

# PROVIDE FOR THE COMMON DEFENSE

(Mr. ROGAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, the Preamble to the Constitution of the United States says America was established to provide for the common defense. That is the primary obligation of the President as Commander in Chief. But America is vulnerable today to a missile attack from abroad, and unbelievably this is the deliberate policy of the United States: to remain vulnerable to a missile attack.

How can this be? We justify this policy of mutual destruction based upon a treaty with a country that no longer exists. This policy is dangerous, obsolete and wrong. It is also deceptive because most Americans believe we are safe from a ballistic missile attack, although we are not.

It is time to honor our obligation to the Constitution and to the American people by building a missile defense system. We have the know-how, and we have the resources. It is time to act to protect America from a ballistic missile attack.

# HARTMAN WIFE HAD DRUGS IN SYSTEM

(Mr. HASTERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, not to detract from next week's Drug-Free Athletes and Role Models Week, but today I must speak directly to the role models of our Nation's youth, and that most certainly includes the Hollywood elite.

The toxicology report is back on the death of actor Phil Hartman, and my colleagues guessed it. Hartman's assailant, his wife, was high on cocaine, other drugs and alcohol when she pulled the trigger ending his life.

□ 1415

How many more personal and public tragedies must this country endure at the hands of illegal drugs? Phil Hartman's passing, along with the deaths of Chris Farley and John Belushi, are not part of some so-called "Saturday Night Live" curse. These talented people are fatal victims of drug abuse.

As chairman of the Speaker's Task Force for a Drug-Free America, I urge the Hollywood elite to join this Congress in its commitment to win the war on drugs by the year 2002. As we all know, actions speak louder than any laws or any words.

# ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON). Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5, rule I, the Chair announces

that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas or nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 4 of rule XV.

Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken after debate is concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 6 p.m. today.

# REGARDING IMPORTANCE OF FATHERS IN RAISING AND DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR CHILDREN

Mr. MCINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 417) regarding the importance of fathers in the rearing and development of their children, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 417

Whereas studies reveal that even in high-crime, inner-city neighborhoods, well over 90 percent of children from safe, stable, two-parent homes do not become delinquents;

Whereas researchers have linked father presence with improved fetal and infant development, and father-child interaction has been shown to promote a child's physical well-being, perceptual abilities, and competency for relatedness with other persons, even at a young age;

Whereas premature infants whose fathers spend ample time playing with them have better cognitive outcomes, and children who have higher than average self-esteem and lower than average depression report having a close relationship with their father;

Whereas both boys and girls demonstrate a greater ability to take initiative and evidence self-control when they are reared with fathers who are actively involved in their upbringing;

Whereas, although mothers often work tremendously hard to rear their children in a nurturing environment, a mother can benefit from the positive support of the father of her children;

Whereas, according to a 1996 Gallup Poll, 79.1 percent of Americans believe the most significant family or social problem facing America is the physical absence of the father from the home and the resulting lack of involvement of fathers in the rearing and development of their children;

Whereas, according to the Bureau of the Census, in 1994, 19,500,000 children in the United States (nearly one-fourth of all children in the United States) lived in families in which the father was absent;

Whereas, according to a 1996 Gallup Poll, 90.9 percent of Americans believe "it is important for children to live in a home with both their mother and their father";

Whereas it is estimated that half of all United States children born today will spend at least half their childhood in a family in which a father figure is absent;

Whereas estimates of the likelihood that marriages will end in divorce range from 40 percent to 50 percent, and approximately three out of every five divorcing couples have at least one child;

Whereas almost half of all 11- through 16-year-old children who live in mother-headed homes have not seen their father in the last twelve months;

Whereas the likelihood that a young male will engage in criminal activity doubles if he is reared without a father and triples if he lives in a neighborhood with a high concentration of single-parent families;

Whereas children of single-parents are less likely to complete high school and more likely to have low earnings and low employment stability as adults than children reared in two-parent families;

Whereas a 1990 Los Angeles Times poll found that 57 percent of all fathers and 55 percent of all mothers feel guilty about not spending enough time with their children;

