

who is working in Ethiopia teaching the English language for a tour guide association to increase ecotourism and helping women develop honey production and dried fruit projects to promote their income. That is just the work of one volunteer.

Today, I honor Chase and hundreds of thousands of other Peace Corps volunteers past and present. Each one of you represents America's highest ideals: peace, prosperity, and friendship. Truly your service is more important today than it has ever been.

Congress must fund the Peace Corps. It is the best job in America.

SUPPORT THE FEDERAL PRICE GOUGING PREVENTION ACT

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, as Rhode Islanders and men and women across America are hard at work trying to put our country back on the right track, the threat of rising gas prices raises a specter of another difficult driving season ahead.

While our government subsidizes Big Oil to the tune of \$3 billion each year, they continue to run up record profits as hardworking families pay higher and higher prices for gas. In my home State of Rhode Island where families are struggling with an 11 percent unemployment rate and the average price of a gallon of regular gas is now \$3.79, rising fuel costs put far too many hardworking families at risk.

The Federal Price Gouging Prevention Act, which my colleague Mr. BISHOP has introduced, would help guarantee that should we face an energy emergency, middle class families are not at the mercy of Wall Street speculators every time they fill up their car. While we have to work together permanently to end our addiction to foreign sources of oil, in the short term we must act on legislation like the Federal Price Gouging Prevention Act that will help prevent Wall Street speculators from taking unfair advantage of consumers at the pump during energy emergencies.

I AM PROUD TO SUPPORT PRESIDENT OBAMA

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I had the pleasure of having some gentlemen from the railroad industry come and visit my office, and they let me know how their business has improved over the years.

One of the indices of an improving economy is the number of railcars filled, and that has gone up and up. Warren Buffett said it was the best indicator of how the economy is doing. The railcars are being filled, and a lot of it is because of automobile distribution and automobile production.

The automobile industry in our Nation was saved because of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and the work of President Barack Obama and the TARP, all of which have helped our economy get better and lower our unemployment rates.

As I think of the good work President Obama has done, I read yesterday about an al Qaeda arrested and stopped in Cairo, Egypt. Besides Osama bin Laden, other members of al Qaeda have been eliminated and our country is safer.

The Dow went over 13,000, which is another indicator of a burgeoning economy that is getting out of the Bush recession.

I want to say that I'm proud to support President Obama, his jobs plan, his efforts to maintain the automobile industry strong in America, and to support him in Libya and root out Qadhafi and al Qaeda in other places.

□ 0910

DIRECTING OFFICE OF HISTORIAN TO COMPILE ORAL HISTORIES FROM MEMBERS INVOLVED IN ALABAMA CIVIL RIGHTS MARCHES

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the order of the House of February 29, 2012, I call up House Resolution 562 directing the Office of the Historian to compile oral histories from current and former Members of the House of Representatives involved in the historic and annual Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, marches, as well as the civil rights movement in general, for the purposes of expanding or augmenting the historic record and for public dissemination and education, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H. RES. 562

Whereas in 1965, civil rights advocates participated in three marches from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, marking a watershed moment of the civil rights movement;

Whereas the first march took place on March 7, 1965, during which 600 civil rights activists, led by now-Representative John Lewis and Reverend Hosea Williams, began a march to protest unfair voter registration practices and the shooting death of Jimmie Lee Jackson during a voter registration drive;

Whereas marchers progressed only six blocks from the Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church to the Edmund Pettus Bridge, where many were tear-gassed and beaten;

Whereas two days later, on March 9, 1965, Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., led a symbolic march of 2,000 people to the Edmund Pettus Bridge, all kneeling there to pray;

Whereas, on March 21, 1965, with protection from the Alabama National Guard, more than 3,000 people set out from Selma again led by Rev. King, marching an average of 12 miles a day along Route 80 and sleeping in farm fields;

Whereas that group grew to 25,000 participants by the time it reached Montgomery on March 25, 1965, where Rev. King delivered one of his most venerated speeches;

Whereas as a result of this historic three-week period, Congress passed the Voting Rights Act of 1965, five months after the third march, as a recognition of the right of all United States citizens to fully participate in the electoral process;

Whereas in 1996, Congress created the 54-mile long Selma-to-Montgomery National Historic Trail along the route of this third march, starting at the Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church in Selma, crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge, and ending at the Alabama State Capitol in Montgomery;

Whereas beginning in 1998, Members of Congress have participated in an annual civil rights pilgrimage to the Selma-to-Montgomery National Historic Trail, to visit the historic sites, participate in fellowship, and recognize the achievements of the civil rights movement;

Whereas the Office of the Historian, first established in 1983, researches, preserves, and interprets the rich institutional history of the House of Representatives in order to share it with Members, staff, and the public, and serves as the institutional memory to inspire greater understanding of the House of Representatives' central role in United States history;

Whereas Members of the House of Representatives have included participants in the historic 1965 marches and in the annual pilgrimages thereafter; and

Whereas the collection of oral memories of march participants who have served in the House of Representatives, and will continue to serve in the House of Representatives, is essential to the preservation of the history of the institution: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives directs the Office of the Historian to compile oral histories from current and former Members of the House of Representatives involved in the historic and annual Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, marches, as well as the civil rights movement in general, for the purposes of expanding or augmenting the historic record and for public dissemination and education.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Wednesday, February 29, 2012, the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days 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.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 562, which directs the Office of the Historian to compile and disseminate oral histories from current and former Members of the House of Representatives involved in the historic and annual Selma-to-Montgomery, Alabama, marches, as well as the civil rights movement in general.

In March of 1965, a defining 3-week period of the civil rights movement culminated with a historic 54-mile

march from Selma to Montgomery. Led by the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., it was the last of three marches that resulted in the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 recognizing the right of all Americans to participate in the electoral process.

On March 7, 1965, our colleague from Georgia, Mr. JOHN LEWIS, and the Reverend Hosea Williams led 600 civil rights activists in the first march from Selma to Montgomery to protest the shooting of Jimmie Lee Jackson, killed just a few weeks earlier by State troopers while doing nothing more than registering African Americans to vote. The march lasted only six blocks before coming to a violent end on the Edmund Pettus Bridge. In what has become known as Bloody Sunday, troopers used tear gas and clubs to beat the protesters back from the bridge. The upsetting, horrifying images of peaceful marchers being brutally assaulted by authorities brought national attention to the plight of African Americans in the South and greater resolve to those seeking equality for all.

Two days later, the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., led a second symbolic march where 2,000 participants returned to the Edmund Pettus Bridge and proceeded to kneel and pray.

On March 21, this time with protection from Federal authorities and the Alabama National Guard, the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., led a 54-mile march to the State capitol building. Three days later, the group that started with 3,000 participants and grew to 25,000 strong, arrived in Montgomery, where Dr. King proclaimed:

We are on the move now. Like an idea whose time has come, not even the marching of mighty armies can halt us. We are moving to the land of freedom.

Mr. Speaker, the magnitude and importance of this historic event is undeniable, and its significance to American history must never be forgotten.

To commemorate these marches, Congress in 1996 created the 54-mile-long Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail along the route of Dr. King's march, starting at the Brown Chapel AME Church in Selma and ending at the Alabama State Capitol in Montgomery.

Since 1998, Members of Congress have participated in an annual civil rights pilgrimage on the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail. In March of 2009, I had the privilege of participating with my wife in this event. We marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, and we were inspired by those with firsthand experiences from the events of 1965.

