

also knowledge the contributions of His Excellency Lalit Mansingh, Ambassador of the Republic of India, who has represented the interests of India before the U.S. Congress in a manner that has strengthened U.S.-India relations.

I also applaud the efforts of Sanjay Puri, founder and Executive Director of an organization working to influence policy on issues of concern to the Indian American community. With a membership of 27,000, this organization is giving more than 2 million Indian Americans a voice in the political process and I believe both India and the United States are fortunate to have more than 27,000 Indian Americans working with us to address important issues like terrorism, trade, HIV/AIDS, and immigration.

Again, I applaud the efforts of so many and I commend India on its celebration of Republic Day.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this important Resolution commending the incredibly diverse, democratic nation of India on the celebration of its Republic Day.

This Resolution reiterates the overwhelming Congressional support for continued strong relations between the United States and India. And it notes India's commitment, under the Indian constitution, for universal suffrage; equality for all citizens, regardless of faith, gender, or ethnicity; and protections for freedom of speech, association and religion.

Our two nations are "natural allies," as Prime Minister Vajpayee has stated. For while our alliance is relatively young, it has already begun to flourish based on our shared values and commitment to democratic principles.

In recognition of our growing relationship, the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) and I led a delegation of nine members of Congress to India in January.

During our trip, we were privileged to be received by a number of Mr. Vajpayee's Ministers and we engaged key policymakers in thoughtful discussions on issues ranging from Kashmir and Pakistan to this year's national elections in both India and the United States.

While we certainly discussed, and even debated, a number of issues on which our countries have legitimate differences, the lasting impressions were the broad areas of agreement and cooperation, and the strength and dynamism of the growing U.S.-India relationship.

Madam Speaker, the mutual respect demonstrated in these discussions was a clear sign of our maturing relationship and the trust between us.

For example, our armed forces now regularly participate in joint exercises involving all branches of the military, and the sale of U.S. military equipment to India approached \$200 million last year.

In the immediate aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attacks, India pledged its full cooperation and offered the use of all its military bases for counterterrorism efforts. And India continues to play a key role in stabilization and reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan.

Our economic cooperation also is noteworthy. In fact, the nearly 60% increase in total trade between the United States and India since 1996 illustrates that.

With more than 1 billion citizens, India still faces many problems. And the increasing engagement with the United States will help India to address them.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I want to commend all of my colleagues who spoke on behalf of this important resolution.

Madam Speaker, we have no further requests for time and we yield back the balance of our time.

Mr. LEACH. Madam Speaker, we yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 15.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam 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 and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES OF
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FOR UNTIMELY DEATH OF MAC-
EDONIAN PRESIDENT BORIS
TRAJKOVSKI

Mr. BEREUTER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 540) expressing the condolences and deepest sympathies of the House of Representatives for the untimely death of Macedonian President Boris Trajkovski, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 540

Whereas on February 26, 2004, President Boris Trajkovski of the Republic of Macedonia was tragically killed in a plane crash in Bosnia-Herzegovina while he was on his way to an international investment conference;

Whereas Mr. Trajkovski served Macedonia as Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs from December 21, 1998 until he was inaugurated as President on December 15, 1999;

Whereas Mr. Trajkovski stood up for what he believed was right and moral, even when he faced opposition within Macedonia;

Whereas under Mr. Trajkovski's leadership, Macedonia was one of the first countries to publicly support Operation Iraqi Freedom and to commit troops to the effort;

Whereas during Macedonia's armed ethnic clashes Mr. Trajkovski demonstrated his willingness to work with all of Macedonia's ethnic groups, which helped to prevent a civil war;

Whereas Mr. Trajkovski was a strong believer in free markets and worked tirelessly to bring development and investment to Macedonia;

Whereas under President Trajkovski's leadership, Macedonia negotiated an agreement with the United States under Article 98 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, signed the agreement on June 30, 2003, and ratified the agreement on October 16, 2003, thereby helping to ensure United States citizens will not be subject to politically motivated prosecutions;

Whereas Mr. Trajkovski worked to foster peace for the entire Balkan region and to integrate Macedonia into the international community; and

Whereas the death of Mr. Trajkovski is a tragedy for the people of Macedonia: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses its deepest sympathies to the people of the Republic of Macedonia, the family of President Boris Trajkovski, and the families of the other crash victims;

(2) expresses its desire for a smooth and orderly transition of power; and

(3) expresses the solidarity of the people of the United States with the people of Macedonia and the Macedonian Government during this tragedy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BEREUTER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 540, the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, this Member rises in support of H. Res. 540, as amended, expressing the condolences and deepest sympathy of the U.S. House of Representatives upon the death of Macedonian President Boris Trajkovski. This resolution was introduced by the distinguished gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER).

