

I submit the following correspondence:

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Washington, DC, July 30, 2007.

HON. BARNEY FRANK,
Chairman, Financial Services Committee,
Washington, DC.

DEAR BARNEY: I am writing regarding H.R. 2750, the NASA 50th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act.

As you know, the Committee on Ways and Means maintains jurisdiction over bills that raise revenue. H.R. 2750 contains a provision that establishes a surcharge for the sale of commemorative coins that are minted under the bill, and thus falls within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means.

However, as part of our ongoing understanding regarding commemorative coin bills and in order to expedite this bill for Floor consideration, the Committee will forgo action. This is being done with the understanding that it does not in any way prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation in the future.

I would appreciate your response to this letter, confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 2750, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the record.

Sincerely,

CHARLES B. RANGEL,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,
Washington, DC, July 30, 2007.

Hon. CHARLES B. RANGEL,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHARLIE: I am writing in response to your letter regarding H.R. 2750, the "NASA 50th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act," which was introduced in the House and referred to the Committee on Financial Services on June 15, 2007. It is my understanding that this bill be scheduled for floor consideration shortly.

I wish to confirm our mutual understanding on this bill. As you know, section 7 of the bill establishes a surcharge for the sale of commemorative coins that are minted under the bill. I acknowledge your committee's jurisdictional interest in such surcharges as revenue matters. However, I appreciate your willingness to forego committee action on H.R. 2750 in order to allow the bill to come to the floor expeditiously. I agree that your decision to forego further action on this bill will not prejudice the Committee on Ways and Means with respect to its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation. I would support your request for conferees on those provisions within your jurisdiction should this bill be the subject of a House-Senate conference.

I will include this exchange of letters in the Congressional Record when this bill is considered by the House. Thank you again for your assistance.

BARNEY FRANK,
Chairman.

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, I thank my coauthor, and I urge Members of the House to pass this legislation honoring NASA's 50th anniversary.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. As I close, Madam Speaker, let me simply put in the RECORD the different research centers that will be honored: The Ames Research Center in California; Silicon Valley; the Dryden

Flight Research Center; the Glenn Research Center; the Goddard Space Flight Center, that is our neighbor here in the Washington, D.C. area and represented by our own majority leader, Mr. HOYER, which I would like to pay a special tribute and appreciation to, and to his staff and his chief of staff; the Jet Propulsion Lab that is in California; the Kennedy Space Center in Florida; the Langley Research Center; the Marshall Space Flight Center; the Stennis Space Center; and of course the Johnson Space Flight Center in Houston, Texas. All of these will be recognized.

And certainly to the astronauts and certainly to the loved ones of those fallen, and yet the future astronauts, who will be trained by funding in this bill, I thank them again. Let me thank Mr. OBEY of Mr. FRANK's staff, and my staff, Mr. Tsehai and Mr. BERRY.

Mr. CULBERSON. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I would be happy to yield.

Mr. CULBERSON. If I could yield quickly for a point of legislative intent clarification.

I notice the intent of my cosponsor that these centers, and I agree completely, they all need to be recognized and honored, but of course the front of the coin is going to represent each one of the nine planets. And it is your intent, as I know it is mine, that the reverse of the coin reflect and honor the research center that contributed to missions to that particular planet is what I'm confident you mean.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. The calling out of the names of the centers, if I may reclaim my time, is to indicate that all of them are part of the NASA family. And we are honoring NASA for its 50 years, so we wanted to make sure all of them were counted in the RECORD.

Mr. CULBERSON. But in particular, in relation to those planets that they led the effort to explore.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. That is correct.

Mr. CULBERSON. Thank you very much.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, we are hoping that all of the young people will enjoy this coin, and we hope that it will further science and exploration. I would ask my colleagues, and thanking my cosponsor and the 300-plus Members of this House, in supporting this bill.