Whereas almost 20 percent of 6th through 12th graders report that they have not had a good conversation lasting for at least 10 minutes with at least one of their parents in more than a month;

Whereas, according to a Gallup poll, over 50 percent of all adults agreed that fathers today spend less time with their children than their fathers spent with them;

Whereas President Clinton has stated that "the single biggest social problem in our society may be the growing absence of fathers from their children's homes because it contributes to so many other social problems" and that "the real source of the [welfare] problem is the inordinate number of out of wedlock births in this country";

Whereas the Congressional Task Force on Fatherhood Promotion and the Senate Task Force on Fatherhood Promotion were both formed in 1997, and the Governors Fatherhood Task Force was formed in February 1998;

Whereas the Congressional Task Force on Fatherhood Promotion is exploring the social changes that are required to ensure that every child is reared with a father who is committed to be actively involved in the rearing and development of his children;

Whereas the 36 members of the Congressional Task Force on Fatherhood Promotion are promoting fatherhood in their congressional districts;

Whereas the National Fatherhood Initiative is holding a National Summit on Fatherhood in Washington, D.C., with the purpose of mobilizing a response to father absence in several of the most powerful sectors of society, including public policy, public and private social services, education, religion, entertainment, the media, and the civic community;

Whereas both Republican and Democrat leaders of the House of Representatives and the Senate will be participating in this event; and

Whereas the promotion of fatherhood is a bipartisan issue: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes that the creation of a better America depends in large part on the active involvement of fathers in the rearing and development of their children;

(2) urges each father in America to accept his full share of responsibility for the lives of his children, and to be actively involved in rearing his children, and to encourage the academic, moral, and spiritual development of his children and urges the States to aggressively prosecute those fathers who fail to fulfill their legal responsibility to pay child support;

(3) encourages each father to devote time, energy, and resources to his children, recognizing that children need not only material support, but more importantly a secure, affectionate, family environment; and

(4) expresses its support for a national summit on fatherhood.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MCINTOSH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. MARTINEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MCINTOSH).

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

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 417 expresses the importance of fathers in the rearing and development of their children. This is a bipartisan measure and has the support of both the majority and minority leaders.

I am very pleased to have the opportunity this afternoon to move this resolution forward. Perhaps the committee selected me to move this forward because I am a recent father. Elizabeth Jenkins was born into our household last fall on October 23, and Ellie, as Ruthie and I have been calling her, is the source of unending joy for me and for my wife, and I share that joy with all of my colleagues who I know are also fathers, and it has meant a great deal to me.

I hope today by this resolution to be able to share some of the sense of joy and importance of fathers in rearing our children, because it should be alarming to all of us that half of the children born today are likely to spend half of their childhood in a family in which a father figure is absent. We should be especially alarmed when study after study shows new evidence of the negative impact of an absent father on children.

I would like to highlight one study in particular, a recent study that was released last October by the Department of Education's National Center of Education Statistics. This study, entitled "Father's Involvement in Their Children's Schools," found that a father's involvement, whether in a two-parent family, a single-father family, or a nonresident family had a very positive impact on the children.

Specifically, this involvement increased the likelihood of their children getting mostly A's in schools, reducing the likelihood of their having to repeat a grade, and reduced the chance of being suspended or expelled from school. These associations remained even after controlling for other factors, such as the parents' education level, household income or the mother's involvement.

The fact is, a strong father's presence can improve both fetal development and infant development, promote physical well-being, and increase the ability of children to get along with each other. Conversely, the lack of a strong father figure presents an increased likelihood of delinquency and criminal behavior when the child is grown.

Social scientists are not the only ones who realize this. A 1996 Gallup poll found that nearly 80 percent of Americans, 80 percent of Americans, believe the most significant family or social problem facing America is the physical absence of the father from the home and the resulting lack of the involvement of that father in the rearing and development of their children.

Last year the leadership recognized this as well, and, with that leadership, they appointed a Task Force on Fatherhood Promotion led by the gen-

tleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS), the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCINTYRE), the gentleman from California (Mr. ROGAN) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER). This congressional task force was formed, along with a similar task force in the Senate, as well as one by the national Governors.

