

NORTH KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2017

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2061) to reauthorize the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2061

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 “North Korean Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2017”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7801 et seq.), the North Korean Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-346), and the Ambassador James R. Lilley and Congressman Stephen J. Solarz North Korea Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-172) were the products of broad, bipartisan consensus regarding the promotion of human rights, transparency in the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and the importance of refugee protection.

(2) Fundamental human rights and humanitarian conditions inside North Korea remain deplorable, North Korean refugees remain acutely vulnerable, and the congressional findings included in the Acts listed in paragraph (1) remain substantially accurate today.

(3) The United States, which has the largest international refugee resettlement program in the world, has resettled 212 North Koreans since the enactment of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004.

(4) In addition to the longstanding commitment of the United States to refugee and human rights advocacy, the United States is home to the largest Korean population outside of northeast Asia, and many people in the Korean-American community have family ties to North Korea.

(5) Notwithstanding high-level advocacy by the United States, South Korea, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, China has forcibly repatriated tens of thousands of North Koreans.

(6) Congressman Eni F.H. Faleomavaega served 25 years in the House of Representatives, including as the Chairman and the Ranking Member of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, was a leader in strengthening the relationship between the American and Korean peoples, authored multiple resolutions regarding issues on the Korean Peninsula, was a champion of human rights, and stated, in support of the Ambassador James R. Lilley and Congressman Stephen J. Solarz North Korea Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2012, that “just as Ambassador Lilley and Congressman Solarz worked hard to protect the human rights of the North Korean people, we must remain vigilant in helping the people of North Korea who struggle daily to escape the oppression and tyranny of the North Korean regime”.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

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

(1) the United States should continue to seek cooperation from all foreign governments to allow the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees access to process North Korean refugees overseas for resettlement and to allow United States officials ac-

cess to process refugees for resettlement in the United States (if that is the destination country of the refugees’ choosing);

(2) the Secretary of State, through persistent diplomacy by senior officials, including United States ambassadors to Asia-Pacific countries, and in close cooperation with United States ally South Korea, should make every effort to promote the protection of North Korean refugees and defectors; and

(3) because North Koreans fleeing into China face a well-founded fear of persecution upon their forcible repatriation, the United States should urge China to—

(A) immediately halt the forcible repatriation of North Koreans;

(B) allow the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees unimpeded access to North Koreans inside China to determine whether such North Koreans require protection as refugees; and

(C) fulfill its obligations under the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, and the Agreement on the Upgrading of the UNHCR Mission in the People’s Republic of China to UNHCR Branch Office in the People’s Republic of China (signed December 1, 1995).

(b) CONTINUING SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It remains the sense of Congress, as specified in section 3(3) of the North Korean Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-346; 22 U.S.C. 7801 note), that “the Special Envoy for North Korean Human Rights Issues should be a full-time position within the Department of State in order to properly promote and coordinate North Korean human rights and humanitarian issues, and to participate in policy planning and implementation with respect to refugee issues, as intended by the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-333; 22 U.S.C. 7801 et seq.)”.

SEC. 4. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE NORTH KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS ACT OF 2004.

(a) HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY PROGRAMS.—Paragraph (1) of section 102(b) of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7812(b)) is amended by striking “2017” and inserting “2022”.

(b) PROMOTING FREEDOM OF INFORMATION.—Section 104 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7814) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1)—
(A) by striking “\$2,000,000” and inserting “\$3,000,000”; and

(B) by striking “2017” and inserting “2022”; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “2017” and inserting “2022”.

(c) REPORT BY SPECIAL ENVOY ON NORTH KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS.—Subsection (d) of section 107 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7817) is amended by striking “2017” and inserting “2022”.

(d) REPORT ON HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.—Section 201 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7831) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking “2017” and inserting “2022”.

(e) ASSISTANCE PROVIDED OUTSIDE OF NORTH KOREA.—Paragraph (1) of section 203(c) of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7833(c)) is amended by striking “2017” and inserting “2022”.

