

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.

## 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 to 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, I want to recognize Congressman JOAQUIN CASTRO and Congresswoman ANN WAGNER for introducing this timely measure.

This is an important but, frankly, often overlooked part of the world. This is Southeast Asia.

Mr. Speaker, Southeast Asian nations came together 50 years ago to promote regional cooperation. Their goal was to achieve greater stability and peace and prosperity by creating the Association of South East Asian Nations. We know this as ASEAN today.

This year marks their 50th anniversary and the 40th anniversary of relations between the United States and ASEAN.

This year, President Trump will visit the region for the first time in November for the East Asia and ASEAN summits in the Philippines, and the local leadership are going to be meeting in Vietnam.

Today, ASEAN is a force for peace and prosperity in the world, and the relationship the U.S. has with ASEAN has benefited both sides diplomatically, economically, and in global security.

ASEAN is the fourth largest goods export market for the United States, and we are ASEAN's fourth largest trading partner. As the second fastest-growing economy in Asia, with a combined economy of \$2.5 trillion, the importance of the ASEAN market for the United States is considerable.

Mr. Speaker, we are working with ASEAN to address security challenges and threats, especially in the fight against terrorism, with the recognition now of the emergence of ISIS fighting forces in the region. Last month, Secretary of State Tillerson voiced support for increased cooperation on border security, information sharing to track individuals, and routing out and finding the source of terror financing networks, finding their safe havens.

With so many challenges in the region today, as we look at the democratic backsliding in Cambodia, the plight of the Rohingya in Burma, it is more important than ever that we engage Southeast Asian nations in the ASEAN grouping to solve regional problems.

We must also cooperate with ASEAN on the threat of North Korea and have better coordination on maritime activities with regard to security, environmental impact, and border and fishing regulations.

For all of these reasons today, the House of Representatives reaffirms the importance of the U.S.-ASEAN partnership and recommits to continuing engagement and cooperation.

Passage of this resolution demonstrates our support for ASEAN as an institution and the United States' strategic relationship with Southeast Asian nations.

I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting this measure.

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

□ 1530

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume, and I rise in support of this measure.

Mr. Speaker, let me start by thanking the authors of this resolution, two valued members of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. CASTRO from Texas and Mrs. WAGNER from Missouri.

In addition to bringing this legislation forward, these two lawmakers established the first ever Congressional ASEAN Caucus. I am grateful for their leadership helping to advance American interests in the Asia Pacific.

Part of ensuring America's strong role in that region is our work with ASEAN, the Association of South East Asian Nations. This organization has worked to promote stability, prosperity, and peace among the countries of Southeast Asia. It is in our own strategic interest to see stronger countries, closer partnership, healthier economies, so our own success in Asia is closely tied to the success of ASEAN and its members.

This resolution underscores the accomplishments of ASEAN as it marks its 50th anniversary. It sends a signal to our partners and friends in Southeast Asia that the United States is committed to peace and prosperity in the region, and it puts Congress on record saying that, in this challenging time, the United States must remain engaged around the world, particularly in the Asia Pacific.

The administration's budget proposed a 46 percent cut to assistance in East Asia and the Pacific. I think this would be a grave mistake. What kind of impact would that have on American-backed initiatives that are having a positive impact? What message does it send to the countries that we depend on as partners?

Rather than drawing back, America should be even more engaged in the Asia Pacific. This measure reaffirms our commitment to America's leadership in the region.

I want to end by thanking the authors, and I want to compliment Chairman ROYCE, who knows more about this region of the world than virtually anybody in Congress, and has been to that part of the world—I have gone with him many times—and the United States Congress has shown the ability to work with countries for the betterment of their people, for the betterment of our relationship with them.

Mr. Speaker, this measure reaffirms our commitment to America's leadership in the region. I thank the authors, I thank Chairman ROYCE, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER), an esteemed member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the primary cosponsor of this resolution.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for his leadership and support.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 311, the resolution I was honored to introduce with my colleague Representative CASTRO, to commemorate the Association of South East Asian Nations' 50th anniversary, and the 40th anniversary of U.S.-ASEAN relations.

We intend for this resolution to raise awareness within and outside of Congress about Southeast Asia's critical role in the global order. Southeast Asia has tremendous cultural, political, historical, and religious diversity.

The Association of South East Asian Nations, known as ASEAN, was formed in 1967, in part, to create a bulwark against communism in the region among the five founding nations.

Today, ASEAN's goals have evolved, and the region is experiencing tremendous growth. ASEAN now includes 10 major countries in Southeast Asia, which together have established a major regional economic integration agenda.

ASEAN is our fourth largest goods exports market. \$102 billion of U.S. goods and services are exported to ASEAN, meaning this market rivals our \$113 billion market in China.

According to the ASEAN Matters for America report, 20 U.S. States send over \$1 billion in goods exports to ASEAN annually, and over half of the U.S. congressional districts export over \$100 million to ASEAN each year. These numbers are astounding, and they will only grow, Mr. Speaker.

In January, I cofounded the bipartisan Congressional Caucus on ASEAN, along with my partner Representative CASTRO. The caucus acknowledges America's strategic partnership with ASEAN and attests that America must be the foremost trade and defense partner for ASEAN countries.

H. Res. 311 was one of the caucus' first initiatives. The resolution encourages the enhancement of economic and defense cooperation with ASEAN. It reaffirms the U.S. commitment to continue joint efforts with ASEAN to halt human smuggling and human trafficking and urges ASEAN to improve assistance to refugees and migrants.