On February 26, 2004, President Boris Trajkovski of the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia was tragically killed in a plane crash over Bosnia-Herzegovina, while traveling to Moscow to attend a regional economic conference. He and eight other individuals on the aircraft died in this tragic accident. This Member understands the official State funeral was held Friday of last week in Skopje.

President Trajkovski is one of the most important reasons why Macedonia is making the progress it has made in recent years. President Trajkovski was an important leader and voice of reason in resolving the ethnic conflict that was threatening his country 3 years ago and in implementing the Ohrid peace agreement of August 2001. His leadership and moderation between opposing sides have been absolutely essential in creating the conditions for the progress that his government and his country have made since then.

He worked tirelessly to ensure that democratic values and institutions would prevail in his country and to bring his country closer towards full

integration in the Euro-Atlantic institutions. In May of last year, his country joined Croatia and Albania in signing the Adriatic Charter, an agreement to commit to reforms and cooperation in order to prepare these countries for accession into NATO. His country has been a strong supporter of the international war against terrorism and has contributed forces to operations in both Afghanistan and Iraq. Tragically, his country was scheduled to formally submit its application to become a candidate for membership in the European Union last week on February 26, tragic only because that was the very day of the tragic accident.

Historically, President Trajkovski will be most known for saving his country from civil war. This resolution recognizes that fact and his leadership and his importance to his country. This resolution is an affirmation that the U.S. House of Representatives supports the reforms that President Trajkovski implemented and the progress that all Macedonians have made. May the government of Macedonia and the people of Macedonia continue to follow his example and continue along his path of reform, progress, peace and democracy.

This Member would like to express his deepest sympathies and condolences to his family, to his country and to all the Macedonian people and urge his colleagues in this House to support passage of the resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in sad and strong support of this resolution. I want to associate myself with the remarks of my good friend from Nebraska, and I want to join him and all other Members in offering our deepest condolences on the tragic death of President Boris Trajkovski, to the people of Macedonia and to his family. President Trajkovski is survived by his wife and two children, and I want to extend our expressions of sympathy to his entire family and to all the citizens of Macedonia.

The Balkans have seen more than their share of turbulence in the past couple of decades. Macedonia alone has attained independence, wrestled with economic challenges, overcame ethnic tensions between Macedonian Slavs and the Albanian minority. Outside of Macedonia, there are still people in the Balkans who strive to return to their homes to attain international recognition and to secure their statehood. Our involvement in the region must continue to be vigorous and effective.

The leadership of President Trajkovski stands out in the Balkan context. He was a voice for moderation and reason who united his country and led it on the path of integration with the European Union and membership in NATO. I was privileged to meet him a little while ago, with our distinguished chairman, the gentleman from Illinois

(Mr. HYDE) to discuss his vision for Macedonia and for the region, and both the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and I were deeply impressed by his passionate commitment to his people and to building a democratic society.

Just on the day of this tragic event, a Macedonian delegation was due to present a Macedonian-EU partnership application to the government of Ireland which currently holds the presidency of the European Union. I was pleased to learn that, although the visit of the Macedonian delegation was cut short by the tragic events, the government of Macedonia followed through and did submit its application to the European Union.

□ 1830

Last year, Madam Speaker, Macedonia signed the U.S. Adriatic Charter, affirming its commitment to the values and principles of NATO and to joining the alliance at the earliest possible time. Macedonia has been a true friend of the United States. It stands with us in the war on terrorism and has provided troops both in Afghanistan and Iraq.

So today, Madam Speaker, as we honor the memory of President Trajkovski and mourn his tragic death, we reaffirm the close friendship and partnership we have with Macedonia and we express our desire that this relationship grow stronger under the new leadership that the Macedonian people will soon choose. I am confident that Macedonia will stay firmly on the path to democracy and integration with the Euro-Atlantic community, and I urge all of my colleagues to support H. Res. 540.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BEREUTER. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER), the sponsor of the resolution.

(Mr. SOUDER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SOUDER. Madam Speaker, I wish to thank the chairman of the Subcommittee on Europe, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER); the chairman of the Committee on International Relations, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE); and the ranking member, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), for moving this piece of legislation.

Just a few moments ago, we discussed a resolution in support of Republic Day in India, the world's largest democracy, and a country with a rich, long tradition and of great importance to the United States. This resolution addresses a relatively new and small democracy, the Republic of Macedonia, but also of importance to the United States.

Our friend, the Republic of Macedonia, has just lost its leader. Two weeks ago, the man many believed would lead Macedonia was tragically

killed in a plane crash. Now, the future of Macedonia is uncertain. The next president of Macedonia may or may not stay on the course charted by Mr. Trajkovski. The next president of Macedonia may or may not work to bring all Macedonians together. The next president may or may not have the esteem Mr. Trajkovski commanded. I certainly hope the next president of Macedonia is able to do all of these things.

As is typical in many new democracies behind the old Iron Curtain, President Trajkovski did not have a long record of public service. In 1997, Mr. Trajkovski became Chief of Office in a local government administration. In 1988, he was appointed to the post of Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. In 1999, he was inaugurated president of the Republic of Macedonia. What Mr. Trajkovski's public service lacked in longevity, however, it more than made up for in terms of quality and the impact that his policies and principles will have far into Macedonia's future.

During Macedonia's ethnic troubles, he realized that peace was better than war. He reached out to the Albanians and Macedonians alike. As a Methodist minister in an Orthodox Christian country, establishing trust, even among his own people, was no small feat. Yet Mr. Trajkovski brokered a peaceful solution that avoided the further balkanization of the region. It is a little sea of hope in the midst of much conflict.

In looking forward to the future of his country, President Trajkovski realized that economic development was the key to the success of Macedonia. He encouraged investment, free markets, and great international participation. Indeed, he died on his way to an international investors conference. President Trajkovski's contribution to his country's stability and prosperity will not soon be forgotten.

Macedonia worked with the United States in the conflict in Serbia, letting us base multiple operations there, including camps for those who had fled Kosovo, with no small risk to the stability in their country. They are a great friend of the United States, as we have heard, in Iraq and Afghanistan.

It was my privilege to meet President Trajkovski a number of times, and he was a dynamic man. But while he was a great leader as president, he was much more. He was also a good man and a Godly man. He lived his faith, and it undoubtedly influenced every single decision he made in his life and in his leadership. As a devoted family man with a wife and two children, he worked hard to make sure his children had a better future. I have gotten word that the government of Macedonia is working to support the Trajkovski family's future needs. Given the contribution Mr. Trajkovski made to his country, I am glad his family is not forgotten.

In 1996, Mr. Trajkovski visited the United States in order to study the

democratic political process. Judging from his presidency, I would say he learned a great deal. During his time in the United States, he visited my district. The several thousand strong Macedonian community of northeast Indiana maintains close ties with friends and relatives of Macedonia. They are very informed about the political and economic situation there. With the death of Mr. Trajkovski, I am sure they are very concerned what the future holds for the homeland.

In recent days, many people have remembered Boris Trajkovski. One remembrance in particular stands out. In a moving article I am submitting for the RECORD, Jason Miko, an American living in Macedonia, recalls not only President Trajkovski, a powerful leader, but also Boris Trajkovski, a simple man of the people. I would like to read one paragraph in closing.

He writes: "Since thoughts are even now turning to the next president, it is vital to remember the legacy that Boris leaves. More than almost any other figure in the Balkans in modern history, he did the most to bring people together. He was respected by all ethnic groups and had a vision for this country which was 20 years ahead. He often talked about rights, together with individual responsibility, the importance of a civil society together with the need for social communication. But his most important message was one of reconciliation, love, and forgiveness."

Madam Speaker, I submit for the RECORD the complete article from which I just read:

[From the Macedonian Vreme, Mar. 2, 2004]

MY FRIEND BORIS

(By Jason Miko)

My friend Boris Trajkovski passed away last week. I rarely called him "Boris." I usually called him "Mr. President." Sometimes, when we prayed, I referred to him as "my brother, Boris." He wasn't hung up on titles and ceremony and frankly didn't care what people called him though I know he was a little bit hurt when some people in Macedonia referred to him as "citizen Trajkovski" during his first year in office. I think they probably regret that now. They should.

I first met Boris Trajkovski in early 1997. I had moved to Macedonia in the summer of 1996 and got to know him through an American friend of mine who had introduced me to a Macedonian friend of his who knew Boris very well. I honestly cannot remember the very first time we met, but I will never forget the last.

He wasn't my president, but over the past seven years, I came to know Boris as a very dear friend. And while I had the high honor and privilege of seeing him go from international secretary in his party to deputy foreign minister to president, the friendship never changed. We shared a friendship that transcended disagreements, difficult periods, and misunderstandings. Boris was always there for me and he told me about two weeks ago how he loved me. And I know his love was not limited to his family or friends. He loved his fellow citizens and his country as much as his family and friends. He was a big man with a big heart.

When September 11th occurred, his was the third call I received. The first was from a

friend telling me of the disaster and the second was from my parents in Arizona. Another time I remember when he asked me to give strong consideration to hiring a friend of his (long before he was president), in my organization. I didn't hire his friend, but that didn't change our friendship.

It is ironic in a way. Since the tragedy last week, Macedonians of all political stripes and colors, all ethnic groups, all social classes and all religious groupings have been in a funk, a state of shock, at the loss. Boris is much more popular now in death, than he ever was in life. The international community, too, is still reeling from the loss, now coming to the full realization of what a treasure we all had and took for granted. That seems to be the way life works though.

We've heard many people over the past week talk about Boris and say he was their friend. I believe most of them are sincere though I also know that there is, even now, some political posturing going on. I know that Boris held no grudges against anyone and even though he could get angry at people for what they said and did to him, he didn't remain angry for very long. He was that sort of a man—forgiving, understanding and loving. It's a shame we are only now realizing that.

Boris was a rare individual. He stood for what he believed in and he fought for the values he held dear. He was real, not phony like some politicians can be. In fact, in many ways, he wasn't even a politician. I clearly remember, in the summer of 1999, as the Kosovo crisis was ending and thoughts were turning to the presidential elections of the fall, the enthusiasm that people had for him as a candidate. And truthfully, he hadn't even thought of running for president himself until ordinary Macedonians started encouraging him to run. Coming from humble roots in rural Macedonia, he was truly a man of the people and for the people.

Over the past four plus years of his mandate, Boris was able to mingle with the highest and mightiest on this earth and with the most humble. And while he was comfortable in both situations—with kings and queens, presidents and prime ministers on the one hand—he enjoyed himself most with villagers and working men and women of his native Macedonia. How many other elected officials do you know who have gone into villages throughout this country speaking with the common man and woman listening to their hopes, fears and dreams? I hope that you, as Macedonian citizens, will demand that of your next president. It is the legacy that Boris would want.

And since thoughts are even now turning to the next President, it is vital to remember the legacy that Boris leaves. More than almost any other figure in the Balkans in modern history, he did the most to bring people together. He was respected by all ethnic groups and had a vision for this country which was 20 years ahead. He often talked about rights, together with individual responsibility, the importance of a civil society together with the need for social communication. But is most important message was one of reconciliation, love and forgiveness.

These values he held came from his deep faith and convictions. And while he was indeed a Methodist, it is not important to focus on his chosen religious denomination, but on the tenants of that faith. His deep love for the Son of God—Jesus Christ—and his recognition that man is sinful and needs salvation—prompted him to talk about and live a life of love for all mankind. I remember him—on many occasions—talking about how he was willing to "sacrifice myself" for Macedonia. And ultimately, Boris did pay the ultimate price for his fellow man and his country—he gave us his life. He gave Mac-

edonia his life that Macedonia might come together and yet live again.

I hope that by giving up his life for his fellow man that something good will come of this. Something good must come of this. It can start here in Macedonia but it can spread throughout the Balkans and the world. And it is this: a life lived for his fellow man, and a deep love for his family, his country and for God. The international community, in the meantime, can help continue Boris' legacy by finally recognizing the name—the Republic of Macedonia. Boris would want this.

I was with Boris last Wednesday, until about 5:30 p.m., about 14 hours before he left us for a better place. We were discussing the future, his plans, upcoming trips and the like. How short life is and how foolish the plans of man indeed! In a blinding instant it all changed, for Macedonia, for the Balkans, for the world, forever. It changed for his family, his friends, his fellow countrymen and for the international community. For people such as myself, and my friend Boris, however, we have a hope of things yet to come. Our faith tells us that one day we will be reunited together along with many others. In the meantime, what life we have left here on earth should be dedicated to spreading his legacy, a legacy of love, forgiveness, reconciliation and friendship. That is what my friend Boris would want.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL), a distinguished member of the Committee on International Relations who has a long-standing special interest in this region.

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding me this time, and I rise in strong support of H. Res. 540.

Madam Speaker, being a Member of Congress, we are privileged to meet many international leaders. Particularly serving on the Committee on International Relations, it is our honor to meet visiting dignitaries, and we often go to different countries to meet with them as well. Last week, I had the distinct honor, on Friday, of attending President Boris Trajkovski's funeral in Skopje, Macedonia, as part of the official American delegation, along with my colleague and good friend, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF), and also Secretary Principi, who is the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. I know the three of us felt that it was an honor to represent the United States of America at this funeral.

I knew Boris Trajkovski, having met with him on many occasions. It is a tragedy, as my colleagues have pointed out, that a man so young, only 47, with tremendous promise, a very good leader for his country, forward looking, a strong ally of the United States, would be cut down in such a tragic manner.

It is not easy to be a leader in the Balkans. The Balkans has been a very, very volatile area. It takes people with courage to be able to look ahead and to be able to do what is right. Boris Trajkovski was such a person.

I remember a meeting with him in 1999 in Skopje, Macedonia, where he was running for election as president and was courting the votes of the Albanian community in Macedonia. The Albanian community is a very important and large ethnic minority community in Macedonia. And President Trajkovski was looking for the votes and said that he is a Methodist minister; and as a Protestant minister in an Orthodox Christian country, he was a religious minority in his own country. So he said that he would be sensitive to other religious minorities and ethnic minorities in Macedonia. And, indeed, he was.

Madam Speaker, part of the resolution says: "Whereas during Macedonia's armed ethnic clashes, Mr. Trajkovski demonstrated his willingness to work with all of Macedonia's ethnic groups, which helped to prevent a civil war." And even though that was unpopular among some of his own people, he knew it was the right thing to do. He knew that the Albanian ethnic minority was entitled to rights as first-class citizens of Macedonia. And I can tell you, as chairman of the Albanian Issues Caucus here in Washington, I witnessed firsthand the workings of President Trajkovski bringing people together and standing out and speaking out in favor of such an agreement, which worked.

Tensions in Macedonia are at an all-time low, largely because of the work of Boris Trajkovski. Our ambassador, the U.S. ambassador to Macedonia, Ambassador Butler, who does such a wonderful job, told me last week that he met with President Trajkovski regularly. In fact, they prayed together and they often discussed all kinds of issues.

President Trajkovski was unabashedly pro-American. As our colleagues have said, they joined with us in fighting terrorism and joined with us in Afghanistan and Iraq. The Adriatic Charter, Croatia, Macedonia, and Albania, we promoted that in this Congress. My resolution passed both the Senate and the House commending these countries for signing the Adriatic Charter. President Trajkovski was an important part of making that happen.

Yes, he alienated a number of people because he wanted to move forward. Even in his own party there were some times he wondered if he could win reelection because he was so bold in taking these enlightened positions. But, ultimately, I believe that had he lived and stood for reelection, he almost certainly would have been reelected, because people understood that here was a man of vision and a man of greatness and someone who was good for the Macedonian nation.

So I just want to join with my colleagues in paying tribute to President Boris Trajkovski. I met with his wife before the funeral, saw his children; and at the cemetery, I must say it was very, very moving to have thousands of foreign dignitaries there, each rep-

resenting a different country. I had not seen anything so moving since the funeral of Yitzhak Rabin in Israel several years ago.

Boris Trajkovski was a man who will be missed; and it is very, very important that all people of good will follow in his footsteps and make sure that Macedonia continues to have a thriving democracy and continues to work closely with the United States of America. I strongly support this resolution and urge our colleagues to all vote in the affirmative.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I thank the distinguished ranking member for yielding me this time.

In my community, I always discuss with my constituents the value of internationalism, recognizing the world family; and so I want to applaud the sponsors of this legislation because, again, it says to the world that America cares. I believe that this very sad occasion, the loss of life and the untimely death of President Trajkovski, should be noted on the floor of this House.

I had the privilege some years ago, during the Bosnian war, to be in that area and to understand the closeness yet the distance and the importance of someone who could be in fact a uniter, and that he was. To recognize the wrongness of ethnic cleansing and ethnic divisiveness was his trait. As I understand it, even as he traveled to his untimely death, he was engaged in efforts of internationalism and peacemaking.

So I rise today to express my condolences and as well my deepest sympathies to the people of Macedonia, and of course to the region, and to thank the Committee on International Relations for always drawing to our attention that we are much stronger when we extend the hand of friendship and we accept each other's pain as well as each other's joy. My deepest sympathy also to those who mourn his death here in the United States and certainly in Macedonia and around the world.

I conclude by saying that in addition to those from that region, I have a great deal of collaboration with those who call and respect India as their place of birth. So I also want to be able to acknowledge the resolution dealing with the commendation and the celebration of the Republic Day of India, and again to thank Indian Americans for their efforts toward peace and reconciliation. Not only do we speak these words, but I hope that we will act upon the international spirit and making sure that all of our friends know that we continue to stand united for world peace, world dignity, and the humanity of all.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution. The issues of India and Indian-Americans are becoming increasingly promi-

nent here in Washington. The role of India, as a large and vibrant democracy in a strategically important part of the world, is quickly coming into focus—as a partner in trade, and as an ally in fighting international terrorism. Indian Americans have contributed immensely to the American culture and to our economy. It is no wonder that in only ten years, the Congressional Indian Caucus has already amassed over 160 Members.

But India is a huge and complex nation, well-known as the world's largest Democracy. Of course, as strong as our relationship is with this large partner, there are also differences—on trade issues, outsourcing, environmental, and labor issues. We need to work on those differences and come to fair resolutions. It is the true bond of friendship between our two nations, so obvious in our cultural exchanges, that makes me confident that we will resolve the differences between us and build on our common values.

It is a true testament to the power of democracy and the spirit of the Indian people, that only 54 years after it adopted its Constitution, that India is such a powerful and respected player on the world stage.

After my two trips to India, and my years of friendship and partnership with the outstanding members of the Indian community in Houston, I know that I have still only scratched the surface of the deep culture and history that Indians have to offer the world. I am glad that the U.S.-Indian relationship is continuing to flourish.

I commend the co-chairs of the Indian Caucus, Representatives WILSON and CROWLEY, for taking the time to put forth this symbolic resolution.

I support this legislation and urge my colleagues to do the same.

□ 1845

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

Macedonia is a deeply divided country ethnically, and President Trajkovski was a powerful force in bringing peace and reconciliation to the Slav and Albanian communities. We shall remember him as a man of peace. I urge all of my colleagues to join us in voting for this resolution.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I thank all of my colleagues for their appropriate words and sentiments. I urge unanimous support for the resolution.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 540, expressing the condolences and deepest sympathies of the House of Representatives for the untimely death of Macedonian President Boris Trajkovski and to pay honor to his life.

I was honored to be a part of the United States delegation to President Trajkovski's funeral led by Veterans Affairs Secretary Anthony Principi. The delegation also included Congressman ELIOT ENGEL, Barry Jackson from the White House and President Trajkovski's good friend, Kent Patton.

President Trajkovski was a great friend of the United States and will be dearly missed.

He was a man of great faith and led his country with dignity and respect. He united the citizens of Macedonia and will be remembered by all.

Below are statements read at his funeral by H.E. Mr. Branko Crvenkovski, president of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, and Mr. Romano Prodi, president of the European Commission. Their words illustrate the great impact that Boris Trajkovski had on so many of the lives he touched.

ADDRESS BY H.E. MR. BRANKO CRVENKOVSKI

Dear President, today, Republic of Macedonia is on its feet, united and unified in its pain, dignified in its sorrow, joined in paying the respect.

We are offering our last farewell to you, our President. Our loss is immense; the tragedy, which has befallen us, is immense.

Only 10 days ago, full of life, full of enthusiasm and deeply convinced of the European future of Macedonia, you sent me to Ireland.

Fate has decided that I bid you farewell today to the unforgettable part of the history of our nation and state.

In the last four years, circumstances and the curse of our profession called politics, bestowed us moments when we were both friends and opponents, moments when we cooperated, moments when we criticized each other.

However, I will never doubt the fact that in all key moments whilst making the most difficult decisions for the future of our state, we were always together, we were on the same side, understanding each other even better than with our fellow party members.

You often sailed against the wind, misunderstood, blamed, without sufficient support.

You were the most deserving for the fact that we avoided a disaster in 2001.

It is tragic for us that your death united us more than your commitments as President.

It is tragic for us and a satisfaction for you that today we are aware that you were more respected worldwide than in your own country.

Today, we know that you looked further, thought deeper and believed more.

Our pain is immense; the pain of your family is immeasurable.

Somebody said: "Shared joy, is greater joy. Shared pain is lesser pain." Today, all of us, entire Macedonia and all our friends worldwide share the pain and sorrow of your Vilma, Sara and Stefan.

Your children had a father. From now on, fatherly care becomes the responsibility of all of us.

Standing your ground, you withstood all criticism. You were blamed that you were a traitor, while you made the most patriotic step. You were blamed of cowardice, but you were the most courageous one. You, more than anybody else, stopped the war and returned the peace to us.

In times of insanity you gave us reason. You fought hatred with your words of love, forgiveness, mutual understanding. And you accomplished all of this in your recognizable style: sincerely, simply, from the bottom of the heart, excluding any calculations.

Once you told me: "In 10 years everybody will recognize that I was right".

Boris, it was not necessary to wait 10 years. Already today the entire Macedonia pays its tribute and recognition.

Distinguished President, having learned of the tragic event, many asked themselves what would befall Macedonia after your death. Such people neither know Macedonia, nor knew you.

Your greatness did not lie in leading your people in a direction different from what they considered their options.

Your greatness is embodied in you being a man of the people and for the people.

Macedonia knows its way. Macedonia knows where its future lies.

Dear President, I am honored for having known you and for having the opportunity to work with you.

There are great people next to whom all others feel small. There are greater people next to whom all others feel great, as well.

You, Boris were the latter kind of man. Rest in peace, great man.

A TRIBUTE TO BORIS TRAJKOVSKI

(By Romano Prodi)

When I learned the news of the tragic crash that cut short Boris Trajkovski's life, an image flashed to my mind—the memory of our meeting in Thessaloniki at the European Council in June last year.

