in Moldova, Pat Koester in Thailand, Michael Kreidler in the Ukraine, Merril Miceli in Kazakhstan, and Patrina Ngo in Kyrgyztan.

Thanks to those volunteers and the others in our Nation who help make the Peace Corps fulfill its international humanitarian mission. My hat is off to President Kennedy on its 45th anniversary and all of those who have served.

□ 1300

HONORING OUR BRAVE VETERANS

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, last week when we were home I had the occasion to present various medals and awards to veterans in my district. The Fifth Congressional District is home to the highest number of veterans of any Member of Congress. There were medals and awards for those who served in World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam.

We need to stop and pause and certainly thank our veterans from all of those wars, thank them for the freedoms that we, as Americans, enjoy today. Without a doubt, these people came home from being at war, started their lives, built our country into the great country that it is today, and never really asked for anything back from their country. They did not get a lot of the medals that they deserved.

Now that they are getting a little bit older, they are getting perhaps a little sentimental and they wanted to have those medals. We worked with the veterans and got the medals and presented those awards in the majority of the eight counties that I represent.

My hat is off to the veterans of all of the wars and those young men and women currently serving today. We thank them for their bravery.

MORATORIUM ON PRIVATE TRAVEL

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

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, millions of Americans are troubled by recent revelations concerning privately funded travel, and Congress, in my judgment, should ban privately funded travel until a system of prior approval can be established within the framework of the House Ethics Committee.

While private travel permits Members of Congress to expand their knowledge of issues affecting the Nation and the world without burdening taxpayers, recent revelations have served to undermine public confidence about this practice, and I believe it should be suspended until new safeguards can be put in place to ensure accountability and transparency. Congress must take bold action to restore the confidence of the American people in the integrity of our national legislature.

I commend Speaker HASTERT and Chairman DAVID DREIER for offering a bold vision of ethics reform and urge my colleagues to join me in supporting their efforts today.

PEACE IN KOSOVO

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

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, in the State of the Union, the President focused on the need to not only beat the terrorists on their own soil, but to take the offensive in bringing the hope of political freedom and peaceful change to hopeless lands.

I recently had the honor of meeting with our soldiers who are serving in Kosovo and are doing just that. I was glad to be able to thank them for their service and to hear their concerns.

American troops have been keeping the peace in Kosovo, along with our NATO allies, since 1999. We have about 1,700 troops participating in peacekeeping operations in Kosovo, and we must let them know that their service is not forgotten. Their presence brings stability to a troubled region and supports the development of a functioning legal system, the respect for property rights, and the growth of a robust economy.

These pillars will form the foundation of a free and democratic Kosovo, ensuring that our soldiers and their sacrifices will not be in vain.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. CAPITO). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

HONORING JUSTICE SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 357) honoring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 357

Whereas Justice Sandra Day O'Connor was born on March 26, 1930, in El Paso, Texas, and grew up in both El Paso and southeastern Arizona on her family's ranch;

Whereas Justice Sandra Day O'Connor graduated magna cum laude from Stanford University in 1950 with a baccalaureate degree in economics;

Whereas Justice Sandra Day O'Connor graduated from Stanford Law School and was ranked third in a class of 102 graduates;

Whereas Justice Sandra Day O'Connor completed law school in 2 years, instead of the customary 3, and served on the Stanford Law Review;

Whereas Justice Sandra Day O'Connor entered the public sector after her graduation from Stanford Law School as a deputy county attorney for San Mateo County in California, after she was unable to secure a position in a number of private law firms that employed very few, if any, women as attorneys;

Whereas Justice Sandra Day O'Connor served as Assistant Attorney General of Arizona from 1965 to 1969;

Whereas Justice Sandra Day O'Connor was appointed to the Arizona State Senate in 1969 and was subsequently reelected to 2 2-year terms;

Whereas Justice Sandra Day O'Connor became the State Senate Majority Leader in Arizona in 1973, the first woman to serve in that position in any State;