(f) ANNUAL REPORTING.—Section 305 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7845) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking “2017” and inserting “2022”.

SEC. 5. ACTIONS TO PROMOTE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND DEMOCRACY IN NORTH KOREA.

The North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004, as amended by this Act, is further amended—

(1) in subsection (a) of section 103 (22 U.S.C. 7813)—

(A) by striking “radio broadcasting” and inserting “broadcasting, including news rebroadcasting,”; and

(B) by striking “increase broadcasts” and inserting “increase such broadcasts, including news rebroadcasts,”; and

(2) in subsection (a) of section 104 (22 U.S.C. 7814)—

(A) by striking “The President” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The President”;

(B) by inserting “, USB drives, micro SD cards, audio players, video players, cell phones, wi-fi, wireless internet, webpages, internet, wireless telecommunications, and other electronic media that share information” before the period at the end; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(2) DISTRIBUTION.—In accordance with the sense of Congress described in section 103, the President, acting through the Secretary of State, is authorized to distribute or provide grants to distribute information receiving devices, electronically readable devices, and other informational sources into North Korea, including devices and informational sources specified in paragraph (1). To carry out this paragraph, the President is authorized to issue directions to facilitate the free-flow of information into North Korea.

“(3) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM.—In accordance with the authorization described in paragraphs (1) and (2) to increase the availability and distribution of sources of information inside North Korea, the President, acting through the Secretary of State, is authorized to establish a grant program to make grants to eligible entities to develop or distribute (or both) new products or methods to allow North Koreans easier access to outside information. Such program may involve public-private partnerships.

“(4) CULTURE.—In accordance with the sense of Congress described in section 103, the Broadcasting Board of Governors may broadcast American, Korean, and other popular music, television, movies, and popular cultural references as part of its programming.

“(5) RIGHTS AND LAWS.—In accordance with the sense of Congress described in section 103, the Broadcasting Board of Governors shall broadcast to North Korea in the Korean language information on rights, laws, and freedoms afforded through the North Korean Constitution, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, and any other applicable treaties or international agreements to which North Korea is bound.

“(6) BROADCASTING REPORT.—Not later than—

“(A) 180 days after the date of the enactment of this paragraph, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Broadcasting Board of Governors, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that sets forth a detailed plan for improving broadcasting content for the purpose of reaching additional audiences and increasing consumption of uncensored news and information using all available and reasonable means; and

“(B) one year after the date of the enactment of this paragraph and annually thereafter for each of the next five years, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Broadcasting Board of Governors, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the effectiveness of actions taken pursuant to this section, including data reflecting audience and listenership,

device distribution and usage, technological development and advancement usage, and other information as requested by such committees.”.

SEC. 6. REPEAL OF DUPLICATE AUTHORIZATIONS.

Section 403 of the North Korea Sanctions and Policy Enhancement Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-122; 22 U.S.C. 9253) is hereby repealed.

SEC. 7. REPORT BY THE BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Broadcasting Board of Governors shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that—

(1) describes the status of current United States broadcasting to North Korea and the extent to which the Board has achieved the goal of 12-hour-per-day broadcasting to North Korea, in accordance with section 103(a) of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7813(a)); and

(2) includes a strategy to overcome obstacles to such communication with the North Korean people, including through unrestricted, unmonitored, and inexpensive electronic means.

(b) FORM.—The report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

SEC. 8. REPORT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes a description of any ongoing or planned efforts of the Department of State with respect to each of the following:

(1) Resuming the repatriation from North Korea of members of the United States Armed Forces missing or unaccounted for during the Korean War.

(2) Reuniting Korean Americans with their relatives in North Korea.

(3) Assessing the security risks posed by travel to North Korea for United States citizens.

(b) FORM.—The report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form.

(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

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 of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, let me point out that the world is rightly focused on the threat that North Korea poses to global security—the detonations, the missile launches, the forward-deployed artillery—that we have seen from across the border in South Korea.