One of the main goals of these groups is to highlight the importance of fatherhood, to explore the social changes that are required and to ensure that every child, every child in America, is raised with a father who is committed to that child, who will be actively involved in the rearing of that child and be involved in the development of that child.

On June 15, the National Fatherhood Initiative will hold a summit. It is a National Summit on Fatherhood here in Washington, D.C. The purpose is to mobilize a response to the problem of absent fathers. It will mobilize this response in several of the most important sectors in our community, the most powerful sectors in our society, including the public policy sector, private and public social services, education, religion, entertainment, the media, and the civic community.

This resolution that we have before us today was first introduced to the House by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) and others who want to express support for such a summit. This resolution goes on to state that the House of Representatives, one, recognizes the creation of a better America depends in large part on the active involvement of fathers in the rearing and development of the children; two, it urges each father in America to accept his full share of responsibility for the lives of his children, to be actively involved in rearing the children and to encourage the academic, moral, and spiritual development of his children; and, thirdly, it encourages each father to devote time and energy and resources to his children, recognizing that children need not only material support, but, more importantly, the love of both parents, who provide an affectionate family environment.

I would also note that during consideration of this resolution by the Committee on Education and the Workforce, an amendment by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FORD) was unanimously accepted by the committee. This amendment added a clause urging the States to aggressively prosecute those fathers who failed to fulfill their legal responsibility to pay child support. I note that this amendment and modification is entirely consistent with the Deadbeat Fathers Punishment Act of 1998, which passed the House in May by a vote of 412 to 2.

In closing, I would like to commend the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS), the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FORD) and all the members of the Task Force on Fatherhood Promotion, the majority and minority leadership and others involved for their efforts in

this area. I urge my fellow Members to support this important resolution as we bring it to the House floor today, and, hopefully, we will have a unanimous vote in favor of it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate my colleague, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MCINTOSH), on the birth of his first child. The committee selected him because he was a new father, I guess they selected me because I am an old father, being the father of 5 children, the grandfather of 14 children, and the great-grandfather of 2 children.

I can tell the gentleman that he has got a lot to look forward to, especially when those children just before his eyes grow into adults, get married, and have children of their own. That is the greatest time, because you get to take your grandchildren and spoil them and send them home to their parents to run their parents crazy.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution and this topic, the importance of fathers in the raising and the development of their children, is extremely important. The role of the father in the family has been one of the more prominent issues to gain public attention in recent years.

Too many of our children are growing up in families which do not have the benefit of a father. In fact, the percentage of children growing up in a home without their father nearly tripled between 1960 and the early 1990s. Today, over 24 million American children are living without their biological fathers.

Most importantly, fatherless homes have a devastating impact on our children. National research tells us that without a father, children are four times as likely to be poor, twice as likely to drop out of school, et cetera. Fatherless children also have a higher risk of suicide, teen pregnancy, drug and alcohol abuse, and delinquency.

Clearly, the important role that fathers play in the development of their children cannot go unnoticed. Unfortunately, the issue of absentee fathers is not restricted to those who do not pay child support, or "deadbeat dads," as they are commonly referred to. Many fathers are tragically caught between their duties at work and their responsibilities to their families. The problems encountered by today's families are not limited to deadbeat dads. Today's families are also hampered by dead-tired dads, who want to be there for their children but do not have the time.

In closing, I want to say I am encouraged by the work of the Congressional Fatherhood Promotion Task Force. Their efforts, throughout this resolution and other activities, have begun to center attention on this very important issue. I believe this resolution sends a strong message which all Members should support. I certainly do.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS), the author of this resolution.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues today to reiterate the importance of fatherhood in this country. As one of the cofounders of the bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Fatherhood Promotion, I am pleased to recognize the significance of this resolution.

