

human rights in their country. Let's not pretend though that this resolution is taking place at this time outside of any context. There is a context, and the context is that we are closer than we have ever been to reaching a peaceful agreement with Iran on nuclear weapons.

I don't know what is going to happen on November 24, and I suspect the people who do know aren't telling the public just yet, but I do know that we have made substantial progress and that we are close.

The context is important that we should stand with the people of Iran and stand for their human rights. I absolutely believe that that is the right thing to do; therefore, I ask for a "yes" vote on this.

I have to ask the question: Is this the most well-timed time for this resolution? I do worry that we could undermine the negotiations, but the four corners of this resolution are right, so I am a "yes" vote.

I think today's resolution, which highlights the human rights abuses in Iran, also could be improved if it included words and language about the best way to bring those abuses to an end.

I believe improving human rights in Iran is much more likely if we secure a nuclear agreement. The best way to empower human rights leaders within Iran is to engage, not isolate.

Increased sanctions and the threat of war hurts human rights activists because it allows the hard-liners in Iran to claim that they are under imminent threat and, therefore, there is no time or space or room for human rights. I believe that a nuclear agreement will actually increase the likelihood for human rights advocacy.

I don't want to see us go back to the days when we talked in terms of the "axis of evil." It didn't improve the set freedom and security of Americans or anyone. I liked the fact that we have embarked on the path of diplomacy.

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

Mr. ENGEL. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. ELLISON. President Rouhani has prioritized diplomacy, and I think this is an important opportunity that we should pursue.

In the final analysis, human rights are what the United States should always stand for, and we in this Congress should never not stand for human rights. I am proud that we are clear on human rights in this resolution.

I simply want to admonish and warn us that taking action that could undermine very delicate negotiations may not be the best timing that we have ever pursued and that for the last 30 years—and I hope for the next 30 years—we will always raise the banner of human rights whenever and wherever, but I think we should be sensitive of the reality of the moment that we are in.

Let me just say thank you to the brave souls who stand up for human

rights under very difficult conditions in Iran.

□ 1615

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes to respond.

One of the reasons the timing on this is important is because this is the timing that the Iranian regime has chosen to pass legislation that would protect those young men in the Basij who carry out these acid attacks against women. One of the reasons I am bringing this bill to the floor is because I am concerned about what it tells us about a regime that, rather than come to the defense of these women who admittedly were in violation of the dress code in terms of their facial, in terms of their mode of dress, to allow individuals in a theocratic country to make the decisions that they are the arbitrator of what is shari'a law and then to exonerate them by saying it is the right of the individual to step in against another and enforce shari'a law rather than have the state do it, this is a theocratic state that is taking a principle against the individual, against individual freedom, and especially against rights of women to an extra step that is so injurious to human liberty, but also the fact that they would do this now and that they would be so unconcerned that we might not even respond to this or that the international community would have a reaction to this, I think it demands a reaction. Because if we do not, in the court of international opinion, hold them to account for these kinds of acts in their Parliament, what is the message that is given to those who are encouraged to further violate women's rights and minority rights in Iran? That is why I am pushing this bill today.

Mr. Speaker, I had a conversation a little over a week ago with a group of Iranian American women about their experiences in Iran and their reaction to this parliamentary act and their reaction to the acid attacks which are increasing in number to a truly alarming percentage. There have been over a dozen of these now. So that is why the timing of the legislation. It is in response to this. In the process, it catalogs the other abuses that the regime recently has undertaken under President Rouhani at a time when we thought they might put a different foot forward to the international community.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to send a message of support to the Iranian people that they build a better future for themselves and their children. Today this House exposes the gross violations of human rights by the Iranian regime. The Iranian people deserve better. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, there were observers that were tempted to believe that Iran's President Rouhani would

usher in a more tolerant attitude at home. I think many of us suspected that might be the case because he did occasionally offer less antagonistic rhetoric than his predecessor, even if he had had the history he did have in the security services. But it turns out that was wrong. That assumption was wrong.