Whereas Justice Sandra Day O'Connor was elected in 1975 as a judge on the Maricopa County Superior Court in Arizona, and served in that position until 1979;

Whereas Justice Sandra Day O'Connor was appointed to the Arizona Court of Appeals in 1979 and served in that position until her confirmation as an Associate Supreme Court Justice;

Whereas in 1981, President Ronald Reagan nominated Sandra Day O'Connor to be the 102d Supreme Court justice and the first female member of the Supreme Court;

Whereas Sandra Day O'Connor was confirmed by the United States Senate unanimously on September 21, 1981, and took her seat on the Supreme Court on September 25, 1981;

Whereas the elevation of Sandra Day O'Connor as the first female justice of the Supreme Court helped pave the way for more women to enter into the legal profession;

Whereas in 2004, women accounted for approximately half of all students enrolled in law school, compared to 35 percent of law students in 1981 and just 4 percent of law students when Justice O'Connor graduated from Stanford Law School in 1952;

Whereas Justice Sandra Day O'Connor has left a thoughtful and enduring mark on American jurisprudence, which has been molded through her wisdom and strong character; and

Whereas Justice Sandra Day O'Connor blazed new trails for her gender and is a role model for all Americans; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) honors Justice Sandra Day O'Connor on the occasion of her retirement from the United States Supreme Court;

(2) commends Justice Sandra Day O'Connor for her hard work and dedication to the law; and

(3) recognizes Justice Sandra Day O'Connor as a pioneer for women in law, helping women become a permanent and integral part of the legal profession.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ZOE LOFGREN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on House Resolution 357 currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution which commemorates the life and career of former Justice Sandra Day O'Connor upon her retirement from the United States Supreme Court.

Justice O'Connor's 24 years on the Supreme Court capped a distinguished four-decade career of public service. Born in El Paso, Texas, on March 26, 1930, and raised in rural Arizona, O'Connor served on the Law Review at Stanford Law School and took just 2 years to finish the normal 3-year curriculum. She graduated third in a class of 102, which included former Chief Justice of the United States William H. Rehnquist.

Unable to find work at law firms that at the time refused to hire female attorneys, she became a deputy county attorney in San Mateo County, California. This was the first of many public sector jobs Justice O'Connor held throughout her career. She served as the assistant attorney general of Arizona from 1965 to 1969, and then in the Arizona State senate from 1969 to 1975. In 1973, Justice O'Connor became the first woman in any State to become the majority leader of a State senate.

She began her career as a jurist in 1975 when she was elected to become a judge in the Maricopa County Superior Court. She was subsequently appointed to the Arizona Court of Appeals in 1979 and served in that capacity until President Ronald Reagan nominated her to fill the seat of former Justice Potter Stewart on August 19, 1981. The U.S. Senate unanimously confirmed Justice O'Connor on September 21, 1981, and she was sworn in 4 days later, making her the 102nd, and first female, Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

She served a decisive role in crafting the majority opinion in many important cases, but perhaps her greatest accomplishment was in serving as a role model to countless women. Indeed, at the time Justice O'Connor graduated from Stanford Law School, women comprised just 4 percent of all law school students. By 2004, women accounted for approximately half of all students enrolled in law schools.

Throughout her entire career, Justice O'Connor put public service first. Even as she announced her retirement on July 1, 2005, she agreed to serve until the President could nominate and the Senate confirm her replacement.

I would like to thank the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE) for introducing this resolution. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting it, and in wishing Justice O'Connor a happy and relaxing retirement with her husband, John.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I am very proud to join my colleagues today to honor a woman who not only contributed immensely to American jurisprudence, but also showed tremendous courage and perseverance in finding her way to the top of the legal field at a time when the legal field was virtually closed to women.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor graduated magna cum laude in 1950 with a bachelor's degree in economics from Stanford University, my alma mater. In just 2 years, instead of the usual 3 years, Justice O'Connor graduated third in her class at Stanford Law School in 1952 at a time, as the chairman has said, when only 4 percent of law school graduates were women.