Today, Members of Congress will commit to promoting the role that faithful, dedicated fathers play in the development of our young people and, indeed, of our Nation; and, how timely, for it is again that time of year when we honor our dads. In two Sundays, we will celebrate Father's Day, a day to acknowledge the special place which dads hold in our hearts, and recognize dad's role as father, husband, teacher, provider, care-giver, and friend.

Although every American has a father, not every American has a dad, one whom they know, love, spend time with and trust. Because of this fact, our country has suffered.

The United States is now the world's leader in fatherless families. This has taken its toll in our society, when you need no longer talk about the Dan Quayle versus Murphy Brown debate. And we have a litany of statistics supporting the position that a family unit with mother and father is an ideal environment for our children.

The realities are staggering. Four in ten children who go to bed tonight will sleep in a home in which their fathers do not reside. Overall, nearly 2.5 million children will join the ranks of the fatherless this year. This is a sad commentary. We must each be committed to bringing this to an end.

But this is not just about fatherlessness. We as a society must work to elevate the importance of fathers who value their commitments. Men across America struggle to be good dads. Many of us are co-laborers in this struggle. This is why we as elected officials must be the ones to lead by example, to take up the bully pulpit in order to effect change in this spirit of this country.

Through the events of the Congressional Fatherhood Promotion Task Force, we have sought to heighten the discussion of responsible fatherhood and emphasize the importance of fatherhood in neighborhoods and in community forums across the country.

Working with the National Fatherhood Initiative, we are looking forward to the National Summit on Fatherhood next Monday. Leaders from across the country, from the highest levels of government here in Washington to sports figures such as Evander Holyfield, Michael Singletary and entertainment celebrities such as actor Tom Selleck, all will gather to honor the role of the fa-

ther and to turn our momentum to action. We will gather at the J.W. Marriott next Monday for this fatherhood summit. All Members of Congress have been invited to take part in this event, and I hope many of them will come.

The time has come for fathers to take hold of and be proud of their role as dad. In the words of filmmaker John Singleton, "Any boy can make a baby; it takes a man to raise a son." The choice to place children above others is a noble one, and one which we as a society must recognize and reward.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution. In doing so, together, we can commit to promoting an office above all others in this country, that of the father.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to read the comments of the testimony that heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield recently gave to the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Youth and Families of the Committee on Education and Workforce.

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He said, "I, Evander Holyfield, did not meet my father until I was 21 years of age. I missed the advice, the guidance, and time that only a father can give. However, thanks to my mother, Annie Laura Holyfield, and my coach at the Warren Boys' Club in Atlanta, Carter Morgan, I was given the faith, determination, and perseverance that helped make the boy into the man and father I am today.

"Perhaps the absence of my own father, but the presence of a strong and moral father figure in my childhood has helped me realize how important fatherhood is. In fact, being an active and caring father to my sons and daughters is just as important as being the three-time heavyweight champion of the world."

His wife spoke, and, finally, they said this: "As father and mother to our children, even with the time constraints of our careers, we realize the importance of quality time with our children. Not only is this our obligation as parents, but it is also one of our greatest sources of joy. We especially stress the areas of faith and education with our children. We love them; and loving children requires not just good intentions and feelings, but also time and attention.

"We reiterate our strong feelings about this important issue. And with God's guidance and help, we will do our part in encouraging and elevating the status of fatherhood in America."

Mr. MCINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Chair how much time is remaining on each side.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON). The gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MCINTOSH) has 8 minutes remaining. The gentleman from California (Mr. MARTINEZ) has 17½ minutes remaining.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR), the minority leader.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from California for yielding to me.

First of all, Mr. Speaker, let me commend the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) for this resolution, also the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER), the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCINTYRE), and others who have worked on this, the gentleman from California (Mr. MARTINEZ), and others on this side of the aisle, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MCINTOSH) who care about this issue.

The life of a child, it goes without saying, is so critical and so important. Nobody can replace a father in the life of a child, nobody. Fathers are role models, and they are teachers, and they offer, as the gentleman from Pennsylvania mentioned in his comments by Mr. Holyfield, they offer the most important ingredients that a child could have in their childhood: love; guidance; encouragement; discipline, which is so critical, it would carry with a child throughout his or her life; wisdom; and, yes, inspiration.