In a new report, the U.N. Special Rapporteur has documented an alarming increase in the number of executions, including political prisoners, juveniles, and religious minorities, such as the peaceful Baha'i, since President Rouhani took office in August of 2013. The motif of this regime is becoming a religious dissident swinging by the neck from a crane, if you watch the news coming out of Iran.

I won't again articulate my concerns about these acid attacks that are going on, but this comes, I think, at a time when millions of Iranians yearn for basic freedoms—basic freedoms—that we in the West take for granted.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is incumbent upon all of us, as the House is doing today, to stand with the people of Iran who suffer under this theocracy and to speak out.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 754.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MALALA YOUSAFZAI SCHOLARSHIP ACT

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3583) to expand the number of scholarships available to Pakistani women under the Merit and Needs-Based Scholarship Program, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3583

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Malala Yousafzai Scholarship Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) On October 9, 2012, Malala Yousafzai was shot in the head by Pakistani Taliban on her way home from school.

(2) In late 2008, Malala began writing a blog for BBC Urdu under a pseudonym pressing the case for access to education for women and girls despite objections from the Pakistani Taliban.

(3) Malala's advocacy for the education of women and girls made her a target of the Taliban.

(4) The Taliban called Malala's efforts to highlight the need for education for women and girls an "obscenity".

(5) On July 12, 2013, Malala celebrated her 16th birthday by delivering a speech before the United Nations General Assembly in which she said, “So let us wage a glorious struggle against illiteracy, poverty, and terrorism. Let us pick up our books and our pens. They are the most powerful weapons. One child, one teacher, one book, and one pen can change the world. Education is the only solution.”

(6) According to the United Nation’s 2012 Education for All Global Monitoring Report, “Pakistan has the second largest number of children out of school [in the world]” and “nearly half of rural females have never been to school.”

(7) According to the World Bank, “The benefits of women’s education go beyond higher productivity for 50 percent of the population. More educated women also tend to be healthier, participate more in the formal labor market, earn more income, have fewer children, and provide better health care and education to their children, all of which eventually improve the well-being of all individuals and lift households out of poverty. These benefits also transmit across generations, as well as to their communities at large.”

(8) According to United Nation’s 2012 Education For All Global Monitoring Report, “education can make a big difference to women’s earnings. In Pakistan, women with a high level of literacy earned 95 percent more than women with no literacy skills.”

(9) In January 2010, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton stated, “We will open the doors of education to all citizens, but especially to girls and women . . . We are doing all of these things because we have seen that when women and girls have the tools to stay healthy and the opportunity to contribute to their families’ well-being, they flourish and so do the people around them.”

(10) The United States provides critical foreign assistance to Pakistan’s education sector to improve access to and the quality of basic and higher education.

(11) The Merit and Needs-Based Scholarship Program administered by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) awards scholarships to academically talented, financially needy Pakistani students from all regions, including remote areas of the country, to pursue bachelor’s or master’s degrees at participating Pakistani universities.

(12) Fifty percent of the 974 Merit and Needs-Based Scholarships awarded during fiscal year 2013 were awarded to Pakistani women. Historically, only 25 percent of such scholarships have been awarded to women. Starting in the fall of 2013, USAID has committed to provide 50 percent of all scholarships to women.

(13) The United Nations declared July 12, 2013, as “Malala Day”—a global day of support for and recognition of Malala’s bravery and courage in promoting women’s education.

(14) On October 10, 2014, Malala Yousafzai became the co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize for her “struggle against the suppression of children and young people and for the right of all children to education.”

(15) On December 10, 2012, the United Nations and the Government of Pakistan launched the “Malala Fund for Girls’ Education” to improve girls’ access to education worldwide, with Pakistan donating the first \$10,000,000 to the Fund.

(16) More than 1,000,000 people around the world have signed the United Nations Special Envoy for Global Education petition calling on the Government of Pakistan to enroll every boy and girl in primary school.