Documenting and sharing the experiences of Members who participated in historic and annual marches from Selma to Montgomery is critically important to the recognition and preservation of the achievements of the American civil rights movement. As I understand it, Mr. LEWIS from Georgia and the majority leader whip, Mr. MCCARTHY, will lead the 2012 congress-

sional civil rights pilgrimage starting tomorrow. It is fitting that we are here today with this resolution as another group of Members begin their journey.

I want to thank my colleagues from Alabama, Ms. SEWELL and Mrs. ROBY, for introducing this important resolution.

I strongly urge all of my colleagues not only to support the resolution but also to take part in the annual congressional Selma to Montgomery march.

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 0920

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank my colleagues, Majority Leader ERIC CANTOR, Congresswomen TERRI SEWELL and MARTHA ROBY, for offering this resolution today.

I am so pleased that this resolution will preserve the oral histories of current and former Members of Congress who participated in the civil rights movement, and it will also preserve the experiences of Members who have come on the Faith & Politics Civil Rights Pilgrimage to Alabama.

Together, we have retraced the steps that were walked so many years ago and have spent time with some of the people who shaped the civil rights movement. Some of the Members who have gone on this pilgrimage were not even born during the civil rights movement, and they come to learn about our Nation's history. Many Members have come away changed by this experience forever.

This resolution will help us preserve a powerful and transformative period in American history. Without the brave and courageous souls who shed blood, sweat, and tears in Alabama and throughout the South, this would be a very different Nation today.

It is very important that Members of Congress understand and acknowledge the debt we owe to ordinary people with extraordinary vision, who, as Dr. Martin Luther King once said, "injected new meaning into the very veins of our democracy."

Mr. Speaker, on March 7, 1965, 600 peaceful, nonviolent protesters attempted to march from Selma, Alabama, to the State capitol in Montgomery to dramatize to the world that people of color wanted to register to vote.

We left Brown Chapel AME Church that morning on a sacred mission, prepared to defy the dictates of man to demonstrate the truth of a higher law. Ordinary citizens with extraordinary vision walked shoulder to shoulder, two by two, in a silent, peaceful protest against injustice in the American South. We were met at the foot of the Edmund Pettus Bridge by a sea of blue—Alabama State troopers. Some were mounted on horseback, but all of them were armed with guns, tear gas, and billy clubs, and beyond them were

deputized citizens who were waving any weapons they could find.

Then we heard:

I am Major John Cloud. This is an unlawful march. You cannot continue. You have 3 minutes to go home or return to your church.

We were preparing to kneel and pray when the major said, "Troopers advance."

The troopers came toward us, beating us and spraying tear gas. That brutal confrontation became known as Bloody Sunday.

It produced a sense of righteous indignation around the country and around the world that led this Congress to pass the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Eight days after Bloody Sunday, President Lyndon Johnson addressed a joint session of Congress and made what I believe is the greatest statement any President has ever made on the importance of voting rights in America.

He said:

I speak tonight for the dignity of man and for the destiny of democracy. At times, history and fate meet at a single time, in a single place to shape a turning point in man's unending search for freedom. So it was at Lexington and Concord. So it was a century ago at Appomattox. So it was last week in Selma, Alabama.

During that speech, President Johnson condemned the violence in Selma and called on Congress to enact the Voting Rights Act. He closed his speech by echoing the words of the civil rights movement, saying over and over, "And we shall overcome . . . And we shall overcome."

Congress did pass the Voting Rights Act, and on August 6, 1965, it was signed into law.

This weekend, starting tomorrow, is the 12th congressional pilgrimage to civil rights sites in Birmingham, Montgomery, and in Selma with the Faith & Politics Institute. We will remember the distance we have come and the progress we have made. We will end our time together in Selma by crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

During this trip, we see ourselves not as Democrats or Republicans or as adversaries. We see ourselves as Americans on a journey to discover our history. We all come away from this pilgrimage with a deeper appreciation of our democracy and the power of people to make a difference in our society. I am so pleased that this story will be told.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI), a distinguished member of the Committees on Education and the Workforce and Transportation and Infrastructure.

Mr. PETRI. I thank my colleague from California for yielding.

I support House Resolution 562, which recognizes the importance of preserving the oral histories of current and former Representatives' personal

experiences regarding the historic Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, marches and the civil rights movement.

As a student during the civil rights movement, I had the opportunity to witness the impact the Selma to Montgomery marches had on shifting public opinions. An example of the influence the marches wielded is the fact that, 2 days after witnessing the images of the initial march in the media, President Johnson presented a bill to a joint session of Congress, which became the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Like so many others, I tried to play my own small part in support of the civil rights movement. As a member of the NAACP and as a college student, I participated in a boycott of a Woolworth's store in support of the desegregation of the chain's lunch counters in the South. During that time, Dr. King came to our college, and I had the honor to very briefly meet him.

While my direct involvement in the civil rights movement may have been limited, there are many former and current Members who have unique and inspirational stories to share about the historic 1965 marches and the civil rights movement.

We have the honor of serving with Representative JOHN LEWIS, for example, who just spoke, who is an icon of the civil rights movement. I have been lucky enough to hear him speak movingly to student groups and others about his experiences as he led the fight for racial and voter equality. It is important that accounts such as his be preserved in the historic record so that they can be shared for years to come. I believe it is important to keep the history and heritage of the civil rights movement alive by collecting and sharing these oral histories with the American public.

Mr. Speaker, I support this resolution, and I urge its passage by the House today.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DAVID SCOTT).

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Thank you very much, my distinguished colleague, JOHN LEWIS, for inviting me to be a part of this resolution presentation.

I think it is very important as we commemorate this event that we realize those were some dark and dangerous days and that there were both black and white people who gave their lives so that black people could have the right to vote.

There was Ms. Viola Gregg Liuzzo from Detroit, Michigan, a white lady who came down to Selma to help African Americans get the right to vote. She was shot and killed on Highway 80 in Selma, Alabama. We need not forget Michael Schwerner and Andrew Goodman, along with James Chaney, two young white men and one black man, who were shot and killed.

When we tell this story about the civil rights movement, it is important

that we tell this story right so that this is a true story of the greatness of America. It is not just a black story. It is America's story. White and black people lost their lives, gave their lives for us to have the right to vote. This is the greatness of this.

I just want to say what a privilege it is for us to have a man like JOHN LEWIS to serve with. Let us not even begin to underestimate the significant contribution of this young man—and I call him a young man—whom I serve with and you serve with. I, personally, appreciate JOHN LEWIS for taking me with him when I was a student, traveling through the South, and I saw firsthand with him what we had to go for.

JOHN, I want to say to you, thank you for taking me through that baptism of fire for it has truly made me the man I am today. I want to thank you for that, and the entire Nation thanks you and all of those.

As I said, I want everybody to remember Ms. Viola Gregg Liuzzo from Detroit, who came down, and Michael Schwerner and Andrew Goodman, these people who gave their lives.

□ 0930

I want to also thank Ms. TERRI SEWELL, who represents the area in Alabama where so much of this sacrifice took place.

This is an extraordinary pilgrimage. I was on it, have been on it, and I encourage everybody that can to go on this pilgrimage and see and experience what I call the greatness of America.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to yield 3 minutes to the gentlelady from Alabama (Mrs. ROBY), a member of the Committees on Armed Services, Agriculture, Education and the Workforce, and she cosponsored this resolution.

