

U.S. participation in CEPI was one of the recommendations of the final report issued nearly a year ago at the Center for Strategic and International Studies Commission on Strengthening America's Health Security. It was prescient in its recommendations, and I am proud to have served as a commissioner. We knew then that the next epidemic or pandemic was around the corner. It is here with us now, but it will not be the last one.

We need to be a full and active participant in CEPI's work. By working through organizations like CEPI to develop new vaccine technologies, we will ensure the world is far more ready for the next pandemic.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. YOHO and all the cosponsors of this important legislation, as well as the work that the Committee on Foreign Affairs staff, like Katy Crosby, and my own staff, like Ryan Uyehara, did to bring this legislation to the House floor.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure and call on the Senate to pass it as well.

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

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I once again thank Representative BERA for his work on this important legislation. The U.S. international community and the private sector must continue to work together to develop the tools we need in response to emerging infectious diseases.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to once again thank Mr. BERA for his leadership and hard work on this legislation that everyone should support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6334, 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.

REAFFIRMING VITAL ROLE OF UNITED STATES-JAPAN ALLIANCE

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 349) reaffirming the vital role of the United States-Japan alliance in promoting peace, stability, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 349

Whereas the United States and Japan established diplomatic relations on March 31, 1854, with the signing of the Treaty of Peace and Amity;

Whereas for more than the past 70 years, the partnership between the United States and Japan has played a vital role in ensuring peace, stability, and economic development in Asia and beyond;

Whereas the United States and Japan are deeply committed to the common values of freedom, democracy, rule of law, and free market economies;

Whereas the current United States-Japan alliance, forged over six decades ago with the signing of the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security, is the cornerstone for stability and prosperity of Japan and for the Indo-Pacific region, and plays a key role in global peace and stability;

Whereas the United States and Japan are indispensable partners in combating the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, improving global health, countering human trafficking and promoting human rights, assisting the victims of conflict and disaster worldwide, and contributing to global economic development;

Whereas the United States and Japan have worked closely during the COVID-19 pandemic to safely repatriate our respective citizens home and to strengthen our collaboration on global health research and development through partnerships such as the United States-Japan Cooperative Medical Science Program;

Whereas the United States and Japan are partnering to promote infrastructure investments around the Indo-Pacific that ensure openness, transparency, economic efficiency, and debt sustainability, including through the United States-Japan Mekong Power partnership and the United States-Japan Strategic Energy Partnership;

Whereas the United States, Japan, and Australia announced in November 2019 the establishment of a Blue Dot Network that will promote transparent and quality infrastructure projects that align with the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment;

Whereas the alliance is a testament to the ability of great nations to overcome the past and jointly work to create a more secure and prosperous future;

Whereas approximately 54,000 United States troops are stationed in Japan and the Japanese Government makes substantial financial commitments to the maintenance of United States forces in Japan under the Special Measures Agreement and other contributions that directly support operational readiness of United States forces in Japan;

Whereas the current United States-Japan Special Measures Agreement is set to expire in March 2021, and the two countries launched working-level negotiations on a new cost-sharing agreement in October 2020;

Whereas, in October 2020, the United States, Australia, India, and Japan continued their ongoing cooperation through the quad framework and discussed collective efforts to collaborate on COVID-19 pandemic response, maritime security, cybersecurity, quality infrastructure, counterterrorism, and other areas;

Whereas our two countries, coming from different cultural backgrounds, have created an active and dynamic relationship beneficial to both peoples; and

Whereas cultural and people-to-people ties between the United States and Japan are long-standing and deep, as exemplified by the gift of the beautiful cherry trees that dot our nation's capital from the People of Japan to the People of the United States in 1912, signifying the affection and respect between the two nations: Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) reaffirms the vital role of the United States-Japan alliance in promoting peace,

stability, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond;

(2) supports the conclusion of an equitable, new United States-Japan Special Measures Agreement that is negotiated based on our shared national interests, prior to the expiration of the current agreement;

(3) supports cooperation between the United States, Japan, and other like-minded partners to promote high-quality infrastructure, energy, and development projects that are open, transparent, and sustainable;

(4) underscores the importance of the close people-to-people and cultural ties between our two nations;

(5) calls for the continued robust cooperation between the United States and Japan in the global fight against COVID-19, and supports the Japanese Government's commitment to hosting the Olympic Games in 2021;

(6) calls for the strengthening and broadening of diplomatic, economic, and security ties between the United States and Japan;

(7) reaffirms the vital role of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue as a platform to facilitate further collaboration between the United States, Australia, India, and Japan on matters related to protecting freedom of navigation and promoting democratic values in the Indo-Pacific; and

(8) calls for the continued cooperation between the Governments of the United States and Japan in addressing global challenges that threaten the security of people everywhere in the "Reiwa" era of Japan, which the Japanese Government translates as "beautiful harmony".

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include in the RECORD extraneous material on H. Res. 349, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. CASTRO for authorizing this measure reaffirming our partnership with Japan, a longstanding U.S. ally and an indispensable partner for advancing peace, stability, and prosperity in Asia and beyond.

The United States and Japan share a commitment to upholding human rights, the rule of law, and democratic values and freedoms. In challenging times like these, it is all the more important that we work with like-minded friends to defend and promote our shared interests.

One of those shared priorities is strengthening our alliances. This is more important than ever as China's behavior becomes increasingly aggressive and Kim Jong-un in North Korea remains unchecked in his challenge to regional security and stability.