(17) Pakistani civil society organizations collected almost 2,000,000 signatures from

Pakistanis on a petition dedicated to Malala’s cause of education for all.

(18) Engagement with Pakistani diaspora communities in the United States, who have unique perspectives, access, and opportunities to contribute to stability and economic growth in Pakistan, will be a critical element of a successful United States program to promote greater access to education for women and girls.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) every individual should have the opportunity to pursue an education;

(2) every individual, regardless of gender, should have the opportunity to pursue an education without fear of discrimination;

(3) educational exchanges promote institutional linkages between the United States and Pakistan; and

(4) recipients of scholarships referred to in section 4 should commit to improving their local communities.

(b) CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES IN PAKISTAN.—Congress encourages the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development to continue their support for initiatives led by the Government of Pakistan and Pakistani civil society that promote education in Pakistan, especially education for women.

SEC. 4. MERIT AND NEEDS-BASED SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (referred to in this Act as the “USAID Administrator”) shall award at least 50 percent of the number of scholarships under the Merit and Needs-Based Scholarship Program (referred to in this Act as the “Program”) to women for each of the calendar years 2014 through 2016.

(b) LIMITATIONS.—

(1) CRITERIA.—The scholarships available under subsection (a) may only be awarded in accordance with other scholarship eligibility criteria already established by USAID.

(2) ACADEMIC DISCIPLINES.—Scholarships authorized under subsection (a) shall be awarded for a range of disciplines to improve the employability of graduates and to meet the needs of the scholarship recipients.

(3) OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS.—The USAID Administrator shall make every effort to award 50 percent of the scholarships available under the Program to Pakistani women.

(c) LEVERAGING INVESTMENT.—The USAID Administrator shall, to the greatest extent practicable, consult with and leverage investments by the Pakistani private sector and Pakistani diaspora communities in the United States as part of USAID’s greater effort to improve the quality of, expand access to, and ensure sustainability of education programs in Pakistan.

SEC. 5. ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The USAID Administrator shall designate appropriate USAID officials to brief the appropriate congressional committees, not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for the next 3 years, on the implementation of section 4.

(b) CONTENTS.—The briefing described in subsection (a) shall include, among other relevant information, for the most recently concluded fiscal year—

(1) the total number of scholarships that were awarded through the Program, including a breakdown by gender;

(2) the disciplines of study chosen by the scholarship recipients;

(3) the percentage of the scholarships that were awarded to students seeking a bachelor’s degree or a master’s degree, respectively;

(4) the percentage of scholarship recipients who voluntarily dropped out of school or were involuntarily pushed out of the program for failure to meet program requirements; and

(5) the percentage of scholarship recipients who dropped out of school due to retaliation for seeking an education, to the extent that such information is available.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Malala Yousafzai Scholarship Act. I really want to thank the chairman emeritus of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. She authored this bill along with the gentleman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER) and our colleague from New York (Mrs. LOWEY).

Earlier this year, the Foreign Affairs Committee held a hearing on women’s education which underscored the point at the heart of the bill: a modest investment in educating women and girls in the developing world, particularly in areas beset by poverty and radicalism, can pay long-term dividends that help stabilize societies, promote market-based economic growth, and advance U.S. national security objectives.

I have for years expressed concern about the appalling state of education in places like Afghanistan and Pakistan and the subsequent rise of madrasas, those that prey upon the disenfranchised and breed radicalism. And what I am speaking of now are the Deobandi schools, not the other madrasa, but the Deobandi ones in particular.

The situation for women in areas where access to education is actively suppressed is particularly grim. In Pakistan’s northwest frontier province and in Balochistan, for example, literacy among women is between 3 and 8 percent—under 8 percent. I visited all-girl schools in Pakistan up in the northwest frontier only to learn later, when I came back for another visit, that they had been destroyed and it was no longer possible to visit that site.