Despite her impressive law school record and obvious talent, Justice O'Connor could not find a single law firm that would give her a job after graduation, but that did not deter her. She heard that San Mateo County in California, the county just to the north of my home, had once hired a female attorney and so she decided to go there in search of her first legal job, but she learned that there was not enough funding in place or a place in the office for her to work.

That did not deter her. She wrote a long letter explaining why she should be hired and offered to start work for free. She placed her desk in the same area where the secretaries sat. She got the job and before long a paid position opened up and she took it.

Justice O'Connor's perseverance did not end there. She went on to become an assistant attorney general for Arizona. She was appointed and later elected to the Arizona State senate, elected as a county judge, and appointed to the Arizona Court of Appeals.

Justice O'Connor has been a leader for women in many ways. She became the first woman to serve as the majority leader of the Arizona State senate and the first woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court, paving the way and opening the door for the next generation of women to substantively participate in the field of law. In fact, I feel, as a lawyer myself, a debt of gratitude to Justice O'Connor for the groundbreaking path that she laid for all of us who followed.

But let us not forget that she was not only a symbol of hope for aspiring women lawyers all around the Nation, but she has also been a powerful contributor to our American jurisprudence, often the pivotal fifth vote on some of the most important issues in modern American history that came before the U.S. Supreme Court.

I strongly urge my colleagues in the House to unanimously approve this resolution honoring this extraordinary woman, and I look forward to a unanimous vote of support by the House of Representatives.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN-WAITE), the author of the resolution.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. I thank the chairman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, today is the first day in which our Nation celebrates the achievements of American women during Women's History Month. Honoring the service of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor is an excellent way to kick off this celebration.

When Justice O'Connor first set out on her journey, the dream of attending law school was not something a woman commonly achieved. Women in her day were encouraged to stay in the home, supporting the men who ran the country. Justice O'Connor's success to find work in the law profession exemplifies the determination that she had to achieve greatness. By defying society restrictions, today she offers great hope to the women of every generation.

Justice O'Connor is an inspiration to women across the Nation. She won acclaim as the first woman to be appointed to the United States Supreme Court and her retirement marks the end of an era.

During her service of 25 years on the Court, Justice O'Connor established a reputation as a key decision maker. By sticking to her philosophy of drawing practical conclusions when determining her final decision, she would often cast the deciding vote. Widely known as one of the most influential women in the United States, this title is often attributed to the dynamic Justice O'Connor brought to the United States Supreme Court.

Madam Speaker, little girls and young women take for granted today what women such as Justice O'Connor accomplished in earlier generations. As cochair of the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues, I am honored to have offered this resolution today to remind us all, both men and women, to remain true to our beliefs and question the obstacles that others have put in place.

I am privileged to have witnessed the work of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, and I look forward to supporting House Resolution 357 this afternoon. I certainly appreciate the Judiciary Committee and our awesome chairman for allowing this to be put on the agenda and that we have it on the floor before us today.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. SCHMIDT).

(Mrs. SCHMIDT asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 357, honoring former United States Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and commend my colleague from Florida, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE, for her

work on this legislation and Chairman SENSENBRENNER for allowing this to go through.

□ 1315

In 1981, when Sandra Day O'Connor was unanimously confirmed to the seat previously held by my fellow Cincinnatian, Justice Potter Stewart, as the first woman Justice, it was a very different time in America. After 24 years serving our Nation, it can be said that her legacy is multifaceted: one of the most influential Justices in history; certainly one of the most powerful women in America; and a pioneer in every sense of the word.

