

I rise today with a heavy heart to remember the 11 men that died on the offshore rig Deepwater Horizon. Those men and thousands of them like them, women included, travel out to offshore rigs every day to work hard and provide opportunities for the rest of us to make a living.

As the crisis in the Gulf of Mexico continues to grow, we see shorelines, fisheries, and other economies threatened. This unprecedented event has the entire gulf coast and country watching to see how soon we can end this.

Setting aside the present crisis for a moment, I am proud to stand with Members of this Congress to remember those men who represent a very human face to this tragedy.

I would also like to take a moment to recognize the families of those 11 people. Those men were doing what so many other men and women do in Louisiana every day. They were working to provide a better life for their families while braving difficult and sometimes dangerous conditions to provide domestic energy needed to drive our Nation and our economy. Our thoughts are with these families, and I pray that their grief is not forgotten by the rest of us.

And we should also recognize the courageous work of the emergency responders who fought the blaze and saved lives that night. The loss of those 11 workers is a high cost to their families, and so I ask everyone to please remember the personal side to this tragedy as we move forward. Please keep them in your thoughts and, particularly, keep them in your prayers.

Mr. CAO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to my distinguished colleague and friend from Louisiana (Mr. ALEXANDER).

Mr. ALEXANDER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

All along the gulf coast, there are many communities hundreds of miles from the edge of the water, communities that are filled with families that, for generation after generation, have produced the workers that are required to produce gas and oil in the gulf region. Some of those workers leave home for periods of 7 days, 14 days, perhaps 21 days before coming home. Sadly, some never return home. Families can't be prepared for losing those loved ones, and for that, our hearts and prayers go out in this resolution.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CAO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to my distinguished colleague from the State of Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE).

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from New Orleans for yielding.

This is a sad time for those of us from south Louisiana. It's a sad time especially as we look at what's happening every day as more oil gushes into our marshland, our valuable, fragile ecosystem. But if there is anything

that eclipses the sadness we're experiencing on the coast, it's the loss of those 11 lives, the 11 brave men who died on that Horizon rig, and the families that they left behind. So many of those young men left behind young children and wives who now have to cope with the loss and somehow find a way to move on.

So our prayers go out to those who lost their lives, and their families who are continuing to experience the tragedy that we're all so sorry for experiencing on the gulf coast. So it's a sad time for all of us on the gulf coast, but we want to give a special pause for those who lost their lives and the young children and spouses that they leave behind.

Mr. CAO. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 1347, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Ms. SPEIER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1347.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. SPEIER. 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.

□ 1045

SUPPORTING RV CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION MONTH

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1073) supporting the goals and ideals of RV Centennial Celebration Month to recognize and honor 100 years of the enjoyment of recreational vehicles in the United States.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1073

Whereas 1910 marks the first year of mass-produced, manufactured, motorized campers and camping trailers;

Whereas 1 in 12 households in the United States owns a recreational vehicle, and over 30,000,000 recreational vehicle enthusiasts take part in this affordable and environmentally friendly form of vacationing;

Whereas recreational vehicle vacations allow families in the United States to build stronger relationships, explore the great outdoors, and take part in healthy activities;

Whereas this homegrown industry, including recreational vehicle manufacturers, suppliers, dealers, and campgrounds, employs hundreds of thousands of people in the Nation in good-paying jobs across all 50 States;

Whereas recreational vehicles offer the freedom, comfort, and flexibility to see all

parts of the United States, from historic landmarks and national parks to local campgrounds and sporting events; and

Whereas the 100th anniversary of the introduction of the recreational vehicle into the United States marketplace will be celebrated June 7, 2010, at the RV/MH Hall of Fame and Museum in Elkhart, Indiana: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of RV Centennial Celebration Month to recognize and honor 100 years of enjoyment of recreational vehicles in the United States; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to celebrate this anniversary by taking part in recreational vehicle vacations.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. 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 gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1073, a measure supporting the goals and ideals of RV Centennial Celebration Month.

This measure was introduced by my colleague, the gentleman from Indiana, Representative JOE DONNELLY, on February 4 of this year. It was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which waived consideration of the measure to expedite its consideration on the House floor today. The measure enjoys the support of over 50 Members of the House.

Mr. Speaker, RVing is one of the great American traditions in travel. The 30 million Americans who regularly vacation via their recreational vehicles get to travel far and wide around our country, exploring our majestic landscapes, our national and State parks, and taking part in a healthy, outdoor activity. RVs help them do so at a price affordable to families. There are destinations for RVing across our 50 States, and we can all agree that we'd love for more Americans to visit the places we are most proud of in our communities.

For instance, I'd like for the RVing community to come and set their eyes on the Golden Gate Bridge, on the cable cars, on the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, or on the San Francisco Bay Estuary.

RVs make exploring our great country a practical option for many families. The first RVs came into mass production 100 years ago this June. Let us now take time to mark that significant moment in American history by supporting this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CAO. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1073, supporting the goals and ideals of RV Centennial Celebration Month, to recognize and honor 100 years of enjoyment of recreational vehicles in the United States.

Since 1910, when the first mass-produced, manufactured, motorized campers appeared, people in recreational vehicles still set out to see the country and to enjoy the life of the open road. RVs have steadily gained popularity over the past 100 years. Today, over 30 million recreational vehicle enthusiasts enjoy this pleasant way to vacation. Recreational vehicles offer a way for families to experience all kinds of outdoor activities, especially in our national parks, lakes and oceans. Hundreds of thousands of Americans benefit from this industry, including recreational vehicle manufacturers, dealers and RV campground employees across the United States.