It is therefore fitting that this bill was named after Malala Yousafzai, who at the age of 15 dared to defy the Taliban and survived a brutal assassination attempt, and ultimately inspired a generation of women and girls to demand their fundamental right to be educated. She is known today for

leading that effort. Just last month, Malala became the corecipient of this year's Nobel Peace Prize for her struggle, in her words, for the right of all children to education.

This legislation requires that USAID award at least half of the scholarships made available through its existing Merit and Needs-Based Scholarship Program in Pakistan to women. It adds no new money to the program, but it provides support and policy guidance to make sure that these scholarships are now going half to women.

The bill also emphasizes the importance of working with the Pakistani diaspora, those communities in the United States who already are doing so much back in Pakistan relating to education and to the medical colleges and universities. Tapping into this vast pool of expertise and resources will prove invaluable to our long-term commitment to promote educational opportunity for girls in Pakistan and elsewhere.

Mr. Speaker, again, I want to thank my colleague from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for her leadership on this issue, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3583, the Malala Yousafzai Scholarship Act, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by thanking my good friend, the chairman of the Middle East Subcommittee, Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, for her commitment to girls' education and for authoring this bill. ILEANA works hard at everything she does, and I am very proud of her, as usual, for her good work in this bill.

I also want to thank Mrs. LOWEY for the hard work she has put into this through the years. She has always been a good force on the Appropriations Committee with earmarks pushing for these very, very important things that we are putting forward here in this resolution.

I want to also thank my fellow New Yorkers, GRACE MENG and JERROLD NADLER, who are cosponsors of this bill, as well as NITA LOWEY, as well.

Mr. Speaker, some of the most effective programs we funded in Pakistan in the years since 9/11 are those that support education, and particularly education for girls. The legislation before us today ensures that at least 50 percent of the scholarships that USAID provides in Pakistan are made available to girls and women. As the President has said, if a country is "educating its girls, if women have equal rights, that country is going to move forward. But if women are oppressed and abused and illiterate, then they are going to fall behind."

The World Bank's top economist has said that financing women's education yields the highest rate of return of any investment in the developing world. But there is another compelling reason for the U.S. to support female education in Pakistan and in other coun-

tries around the world. Educated women and girls are proving to be some of the most powerful weapons in the fight against radicalism.

Take the example of Malala, the courageous young woman. We all know about her. She was recently awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. As a teenager, Malala became a vocal advocate for all girls to have the right to an education at a time when the Taliban in Afghanistan prohibited access to education for girls. When she wouldn't follow their orders, the Taliban shot her in the head for defying them. After recovering—thankfully—from the violent attack on her life, Malala's passionate calls for universal education inspired millions—I know she inspired me—and spurred action around the world.

In the speech she gave at the U.N. in July of 2013, Malala said of the Taliban:

They thought that the bullets would silence us. But they failed. And then, out of that silence came thousands of voices.

Mr. Speaker, the positive impact of these voices will only continue to grow in Pakistan and around the world as more and more girls are given the opportunity to get an education. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

I thank Chairman ROYCE once again for working with us and for being a vocal voice in all these important resolutions, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), the chairwoman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa, the author of this measure, but also, herself, a former educator who understands only too well the importance of this bill.

□ 1630

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman ROYCE and Ranking Member ENGEL not only for helping bring this bill, H.R. 3583, to the floor today, but for working in such a smooth, bipartisan manner throughout their time over 2 years—and beyond, to infinity—and helping bring all of our Members together on incredibly vexing issues. Whether it is Iraq or Iran or ISIS or you name it, our committee works in a very smooth way. And it is thanks to the leadership at the top.

I also want to thank Congresswoman GRANGER, KAY GRANGER, and Ranking Member NITA LOWEY of the State Foreign Operations Subcommittee. They joined me in introducing this bill. This bill is as much theirs as it is mine. Also, Senator BOXER, on the Senate side, for her leadership on this issue.

