

recently wrote that his department is "in total support of extending [the deadline of] the Visa Waiver Program countries to have machine readable passports." The President and Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Tourism Agency, Mr. Rex D. Johnson, wrote that the implementation of "the program before countries are ready to comply would undoubtedly create mass confusion in international travel."

To be clear, I support the overall requirement of machine-readable passports as well as the use of biometrics on travel documents, both American and international. And I call upon the executive branch to place biometrics upon a machine-readable American passport as quickly as possible, because biometrics can assist not only our country, but every country, to ensure that the person listed on the passport is the same person who presents the passport upon entering the country. As a biometric identifier is an electronic scan of a physical feature or features, including an eye, hand, fingerprint, or face, use of a biometric identifier allows an immigration inspector to know for certain that the person appearing before him or her is the same person to whom a passenger or visa was issued.

But, Mr. Speaker, given the current situation, we must extend the deadline at least this one year. I therefore agree with the proposal of chairman and ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, the chairman and ranking member of the International Relational Committee, and others, and implore my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the visa waiver program (VWP) allows nationals from 27 countries to enter the United States as nonimmigrant visitors for business or pleasure without first obtaining a visa from a U.S. consulate office. This facilitates international travel and commerce and eases consular office workloads. Last year, approximately 13.5 million visitors entered the United States under this program.

The Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act of 2002 mandated that by October 26, 2004, the government of each VWP country must certify that it has established a program to issue machine-readable passports that are tamper-resistant and incorporate a biometric identifier. This only would apply to new passports that are issued after the October 26, 2004, deadline.

While all 27 VWP countries have a program in place to develop a machine readable, biometric passport, few of the countries will be in a position to start issuing them by the deadline. The required technical and interoperability standards have not yet been completed by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). Preliminary ICAO standards were released in May 2003, but they failed to address some key issues, including interoperable chip security standards and interoperable reader standards. Also, ICAO's decision to make facial recognition technology the standard passport biometric was not made until May 2003, leaving VWP countries only 17 months to move a biometric passport from design to production, a process that normally takes years. It is apparent that very few VWP countries will be able to meet the deadline for incorporating the biometric identifiers. H.R. 4417 would extend the deadline for one year. If more time is needed, we can revisit the issue when that deadline approaches.

If the deadline is not extended, the participating countries that fail to meet it will lose the

privilege of participating in the program, and the nationals of those countries will need visas to enter the United States. The State Department has estimated that this would result in the need to process an additional 5 million visas.

I am concerned about the effect that even a temporary disruption of the visa waiver program could have on the international tourist industry. In the year 2000, the State of Texas alone received revenue from the international tourist industry that totaled \$3,751.3 million. This included \$410.6 million on public transportation, \$111.1 million on automobile transportation, \$1,029.2 million on lodging, \$731.4 million on food services, \$320.2 million on entertainment and recreation, and \$1,148.9 million in general trade. The numbers for the entire country would be much larger. A major reduction in such revenue would have an adverse impact on the economy of our country.

Consequently, I urge you to vote for H.R. 4417 to extend the deadline.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation.

I want to thank the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee for his leadership in this area. The visa waiver program is a critically important program, under which countries that send citizens that do not engage in visa fraud or overstay their visas do not have to obtain visas to visit our country for business or tourism. It has proven to be a very effective program for dealing with the increased global travel of the past few decades.

However, I firmly agree with my good friend from Wisconsin that citizens from countries who do not have to go through the visa process should have secure, tamper-proof passports to ensure that the visa waiver program is not abused by individuals who try to enter our country with counterfeit passports. Indeed, the statutory deadline of October 26, 2004 in the Enhanced Border Security Act of May 2002 encouraged International Civil Aviation Organization to accelerate its ongoing efforts in the development of uniform standards for secure passports, including the use of biometric data in such passports. Given the progress so far, I have no objection to an extension of this current statutory deadline to allow countries to implement these standards.

However, I believe that the Congress should seriously consider a two-year extension rather than the one-year extension in the current bill. I understand that ICAO did not complete preliminary biometric standards using facial recognition technology until May 2003 and is on only now finalizing these standards. In order for the new passports and the technology needed to read these passports to become mature and to be fully tested, as well as producing the new passports and acquiring and deploying the devices necessary to read the new passports, more than the one year extension being approved today may well be necessary.