(Mrs. ROBY asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. ROBY. Thank you for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, today I'm so proud to join with TERRI SEWELL, another Alabama freshman Member, to offer House Resolution 562, an initiative that will preserve a collection of accounts from Members involved in the historic and annual marches from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama.

The oral histories preserved through this resolution will memorialize the symbolic events that changed the direction of the civil rights movement. What took place during three historic marches in Alabama over a 3-week period in 1965 proved to be a powerful transformation in American history. The courageous actions of so many moved our country out of an era of misguided actions.

Participants marched towards a unified goal to provide equal voting rights for all Americans. The first march, on March 7, 1965, remains, without a doubt, one of the worst demonstrations

of racial violence. Participants peacefully marching were met by a brutal and aggressive police force.

This violence was captured by the news and broadcast to family rooms all over this Nation. It quickly delivered a message to a racially divided country of unforeseen consequences caused by segregation.

Such shameless violent actions unleashed on nonviolent marchers revealed the immediate need for equal rights for citizens. Without a doubt, the days that racial voting laws were enforced for our country were among the darkest and least honorable for this Nation.

Even today, our country is still repairing from the wrongs inflicted decades ago by racial segregation. If it were not for the unwavering courage of those marching for civil freedoms, our country would be very different than the way we know it today. Their brave actions will be forever memorialized by the Selma To Montgomery Voting Rights Trail.

Our younger generations today did not witness firsthand the historic demonstrations that forged a unified Nation, myself included. Therefore, it is so important to record the testimonies in order to reveal the scope and the relevance of these civil rights events.

I am proud to introduce this resolution with Representative SEWELL to preserve the history of our democracy.

The resolution instructs the Office of the Historian to compile testimonies from current and former Members of Congress who have participated in historic or commemorative civil rights movement actions. It will tell every generation a detailed timeline of these historic moments in the civil rights movement.

Those marching for equality were among the many patriots that envisioned a better America, one free from racial discrimination.

The marches proved not only to be successful in granting equal voting rights, but an illustrative account of citizens attaining freedom from harsh discrimination. Though such intolerable actions can never be reversed, there is still dignity knowing that the participants of these marches permanently changed the course of American history.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote in support of this bicameral resolution.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California, the Democratic Leader, NANCY PELOSI.

Ms. PELOSI. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the legislation and commend Congresswoman SEWELL and Congresswoman ROBY for their leadership in bringing this to the floor and giving us the opportunity to speak about the heroes amongst us.

In some of the darkest hours of our Nation's history, as we all know, there are stories of great courage. By preserving these stories, which this legislation enables us to do, we ensure that

those who come after us will know that the cause of equality is both our Nation's heritage and our hope.

Unsurpassed in courage in our midst is our colleague, the conscience of the Congress, Congressman JOHN LEWIS.

On March 7, 1965, as many of us all know, Congressman JOHN LEWIS was the leader of 600 peaceful, orderly Americans crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge. He was met by State troopers, tear gas, bullwhips, and nightsticks. Though he faced great prejudice and discrimination, he was not embittered; he was emboldened to dedicate his life to the cause of justice and equality.

It is a great privilege for each of us to serve with JOHN LEWIS in Congress, an honor to call him colleague. I want to speak about his leadership in taking so many Members of Congress and their families and friends across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in recent years.

I had the privilege to join him in the year 2001. After the visit, I said to him, of the 3 days we were in your district, Congresswoman ROBY, in Montgomery, Selma, and in Birmingham, and the course of the weekend, that the experience was one that every schoolchild in America should experience. We talked about Washington, DC; Philadelphia and Independence Hall; Baltimore and Fort McHenry; Boston with all of that history; New York and the rest, but this is a very important part of who we are as a country. If you want to learn about America, it's important to visit these sites to see the courage, to see the commitment to the values of our Founders that were so courageously defended and advocated for.

At this sad time, and for many of us it was in our lifetimes that this disaster was happening in our country, this ongoing disaster, the culmination of it took so many people a longer time to see. We always talk about the inevitable in the minds of some and the inconceivable in the minds of others, and how our work is to shorten the distance between the inevitable and the inconceivable. Well, it took some people a much longer time to understand what was inevitable for America, that we would be moving, gravitating toward a more perfect union. That would not have been possible without the leadership of people like JOHN LEWIS. There aren't many people like JOHN LEWIS, but who followed his lead.

There are other Members of Congress who also were leaders in the Nation's civil rights movement, and we honor all of them today. They include Assistant Leader JIM CLYBURN, who was arrested several times for his civil disobedience on behalf of civil rights; Congressman BARNEY FRANK and Congressman JOHN CONYERS, who both volunteered during the Freedom Summer; Congressman BOB FILNER, who spent several months in jail after his efforts as a Freedom Rider, and he takes great pride in being invited back to the reunion of the Freedom Riders; Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, who was an organizer of the Student Non-

violent Coordinating Committee; and Congresswoman TERRI SEWELL, who, along with Congresswoman ROBY, is a sponsor of this legislation. Congresswoman SEWELL is from Selma, and her family opened their home to travelers on the 1965 march from Selma to Montgomery.

I am sure there are more, but all of these people played a role. JOHN LEWIS, of course, an icon in our country for his leadership at that time.

□ 0940

These American heroes made history. They also made progress for our country. I urge my colleagues to join in supporting this legislation to ensure that our history and the heroes of it, that that history lives on long after we are gone.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, at this time it is my pleasure to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE), a member of the Foreign Affairs and Judiciary Committees.

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise in support of this important legislation and commend Ms. SEWELL and Mrs. ROBY for their leadership in chronicling an extraordinary time in our march toward a more perfect Union. It seems altogether fitting, on the eve of the anniversary march commemorating what history records as Bloody Sunday and at the end of Black History Month, that we consider this resolution which will create a process for preserving the valuable oral history of those Members of Congress who were early leaders in the American civil rights movement.

There are very few giants these days in public life, but JOHN LEWIS is among them. Let me say what a privilege it has been for me these last 11 years to serve and to befriend my colleague, Congressman JOHN LEWIS, and I thank you for your leadership on this resolution.

There's also an effort in this resolution to give Members of Congress who have participated in the annual pilgrimage to Selma and Montgomery to reflect on their experiences, and I'll be very humbled to be a small part of that. I was honored to serve as the co-leader of the 10th Congressional Civil Rights Pilgrimage sponsored by the Faith & Politics Institute in March of 2010, and I can say, as my colleague Mr. LEWIS knows, it was a life-changing experience for my wife, Karen, and our three teenaged-children, and I'll forever be grateful for the experience.

We started the weekend at the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, the home church of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We sat in the pews as we heard Dorothy Cotton and others talk about their years in that church and how their faith in Christ sustained the cause of liberty and the cause of civil rights.

We made our way to the Civil Rights Memorial to honor and remember those who had lost their lives in the struggle for equality. But the next day, traveling with my colleague, JOHN LEWIS, to Selma to mark the anniversary of a day that changed his life and changed his Nation, March 7, 1965, known as Bloody Sunday, we will always remember.

The night before, JOHN had recounted that momentous day. He told how he and several hundred courageous activists had crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma. But it was actually being a part of the reenactment that most touched our hearts as a family. We had gathered at the Brown Chapel in Selma before we made the march, and then, along with thousands, we made our way the few short miles to the Edmund Pettus Bridge. For my part, JOHN and I walked with Dr. F.D. Reese, pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Selma at the time.

