

see them go through all the many things they had planned.

So on October 15, we want to join with 43 States, including my own great State of Texas, and say to those parents who have had to all too many times suffer while feeling alone and not understood, "We are going to take a little time out and we are going to think of your loss, and we are going to think of your baby as you know your baby in your dreams. We are going to know, along with you, your loss is great, your heart is heavy, and it will be with you forever. And yes, we will hope for you to have other children, but we will take a moment to say that we do understand with you that no matter how many children more you might have in your life, those children do not, cannot, and will not replace that very, very special baby."

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, let me just once again commend the esteemed majority leader for such a well-thought-out and well-developed resolution.

Oftentimes when there is great tragedy or a tremendous need or a calamity, and we try and determine what it is we can do to help, I think in these instances there is one thing that we can all do. That is to show, display, and demonstrate a level of understanding and sensitivity to those who are indeed experiencing the loss. So a level of understanding is something that we can all give.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I commend the majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), for bringing this important resolution to the House. I also thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), chairman of the Committee on Government Reform, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON), chairman of the Subcommittee on Civil Service and Agency Organization, as well as the ranking members of the full committee and subcommittee, the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), for expediting consideration of this resolution.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in strong support of H. Res. 254. This bill supports the goals of Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day, by promoting, supporting, educating, and increasing the awareness regarding grieving parents nationwide.

In 1995, 15.7 percent of pregnancies ended in fetal demise—miscarriage or stillbirth. In 1996, 983,000 babies died from miscarriage and stillbirth. These figures do not include neonatal loss, Sudden Death Syndrome, or other causes.

Many parents grieve alone or in silence, sometimes never coming to terms with their loss. Mothers especially suffer firsthand the

emotional and physical pain and heartache associated with such a tragedy.

Remembering this Day is the right step in helping all Americans relate to and assist parents who suffer the loss of an unborn or still-born child.

I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 254 to remember the families who have experienced the tragedy of losing a child by miscarriage or stillbirth.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support House Resolution 254, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 254.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof), the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

#### THE UNITED STATES AND THE WORLD COMMUNITY MUST DO MORE FOR THE PEOPLE OF AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. MCKINNEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, Medecin Sans Frontieres, the 1999 winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, has today accused the United States of conducting nothing more than cynical military propaganda when we describe our operations in Afghanistan as "humanitarian."

The tragic truth is, they are right. The Bush administration's celebrations concerning the U.S. Air Force drops of food packages, totalling 75,000 food ration packages over the 2 days of Sunday and Monday, are not deserved. Medicine Sans Frontieres accuses us of little more than window dressing, seeking to divert public attention from a scandalous humanitarian disaster that could soon rival the Rwandan/Congolese catastrophe of 1994 and 1995.

Before the September 11 crisis, the U.N. World Food Program estimated that there were 2 million civilians in Afghanistan totally dependent on foreign food aid. The World Food Program was trucking in 500 tons a day, or enough to feed only 1 million people. So just 4 weeks ago, each day that went by, some 1 million Afghan men, women, and children were without food.

But now the situation is much worse. Our military operations have started, and the number dependent on food aid

has grown rapidly while international food distribution has actually fallen to almost nothing. The BBC reports today that UNICEF believes that the number of Afghans in need has now grown to 5.5 million people, of which an estimated 70 percent are women and children.

Mr. Speaker, that staggering number of people, 5.5 million, easily exceeds if not even doubles the population of some of the largest cities in our own country. Can we imagine how horrified we would be, and how we would, as a nation, react if the entire population of cities such as Dallas or San Diego or San Francisco or Detroit were starving to death?

Mr. Speaker, that is the scale of the humanitarian catastrophe now confronting Afghanistan. These 5.5 million people desperately require about 2,750 tons of food aid each day, based on World Food Program estimates of 500 tons per million people per day. And this says nothing about the medical needs of these people.

Clearly, our two airdrops of 37,000 ration packages, though well-intentioned and bravely carried out by U.S. Air Force air crews, are not nearly enough to prevent a humanitarian disaster. Maybe, as alleged by Medecin Sans Frontieres, it does help soothe our collective conscience, but it does little more.

The Heritage Foundation has called Afghanistan the worst U.S. foreign policy failure of all time, and I have visited the Afghan refugees in their camp.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Government should be promoting democracy in Afghanistan. Bobby Kennedy had the following to say: "Can we ordain ourselves the awful majesty of God, to decide what cities and villages are to be destroyed; who will live and who will die; who will join refugees wandering in the desert of our own creation?"

Although Bobby Kennedy was referring to our involvement in Vietnam, his words apply to our involvement in Afghanistan. The United States and the world community must do more for the people of Afghanistan. Mr. Speaker, the clock is ticking for 5.5 million innocent people.

#### THE BRIDGE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. Speaker, today the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD) and I are introducing the BRIDGE Act of 2001. BRIDGE is short for Business-Retained Income During Growth and Expansion. This is bill number H.R. 3062.

I am introducing the bill on behalf of myself, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CRANE), the gentleman from California (Mr. MATSUI), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO), the gentlewoman from New