

his lifetime in his family, his church and in public service, and perhaps the greatest national impact of that public service, as my colleagues have pointed out from Maryland and New York, was his time as the chairman of the Board of Governors of the Postal Service. He served as vice chairman for 3 years. He served as chairman after that during his remaining time on the Board.

He was dedicated to the Postal Service, and certainly to name a facility in the city, the city of Springfield, where he ran his business, where he was so involved in civic and church affairs, where he and his wife raised their 5 children, is, I think, an appropriate tribute to his service to community, and particularly to his service to the Postal Service.

I want to really join the gentleman from New York [Mr. MCHUGH] and the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. CUMMINGS] in encouraging that the House move for the passage of this resolution, and as this facility is officially opened, it will be officially opened with the name of John N. Griesemer as the name of the facility, Mr. Speaker.

I want to thank the gentleman from New York for yielding me the time.

John Griesemer was born in Mt. Vernon, MO and grew up on a dairy farm near Billings. He graduated from Billings High School in 1948 and he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Missouri, Columbia in 1953. He served as a First Lieutenant, Engineering Officer in the U.S. Air Force from 1954 until 1956.

After his discharge from the Air Force, John returned to southwest Missouri to work for his family's business, Griesemer Stone Co. He served there as president and as a director until his death in 1993.

In defiance of conventional wisdom, John Griesemer balanced a successful career with family life and a dedication to community service. He and his wife, Kathleen, raised five children on a small farm just east of Springfield, MO. John was active in his church, having served as Chairman of the annual Diocesan Development Fund Drive, member of the Financial Advisory Committee and co-trustee of the Heer-Andres Trust of the Catholic diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, MO. He also served as Co-Chairman of the Margin for Excellence fund drive to establish an endowment and build a new Catholic High School in Springfield. John was an Eagle Scout, a Scout Master and, in later years, served on the Board of the Ozarks Council of the Boy Scouts of America. He was also involved with the Junior Achievement Program.

In addition to his work with Griesemer Stone Co., John founded Joplin Stone Co. and Missouri Commercial Transportation Co., and served as president of Springfield Ready Mix Co. He was a director of Boatmen's National Bank and, in 1991 was president of the Springfield Development Council, a non-profit subsidiary corporation of the Springfield Chamber of Commerce.

John Griesemer passed away in 1993, survived by his wife and five children. His legacy is one of service to God, his country and to his fellowman through dedication to family, business and community.

Again I would like to thank Mr. MCHUGH and I would ask all of my colleagues to join in hon-

oring John N. Griesemer by naming this new facility in the city, where he spent his life and spent it wisely, after him.

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. 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 gentleman from New York [Mr. MCHUGH] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1254, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 1254.

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

There was no objection.

COMMENDING AMERICAN AIRMEN HELD POLITICAL PRISONERS AT BUCHENWALD

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 95) recognizing and commending American airmen held as political prisoners at the Buchenwald concentration camp during World War II for their service, bravery, and fortitude.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 95

Whereas 168 Allied airmen captured by Axis forces during World War II were held as political prisoners at the Buchenwald concentration camp in Weimar, Germany;

Whereas of these captured airmen, 82 were Americans, 26 were Canadians, 48 were Britons, 9 were Australians, 2 were New Zealanders, and 1 was Jamaican;

Whereas the facts and circumstances of their confinement are amply documented in the official records maintained by the National Archives and Records Administration;

Whereas a report from the International Red Cross concerning Stalag Luft III in Sagan, Germany, mentioned six American airmen held at Buchenwald, including one whose name does not appear on the lists maintained by the National Archives;

Whereas since the liberation of Buchenwald in 1945 numerous personal memoirs, scholarly books, and articles have been published describing the conditions at the concentration camp;

Whereas this extensive documentation records the extraordinarily inhuman treatment, deprivations, and personal suffering inflicted on these 168 Allied airmen and other inmates at Buchenwald; and

Whereas Allied Governments and veterans organizations outside the United States have granted special recognition to their citizens

and servicemembers who were here as political prisoners in World War II concentration camps: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) recognizes and commends the 82 American airmen held as political prisoners at the Buchenwald concentration camp during World War II for their faithful service, personal bravery, and exceptional fortitude; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation recognizing and commending, by name, the service, bravery, and fortitude of those airmen.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MICA] and the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. CUMMINGS] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MICA].