I have been once to North Korea. I know my colleague, ELIOT ENGEL, has been twice to the capital there. But going along the eastern coast—the eastern seaboard into North Korea—you can see the threat. You can see the artillery—the tanks, the Katyusha rockets, and the howitzers lined up—and you can see where they are aimed.

I think we have to maybe point out that the provocations underscore a simple, jarring fact, and that is that Kim Jong-un wants to pose a mortal threat, and not just to the United States, but to our democratic treaty allies—to South Korea and to Japan.

But I think, as we face that reality, we cannot afford to forget that the regime's greatest victims are the people of North Korea themselves. That is the longest held hostage here. And remembering that this is not just a moral imperative, but, also, it is a strategic one, too. If Kim Jong-un had to answer to the North Korean people, he would pose far less a danger to us, to South Korea, and to Japan. Maybe he would pose no danger whatsoever if he really had to answer to his own people.

The truth is that Kim Jong-un's most potent enemy is his own citizens, if they were to be empowered. The regime should be forced to confront the dismal reality that it has inflicted on its own population. Obsessed not just with self-preservation, but also with his concept of reunification of the peninsula—based on the words he uses—under his own leadership, he and his father and his father's father have been willing to inflict starvation and stunting.

I asked Hwang Jang-yop, the former minister of propaganda—myself and one of my colleagues here had asked him—and he said that 2 million people had been starved by the regime. He said the real number was 1.9 million. And he said: You have to understand, we put all the resources into the weapons program, into the ICBM program, and into the nuclear capability. People fend for themselves basically. That is the system there. And when he defected, the propaganda minister shared that with us.

In the meantime, you will notice that there is one man in that system that feasts on imported luxuries and on liquor, and that is the deity himself. That is Kim Jong-un. The bonds of public affection for Kim certainly are strong in the capital, but, in the countryside, those who have defected tell me that they are so fragile that they

can only be maintained with purges, with public executions, and with deadly prison camps.

It is no wonder, then, that the regime's harshest critics are escaped North Koreans who have seen through the wall of misinformation that Kim Jong-un works so hard to maintain. We have heard, time and again, from North Korean refugees about the indelible impact of real information from the outside world, whether it be defector broadcasts or pirated South Korean TV dramas set in the affluent bustling metropolis of Seoul.

Just last month, I was discussing these issues in Seoul with Thae Yong-ho, the highest ranking North Korean defector. The minister is the former ambassador to the U.K. Many of you read about his defection there in Britain. He is now in Seoul. He emphasized that such knowledge undermines the lie that North Korea is a worker's paradise and that it is the envy of the world.

Increasingly, he says, for 30-some dollars, a village or a family can purchase a device that plays these dramas from South Korea that come in from the porous border with China, and, as a result of that, they learn more. And, frankly, I will say that as a result of the two different organizations of defectors from North Korea who broadcast on shortwave, people are learning more as well. Our problem is that it needs to be broadcast beyond just the area around the border. We need to figure out how to help others hear the truth.

So, today, harnessing the power of information and public expectations inside North Korea is more important than ever. Along with enhanced sanctions on the regime's enablers, this is critical. It is a critical nonmilitary tool because it confronts the growing North Korean threat to our safety with a very different methodology by educating and empowering North Koreans themselves.

This bill, H.R. 2061, does not merely reauthorize activities under the North Korean Human Rights Act, but it enacts important updates to freedom-of-information authorities, to reflect technological advances beyond radio broadcasting, including USB drives, mobile devices, and other very promising tools. It also renews the obligations of the special envoy for North Korean human rights.

Finally, the bill enhances congressional oversight tools to help ensure that our investments stand the best chance of paying dividends in freedom for North Korea, and greater security for the rest of the world will be the result of this.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman emeritus of the Foreign Affairs Committee, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, for authoring this bill. I also thank our ranking member, ELIOT ENGEL, for his work on this issue. And I thank the chair and ranking member of our Asia and the Pacific Subcommittee as well, TED

YOHO and BRAD SHERMAN. The gentlewoman from Florida is tireless in her defense of human rights and has been a legislative leader on North Korea for more than a decade.