As we strolled that historic route, I was enthralled as Dr. Reese, 80-some-odd years young, recounted the day as if it had been the day before. He told me how the Edmund Pettus Bridge crests at the middle, so it was not until you all reached the top of the bridge that you knew what was waiting on the other side. And he described to me what they saw. He said, "All you saw was a sea of blue" when they crested the bridge.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman.

Mr. PENCE. I thank the gentleman.

I turned to Dr. Reese, and I said to him, "Did you think about turning back?"

He said, "No. We had prayed at the Brown Chapel, and we decided to go on regardless."

And so you did.

It's just extraordinary to think of the beatings that took place that day. Our own colleague experienced a notorious beating at the time. But as the march that day, the reenactment came to an end, I extended my hand to Dr. Reese and I thanked him for not only what he had done for the civil rights movement, for what JOHN LEWIS had done for the civil rights movement, but for what they all had done for America. And he put his hand on my shoulder, Dr. Reese did, and he said, "MIKE, God did something here."

And so He did.

Through these extraordinary and courageous Americans, we forged a more perfect Union.

And so I rise in support of this resolution, commend my colleagues who will participate this weekend in Montgomery and Selma in this historic reenactment. I commend Congressman JOHN LEWIS, Dorothy Cotton, F.D. Reese, and all of those great Americans who on that day made the sacrifices necessary to further perfect this last best hope of Earth.

We should always safeguard this history, cherish it, and emulate their courage and bravery, so help us God.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 562, offered by Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. I wish to extend my deep appreciation to Ms. SEWELL, a native of Selma, Alabama, for introducing this timely resolution.

As we close Black History Month and near the anniversary of "Bloody Sunday" and the Selma to Montgomery, Alabama civil rights marches, it's important to remember the sacrifice of those who went before us nearly half a century ago and shed blood so that freedom could continue its march in the hearts and minds of so many Americans.

To that end, thanks to a resolution offered by Congresswoman TERRI SEWELL from Alabama, the U.S. House of Representatives is acting to preserve the valuable oral history of those Members of Congress who were early leaders in the American civil rights movement. The resolution will also document the experiences of many Congressmen and Congresswomen who have participated in the annual pilgrimage from Selma to Montgomery. It is a fitting honor of that momentous day in 1965 when my friend and colleague, Congressman JOHN LEWIS, the legendary civil rights leader, along with Hosea Williams, led 600 brave souls across the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

I was deeply honored and humbled to serve as the co-leader of the 10th Congressional Civil Rights Pilgrimage sponsored by the Faith and Politics Institute in March of 2010. My family and I will never forget that experience.

We started the weekend at the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, the home church of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sitting in the front pew we heard from Dorothy Cotton about her years working with Dr. King. She spoke of the faith that sustained their work and the historic importance of music and singing to the movement.

We then made our way to the Civil Rights Memorial to honor and remember those who had lost their lives in the struggle for equality. The nearby museum tells the personal stories of segregation by those who lived it and peacefully fought against it. Hearing firsthand accounts of how African Americans in the South were systematically denied the right to vote, intimidated, beaten and even killed fighting for that right will never leave us.

The next day we traveled with JOHN LEWIS to Selma to mark the anniversary of a day that changed his life and America: March 7, 1965, also known as "Bloody Sunday." JOHN was personally recruited by Dr. King as a college student and his courage and moral authority continue to inspire millions.

As JOHN recounted that momentous day, he told of how he and several hundred courageous activists crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma during a march on the state capitol and were beaten by state police waiting on the far side of the bridge. The images of that day were transmitted around the world and would sear the conscience of the Nation. It set the stage for more protests and was the catalyst for Congress to enact the Voting Rights Act later that year.

We gathered for worship at Brown Chapel in Selma, and after a rousing service, we left the church to walk to the Edmund Pettus Bridge. I had the privilege to walk the entire way alongside JOHN LEWIS and Dr. F.D. Reese, pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Selma.

As we strolled the historic route, surrounded by thousands, I was enthralled by Dr. Reese's description of that fateful day. He said that when they reached the crest of the bridge and could see the other side of the river, the first thing they saw was the state police waiting to stop the march. He said, "All you saw was a sea of blue." But still they marched.

I asked if they thought of turning back when they saw the array of police. He smiled and said, "No, we had prayed at the Brown Chapel and decided we would go on regardless." And so they did.

After pausing at the base of the bridge for prayer, he told me how the tear gas and the beatings with nightsticks overtook the crowd. My friend JOHN LEWIS was among those most severely beaten.

As our march came to an end, I extended my hand to Dr. Reese and thanked him not only for what he had done for the civil rights movement, but also for what he, JOHN LEWIS and others had done for America that day. Dr. Reese replied humbly, "God did something here." And through these brave Americans, I believe that with all my heart.

Every American should know the story of Montgomery and Selma. Thanks to courageous Americans like Dr. King, Congressman JOHN LEWIS, Dorothy Cotton and F.D. Reese, these cities have become an integral part of the American story in our nation's unrelenting march toward a more perfect union.

Today's resolution further safeguards this valuable history so that it may endure throughout future generations, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL).

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, as the Representative of Alabama's Seventh Congressional District and a Selma native, I am proud and humbled that I could introduce this bipartisan resolution with my colleague, friend, and fellow Alabamian, Representative MARTHA ROBY. Acknowledging the historic significance of the Selma to Montgomery marches by adding the voices of Members of Congress, current and former, to the history of the civil rights movement, we are preserving an important part of the legacy that is the civil rights movement, a legacy that is important not only to black history but to American history and, thus, to world history.

It is truly a full circle moment for me. Personally, I stand here today before this august congressional body as a Member of Congress and a native of Selma, Alabama. I ask my colleagues to support House Resolution 562. I am humbled because I know that my election last year would not have been possible had it not been for the courage of Members of Congress, present and former, like Congressman JOHN LEWIS. For that, I say thank you.

This resolution directs the House Office of Historian to compile oral histories from current and former Members of Congress involved in the monumental Selma to Montgomery marches as well as the civil rights movement. These documents will be used for the

purpose of extending and augmenting the historical record for public dissemination and education. The historical accounts of current and former Members of Congress are living history. They offer an important perspective on the events of the 1960s.

The State of Alabama played a critical role and an integral part of the fabric of the civil rights movement and American history. It is a painful part of Alabama's history. But today, we stand, opening arms and welcoming the commemoration of those events, because without those events and the brave men and women who traveled all across this Nation to come to the State of Alabama during the 1960s to bring about the change that we all enjoy, black men and white men, Jews and gentiles, coming together in order to make sure that we had a more perfect Union and that America lived up to its ideals of democracy and civil liberties.

I can't imagine what it was like to be Congressman JOHN LEWIS as he walked across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. I grew up in Selma. I lived my life in Selma, Alabama. My mom and dad are still in Selma, Alabama. I cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge every time I go home to visit them. It stands as a symbol for the world of what's possible when brave white men and black men, women, and children decide to change the fate of history and, in doing so, bring about significant changes for this country.

I'm proud to represent Selma, Alabama; Birmingham, Alabama; Tuscaloosa, Alabama; the State of Alabama in this Congress. I do so humbly because of the courage and bravery of former and current Members of Congress who did the unthinkable.