We know she was born in El Paso to parents who owned a 198,000-acre cattle ranch in southeastern Arizona. There she learned roping and riding but also the self-reliance and determination that influenced her life. Despite her many achievements at Stanford and Stanford Law School, law review, graduating in 2 years instead of three, and third in her class of 120, no law firm would hire her because she was a woman. She turned to public service and was Arizona's assistant attorney general, the first woman majority leader of the State senate, a trial judge and an Arizona court of appeals judge before being named to the United States Supreme Court. Maybe it is good no law firm would hire her.

Although I have not always agreed with her on every decision, Justice O'Connor stood for federalism, pragmatism, compromise and interpreting, not legislating, the law. She considered each case individually on its own merits. Her hallmarks of integrity, diligence, and fairness have been woven through every task she has undertaken.

Balancing the demands of a career and family, Justice O'Connor set a positive example for women, especially young women. She once said, ''Society as a whole benefits immeasurably from a climate in which all persons, regardless of race or gender, may have the opportunity to earn respect, responsibility, advancement and remuneration based on ability.''

During Women's History Month, it is especially fitting that we honor her.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the bill introduced by the gentlelady from Florida. As a member of the Congressional Women's Caucus, I applaud Justice Sandra Day O'Connor for her leadership as the first woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Appointment of Justice O'Connor added life to the women's movement, and when Justice Ginsburg was appointed, we had 2 very strong allies when these matters came before the high court. Her judicious leadership stood out when she joined Justices Souter and Kennedy in crafting a compromise to uphold Roe v. Wade in the Planned Parenthood v. Casey decision—that included the standard of limiting state regulation of abortions to the threshold of causing an ''undue burden'' on a woman's right to choose.

Justice O'Connor helped to protect affirmative action by making the swing vote in the 5-to-4 decision of Grutter v. Bollinger. This decision was a landmark that still has precedential value in terms of preserving the notion that there is not only the right to due process in the law at stake but the value of racial diversity in education.

Most recently, though, many of us on both sides of the aisle commend Justice O'Connor for her dissent in the recent Supreme Court decision of Kelo v. City of New London et. al (No. 04–108. Argued February 22, 2005—Decided June 23, 2005), in which she stated that

[a]ny property may now be taken for the benefit of another private party, but the fallout from this decision will not be random. The beneficiaries are likely to be those citizens with disproportionate influence and power in the political process, including large corporations and development firms . . . [t]he Founders cannot have intended this perverse result. '[T]hat alone is a just government,' wrote James Madison, 'which impartially secures to every man, whatever is his own.'

I hope that the Court will continue this kind of sound judgment and leadership on matters of such great significance to our disadvantaged communities.

Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation, and I thank Justice O'Connor for her service to our Highest Court.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution, which honors the career of one of this Nation's most respected jurists, Associate Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. Not only did Justice O'Connor leave an indelible impression on the law but also on the legal profession itself.

As an Associate Justice, Mrs. O'Connor had a well-deserved reputation for being the swing vote on seminal cases. From campaign finance laws to affirmative action and sexual orientation discrimination, many Supreme Court lawyers tailored their arguments to her because of her ability and willingness to see the complexity of the issues that came before the court.

She also left her mark on the diversity of the legal profession. When she graduated from law school in 1952, ranked no less than 3rd in her class of 102 students, gender discrimination kept her from jobs at law firms. This was a time when women comprised only 4 percent of law graduates. Instead, she turned to public service and embarked upon a stellar career as a State prosecutor, State legislator, and State judge.

It was in her capacity as an Arizona Court of Appeals judge in 1981 that Justice O'Connor came to the attention of the White House. President Reagan nominated her to fill the seat of Justice Potter Stewart. On September 21, 1981, the Senate unanimously confirmed her to be the 102d Justice of the Supreme Court and the 1st female justice in history.

With Justice O'Connor as an example, the ranks of female lawyers have grown tremendously in this country. In 1981, the year of her appointment, women made up 35 percent of law students. In 2004, they made up approximately 50 percent. It would be impossible to overstate Justice O'Connor's role in that achievement. I thank her for her service to our country and wish her the best.

