

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, 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 gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1067.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING CLOSE U.S.-U.K. RELATIONSHIP

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1303) recognizing the close friendship and historical ties between the United Kingdom and the United States, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1303

Whereas the Magna Carta, which subjected the English monarch and the English people to the rule of law and is considered one of the most important documents in the legal history of the United Kingdom and the United States, was recognized in 1957 by the American Bar Association for its importance to United States law and constitutionalism and remains on permanent display at the National Archives and Records Administration Building in Washington, DC;

Whereas the English philosopher John Locke, through his monumental works on social contract theory and natural law entitled "An Essay Concerning Human Understanding", "First Treatise on Government", and "Second Treatise on Government", greatly influenced the American Revolution;

Whereas Scottish economist Adam Smith's "Wealth of Nations" greatly contributed to the competition and free market principles of the United States;

Whereas the English lawyer Sir William Blackstone's "Commentaries on the Laws of England" had a lasting influence on the development of United States common law and legal institutions;

Whereas the arrival of more than 1,500,000 members of the United States Armed Forces in the United Kingdom in the 1940s was a turning point in World War II that further solidified the close friendship between the United Kingdom and the United States;

Whereas Sir Winston Churchill, who heroically and skillfully guided the United Kingdom through World War II, articulated the close ties between the United Kingdom and the United States when he was recognized by becoming the first Honorary Citizen of the United States on April 9, 1963, stating, "In this century of storm and tragedy I contemplate with high satisfaction the constant factor of the interwoven and upward progress of our peoples. Our comradeship and our brotherhood in war were unexampled. We stood together, and because of that fact the free world now stands. Nor has our partnership any exclusive nature: the Atlantic community is a dream that can well be fulfilled to the detriment of none and to the enduring benefit and honour of the great democracies.";

Whereas, on August 14, 1941, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Prime Min-

ister Winston Churchill agreed to the Atlantic Charter which set forward principles meant to serve as the precursor for the formation of the United Nations;

Whereas when Sir Winston Churchill resigned from his second tour of duty as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, he warned his cabinet to "never be separated from the Americans";

Whereas the United Kingdom and the United States were founding Members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and were 2 of the original 12 countries to sign the North Atlantic Treaty on April 4, 1949, in Washington, DC;

Whereas the special relationship between the United Kingdom and the United States was further strengthened by the coordination of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and President Ronald Reagan whose firm opposition to communism ultimately led to the fall of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Iron Curtain;

Whereas after the September 11, 2001, attacks, Prime Minister Tony Blair immediately flew to the United States to express solidarity with the United States, and President George W. Bush declared in a speech before Congress that the United States "has no truer friend than Great Britain";

Whereas the United Kingdom joined forces with the United States against the Taliban in Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom from the first attacks in October 2001 and permitted the United States to fly missions from Diego Garcia, part of the British Indian Ocean Territory;

Whereas, as of March 15, 2010, a total of 273 United Kingdom military and civilian personnel have died while serving in Afghanistan since the start of operations;

Whereas there are approximately 1,700 United Kingdom military and civilian personnel currently deployed to assist with the military and reconstruction efforts in Iraq;

Whereas since 2003 the United Kingdom has pledged 744,000,000 British pounds toward reconstruction efforts in Iraq;

Whereas 179 United Kingdom military and civilian personnel have died in Iraq since the beginning of the campaign in March 2003;

Whereas, on August 17, 2006, the United States and the United Kingdom introduced a draft United Nations Security Council resolution for the "expeditious deployment" of a United Nations peacekeeping force in Darfur, Sudan, and since have worked collaboratively to press for full implementation of the United Nations-Africa Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) mandate;

Whereas the United Kingdom Foreign & Commonwealth Office reports that the United States is the largest source of foreign direct investment in the United Kingdom's economy, while the United Kingdom is the largest single investor in the United States economy and, according to the United States Trade Representative, the United Kingdom is one of the European Union countries with the largest foreign direct investment in the United States; and

Whereas the United Kingdom and the United States share a commitment to free speech, democracy, and the rule of law based on the rich history of a longstanding friendship and shared ideals: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the special relationship between the United Kingdom and the United States;

(2) expresses sincere gratitude to the people of the United Kingdom for their generosity, camaraderie, and cooperation with the people of the United States in military operations, foreign assistance, and other joint efforts throughout the world;

(3) acknowledges the importance of the United Kingdom's political philosophy, law, and history on the cultural, political, and legal institutions of the United States; and

(4) looks forward to continued, deepening ties of friendship between the peoples of the United Kingdom and the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) and the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROSELEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members 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 New York?

