

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF VICTORY IN EUROPE
(VE) DAY AND LIBERATION OF WESTERN BOHEMIA; RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY DURING WORLD WAR II; SUPPORTING THE ORGANIZERS AND PARTICIPANTS OF THE MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY TO PROMOTE THE CIVIL SOCIETY IN CUBA; CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA TO TRANSFER CHARLES TAYLOR TO THE SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE; AND OBSERVING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALL OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM TO THE COMMUNIST FORCES OF NORTH VIETNAM

MARKUP

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED NINTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

**H. Res. 195, H. Res. 233, H. Res. 193,
H. Con. Res. 127 and H. Res. 228**

APRIL 27, 2005

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RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF VICTORY IN EUROPE (VE) DAY AND LIBERATION OF WESTERN BOHEMIA; RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY DURING WORLD WAR II; SUPPORTING THE ORGANIZERS AND PARTICIPANTS OF THE MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY TO PROMOTE THE CIVIL SOCIETY IN CUBA; CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA TO TRANSFER CHARLES TAYLOR TO THE SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE; AND OBSERVING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALL OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM TO THE COMMUNIST FORCES OF NORTH VIETNAM

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2005

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,
Washington, DC.

The Committee met, pursuant to call, at 11:24 a.m. in room 2172, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Henry J. Hyde (Chairman of the Committee) presiding.

Chairman HYDE. The business meeting of the Committee will come to order. We have a series of noncontroversial bills on the agenda, and it is the intention of the Chair to consider these measures en bloc and, by unanimous consent, authorize the Chair to seek consideration of the bills under suspension of the rules. All Members are given leave to insert remarks on the measures into the record, should they choose to do so.

Without objection, the Chairman is authorized to seek consideration of the following measures under suspension of the rules, and the amendments which the Members have before them will be deemed adopted: H. Res. 195, Recognizing the 60th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day and the Liberation of Western Bohemia; H. Res. 233, Recognizing the 60th anniversary of Victory in Europe (V-E) Day during World War II; H. Res. 193, Expressing support to the organizers and participants of the historic meeting of the Assembly to Promote the Civil Society in Cuba on May 20, 2005, in Havana; H. Con. Res. 127, Calling on the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to transfer Charles Ghankay Taylor, former President of the Republic of Liberia, to the Special Court for Sierra Leone to be tried for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law; and H. Res. 228, Observing the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Republic of Vietnam to the Communist forces of North Vietnam.

[The bills and amendments referred to follow:]

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 195

Recognizing the 60th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day and the Liberation of Western Bohemia.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 6, 2005

Mr. KINGSTON (for himself, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. TERRY, Ms. WATSON, Mr. McNULTY, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. KUHLMAN of New York, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SHAW, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota, Mr. OTTER, Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. BROWN of South Carolina) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the 60th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day and the Liberation of Western Bohemia.

Whereas the final major offensive in the European theater of operations during World War II, known as the Liberation of Western Bohemia, was fought from April 25, 1945, to May 8, 1945, with Victory in Europe (VE) Day declared on May 8, 1945;

Whereas the Liberation of Western Bohemia was the closing offensive of World War II, which decisively contributed to the ultimate capitulation of the German Third Reich;

Whereas on May 4, 1945, General George S. Patton gave the order for the American Third Army, consisting of 18 divisions and 500,000 men, to resume the Allied offensive into Western Bohemia;

Whereas on May 5, 1945, the Third Army liberated the city of Plzen (Pilsen), the western-most city in then-Czechoslovakia;

Whereas on May 6, 1945, as Americans entered Pilsen, flowers were strewn along the paths and into the vehicles of the troops, while young girls and old men and women ran to kiss the soldiers;

Whereas during the communist era, Czechs celebrated their liberation from Nazi Germany on May 9 of each year in commemoration of the Soviet liberation of Prague; however, after the 1989 “Velvet Revolution”, the date of commemoration was moved to May 8 of each year;

Whereas thousands of American veterans of the Liberation of Western Bohemia have traveled to Pilsen in the years since the liberation to honor their fallen comrades;

Whereas the people of the Czech Republic, symbolizing their friendship and gratitude toward the American soldiers who fought to secure their freedom, have graciously hosted countless veterans groups over the years;

Whereas between April 25 and May 9, 2005, some 50 communities across the western part of the Czech Republic will be celebrating the 60th anniversary of their liberation by United States, Czech, and Belgian soldiers under the command of General Patton;