I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on this resolution.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the resolution honoring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

Justice O'Connor served as a role model at a time when very few women were pursuing legal careers. Even before she was appointed to the United States Supreme Court, Justice O'Connor's career was one to follow. She served as a government lawyer, general practitioner, agency attorney, state legislator, and a judge at both the trial and appellate levels.

As the first woman ever to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court, Justice O'Connor was a steady—albeit unpredictable—presence on the bench. She was incredibly thoughtful and deliberate with her decisions, evaluating every case on its merits.

Justice O'Connor earned her place in history, making a permanent mark on the judicial system that will forever inspire girls and women throughout America. She will be greatly missed.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 357, honoring fellow Texan and former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. As the first woman inducted into the Supreme Court, Sandra Day O'Connor broke through gender barriers and a glass ceiling that had existed for almost two centuries.

Her outstanding service to America and the Supreme Court serves as a role model not only to women, but to anyone who was told they couldn't do a job based on bias and negative perception. Throughout her life, Justice O'Connor continually rose above prejudice—forming her own law firm when no one would hire her, and becoming the first woman to hold the position of majority leader in the Arizona State Senate.

Sandra Day O'Connor became one of the most powerful women in U.S. History. Instead of rebelling against a male-dominated society, Justice O'Connor sought to change the world by working within the system. Her decisions on controversial cases such as abortion, affirmative action, the death penalty, and religious freedom have changed the American landscape and will continue to impact us far into the future.

I commend Justice O'Connor for her years of service and for serving as a role model for so many Americans.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 357, Honoring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. Honoring Justice O'Connor's career as a jurist with this resolution is significant as she was a pioneer for women in the legal profession.

Nominated for the Supreme Court by President Reagan and confirmed by the U.S. Senate in 1981, Justice O'Connor became the 102nd Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, and its first woman member. Justice O'Connor served honorably until her retirement on January 31, 2006. Justice O'Connor retired from the bench and from public service with the same grace and dignity with which she served. Her commitment to the Constitution, to public service, and to the United States will serve as inspiration for young Americans for years to come. Her work while on the Court will continue to provide needed guidance as American law continues to evolve. Her legacy of attacking bias not only against women but against all groups through jurisprudence benefits us all.

Justice O'Connor is the product of humble beginnings. In school, Justice O'Connor worked hard, earning numerous achievements while overcoming many obstacles in her path

to success. Upon graduation, Justice O'Connor found it difficult to obtain a position with any law firm due to her gender despite having earned honors as an undergraduate and a law student at Stanford University. Undaunted, she created her own opportunities, partnering with a colleague and beginning her own firm. Shortly thereafter, Justice O'Connor placed her career on hold to become a mother. During this time, Justice O'Connor devoted herself to volunteer activities with the Arizona State Hospital, the Arizona State Bar, the Salvation Army and several local schools.

Justice O'Connor returned to practicing law after 5 years as a full-time mother and assumed a position with the Arizona Attorney General's office. In 1969, she was appointed to fill a vacancy in the Arizona State Senate and 4 years later was the first woman to serve as the chamber's majority leader. This leadership role, however, only marked the beginning of her groundbreaking professional accomplishments.

In 1974, Justice O'Connor was nominated for a judgeship position in the Maricopa County Superior Court and nominated to the Arizona Court of Appeals 5 years later. As a result of her work on the Arizona Court of Appeals President Reagan nominated her to serve on the Supreme Court. Justice O'Connor's career proves that there is no barrier to large, no challenge to great, and no position to lofty to attain for a woman of integrity, conviction and intelligence.

Justice O'Connor is among the pioneering women of our time. She stands as a testament to what a fearless spirit, a determined heart and a sharp mind can achieve in the face of bias and tradition. Today, only one woman now serves on the Supreme Court, but we now that more will follow in the footsteps of Justice O'Connor.

Although Justice O'Connor is most widely recognized for her 24 years as an Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, she deserves to be recognized for leading of life of humanity, of dedication to public service, and one of commitment to making our country more fair, tolerant, and a better place to live. Her lifetime of achievements in the field of law and public service will always be remembered. Our country thanks her for the example she has set.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield back my time.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back my time as well.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 357.

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. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. 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 question will be postponed.

HONORING AND PRAISING THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 97TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 335) honoring and praising the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on the occasion of its 97th anniversary.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 335

Whereas the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), originally known as the National Negro Committee, was founded in New York City on February 12, 1909, the centennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth, by a multiracial group of activists who answered ''The Call'' for a national conference to discuss the civil and political rights of African Americans;

Whereas the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was founded by a distinguished group of leaders in the struggle for civil and political liberty, including Ida Wells-Barnett, W.E.B. DuBois, Henry Moscowitz, Mary White Ovington, Oswald Garrison Villiard, and William English Walling;

Whereas the NAACP is the oldest and largest civil rights organization in the United States;

Whereas the mission of the NAACP is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination;

Whereas the NAACP is committed to achieving its goals through nonviolence;

Whereas the NAACP advances its mission through reliance upon the press, the petition, the ballot, and the courts, and has been persistent in the use of legal and moral persuasion, even in the face of overt and violent racial hostility;

Whereas the NAACP has used political pressure, marches, demonstrations, and effective lobbying to serve the voice, as well as the shield, for minority Americans;

Whereas after years of fighting segregation in public schools, the NAACP, under the leadership of Special Counsel Thurgood Marshall, won one of its greatest legal victories in the Supreme Court's 1954 decision in Brown v. Board of Education;

Whereas in 1955, NAACP member Rosa Parks was arrested and fined for refusing to give up her seat on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama—an act of courage that would serve as the catalyst for the largest grassroots civil rights movement in the history of the United States;

Whereas the NAACP was prominent in lobbying for the passage of the Civil Rights Acts of 1957, 1960, and 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the Fair Housing Act, laws which ensured Government protection for legal victories achieved; and

Whereas in 2005, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People launched the Disaster Relief Fund to help survivors in Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, Florida, and Alabama to rebuild their lives: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) recognizes the 97th anniversary of the historic founding of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; and

(2) honors and praises the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on the occasion of its anniversary for its work to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of all persons.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on House Concurrent Resolution 335 currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 335, a resolution honoring the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on the occasion of its 97th anniversary.

This resolution recognizes that the NAACP has played an important role in helping to ensure that our constitutional guarantees are extended to all citizens.

Founded on the centennial of Republican President and Great Emancipator Abraham Lincoln's birthday in 1909, the NAACP represents America's oldest civil rights organization. Through members such as Rosa Parks, who ignited the national civil rights movement, and former Justice Thurgood Marshall, whose leadership led to the landmark legal victory in Brown v. Board of Education, the NAACP has helped galvanize efforts to promote the promise of equality that our Constitution envisioned.

Through nonviolent means, the NAACP led the Nation's effort to seek passage of the 1957, 1960, 1964, and 1968 civil rights acts. Challenging Federal, State, and local officials and governments to accord equal legal treatment to all citizens, the NAACP has sought to promote racial equality in areas such as education, employment, housing, and public facilities.

In 1965, the NAACP led the movement to seek passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, one of the most significant pieces of legislation passed during the 20th century. Committed to extending the protections of the 15th amendment and the Voting Rights Act to all African Americans, the NAACP worked tirelessly to register tens of thousands of new voters despite threats of violence. The NAACP has helped advance each reauthorization effort, including in 1982, when I was privileged to lead that bipartisan effort with my Democratic colleagues. I will lead that bipartisan effort with my Democratic colleagues again this spring when the Voting Rights Act is once again renewed.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution to recognize the NAACP for