

I would also like to thank Chairman BERMAN and Ranking Member ROS-LEHTINEN 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 "νοῦς ὑγῆς ἐν δούρῳ υγῆς", 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

National Council for International Visitors, and expressing support for designation of February 16, 2011, as "Citizen Diplomacy Day," as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1402

Whereas 2011 marks the 50th anniversary of the National Council for International Visitors (NCIV), originally founded as the National Council for Community Services to International Visitors (COSERV) in 1961;

Whereas the mission of NCIV is to promote excellence in citizen diplomacy, the concept that the individual citizen has the right and responsibility to help develop constructive United States foreign relations "one handshake at a time";

Whereas citizen diplomacy has the power to shape perceptions in the United States of foreign cultures and international perceptions of the United States, effectively shattering stereotypes, illuminating differences, underscoring common human aspirations, and developing the web of human connections needed to achieve more peaceful relations between countries;

Whereas NCIV is the private sector partner of the United States Department of State International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), a public diplomacy initiative that brings distinguished foreign leaders to the United States for short-term professional programs under the authority of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2451 et seq.; also referred to as the "Fulbright-Hays Act");

Whereas the NCIV network comprises individuals, program agencies, and 92 community organizations throughout the United States, including approximately 80,000 volunteers who are involved in NCIV member activities each year as host families, professional resources, volunteer programmers, board members, and other supporters;

Whereas the network of citizen diplomats in NCIV has organized professional programs, cultural activities, and home visits for more than 190,000 foreign leaders participating in the IVLP, 285 of whom went on to become chiefs of state or heads of government in their countries;

Whereas the NCIV network has hosted and strengthened the relationships of the United States with notable foreign leaders who are alumni of the IVLP;

Whereas United States ambassadors have in repeated surveys ranked the NCIV network-facilitated IVLP first among 63 United States public diplomacy programs;

Whereas in 2001, the NCIV network of citizen diplomats was nominated to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for its work to promote fraternity between nations;

Whereas all Federal funding for the citizen diplomacy of the NCIV network is spent in the United States, where it has leveraged \$6 in local economic impact for every Federal dollar expended;

Whereas NCIV member organizations provide invaluable opportunities for United States students to develop global perspectives and vividly experience the diversity of the world by bringing foreign leaders into local schools, loaning teachers cultural artifacts, and developing internationally focused curricula;

Whereas participation of United States communities, businesses, and universities in the international exchange programs implemented by the NCIV network strengthens the ability of the United States to produce a globally literate and competitive workforce;

Whereas NCIV provides leadership at the national level having convened leaders of sis-

ter organizations for two national Summits on Citizen Diplomacy and providing funding to its member organizations for Summits on Citizen Diplomacy in communities throughout the United States, giving those organizations the opportunity to foster internationally focused dialogue and to cultivate lasting partnerships with like-minded organizations in their own communities;

Whereas NCIV member organizations serve as international gateways, sharing their communities with the world and the world with their communities, welcoming strangers and sending home friends; and

Whereas, February 16, 2011, would be an appropriate date to designate as "Citizen Diplomacy Day": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the 50th anniversary of the National Council for International Visitors and its extraordinary efforts to promote excellence in citizen diplomacy;

(2) commends the achievements of the thousands of citizen diplomats who have worked for generations to share the best of the United States with foreign leaders, specialists, and scholars;

(3) thanks the National Council for International Visitors citizen diplomats for their service to their communities, the United States, and the world; and

(4) supports the designation of "Citizen Diplomacy Day".

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 to revise and extend their remarks and to 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 legislation, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

For 50 years, the National Council for International Visitors has operated on the conviction that every day American citizens can be some of our country's greatest diplomats. Through its facilitation of the State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program and other exchange programs, the NCIV has been an essential part of American diplomacy.

In order to welcome international visitors across the country, the NCIV requires the energy and commitment of more than 80,000 volunteers every year. These volunteers create and implement professional and cultural programs for the visitors, and they also open their homes.

Over 190,000 foreign leaders, including 286 current and former heads of state, have come to the United States through the International Visitor Leadership Program and have benefited from this hospitality. The experiences they have had and relationships

they have built in the United States have left a lasting impression of the values and strength of the American people.

In an increasingly interconnected world, technology can unite us, but face-to-face interaction can bond us. Our citizen diplomats help to dispel myths about the United States and can convey potent messages of American goodwill. They also help to increase understanding within the United States about the world.

The service that our citizen diplomats have provided for over half a century has been invaluable to our country, and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, which designates February 16, 2011, as "Citizen Diplomacy Day."

Of course, I would like to thank the author of the resolution, Congressman MORAN.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

First, I want to thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO) for providing us with this opportunity to recognize the contributions of the National Council for International Visitors, particularly on its 50th anniversary, and the importance of the citizen diplomacy of the United States.

Madam Speaker, the person-to-person contacts that occur when international visitors have the opportunity to live and work alongside ordinary Americans are often more than opinion-changing; they can be life-changing. To experience up-close the diversity, generosity, and industry of our people can shatter stereotypes and prejudices far more effectively than press statements and media campaigns. For these reasons, citizen diplomacy is an important tool for increasing the global understanding of American values.

One significant component of our public diplomacy activities has been the International Visitor Leadership Program, a State Department program that brings thousands of current and emerging professional leaders to the U.S. every year for carefully designed short-term visits. Having met with many of those who have come in from abroad, they are very, very useful visits, and they get to see a broad array of America and Americans when they do visit. Numerous International Visitor alumni have gone on to become heads of state, key officials, and industry leaders in their home countries.

