

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 8368. There is one thing I believe unites us on the issue of Afghanistan, and that is unwavering commitment to the Afghan allies who stood by us during our nearly two-decade mission in the country. This bill is about honoring that commitment.

H.R. 8368 formally authorizes the Coordinator for Afghan Relocation Efforts, or CARE, which has been leading the essential work of supporting those who risked their lives to assist the United States by helping eligible Afghan applicants and their families relocate to the United States.

By providing a clear bipartisan mandate, along with the authorities that the State Department has requested, this legislation sends a strong message of support for CARE's mission that can't simply be waved away. It demonstrates that Congress stands firmly behind the creative, tenacious efforts by the CARE office to relocate and protect our deserving Afghan partners.

These are individuals who risked everything to support our mission. They served as interpreters, guides, and partners in some of the most dangerous conditions imaginable. To turn our backs on them now would be unconscionable.

Let's remember that our commitment is not just a matter of policy or party, but it is a matter of principle. This bill is a step in the right direction, but it cannot be the final word on our support for our Afghan allies, particularly since Congress will need to continue to act to ensure Afghan special immigrant visas remain available and CARE's work is appropriately resourced during the period authorized by this bill. There are bipartisan bills we can bring to the floor in this Congress to accomplish exactly that.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this bill introduced by Representative TITUS, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same so that we can continue to uphold our promises to those who stood by us in Afghanistan.

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

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

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS), an esteemed member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the author of this measure.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I acknowledge and thank my Republican colleague from Indiana (Mr. BAIRD) for joining me on this bipartisan legislation to establish the Coordinator for Afghan Relocation Efforts Authorization Act, H.R. 8368.

Over the course of our 20-year mission in Afghanistan, more than 300,000 Afghans worked shoulder to shoulder with U.S. servicemembers, diplomats, and aid workers. They provided valuable support for nearly 800,000 U.S. troops who rotated through Afghanistan. They served primarily as trans-

lators, guides, and informal advisers to U.S. personnel on the ground.

These are, in every sense of the word, our valued allies. They stood with us through difficult conditions, advancing U.S. interests.

In August 2021, the U.S. conducted an historic and heroic evacuation that carried 70,000 Afghans to safety along with tens of thousands of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents, as well as citizens from other countries.

Since July 2021, the State Department has worked around the clock to relocate U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents from Afghanistan who wanted to depart and who were eligible Afghan allies who worked with us.

Secretary Blinken has made this a top priority for the Department and has said that there is no deadline for this important work. He underscores the commitment that the Biden administration has to this effort and the promise of Operation Enduring Welcome.

In 2022, to solidify these relocation efforts, the State Department established a specialized office called the Coordinator for Afghan Relocation Efforts, appropriately known as CARE.

CARE serves as the hub for a whole-of-government priority, working closely with various Federal departments and agencies, international partners, veterans groups, former diplomats, government officials, and NGOs to ensure the safe and efficient relocation of individuals who have qualified to immigrate to the U.S., either as special immigrants or refugees, during the 20-year U.S. mission to Afghanistan.

The Afghan Special Immigrant Visa program, also stood up by Congress and relying on our regular reauthorization of additional visa numbers to meet demand, long faced challenges and processing delays, but the situation changed dramatically early in 2021, when the Biden administration ramped up resources to clear an SIV processing backlog that had accumulated in the prior administration.

Working together, Congress and the administration have prioritized and streamlined the Afghan SIV program to meet evolving demand and uphold our moral obligation.

In fiscal year 2023, the administration issued the most SIVs in a single year since the start of the program in 2009. In the most recent report, the Department issued 1,894 SIVs, ensuring that almost 8,000 additional Afghan allies and their families had a pathway to safety.

Similarly, the State Department has announced the establishment of a new P-2 category for refugees, in addition to the P-1 referrals, to expand available pathways for persecuted Afghans. As a result, we have welcomed more than 130,000 Afghans to safety.

The CARE program has been the linchpin of this work, serving as a valuable conduit for all of the different organizations I mentioned and Afghans

themselves as they navigate a pathway to their new home. The work, however, is not codified in statute. It exists across a number of agencies and programs.

Congress should be unambiguous here. We support this work. We want to see the job continue, and we should do so by authorizing it as a new agency.

That is what this bill would do. It would authorize the CARE office in the State Department for 3 years and grant it important authorities to continue this work as an identified legislative priority for the State Department.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, to acknowledge the obligation that we have, our moral obligation to help those who helped us so much, and to fulfill our promise to all of those who stood with us.