There was no objection.

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

I rise in strong support of this resolution that recognizes the special relationship and historical ties between the United Kingdom and the United States. Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank my good friend, Congressman LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART from Florida, for introducing this measure.

The United Kingdom and the United States have a long history born of shared values and experiences. British legal and philosophical traditions have greatly influenced American practices while both our nations remain committed to human rights, rule of law, and good governance. Our economies are deeply intertwined, as became particularly evident during the global financial crisis. Indeed, Britain is the largest single investor in our economy, while we are the largest source of foreign direct investment in theirs.

Our two nations also share a proud military history. British and American soldiers have stood shoulder to shoulder throughout the major conflicts of the last 100 years. Together we confronted the challenges of Nazism and communism, while today we are fighting together against the scourge of international terrorism. We remain grateful for Britain's active participation in the military and reconstruction efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In recent months, some in Britain have begun to question this "special relationship," a phrase coined by British Prime Minister Winston Churchill in 1945. As is in the case of all relationships, the dynamic link between the U.S. and the U.K. has evolved over time. However, it is clear that our relationship is unique, vitally important and must continue to be nurtured. The United Kingdom remains an essential ally, a valuable partner and a true friend. All British Prime Ministers and American Presidents have forged effective working relationships in order to confront together the challenges facing the present day.

On May 6, just a little while ago, the British people went to the polls. Yesterday we watched the political drama unfold as a coalition agreement was reached between the Conservative and Liberal Democratic Parties. The United States congratulates and stands ready to foster a strong relationship with Britain's new Prime Minister, David Cameron. This postelection period is an opportune moment to reflect upon the strong ties that bind our nations, to celebrate our friendship, and to recommit ourselves to continued cooperation in the future. Much work needs to be done, and the United States has no better partner in the world than the United Kingdom.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I am so pleased to rise in enthusiastic support of this important resolution, authored by my Florida colleague, the gentleman, Congressman LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART. This resolution recognizes the unsurpassed friendship and abiding special relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom.

Throughout the history of our alliance and our friendship, we have stood by each other with a level of military, economic and diplomatic commitment and coordination of such an unparalleled extent that it has even been referred to as the "special relationship." The United Kingdom has been a true friend of the United States even to the extraordinary measures of sharing and even jointly operating military bases overseas and being one of the few NATO allies in Afghanistan without restrictions on its troops' ability to engage in combat operations.

The United Kingdom has also been a significant partner in efforts to prevent an Iranian nuclear weapons capability and has led efforts to convince the EU to adopt strong sanctions against the Iranian regime. Further, our economic bilateral relationship is without comparison as our nations' common sense of entrepreneurship and strong belief in free market principles has fostered extraordinary levels of trade and resulted in each country being the largest investor in the other's economy.

In recent years, there has been some debate about the state of this special relationship and whether it is as solid today as it was in the days of President Franklin Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston Churchill or in the days of President Ronald Reagan and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. I am, indeed, concerned that some members in each of the three major British political parties have asserted a need to reevaluate our special relationship, citing their perception that the United States has already begun to back away from its close relationship toward the United Kingdom.

I believe, however, Mr. Speaker, that the special nature of our relationship is

not solely dependent upon the level of camaraderie between our political leaders at any given time. It is, instead, based on the bedrock ideals of democracy, of economic liberty, and respect for the rule of law that we both share.

As with all close allies, it is incumbent upon both parties to continually work to improve and to strengthen the relationship, but I think that there is something of substance in our two countries' relationship, something based on those shared principles and cultural connections that endures.

With passage of this resolution, Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives will send a strong message of our commitment to that special relationship with our closest ally across the Atlantic, the United Kingdom. I, therefore, urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I am now very pleased to yield such time as he may consume to my good friend, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART), the ranking member on the Rules Subcommittee on Legislative and Budget Process and the author of the resolution before us.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. I thank my dear friend Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN and also my friend Mr. ENGEL for their help in getting this resolution to the floor and their strong support of this important resolution.