Whereas the citizens of Pilsen will dedicate a statue of General Patton which will be unveiled on the town square on the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Pilsen, com-

memorating the Liberation of Western Bohemia by United States Armed Forces during World War II; and Whereas the friendship between the United States and the Czech Republic is strong today in part because of the Liberation of Western Bohemia: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) recognizes the 60th anniversary of the Lib-
3 eration of Western Bohemia in the European theater
4 of operations during World War II which culminated
5 in an Allied victory that assured the defeat of Nazi
6 Germany and ended the War in Europe two weeks
7 later;

8 (2) honors those individuals who gave their lives
9 during the Liberation of Western Bohemia;

10 (3) encourages the President to issue a procla-
11 mation calling upon the people of the United States
12 to honor the veterans of the Liberation of Western
13 Bohemia with appropriate programs, ceremonies,
14 and activities;

15 (4) reaffirms the bonds of friendship between
16 the United States and the brave citizens of the
17 Czech Republic; and

18 (5) seeks to continue building a great future be-
19 tween our countries.

○

AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 195
OFFERED BY MR. GALLEGLY OF CALIFORNIA

Amend the title so as to read “Resolution recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Liberation of Western Bohemia by United States Armed Forces during World War II and the continued friendship between the people of the United States and the Czech Republic.”.

.....
(Original Signature of Member)

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 233

Recognizing the 60th anniversary of Victory in Europe (V-E) Day during
World War II.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. GALLEGLY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the 60th anniversary of Victory in Europe (V-E)
Day during World War II.

Whereas on May 7, 1945, at General Dwight Eisenhower's
headquarters in Reims, France, a representative of the
German High command signed the document of sur-
render, unconditionally surrendering all air, land and sea
forces to the Allies on May 8, ending the war in Europe;

Whereas Western Europe and the United States have tradi-
tionally celebrated May 8 as the day of the Allied "Vic-
tory in Europe" over Germany, or "V-E Day" ;

Whereas May 8, 2005, marks the 60th anniversary of V-E
Day;

Whereas V-E Day was a day for which millions had worked and fought and prayed and died during that terrible war;

Whereas this day marked the end of six years of misery, suffering, courage, and endurance across the world;

Whereas the United States Armed Forces fought with their Allies to free occupied nations and their victory in Europe represented the triumph of good over unspeakable evil, and the promise of a peaceful future for a Europe ravaged by the bloodiest war in its history;

Whereas V-E Day marked the culmination of the efforts of many different nations in the Allied forces who were united by the common quest for peace and justice and who fought valiantly to liberate occupied countries and to prevent Hitler's onslaught;

Whereas the more than 400,000,000 members of the United States Armed Forces deployed in Europe, the largest United States military force ever committed to any theater of operation, were joined by millions of members of the armed forces of other Allied nations, and together provided the essential strength and made innumerable sacrifices to end the war in Europe;

Whereas almost 200,000 members of the United States Armed Forces gave their lives in battle and hundreds of thousands were wounded in the European theater during World War II;

Whereas European countries have erected many monuments and plaques commemorating their liberation by the United States and its Allies during World War II;

Whereas the 60th anniversary of V-E Day in 2005 will be marked by many commemorative events by citizens of the United States and many other nations; and

Whereas the courage and sacrifice of the members of the United States Armed Forces and of many other nations who served with distinction to save the world from tyranny and aggression should always be remembered: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives recog-
2 nizes the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II
3 in Europe, joins with a grateful Nation in expressing re-
4 spect and appreciation to the men and women who served
5 in the European theater during World War II, and re-
6 members and pays tribute to those Americans who made
7 the ultimate sacrifice and gave their life for their country.

**Amendment to H.Res. 233
Offered by Mr. Gallegly of California**

On page 2, strike "400,000,000" and insert "4,000,000"

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 193

Expressing support to the organizers and participants of the historic meeting of the Assembly to Promote the Civil Society in Cuba on May 20, 2005, in Havana.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 6, 2005

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. MACK, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BAKER, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. WELLER, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. CANNON, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. MCCOTTER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota, and Mr. WELDON of Florida) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing support to the organizers and participants of the historic meeting of the Assembly to Promote the Civil Society in Cuba on May 20, 2005, in Havana.