It is the freedom to share the excitement of exploring historical landmarks, of attending sporting events, and of engaging in family camping that explains the appeal of an RV for so many of our citizens.

On June 7, 2010, we will have the opportunity to celebrate the introduction of the recreational vehicle in the United States in Elkhart, Indiana, where the RV/MH Hall of Fame resides. This centennial is found to be a nostalgic celebration of the freedom and enjoyment that RVs have brought to so many Americans in the last 100 years. I support the passage of this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY).

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support of House Resolution 1073, a bipartisan resolution recognizing and supporting the goals of RV Centennial Celebration Month in June 2010.

The first mass-produced, manufactured, motorized campers and camping trailers appeared in the American marketplace for commercial sale in 1910. This resolution seeks to honor and commemorate America's 100 years of enjoyment of RVs. It also offers an opportunity to recognize the workers who make RVs, the entrepreneurs who started these companies and whose passion has created jobs and opportunity for so many people and to recognize the homegrown industry that has developed to support this great American pastime and to provide good-paying jobs for thousands of families.

I have the privilege of representing a large portion of the RV industry. It is crucial to northern Indiana's economy. RV manufacturing has long been a major economic driver in places like Elkhart by directly employing thousands of people in the RV plants and thousands more in suppliers' factories, not to mention its contributions to the local municipal tax base.

The economic importance of RVs and camping extends well beyond my district, of course—to the entire United States. RV manufacturing is big business in Oregon, Iowa and elsewhere. Camping and RV tourism pump millions into our parks and vacation destinations each and every year. For a century, through war and peace, booms and busts and technological fads, RVs have been a mainstay of American highways, campgrounds, sporting events, and driveways.

The RV lifestyle is still going strong. Today, one in 12 American households owns an RV, and over 30 million RVers take part in this affordable and environmentally friendly form of vacationing each year. We all represent families who own RVs and who enjoy the freedom of travel and of the family adventure they provide. Despite the economic ups and downs, RVs allow families an affordable way to travel and to explore this country's amazing natural resources.

This year, the RVing community will celebrate their centennial with a series of events which will culminate a 100th anniversary party hosted on June 7 at the RV Hall of Fame in Elkhart, Indiana. This resolution to recognize June 2010 as RV Centennial Celebration Month provides a fitting endorsement of the 100-year journey of a uniquely American product. This resolution enjoys the support of over 50 bipartisan cosponsors.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and pass House Resolution 1073.

Mr. CAO. I just want to let the gentleman from Indiana know that I grew up in Goshen, Indiana, which is about 20 miles from Elkhart; so I know how important the RV industry is to that area.

Mr. Speaker, with that being said, I would like to ask that all RV owners please spend some time and drive down to Louisiana, especially to New Orleans. We have the best restaurants in the world, the best seafood, and our culture is unequalled.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, again, I would like to urge my colleagues to support this measure honoring the 100 years that RVs have been in production, 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. 1073.

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 ISRAEL ON OECD MEMBERSHIP

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the

resolution (H. Res. 1391) congratulating Israel for its accession to membership in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1391

Whereas Israel first sent an observer delegation to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in 1994, and first began actively seeking to join the OECD in 2000, when it met the OECD's membership requirements relating to industrial and per-capita product criteria;

Whereas in May 2006, the OECD adopted in full the Report by the Working Party on the Implications of Future Enlargement on OECD Governance, stating that expanding membership is vital to the organization;

Whereas Israel has been the most active nonmember country in the OECD, is a member, observer, or ad hoc observer in dozens of working bodies, is party to various OECD declarations, and is already in compliance with multiple OECD standards;

Whereas Israel's tax burden, encompassing income and property taxes, customs duties, value-added taxes, and national insurance, is much lower than in most OECD member states;

Whereas the World Bank ranks Israel among the 30 countries in which it is easiest to do business, and ranks Israel as tied for fourth in ease of getting credit and tied for fifth in protection of investors;

Whereas in 2010, the World Economic Forum ranked Israel 27th out of 133 countries in its Growth Competitiveness Index, and in particular ranked Israel third in quality of scientific research institutions, fourth in utility patents, fifth in strength of investor protection, fifth in the Forum's legal rights index, seventh in life expectancy, ninth in innovation, 15th in financial market sophistication, 15th in availability of the latest technologies, and 15th in judicial independence;

Whereas the World Economic Forum ranked Israel 28th out of 133 countries in its 2009-2010 Networked Readiness Index and 29th out of 121 in its 2009 Enabling Trade Index;

Whereas Israel has carried out far-reaching economic reforms in recent years with respect to taxes, labor, competition, capital markets, pension funds, energy, infrastructures, communications, transport, housing, and other fields, growing its private sector and streamlining its public sector;

Whereas Israel is a world leader in science and technology and is home to the most high-technology start-up companies, scientific publications, and research and development spending per capita;

Whereas membership in the OECD will likely strengthen the position of Israel in the global economy and within international financial institutions, solidify Israel's transition from an emerging market to an advanced economy, and encourage increased foreign direct investment in Israel;

Whereas Israel's accession to membership in the OECD will strengthen the OECD because of Israel's high living standards, free and stable markets, and commitment to democracy, human rights, and freedom;

Whereas Israel's economic and technological standing will likely benefit OECD member states in innovation, in research and development, and in the science and technology, including high-technology, sectors;

Whereas Israel is a strong ally and friend of the United States and supports the United