded and ill members of our Armed Forces.

The Silver Star Families of America, a nonprofit organization, is dedicated to keeping the memories of these hero's sacrifices in the hearts and minds of all of us through the presence of a Silver Star displayed in a window or the Service Flag flying for all to see.

It is important for us to take a moment to extend our gratitude to their loved ones who have endured the grief of losing a loved one or the difficulty of caring for these brave soldiers as the Silver Star Families do.

Those who have been wounded or have died are members of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard. They deserve our continued gratitude for all that they have given on our behalf. To this end, the Silver Star Service Banner has come to represent their bravery.

We are grateful to the Silver Star Families of America for their devotion and dedication to keeping all of us aware of the sacrifices made by the wounded and ill members of the Armed Forces, therefore, I ask all members to join me in supporting May 1, 2010 as Silver Star Service Banner Day.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I had the privilege, and I call it a privilege, earlier this year to travel to Kuwait, Yemen, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and then to Germany, where I had the privilege of meeting our troops who are committed, passionate, have an incredible love of country, and then to visit those wounded warriors at our facility in Germany. And I must say that there's nothing like having that interpersonal connection, that opportunity to make us realize the extraordinary sacrifices that are being made every single day.

So it is fitting that we have this resolution before us, and I urge all my colleagues to support this measure.

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 resolution, H. Res. 855, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES FOR VICTIMS OF TESORO REFINERY FIRE IN ANACORTES, WASHINGTON

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1262) expressing condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of the victims of the fire at the Tesoro refinery in Anacortes, Washington.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1262

Whereas the people of the State of Washington experienced a tragedy on April 2, 2010, when a fire occurred at the Tesoro refinery in Anacortes, Washington;

Whereas a team of seven Tesoro employees was working in the refinery's naphtha hydrotreater when the fire occurred;

Whereas three of these individuals died immediately in the fire, three more died of their injuries, and one more remains in intensive care after suffering severe burns;

Whereas the fire was quickly brought under control by Tesoro's fire control team and local first responders;

Whereas Federal, State and local government agencies, including the Chemical Safety Board, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries, are conducting investigations to determine the cause of the incident and to ensure that the risk of similar incidents is minimized in the future;

Whereas the Tesoro refinery in Anacortes has temporarily shut down due to the damage sustained; and

Whereas Tesoro and the Skagit Community Foundation have established the Tesoro Anacortes Refinery Survivors Fund, and the United Steelworkers Local 12-591 has established the Tesoro Incident Family Fund to support the victims of the fire and their families: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of the victims of the fire at the Tesoro refinery in Anacortes, Washington;

(2) honors Matthew C. Bowen, Darrin J. Hoines, Daniel J. Aldridge, Kathryn Powell, Lew Janz, and Donna Van Dreumel who died as a result of the fire;

(3) offers best wishes to Matt Gumbel, who suffered severe burns and is recovering at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle; and

(4) expresses sympathies to the people of Anacortes, the entire State of Washington, and the Nation who grieve for the victims.

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.

I rise in support of H. Res. 1262. This measure expresses condolences to the families, friends and loved ones of the victims of the fire at the Tesoro refinery in Anacortes, Washington.

This resolution was introduced by my colleague, the gentleman from Washington, Representative RICK LARSEN, on April 15, 2010. The measure was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which worked with leadership to get it to the floor quickly. The measure has the bipartisan support of over 60 Members of the House.

Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the sponsor of this resolution, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN).

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the chairman and ranking member of the House Oversight and Government Reform committee for their assistance in bringing the resolution to the House floor.

Madam Speaker, on April 2, Washington State experienced a tragedy when a fire occurred in the Naphtha Hydrotreater unit at the Tesoro oil refinery in Anacortes, Washington, in my district. Six workers died as a result of the fire. One more was burned and remains in intensive care.

I offer my condolences to the families, the friends and loved ones of the victims of this fire. My thoughts and prayers are with Tesoro's employees and everyone from the city of Anacortes and the State of Washington and our country who grieve for the workers who died and who suffered injury.