As Chairman ROYCE so nicely put it, I am a former Florida certified teacher. That is what I used to do in my real life. And I am a lifelong student and one of the most senior women in Congress today. I have been around a long time. So I hold the issue of education very near and dear to my heart.

We know that access to education is a game changer for any society, Mr.

Speaker. It could transform developing countries. It improves the lives of so many, especially in the vulnerable populations.

Greater access to education for women and for young girls, it leads to an increased respect for human rights, it leads to a rise in prosperity and well-being, and a more peaceful and stable society.

Everyone wins. A society in which women have unfettered access to the education system expands the horizons not just for the girls and women involved, but for everyone in their community and their nation. These countries that limit access to education for young girls and women are missing out. They are missing out on the untapped potential of nearly half of their population.

Imagine how much more productive and how much better off some of these nations would be if they promoted a more inclusive society.

What are they afraid of? It is no coincidence that the countries that are most susceptible to human trafficking and exploitation or the trappings of extremism and terrorism are also those countries that restrict a woman's access to education.

Education is the most important factor in empowering young girls and women to become successful members of our society, protecting them from the ignorance that enables abuse, radicalization, and exploitation.

And that is precisely the case in Pakistan, a country which has one of the highest number of children out of school already. They are not going to school. Two-thirds of all children out of school are girls.

The numbers are troubling. Barely half of all girls in Pakistan are enrolled in primary schools. And that figure drops to 30 percent for secondary schools. These numbers are even lower in rural areas where poverty is ever increasing and girls have even less access to schools.

A lot of this has to do with the Taliban, Mr. Speaker, that radical terror group that seeks to impose Shari'a law and forbids women, forbids girls from access to education.

That is why this bill is so important. We need to help ensure that we can counter the Taliban's efforts to deny fundamental rights to women and limit their contributions to Pakistani society.

The United States provides Merit and Needs-Based Scholarships to Pakistani children. But this bill will ensure that at least half of those scholarships go to women. There is still much more to be done to ensure access to education for all women in Pakistan and indeed throughout the world.

Doing so would mean a safer society, a healthier society, a more stable and secure world, and so it would be in our national security interest to make it so.

This is but a small step in the right direction. I urge my colleagues to support this bill. I thank again my chairman, Chairman ROYCE of California,

and Mr. ENGEL of New York for guiding our committee in such a wonderful bipartisan way.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I want to first of all, again, thank Chairman ROYCE for working closely with us on all these pieces of legislation, and thank ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN for her hard work and her collegiality as well.

The legislation that we are passing now and the three pieces of legislation that we passed beforehand makes me very, very proud to be the ranking member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. I think we do good work on the committee. I think we do good bipartisan work on the committee. It is on issues like this that it is really very crucial and very important for the powers that be all over the world to see that foreign policy in America is bipartisan, that we are strongest when we work together, that we are strongest in tackling foreign policy issues when we do it in a bipartisan nature—and we have done it in the Committee on Foreign Affairs. So I want to tell the chairman how proud I am to work with him.

Mr. Speaker, humanity will never reach its full potential until all children, especially girls, are given the opportunity to get an education. Educated women and girls make critical economic contributions, stabilize whole communities, and serve as bulwarks against extremism. This important legislation would ensure girls and women be given at least 50 percent of the scholarships we provide in Pakistan, a nation that continues to face enormous challenges, including the threat of terrorism.

Again, I want to thank everybody. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, Mr. ELIOT ENGEL did something especially impactful. He quoted from the speech before the United Nations last year of Malala, in her own words. I thought I would just close by making her closing argument, which was:

The extremists are afraid of books and pens. The power of education frightens them. They are afraid of women. The power of the voice of women frightens them. That is why they are blasting schools every day. Because they were and they are afraid of change, afraid of the equality that we will bring into our society.