I thank Ranking Member MEEKS and Chairman MCCAUL of the Foreign Affairs Committee for their support in helping move this bill to the floor, and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of it.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, for over 20 years, our Afghan allies risked everything to support the U.S. mission, and we must not turn our backs on them now. The CARE office deserves a clear, bipartisan mandate. I hope my colleagues will join me and support this important bill.

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

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, this administration failed the Afghan people by abandoning them to the Taliban rule. It is our responsibility as Americans to remedy this failure. I am proud to support this bipartisan legislation today, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in voting for this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8368, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. MOYLAN. 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, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

AFFIRMING THE NATURE AND IMPORTANCE OF THE SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE RELIGIOUS AND ETHNIC MINORITY SURVIVORS OF GENOCIDE IN IRAQ

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the

resolution (H. Res. 554) affirming the nature and importance of the support of the United States for the religious and ethnic minority survivors of genocide in Iraq, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 554

Whereas national, ethnic, religious, and linguistic minorities and indigenous peoples, including Yezidis, Turkmen, Shabak, Sabaean-Mandaeans, Kaka'i, and indigenous Christians (including Chaldean, Syriac, Assyrian, Armenian, and Melkite communities), among others, have been an integral part of the cultural fabric and history of Iraq and the broader Middle East;

Whereas these same religious and ethnic minorities have made and continue to make invaluable contributions to the prosperity and well-being of societies across the Middle East and the world, including in the United States;

Whereas, according to the 2017 Report on International Religious Freedom, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria ("ISIS") is responsible for carrying out a "campaign of violence against members of all faiths, in particular non-Sunnis";

Whereas ethnic and religious minorities were subjected to innumerable atrocities by ISIS, including forced religious conversion, kidnapping, slavery, human trafficking, unlawful forced displacement, ethnic cleansing, torture, sexual violence, and sex trafficking, among other crimes;

Whereas the Secretary of State declared on March 17, 2016, and on August 15, 2017, that ISIS is responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, and other atrocities against religious and ethnic minority groups in Iraq and Syria, including Shia Muslims, Christians, and Yezidis, among other religious and ethnic groups;

Whereas the Iraq and Syria Genocide Relief and Accountability Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-300) affirms that it is the policy of the United States to ensure that assistance for religious and ethnic minorities is directed towards those most in need, including those that the Secretary of State declared were targeted for genocide, crimes against humanity, or war crimes, and have been identified as being at risk of persecution, forced migration, genocide, crimes against humanity, or war crimes;

Whereas members of these religious and ethnic minority communities continue to face daily insecurity, discrimination, and hardship;

Whereas religious and ethnic minorities continue to face significant challenges to returning to their ancestral homelands, including in Mosul, Baaj, Sinjar, the Nineveh Plain, and other Yazidi places, due to security concerns, economic hardship, and shifting demographics; and

Whereas the restoration and stabilization of these regions will provide an opportunity for diverse ethnic and religious communities to flourish: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commits to protecting and upholding internationally recognized human rights of members of religious and ethnic minority communities;

(2) supports the restoration of security, stability, and economic opportunity of, as well as the safe, dignified, and voluntary return of, internally displaced persons, including those originally from the territories of Mosul, Baaj, Sinjar, and the Nineveh Plain;

(3) supports the restoration of religious and cultural heritage sites in Iraq, including,

churches, and other religious sites, and community buildings of religious and ethnic minority communities in these regions; and

(4) supports equal and inclusive representation for religious and ethnic minority groups in Iraq in line with article 125 of the Constitution of Iraq and encourages the Secretary of State to promote opportunities for affected minority groups to further that objective.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bipartisan resolution addressing ongoing challenges that face religious and ethnic minorities in Iraq after ISIS' brutal genocide.

ISIS overran wide swaths of Iraq and Syria 10 years ago, subjecting millions of people to their so-called caliphate.

ISIS perpetrated widespread atrocities, including forced religious conversion, kidnapping, slavery, human trafficking, unlawful forced displacement, ethnic cleansing, torture, sexual violence, and sex trafficking. Religious and ethnic minority groups were singled out and subjected to particular cruelty.

The United States repeatedly found that ISIS is responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, and other atrocities against religious and ethnic minority groups in Iraq and Syria, including Shia Muslims, Christians, and Yazidis.

Just this year, a Yazidi woman was rescued in Gaza. She had been kidnapped at the age of 11 by ISIS. She was held in captivity for 10 years.

While ISIS no longer rules over these communities, the caliphate left widespread damage, displacement, and trauma. Religious and ethnic minorities continue to face widespread discrimination and displacement in Iraq, undermining efforts to promote their recovery.

Addressing these problems is critical for religious and ethnic communities and for the overall success of the Iraqi State, helping ensure it achieves its full potential as a vibrant, prosperous country.

