

seek an Afghanistan in the dark ages, an Afghanistan where people are debilitated by poverty and illiteracy, where democratic elections are unthinkable, where women and girls are murdered simply for trying to go to school, where freedom is a forbidden idea. Such an Afghanistan would again be a safe haven for violent extremist groups like the Taliban and al Qaeda who seek to destroy our Nation and our allies and to plunge civilization itself into darkness. So, Madam Speaker, we continue to strive to prevent such a threatening scenario from becoming a dangerous reality.

In that respect, we owe a great deal of gratitude to the many Americans who have done their part and sacrificed so very much, particularly our men and women in uniform, to build a safe, secure, and free Afghanistan. And we owe gratitude to the courageous humanitarian aid workers who risk their lives as well to save lives and to alleviate the suffering of the Afghan people.

In particular, we owe our thanks to the American aid workers who gave their lives almost 2 months ago—Cheryl Beckett; Brian Carderelli; Thomas Grams; Glen Lapp, who was Congressman PITTS' constituent and friend; Tom Little; and Dan Terry. We mourn their loss, and we send our condolences to their families.

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1661, to honor the lives of the brave and selfless humanitarian aid workers, doctors, and nurses who died in the tragic attack of August 5, 2010, in northern Afghanistan, one of whom was my constituent, Dr. Thomas Grams.

Dr. Grams practiced dentistry in Durango, Colorado, for many years.

Several years ago, he retired from private practice so that he could dedicate his life fulltime to the assistance of residents in developing countries.

Dr. Grams took countless trips to India, Nepal, and Afghanistan to provide care for the indigent residents of these countries.

The focus of Dr. Grams' life was to provide service to others and his mission was to provide access to dental and health care in some of the most remote corners of the world.

Dr. Grams represented Western Colorado and his entire nation with honor.

He exemplified what is best in our country, a strong sense of compassion paired with the will and ability to help those in need.

Dr. Grams' passion for service will be sincerely missed in both Durango and around the world by those he helped.

Our Nation and our world have lost a strong voice for compassion and healing.

In honor of Dr. Grams' legacy, as well as those who were lost with him, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 1661.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1661.

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.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR TRAPPED CHILEAN MINERS

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1662) expressing support for the 33 trapped Chilean miners following the Copiapo mining disaster and the Government of Chile as it works to rescue the miners and reunite them with their families.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1662

Whereas, on August, 5, 2010, the San José copper-gold mine in Copiapó, Chile, collapsed, leaving 33 miners trapped underground;

Whereas Chilean President Sebastián Piñera has made it a national priority to rescue the stranded miners and reunite them with their families;

Whereas the Chilean Ministry of Minerals and Ministry of Health are working tirelessly to rescue the 33 miners and make the necessary preparations to ease them back into society after they are rescued;

Whereas the United States continues to assist in the rescue effort, through the efforts of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, private United States companies, and others who shared expertise on rescue missions and the psychological impact of isolation; and

Whereas, on September 17, 2010, a rescue drill completed a bore hole ahead of schedule raising hopes that the miners may be pulled out earlier than the previous forecasts for early November: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the bravery of the 33 miners trapped in the San José mine in Copiapó, Chile;

(2) expresses solidarity with the stranded miners and their families;

(3) commends the efforts of President Sebastián Piñera and the Government of Chile in their tireless rescue efforts;

(4) commends the efforts by United States Federal agencies and private individuals and entities in responding directly and promptly to Chile's request for advice and expertise to assist in this humanitarian endeavor; and

(5) expresses continued support for the successful rescue, recovery, and reintegration of the 33 miners into Chilean society.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

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

On August 5, 2010, the San Jose copper-gold mine in Copiapo, Chile collapsed, leaving 33 miners trapped 2,300 feet underground. As of today, they have been there for 55 days.

The Chilean President has made the rescue of these stranded miners a national priority. This resolution addresses that deplorable event.

While initial estimates suggested that a complete rescue will take as long as 4 months, recent developments give hope that relief could come for the miners and their families much sooner.

Chilean officials are working tirelessly to rescue the 33 miners, and are making the necessary preparations to ease them back into society post-rescue. In this context, NASA has provided its unique expertise on rescue missions and the psychological impact of isolation. Private U.S. companies such as UPS have also contributed.

Madam Speaker, this resolution expresses solidarity with the stranded miners and their families, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to commend Congressman MACK, the ranking member of the Western Hemisphere Committee, for offering this resolution.

H. Res. 1662 commends the bravery of the 33 trapped miners in Chile who have endured nearly 2 months of unimaginable mental and physical strain following the August 5 collapse of the San Jose copper-gold mine which trapped them one-half mile below ground.

It was believed that these men did not survive the original collapse, but 17 days after the disaster the miners were miraculously discovered to be alive and in fair condition. Quick-thinking and decisive action led the men to take refuge in a shelter where they have been surviving for the last 7 weeks.

The Chilean Government has been working tirelessly to secure the safety of the miners as quickly as possible and to secure their release. In addition, scientists and doctors from NASA, as well as private U.S. engineers and companies, have been instrumental throughout the rescue process and continue to aid in the drilling efforts.

Various supply holes have reached the group to provide them with food, water, health supplies, air, and games to keep the 33 individuals safe and stable.

I rise today in support of House Resolution 1662, which commends the bravery of the 33 trapped miners in Chile who have endured nearly 2 months of unimaginable mental and physical strain following the August 5th collapse of the San José copper-gold mine which trapped them half a mile below ground.