I am a proud cosponsor of this excellent bill, which deserves our unanimous support.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this measure.

First, I thank our chairman, who always conducts himself in such a bipartisan fashion. I thank him for including everyone and thank him for the work that he does.

I also thank the bill's author, our former chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN from Florida. I am pleased to join her as the Democratic cosponsor of this legislation. She authored an earlier version of this bill, which is a testament to how long she has been working to shine a light on the daily horror of so many living in North Korea and to bring American leadership to bear, to ease their suffering.

We have been focused on North Korea a great deal lately because of the Kim regime's increasingly provocative behavior and our own administration's inconsistent and irresponsible rhetoric.

North Korea poses a great threat to our national security and the security of our friends and allies. We need a smart, coherent approach that combines diplomacy, pressure, and deterrence to halt North Korea's progress in developing nuclear weapons.

At the same time, we cannot lose sight over what the North Korean people are enduring. This is a country where people don't have rights, and anyone who dares speak his or her mind may find themselves subjected to beatings, torture, brutal imprisonment, or even death.

The United States Commission of Inquiry found that Kim Jong-un's regime is very likely committing crimes against humanity.

Mr. Speaker, I visited North Korea twice. When I was there with a few of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle, our North Korean minders were very careful to make sure we only saw what we were supposed to see.

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But we could sense that beneath the surface, something was terribly, terribly wrong. First of all, they wouldn't let us go out of Pyongyang; that just out of sight, it was amazing that there were so many people living under the most brutal conditions imaginable and that no one dared shatter the illusion that the North Korean authorities had just created.

When you go into North Korea, it feels like you are stepping back into 1953 Berlin. Everything was gray and dark and drab, and you could just see something was wrong.

We know better. We have seen year after year of disturbing reports and stories from defectors who have told us exactly what life is like for most North Koreans, and we haven't forgotten them.

The law that we are reauthorizing today first became law in 2004. This legislation will preserve funding for American assistance to North Korean refugees, for humanitarian assistance inside the country, as well as information efforts by our government, and to try every means possible to get the message out to regular North Korean people that we are not their enemy.

I will say that I am greatly concerned that the latest iteration of the President's travel ban, which now includes North Korea, sends exactly the wrong message to defectors from that country. By closing our door to them, we reinforce the paranoia that the regime perpetrates. We have to be careful not to get caught in the middle of that.

An earlier version of this law created a senior State Department position to focus on human rights in North Korea. It is a big job, Mr. Speaker, and in recent years, there has been someone to do this important work full time, but it has been reported that the administration plans to combine this position with the Under Secretary for Democracy. I think that would be a mistake.

The Under Secretary position already oversees the bureaus and offices that deal with a huge range of issues from counterterrorism, to refugees, to narcotics, to human trafficking. It is a pretty full agenda, yet the administration on the one hand says North Korean human rights should be combined with that job, and on the other hand has not yet nominated anyone to fill the position.

So I think there is a lot of work to be done on both sides, and that is what we are doing on the Foreign Affairs Committee. We are working together.

This reauthorization reaffirms Congress' view that we should have a senior full-time diplomat dealing with North Korean human rights. I ask that this provision be included once again. I am grateful to Chairman ROYCE and Chairman Emeritus ROS-LEHTINEN that Congress will continue to speak out on the importance of this role.

It is also my view that we need to stop neglecting our diplomacy and get these positions filled. We cannot expect the State Department to deal with these challenges—whether North Korea's nuclear program or North Korea's human rights record—without leadership in place, but I am glad that Congress is continuing to do its job in helping to promote human rights for the North Koreans.

I am, again, grateful to my friend from Florida and the chairman.

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

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO), chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific.

