

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF VICTORY IN EUROPE
(VE) DAY AND THE LIBERATION OF WESTERN BOHEMIA;
AND RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF VICTORY
IN EUROPE (V-E) DAY DURING WORLD WAR II

MARKUP

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE AND
EMERGING THREATS

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED NINTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

H. Res. 195 and H. Res. 233

APRIL 26, 2005

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**RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF VICTORY IN
EUROPE (VE) DAY AND THE LIBERATION OF WESTERN
BOHEMIA; AND RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF
VICTORY IN EUROPE (V-E) DAY DURING WORLD WAR II**

TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2005

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE AND EMERGING THREATS,
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,
Washington, DC.

The Subcommittee met, pursuant to call, at 5:35 p.m. in room 2200, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Elton Gallegly (Chairman of the Subcommittee) presiding.

Mr. GALLEGLY. Pursuant to notice, I call up H. Res. 195 for purposes of markup and move its recommendation to Full Committee. Without objection, the resolution will be considered as read and open for amendment at any time.

[The information referred to follows:]

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 195

Recognizing the 60th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day and the Liberation of Western Bohemia.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 6, 2005

Mr. KINGSTON (for himself, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. TERRY, Ms. WATSON, Mr. McNULTY, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. KUHLMAN of New York, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SHAW, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota, Mr. OTTER, Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. BROWN of South Carolina) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the 60th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day and the Liberation of Western Bohemia.

Whereas the final major offensive in the European theater of operations during World War II, known as the Liberation of Western Bohemia, was fought from April 25, 1945, to May 8, 1945, with Victory in Europe (VE) Day declared on May 8, 1945;

Whereas the Liberation of Western Bohemia was the closing offensive of World War II, which decisively contributed to the ultimate capitulation of the German Third Reich;

3

2

Whereas on May 4, 1945, General George S. Patton gave the order for the American Third Army, consisting of 18 divisions and 500,000 men, to resume the Allied offensive into Western Bohemia;

Whereas on May 5, 1945, the Third Army liberated the city of Plzen (Pilsen), the western-most city in then-Czechoslovakia;

Whereas on May 6, 1945, as Americans entered Pilsen, flowers were strewn along the paths and into the vehicles of the troops, while young girls and old men and women ran to kiss the soldiers;

Whereas during the communist era, Czechs celebrated their liberation from Nazi Germany on May 9 of each year in commemoration of the Soviet liberation of Prague; however, after the 1989 “Velvet Revolution”, the date of commemoration was moved to May 8 of each year;

Whereas thousands of American veterans of the Liberation of Western Bohemia have traveled to Pilsen in the years since the liberation to honor their fallen comrades;

Whereas the people of the Czech Republic, symbolizing their friendship and gratitude toward the American soldiers who fought to secure their freedom, have graciously hosted countless veterans groups over the years;

Whereas between April 25 and May 9, 2005, some 50 communities across the western part of the Czech Republic will be celebrating the 60th anniversary of their liberation by United States, Czech, and Belgian soldiers under the command of General Patton;

Whereas the citizens of Pilsen will dedicate a statue of General Patton which will be unveiled on the town square on the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Pilsen, com-

memorating the Liberation of Western Bohemia by United States Armed Forces during World War II; and Whereas the friendship between the United States and the Czech Republic is strong today in part because of the Liberation of Western Bohemia: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) recognizes the 60th anniversary of the Lib-
3 eration of Western Bohemia in the European theater
4 of operations during World War II which culminated
5 in an Allied victory that assured the defeat of Nazi
6 Germany and ended the War in Europe two weeks
7 later;

8 (2) honors those individuals who gave their lives
9 during the Liberation of Western Bohemia;

10 (3) encourages the President to issue a procla-
11 mation calling upon the people of the United States
12 to honor the veterans of the Liberation of Western
13 Bohemia with appropriate programs, ceremonies,
14 and activities;

15 (4) reaffirms the bonds of friendship between
16 the United States and the brave citizens of the
17 Czech Republic; and

18 (5) seeks to continue building a great future be-
19 tween our countries.

○

AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 195**OFFERED BY MR. GALLEGLY OF CALIFORNIA**

Amend the title so as to read “Resolution recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Liberation of Western Bohemia by United States Armed Forces during World War II and the continued friendship between the people of the United States and the Czech Republic.”.

Mr. GALLEGLY. Today, the Subcommittee on Europe and Emerging Threats is marking up two resolutions related to the victory of the United States Armed Forces and the armed forces of our allies in the European theater during World War II.

The first item on the agenda is H. Res. 195, a resolution introduced by Representative Jack Kingston which recognizes the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Western Bohemia by American forces.

I ask unanimous consent that the balance of my opening statement will be made a part of the record.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Gallegly follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE ELTON GALLEGLY, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AND CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE AND EMERGING THREATS

H. RES. 195

Today, the Subcommittee on Europe and Emerging Threats is marking up two resolutions related to the victory of the United States Armed Forces and the armed forces of our allies in the European theater during World War II.

The first item on the agenda is H. Res. 195, a resolution introduced by Rep. Jack Kingston which recognizes the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Western Bohemia by American forces.

I strongly support and am a cosponsor of H. Res. 195, which recognizes the extraordinary sacrifice by American soldiers to free Western Bohemia from Nazi control. This was the last major offensive undertaken in Europe during World War II. This campaign was led by General George Patton and involved 18 division and 500,000 men. It resulted in the liberation of Pilsen, in what was then known as Czechoslovakia, on May 5, 1945.

In honor of the liberation of their city, the citizens of Pilsen will be dedicating a statute of General Patton on the 60th anniversary of the liberation of their city and all of Western Bohemia.

