

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, again let me thank the gentleman from Oregon (Dr. SCHRADER) for introducing this important piece of legislation. And in closing, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting House Resolution 1531 supporting the goals and ideals of World Veterinary Year.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1531.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

HONORING 2500TH ANNIVERSARY OF BATTLE OF MARATHON

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1704) honoring the 2500th anniversary of the Battle of Marathon, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1704

Whereas in 490 BC, Athenian warriors defeated foreign invaders and won against overwhelming odds in one of the most significant battles in human history;

Whereas the Athenian victory helped continue the development of a new form of government called "democracy";

Whereas according to legend, a messenger named Phidippides ran from the battlefield of Marathon, Greece, to Athens 26 miles away to carry news of the victory and it is said, that upon delivering the news to the citizens of Athens, Phidippides died from exhaustion;

Whereas Phidippides' run inspired the spiritual origin of what has become the sport of marathoning;

Whereas the first official marathon race was introduced in the first modern Olympics in 1896 held in Athens, Greece;

Whereas officials from the Boston Athletic Association brought the long distance Olympic running event to Boston, Massachusetts, where it has been run annually since 1897;

Whereas a ceremony took place in Marathon, Greece, in 2007 at the Tomb of the Athenians, the burial site of the Greek warriors who gave their lives defending their country;

Whereas this ceremony created the symbolic Flame of Marathon that embodies the strength of the human spirit, fair competition, and peace;

Whereas Hopkinton, Massachusetts, and Marathon, Greece, have a twin-city relationship, the Flame of Marathon traveled from

Marathon, Greece, and was presented to the Town of Hopkinton in 2008;

Whereas the Flame of Marathon has burned continuously in Hopkinton, Massachusetts, since its arrival in the United States;

Whereas the Flame of Marathon reminds us of the sacrifice of the United States Armed Forces and their families, the defenders of democracy;

Whereas the 35th Marine Corps Marathon received the Flame of Marathon as part of its celebration of the 2500th anniversary of the Battle of Marathon; and

Whereas the Flame of Marathon was displayed at events leading to and including the Marine Corps Marathon in view of 30,000 runners who embodied the marathon spirit as they ran through Washington, DC: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives joins with the Greek Embassy in Washington, DC, the people of Hopkinton, Massachusetts, the people of Marathon, Greece, and the hundreds of thousands of runners participating in marathons throughout the United States, in celebrating the 2500th anniversary of the Battle of Marathon, Greece, one of the most significant battles in human history.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam 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 Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H. Res. 1704 honors the anniversary of the Battle of Marathon, a watershed event in the protection of the then-fledgling form of government we continue to practice to this day and we know as democracy.

As the story goes, a messenger ran 26 miles from Marathon to Athens to deliver news of the Greek victory over the Persians, a feat commemorated today by millions of athletes around the world through the running of marathons.

In this anniversary year, the town of Hopkinton, Massachusetts, the sister city to Marathon, Greece, created "Marathon 2010" to encourage a global celebration of the victory at Marathon and to connect marathoners throughout the world in the shared experience of running.

The commemorative Flame of Marathon was brought from Marathon to Hopkinton nearly 2 years ago as a symbol of the twin cities common heritage as caretakers of the sport of the marathon.

As part of the celebration of the 2500th anniversary, the Marine Corps

Marathon in Washington, D.C., celebrated the military roots of long distance running by receiving the flame in October.

We commend the hundreds of thousands of marathon runners throughout the world who exemplify the words of the philosopher Confucius, a contemporary of the battle who said: "I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand."

We join together with marathoners around the world in celebrating the 2500th anniversary of the Battle of Marathon.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) for introducing this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of the resolution honoring the 2500th anniversary of the Battle of Marathon in ancient Greece. This resolution celebrates the victory in the battle—against all odds—by Greek citizens opposing the overwhelming Persian force in the year 450 B.C.

The Battle of Marathon has been cited by historians as one of the pivotal events in ancient European history. The victory at Marathon marked the end of the Persian invasion of Greece. The following years of peace allowed the Greek city-states and the Greek nation to create the philosophy of democratic rule and establish the arts and sciences for which classical Greece is renowned to this day.

The commitment of the Greek warriors to protect their homeland from Persian invasion summoned within them the strength to withstand the attack through 5 long days of battle, and to finally overcome the invading force.

It was that same commitment to victory, Madam Speaker, that propelled a Greek messenger to run over 26 miles without a break in order to deliver the good news of the victory to the people of Athens. That incredible feat has inspired many in the modern age to emulate that runner's achievement—and I have run one marathon, Madam Speaker—with the first marathon races begun in 1896 and following that runner's course from Marathon to Athens.

I want to thank Mr. MCGOVERN for sponsoring this very timely resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the author of the bill, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN).

Mr. MCGOVERN. I want to begin by thanking the gentleman from Florida for not only yielding me the time but for his service here in Congress. He has been an incredible Member, and I look forward to his return.

As well, I thank my friend, my colleague from New Jersey, for his comments.

I would also like to thank Chairman BERMAN and Ranking Member ROSLEHTINEN for their leadership and support of this bill.

I also appreciate the support of Speaker PELOSI, Majority Leader HOYER and the bipartisan cochairs of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, Representatives MALONEY and BILIRAKIS.

Madam Speaker, I was very proud to introduce H. Res. 1704, along with my good friend and colleague, JOHN SARBANES of Maryland, to honor the 2,500th anniversary of the Greek Battle of Marathon.

Every time someone runs a marathon race, he is commemorating one of the most momentous events in Western history, the Battle of Marathon, fought in 490 B.C. A few thousand Athenian and other Greek soldiers destroyed a huge force of invading Persians on the plain of Marathon, a victory widely believed to have ensured the democratic legacy of Western culture. A soldier charged with carrying the important news of victory back to Athens literally ran his heart out to deliver that message—and so the spirit of the marathon was born.

There is a deep connection between the nation of Greece, the city of Marathon, Greece, the Massachusetts town of Hopkinton, and the city of Boston. Hopkinton, Massachusetts, which I am proud to represent, is where each year the Boston Marathon begins. In 2008, in preparation for the 2,500th anniversary, the city of Marathon asked Hopkinton to be the guardian of the Marathon Flame, and brought it to Hopkinton, its sister city, in order to embody the spirit of Marathon all over the United States.

This year, as part of the 2010 Marine Corps Marathon, the Flame of Marathon was brought by Hopkinton to Washington, D.C., to honor the 35th anniversary of the Marine Corps Marathon and its race director, Mr. Rick Nealis. I recently had the privilege of honoring Mr. Nealis at a dinner in Hopkinton, Massachusetts, celebrating the partnership between the town of Hopkinton, the Boston Marathon, and the Marine Corps Marathon.

The Boston Marathon, the Marine Corps Marathon, and the New York City Marathon are among the three stellar marathon races organized each year in the United States, but over 500 marathon races take place every year around the world, including scores of races in the United States involving hundreds of thousands of American and foreign athletes, all seeking to emulate the spirit of that first marathon run 2,500 years ago this year.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Timothy Kilduff and Michael Neece with the Hopkinton Athletic Association for all the support they have given to this resolution. I also want to thank the Board of Selectmen of the town of Hopkinton for their steadfast support of Hopkinton's proud tradition as the starting place for the Boston Marathon

each year, and for their support of this bill.

I also want to express a special "thank you" to the Embassy of Greece, most notably to Ambassador Vassilis Kaskarelis, Minister Counselor for Cultural Affairs Zoe Kosmidou, and Constantinos Orphanides, the Consul General for Greece at the consulate in Boston.

I have been a longtime spectator but never a participant of the Boston Marathon or of the Marine Corps Marathon, and I am honored to support this resolution that honors these two events that are such a source of pride to the people who live and work in Massachusetts and the Nation's Capital. I honor the people of Greece, the city of Marathon, and the memory of the Battle of Marathon.

I ask all of my colleagues to support this resolution, and I can't wait until we honor the 5,000th anniversary of the Battle of Marathon and the establishment of Western democracy.

REMARKS BY H.E. AMBASSADOR OF GREECE
MR. VASSILIS KASKARELIS AT THE MARINE
CORPS MARATHON PRESS CONFERENCE,
WASHINGTON, DC, FRIDAY, OCT. 29, 2010

Honored Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, It is a great honor for Greece and even more so for myself to be participating in these inspiring events that mark, on the one hand, 2,500 years from the Battle of Marathon and on the other, the 35th anniversary of the annual Marine Corps Marathon.

We read and hear of Greece's contributions to Western civilization, of having invented democracy, having given us great works of philosophy and literature, but we often forget Greece's holistic approach to life and living, that is "νοος υγιης εν δομοτη υγιει", that is "healthy body mind in a healthy body".

Today at the Walter Washington Convention Center, as we are surrounded by the spirit of a healthier approach to our daily living, we ought to consider whether we would be living in a different world, had it not been for the victory at Marathon 2,500 years ago.

One might wonder, and rightly so, as to why a Battle that was fought thousands of years ago, might still be important today, and why commemorate it 2,500 years later.

The answer is simple. The Battle of Marathon, won by a handful of Athenians, was decisive not only for the future of Greece, but also the future of Western civilization. The Athenian victory at the Battle of Marathon allowed for the establishment of democracy. It allowed for the flourishing of the classical period of Greek culture, establishing the foundation of the Western civilization.

One wonders whether Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides and Aristophanes might have written their definitive works had the Battle of Marathon had a different result. Would Socrates, perhaps even Plato and Aristotle have laid the foundation of western philosophy? Would the democratic principles, which, unfortunately, we take for granted today, have developed as they have?

Most of you know that the Marathon run, as we know it today, was instituted in the 1896 Olympics, and was won, if I may say so, by a Greek peasant, Spyros Louis.

Today, there are more than 500 marathons throughout the world each year. They are inspirational gatherings, which bring together thousands of athletes of different cultures, ethnicities and races, an accomplishment in and of itself. Many are also run to raise awareness for good causes.

Phidippides, the first so-called Marathon runner, the man who ran to tell his fellow citizens of their glorious victory in the city of Marathon, is the stuff of legends around the world. His story, as the story of many current Marathon runners, who dedicate themselves to the pursuit of athletic excellence, continue to inspire us. And as the Olympic Games, so do marathon runs offer a moment in time when differences are forgotten and participants are unified in the pursuit of an ideal.

Greece is grateful to Marathon Committees around the United States for organizing the 2500th anniversary celebrations in conjunction with Marathon runs throughout the country. We thank all of them for their participation in these commemorative events.

We are also grateful to the Boston Marathon and the city of Hopkinton, the guardian of the Marathon Flame, which carries the spirit of Marathon all over the U.S. The cities of Hopkinton and Marathon are sister-cities and share similar cultural and athletic values.

Most of all, we thank the United States Marines for bringing the Marathon flame from Hopkinton to Washington, under the auspices of the 35th Marine Corps Marathon and Race Director, Mr. Rick Nealis.

We are privileged to continue this tradition and honored to be celebrating it with the Marine Corps Marathon, also known as "The People's Marathon". It is on occasions such as this that we realize our common past and hopefully realize that we ought to work for a common future.

Thank you.

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

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I certainly would like to acknowledge the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) for his cosponsorship of the bill as well. I am looking forward to Mr. SMITH, Mr. MCGOVERN, and me all planning for next year's marathon and getting ready for the big race.

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 Florida (Mr. KLEIN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1704, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

RECOGNIZING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1402) recognizing the 50th anniversary of the