In this context, I think it may well be prudent to consider moving towards a two-year extension as this legislation moves through the legislative process, and I would support that approach. If we do not, I predict we will be back here at the same time next year, approving a further one year extension.

I want to once again thank my good friend from Wisconsin for his leadership on this issue and urge my colleagues to support this legislation at this time.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4417.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING THAT FLAG DAY ORIGINATED IN OZAUKEE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 662) recognizing that Flag Day originated in Ozaukee County, Wisconsin.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 662

Whereas on June 14, 1777, the Stars and Stripes was officially adopted as the national flag of the United States;

Whereas in 1885, Bernard John Cigrand, a school teacher from Waubeka, Wisconsin, urged the students at the public school in Fredonia, Wisconsin, to observe June 14 as "Flag Birthday";

Whereas Mr. Cigrand placed a ten inch 38-star flag in an inkwell and instructed his students at Stony Hill School to write essays on what the flag meant to them;

Whereas on May 30, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a Presidential Proclamation that officially established June 14 as Flag Day; and

Whereas on August 3, 1949, President Truman signed an Act of Congress designating June 14 of each year as National Flag Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) urges the people of the United States to study, reflect on, and celebrate the importance of the flag of the United States;

(2) encourages the people of the United States to display the flag of the United States in accordance with the provisions of chapter 1 of title 4, United States Code; and

(3) recognizes that Flag Day originated in Ozaukee County, Wisconsin.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER).

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 Resolution 662 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, it is with great honor that I rise in support of this resolution recognizing Flag Day, which is celebrated each year on this day, June 14.

The American flag is the symbol of hope, freedom, and unity. The flag symbolizes the resolve of our country and demonstrates our ability to overcome adversity. As we encounter new challenges, we are reminded of the men and women who have fought to defend and preserve the values that the flag represents. These men and women serve as a testament to our great Nation. They made their sacrifice because of their belief in our country and the values we hold so dear. There is no greater symbol of that sacrifice than the American flag.

Flag Day originated in 1885 with a school teacher named Bernard John Cigrand in Ozaukee County, Wisconsin. Cigrand, inspired by love for his adopted country, placed a 38-star flag in the inkwell of his classroom and instructed his students at Stony Hill School to write essays on what the flag meant to them. Cigrand's enthusiasm for the flag sparked the interest of his students, but it did not stop there. Cigrand also spent numerous hours writing to magazines and newspapers emphasizing the good that would come out of a holiday celebrating the flag. Without his hard work and dedication, Flag Day would not exist. For his efforts, Cigrand was cited by President Bush in his 2001 Flag Day proclamation as one of the first to push for a national celebration for the flag.

Although it began in a small, one-room schoolhouse in Wisconsin, Flag Day gained popularity in 1889 when George Balch, a schoolteacher in New York City, organized activities celebrating the American flag. It was later adopted by the State Board of Education in New York. The Flag Day celebrations expanded to Philadelphia where it was celebrated by the Betsy Ross House in 1891. The following year, the New York Society of Sons celebrated Flag Day.

Although pockets of the country celebrated Flag Day, it did not become an official holiday until 1916 when it was officially established by the proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson. Even though Flag Day was celebrated nationally after this proclamation, it was not until August 3, 1949, that President Truman signed an act of Congress which officially designated June 14 as National Flag Day.

One of the many important events honoring the American flag occurs each year right where Flag Day began. People from all over Wisconsin turn out to raise their flags and celebrate this day. Individuals line the streets in Waubeka to watch parades that feature marching and dancing bands. Different versions of the flag are on display, including a 30-star flag which symbolizes

the addition of Wisconsin to the Union. There is no other place in the country where people more enthusiastically celebrate the American flag than Waubeka, Wisconsin.

Today, as people across the country raise their American flags to celebrate the resolve of our great Nation, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating National Flag Day and recognizing Ozaukee County, Wisconsin, as the birth of Flag Day.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution offered by the distinguished chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary.

The gentleman's resolution recognizes the efforts of Bernard John Cigrand, a schoolteacher from Waubeka, Wisconsin, who, in 1885, urged his students to observe June 14 as Flag Birthday.

That effort, at a time when the flag had only 38 stars, developed into Flag Day, which President Truman signed into law on August 3, 1949.