□ 0950

I can't imagine being Congressman JOHN DINGELL from Michigan who first took office in 1955. He sat in this very Chamber and voted for the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 against amazing opposition from his own constituents in Michigan. He did the brave thing about voting in favor of these historic legislations.

He was not the only one sitting in this Chamber in 1965. Representative JOHN CONYERS, a black Congressman who was elected in 1965 and who still serves in this Chamber, was in this room and cast that vote for the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

We need to remember and record the history of Congressman LEWIS, Congressman DINGELL, and Congressman CONYERS, and so many Members of Congress, current and past, who are alive today and preserve that history for future generations to come.

Over the next 3 years, Congressman LEWIS, we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of so many of those events of the 1960s. In fact, the mayor of the city of Birmingham is declaring 2013 the Year of Birmingham because we will be celebrating 50 years since the bombing

of 16th Street Baptist Church when four little black girls gave their lives so that I could enjoy the freedoms I enjoy today, so that we all can enjoy the freedoms that we enjoy today.

Over the next 3 years, it will be 50 years for a lot of significant 1960 events, and I am honored to join with my colleague, MARTHA ROBY, who represents Montgomery and is a native of Montgomery. Alabama has two women Members of the congressional delegation for the first time ever. Our elections in 2011 were only made possible because of the courage of so many people who sat in this body and made tough votes. To the people of this Chamber who decided that it was time to make a difference in America, I'm honored to share the cosponsorship of this legislation with MARTHA ROBY. We share a common history as proud Alabamians, a history that should be recorded for posterity.

Now, this weekend, I get the opportunity, as well as Congresswoman MARTHA ROBY and Congressman SPENCER BACHUS, to co-host with Congressman JOHN LEWIS the Faith & Politics Institute's annual pilgrimage back to Alabama. We will start this coming Friday, tomorrow, in Birmingham. We will visit the historic site of the 16th Street Baptist Church. We will walk in Kelly Ingram Park with Congressman JOHN LEWIS and walk in his footsteps. We will visit the Civil Rights Institute in Birmingham, Alabama, and then we will travel on Saturday to Montgomery, Alabama, and we will see Dexter Avenue Baptist Church where Martin Luther King was a young pastor.

We will also enjoy in the evening a dinner, a dinner in the State capitol, Montgomery, Alabama, in the State capitol. Could you imagine that almost 50 years from 1965 that white Members of Congress and black Members of Congress would be able to sit and break bread with the Governor of the State of Alabama? We will do that on Saturday. And on Sunday, I get to welcome a delegation to my hometown, Selma, Alabama; and we will reenact that great march.

We will go to my home church, Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church, where I have been a member for 30 years, where my mother is on the board of trustees. We will sit in that church. We will partake and experience that which people did 50 years ago. Then we will march hand in hand across the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

I know that I would not be here if it weren't for the fact that people marched, people died, and people prayed for the opportunity that we enjoy today. I could not imagine as a little black girl from Selma, Alabama, that I would be the first black Congresswoman from the State of Alabama. But I can because they marched. I can because they died. I can because people prayed.

I ask my colleagues to join me, Congresswoman MARTHA ROBY, Congressman JOHN LEWIS, and so many others

in supporting this House resolution today.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, although obviously the efforts in the civil rights movement were the culmination of efforts by people of all faiths, I find it instructive that this march takes place during the period of Lent, that in the Christian faith is a period of reflection and sacrifice as we prepare for Easter Sunday.

Last Sunday, in my home parish out in California, I recall the readings at the first Sunday of Lent were about the temptations of Christ in the desert. And we received a remarkable sermon at our church in which the theme was expressed with the words "the crown without the cross," that the essence of the temptation of Christ was whether He, as God-made man, was able to make the decision or was tempted to make the decision to accept the crown without accepting the cross, that is, to accept the kingship as Godhead without going through the demands, the terror, and the death of the cross.

I'm reminded of that today because I think of that question that JOHN LEWIS and others had as they crossed that bridge, as they reached the crest and they saw the troopers at the other side: Do you turn back and do you not accept the cross that is coming in order to achieve that which needs to be done to redeem this country and its promise of equality of all as contained in the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence?

I would say that I was inspired as I was there with my wife and others on the march several years ago, STENY HOYER leading those on the Democratic side and JOHN LEWIS, of course, being a regular Member. And he wrote to those of us who reflected on that period that perhaps the most magnificent piece of literature that came out of the civil rights movement, in my judgment, is the "Letter From the Birmingham Jail" by Dr. King. I would commend to my colleagues and to others who might hear our words that they go back and take time to read those words.

Dr. King, sitting in jail, without access to any texts, wrote a magnificent epistle of his generation and our generation to the conscience of the American people. And he found no difficulty whatsoever in utilizing his heartfelt religious values and principles in extending the promise of that Christian message and the religious values that are found in our Judeo-Christian tradition to the underpinnings of our Constitution and challenged us to understand the difference between just and unjust laws and our responsibility to "render unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's, and unto God the things that are God's."

It is an inspiration to me now, and it has been an inspiration to me my entire life.

□ 1000

I would say to anyone who wants to understand the civil rights movement,

to understand the promise of America that was not fulfilled and will never perfectly be fulfilled but is certainly in a better state today than it was prior to the civil rights revolution, they should read those words of Dr. King and understand how that animated the civil rights movement and gave us heroes such as our colleague from Georgia, JOHN LEWIS.

And with that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland, the Democratic whip, Mr. HOYER.

Mr. HOYER. I thank my friend JOHN LEWIS for yielding.

I thank JOHN LEWIS for his service to our country, to its principles, to its values, to its people. I thank JOHN LEWIS for being my friend, and I thank JOHN LEWIS for allowing me for the ninth time to walk with him across that bridge. As I do, I will be holding the hand of JOHN LEWIS and holding in my other hand the hand of my 10-year-old granddaughter Alexa.

This coming week marks the 47th anniversary of the fateful Bloody Sunday march for civil rights. I want to say to DAN LUNGREN, my friend, I thank him for the remarks he just gave. They were heartfelt and on target, and the letter from the Birmingham jail to which he referred is certainly one of the great epistles, as he referred to it, to the American people, to people of conscience, to the fierce urgency of now, which he referenced in that letter.

On March 7, 1965, our friend and esteemed colleague from Georgia, JOHN LEWIS, was among the leaders of that march. It says he was among the leaders. He was the leader, he and Hosea Williams. Two-by-two they walked, some 600, with JOHN and Hosea at the front of the line. That day, in an extraordinary practice of nonviolence, he and other marchers were brutally beaten while trying to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama. They were on their way to Montgomery, the State capital, to protest the murder of a young man, Jimmie Lee Jackson, who had been shot and killed while protecting his mother during a voting rights drive. They were marching to Montgomery to say, in a nonviolent way, every American deserves the right to be able to register and to vote.

Every moment has its darkest hours when the exuberance of hope yields to the reality of difficult and painful struggle. Selma brought that reality into homes across the country. News of that Bloody Sunday awakened millions of Americans to the horrors of Jim Crow. It opened their eyes to the injustice that had cut off so many of our people from participation in their government. It made clear that while we said in our Declaration of Independence that we believed in equality, that we believed that all men, and hopefully we would now say of course all women, all people, are endowed by God with certain unalienable rights.

We were not doing that in this country. That's what that epistle from Birmingham jail was about. That's what this march was about. That march led to another march 2 weeks later that could not be stopped, one that saw 8,000 Americans from a diversity of backgrounds join together in solidarity and with a faith in the enduring promise that America provided.