Fatherhood is a responsibility, perhaps one of the greatest responsibilities, in a man's life. It is also one of the greatest joys that a man can have, along with the bumps along the way in raising a child, the joy of having the input, giving the love, providing the guidance, providing the inspiration, the encouragement when it is needed. These are all so very important in a child's development.

Mr. Speaker, America needs strong families, and America needs strong fathers. This resolution has been long in coming, and I am so proud of the fact that Members have decided to raise this issue to a higher level in the country today.

Congress recognizes the important role fathers play and honors fathers for their contribution. So it is with great pride that I rise today to thank my colleagues for offering this resolution, for recognizing fatherhood, for setting aside a day in which we can, as a community, come together and recognize the great values that emanate from fatherhood.

We sometimes talk about a lot of different issues in this institution, and we sometimes forget some of the very basic fundamental bedrock issues on which the others are built upon. Fatherhood is one of them. I am just very happy to be able to share some thoughts on this today.

I thank my colleagues for their leadership in this, and wish the event that will take place much success, and wish those who have put this together and who are trying to make sure that fatherhood is respected in this country and is honored. I thank them for their efforts.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCINTYRE).

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

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as an original cosponsor of House Resolution 417, which recognizes the importance of fathers in the rearing and development of their children. This resolution makes it clear that a better America depends on a better job at home, a more active, positive role model of our fathers in the rearing and development of their children, and honoring those who do. This resolution also calls on fathers to continually accept their fair share of responsibility in rearing children.

I am grateful for the example of love and leadership that my father has provided me throughout the years in the church and the community, and in civic, recreational, and political activities as well.

I am also grateful for the many wonderful loving gifts of time, talent, and treasure that my mother has given me in my life. And how appropriate it is for me to have this opportunity to say "thank you" to them as they celebrate the beginning of their union fifty years ago tomorrow, June 10th, when they have their golden wedding anniversary.

As one who served both as a charter member of the North Carolina Commission on the Family and a charter member of the North Carolina Commission on Children and Youth, I have looked at several legislative studies, considered several proposals.

I am excited today to think that here in the United States that we are giving this long-taken-for-granted role that the father plays, a much emphasized one, that we can honor fathers and encourage fathers to fulfill that important role in the lives of children.

This resolution emphasizes that family, faith, and future are the critical ingredients to the success of fathers here in America. First, unfortunately, the family often takes a back seat in many fathers' lives. Society itself has created an atmosphere in which job demands, commitments to various organizations and groups, and ambition often precede the responsibility at home.

The number of men who complain that work conflicts with family responsibilities has risen from 12 percent in 1977 to a staggering 72 percent in 1989. Other surveys show that 74 percent of fathers who live with their children prefer a "daddy track" job to a "fast track" job. Other studies show that positive father figures in the home clearly help reduce teen crime, reduce the dropout rate, and help reduce teen pregnancy.

Second, in addition to family, we, as Americans, must have faith that fatherhood can bring positive change to society. That is why, as cochairman of the Fatherhood Promotion Task Force, along with my colleagues here today who have spoken, and as a father of two boys, support efforts to make fathers a more positive influence in their children's lives.

Through a bipartisan effort such as you are witnessing right here before your eyes today, we can help focus national attention on the importance of

the father in the home, or, where there may not be a father in the home for whatever reason, a positive male adult role model that can help fulfill that role. One step in this pursuit is H. Res. 417.

Third, with family and faith, we can work toward a better future for our children and for our country. This resolution sends an important message to America that the U.S. House supports fatherhood and the upcoming National Summit on Fatherhood to be held right here in Washington next Monday, June 15.

This resolution and the National Summit on Fatherhood can be just a beginning in mobilizing our society toward a positive and constructive response to the absence of fathers in home life.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure and to join me and to join all of us in the call for a positive force of fathers in the families, the faith, and the future of America.