Standing alongside our ASEAN peers is important this fall, given the rise of Chinese aggression in the South China Sea; the ethnic cleansing of Rohingya Muslims in Burma; the need to seriously engage ASEAN leaders on our North Korean efforts; the typhoon and flooding affecting the region; the enormous investment opportunities; and

the upcoming ASEAN summit that the President will attend in November.

I am grateful that the Speaker and the chairman, Chairman ROYCE, support our efforts to engage ASEAN, and I look forward to watching H. Res. 311 pass the U.S. House of Representatives.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO), who is the author of this legislation.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member ENGEL for yielding me this time and also thank Chairman ROYCE for all of his work in this region of the world.

Representative WAGNER and I co-founded the Congressional Caucus on ASEAN, the Association of South East Asian Nations, earlier this year to deepen the United States' and Congress' engagement with Southeast Asia.

H. Res. 311, the resolution we are considering here today, commemorates the 50th anniversary of the founding of ASEAN. It also marks 40 years of relations between the United States and ASEAN.

This measure highlights the work ASEAN has done towards improving stability, prosperity, and peace in Southeast Asia. It also speaks to the importance of continued security cooperation, economic partnership, and cultural engagement between the United States and ASEAN.

ASEAN serves as an example of successful regional cooperation. The nations of Southeast Asia, despite distinct histories, cultures, and religions, have placed their faith in cooperation rather than conflict.

U.S. security interests in Southeast Asia are wide-ranging and supported by many regional partners. Members of ASEAN have worked closely with the United States to address our mutual concerns.

The member states of ASEAN also hold significant economic promise, and our economic relationship underpins much of U.S. engagement in the region.

My home State of Texas, for example, exports over \$13 billion worth of goods to ASEAN countries every year. These exports support over 70,000 Texas jobs and over 500,000 jobs across the United States.

The U.S.-ASEAN relationship is also built on history and cultural exchange. Millions of Americans can trace their family roots to countries of ASEAN, including 400,000 Texans. Language, literature, food, and music link our cultures across the ocean, set roots, and enrich both our societies.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons and many more, it is important that we recognize and commemorate the impact of ASEAN across the years.

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

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I also want to echo Chairman ROYCE's support of

H. Res. 311, and I want to thank the ranking member, Mr. ENGEL; my colleagues, Mr. CASTRO and Mrs. WAGNER, for bringing this resolution up, recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Association of South East Asian Nations and the 40th anniversary of U.S.-ASEAN ties.

As chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, the block of 10 ASEAN members, we had a meeting earlier in the year. They said the primary reason ASEAN is successful is because of U.S. involvement. I think that speaks highly of U.S. foreign policy.

The 10 members of ASEAN are some of the most dynamic nations in the world, and Southeast Asia's economic and strategic importance grows every day.

As the chairman noted, ASEAN is our fourth largest trading partner and is the second fastest growing in Asia. With a combined population of over 600 million people and an economy of \$2.5 trillion, the opportunity for U.S. industry is immense. As a security partner, ASEAN also is invaluable, recognizing that for the 50 years the Association of South East Asian Nations, ASEAN, has worked towards stability, prosperity, and peace in Southeast Asia.

The grouping is strategically located astride some of the world's most critical sea lanes and shares the U.S. pursuit of regional stability through rules, order, and peaceful dispute settlements.

This resolution rightly highlights enduring U.S. interests in Southeast Asia and conveys our commitment to stay engaged.

Mr. Speaker, I again thank Representatives Wagner and Castro for introducing this measure. As the founding members of the ASEAN Caucus, their work on this bill underscores the centrality of ASEAN to Congress' foreign policy for Asia.

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

The Asia Pacific presents the perfect case of what might happen if the United States withdraws from the world. In recent years, our focus there, especially working with ASEAN and its members, has really helped to promote growth and stability in that region of the world, to enhance human rights, and the rule of law.

It is important for us to stay engaged. If we draw back, it is pretty clear that China would be happy to fill the void, and I guarantee the values we consider critical to foreign policy, democracy, justice, and equality would not be part of the agenda in Beijing. We need to stay engaged in Asia and around the world. We need to demonstrate that American leadership is a sure thing.

The resolution before us today will provide much needed reassurance to our partners and friends in Southeast Asia. Even Vietnam works with us. I remember, and others here remember, when we had the Vietnam war. Now we

have so many Vietnam Americans in our country, and they help to really be good citizens and really help to show why it is important for us to keep engaged in that part of the world.

We will underscore the important role ASEAN stands to play, just as it has in the last 50 years. Again, it is important to reassure our partners and friends in Southeast Asia—I mentioned Vietnam, but all the other countries that belong to ASEAN.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this measure. I thank Chairman ROYCE, I urge all Members to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The first point I would make is I think our ranking member, Mr. ELIOT ENGEL, makes a very strong point about the importance of engagement.

I think, as a second point, U.S.-ASEAN engagement has trended up in recent years. I think it remains strong. I think it has a bright outlook. In 2015, the U.S.-ASEAN relationship was elevated to a strategic partnership, an important step by the U.S.

2016 marked two important firsts: the first U.S.-ASEAN summit at Sunnylands, and the first ever visit of a sitting U.S. President to Laos. As an important economic and security partner, ASEAN shares the U.S. pursuit of regional stability through rules, through order, through the peaceful dispute settlement process, as our ranking member pointed out. This resolution signals our resolve to maintain and deepen our collaboration with our friends and allies in Southeast Asia.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of our colleagues here to join us in support of this resolution, and 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. 311, 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.

□ 1545

#### WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY ACT OF 2017

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1141) to ensure that the United States promotes the meaningful participation of women in mediation and negotiation processes seeking to prevent, mitigate, or resolve violent conflict.