This resolution reaffirms our commitment to protecting the rights of these religious and ethnic minorities and the need to help them return to their homes and rebuild their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 554, affirming the nature and importance of the support of the United States for the religious and ethnic minority survivors of genocide in Iraq, as amended.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support this resolution introduced by Representative SLOTKIN, which shines a much-needed spotlight on the significant contributions of Iraq's religious and ethnic minority communities, as well as the profound suffering they have endured.

Iraq is home to a rich tapestry of communities, each contributing to the nation's cultural heritage. Among them are the Yazidis, Shabak, and Chaldean, Syriac, and Assyrian Christians. These groups are not just a part of Iraq's history, but they are integral to its identity.

The persecution faced by these communities is well-documented, especially during the rise of ISIS. The brutal terrorist group committed unimaginable horrors against Iraq's minorities. The list of atrocities is long: kidnappings, torture, public executions, arbitrary detentions, and systematic rape. The scale of this cruelty led the State Department, under Secretary Kerry in 2016, to formally declare ISIS' actions as genocide and crimes against humanity.

While the territorial defeat of ISIS was achieved through the courageous efforts of the Iraqi Security Forces with critical support from the United States and our international partners, efforts at recovery are far from over.

Many of the communities that suffered most during ISIS' reign of terror continue to face challenges in rebuilding their homes, reclaiming their heritage, and securing representation in Iraq's national fabric.

This bipartisan resolution is a testament to the resilience of these communities and a call to action. It acknowledges the immense suffering they have endured, recognizes their invaluable contributions to Iraqi society, and underscores the need for continued U.S. engagement.

This resolution is not just about remembering the past, but it is about supporting a future where these communities can thrive once again. It emphasizes the importance of rebuilding, not just physically, but also restoring the cultural and historic sites that are central to their identity.

I extend my gratitude to Representatives SLOTKIN and JAMES for their leadership on this critical issue. Let us stand together in support of this resolution, which not only honors the legacy of Iraq's diverse communities, but also reaffirms our commitment to their future.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MOOLENAAR).

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I join my Michigan colleague, Representative SLOTKIN, in support of H. Res. 554.

This resolution is an important bipartisan affirmation of our support of religious and ethnic minorities in Iraq who experience violent persecution for their religious beliefs.

Chaldean Christians are a religious minority in Iraq, and they have been subjected to countless atrocities and genocide over the last decade at the hands of ISIS terrorists.

They have been displaced from their homes, coerced into converting their religion, tortured, and forced into slavery. Churches and other religious sites have been destroyed, and they still face discrimination for their beliefs.

No one should ever be persecuted for their religious beliefs. The Chaldean community has made outstanding contributions to my home State of Michigan. They deserve to know that Congress supports Chaldeans and other religious and ethnic minorities and their human rights here at home and abroad.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN), my good friend and fellow Michigander, the author of this important resolution.

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 554, a bill affirming the importance of U.S. support for religious and ethnic minorities in Iraq.

Michigan has been home for more than a century to a vibrant Iraqi community, the largest outside the Middle East. Many are Chaldeans, Iraqi Christians who have faced incredible persecution and challenges in recent Iraqi history.

I am very proud to have done this bill with Congressman MOOLENAAR, Congressman JAMES, and other bipartisan support from the Michigan delegation.

When I traveled to the Middle East as part of a congressional delegation in 2022, I met with Iraqi leaders in Baghdad and Erbil to discuss the challenges of Iraq's Chaldeans and what the U.S. can do to help.

This is on the heels of me being a CIA officer, a Pentagon official, and having done three tours in Iraq alongside the military and seeing these issues up close and personal for myself in 2004, 2006, and 2008.

I took what I heard from that most recent trip back to Washington to work on this resolution, which would put this House on record as supporting the human rights and dignity of religious and ethnic minorities in Iraq.

Over the decades, Chaldeans and other religious groups, such as Yezidis, have suffered greatly from the brutality of vicious and violent groups such as ISIS.

ISIS subjugated and carried out countless atrocities against many of these communities, including murder, systematic rape, and kidnapping. As Iraq continues to rebuild after years of conflict and efforts to defeat ISIS, it is critical that U.S. support the security, stability, integration, and political representation of these minorities in their homeland.

This resolution expresses support not just for Iraqi Christians, but for all Iraqi minorities' fundamental rights, security and economic opportunity, community infrastructure, and representation in government.

Mr. Speaker, this is not just an issue of importance to the Chaldeans and other religious minorities living in Iraq, but also to hundreds of thousands of American citizens. Roughly half a million Chaldeans live in the United States, including more than 160,000 in southeast Michigan.