It was an important day for the Balkans. It was an important day for Europe. It was the day we decided together that the European Union's enlargement would not be complete until all the countries of this region were full members of the Union. It was the day we set a joint agenda together to achieve that objective.

When we met, we embraced and rejoiced at the fact we were seated at the same table. It was a foretaste of what the full European family would look like.

I remember thanking Boris for all the enthusiasm and commitment he had shown in bringing the whole region—not just his own country—along the road to European integration. His reply was a smile and an even warmer embrace.

That is the image of Boris Trajkovski that will always stay with me. His passion, his commitment, his love for Europe and for his region. Europe was the guiding star on Boris's journey. The values of tolerance and respect on which our Union is founded were an inspiration to him in the very difficult times this country and all its people have seen.

Pulling together, not apart. Being open, not closed. Including, not excluding. Like our Europe, a Union of minorities, united by the ideals of cooperation and peace.

Those were my thoughts on my recent visit to Skopje, as together we crossed the old bridge over the Vardar—that symbol of union so full of meaning for this city's—and this country's—past and present. This country, this region, all Europe has lost an enlightened, far-sighted leader, a statesman who saw beyond the narrow horizon of everyday politics, a man who put the individual at the center.

As we pay tribute to the memory of Boris Trajkovski today, we all share the pain and grief felt by his beloved wife Vilma, his children Stefan and Sara, his family and friends, and all his fellow Macedonians.

But as we mourn his loss—and it is a great loss—we must not lose sight of the deeper meaning of his work, the work he sacrificed his life to accomplish.

Honoring Boris Trajkovski's memory means taking up the challenge—meeting the objectives he believed in and completing the work he started.

Honoring Boris's memory today means thinking of the future of the people of Macedonia—these people he cherished so dearly, who were his foremost concern, with whom he felt utterly at one.

For the country's leaders, it means continuing—resolutely, united in purpose—along the path of European integration. Aware that this is an irreversible process, a process that has the whole country behind it. With all its ethnic and political components fully supporting the choices, shouldering the responsibilities and protecting the rights of each.

For the international community, it means continued backing for the efforts this country has already made. We must support Macedonia's bold reform program to become a full member of the European Union.

So we look forward to receiving your application to join the Union. And if that application were dedicated to anyone, it would be to Boris Trajkovski.

We believe in this country, we believe in its will and determination to become a full member of the European institutions. And we are certain it will succeed.

This will demand patience and, above all, perseverance. And it can only be achieved if it is truly desired, as Boris Trajkovski desired it so passionately.

Today we mourn Boris Trajkovski, but we have faith in this country's political future. Any other attitude would fall short of the ideals Boris fought for all his life.

His tragic death is a loss to us all. But his memory gives us heart to work even harder, to keep alive his political heritage and the principles that guided him, and to meet the objectives he set himself.

February 26 will be remembered as a sad day, but also as a day to commemorate Boris Trajkovski's commitment and enthusiasm. So his dream of Macedonia as a full member of a prosperous and peaceful Europe comes true.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. I join my colleagues in supporting H. Res. 540, which expresses the condolences and deepest sympathies of the House of Representatives for the untimely death of Macedonian President Boris Trajkovski.

As we know, President Trajkovski died in a February 26 plane crash in Bosnia-Herzegovina, where he was planning to participate in a conference before traveling to Ireland to present his country's formal application to join the European Union.

Boris Trajkovski had been serving as President since 1999. He reached across ethnic divides to hold his country together during the ethnic turmoil and conflict which erupted in Macedonia in 2001. He also represented Macedonia well in working with the international community, both on regional issues and on making Macedonia's case for integration into European and Euro-Atlantic institutions.

Macedonia is a country of concern to the Helsinki Commission, which I chair. As they have had to develop democratic institutions over the last 15 years, Macedonia also had to assert independent statehood as Yugoslavia disintegrated and deal with the economic disruption caused by that disintegration. Macedonia had to bear a refugee burden caused by associated conflicts in Bosnia and Kosovo, and be a part of the enforcement of international sanctions against Milosevic's Serbia. Macedonia has had to work out differences with neighboring states on sensitive, national issues which run deep in Balkan history, at the same time to overcome divisions within its own, ethnically diverse population. And, like so many of the countries in southeastern Europe, Macedonia must contend with organized crime and corruption, including trafficking in persons, which threaten its further democratic and economic development.

It is my hope, Madam Speaker, that the same strength and determination upon which the people of Macedonia have relied in the face of these challenges, will serve them again in the face of this latest tragedy. With the passage of this resolution, the United States Congress can show its support for

Macedonia and its people, not only as they mourn the loss of their President, but as they continue on the path of peace and prosperity he was leading them at the very moment he died.