I take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to congratulate the United Kingdom's new Prime Minister, David Cameron, as he, as head of the Conservative Party, forms a new government with the Liberal Democrats. We wish him and all of the British people all the best. It's important that we in Congress take the time to recognize that great friend and ally of the United States. It is important that we recognize the special friendship and all that the United Kingdom has done to stand with the United States.

This resolution recognizes the special relationship between the United Kingdom and the United States. It points out the strong influence that English philosophers, economists, jurists and other leaders have had on American political thought, on the United States legal system and on our government. This strong special relationship, founded on our shared history, continues into the modern day. The United Kingdom has repeatedly demonstrated the strength of its camaraderie with the United States.

Within the last decade, the United Kingdom joined forces with us against the Taliban as part of Operation Enduring Freedom, and U.K. soldiers have fought alongside American soldiers in Iraq. The United Kingdom has suffered a tragic loss of life as a result. As of March, 273 U.K. military and civilian personnel have given their lives in Afghanistan, and 179 have given the last full measure of devotion in Iraq.

I am very proud, Mr. Speaker, to have introduced this resolution, high-

lighting the strong ties that bind our countries together. The United Kingdom is a great friend and ally of the United States. Reflecting on our relationship, Winston Churchill said, "In this century of storm and tragedy, I contemplate with high satisfaction the constant factor of the interwoven and upward progress of our peoples. Our comradeship and our brotherhood in war were unexampled. We stood together, and because of that fact, the free world now stands. Nor has our partnership any exclusive nature: the Atlantic community is a dream that can well be fulfilled to the detriment of none and to the enduring benefit and honor of the great democracies."

During the most trying times in the history of the United States, we have had no truer friend than the United Kingdom. I sincerely hope that our futures will continue to reflect our histories, deepen our friendship and continually refresh our commitment to the shared values of the rule of law and democratic principles. I urge all of my colleagues to support this important and, I believe, timely resolution.

Mr. ENGEL. I reserve the balance of my time.

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Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield myself 30 seconds to point out that today, on the first day in office of a new British Government, let us send to Prime Minister David Cameron and to the people of the United Kingdom a clear message of our friendship and our commitment to this special relationship. I ask my colleagues to join me in support of this important measure.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I would yield 30 seconds to myself to say that anyone who has gone to the United Kingdom, you feel this special relationship as we mentioned on both sides of the aisle. You feel the camaraderie and you do feel the special bond. I would say tongue in cheek, if we look at the British coalition together, they put together a coalition of liberal Democrats and conservatives; and I would say to the gentlewoman from Florida, if we could do that more often, we may learn a lot more from the British.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DEUTCH). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1303, 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.

The title of the resolution was amended so as to read: "Recognizing the special relationship and historic ties between the United Kingdom and the United States."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMENDING THE COMMUNITY OF DEMOCRACIES

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1143) commending the Community of Democracies for its achievements since it was founded in 2000, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1143

Whereas the Community of Democracies is a global intergovernmental organization of democratic countries which aims to promote democracy and strengthen democratic norms and institutions around the world;

Whereas the Community of Democracies was founded in June 2000 at a ministerial conference in Warsaw, Poland;

Whereas the Warsaw Conference was convened upon the initiative of then-Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and then-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland Bronislaw Geremek;

Whereas delegations from 106 countries signed the final declaration of the Warsaw Conference on June 27, 2000, endorsing an agreed list of core democratic principles and practices, and committing themselves to the promotion of those principles and practices;

Whereas since the Warsaw Conference, there have been four subsequent ministerial conferences of the Community of Democracies in Seoul, Korea, in November 2002, Santiago, Chile, in April 2005, Bamako, Mali, in November 2007, and Lisbon, Portugal, in July 2009;

Whereas since its founding the Community of Democracies has been guided by a Convening Group, today consisting of Cape Verde, Chile, Czech Republic, El Salvador, India, Italy, Lithuania, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, South Africa, South Korea, and the United States;

Whereas in June 2009, Lithuania assumed the Presidency of the Community of Democracies for a two-year term;

Whereas upon the initiative of the Government of Poland, the Community of Democracies established a Permanent Secretariat in Warsaw in January 2009, with the goal of strengthening the institution and enabling it to more effectively fulfill its mission of promoting democracy worldwide;