These families are a vibrant, active thread in the fabric of our community. Roughly 60 percent of Michigan's Chaldeans own a business and a sizable fraction own two or more businesses. They support our economy. They are active in our communities. They support churches and schools and foundations, and they are active participants in every aspect of civic life.

These Americans who feel a deep connection to and concern for their ancient homeland are looking to us to speak up for thousands of Iraqis threatened by continued persecution and discrimination. As Americans, they are looking to us to stand up for American values.

Mr. Speaker, I thank again the bipartisan group of Michiganders and other Members who supported this bill and, in particular, Congressmen MOOLENAAR and JAMES.

This legislation was passed out of the Foreign Affairs Committee by an overwhelming bipartisan majority, and I urge my colleagues today to support the same here on the floor.

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. JAMES), the chair of the Africa Subcommittee.

Mr. JAMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this very, very important and special bill, H. Res. 554, a resolution affirming America's support for religious and ethnic minorities in Iraq.

A special thank you to Senator-elect SLOTKIN, Representative MOOLENAAR, Representative MCCLAIN, and Representative BERGMAN, and, most importantly, the Chaldean community in my district and in southeast Michigan for getting us here.

I am truly blessed to be a part of this, and I am proud to have shepherded this bill through committee.

I vowed since coming to Congress to be a voice not just for the Chaldean community in my district but for all those fighting for religious freedoms abroad. That is why for one of my very first congressional hearings, I questioned Secretary Blinken about the

plight and the struggles of Christians and ethnic minorities in Iraq. I believe that advocating for religious liberties abroad is vital to our moral standing not just in the United States but around the world.

This resolution authored by Senator-elect SLOTKIN expresses more than just America's support for the restoration of the rights and dignities given to religious and ethnic minority communities in Iraq. With untrustworthy actors aligned with Iran and ISIS continuing to be an obstacle to freedom in Iraq, this resolution is a powerful first step.

To my fellow Iraqi Catholic and Christian brothers and sisters, this moment is a long time coming, but more is yet to come.

My hope is that the leadership in Baghdad hears us loud and clear today. Congress is watching, and we stand ready to act.

I appreciate Chairman MCCAUL and Ranking Member MEEKS for allowing this resolution to come to the floor. I know our Chaldean community in Sterling Heights and across the State of Michigan have prayed hard and advocated for this very moment.

Mr. Speaker, in this moment here today, with my bipartisan colleagues, we will be able to show Chaldeans here and those around the world who pray for religious freedom that our God truly does answer prayers.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution shines a critical light on the lives, opportunities, and cultures lost in Iraq due to ISIS' campaign of terror.

The State Department rightfully declared ISIS responsible for genocide in 2016, but Congress had been too late to respond. The Yezidis, Shabak, as well as Chaldean, Syriac, and Assyrian Christians deserve equitable representation in the recorded history of Iraqi society. I am proud to stand with my bipartisan colleagues in supporting Iraqi religious and ethnic minorities who, for too long, have gone unnoticed.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting H. Res. 554, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, there is still much work to be done to help Iraq and its people heal from the horrors unleashed by ISIS. This is particularly true with respect to the country's religious and ethnic minority communities.

This resolution serves as a commitment to ensure the United States continues to press for progress and to advocate for the rights of religious and ethnic minorities. I am proud to support this bipartisan legislation today, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in voting for this resolution.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 554, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REAFFIRMING THE TIES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE PHILIPPINES

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 837) reaffirming the ties between the United States and the Philippines, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 837

Whereas the United States established diplomatic relations with the Philippines on July 4, 1946, and the two countries have since enjoyed expanded and positive relations;

Whereas there are over 4,000,000 United States citizens of Philippine ancestry in the United States;

Whereas the United States and the Philippines have a strong and mutually beneficial trade relationship, with more than \$18,900,000,000 in goods and services traded during 2020;

Whereas the People's Republic of China continues to use its Coast Guard and its Merchant Marine to violate the Philippines sovereignty, including in the Scarborough Shoal,

Whereas Chinese Communist Party propaganda now assert claims based on a so-called "ten-dash line", after a United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea arbitral tribunal ruled that China's nine-dashed line had "no legal basis";

Whereas in 1994, the People's Republic of China unlawfully seized Mischief Reef and have since constructed 20 artificial islands that extends the operational capabilities of the People's Liberation Army with the aim of expanding its presence and reinforcing their illegitimate claims to the South China Sea;

Whereas the People's Republic of China is asserting its sweeping claims over the South China Sea by disrupting the regular resupply of the BRP Sierra Madre, a Philippine Navy transport ship, based in the Second Thomas Shoal, by shooting water cannons at Philippine Coast Guard vessels and using military-grade lasers to blind its crew;