It was believed that the men did not survive the original collapse, but 17 days after the disaster the miners were miraculously discovered to be alive and in fair condition.

Quick thinking and decisive action led the men to take refuge in a shelter where they have been surviving for the last seven weeks.

The Chilean government has been working tirelessly to secure the safety of the miners as quickly as possible.

In addition, scientists and doctors from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA, as well as private U.S. engineers and companies, have been instrumental throughout the rescue process and continue to aid in the drilling efforts.

Various supply holes have reached the group to provide them with food, water, health supplies, air, and games to keep the 33 individuals safe and stable.

Because of the exhausting emotional and physical impact of the situation, psychologists have made it a priority to keep them occupied, and believe it is an integral part of the rescue, and reintegration process when they are finally pulled out.

Happily, recent advancements in the drilling efforts have improved rescue forecasts originally set for November.

I would like to commend President Piñera and the Chilean government for their tireless rescue efforts and again recognize the invaluable contributions of the U.S. agencies and private entities that have been a part of this humanitarian endeavor.

I also would like to extend my heartfelt sentiments to the trapped miners and their families.

Please know that we have you in our hearts and prayers.

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1662, which expresses solidarity with the 33 trapped miners in Chile, whose story we've all been following in the news. Imagine: If we sit riveted to the tireless efforts of the rescue teams, what it must be like in Chile in "Camp Hope" where the families of the stranded miners hold vigil every day. Hope—Esperanza in Spanish—is a powerful force. In fact, the wife of one of the miners has given birth in the days since the collapse. The daughter's name: Esperanza.

Just last week, I met with the Chilean Defense Minister in my office. We spoke of miracles. For 17 days after the mine's collapse, not a shred of evidence existed that the men below were alive. Their families didn't know whether to grieve or to hope. Yet, on August 22, a miracle occurred. Discovering the miners were alive provided an entire country with hope and inspiration. And after a method was engineered to communicate with the trapped miners, my friend, President Sebastian Piñera, broadcast a message to the world from the miners: "We are 33. We are fine."

As we speak, engineers and other experts are leading three simultaneous efforts to rescue the miners. They involve sophisticated heavy machinery and precision drilling equipment, and every inch they descend into the mine must be undertaken with care. The miners are in a precarious situation. But the sense of optimism I observe in Chile is uplifting. The men have created a livable environment down there. They exercise, they pray, they play dominos. They are surviving—but they need the support of their families, their country, and people around the world.

Their rescue is imminent. I am proud that our government has stepped up to help in this difficult, but worthy endeavor. This is not an example of gaining political points or helping a

political ally. This is our government doing what it does best: lending humanitarian support. A handful of medical experts from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration—NASA—are in Chile now. They are providing psychological expertise on the effects of isolation. They will be there when the miners emerge from their temporary homes and will assist in their reintegration. I commend their efforts.

I urge my fellow lawmakers to join me in voting in favor of this resolution, so that these 33 brave souls—whether they rise to the Earth's surface in one week or one month in a metal contraption aptly called "The Phoenix"—their families, and those who collaborated in their rescue know that here in the United States this chamber has taken the time to reflect on the plight of these heroes and express solidarity with them.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1662.

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.

□ 1630

SUPPORTING INAUGURAL USA SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FESTIVAL

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1660) expressing support for the goals and ideals of the inaugural USA Science and Engineering Festival in Washington, D.C., and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1660

Whereas Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education is an essential element of America's future competitiveness in the world;

Whereas advances in technology have resulted in significant improvement in the daily lives of Americans;

Whereas the global economy of the future will require a workforce which is educated in science and engineering specialties;

Whereas a new generation of Americans educated in STEM is crucial to ensure continued economic growth;

Whereas scientific discoveries are critical to curing diseases, solving global challenges, and expanding our understanding of our world;

Whereas it is the sense of the House of Representatives that invigorating the interest of the next generation of Americans in STEM education is necessary to maintain America's global competitiveness;

Whereas nations around the world have held science festivals which have brought to-

gether hundreds of thousands of visitors celebrating science;

Whereas the inaugural 2009 San Diego Science & Engineering Festival attracted more than 500,000 participants and inspired a national effort to promote science and engineering;

Whereas thousands of universities, museums and science centers, STEM professional societies, educational societies, government agencies and laboratories, community organizations, K-12 schools, volunteers, corporate and private sponsors, and nonprofit organizations, have come together to produce the USA Science & Engineering Festival on a nationwide scale in Washington, D.C. in October, 2010;

Whereas the USA Science & Engineering Festival will highlight the important contribution of science and engineering to American competitiveness through exhibits on such topics as human spaceflight, satellites, weather forecasting, and telescopes; and

Whereas the House of Representatives believes scientific research is essential to American competitiveness and events like the USA Science & Engineering Festival promote the importance of scientific research and development to the future of America: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses its support for the goals and ideals of the inaugural USA Science & Engineering Festival to promote science scholarship and an interest in scientific research and development as the cornerstones of innovation and competition in America;

(2) supports festivals such as the USA Science & Engineering Festival which focus on the importance of science and engineering to our every day lives through exhibits in such topics as human spaceflight, weather forecasting, satellite technology, and telescopes;

(3) congratulates all the individuals and organizations whose efforts will make the USA Science & Engineering Festival highlighting American accomplishments in science and engineering possible; and

(4) encourages families and their children to participate in the activities and exhibits which will occur on the National Mall and across America as satellite events to the USA Science & Engineering Festival.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H. Res. 1660, the resolution now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 1660, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of the inaugural USA Science and Engineering Festival. I want to congratulate the gentleman