JOHN LEWIS, our colleague, our friend, our brother, was one of the compelling figures of that time and of this. I've been blessed with the privilege of traveling to Selma, as I said, nine times with JOHN LEWIS, to worshipping in TERRI's church. The visit this weekend will be, I know, another instructive lesson for me and for others on how we need to be continually aware of the discrimination and prejudice that exist today; the attempts at exclusion that exist today; frankly, the attempts to not empower people to vote even today.

What happened in Selma 47 years ago ought to be remembered as a moment when America chose to fight hatred with love and put their faith in the values of our Constitution. In his memoir, which I hope all of you have read, "Walking with the Wind," JOHN LEWIS explains:

If you want to create an open society, your means of doing so must also be consistent with the society you want to create. Violence begets violence. Hatred begets hatred. Anger begets anger, every minute of the day, in the smallest of moments as well as the largest.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BISHOP of Utah). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman.

Ladies and gentlemen, we remember the difficult path we trod as a Nation to ensure the participation of all, and we ought to do everything we can to preserve it in our own day. It is not just history that we want to learn; it is the lesson for today that we must remember and learn.

I thank JOHN LEWIS for his leadership. I thank the thousands, black and white, young and old, rich and poor, who joined together to make America a better place.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. At this time, it's my pleasure to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia, the majority leader, Mr. CANTOR.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California.

Mr. Speaker, on March 7, 1965, in Selma, Alabama, now-Congressman JOHN LEWIS, our colleague, led 600 brave Americans in a march to protest for their equal right to vote like any other American, and they encountered horrific and despicable violence, preventing them from reaching their destination, the capital in Montgomery.

That day, now known as Bloody Sunday, set the stage for the landmark march to Montgomery led by Reverend Martin Luther King and bolstered by

faith and prayer. This act of leadership, courage, and bravery culminated with Congress passing the Voting Rights Act of 1965, recognizing the right of every American to participate in our electoral process.

At that time, there were just six black Members of Congress. Today, I am proud to serve with 44 black colleagues. As Reverend King said:

The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.

Mr. Speaker, today we will pass a resolution that will add the testimonies of Members of Congress, current and past, who participated in the civil rights movement and commemorative events to the historic record of the House. Their stories are an important part of our Nation's heritage and will serve as a reminder to every American of the determination and sacrifice that shaped the stronger democracy we live in today.

I would like to thank Representative TERRI SEWELL, who represents Selma, and Representative MARTHA ROBY, who represents Montgomery, for offering this resolution to preserve a powerful and transformative period in American history. Mr. Speaker, I am extremely honored to work with Congressman LEWIS to ensure that these stories will never be forgotten.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire about how much time remains.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia has 4½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from California has 11½ minutes remaining.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN).

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank also Representatives SEWELL and ROBY for sponsoring this resolution and Congressman LEWIS for his life.

This is a historic resolution, for the work and the memories need to be preserved. I, like Congressman SEWELL, am here because of the work of Congressman LEWIS and other civil rights leaders, making this for a better America.

I didn't think I needed to go on the pilgrimage because I'm from Memphis and I've been to the Mason Temple where Dr. King made his last speech; and been to Lorraine Motel, the national civil rights museum, on many occasions; and AFSCME hall where he rallied workers, now named for Jerry Wurf.

□ 1010

But when I went to Birmingham, when I went to Montgomery, when I went to Selma, I realized that there was much more history that I needed to know, and there was a way to be filled with the spirit of the civil rights movement, which one is when one goes to the Rosa Parks Museum, the Dexter Street Church, the 16th Street Church, the Civil Rights Institute, and the bridge.

It's hard to fathom the way the world was in 1965, but that was only a short number of years ago. This country started with a history of slavery, and it was accepted by the Founding Fathers and others as the way things were. The Founding Fathers were great men, and they wrote words that were great, but they were without absolute meaning because they accepted, as a given, that African Americans should be slaves and women shouldn't have equality. It took a civil war to change some of that, and then it took JOHN LEWIS and civil rights workers to change the Jim Crow laws that followed up, that didn't accept the outcome of the war and continued a segregated society that said African Americans weren't equal, couldn't go in public places and public accommodations and public restaurants and transit, just like others.

Well, that changed, and the people who changed that, the civil rights workers, the marchers, the sit-ins, the Freedom Riders—BOB FILNER was a Freedom Rider and was arrested, a Congressperson—those people made the promise that was given fulfilled.

It's still a work. I introduced and this House passed in 2007 an apology for slavery and Jim Crow. It took till 2007 for this House to pass it, and I appreciate the fact that when I did introduce it and it passed, that there were two Republican sponsors, but there were just two Republican sponsors.

This year, I have H.R. 3866, which recognizes all civil rights workers with a Congressional Gold Medal. I'm sorry to say that, to this date, there's not a single Republican sponsor. There should be. Civil rights is as Republican as it is Democrat. The party of Lincoln, as did the party of Kennedy, provided civil rights. And in 1965, when that Voting Rights Act passed, there were people like Everett Dirksen who cast important votes.

I urge my Republican colleagues to support this resolution, to support H.R. 3688, and honor the civil rights workers who had to fight their country for their rights and privileges.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. May I make an inquiry as to whether the gentleman on the other side, Mr. LEWIS, has additional speakers?

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. We don't have any additional speakers.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. And how much time do we have?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California has 11½ minutes. The gentleman from Georgia has 1½ minutes.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend and my colleague from California for his commitment, for his dedication, with all of his kind words today.

I think this resolution is saying to all of us that we have come a distance. We've made a lot of progress, and the Members of Congress participated in helping to bring about what I like to call a nonviolent revolution in America, a revolution of values, a revolution of ideas.

It is unreal, it is unbelievable. Just think, a few short years ago, in a place like Selma, Alabama, or Lowndes County, Alabama, between Selma and Montgomery, Lowndes County was more than 80 percent African American. There was not a single registered African American voter in the county. Today there's a biracial county government.

That in a city like Selma, in 1965, only 2.1 percent of African Americans were registered to vote. Today there is a biracial city government.

Or in a State like the State of Mississippi, in 1965, the State had an African American population, voting age population, of more than 450,000, and only about 16,000 were registered to vote. Because of the action of Presidents and Members of Congress, we have changed, and it's my hope and my prayer that every Member of Congress will vote to pass this resolution.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to echo the words of my friend, Mr. LEWIS. Let us have all Members vote for this resolution. It is a recognition, a simple, straightforward, symbolic resolution recognizing the efforts of so many, as embodied in the gentleman, Mr. LEWIS, and others who worked so hard to change this country for the better.

I'm honored to be here on the floor with Mr. LEWIS today. I appreciate the chance I had to be with him in this march several years ago.

I encourage all Members to take part in that, either this year or in the future, and I ask all Members to support this.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, today, I am proud to join with TERRI SEWELL, another Alabama Freshman Member, to offer House Resolution 562, an initiative that will preserve a collection of accounts from Members involved in the historic and annual marches from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. It is a great honor to today stand on the House floor with my colleague, Representative JOHN LEWIS, who himself played such an important role in the Selma march.

The oral histories preserved through this resolution will memorialize the symbolic events that changed the direction of the Civil Rights Movement.

What took place during three historic marches in Alabama over a three-week period in 1965 proved to be a powerful transformation in American history. The courageous actions of so many moved our country out of an era of misguided actions.