As we observe Flag Day, and we consider this resolution, I hope all Americans would, as the resolution urges, reflect on the values that the flag represents: the rights of all Americans under the law to free speech, free press, and freedom of assembly; religious liberty; the right to face their accusers in court; to be secure in their homes and papers; to be free from cruel and unusual punishment; and the right to due process of law.

It is those values and this Nation which fought to protect these rights, that make the flag such a potent symbol. I hope that as we celebrate Flag Day, Mr. Speaker, we will all take time to celebrate what the flag represents.

I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER), the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, for bringing this resolution forward; and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GREEN).

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I thank him also for being such a strong advocate for protecting the flag and our heritage.

Mr. Speaker, today we observe Flag Day, a day, as previous speakers have indicated, we commemorate the adoption of our flag on June 14, 1777. This past weekend, I walked in the Flag Day parade in Appleton, Wisconsin, and to this unbiased observer, the largest and grandest such celebration in America. We celebrated the Stars and Stripes. It was red, white and blue as far as the eye could see, and on display were the patriotism and pride that those colors

evoke in every American heart. We celebrated because this flag remained standing as we fought for our independence, fought to remain one Nation, as we fought the great wars of liberty; and it remains standing proudly as we continue to fight for freedom today. No matter the era, no matter the challenge, this symbol of our great Nation and our values is there, proud and free, for all the world to see.

As a Wisconsinite, I am proud to say that it was a schoolteacher from Wisconsin who began this celebration. How appropriate. Today is a day on which we should take a minute to stop, to look at our grand old flag, and to reflect upon what it means. We should also reflect upon the sacrifice that so many have made in so many lands far away to ensure that Old Glory will fly free and proud for generations to come.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON. Mr. Speaker, today, June 14, we celebrate Flag Day—a special time for all Americans to reflect upon, the important symbolism for which “Old Glory” stands.

Whenever we see our Nation's flag, we are reminded of what it stands for—the freedom to speak, worship, and believe as we choose.

On this particular Flag Day, I stand in honor of all our soldiers who are carrying out the real meaning of our flag in Iraq, in Afghanistan, in South Korea, in Haiti and in Asia.

The pledge to the flag is a spoken commitment to all that we as Americans hold dear: “I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. One nation, under God, with freedom and justice for all!”

It is a promise of hope, not only to us, but to the world. It should never be said lightly, nor be disparaged.

We have a lot to be proud of in this country and the flag symbolizes to us and the world what is best about America.

It speaks of tolerance, compassion, diversity, unity, and mutual respect. It is a reflection of the totality of America.

As we honor the red, white, and blue today, we should all recognize how lucky we are to be citizens of the country that the Stars and Stripes represents.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Flag Day, June 14.

Flag Day has a particularly special meaning this year, as many of our troops are serving overseas as part of the global war against terrorism. I stand behind our brave men and women who have performed admirably in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere around the globe. They have made tremendous sacrifices on behalf of their country and have served longer deployments than expected.

The Flag of the United States continues to stand for democracy and freedom throughout the world. The Continental Congress approved the design of a national flag 227 years ago today. The American flag, in its current form, first flew over the Capitol in 1818. The flag has been altered twenty-seven times over the years. The current version dates to July 4, 1960, when Hawaii became the 50th state.

Our flag symbolizes the union between the states and federal government, as we the people of the United States seek to form a more perfect union, as envisioned in our Constitution. Since 1916, when President Woodrow Wilson issued a presidential proclamation declaring June 14 Flag Day, Americans have

commemorated the adoption of the Stars and Stripes by celebrating this special day in our Nation's history.

Flag Day also holds a special place in the history of Baltimore, Maryland, which I am privileged to represent in the House of Representatives. In 1814 in Baltimore at Fort McHenry, this Nation, this young Nation, won its second war of independence. It was the beginning of the end of the War of 1812. Francis Scott Key 190 years ago wrote his inspirational poem that became our National Anthem.

As we continue our global war on terrorism, and face a continuing threat on our shores, Francis Scott Key wrote some words that are helpful for us on this Flag Day:

“From the terror of flight or the gloom of the grave.
And the Star-Spangled Banner in triumph
doth wave.”