□ 1230

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

Mr. Speaker, today the House has an opportunity to recognize the valor and sacrifices of 82 Americans who have earned the gratitude of our Nation. We often speak in this House of the debt that our Nation owes to the many men and women who have served our Armed Forces in defense of this country and its values.

The story of these 82 American airmen forcefully reminds us of the price that others have had to pay to preserve our freedom. These men were held as political prisoners at the notorious Buchenwald concentration camp.

Unlike other American prisoners of war, they were not entitled to the protections of the Geneva Convention. The unspeakable horrors of Buchenwald are well-known, but the ordeal of these men and what they experienced is not known.

For 52 years, this Government has not formally recognized the bravery and loyalty of these 82 airmen. This resolution, which is sponsored by my distinguished colleague and good friend, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. WELDON] and also has the support of the gentleman from Florida [Mr. DEUTSCH], my equally good friend and colleague, will provide public recognition that these men have earned, and it is so long overdue.

But the resolution will do more than that, Mr. Speaker. It will also educate Members of Congress and preserve for the American people the story, the history, and the bravery of these 82 heroic individuals.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, on June 10, 1997, Representatives WELDON and DEUTSCH introduced bipartisan legislation, House Concurrent Resolution 95, to officially honor the only U.S. servicemen to be held prisoner in a concentration camp.

I am delighted that the chairman of the Subcommittee on Civil Service [Mr. MICA] and I have been able to quickly bring this bill to the floor for

the consideration of Members. I strongly support House Concurrent Resolution 95 and urge its immediate passage so that this body might go on record as commending 82 brave United States airmen who were held at the Buchenwald concentration camp in Weimar, Germany, during World War II.

These men shared a unique and painful experience that no other American servicemen have endured. A total of 168 allied airmen were captured and held at Buchenwald, and allied governments in other parts of the world have already bestowed special recognition upon these servicemen.

The deplorable conditions, inhumane treatment, and personal suffering of the 82 American servicemen must not go unrecognized by our Nation any longer.

Though more than 50 years have passed since the liberation of the Buchenwald concentration camp, the appreciation due these men for their bravery, service, and unique sacrifice, is as considerable today as it was in 1945 when the camp was liberated.

It is perhaps even more momentous because it is so long overdue. Tragically, some of these men can no longer be located and informed of this legislation. Thirty-three of them are now deceased. It is my hope that the news of our action here today, our official recognition of their service, reaches all who survive, those who have passed on, and all of their families, so that they might know what has finally transpired here this day.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully urge this entire body to join me in support of this important resolution so that all 82 Americans held at Buchenwald concentration camp may receive the honor they have for so long deserved.

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

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Florida [Mr. WELDON], the sponsor of this important legislation. I want to thank the gentleman for bringing the sacrifices of these airmen to the attention of the Congress and to the American people.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MICA] and the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. CUMMINGS], my good friend, for bringing my bill to the floor today.

I also want to thank the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. BURTON], the chairman of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, for allowing the bill to be considered in such a timely fashion. I also, in addition, want to thank my very good friend, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. DEUTSCH] for working with me on this important bipartisan effort.

Mr. Speaker, House Concurrent Resolution 95 is a simple bill. It does not

spend any money, it does not change any regulations, it does not affect any Federal agencies. But this is an important bill, Mr. Speaker, because it recognizes a unique group of soldiers who fought for this country during World War II. Beside me on my left we can see, of those who are remaining and still alive, a picture of them gathered at a meeting.

Now, lots of men and women sacrificed on behalf of our country in World War II. What makes this group so special?

They were not the only members of the United States military to serve, but they were the only ones to be held in a Nazi concentration camp. Those horrible camps will forever occupy a dark place in human history, and we have long recognized the bravery and daring of many prisoners who fought their Nazi oppressors and struggled to win political and religious freedom.

But, tragically, we have never formally recognized these men for their service, sacrifice, and suffering. My attention was first drawn to their situation when they held a reunion in Melbourne, FL, which is in my district. After talking with Bill Williams, the leader of this group, who lives in Lake Placid, FL, I learned that both Sonny Montgomery and TIM HUTCHINSON had championed this bill when they served in the House, and I was determined to complete their work.