Mr. MCINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2½ minutes.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) hoped to be able to make it, but is not able to be on the floor right now to endorse this resolution. I know how devoted a father he is. In fact, when I first came here, he shared with me how he had a special line put in for his daughter, that was only her number, that she could reach him in his office at all times.

He wanted to point out that oftentimes our government undermines the place of fathers in our society. When fathers abandon their families, our society does begin to break down. Fatherless children are five times more likely to be living in poverty. Violent crimes are committed overwhelmingly by males who grew up without fathers, 60 percent of America's rapists, 72 percent of adolescent murderers, and 70 percent of long-term prison inmates.

This chart here shows some of those statistics that were put together by the fatherhood initiative on the problems for children in broken homes.

It is also bad for the parents, by the way. If there are broken homes, it is likely the father will be more likely to suffer from respiratory diseases, more likely to have poor health and shorter life expectancy.

So the studies show time and time again what all of us know in our hearts, that a family that is intact, a father loving his children is the best for all of us, but certainly for those children to be raised, as many of the speakers on both sides of the aisle have said, knowing that the love of their father is there to sustain them through those troubled times that we all have in our lives.

One last thing in this 2½-minute segment, I wanted to share with my colleagues my favorite picture of my daughter and me that my wife took. She often will fall asleep on my chest. The knowledge that I have, that I have to protect and provide for her is an

awesome responsibility. I would like to just encourage all of my colleagues here and all of those who are fathers around the country watching today never give up on that responsibility, because it will be a source of love and joy for you the rest of your lives.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SANDLIN).

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

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of American families, American fathers, and House Resolution 417.

As a father of four children, two boys and two girls, and a former youth baseball, basketball, and softball coach, someone active in Boy Scouts, a former juvenile judge, I believe that investment in our children is the finest and best investment that we can make in the United States of America to secure the future of this country.

In today's society, a strong father figure is necessary. It is more important than it ever has been in the history of our country. Our children are faced today with many difficult choices, choices that I did not have to make as a young man, and choices that our parents did not have to make as young people.

If they are to make the right choices and grow up to be strong, productive, moral citizens of this country, they need good and strong role models with whom they can identify. They need strong fathers. These models can be teachers, they can be preachers, they can be business leaders. They can be community leaders. They can be Members of Congress.

But now, more than ever, children need their parents and need their families. Children look most often to their parent. Many times even now when I have decisions to make in life, I look back and think, what would my mom and dad do? My dad gave me the one piece of advice that I take with me day in and day out and always will. My father told me, "Do right." Do right. That is what I try to do.

Right now the United States is the leader in fatherless families. That is a tragedy. And 30 percent of our families are single-parent families. That does not speak well for the future. It is a disgrace.

Next week Washington will welcome the National Summit on Fatherhood. The theme this year is moving from rhetoric to action. The issue is too important for us simply to pay lip service to it. We have to put our action, we have to put our money where our mouth is.

Now more than ever we need a national strategy to create effective solutions to the problems of a lack of leadership in American families. This gathering of civic, business, religious, philanthropic governmental and cultural

leaders should be just the catalyst we need to begin the discussion and to begin the strategy in this country.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this. Support the American families. Support our fathers. Fathers in the Congress, let us take responsibility and work for H. Res. 417.

Mr. MCINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, we have one more speaker on our side, and I would like to recognize him now. He is a freshman colleague of mine and also a father of four boys, who is expecting his fifth child sometime later this year.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. PICKERING).

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the resolution recognizing the importance of fathers in America and also recognizing the hard and good work of the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MCINTOSH). My wife is a godmother of the gentleman's recent new addition to his family, to his daughter, and we proudly celebrate that.

As the gentleman mentioned, I am the father of four boys, four boys, ages 8, 6, 4 and 2; and we have just learned recently that the fifth is coming. This is my first public announcement of that good news, and so we are looking forward to maybe finding a little girl, maybe, somewhere in our house.

□ 1445

Today I rise first to recognize the role of my father and grandfathers in my life, not because it is unique to me, but it is because of what fathers and grandfathers have offered this country over our proud history. They taught me leadership and discipline. They showed me what sacrifice and service means. They showed me commitment and integrity to faith and to community. They have gave me the role model and the example and the path to follow.