Whereas the Permanent Secretariat in Warsaw has established itself as a vibrant institution of the Community of Democracies, with an active agenda and effective operation;

Whereas under the leadership of the Convening Group, the Lithuanian Presidency, the Permanent Secretariat, and the International Steering Committee, the Community of Democracies has mounted recent efforts to promote democracy in such countries as Iran, Burma, and Afghanistan, and passed resolutions, issued position statements, and committed itself further to missions assisting democratic advancement in those countries and societies which desire it; and

Whereas on the 10th anniversary of the Warsaw Conference, the Community of Democracies will convene in Krakow, Poland, to re-launch the Community and adopt a work program to advance democracy worldwide: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the Community of Democracies for its achievements since it was founded in 2000;

(2) applauds the recent establishment of the Permanent Secretariat of the Community of Democracies and expresses its appreciation to the Government of Poland for the support it has extended to the Permanent Secretariat and for hosting it in Warsaw;

(3) appreciates the energy and initiative that the Lithuanian Presidency has committed to the Community of Democracies and its Working Groups; and

(4) extends its best wishes for the success of the Community's ongoing efforts to promote democracy worldwide, and of the Krakow Conference, which will be held on the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Community of Democracies.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which 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 New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution that commends the Community of Democracies for its many achievements since the organization's founding a decade ago, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I wish to thank my good friend, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY), for his leadership in introducing this measure and bringing it forward for our consideration today.

Mr. Speaker, in January 1999, then-Secretary of State Madeleine Albright told the Los Angeles Times that her highest priority before leaving office was to create a global community of democracies. That objective became a reality in June 2000 when she, along with then-Polish Foreign Minister Geremek, convened ministerial delegations from 106 countries in Warsaw to sign a declaration entitled "Toward a Community of Democracies."

This declaration sought to demonstrate methods of support to countries that strive for freedom and democracy. It also established a global, intergovernmental coalition of democratic countries that are committed to promoting democratic rules and strengthening democratic institutions around the world.

I think it is somewhat ironic that this inaugural meeting was in Warsaw, because we know Warsaw has had a long history of being occupied and not being free. Since Warsaw, ministerial conferences have been held in Seoul, Korea; Santiago, Chile; Bamako, Mali; and Lisbon, Portugal. In addition, a Permanent Secretariat was established in Warsaw in order to strengthen the institution and further its mission of democracy promotion.

In early July, on the 10th anniversary of the organization's founding, the Community of Democracies will meet in Krakow, Poland to relaunch the Community and adopt a work program to advance democracy worldwide. This gathering, which will be hosted by Polish Foreign Minister Sikorski, will undoubtedly be one of the most prominent international gatherings of democracy decision-makers this year.

It is fitting that this meeting once again will be held in Poland, not only because it was the location of the Community's founding and a real success story of post-Cold War democratization efforts, but also because the world is grieving with the Polish people following the tragic loss of their President in the plane crash.

As the United States is one of the founding members of the Community and a participant in its convening group, it is appropriate that the House adopt this resolution that commends the Community of Democracies for its achievements and wishes it much success in its upcoming conference.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I also rise in support of this resolution, and I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) for providing us with this timely opportunity to recognize the work of the Community of Democracies. Next month will mark the anniversary of the founding of that intergovernmental organization 10 years ago in Warsaw, Poland.

Unlike the United Nations, the governmental participants in the Community of Democracies are not distinguished merely by the fact that they hold power in a country. They are bound by their commitments to the core democratic principles set out in the Warsaw Declaration, including, among others: the right of citizens to choose their governments through regular, free, and fair elections; freedom of opinion; freedom of expression; freedom of conscience; freedom of religion; freedom of peaceful assembly; freedom of association; the right to be free from arbitrary arrest and detention; and the importance of a competent, independent, and impartial judiciary.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, as outlined in the Seoul ministerial meeting in 2002, the Community has developed criteria and procedures to help ensure that only practicing democracies are participants. Maintaining those standards is critical, as they give the Community a moral authority and a substantive voice that is so badly needed in today's world.

The promise and possibilities of the Community have become even more important at a time when other multilateral bodies have been poisoned by membership without standards. We need look no further than the discredited U.N. Human Rights Council. When