Whereas Fidel Castro's terrorist regime has continued to repress all attempts by the Cuban people to bring democratic change to Cuba and denies universally recognized liberties, including freedom of speech, association, movement, and the press;

Whereas thousands of political prisoners are currently imprisoned by Fidel Castro's totalitarian regime;

Whereas in March 2003 Fidel Castro carried out a massive, island wide crackdown on members of Cuba's pro-democracy movement, under which pro-democracy activists were arrested, subjected to "summary trials", and sentenced to up to 28 years in prison for their pro-democracy activities;

Whereas the Department of State's 2004 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, in referring to Castro's Cuba, states: "Members of the security forces and prison officials continued to beat and abuse detainees and prisoners, including human rights activists. . . . Prison conditions remained harsh and life threatening, and the Government restricted medical care to some prisoners as a method of control. Prisoners died in jail due to lack of medical care.";

Whereas on May 20, 1902, the Republic of Cuba obtained its independence;

Whereas in the spirit of Jose Marti, many of the future leaders of a free Cuba have called for a meeting of the Assembly of the Civil Society in Cuba, an organization that consists of over 360 opposition and civil society organizations in Cuba;

Whereas on May 20, 2005, the Assembly to Promote the Civil Society in Cuba seeks to convene an historic meeting in Havana on the 103rd anniversary of Cuban Independence;

Whereas the Assembly to Promote the Civil Society in Cuba will focus on bringing democracy and liberty to the enslaved island of Cuba;

Whereas the Assembly to Promote the Civil Society in Cuba is led by three courageous pro-democracy opponents of the Castro regime—Martha Beatriz Roque Cabello, Felix Bonne Carcasses, and Rene Gomez Manzano;

Whereas organizers and participants are convening a meeting of the Assembly to Promote the Civil Society in Cuba at great risk to themselves and their families; and

Whereas President George W. Bush stated in his second inaugural address on January 20, 2005: “All who live in tyranny and hopelessness can know: the United States will not ignore your oppression, or excuse your oppressors. When you stand for your liberty, we will stand with you. Democratic reformers facing repression, prison, or exile can know: America sees you for who you are—the future leaders of your free country.”: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) extends its support and solidarity to the or-
3 ganizers and participants of the historic meeting of
4 the Assembly to Promote the Civil Society in Cuba
5 on May 20, 2005, in Havana;

6 (2) urges the international community to sup-
7 port the Assembly’s mission to bring democracy to
8 Cuba;

9 (3) urges the Administration and international
10 community to actively oppose any attempts by the
11 Castro regime to repress or punish the organizers
12 and participants of the Assembly; and

1 (4) shares the pro-democracy ideals of the As-
2 sembly to Promote the Civil Society in Cuba and be-
3 lieves that this Assembly and others will hasten the
4 day of freedom and democracy for the people of
5 Cuba.

○

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 127

Calling on the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to transfer Charles Ghankay Taylor, former President of the Republic of Liberia, to the Special Court for Sierra Leone to be tried for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 12, 2005

Mr. ROYCE (for himself, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. WOLF, Mrs. KELLY, and Mr. SNYDER) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Calling on the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to transfer Charles Ghankay Taylor, former President of the Republic of Liberia, to the Special Court for Sierra Leone to be tried for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law.

Whereas on January 16, 2002, as requested by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1315 (2000), an agreement was signed by the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and the United Nations to establish the Special Court for Sierra Leone;

Whereas the Special Court for Sierra Leone was given the power to prosecute persons who have committed and “bear the greatest responsibility” for war crimes, crimes against humanity, other serious violations of international humanitarian law, and certain crimes under Sierra Leonean law committed within the territory of Sierra Leone during that country’s brutal civil war during the period after November 30, 1996;

Whereas on June 4, 2003, the Special Court for Sierra Leone unsealed an indictment issued on March 3, 2003, against Charles Ghankay Taylor, former President of the Republic of Liberia, charging him with seventeen counts of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other violations of international humanitarian law relating to his role in directly supporting and materially, logistically, and politically abetting the rebel Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and its actions, including its notorious, widespread, and systematic attacks upon the civilian population of Sierra Leone;

Whereas the indictment of Charles Taylor includes charges of terrorizing civilians and subjecting civilians to collective punishment, mass murder, sexual slavery and rape, abduction and hostage taking, severe mutilation, including the cutting off of limbs and other physical violence and inhumane acts, enslavement, forced labor, forced military conscription, including forced conscription of children, theft, arson, looting, and pillage, and widespread attacks upon the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) and humanitarian workers by the Revolutionary United Front combatants;

Whereas the Revolutionary United Front was notorious for brutally murdering and torturing civilians, including the

amputation of limbs with machetes, and by carving “RUF” onto the bodies of thousands of victims, including women and children;

Whereas the Revolutionary United Front made widespread use of abducted children as laborers and soldiers and forced many of the abducted children to perform severe human rights abuses, constituting a serious crime under the jurisdiction of the Special Court for Sierra Leone;

Whereas on August 11, 2003, Charles Taylor departed Liberia for Calabar, Nigeria, where he was granted asylum and, according to press reports, agreed to end his involvement in Liberian politics;