H. Res. 349 expresses the bipartisan support in Congress for an equitable agreement with Japan regarding Host Nation Support for our troops before

the current one expires. This is a critical way to shore up a key ally's defenses and protect U.S. national interests.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this resolution reaffirming our commitment to the United States' partnership with Japan, and I urge all my colleagues to do the same.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 349, a resolution to reaffirm the vital role of the U.S.-Japan alliance in promoting peace, stability, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region.

For over six decades, the U.S.-Japan alliance has served as a cornerstone for security in the Indo-Pacific region and will continue to be fundamental to the protection of our shared interests.

Our two democratic nations maintain close cooperation on a multitude of issues, including nonproliferation, global health, and maritime security. In recent years, our alliance has stood as a crucial check to China's increasing regional aggression and North Korea's continued nuclear ambitions.

As the security environment in the Indo-Pacific continues to become more complex, our alliance will prove to be more significant than ever. This resolution reaffirms the importance of this longstanding strategic relationship in the face of the new threats and challenges that impact both U.S. and Japan.

Mr. Speaker, as we face what some would consider the greatest threat in our generation, the Chinese Communist Party, the CCP, the United States must reaffirm support for our alliance with like-minded nations like Japan. It is only through mutual cooperation that we can continue to protect democratic values and freedoms around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, as certain actors continue their aggressive behavior and destabilize the Indo-Pacific region, it is critical that we continue to strengthen our allies and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support 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 New York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 349, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING IMPORTANCE OF UNITED STATES ALLIANCE WITH REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF KOREAN AMERICANS

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 809) expressing the importance of the United States alliance with the Republic of Korea and the contributions of Korean Americans in the United States, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 809

Whereas the United States and the Republic of Korea enjoy a comprehensive alliance partnership, founded in shared strategic interests and cemented by a commitment to democratic values;

Whereas the United States and the Republic of Korea work closely together to promote international peace and security, economic prosperity, human rights, and the rule of law;

Whereas the relationship between the United States and the Republic of Korea goes as far back as Korea's Chosun Dynasty, when the United States and Korea established diplomatic relations under the 1882 Treaty of Peace, Amity, Commerce, and Navigation;

Whereas, on August 15, 1948, the Provisional Government of the Republic of Korea, established on April 11, 1919, was dissolved and transitioned to the First Republic of Korea, the first independent government;

Whereas regional peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific promotes shared United States-Republic of Korea interests of prosperity and economic well-being;

Whereas United States military personnel have maintained a continuous presence on the Korean Peninsula since the Mutual Defense Treaty Between the United States and the Republic of Korea (5 UST 2368) was signed at Washington on October 1, 1953;

Whereas, on May 7, 2013, the United States and the Republic of Korea signed a Joint Declaration in Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the Alliance Between the Republic of Korea and the United States;

Whereas 63 years ago the Treaty of Friendship, Commerce, and Navigation between the United States and the Republic of Korea, with Protocol (8 UST 2217) was signed at Seoul on November 28, 1956;

Whereas the alliance between the Republic of Korea and the United States, our shared national security interests, the 9,000 South Korean civilians working to support the joint mission of United States Forces Korea and the 28,500 United States military service members currently stationed in South Korea, are best served by the conclusion of mutually agreeable, multi-year Special Measures Agreements;

Whereas the economic relationship between the United States and the Republic of Korea is deep and mutually beneficial to both countries;

Whereas the Republic of Korea is the United States sixth-largest trading partner;

Whereas the Republic of Korea is one of the fastest growing sources of foreign direct investment in the United States;

Whereas the United States is the second largest source of foreign direct investment in the Republic of Korea;

Whereas, on January 13, 1903, 102 pioneer Korean immigrants arrived in the United States, initiating the first chapter of Korean immigration to America;

Whereas the over 2,000,000 Korean Americans living in the United States contribute to the diversity and prosperity of our Nation, participate in all facets of American life, and have made significant contributions to the economic vitality of the United States;

Whereas members of the Korean American community serve with distinction in the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas Korean Americans continue to build and strengthen the alliance between the United States and the Republic of Korea; and

Whereas the Asia Reassurance Initiative Act (Public Law 115-409), signed into law on December 31, 2018, states that the United States Government—

(1) is committed to the Mutual Defense Treaty Between the United States and the Republic of Korea and all related and subsequent bilateral security agreements and arrangements concluded on or before the date of the enactment of that Act;

(2) recognizes the vital role of the alliance between the United States and South Korea in promoting peace and security in the Indo-Pacific region; and

(3) calls for the strengthening and broadening of diplomatic, economic, and security ties between the United States and the Republic of Korea: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the vital role the alliance of the United States and the Republic of Korea plays in promoting peace and security in the Indo-Pacific region;

(2) calls for the strengthening and broadening of diplomatic, economic, and security ties between the United States and the Republic of Korea, including through the conclusion of mutually agreeable multi-year Special Measures Agreements; and

(3) reaffirms the United States alliance with the Republic of Korea is central to advancing United States interests, engagement, and influence in the region, based on shared commitments to democracy, free-market economics, human rights, and the rule of law.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include in the RECORD extraneous material on H. Res. 809.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this good measure from Mr. SUOZZI expressing the importance of the United States alliance with the Republic of Korea and the immense contributions of Korean Americans to the United States.

The Republic of Korea is a linchpin of United States foreign policy in Northeast Asia. Our alliance, built upon our shared interests and commitment to human rights, good governance, and