

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, along with the gentleman from Arkansas and the gentleman from South Carolina who is the author of this resolution, we are pleased to support this resolution.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 465, recognizing the 10th anniversary of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Association.

The Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (Waterway) runs from Norfolk, Virginia, to Key West, Florida, and has been in existence for more than seventy years. The once distinct channels and rivers that now make up the Waterway were brought together to create a continuous waterborne transportation network along the southeastern coast of the Atlantic.

The Waterway has enriched the lives of those in the southeast and served the greater United States by allowing for the safe and efficient transportation of commercial goods along the coast.

This resolution recognizes the importance of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway to the quality of life of the citizens in the United States, and to the thousands of recreational, commercial, and military vessels that use the system annually.

The resolution also acknowledges the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Association on the occasion of its 10th anniversary. This association has worked tirelessly over the last decade to keep the Waterway open and safe for navigation.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 465.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 465 and to thank the gentleman from South Carolina, Mr. BROWN, for introducing this important bill. I have had the good fortune of working with the distinguished gentleman on other legislation, and I can say that on this and other issues, he serves his constituents well.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 465 acknowledges the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Association on the occasion of its 10th anniversary, and it recognizes the importance of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway to recreational, commercial, and military vessels and to the history and quality of life of the citizens of the United States.

Having a congressional district with over 75 miles along the Intracoastal Waterway, I know firsthand its importance to South Florida. It serves as a crucial thoroughfare for the two ports in my district, the Port of Palm Beach and Port Everglades. In fact, the Army Corps of Engineers reported that over 2.5 million tons of freight traffic was shipped along the Intracoastal Waterway in 2007 alone, including commodities such as wheat, corn, and soybeans.

But the Intracoastal Waterway provides Americans with more than just economic activity. Just go out on the water any day of the week in my congressional district and you'll see recreational boaters traveling on the Intracoastal Waterway. Boating is an iconic symbol for South Florida, and the Intracoastal Waterway serves as an important part of that. Simply put: South Florida would not be the boating capital of the world without it.

I also want to take a moment and commend the work of the Florida Inland Navigation District, or FIND. They maintain our state's portion of the Intracoastal Waterway, from Jacksonville to Miami. Created in 1927 by the Flor-

ida State Legislature, FIND is a special taxing district charged with helping to maintain the Intracoastal Waterway with the Army Corps of Engineers. They are an important entity and perform an often unheralded job, so I wanted to take this moment to commend the men and women employed by FIND for helping to maintain one of Florida's most important natural resources.

In closing, I want to again thank the gentleman from South Carolina for introducing House Resolution 465, urge my colleagues to support its passage.

Ms. NORTON. At this time, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 465, 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.

□ 1615

DALE WILSON—NATIONAL DISABLED AMERICAN VETERAN OF THE YEAR

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to praise Dale Wilson, a remarkable veteran from Troutman, North Carolina, who was named the 2009 National Disabled American Veteran of the Year by the Disabled American Veterans.

Dale Wilson lost both of his legs and his right arm while serving in the Marine Corps in Vietnam; but for a Silver Star recipient who paid such a heavy price for his country, Wilson demonstrates remarkable humility, good will, and an astonishingly positive attitude. He is well known for his strident belief that his life is rich and full despite what many could call a severe disability. His days are full of service to his community and his fellow veterans. He counts his family, his community, and his service to his country as dear blessings. And you won't catch him complaining about the hand that was dealt him.

Dale Wilson is the sort of marine that gives the Marine Corps such a proud reputation, and his recognition by the DAV is well deserved. I know that his example serves to inspire those who know and love him to remember their many blessings and to love the country that Wilson sacrificed so much for.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

U.N.'S REPORT ON ISRAEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, this week at the United Nations another assault is being launched on the democratic Jewish State of Israel, an assault that the United States must unequivocally oppose and defeat.

Predictably, this assault has its roots in the U.N.'s so-called "Human Rights Council," an institution that has been hijacked by dictatorships and gross human rights violators.

This past winter, in Operation Cast Lead, Israel defended its citizens—and its existence—against the actions of Hamas and other violent extremist groups in Gaza. The Human Rights Council responded by passing a resolution authorizing a so-called "fact finding mission" to investigate Operation Cast Lead. This mission's mandate had nothing to do with fact finding and everything to do with persecuting Israel for defending herself.

The mandate prejudged Israel's guilt, authorizing the mission to investigate only assumed human rights violations by Israel. The mandate did not include or even mention the thousands of rocket attacks and mortar attacks spanning 8 years by Hamas and other violent extremist groups in Gaza against civilian targets in southern Israel.

Then, last month this so-called "fact finding mission" released its report. It's a 575-page collection of distortions and double standards. The report made baseless accusations that Israel's military had deliberately attacked civilians. The report disregarded extensive evidence that violent extremist groups in Gaza used civilians as human shields, operating from schools, from mosques, from hospitals. It ignored the Israeli military's extraordinary efforts to target its operations in order to minimize civilian casualties. It gave a free pass to the Iranian and the Syrian regimes, which provide material and financial assistance to Hamas and other murderous groups in Gaza.

Finally, this report recommended further persecution of Israel through follow-up action by the U.N. Security Council, the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council, and the International Criminal Court, among others. In fact, today, the Security Council met at the request of the Libyan regime and considered this very biased report.

Later this week, with the blessing of the U.N. Secretary General, the Human Rights Council is expected to hold a special session on this report. What will they do? They will pass yet another resolution condemning Israel, and only Israel.

And what has the U.S. done in response to this anti-freedom onslaught? While acknowledging that the report and its mandate were biased, administration officials still claim that the report raised serious issues and should be