I ask my colleagues to support this bill and move us forward in science and opportunity for a greater future for this country.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to cosponsor H.R. 2750, which directs the United States Treasury to create a commemorative coin honoring the 50th Anniversary of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). From the early space flights of the 1960s to Neil Armstrong's "small step for mankind" to last year's successful missions of the Space Shuttle *Atlantis* and the Space Shuttle *Discovery*, NASA's has a long and im-

pressive record of accomplishments that should be a source of pride to all Americans.

As a representative of the Gulf Coast of Texas, which is home to many of NASA's most significant triumphs, I have had the opportunity to meet many NASA employees. I have always been impressed by their professionalism and dedication to their mission.

What philosopher Ayn Rand wrote of the moon landing in 1969 applies to all of NASA's missions: "Think of what was required to achieve that mission: think of the unifying effort; the merciless discipline; the courage; the responsibility of relying on one's judgment; the days, nights and years of unswerving dedication to a goal; the tension of the unbroken maintenance of a full, clear mental focus; and the honesty. It took the highest, sustained acts of virtue to create in reality what had only been dreamt of for millennia." I encourage all of my colleagues and all Americans to join me in commending NASA for 50 years of accomplishments by supporting H.R. 2750.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2750, 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. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL PURPLE HEART RECOGNITION DAY

Mrs. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 27) supporting the goals and ideals of "National Purple Heart Recognition Day," as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate concurrent resolution.

The text of the Senate concurrent resolution is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 27

Whereas the Purple Heart is the oldest military decoration in present use;

Whereas the Purple Heart is awarded in the name of the President of the United States to members of the Armed Forces who are wounded in action against an enemy of the United States or are wounded while held as prisoners of war, and is awarded posthumously to the next of kin of members of the Armed Forces who are killed in action against an enemy of the United States or who die of wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States;

Whereas the Purple Heart was established on August 7, 1782, during the Revolutionary War, when General George Washington issued an order establishing the Badge of Military Merit;

Whereas the award of the Purple Heart ceased with the end of the Revolutionary War, but was revived in 1932, the 200th anniversary of George Washington's birth, out of respect for his memory and military achievements; and

Whereas observing National Purple Heart Recognition Day is a fitting tribute to George Washington and to the more than 1.5 million recipients of the Purple Heart: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) supports the goals and ideals of "National Purple Heart Recognition Day";

(2) encourages all people in the United States to learn about the history of the Purple Heart and to honor its recipients; and

(3) calls upon the people of the United States to conduct appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate support for members of the Armed Forces who have been awarded the Purple Heart.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 27, which calls upon this Nation to take one day per year to honor those brave warriors whose tremendous dedication and self-sacrifice have earned them the Purple Heart.

As noted earlier today, the Purple Heart is awarded by a grateful Nation to those brave soldiers, marines, sailors and airmen who have been wounded in battle while protecting their fellow citizens from enemies of the United States.

Established in 1792 during the Revolutionary War as the Badge of Military Merit, this sacred metal was revived in 1932, 200 years after the birth of George Washington. To date, there have been over 1.5 million recipients of the Purple Heart. This number gives me pause. Over 1.5 million Americans have been wounded, injured, and some have even given their lives so that we might stand here today as the oldest democracy in the world. Their families have endured hardship; their children have had to deal with fear and uncertainty that their brave and heroic father or mother may not return from keeping them safe.

I cannot help but feel that we, as beneficiaries of this sacrifice, owe these brave men and women time to reflect on the price of our freedom. We should stand shoulder to shoulder with the military families of this great Na-

tion to recognize our military going into harm's way, to pray for their safe return, and when that fateful moment comes, to honor the bravery and the courage of warriors who did not blink in the face of danger, but who sacrificed for the democratic ideals that we cherish.

That is why a resolution supporting a national day to commemorate our brave men and women who have so valiantly earned the Purple Heart has been brought to the floor of Congress today.

I want to take this moment to recognize our colleagues in the other body, the gentlewoman from New York, the honorable Mrs. CLINTON, and the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) for their sponsorship of this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution that calls upon all people in the United States to conduct appropriate ceremonies, activities and programs to demonstrate support, thanks and appreciation for the estimated 1.5 million very special members of the Armed Forces, past and present, who have been awarded the Purple Heart.