Whereas, on April 3, 2023, the Biden administration announced plans today to expand the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Arrangement to include four new sites to strengthen interoperability and allow the United States and the Philippines to better address shared challenges in the Indo-Pacific region;

Whereas, on August 5, 2023, the United States Department of State reaffirmed that "an armed attack on Philippine public vessels, aircraft, and armed forces—including those of its Coast Guard in the South China Sea—would invoke U.S. mutual defense commitments under Article IV of the 1951 U.S. Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty";

Whereas, on October 22, 2023, the Chinese Coast Guard rammed a Philippines Coast Guard cutter escorting supplies to the Second Thomas Shoal within the Philippines exclusive economic zone;

Whereas, on April 11, 2024, the leaders of Japan, the Philippines, and the United States held a trilateral summit in Washington, D.C., to expand trilateral cooperation and bolster a free and open Indo-Pacific and an international order based on international law; and

Whereas, on June 17, 2024, PRC vessels tried to deny the Philippines from lawfully delivering humanitarian supplies to service members stationed at the BRP Sierra Madre through the dangerous use of water cannons, ramming, blocking maneuvers, and towing which damaged Philippine vessels and injured Philippine service members: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) reaffirms the United States unwavering commitment to invoke its Mutual Defense Treaty with the Philippines if an armed attack against the Philippines assets, including those of the Philippine Coast Guard, is committed in the South China Sea;

(2) calls on the United States and Philippines to conduct more joint patrols in the South China Sea, including with other like-minded partners, to underscore the importance of freedom of navigation and overflight;

(3) firmly objects to the People's Republic of China's false sovereignty claims to the South China Sea;

(4) strongly condemns and calls on the People's Republic of China to cease its aggressive and dangerous actions against Philippine vessels in the South China Sea;

(5) welcomes swift implementation of the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement to ensure we adhere to our commitments to the Philippine people, and to foster a free and open Indo-Pacific for all;

(6) emphasizes that respecting the shared values of democratic institutions, human rights, and the rule of law, especially with regard to the rights of trade unionists, journalists, human rights defenders, critics of the Government, faith and religious leaders, and civil society activists, will strengthen the alliance between the United States and the Philippines; and

(7) reaffirms the United States unwavering commitment to invoke its Mutual Defense Treaty with the Philippines, in accordance with constitutional processes, if an armed attack against the Philippines assets, including those of the Philippine Coast Guard, is committed in the South China Sea.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 837, a resolution that reaffirms the enduring partnership between the United States and the Philippines.

This resolution is a testament to the deep-rooted bonds of friendship, shared

values, and mutual interests that have defined our relationship for over a century.

The Philippines is not only a close ally in the Asia-Pacific region, but also a vital partner in promoting peace, stability, and prosperity.

Our two nations share a long history of cooperation from the fight for freedom during World War II to our joint efforts in addressing global challenges today.

Whether it is combating terrorism, the Chinese Communist Party's aggression, or advancing trade, the U.S.-Philippines partnership is instrumental in shaping a safer and more secure world.

In addition to our strategic alliance, the Filipino-American community is an invaluable bridge between the two countries. More than 4 million Filipino Americans contribute to the fabric of America's society, enriching our culture and economy.

Furthermore, this resolution strongly condemns the People's Republic of China's aggressive action against the Philippine vessels in the South China Sea. These provocative maneuvers threaten the peace and stability of the region and violate international law.

We stand in full support of the Philippines' sovereignty over its territorial waters and call on China to respect the rights of all nations in the South China Sea.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 837, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 837, which reaffirms the vital partnership between the United States and the Philippines. I thank Delegate MOYLAN and Representative BOBBY SCOTT for bringing forward this important and timely resolution.

The relationship between our two democracies is more than just a longstanding alliance; it is a cornerstone for stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

Over the past year, Beijing has persistently and illegally bullied the Philippines in the South China Sea. The Chinese Coast Guard and maritime militia have intensified their harassment of Philippine fishing vessels in contested waters as well as within the Philippines' own exclusive economic zone.

Chinese security forces have used water cannons, wielded axes and machetes, engaged in ramming and blocking maneuvers, and interfered with humanitarian supply missions of the Philippine Coast Guard.

These actions are dangerous and unacceptable. Beijing's military coercion and provocation threaten the Philippines' sovereignty as well as peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. Philippine President Marcos has spoken passionately about the daily harassment faced by his nation's fishermen and coast guard at the hands of China's maritime militia, coast guard, and navy. His message has been clear: