

Today the Missionaries of Charity have more than 4,000 nuns who run over 5,517 orphanages, housing the impoverished, the ill, the homeless, and the dying. In a world that sometimes seems so impersonal and unaffected by the suffering of others, Mother Teresa has provided hope and encouragement through her endearing spirit. She has an exceptional character and has sacrificed the greater part of her daily life for others.

Mother Teresa is visibly perceived by many as a living saint. Her love and compassion for humanity will always serve as a constant reminder that no matter what age, gender, or faith one may be that every human being has the ability to make an impression on mankind. Her tradition of spirituality and compassion has made her one of the greatest humanitarians of all time.

Recently, a poll was taken here in the United States and of all the people that the United States said they respected the most, Mother Teresa was voted No. 1. Though weakened by a chronic heart ailment and other heart problems, Mother Teresa's deep hope and abiding faith in God will live on forever.

In closing, I would like to share some of Mother Teresa's wisdom by quoting her. She once said, "If we pray, we will believe. If we believe, we will love. If we love, we will serve. We can do no great things, only small things with great love."

That quote reminds me of Matthew 22 that talks about the greatest commandment of loving others. Mother Teresa has embodied what Christ called the greatest commandment, and the second greatest commandment was like the first.

I urge the immediate adoption of H.R. 1650 in a bipartisan fashion, and I thank the Members that have worked so hard in bringing this to the floor.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Chicago, IL, Mr. JESSE JACKSON, Jr., the cosponsor of this legislation.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 1650, and I would like to thank the gentleman from Delaware, Chairman CASTLE, and the gentleman from New York, Mr. FLAKE, the ranking member, for the opportunity to address this important piece of legislation commending and honoring the work of Mother Teresa. Mother Teresa has been referred to as a moral leader, a Nobel laureate who has also been regularly referred to as a living saint among us.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my good friend, the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. CHRISTENSEN] for providing me with the opportunity to cosponsor this worthy endeavor. When the gentleman initially approached me about the legislation, there was no equivocation whatsoever about my willing-

ness to support and work on this side of the aisle to seek Democratic cosponsors of such a worthy piece of legislation. I think that the thoughtfulness of the gentleman from Nebraska on this particular piece of legislation is certainly an example of the kind of spirit that he has brought to this Congress, and it is indeed an honor to have the privilege of being a cosponsor with the gentleman on this piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, with this Congressional Gold Medal we honor Mother Teresa of Calcutta upon her retirement as superior general of the Missionaries of Charity, the order she founded in 1947 to care for the dying and destitute of Calcutta, India. This moral and spiritual leader, known to the world as the "Saint of the Gutters" for her lifelong work caring for the third world's poorest of the poor, continues her struggle for humanity despite her own physical frailty.

After suffering from malaria, from pneumonia, a heart attack, and after undergoing three heart surgeries just last year, the 86-year-old Mother Teresa has announced that she hopes that she is able to set up a base in China as her next project. Imagine that, 86, after having suffered from malaria, from pneumonia, a heart attack and three different surgeries, Mother Teresa keeps on giving and she never ceases to keep on giving.

The Albanian-born Mother Teresa, who bravely combats her physical weakness, lacks no internal moral strength or outward vision. She is motivated by the depth of her faith and spirituality. Through her direct humanitarian acts, carried out by the Missionaries of Charity, she has transformed millions of lives one by one in the order's AIDS hospices, soup kitchens, homes for unwed mothers, clinics, schools, and homes for the lepers, the sick, and the terminally ill in 25 nations across this world.

The sisters of her order literally go out into the streets and physically lift the starving terminally ill, drawing them into these homes to provide them with shelter and medicine free of charge. Most importantly, the sisters offer the least of these, our world's most vulnerable, who have so tragically been cast aside by society, the dignity and the respect of which all human beings are deserving.