The Purple Heart is awarded only for those who are killed or wounded in action against the United States of America. So it is fitting that we honor and recognize their sacrifices on National Purple Heart Recognition Day, as well as recall GEN George Washington's order 225 years ago on August 7, 1782, that established the Badge of Military Merit, the predecessor of the Purple Heart.

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In 2001, in connection with the announcement of the creation of the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor, my former colleague, Ben Gilman, a New York Representative, a World War II veteran of the Army Air Corps, made the following statement. It is a statement that for me helps to put in context why we should make a special effort on National Purple Heart Recognition Day. Congressman Gilman said: "The Purple Heart is probably the most recognizable military award in the United States. Every school child knows the medal is awarded to our brave American military who are wounded in the line of duty."

If we are to ensure that Americans, even down to every school child, continue to recognize the significance of the Purple Heart and the sacrifices of the men and women who earned it, then we must make the effort to commemorate and educate this and future generations. Support for this resolution is one way to begin that effort.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. HALL).

Mr. HALL of New York. Madam Speaker, National Purple Heart Recognition Day is August 7, 2007. This year, we celebrate the 225th anniversary of the Badge of Military Merit. This medal, the forerunner of the modern Purple Heart, was designed by GEN George Washington in his headquarters in Newburgh, New York, in the Hudson River Valley.

The badge, given for "any singularly meritorious Action," was the "figure of a Heart in Purple Cloth or Silk edged with narrow Lace or Binding to be worn on the uniform coat above the left breast."

After falling into disuse after the Revolutionary War, GEN Douglas MacArthur had a new medal designed based on the Badge of Military Merit. This medal, the modern Purple Heart, was awarded for meritorious action or for receiving a wound in combat with the enemy.

Since that time, more than 1.5 million people have received the Purple Heart. These men and women sacrificed for our country. Many never came home. The Purple Heart recognizes their sacrifice and their service protecting the rights and liberties we enjoy at home.

National Purple Heart Recognition Day serves to remind the country of those who have suffered injury or death in the defense of our country. It is always right to remember and honor those who have sacrificed, and this resolution encourages Americans to learn more about the history of the Purple Heart and its recipients.

This year, on National Purple Heart Recognition Day, recipients and their families will come together at the Purple Heart Hall of Honor in the town of New Windsor at the New Windsor Cantonment site in the Hudson River Valley of New York, in New York's 19th Congressional District, which I am proud to represent, and Orange County, a county which the aforementioned Congressman Gilman represented so ably. There, they will recognize the anniversary of the Badge of Military Merit, the 75th anniversary of the Purple Heart, and, most importantly, the price that the recipients and their families have paid protecting our country.

I ask that the House pass this resolution to recognize those who will gather in New Windsor on August 7 to honor the sacrifices and suffering of Purple Heart recipients and their families and to remember those who paid the ultimate price and are no longer with us.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate concurrent resolution, S. Con. Res. 27, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 49) recognizing the 75th anniversary of the Military Order of the Purple Heart and commending recipients of the Purple Heart for their courageous demonstrations of gallantry and heroism on behalf of the United States, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 49

Whereas the Purple Heart is a combat decoration awarded to members of the Armed Forces who are wounded by an instrument of war wielded by the enemy and posthumously to the next of kin in the name of members who are killed in action or die of wounds received in action;

Whereas the Purple Heart was originally conceived as the Badge of Military Merit by General George Washington on August 7, 1782;

Whereas 2007 marks the 225th anniversary of the Badge of Military Merit, the predecessor of the Purple Heart Medal;

Whereas the practice of awarding the Purple Heart was revived in 1932, the 200th anniversary of George Washington's birth, out of respect for his memory and military achievements;

Whereas over 1.5 million Purple Heart Medals have been awarded to members of the Armed Forces fighting in defense of freedom and democracy in the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Somalia, Bosnia, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and other expeditionary conflicts;

Whereas the organization known as the Military Order of the Purple Heart was formed on October 19, 1932, for the protection and mutual interest of members of the Armed Forces who have received the Purple Heart; and

Whereas the Military Order of the Purple Heart is composed exclusively of recipients of the Purple Heart: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) congratulates the Military Order of the Purple Heart on its 75th anniversary as a national organization whose goals are to preserve and sustain the honor of the Armed Forces;

(2) commends all recipients of the Purple Heart for their courage and sacrifice on behalf of the United States; and

(3) encourages all Americans to take time to learn about the Purple Heart and the honor, courage, and bravery it symbolizes.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 49, introduced by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES), my good friend and colleague on the House Armed Services Committee.