We survived the attack by a hostile power and became the strongest Nation in the world, and we will survive this attack on our democratic principles, and we will grow even stronger. Let us remember on this Flag Day the values we hold dear, and that we are willing to fight for—and even die for—these values of liberty, democracy and justice. Our flag will continue to symbolize this eternal struggle, as we seek to secure the blessings of liberty for our fellow Americans and for all humankind.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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. 662.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRATULATING THE BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY MEN'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2004 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION I-II MEN'S VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 643) congratulating the Brigham Young University men's volleyball team for winning the 2004 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I-II men's volleyball championship.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 643

Whereas on May 8, 2004, the Brigham Young University men's volleyball team won its third national championship in 6 years by overcoming a 10-6 deficit in game 5 to defeat Long Beach State University;

Whereas the Brigham Young University men's volleyball team achieved a 29-4 overall win-loss record, marking the second highest single season win total in Brigham Young University's volleyball history;

Whereas Tom Peterson, the head coach of the men's volleyball team, became the first

men's volleyball coach in the National Collegiate Athletic Association's history to win a national championship with 2 different schools;

Whereas team member Carlos Moreno earned the distinction of being selected the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Player of the Year, the American Volleyball Coaches Association Division I-II National Player of the Year, the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Tournament Most Valuable Player, and the National Collegiate Athletic Association Tournament Most Outstanding Player; and

Whereas the American Volleyball Coaches Association selected junior Carlos Moreno and senior Fernando Pessoa for the All-America teams with first-team honors, while senior Joe Hillman and sophomore Victor Batista received second-team citations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives congratulates the Brigham Young University men's volleyball team for winning the 2004 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I-II men's volleyball championship.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE).

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. Res. 643.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise in support of House Resolution 643. I want to thank my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON), for bringing this resolution forward. This resolution honors the Brigham Young University men's volleyball team for winning the 2004 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I-II men's volleyball championship.

Mr. Speaker, the mission of my alma mater, Brigham Young University, is to “develop students of faith, intellect, and character who have the skills and the desire to continue learning and to serve others throughout their lives.” One of the ways that the university accomplishes this mission is by developing and supporting a first-class athletics program.

And so today we recognize this first-class athletics program and give special recognition to the national champion Cougars for winning its third national men's volleyball championship in 6 years by overcoming a 10-6 deficit in game five to defeat Long Beach State University. BYU men's volleyball team will enter next season's competition after marking the second highest single season win total in its volleyball history after achieving a 29-and-4 overall win-loss record.

In addition to the inspiring team victory, four players distinguished them-

selves from the team by being named to All-American teams at the conclusion of the season. Carlos Morento and Fernando Pessoa were recognized by the American Volleyball Coaches Association for first-team honors; and their teammates, Joe Hillman and Victor Batista, received second-team citations.

Coach Tom Peterson also deserves praise for becoming the first men's volleyball coach in the NCAA's history to win a national championship with two different schools.

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The distinction earned by these individuals and the remarkable repeat victories of the team reflect the dedication of each player, the leadership of Coach Tom Peterson, and the support of family, friends and fans.

I extend my congratulations to each of the hard working players on the successful Cougar team, to Coach Peterson and to Brigham Young University. I am happy to join my colleagues in honoring the accomplishment of this team and wish them continued success.

Once again, I strongly support House Resolution 643 and ask my colleagues to support this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 643 introduced by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON), a resolution congratulating Brigham Young University for winning the Division I-II volleyball national championship.

The regular season and the championship tournament truly gave BYU an exciting run to the national championship. I want to extend my hardy congratulations to the head coach Tom Peterson and all of the BYU athletes.

BYU won a school record 21 consecutive matches during the regular season showcasing their true championship spirit.

Winning this national championship has brought national acclaim to Brigham Young University and its student athletes. I am sure this national championship will give the university and its fans something to treasure for years to come.

Mr. CANNON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Brigham Young University men's volleyball team for winning the 2004 NCAA Division I-II men's volleyball championship.

As you may know, Brigham Young University is located in the 3rd district of Utah, and it has been my pleasure to represent the University and its student body for the past 8 years. This is the third national championship in men's volleyball that BYU has won in 6 years by overcoming a 10-6 deficit in game 5 to defeat Long Beach State University.

The team achieved a 29-4 overall record for the season, marking the second highest single season win total in BYU volleyball history. I would especially like to congratulate the Cougars head coach, Tom Peterson, who became the first men's volleyball coach in NCAA history to win a national championship with 2 different schools.