Whereas in September 2003 the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria warned Taylor that it would “not tolerate any breach of this condition and others which forbid him from engaging in active communications with anyone engaged in political, illegal or governmental activities in Liberia”;

Whereas the United States, Nigeria, and other concerned nations have contributed extensive political, human, military, financial, and material resources toward the building of peace and stability in Liberia and Sierra Leone;

Whereas the Special Court for Sierra Leone has contributed to developing the rule of law in Sierra Leone and is deserving of support;

Whereas on March 17, 2005, the United Nations Secretary-General reported to the United Nations Security Council that Charles Taylor’s “former military commanders and business associates, as well as members of his political party, maintain regular contact with him and are planning to undermine the peace process” in Liberia;

Whereas David Crane, Chief Prosecutor at the Special Court for Sierra Leone, stated: “Unless and until Charles Taylor is brought to justice, there will be no peace. Charles Taylor is a big cloud hanging over Liberia. He is still ruling the country from his house arrest in Calabar. His agents remain influential in the country.”;

Whereas on March 22, 2005, Jacques Klein, the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General to Liberia, stated: “Charles Taylor is a psychopath and a killer . . . He’s still very much involved [in and is . . .] intrusive in Liberian politics.”; and

Whereas Charles Taylor remains a serious present and continuing threat to Liberian and West African subregional political stability, security, and peace, and to United States interests in the region: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That Congress urges the Government of the
3 Federal Republic of Nigeria to expeditiously transfer
4 Charles Ghankay Taylor, former President of the Republic
5 of Liberia, to the jurisdiction of the Special Court for Si-
6 erra Leone to undergo a fair and open trial for war crimes,
7 crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of
8 international humanitarian law.

○

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 228

Observing the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Republic of Vietnam to the Communist forces of North Vietnam.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 21, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia (for himself, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. BECERRA, Ms. SOLIS, Ms. WATSON, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. WATERS, Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. FILNER, Mr. FARR, Mr. AKIN, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. HONDA, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. WOLF, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, and Mr. BERMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Observing the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Republic of Vietnam to the Communist forces of North Vietnam.

Whereas on April 30, 1975, the Republic of Vietnam fell to the Communist forces of North Vietnam, resulting in a world refugee crisis of historic proportions, and yielding approximately 3,000,000 refugees around the world and at least 500,000 individuals who died at sea;

Whereas since 1975, the 1,500,000 Vietnamese who resettled in the United States have, through perseverance and hard work, been able to rebuild their lives and form a vibrant community across the United States which contrib-

utes in many significant ways to the richness and diversity of American society;

Whereas since 1975, Vietnamese Americans have worked tirelessly to promote democracy and freedom in Vietnam;

Whereas the Socialist Republic of Vietnam was established as a one-party state ruled and controlled by the Vietnamese Communist Party;

Whereas the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam continues to violate the liberties and civil rights of its own citizens through arbitrary arrests, detentions without trial, and the censorship of peaceful expressions of political and religious beliefs;

Whereas Article 4 of the Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam ensures the supremacy of the Vietnamese Communist Party as the only political party in the country while continuing to enforce an extra-legal administrative decree to detain or place under house arrest any dissidents or civilians for up to 2 years, without trial, under the pretext of “endangering national security”;

Whereas, according to the Department of State and international human rights organizations, the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam continues to restrict unregistered religious activities and persecutes citizens on the basis of their religious and political affiliation through arbitrary arrests and detention, harassment, physical abuse, censorship, and the denial of the rights of free association and religious worship;

Whereas the people of the United States are firmly committed to political, religious, and economic freedom for the citizens of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the United States fully expects equal protection under the

law for all Vietnamese citizens, regardless of religious belief, political philosophy, or socio-political association;

Whereas the United States honors all members of the United States Armed Forces and members of the South Vietnamese forces who fought in the Vietnam conflict, including those individuals who gave the ultimate sacrifice, their lives, for the cause of freedom during such conflict; and

Whereas the interests of the United States with respect to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam will be best served when freedom and democracy are fully restored to the Vietnamese people and when basic human rights are respected and enjoyed by all Vietnamese regardless of politics, religion, gender, or ethnic origin: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) observes the 30th anniversary of the fall of
3 the Republic of Vietnam to the Communist forces of
4 North Vietnam;

5 (2) supports all individuals taking part in
6 events in Washington, D.C. and across the United
7 States to observe this tragic event in world history;
8 and

9 (3) urges the people of the United States to
10 share in remembering this tragic event so as to pro-
11 vide a greater understanding of the role that this
12 event had in depriving the people of Vietnam of their
13 liberty and to provide the necessary leadership so

1 that one day the Vietnamese people may enjoy free-
2 dom, democracy, and equality.

