

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

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

In closing, I would like to once again thank Congresswoman FREDERICA WILSON and Chairman ROYCE for helping to move this resolution forward in a timely manner. The Senate passed a similar resolution last week, and I am pleased that we will soon follow suit.

We must do all we can to hold Boko Haram accountable for the mass abduction of schoolgirls and the many other terrorist attacks it has committed.

Our thoughts and prayers remain with the families and friends of the abducted girls, and we will not rest until they are returned to their loved ones. We will do everything in our power to get them home safely and soundly.

I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me just say that we are really speaking with one voice tonight, and that is on behalf of the young women, the young girls, who have been abducted by Boko Haram. Thankfully, there is absolutely no divide between Republicans or Democrats, and really the world. The world is speaking out.

This is absolutely outrageous, but it is part of a trend and a surge that is happening in many parts of the world, including in Africa. Al-Shabaab in Somalia. We know the terrible killing spree that went on in Kenya, in Nairobi, not so long ago. Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb. Ansar-al-Dine and Mujao in Mali. And then, of course, Seleka in the Central African Republic. And then, of course, Boko Haram.

Number nine of the whereas be it resolved "calls on the President to provide Congress a comprehensive strategy to counter the growing threat posed by radical Islamist terrorist groups in West Africa, the Sahel, and North Africa."

They are bad, Mr. Speaker, and they are getting worse. Many of us have been calling in a bipartisan way for years that Boko Haram be designated a foreign terrorist organization, and it was belated. It took years to designate this organization, this cruel, insensitive, and murderous organization. Thankfully, at least now everyone gets it, but unfortunately there are many, many victims who are suffering.

The war on terrorism, Mr. Speaker, remains largely unfinished. My hope is that this resolution and the commitment of the U.S. Government, the French, and the European allies, and frankly people around the world, even the Chinese know because they were recently hit as well, will understand that Boko Haram has to be stopped. All means necessary have to be employed to mitigate—no, not mitigate—destroy this threat to children, to women.

Let's not forget: here is a group that targets schools, literally abducts children, kills the men, the boys, and abducts the young girls. Just in May and April they conducted the worst attack on bus stations throughout Abuja. The worst hit. It barely made the papers, Mr. Speaker.

Boko Haram is a murderous organization, and it is about time we all did our part to ensure that they end their reign of terror.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bill, which I am proud to cosponsor, and I thank the Gentlelady from Florida, Congresswoman WILSON, for spearheading this effort.

It has now been over a month since over 230 girls and young women were kidnapped from their school in northeastern Nigeria. Boko Haram, the terrorist organization that has been attempting to impose its extremist views onto millions of people in Nigeria and in neighboring Niger and Cameroon, is a dangerous and destabilizing force in West Africa.

This is a region where millions of people are trying hard to overcome poverty and where national and local governments are focused on creating opportunities that can expand a growing middle class—ingredients for peace, prosperity, and democracy.

The very name of Boko Haram means a rejection of secular education and the democratic values it teaches. The girls who were kidnapped—in an action that is nearly unthinkable to those of us here in America in 2014—are courageous individuals who dared to go to school and pursue opportunities that generations of girls and women before them never had.

Congress ought to condemn Boko Haram forcefully and send a clear message not only that the world cannot—and will not—accept its brand of violent extremism, but also that the American people stand in solidarity with all the girls and young women of West Africa who are bravely pursuing an education or yearning to do so. West Africa faces many challenges, and it's time to marshal the resources of the U.S. government and our allies to help address those challenges and to ensure that all the girls and young women who were abducted can return safely home.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill so we can bring our girls home.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the resolution, H. Res. 573, 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.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 685. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the American Fighter Aces,

collectively, in recognition of their heroic military service and defense of our country's freedom throughout the history of aviation warfare.

H.R. 1209. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the World War II members of the "Doolittle Tokyo Raiders", for outstanding heroism, valor, skill, and service to the United States in conducting the bombings of Tokyo.

H.R. 2939. An act to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Shimon Peres.

H.R. 3658. An act to grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Monuments Men, in recognition of their heroic role in the preservation, protection, and restitution of monuments, works of art, and artifacts of cultural importance during and following World War II.

#### HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 4435.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FORBES). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 585 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 4435.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Utah (Mr. STEWART) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1924

##### IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, with Mr. STEWART in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from California (Mr. McKEON) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015.

First, let me express my appreciation to Ranking Member SMITH for his leadership and friendship. He has been an invaluable partner in upholding our committee's focus on providing for our men and women in uniform. I would also like to thank our colleagues on the Armed Services Committee for