It is this spirit, the spirit of Mother Teresa, that I believe was probably best engendered in recent times in our Nation by the volunteer summit that took place in Philadelphia, where we saw Americans attempting to give back beyond themselves, beyond their class, beyond their race, and even beyond their own value system, to give of themselves, and no other person in our world for such a time as this has provided that as the gentlewoman from Calcutta.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we can all learn and embrace her example. She is motivated by her faith to do good. She feeds the poor because they are hungry;

she houses the homeless because they lack shelter; she treats the sick because they are ill. Her love and her care is not conditional. Her service to humanity is based upon her deep seated belief that we are all members of one human family.

She treats people of all races and ethnicities, of all social stratum, equally, regardless of their relative wealth or poverty. In essence, this is what her deep sense of spirituality and religion compel her to do. Her righteous and selfless example is one from which we can all find inspiration and take guidance and direction.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor today to sponsor this bill to bestow the Congressional Medal of Honor to Mother Teresa when she graces us with her presence on June 5. I thank my colleagues for the overwhelming support for this tribute to a truly remarkable member of the world community.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and solely to thank those who were the sponsors of this legislation. The gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. CHRISTENSEN] referenced this, but they did an extraordinary job of getting more signatures in this Congress in support of something than maybe anybody in the history of the Congress, for all I know, in a remarkably short time. So I congratulate them both on that. Obviously, the cause was extremely justifiable, which we have all learned here today, and we appreciate that, too.

I also want to thank the gentleman from New York [Mr. FLAKE] who continues to be a wonderful ranking member to work with on this committee. Hopefully, we will have some success again today as we have before.

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

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to say that, indeed, it is a joy to work with the gentleman from Delaware, and I am overwhelmed by the number of supporters that spoke on this bill and actually signed on in such short order.

I think that makes the ultimate statement of the value of this particular piece of legislation, and would hope that all of our colleagues would join us, for I think this expresses all that is a part of what our life ought to be, and that is loving our neighbors as we love ourselves.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to encourage everyone to support this. We will be asking for rollcall votes so people will have an opportunity to vote for it.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 1650. At the same time, I rise in total support of, and with complete respect for, the work of Mother Teresa, the Missionaries of Charity organization, and each of

Mother Teresa's Nobel Peace Prize-winning humanitarian efforts. I oppose the Gold Medal for Mother Teresa Act because appropriating \$30,000 of taxpayer money is neither constitutional nor, in the spirit of Mother Teresa who dedicated here entire life to voluntary, charitable work, particularly humanitarian.

Because of my continuing and uncompromising opposition to appropriations not authorized within the enumerated powers of the Constitution, several of my colleagues found it amusing to question me personally as to whether, on this issue, I would maintain my resolve and commitment of the Constitution—a Constitution, which only months ago, each Member of Congress, swore to uphold. In each of these instances, I offered to do a little more than uphold my constitutional oath.

In fact, as a means of demonstrating my personal regard and enthusiasm for the work of Mother Teresa, I invited each of these colleagues to match my private, personal contribution of \$100 which, if accepted by the 435 Members of the House of Representatives, would more than satisfy the \$30,000 cost necessary to mint and award a gold medal to the well-deserving Mother Teresa. To me, it seemed a particularly good opportunity to demonstrate one's genuine convictions by spending one's own money rather than that of the taxpayers who remain free to contribute, at their own discretion, to the work of Mother Teresa and have consistently done so. For the record, not a single Representative who solicited my support for spending taxpayer's money, was willing to contribute their own money to demonstrate the courage of their so-called convictions and generosity.

It is, of course, very easy to be generous with other people's money.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SUNUNU). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Delaware [Mr. CASTLE] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1650.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof)—

Mr. CASTLE. 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. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 1650.

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

There was no objection.

#### SENSE OF THE HOUSE THAT HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN AND SUPPORT ACTIVITIES TO PROVIDE DECENT HOMES FOR PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. LAZIO of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and

agree to the resolution (H. Res. 147) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the House of Representatives should participate in and support activities to provide decent homes for the people of the United States, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

#### H. RES. 147

Whereas the United States promotes and encourages the creation and revitalization of sustainable and strong neighborhoods in partnership with States, cities, and local communities and in conjunction with the independent and collective actions of private citizens and organizations;

Whereas establishing a housing infrastructure strengthens neighborhoods and local economies and nurtures the families who reside in them;

Whereas an integral element of a strong community is a sufficient supply of affordable housing;

Whereas such housing can be provided in traditional and nontraditional forms, including apartment buildings, transitional and temporary homes, condominiums, co-operatives, and single family homes;

Whereas for many families a home is not merely shelter, but also provides an opportunity for growth, prosperity, and security;

Whereas homeownership is a cornerstone of the national economy because it spurs the production and sale of goods and services, generates new jobs, encourages savings and investment, promotes economic and civic responsibility, and enhances the financial security of all people in the United States;

Whereas the United States is the first country in the world to make owning a home a reality for a vast majority of its families; however, more than one-third of the families in the United States are not homeowners;

Whereas a disproportionate percentage of non-homeowning families in the United States are low-income families;

Whereas the National Partners in Homeownership, a public-private partnership comprised of 63 national organizations under the leadership of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, has established a goal of reaching an all-time high homeownership level in the United States by the end of the 20th century;

Whereas there are many other nonprofit and for-profit organizations that, in partnership with the Federal Government and local governments, strive to make the American dream of homeownership a reality for low-income families;

Whereas national organizations such as the Fannie Mae Foundation, Freddie Mac, the Local Initiatives Support Corporation, the Enterprise Foundation, the Housing Assistance Council, and the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation, in conjunction with local organizations, have developed thousands of homes each year for low-income families and have, in the process, reduced urban decay and blight and fostered business activity;

Whereas the community building activities of neighborhood-based nonprofit organizations empower individuals to improve their lives and make communities safer and healthier for families;

Whereas one of the best known nonprofit housing organizations is Habitat for Humanity, which builds simple but adequate housing for less fortunate families and symbolizes the self-help approach to homeownership;

Whereas Habitat for Humanity provides opportunities for people from every segment of society to volunteer to help make the

American dream a reality for families who otherwise would not own a home; and

Whereas the second week of June 1997 is National Homeownership Week: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) it is a goal of our Nation that all citizens have safe, clean, and healthy housing;

(2) the Members of the House of Representatives should demonstrate the importance of volunteerism and community service;

(3) the Members of the House of Representatives and Habitat for Humanity, with support from the National Partners in Homeownership, should sponsor and construct, commencing on June 5, 1997, two homes in the Anacostia neighborhood of the District of Columbia, each to be known as a "House That Congress Built";

(4) each "House That Congress Built" should be constructed primarily by Members of the House of Representatives and their families and staffs, involving and symbolizing the partnership of the public, private, and nonprofit sectors of society;

(5) each "House That Congress Built" should be constructed with the participation of the family that will own the home;

(6) upon completion and initial occupancy of the homes in the fall of 1997, the Members of the House of Representatives, their families and staffs, and local and national leaders from the public and private nonprofit sectors of society should participate, together with each family that will own a "House That Congress Built", in an event to celebrate the occasion;

(7) in the future, the Members of the House of Representatives and their families and staff should participate in similar house building activities of Habitat for Humanity in their own districts as part of National Homeownership Week; and

(8) these occasions should be used to emphasize and focus on the importance of providing safe, clean, and healthy homes for all of the people in the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York [Mr. LAZIO] and the gentleman from New York [Mr. FLAKE] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York [Mr. LAZIO].

Mr. LAZIO of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1½ minutes.

Mr. Speaker, let me begin by congratulating and thanking my colleague and friend, the gentleman from California [Mr. LEWIS], for this concept and for his introduction of this legislation.

I also want to thank the gentleman from Ohio, Mr. STOKES, the gentleman from Missouri, Mr. GEPHARDT, the gentleman from Georgia, Mr. GINGRICH, the Speaker of the House, the gentleman from New York, Mr. FLAKE, and certainly the gentleman from Massachusetts, Mr. KENNEDY, and the gentleman from the District of Columbia, Ms. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, for their cooperation and collaboration to celebrate what I think is one of the more outstanding programs that we have in America, the creation of a synergy where people in the public sector and the community itself, businesses and the private sector, and the not-for-profit sector which have come together to contribute their time and resources and effort to give to their fellow neighbor one of the greatest gifts that one