As we approach Father's Day, I want to first recognize the role of my own father and my grandfather, one who was a farmer and one who was a high school principal and teacher and dean of men, and the role they played in my life.

My grandfather was committed to his wife, to his community, and to his church. He taught me what hard work meant and the joy of it. My father, who is now a Federal judge, taught me about public service. He is now the proud grandfather of 14 grandchildren, all under the age of 11. So with Father's Day coming, I thank them.

As we ask ourselves, what is the importance, what is the role of fatherhood in our country, let us put it in context. Let us put it in perspective. With the recent news of India and Pakistan and the possible escalation of the nuclear arms race, we say that that is a great threat to our security. We need to prepare for it and provide the resources, whatever it takes to defend ourselves in the future.

But I say, the greatest threat to our security is the loss of fathers in the home, and the lack of men stepping up and taking on the responsibility of being at home to teach and to provide for the well-being of their family.

As we look at education today, the greatest indicator of whether we will have educational success or failure goes back to the home and the role of the father being there. Violence and drugs are again tied back to the breakdown of the family, the loss and the lack of the male role model, of men and fathers being there; poverty.

Again, everything that we see facing our Nation, the greatest threats to our Nation, the greatest risk that we have, the greatest single determinant, the greatest factor that goes back to time and time again is whether men have accepted their role and have stepped up to the plate and assumed their responsibility. They have made a commitment and they have kept it.

Our challenge today is to call all men to assume their role, their responsibility in their home to be good husbands and to be good fathers. More important than anything we can do in this place, in Congress, is what happens in the home and what happens in the House, what happens with our families.

As the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. J.C. WATTS) said, the most important title to him is not Congressman, but daddy. There is no title, there is no position greater; the President of the United States, congressman, teacher, doctor, lawyer, whatever your title may be. The highest honor and the greatest obligation and responsibility, the greatest joy, is being called daddy and playing the role, and accepting the responsibility of being a good father.

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

Mr. Speaker, I will close by saying this is a resolution, as we have heard from people who are fathers and potential fathers, on how important the role of a father is. I think we simply have to look at the environment in which we live, where there are fatherless children, and those children usually run afoul of the law and have some kind of problem. We generally do not find that in a home where a father is present.

I was raised with a family of 10 children, but that important ingredient we had in our home to make our lives a success was our father being there for us in our time of need. I would simply say to all of my colleagues, this is a resolution that should get a unanimous vote.

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

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

Let me first say, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from California and all of the speakers on the Democratic side who have been wonderful supporters of this resolution. It truthfully is a bipartisan effort.

Second, a very quick point, some people have asked me, what about the

mothers involved? Of course, mothers are critical to the raising of our children, rearing of our children. I know I could not do it without my wife, Ruthie. And I know how much my mother meant to us, because, in fact, my father died when I was only 5 years old, and she had to serve both the role of mother and father in our family.

But I think everyone knows that all of us in my family and every family where they may not have an ideal circumstance, we truly wished my father could have been there and been with us. What we are trying to say in this resolution is, to the fathers of America, do all you can to be there, to love your daughters, love your sons, and be a great father to them.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MCINTOSH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 417, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. MCINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 417.

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

There was no objection.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, June 4, 1998, during the consideration of House Joint Resolution 78, I apparently voted contrary to my intent on one part of the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia.

I correctly voted "no" on the second part of the amendment, but thinking and intending to vote "no" on the first part, I apparently made a mistake and pushed the wrong button, and inadvertently voted "yes" on rollcall 198. I was shocked and disbelieving, Mr. Speaker, to discover my unintended vote of "aye" on the first part of the amendment, which would have stricken the reference to, and I quote, "acknowledge God in our Constitution" and replaced it with "freedom of religion." I did not and do not support that proposal.

As I said in my statement, Mr. Speaker, on House Joint Resolution 78, "... we do need to stress that faith in God and raising our voices in prayer continues to be one of the most important things that Americans can do." Mr. Speaker, the right to acknowledge