I will not be offering any amendments to H. Res. 195. However, after discussing the matter with Mr. Kingston and with his concurrence, by unanimous consent, I will be changing the title of the resolution so that it is more consistent with the language contained in the resolution. The new title, which is found in your markup folder, focuses on the liberation of Western Bohemia and the continued friendship between the people of the United States and the people of the Czech Republic. Under the House Rules, changes in the title take place upon the approval of the legislation.

I urge the passage of H. Res. 195 and, at this time, I would like to turn to Congressman Wexler for a statement.

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Chandler, do you have an opening statement?

Mr. CHANDLER. No, sir. I will pass on that. Thank you.

Mr. GALLEGLY. Are there any amendments to the markup of H. Res. 195?

If not, the request occurs on the motion to report the resolution of H. Res. 195 favorably. All in favor, say aye. Aye. Any opposed?

The motion is approved and the resolution is reported favorably; and without objection, the title is amended.

Now the next one that we have is pursuant to the notice. I call up resolution H. Res. 233 for purposes of markup and move its recommendation to the Full Committee. Without objection, the resolution will be considered as read and open for amendment at any point.

[The information referred to follows:]

Elfm Gallegly
(Original Signature of Member)

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 233

Recognizing the 60th anniversary of Victory in Europe (V-E) Day during
World War II.

*(for himself, Mr. Waxler, Mr. Lantos, Mr. McCotter, Mr. Wilson (SC),
Mr. Van Hollen, Mr. McCaul
and Mr. Sherman)*
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. GALLEGLY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the 60th anniversary of Victory in Europe (V-
E) Day during World War II.

Whereas on May 7, 1945, at General Dwight Eisenhower's
headquarters in Reims, France, a representative of the
German High command signed the document of sur-
render, unconditionally surrendering all air, land and sea
forces to the Allies on May 8, ending the war in Europe;

Whereas Western Europe and the United States have tradi-
tionally celebrated May 8 as the day of the Allied "Vic-
tory in Europe" over Germany, or "V-E Day" ;

Whereas May 8, 2005, marks the 60th anniversary of V-E
Day;

Whereas V-E Day was a day for which millions had worked and fought and prayed and died during that terrible war;

Whereas this day marked the end of six years of misery, suffering, courage, and endurance across the world;

Whereas the United States Armed Forces fought with their Allies to free occupied nations and their victory in Europe represented the triumph of good over unspeakable evil, and the promise of a peaceful future for a Europe ravaged by the bloodiest war in its history;

Whereas V-E Day marked the culmination of the efforts of many different nations in the Allied forces who were united by the common quest for peace and justice and who fought valiantly to liberate occupied countries and to prevent Hitler's onslaught;

Whereas the more than 400,000,000 members of the United States Armed Forces deployed in Europe, the largest United States military force ever committed to any theater of operation, were joined by millions of members of the armed forces of other Allied nations, and together provided the essential strength and made innumerable sacrifices to end the war in Europe;

Whereas almost 200,000 members of the United States Armed Forces gave their lives in battle and hundreds of thousands were wounded in the European theater during World War II;

Whereas European countries have erected many monuments and plaques commemorating their liberation by the United States and its Allies during World War II;

Whereas the 60th anniversary of V-E Day in 2005 will be marked by many commemorative events by citizens of the United States and many other nations; and

Whereas the courage and sacrifice of the members of the United States Armed Forces and of many other nations who served with distinction to save the world from tyranny and aggression should always be remembered: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives recog-
2 nizes the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II
3 in Europe, joins with a grateful Nation in expressing re-
4 spect and appreciation to the men and women who served
5 in the European theater during World War II, and re-
6 members and pays tribute to those Americans who made
7 the ultimate sacrifice and gave their life for their country.

Mr. GALLEGLY. The second item on the agenda today is the consideration of H. Res. 233, a resolution recognizing the 60th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day during World War II.

The purpose of this resolution is to convey one simple message, that our Nation honors and appreciates the men and women who served in the European theatre during World War II and that we remember and pay tribute to those Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

And without objection, the entire statement will be made part of the record of the hearing.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Gallegly follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE ELTON GALLEGLY, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AND CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE AND EMERGING THREATS

H. RES. 233

The second item on the agenda today is the consideration of H. Res. 233, a resolution recognizing the 60th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day during World War II.

The purpose of this resolution is to convey one simple message: that our nation honors and appreciates the men and women who served in the European theater during World War II, and that we remember and pay tribute to those American who made the ultimate sacrifice for the their country.

During that war, more than 4 million members of the United States Armed Forces fought in Europe. This is the largest military force ever committed by the U.S. in any theater of operation. Almost 200,000 American troops were killed in the European theater.

The resolution also recognized the sacrifice of the millions of members of the armed forces of Allied nations in defeating Nazi Germany.

I urge the passage of H. Res. 233. I will now turn to Congressman Wexler for the purposes of making a statement.

Mr. GALLEGLY. Are there any amendments? Hearing none, the request occurs on the motion to report the resolution H. Res. 233 favorably. All in favor, say aye. Aye. Any opposed?

The motion is approved, and the resolution is reported favorably. The staff, as directed, can make any technical and conforming amendments.

Ms. Berkley, do you have any comments that you would like to add before we adjourn the markup?

Ms. BERKLEY. I have the utmost faith that you have carried on without me; only glad I could be here to vote.

Mr. GALLEGLY. I can only tell you that the Chair is overwhelmed with the support that we have from your side.

Ms. BERKLEY. We are overwhelming in our support.

Mr. GALLEGLY. With that, the Subcommittee stands adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 5:40 p.m., the Subcommittee was adjourned.]