Participants marched towards a unified goal—to provide equal voting rights for all

Americans. The first march on March 7, 1965, remains, without a doubt, one of the worst demonstrations of racial violence. Participants peacefully marching were met by a brutal and aggressive police force. This violence was captured by the news and broadcast to family rooms all over the nation. It quickly delivered a message to a racially divided country of the unforeseen consequences caused by segregation.

Such shameless violent actions unleashed on nonviolent marchers revealed the immediate need for equal rights for citizens. Without a doubt, the days that racial voting laws were enforced by our country were among the darkest and least honorable for this nation. Even today, our country is still repairing from the wrongs inflicted decades ago from racial segregation.

If it were not for the unwavering courage of those marching for civil freedoms, our country would be very different then the way we know it today. Their brave actions will be forever memorialized by the Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights Trail.

Our younger generations today did not witness first-hand the historic demonstrations that forged a unified nation. Therefore, it is important to record the testimonies in order to reveal the scope and relevance of these civil rights events.

I am proud to introduce this resolution with Representative SEWELL to preserve the history of our democracy. The resolution instructs the Office of the Historian to compile testimonies from current and former Members of Congress who have participated in historic or commemorative Civil Rights Movement actions. It will tell every generation a detailed timeline of these historic moments in the American Civil Rights Movement.

Those marching for equality were among the first patriots to envision a better America—one free from racial discrimination. The marches proved not only to be successful in granting equal voting rights, but an illustrative account of citizens attaining freedom from harsh discrimination.

Though such intolerable actions can never be reversed, there is still dignity knowing that the participants of these marches permanently changed the course of American history. I urge all of my colleagues to vote in support of this bicameral resolution.

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support for H. Res. 562, which directs the Office of the Historian to compile oral histories for both the historic and annual Selma-to-Montgomery marches in Alabama.

I thank my colleagues, Representatives SEWELL and ROBY, for sponsoring this vitally important resolution.

They say those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it.

I can think of no lesson more valuable for all Americans to learn than the courage, justice, perseverance, and non-violence exemplified by those individuals who participated in the historic Alabama marches of 1965.

The character shown by leaders such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Reverend Hosea Williams, and our very own JOHN LEWIS, was truly remarkable.

Since 1998, Members of Congress have had the opportunity to participate in the annual civil rights pilgrimage to the Selma-to-Montgomery National Historic Trail.

It is fitting that the Office of the Historian of the House compiles oral histories from those who have participated in these historic events.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing those who fought for the civil rights we enjoy today. Let us pass H. Res. 562, so that we may never forget the lessons they have taught us.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H. Res. 562, which will instruct the House Historian to collect oral histories from Members of Congress involved in the marches from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama as well as the wider civil rights movement. This effort will preserve for generations to come the experiences of all those who had to fight to bring the realities of our nation in line with our ideals of freedom and equality. I am glad that we can all come together in a bipartisan fashion to support this important initiative.

During the historic marches from Selma to Montgomery in 1965, led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and my colleague Representative JOHN LEWIS, many brave protesters were brutally beaten and tear-gassed by authorities for non-violently standing up for their rights. The images of these events embodied the viciousness of racism and segregation, and raised awareness and support for the civil rights movement across the nation. This momentum resulted in increasing desegregation and the passage of the Voting Rights Act by Congress in 1965, which reaffirmed the rights of all Americans to participate in our democratic political process, regardless of race or identity. Starting in 1998, Members of Congress, led once again by Congressman LEWIS, have been participating in an annual march from Selma to Montgomery to commemorate these events and to underscore the immense positive impact that the participants in those marches had on the history of our nation.

Please join me in supporting this legislation and in recognizing my friend Representative LEWIS for his invaluable contributions to the civil rights movement. It is my hope that the histories to be compiled by this project will inspire the leaders of the future, who are following the example set by Representative LEWIS and other civil leaders. They are truly striving to make our country a more perfect reflection of the vision of our founders.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 562, "Directing the Office of the Historian to compile oral histories from Members of the House of Representatives involved in the historic and annual Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, marches, as well as the civil rights movement in general, for the purposes of expanding or augmenting the historic record for public dissemination and education."

What happened in Selma 45 years ago, is an opportunity to remember and embrace our history and its evolution. A single day in 1965 would become known as Bloody Sunday. I am proud to serve with Mr. JOHN LEWIS who led 600 brave Americans on that day, on a peaceful march for their equal rights to vote. They were met with unspeakable violence and put their lives on the line for the right to vote. This resolution will ensure that future Americans will not forget the sacrifices made by brave, courageous, Americans seeking only to have full participation in our fine Democracy.

I have had the honor of participating in the Congressional Civil Rights Pilgrimage with Mr.

LEWIS. I had the opportunity to see history come alive during my pilgrimage to Birmingham, Montgomery and Selma. I left with further appreciation for all the efforts that African-Americans have accomplished over the years.

The events that took place in Alabama were pivotal in our nation's civil rights movement. Dr. King's "Letter from a Birmingham Jail," the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing and the Bloody Sunday march were crucial experiences to America's collective psyche.

Two weeks after Bloody Sunday, under the protection of the Alabama National Guard, Dr. King was able to lead the march successfully, and in August of that same year President Johnson signed into law the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Dr. King and his committed supporters forced our nation to acknowledge the injustices committed against African-Americans.

This legislation will ensure the 54 mile route, beginning at the Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church in Selma and ending at the State Capitol Building in Montgomery, is never forgotten.

With the support of this body, generations to come can know and appreciate those early steps in the civil rights movement that began the road to making the Constitution of this country extend its rights and protections to all of its citizens.

The painful lessons learned in Montgomery, Birmingham and Selma continue to be experienced by minority populations all over the United States. The struggle for political recognition and participation continues not only in the African-American populations, but now in the fast-growing Latino community. In addition, many of the gains that can be traced back to the civil rights era are currently being targeted. We must be ever vigilant to ensure that we do not turn back the clock and instead keep moving forward to protect the rights of minorities in this country.

A long, bitter, and bloody struggle was fought for the Voting Rights Act of 1965 so that all Americans could enjoy the right to vote, regardless of race, ethnicity, or national origin. Americans died in that fight so that others could achieve what they had been forcefully deprived of for centuries—the ability to walk freely and without fear into the polling place and cast a voting ballot.

Efforts to keep minorities from fully exercising that franchise, however, continue. Indeed, in the past thirty years, we have witnessed a pattern of efforts to intimidate and harass minority voters including efforts that were deemed "Ballot Security" programs that include the mailing of threatening notices to African-American voters, the carrying of video cameras to monitor polls, the systematic challenging of minority voters at the polls on unlawful grounds, and the hiring of guards and off-duty police officers to intimidate and frighten voters at the polls.

Most Americans take the right to vote for granted. We assume that we can register and vote if we are over 18 and are citizens. Most of us learned in school that discrimination based on race, creed or national origin has been barred by the Constitution since the end of the Civil War.

Before the 1965 Voting Rights Act, however, the right to vote did not exist in practice for most African Americans. And, until 1975, most American citizens who were not proficient in English faced significant obstacles to voting, because they could not understand the ballot.

Even though the Indian Citizenship Act gave Native Americans the right to vote in 1924, state law determined who could actually vote, which effectively excluded many Native Americans from political participation for decades.