I encourage my colleagues to join with me in supporting this resolution to honor the lives of Matthew Bowen, Darrin Hoines, Dan Aldridge, Kathryn Powell, Donna Van Dreumel and Lew Janz.

This resolution also expresses the best wishes of Congress to Matt Gumbel, who was severely burned in the fire and is currently in serious condition at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, Washington. I hope that Matt recovers as quickly as possible from these terrible injuries.

And earlier this week, Madam Speaker, I received a letter from the CEO of Tesoro and the chair of United Steelworkers Local 12-591 expressing support for this resolution. And I'd like to enter this letter in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Multiple Federal, State and local agencies, including the Chemical Safety Board, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries, are currently investigating the cause of the fire. I strongly support the work they are doing to help us understand what happened and how to prevent a similar accident in the future.

And although most Americans don't associate northwest Washington with oil and gas, Skagit and Whatcom Counties in my district have been home to major oil refineries for over five decades. The four refineries in northwest Washington process a combined 500,000 barrels of oil a day. These refineries are central to the local economy, employing nearly 2,500 people and supplying over \$200 million in wages to workers and contractors.

The refining industry is inherently hazardous. As one refinery employee in my district put it, "We don't bake cookies; we bake oil."

That being said, preventing accidents that harm workers is vitally important. As the fire at the Tesoro refinery in Anacortes fades from newspaper

headlines, we must remain sharply focused on worker safety, at the Tesoro refinery in Anacortes and at refineries and industrial sites around the country.

While it's not possible to prevent all refinery accidents, we need to learn from what happened in Anacortes. We need to make sure that we are doing everything we can to reduce the risk of similar accidents in the future.

So I urge my colleagues to join with me in supporting this resolution expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives to those who lost families, friends and loved ones in this terrible, terrible tragedy.

APRIL 20, 2010.

Hon. RICK LARSEN,
U.S. Congress,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN LARSEN: The Tesoro Corporation, United Steelworkers Local 12-591, and our family of employees wish to express our collective gratitude for your Resolution being considered in the U.S. House of Representatives that expresses condolences for and honors the victims of the recent tragic fire at our Anacortes, Washington facility. We are deeply touched by your concern and that of your colleagues in the House. Please know that we welcome and appreciate the comfort your words provide to all those affected.

BRUCE SMITH,
Chairman & CEO,
Tesoro Corporation.
WALTER CLEVE,
United Steel Workers
Union, Local 12-591
Unit Chair.

Mr. FLAKE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN) for introducing this resolution. And I urge my colleagues to support it.

We want to express our condolences to the families and the friends and loved ones of those who perished in the fire and wish a speedy recovery to the one who is still injured.

We want to make sure also that this fire is investigated and we, to the extent possible, can make sure that it doesn't happen again.

And so I want to encourage all my colleagues to support this important resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I now yield 2 minutes to the Representative from Wisconsin, Representative TAMMY BALDWIN.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) for recognizing me out of order to speak to a previous resolution.

Many years ago Gaylord Nelson, from my home State of Wisconsin, had a vision. He envisioned a world where our pristine oceans and lakes are protected, our air clean to breathe, and our planet preserved for future generations.

Being the wise man that Senator Nelson was, he recognized the environmental degradation that everyone around him was acknowledging, everyone, that is, but the political establishment, which wasn't interested in action.

He knew that if the environment was to have its place on the political agenda, it had to be brought there by the people. So he announced that there would be a nationwide grassroots demonstration on behalf of the environment. He called it Earth Day. At the time it was a gamble, but worth the try.

No one expected the turnout: 20 million people came out to participate. The sheer numbers gathered the attention of the Congress, and it was those voices that led to congressional action on some of our most treasured environmental laws: the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

I commend my colleague from Wisconsin, Mr. OBEY, for bringing the resolution to honor the late Senator Gaylord Nelson to Wisconsin to the floor. And the resolution also commemorates the 40th anniversary of Earth Day.

In the words of Senator Nelson: "Our goal is an environment of decency, quality, and mutual respect for all human beings and all other living creatures.

I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind people in the Chamber, people in the gallery, that little whispers turn into loud roars. Business is being conducted on the floor.