Among a number of amendments that he has contributed to this bill, there is one in particular that I think is very important, and that is increasing the number of tools that can be used here, to include new technologies to North Korea, like USB drives. It is a lot easier for people to watch on USB drives as well as, of course, mobile phones and DVDs.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2061, the North Korean Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2017. I commend Chairman Emeritus ROS-LEHTINEN for leading this reauthorization effort, and Chairman ROYCE and my colleagues on the Foreign Affairs Committee for their support of this legislation.

The horrific human rights abuses committed by Kim Jong-un are an integral part of his power structure. Countering these unspeakable crimes, however we can, is both a moral imperative and a sound strategy.

As amended, H.R. 2061 includes my Distribution and Promotion of Rights and Knowledge Act, which will improve U.S. efforts to broadcast outside information into North Korea, weakening Kim Jong-un's regime by eroding his stranglehold on information. It will provide light to the North Koreans; not just light to read by, but shine light on those innate basic beliefs of liberty and freedom.

Specifically, this language updates the means in which information can be disseminated, helping to find new ways to end the Kim regime's monopoly on information.

The two bills are natural partners and, together, they can meaningfully advance human rights and free flow of information in North Korea.

Mr. Speaker, I again thank the chairman for yielding.

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

Mr. Speaker, the Kim regime poses a grave threat to global security, and it is critical that the United States move ahead with a coherent strategy to help meet this challenge.

At the same time, the Kim regime's treatment of its own people represents one of the worst human rights situations in the entire world. We cannot lose sight of that human suffering that is going on every day.

For years, the United States has made it a priority to do what we can to help those living under this brutal dictatorship and to assist those who have escaped it. This legislation will ensure that the United States continues this important work in the years ahead.

I want to say that Chairman ROYCE has made it a mark of his to travel the region, to speak with South Korea, to speak with the leaders in Asia. I am pleased that we are well represented when he goes there and lets the regimes know that we in Congress have a lot of things to say and that we want to stand by our allies and let North

Korea understand that they cannot push anybody around.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for having visited Korea with him and for all the things he does in Asia. I think the committee is united in supporting this legislation. We have to speak out. We have to protect the North Korean people who have no protection from a brutal dictator and a regime that treats them like they are worthless.

I urge Members to support this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank our ranking member, Mr. ELIOT ENGEL, also for his work on the original bill.

For a number of years, we have been focused in a bipartisan way, those of us who are concerned about human rights in North Korea. This is the reauthorization, but the original measure was to promote human rights and free information inside North Korea, and to focus on the protection of North Koreans who have fled the country and face a heightened risk of exploitation and human trafficking. We have been able to work on enforcement, but now with reauthorization, there is a chance to update it.

Those updates in H.R. 2061 not only reauthorize the North Korean Human Rights Act, but there are these promising new technological advances to pierce the information darkness, as Mr. TED YOHO mentioned. That darkness is maintained intentionally by Kim Jong-un's regime. Confronted by a rapidly nuclearizing North Korea, these tools are more important than ever.

Rather than putting all of his energy into menacing the world, as he does with his nuclear program, Kim Jong-un must be confronted with the urgent needs, with the legitimate aspirations of the people of North Korea. There are 120,000 of his people that are in what we call these gulags across North Korea. Without reforms, these individuals are never going to see the light of day, they are never going to be released to freedom.

This critical bipartisan bill deserves our unanimous support.

Mr. Speaker, 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 pass the bill, H.R. 2061, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. ROYCE of California. 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, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECOGNIZING THAT FOR 50 YEARS THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH EAST ASIAN NATIONS HAS WORKED TOWARD STABILITY, PROSPERITY, AND PEACE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 311) recognizing that for 50 years the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) has worked toward stability, prosperity, and peace in Southeast Asia, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 311

Whereas on September 10, 1977, the United States and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (in this resolution referred to as "ASEAN") established dialogue relations, with 2017 marking the 40th anniversary of United States-ASEAN relations;

Whereas on August 8, 2017, ASEAN will celebrate fifty years of regional cooperation towards greater stability, peace, and prosperity in Southeast Asia;