In closing, I wish also to express my prayers and personal condolences to family and many friends of Boris Trajkovski.

Madam Speaker, I join my colleague Mr. SOUDER and others in supporting this Resolution and expressing deep sadness over the sudden and tragic death of Boris Trajkovski, the President of Macedonia.

In the 1990s, I served as a Co-Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Helsinki Commission. During that time, the Commission, the Congress, the American government and indeed the international community viewed the conflicts associated with Yugoslavia's demise as a foreign policy priority. In Croatia, Bosnia and then Kosovo, thousands upon thousands were killed, raped or tortured while millions were displaced in ethnic cleansing campaigns. The violence, of course, would reverberate through the region, replacing trust and cooperation with fear and hatred in ethnically diverse communities.

Macedonia, as a republic of the former Yugoslavia, was caught in the midst of this turmoil, but it held itself together. Even when fighting erupted within its own borders, many of that country's leaders worked to find solutions to underlying grievances and brought peace back to Macedonia. Of course, international involvement was essential, but so was the presence of people like Boris Trajkovski, who would reach across ethnic lines and work to help all the citizens of Macedonia, not just those of their own ethnicity.

Boris Trajkovski, in my view, understood what it meant to be a head of state, to represent the country, all of its people, and all of their aspirations. Since 1999, he moved his country forward.

I hope, Madam Speaker, that the people of Macedonia will find not just sorrow in President Trajkovski's death but also the strength to make his vision of a democratic, tolerant and prosperous Macedonia a reality.

They can count on support of the United States to that end. As Secretary of State Colin Powell said on February 26, the day Trajkovski's plane crashed in Bosnia, the Macedonian President "leaves behind a legacy of U.S.-Macedonian friendship that has never been closer or stronger."

In closing, let me also express my deepest condolences to President Trajkovski's wife, Vilma, his children Sara and Stefan, and other family members and friends.

Poverty is a fact of life for as many as 400 million Indians who survive on less than \$1 a day. Illiteracy rates, while decreasing, are still high. And the health, economic and security challenges posed by the HIV/AIDS virus may be the most important issue facing India today.

Madam Speaker, as our delegation conveyed during our recent visit, and I was want to convey today, the United States is India's partner as she works to address these and other challenges on the way to realizing her potential of becoming a true world power.

I returned home with a renewed commitment to ensure that the United States continues to provide economic development assistance for health care and food for the

needy, improved energy efficiency and environmental restoration efforts. And we will of course honor our pledge to take the lead in the global effort to combat the scourge of HIV/AIDS, through the provision of medicine, volunteers, and much-needed financial resources.

Above all, we must foster a deeper appreciation for the shared values and beliefs that lie at the heart of our two great democracies, and an understanding of the common principles and interests that bind us together.

This Resolution is a celebration of India's Republic Day, but also a recognition of our strengthening relationship.

I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 540, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam 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 and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3717, BROADCAST DECENCY ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2004

Mrs. MYRICK (during consideration of H. Res. 540), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-436) on the resolution (H. Res. 554) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3717) to increase the penalties for violations by television and radio broadcasters of the prohibitions against transmission of obscene, indecent, and profane language, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 46 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1943

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GERLACH) at 7 o'clock and 43 minutes p.m.

PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF PROGRAMS UNDER THE SMALL BUSINESS ACT AND THE SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT ACT

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3915) to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 through May 21, 2004, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3915

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAMS UNDER THE SMALL BUSINESS ACT AND THE SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT ACT OF 1958.

The authorization for any program, authority, or provision, including any pilot program, that was extended through March 15, 2004, by section 1(a) of Public Law 108-172 is further extended through April 2, 2004, under the same terms and conditions.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN FEE AUTHORIZATIONS.

Section 503(f) of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 697(f)) is amended by striking "October 1, 2003" and inserting "May 21, 2004".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO) and the gentleman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO).

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

Mr. Speaker, this is a short and simple bill. H.R. 3915 authorizes a general extension of all programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act from its current ending date of March 15, 2004, until April 2 of 2004. This will allow SBA programs that expire on Monday to continue to operate.

In particular, these include the surety bond program which enables small businesses to obtain surety bonds in order to bid on government contracts, cosponsorship authority so that the SBA can host events or print publications with the private sector, and procurement of assistance that is provided to certain small businesses.

H.R. 3915 as amended also authorizes the SBA to charge fees for the 504 loan program with a certified development company until May 21 of 2004.

□ 1945

This program operates solely based on the fees charged by the SBA to certified development companies. If such fees are not extended, there will be no way for certified development companies to make the type of long-term loans that small businesses rely on to create new jobs. The 504 program operates totally upon user fees and has not received an appropriation since 1996.