○

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H. RES. 228
OFFERED BY MR. HYDE**

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas the Vietnamese who resettled in the United States after the events of April 1975 have, through perseverance and hard work, been able to rebuild their lives and form a vibrant community across the United States, nearly a million and a half strong, which contributes in many significant ways to the richness and diversity of American society;

Whereas the large flow of refugees to the United States and elsewhere was caused by the fall of the Republic of Vietnam to the Communist forces of North Vietnam in April 1975, resulting in a world refugee crisis of historic proportions, the exodus of millions of Vietnamese, and hundreds of thousands of deaths at sea;

Whereas since 1975, Vietnamese Americans have worked tirelessly to promote freedom and democracy in Vietnam;

Whereas the United States honors all members of the United States Armed Forces and members of the South Vietnamese forces who fought in the Vietnam conflict, including those individuals who gave the ultimate sacrifice, their lives, for the cause of freedom during such conflict; and

Whereas the interests of the United States with respect to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam will be best served when the Vietnamese people fully enjoy the exercise of

their basic human rights regardless of politics, religion, gender, or ethnic origin: Now, therefore, be it

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

1 That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) honors the significant contributions of Viet-
3 nameese Americans to the richness, diversity, and
4 success of American society;

5 (2) observes the 30th anniversary of the large
6 exodus of refugees from Vietnam when the Republic
7 of Vietnam fell to the Communist forces of North
8 Vietnam;

9 (3) supports all individuals taking part in
10 events in Washington, D.C. and across the United
11 States to commemorate these momentous events in
12 world history;

13 (4) honors the memory of those Vietnamese
14 who lost their lives in that refugee exodus; and

15 (5) urges all citizens of the United States to
16 share in remembering these events and working to-
17 ward the full realization of freedom, democracy, and
18 equality for all the people of Vietnam.

Amend the title so as to read: “Resolution honoring the contributions of Vietnamese Americans to American society over the past three decades.”.

Chairman HYDE. Before the Committee business meeting adjourns, I would like to turn to an important Committee resolution which is at the desk. The clerk will read the resolution.

Ms. RUSH. Committee Resolution 109-1, April 27, 2005, Honoring Carl Raether. Whereas Carl Raether has served the United States Department of State for over 32 years, including a long tenure as a member of the senior staff of the Department's Bureau of Legislative Affairs; Whereby Carl Raether has served with dedication and loyalty under seven Presidents and eleven Secretaries of State; Whereas Carl Raether has served with distinction for more than four years as a Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs with responsibility for the House of Representatives; Whereas Carl Raether has skillfully balanced the needs of the executive and legislative branches and has maintained most cordial and helpful relations with Members and staff of this Committee; and Whereas Carl Raether is about to retire from Federal service.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Committee on International Relations expresses its sincere appreciation to Carl Raether for his many years of service to the Federal Government and in particular for his outstanding, dedicated efforts to inform and counsel the Members and staff of the Committee and to improve the communications between the Committee and the officers and employees of the Department of State.

[The resolution referred to follows:]

United States House of Representatives
Committee on International Relations
COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 109-1

April 27, 2005

Honoring Carl Raether

Whereas Carl Raether has served the United States Department of State for over 32 years, including a long tenure as a member of the senior staff of the Department's Bureau of Legislative Affairs;

Whereby Carl Raether has served with dedication and loyalty under seven Presidents and eleven Secretaries of State;

Whereas Carl Raether has served with distinction for more than four years as a Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs with responsibility for the House of Representatives;

Whereas Carl Raether has skillfully balanced the needs of the executive and legislative branches and has maintained most cordial and helpful relations with Members and staff of this Committee; and

Whereas Carl Raether is about to retire from federal service:

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

That the Committee on International Relations expresses its sincere appreciation to Carl Raether for his many years of service to the federal government and in particular for his outstanding, dedicated efforts to inform and counsel the Members and staff of the Committee and to improve the communications between the Committee and the officers and employees of the Department of State.

Chairman HYDE. Mr. Lantos is recognized for such remarks as he cares

Mr. LANTOS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to strongly support the resolution honoring Carl for his extraordinary public service, and I move that we approve all of the resolutions you listed.

Chairman HYDE. If Carl is in the audience, I would ask him to stand and receive the thanks of the Committee.

[Applause.]

Chairman HYDE. Without objection, the Committee resolution is adopted.

The Committee business meeting stands adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 11:29 a.m., the Committee was adjourned.]