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I yield to my good friend, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE), as much time as he may consume.

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, I would like to speak in favor of this resolution that commemorates and honors those who were lost in the Tesoro explosion in Washington State. And this is something that is felt, I think, nationwide. And I appreciate RICK LARSEN and his leadership bringing this for the Congress to consider this tragedy. And the reason is maybe twofold. One, we really look forward to a day in this country that our loved ones can go to work without the fear of them not coming home in these jobs, and we hope that this will help focus Congress and our continuing efforts to improve safety in the workplace for our loved ones.

My son worked on a pipeline project that terminated at the Tesoro facility and got to know some of these hard-working people, and they were aware of the dangers associated with the product they work with. And he was impressed, and I think we're all impressed, with their dedication to their jobs.

And I just want to express from the folks I represent our empathy for the families.

I also want to express my admiration for a fellow named Matt Gumbel who today is recovering at Harborview Hospital from his burns and doing well and is very impressed, as I just read some comments on his Web site of people

saying, if Matt could get 100 feet following his injuries to the control room to help get help for the people who were injured, he'll be able to get through this. So we're thinking of him. And we commend this resolution to the Chamber.

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

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I again urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this measure, 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 resolution, H. Res. 1182.

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.

CONGRATULATING 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1182) congratulating Radford University on the 100th anniversary of the university.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1182

Whereas Radford University was chartered on March 10, 1910, by the Commonwealth of Virginia as the State Normal and Industrial School for Women at Radford;

Whereas Radford University was chartered to prepare teachers to educate the people of the United States;

Whereas Radford University has grown substantially in scope and quality since the day on which the university was chartered;

Whereas Radford University was renamed the Radford State Teachers College in 1924 and the Women's Division of Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1944, respectively;

Whereas Radford University was renamed Radford College in 1964 when the relationship between the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and Radford University ended;

Whereas Radford College was renamed Radford University in 1979;

Whereas, since the founding of the university, Radford University has provided thousands of students with the benefits of a Radford education;

Whereas Radford University graduates have made meaningful and lasting contributions to society through service, including service in—

- (1) education;
- (2) the sciences;
- (3) business;
- (4) health and human services;
- (5) government;
- (6) the arts and humanities; and
- (7) other endeavors;

Whereas Radford University is a productive and vital academic community with thousands of students;

Whereas the students of Radford University approach university life with an enthusiasm for learning and personal development;

Whereas the brilliant faculty of Radford University is committed to the highest ideals of academic scholarship and the advancement of society;

Whereas the devoted administrators and staff members of Radford University strive to foster an environment that supports the noble work of the university;

Whereas the centennial of Radford University is an appropriate time for faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends—

(1) to unite in recognition of the past achievements of Radford University with pride; and

(2) to consider ways to create an even more successful university during the century ahead;

Whereas Radford University celebrates the culture of service of the university through a program entitled "Centennial Service Challenge" that invites every member of the campus and extended university community to engage in, and document community service in honor of, the centennial; and

Whereas Radford University will observe a Centennial Charter Day Celebration on March 24, 2010, and host numerous other academic programs and arts and cultural events throughout 2010 to commemorate the event: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives commends Radford University on the 100th anniversary of the university.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SABLAN. I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on House Resolution 1182 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands?

There was no objection.

Mr. SABLAN. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1182, which celebrates Radford University for 100 years of leadership and service in higher education. Radford was originally founded in 1910 as the State Normal and Industrial School for Women, tracing its roots back to the expansion of the Virginia public higher education system. While its name and composition has evolved over the years, Radford's commitment to academic excellence has never wavered.

Radford's beautiful 177-acre campus is located in the New River Valley between the Blue Ridge and Allegheny mountains. The university is home to nearly 8,000 undergraduates and over 1,000 graduate students, and these students have access to a diversity of academic and extracurricular programs.

The university is comprised of six undergraduate and one graduate college which offer 153 degree options. Additionally, Radford also has 19 NCAA Division I teams, 400 intramural sports teams, and over 200 clubs and organizations.