Asian Americans and Asian immigrants also have suffered systematic exclusion from the political process and it has taken a series of reforms, including repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1943, and passage of amendments strengthening the Voting Rights Act three decades later, to fully extend the franchise to Asian Americans. It was with this history in mind that the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was designed to make the right to vote a reality for all Americans.

And the Voting Rights Act has made giant strides toward that goal. Without exaggeration, it has been one of the most effective civil rights laws passed by Congress.

In 1964, there were only approximately 300 African-Americans in public office, including just three in Congress. Few, if any, black elected officials were elected anywhere in the South.

Today there are more than 9,100 black elected officials, including 43 Members of Congress, the largest number ever. The Act has opened the political process for many of the approximately 6,000 Latino public officials that have been elected and appointed nationwide, including 263 at the State or Federal level, 27 of whom serve in Congress. And Native Americans, Asians and others who have historically encountered harsh barriers to full political participation also have benefited greatly.

We must not forget the importance of protecting this hard earned right. Preserving our past and honoring those who put their lives on the line for change is the right step toward ensuring that history does not repeat itself.

Again, I thank Mr. LEWIS for his leadership. I thank him for having the courage both 45 years ago and today to be a champion of change.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to the order of the House of Wednesday, February 29, 2012, the resolution is considered read and the previous question is ordered on the resolution and on the preamble.

The question is on adoption of the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. 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, this 15-minute vote on adoption of House Resolution 562 will be followed by 5-minute votes on motions to suspend the rules on S. 1134 and House Resolution 556.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 418, nays 0, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 92]

YEAS—418

Ackerman	Amash	Bachus
Adams	Amodei	Baldwin
Aderholt	Andrews	Barletta
Akin	Austria	Barrow
Alexander	Baca	Bartlett
Altmire	Bachmann	Barton (TX)

Bass (CA)	Emerson	Lamborn
Bass (NH)	Engel	Lance
Becerra	Eshoo	Landry
Benishkek	Farenthold	Langevin
Berg	Farr	Lankford
Berkley	Fattah	Larsen (WA)
Berman	Filner	Larson (CT)
Biggert	Fincher	Latham
Bilbray	Fitzpatrick	LaTourette
Bilirakis	Flake	Latta
Bishop (GA)	Fleischmann	Lee (CA)
Bishop (NY)	Fleming	Levin
Bishop (UT)	Flores	Lewis (CA)
Black	Forbes	Lewis (GA)
Blackburn	Fortenberry	Lipinski
Blumenauer	Fox	LoBiondo
Bonamici	Frank (MA)	Loebsack
Bonner	Frelinghuysen	Lofgren, Zoe
Bono Mack	Fudge	Long
Boren	Gallegly	Lowe
Boswell	Garamendi	Lucas
Boustany	Gardner	Luetkemeyer
Brady (PA)	Garrett	Lujan
Brady (TX)	Gerlach	Lummis
Bralley (IA)	Gibbs	Lungren, Daniel E.
Brooks	Gibson	
Broun (GA)	Gingrey (GA)	Lynch
Brown (FL)	Gohmert	Mack
Buchanan	Gonzalez	Maloney
Bucshon	Gosar	Manzullo
Buerkle	Gowdy	Marchant
Burgess	Granger	Marino
Burton (IN)	Graves (GA)	Markey
Butterfield	Graves (MO)	Matheson
Calvert	Green, Al	Matsui
Camp	Green, Gene	McCarthy (CA)
Canseco	Griffin (AR)	McCarthy (NY)
Cantor	Griffith (VA)	McCaul
Capito	Grijalva	McClintock
Capps	Grimm	McCollum
Capuano	Guinta	McCotter
Carnahan	Guthrie	McDermott
Carney	Gutierrez	McGovern
Carson (IN)	Hahn	McHenry
Carter	Hall	McIntyre
Cassidy	Hanabusa	McKeon
Castor (FL)	Hanna	McKinley
Chabot	Harper	McNerney
Chaffetz	Harris	Meehan
Chandler	Hartzler	Mica
Chu	Hastings (FL)	Michaud
Ciilline	Hastings (WA)	Miller (FL)
Clarke (MI)	Hayworth	Miller (MI)
Clarke (NY)	Heck	Miller (NC)
Clay	Heinrich	Miller, Gary
Clyburn	Hensarling	Miller, George
Coble	Herger	Moore
Coffman (CO)	Herrera Beutler	Moran
Cohen	Higgins	Mulvaney
Cole	Himes	Murphy (CT)
Conaway	Hinche	Murphy (PA)
Connolly (VA)	Hinojosa	Myrick
Conyers	Hirono	Napolitano
Cooper	Hochul	Neal
Costa	Holden	Neugebauer
Costello	Holt	Noem
Courtney	Honda	Nugent
Cravaack	Hoyer	Nunes
Crawford	Huelskamp	Nunnelee
Crenshaw	Huizenga (MI)	Olson
Critz	Hultgren	Owens
Crowley	Hunter	Palazzo
Cuellar	Hurt	Pallone
Culberson	Inslee	Pascrell
Cummings	Israel	Pastor (AZ)
Davis (CA)	Issa	Paulsen
Davis (IL)	Jackson (IL)	Pearce
Davis (KY)	Jackson Lee	Pelosi
DeFazio	(TX)	Pence
DeGette	Jenkins	Perlmutter
DeLauro	Johnson (GA)	Peters
Denham	Johnson (IL)	Peterson
Dent	Johnson (OH)	Petri
DesJarlais	Johnson, E. B.	Pingree (ME)
Deutch	Johnson, Sam	Pitts
Diaz-Balart	Jones	Platts
Dicks	Jordan	Poe (TX)
Dingell	Keating	Polis
Doggett	Kelly	Pompeo
Dold	Kildee	Posey
Donnelly (IN)	Kind	Price (GA)
Doyle	King (IA)	Price (NC)
Dreier	King (NY)	Quayle
Duffy	Kingston	Quigley
Duncan (SC)	Kinzinger (IL)	Rahall
Duncan (TN)	Kissell	Reed
Edwards	Kline	Rehberg
Ellison	Kucinich	Reichert
Ellmers	Labrador	Renacci

Table with columns of names representing members of the House of Representatives, including Reyes, Ribble, Richardson, etc., and their respective districts or affiliations.

NAYS—80

NOT VOTING—14

Table listing names of members who did not vote, including Campbell, Cardoza, Cleaver, etc.

□ 1043

So the resolution was agreed to. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded. A motion to reconsider was laid on the table. Stated for: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 92 I was in TS briefing. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

ST. CROIX RIVER CROSSING PROJECT AUTHORIZATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1134) to authorize the St. Croix River Crossing Project with appropriate mitigation measures to promote river values, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill. This is a 5-minute vote. The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 339, nays 80, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 93] YEAS—339

Table listing names of members who voted 'yea', including Adams, Aderholt, Alexander, etc.

Table listing names of members who voted 'yea', including Boren, Boswell, Boustany, etc.

Table listing names of members who voted 'yea', including Walberg, Walden, Walsh, etc.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1052

Ms. WATERS and Mr. HULTGREN changed their vote from "yea" to "nay." Messrs. COFFMAN of Colorado, MCGOVERN and OLVER changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table. Stated for: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 93, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

CONDEMNING IRAN FOR ITS PERSECUTION OF YOUCEF NADARKHANI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 556) condemning the Government of Iran for its continued persecution, imprisonment, and sentencing of Youcef Nadarkhani on the charge of apostasy, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, as amended.