This resolution honors the men and women in the Armed Forces who have demonstrated selfless and heroic acts on the field of battle. They are recipients of the Purple Heart. I am also proud to be a cosponsor of this resolution that so rightly honors those in uniform who sacrifice so much for our country.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of a medal awarded to soldiers, marines, airmen and sailors who have been wounded or killed by an enemy in combat. To date, over 1.5 million members of the Armed Forces have been awarded the Purple Heart, or its predecessor, the Badge of Military Merit, in conflicts spanning from the Civil War to the present-day Operation Iraqi Freedom and the war on terrorism.

The Purple Heart was revived in 1932 on the 200th anniversary of President George Washington's birth. Originally awarded only to Army soldiers in 1942, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt extended the honor to all military services. In 1962, President John F. Kennedy extended the honor to civilians working alongside the military in the time of war.

The Purple Heart is recognized as the oldest military honor in the United States that is still in use and the first to be given to any soldier who is wounded or killed by an enemy of the United States.

Faced with situations from which most people would shrink, our Nation's warriors have gone boldly into battle and met democracy's enemies with a fierce commitment to protect those liberties that allow all of us to stand here today. They recognized the truth so often overlooked by their fellow citizens: a free Nation requires constant protection and constant protectors.

Even in our modern age, complete with all the technology that human intellect can muster, our men and women in the Armed Forces continue to prove that it is selfless and patriotic citizens that must ultimately stand tall to protect our great Nation.

Formed in 1932, the Military Order of the Purple Heart has the solemn obligation and duty to foster an environment of goodwill among combat-

wounded veterans, promote patriotism, support necessary legislative initiatives, and, most importantly, provide service to all veterans and their families. It fulfills this mission through community and volunteer efforts and by employing low-income combat veterans. Their sacrifice and dedication to this country are a testament to the quality of individuals who volunteer to serve our Nation in uniform.

So it is important that we honor this sacrifice by congratulating the Military Order of the Purple Heart on its 75th anniversary, commend all recipients of the Purple Heart for their courage and sacrifice on behalf of the United States, and encourage all Americans to take time to learn about the Purple Heart and the honor, the courage, and the bravery it symbolizes.

I would also like to note that the Guam Chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart has been a tremendous community leader for all veterans on Guam. Their voice is heard through representation on the Guam Veterans Advisory Council. Our Guam chapter is also accredited to provide assistance to veterans who are applying for VA benefits. The group has been a critical partner for our Nation's most deserving, and we know that the Military Order of the Purple Heart has stood just as strong in communities across the Nation.

At this time, Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Mr. JONES, the sponsor, for his leadership in this cause.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Guam for her very kind remarks and comments.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of my resolution that honors the Military Order of the Purple Heart on its 75th anniversary. The Purple Heart was originally conceived as the Badge of Military Merit by GEN George Washington on August 7, 1782. However, it had fallen into disuse after the Revolutionary War.

The practice of awarding the Purple Heart was revived in 1932, as the gentlewoman said, at the 200th anniversary of George Washington's birth. The organization now known as the Military Order of the Purple Heart was also formed in 1932 for the protection and the mutual interest of all who have received the decoration. This year will mark the 75th anniversary of fostering an environment of goodwill and comradery among combat-wounded veterans.

The Purple Heart is a combat decoration awarded to Members of the Armed Forces who are wounded by an instrument of war wielded by the enemy and posthumously to the next of kin in the name of members who are killed in action or die of wounds received in action.