For the past 50 years, the National Council for International Visitors has been a critical partner in the success of that program. As a nonprofit professional association, the NCIV helps to coordinate the exchange-related activities of community-based groups throughout the country, drawing on the energy of nearly 80,000 American volunteers every year.

□ 1520

During its first 50 years, NCIV has organized professional programs, cultural activities and home visits for more than 190,000 foreign visitors. To that we say thank you.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia, the author of the resolution, Mr. MORAN.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. I want to thank my friends and colleagues, Mr. KLEIN from Florida and Mr. SMITH from New Jersey. I appreciate their support of this.

This is an important resolution. What the National Council of International Visitors sponsors day in and day out has a long-term impact that cannot be overstated within our country or around the globe.

The National Council of International Visitors, Madam Speaker, is a nonprofit membership association currently marking 50 years of leadership in citizen diplomacy. It embodies the concept that individual citizens have the right and the responsibility to help shape U.S. foreign relations, in their words, "one handshake at a time."

NCIV's nationwide network consists of 92 community organizations as well as program agencies, associate members and individuals. Each year, the aggregate efforts of NCIV members involve more than 80,000 volunteers across the country.

With leadership and training provided by NCIV, its member organizations design and implement professional programs, provide cultural activities, and offer the actual experience of living within an American family and an American community for foreign leaders and specialists participating in the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program and other exchange programs.

For the last 50 years, NCIV has built a network of citizen diplomats committed to bridging international cultural gaps and building mutually beneficial relationships through international exchanges. More than 285—although Mr. KLEIN said 286, so apparently in the last few days another person who was involved with this program has been elected around the world as a world leader, but regardless of the number, we know it is very substantial, the number of people who lead other countries but have an understanding of who we are as a Nation, our values and beliefs as a result of NCIV's efforts.

More than 1,700 cabinet-level ministers—and so many other distinguished world leaders that you can't even count them—have benefited from firsthand exposure to the United States through the International Visitor Leadership Program and the NCIV network.

With its commitment to building long-term personal relationships, NCIV

will continue to be an asset for American public diplomacy and indeed for national security efforts as it moves into its second half century.

Some examples that I think bear citing: Tony Blair, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, participated in this program. Anwar Sadat, who was so instrumental in bringing peace between Israel and Egypt, participated in this program; Felipe Calderon, President of Mexico; Nicolas Sarkozy, President of France; Kim Dae-Jung, who was the former President of South Korea; Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India; Abdullah Gul, President of Turkey; Morgan Tsvangirai, Prime Minister of Zimbabwe.

It is also worth noting that nearly the entire international visitor leadership program in the State Department spends its budget here in communities throughout the United States, and that by implanting its programs in those communities, the IVLP is also important for generating economic development and cultivating a globally literate workforce in our U.S. communities. Nothing is more instructive than having a foreign visitor actually live in an American home to understand our culture, our values, and our beliefs.

Lastly, Madam Speaker, it is clear that in contributing to the quality of our international engagement, the International Visitor Leadership Program is an investment in our national security. It is imperative to continue rebuilding the image of the United States abroad and to build stronger long-term personal relationships between foreign leaders and U.S. decision makers, by connecting them with people who simply represent what America is all about day in and day out. In fact, the Organization of American Ambassadors ranks the International Visitor Leadership Program as the most important among all 63 U.S. diplomacy programs.

In closing, as well as Mr. SMITH and his staff, I want to thank Chairman HOWARD BERMAN and his staff, Katherine Brown for their efforts in highlighting the important work of citizen diplomats, and the NCIV, and obviously Mr. KLEIN and his staff. I also want to give a shout out to the National Council of International Visitors, especially Sherry Mueller and her staff, Chris Bassett and Ed Thompson, who worked so hard with my staff on this resolution; Tom Gittens, the former head of Sister Cities International, for his leadership in promoting the National Council of International Visitors. Shai Tamara and Tom Garofalo of my staff, who is here as well and has steered this through the Congress.

I hope and trust we will get unanimous support for this and let the International Council of International Visitors know that we do appreciate all their efforts on behalf of our country.

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

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, again I thank the gentleman who brought this forward to us, Mr. MANZULLO as well, and Mr. SMITH.

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 Florida (Mr. KLEIN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1402, 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.

CONGRATULATING LIU XIAOBO ON NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1717) congratulating imprisoned Chinese democracy advocate Liu Xiaobo on the award of the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1717

Whereas Liu Xiaobo played a leading role in the 1989 Tiananmen Square demonstration for democratic reform, insisting on peaceful means and democratic process;

Whereas since 1989, Liu Xiaobo has been a leading figure promoting democratic reform and respect for human rights, including by writing hundreds of notable essays on these subjects;

Whereas between June 6, 1989, and October 1999, Chinese officials detained Liu Xiaobo 3 times, totaling over 4 years confinement for his role in Tiananmen Square and continued promotion of political reform;

Whereas in 2008, Liu Xiaobo was one of the principal drafters and organizers as well as one of the first signers of Charter 08, a manifesto that proposed democratic reform in China;

Whereas, on December 8, 2008, Chinese officials detained Liu Xiaobo for his role in Charter 08, and found him guilty of "inciting subversion of state power" in 2009 and sentenced him to 11 years imprisonment;

Whereas since December 2008, thousands of Chinese citizens from all walks of life have signed Charter 08, and Chinese officials have detained, placed under house arrest, or harassed many of them;

Whereas in 2010, many persons from around the world nominated Liu Xiaobo for the Nobel Peace Prize, including the 14th Dalai Lama, Bishop Desmond Tutu, Vaclav Havel, and 7 members of the United States House of Representatives;

Whereas, on October 8, 2010, the Norwegian Nobel Committee announced its award of the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize to Liu Xiaobo for his