Whereas on April 29, 2008, the United States was the first non-ASEAN country to appoint an ambassador to ASEAN and the United States became the first dialogue partner to establish a permanent mission to ASEAN in 2010;

Whereas the United States committed in 2009 to hold an annual United States-ASEAN Leaders' Meeting, and upgraded the commitment in 2012 to an annual United States-ASEAN Summit;

Whereas on April 20, 2017, Vice President Mike Pence met with the ASEAN Secretary General and ASEAN Permanent Representatives in Jakarta, Indonesia, and stated that the United States-ASEAN relationship "without a doubt has benefitted both ASEAN and America—diplomatically, economically, and from the standpoint of national security";

Whereas on February 16, 2016, at the Sunnyslands Summit in California, the United States and ASEAN reaffirmed their shared commitment to maintain peace, security, and stability throughout the region;

Whereas in 2013 ASEAN, as a whole, was the seventh-largest economy in the world with an annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of \$2.4 trillion, and is the United States' fourth-largest export market with total exports reaching \$102,000,000,000 in 2015;

Whereas the United States and ASEAN have strong economic ties, as the United States is the single largest investor in ASEAN with accumulated United States foreign direct investment totaling almost \$226,000,000,000 as of 2014, and economic relations with ASEAN supporting more than 500,000 jobs in the United States;

Whereas the United States-ASEAN partnership is vital to the security interests of the United States, as both the United States and the members of ASEAN have a shared common interest in a peaceful resolution of the South China Sea disputes and achieving a denuclearized North Korea;

Whereas on November 4, 2002, the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea was signed by all members of ASEAN and the People's Republic of China, committing all parties to "exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would complicate or escalate disputes and affect peace and stability";

Whereas ASEAN is a partner to the United States on key transnational challenges, such

as terrorism, violent extremism, environmental degradation, energy, infectious diseases, disarmament, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, cybersecurity, trafficking in persons, illicit trafficking of wildlife and timber, and illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing; and

Whereas the 2016 East Asia Summit in Vientiane adopted a statement on non-proliferation that reaffirmed the United States, ASEAN, and other Dialogue Partners' support for efforts at the national, regional, and international level to promote nuclear disarmament, nuclear nonproliferation, and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and reiterated the importance of nuclear security to combating nuclear terrorism: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports and affirms the elevation of the United States-ASEAN relationship to a strategic partnership, and reaffirms the United States commitment to promoting a rules-based order in the Asia-Pacific and economic growth, peace, human rights and stability in Southeast Asia;

(2) recognizes the value of ASEAN working with economic, political, and security partners, such as Australia, Canada, the European Union, India, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, the Republic of Korea, and Taiwan both inside and outside of Asia, to both strengthen existing initiatives such as the United States-ASEAN Connect and to develop new initiatives that address mutual strategic concerns;

(3) encourages the enhancement of economic engagement between the United States and ASEAN through the elimination of trade barriers;

(4) supports cooperation with ASEAN to implement practical counter-terrorism and countering violent extremism measures, including efforts to counter homegrown radicalization and stem foreign fighter travel;

(5) supports efforts by ASEAN member states and other regional states, including the People's Republic of China, to address maritime and territorial disputes in a constructive manner and to pursue claims, through diplomacy and the use of legitimate regional and international arbitration mechanisms, consistent with international law, including through the adoption of a code of conduct in the South China Sea to further promote peace and stability in the region;

(6) urges all parties to maritime and territorial disputes in the Asia-Pacific region to—

(A) exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would undermine stability or escalate disputes through the use of coercion, intimidation, or military force; and

(B) refrain from efforts to militarize uninhabited islands, reefs, shoals, and other features, through actions including the construction of new garrisons and facilities, and the relocation of additional military personnel, materiel, or equipment; and

(7) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to continue joint efforts with ASEAN to halt human smuggling and trafficking in persons and urges ASEAN to make increased efforts to create and strengthen regional mechanisms to provide assistance and support to refugees and migrants.

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.