I ask for an "aye" vote.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as one of the co-sponsors and Co-Chair of both the Children's Caucus and the Pakistan Caucus, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3583, the Malala Yousafzai Scholarship Act.

Mr. Speaker, the passage of H.R. 3583 would provide numerous educational opportunities to Pakistani women in situations similar to Malala Yousafzai.

According to the United Nation's Education for All Global Monitoring Report, Pakistan has the second-largest number of children not attending school, and nearly half of rural girls have never been to school.

The Pakistan-based Merit and Needs-Based Scholarship Program awards scholarships to academically talented, financially needy Pakistani students from all regions to pursue bachelor's or master's degrees at participating Pakistani universities.

The Malala Yousafzai Scholarship Act would require the U.S. Agency for International Development to award 50 percent of its Merit and Needs-Based Scholarship Program scholarships to Pakistani women each year through 2016.

Mr. Speaker, Malala Yousafzai is the heroic Pakistani girl who rose to prominence as she stood against the oppressive policies imposed on the citizens of Pakistan by the Taliban.

She is the youngest Nobel Peace Prize winner, and was awarded the honor for her struggle against the suppression of children and young people and for the right of all children to education.

Malala's devoted service to education, justice, and equality in Pakistan is deserving of recognition, which is why I introduced H.R. 60 to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Malala Yousafzai.

The Congressional Gold Medal is one of the highest civilian awards in the United States, and Malala's legacy of inspiring young women around the world is truly commendable and worthy of this honor.

It is fitting that this act, the Malala Yousafzai Scholarship Act, is named in Malala's honor, as she is a symbol of hope in a country long beset by violence, and her actions demonstrate the impact one person can have on the entire world.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3583 to help change the lives of Pakistani women, like Malala Yousafzai, by opening doors to education, justice, and equality.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3583, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

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

There was no objection.

GETTYSBURG ADDRESS ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. PERRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, today is an important anniversary. On November 19, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address. Prior to this famous address, Lincoln arrived at the Gettysburg train station. Earlier this year, the House passed my bill to permanently preserve this historic

landmark without utilizing any federal funds.

Currently, this bill awaits consideration by the full Senate.

The Battle of Gettysburg marks a turning point in American history. By preserving the Lincoln train station, I hope to inspire my fellow citizens to learn and appreciate the significance of the Gettysburg Campaign, the Gettysburg Address, the Civil War, and the bravery of the soldiers who, in President Lincoln's powerful words, gave the last full measure of devotion.

HONORING OHIO CITIZENS

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, as we come to the season of Thanksgiving, a time to celebrate the precious gifts of family, friends, community, and country, please allow me to pay special tribute of gratitude to some outstanding northwest Ohio citizens whose lives made a significant contribution to building a better community and America.

We honor them for who they were and what they contributed to the betterment of our lives together in what some have called our beloved community.

In particular, let me recognize business leader Barry Greenblatt, his magnificent, ebullient personality as founder of Barry Bagels and a work ethic like no other.

Mrs. Jean Overton was a pioneering woman who gladly assumed the role of mother for our community.

The former Mayor of Waterville, Ohio, three terms, Chuck Peyton, who lived as a man for others, a Navy veteran who logged four decades of public service.

Sheryl Shipman, who dedicated her career to ensuring recreational opportunities for children, older adults, and people with special needs. Oh, she was a leader, and how people trusted her in Toledo.

Finally, Sam Szor, "Mr. Music." Born in Toledo's Birmingham neighborhood, for more than 60 years under his baton delighting hundreds of thousands of people in his incredible music that floated over our community in free concerts for decade after decade after decade.

What magnificent Americans these individuals were.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to lay their life stories in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, as we come to this Season of Thanksgiving, a time to celebrate the precious gifts of family, friends, community, and country, please allow me to pay special tribute of gratitude to some outstanding Northwest Ohio citizens whose lives made a significant contribution to building a better community and America. We honor them for who they were and what they contributed to the betterment of our lives together in what some have called our beloved community.