When these 82 airmen were shot down, they were captured in civilian clothing and were sent to Buchenwald concentration camp as spies and as criminals. But when our soldiers were sent to a concentration camp instead of a POW camp, they were considered political prisoners, and therefore not subject to the fundamental protections of the Geneva Convention.

My bill simply recognizes their unique service and asks the President to do the same by issuing a proclamation commending them. Other allied airmen were also held at Buchenwald, and their countries have recognized their service. So it seems fitting that we do so as well.

Senators TIM HUTCHINSON and JOSEPH LIEBERMAN have introduced similar legislation in the other body, and I hope this year that both Chambers can pass these bills and give these men the recognition that has been half a century waiting in coming.

The saga of the airmen is recounted by Mitchell Bard in "Forgotten Victims—The Abandonment of Americans in Hitler's Camps." His book details the horror these men suffered, the violent beatings, the days in solitary confinement, the malnutrition, the freezing temperatures, the sleep deprivation, the medical experimentation. We must never forget their sacrifices for freedom around the world.

Mr. Speaker, today's consideration of this bill is also very timely. Just a few weeks ago, the Department of Justice concluded years of negotiations with Germany regarding reparations for

these soldiers and other American civilians held in Nazi concentration and labor camps. I am pleased to report that the negotiations were highly successful and all of the United States soldiers held in Buchenwald are going to be compensated by Germany for their cruel and inhumane imprisonment. I commend the Justice Department for successfully closing out the settlement.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for the RECORD a note from former President George Bush. President Bush wrote a warm note of greeting to these men when they met in Melbourne last year, and I want to include it as part of the RECORD for today's floor action.

MARCH 10, 1997.

I am delighted to send warm greetings to all gathered in Melbourne for this special reunion of American World War II veterans.

Present at this remarkable gathering this week are men who represented the best of the American spirit during a time of tremendous peril. Like so many others, you answered the call to duty and turned back a threatening tide of tyranny looming over Europe—and those who live there today in freedom are indebted to you for your sacrifices and selfless service. So as you fellow old-timers come together to renew friendships and recall lost comrades, I am honored to join in saluting you, doing so with the hope that you know your Nation respects you and is grateful to each of you.

GEORGE BUSH.

House concurrent resolution 95 is endorsed by the American Ex-prisoners of War and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge my colleagues to support this important bill. By passing this bill today, those veterans still living and the families and friends of those who have passed on can fully realize the public recognition these brave men so rightly deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I thank again my colleagues from Maryland and Florida.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to thank the distinguished gentleman from Florida [Mr. WELDON], the primary sponsor of this legislation, and also the gentleman from Florida [Mr. DEUTSCH] for their timeliness in bringing this legislation before the House. I congratulate them for their fine efforts to provide these brave men with a public expression of gratitude and recognition from this Congress, which they so richly deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to take a moment and also thank the gentleman who is not with us, but who served with such a distinguished career in the House, Mr. Sonny Montgomery, who was referred to by my colleague from Florida. He did attempt to bring this matter before the House, and he does deserve credit and recognition on this day as we do pass this legislation long overdue.

I also want to take a moment to thank the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. CUMMINGS], the distinguished ranking member of the Subcommittee on Civil Service, for his assistance on

this matter. I also want to take this opportunity to thank the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. BURTON], the chairman of the Committee on House Government Reform and Oversight, and the gentleman from California [Mr. WAXMAN], the ranking member, for their leadership and helping to expedite consideration of this matter before the House.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution asks the President to issue a proclamation recognizing and commending each of these 82 men by name for their service, their bravery, and their fortitude. In good conscience we can do no less.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to vote for this long overdue resolution.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the resolution offered by the gentleman from Florida. The history of mankind has shown us much about human nature. In World War Two, we faced an evil so unprecedented in its inhumanity we refer to those actions today as "atrocities" and as "crimes against mankind." The Nazi regime inflicted many injuries against the world, some of which were still struggling to heal. Let us take a step in a forward manner today and give our support in honoring a special group of American defenders who were witness to this terrible regime.

The 82 American airmen captured and interred at the Buchenwald concentration camp must be commended. In the service of their nation, they were forced to suffer at the hands of a vile enemy.

The suffering and sacrifice of these Americans cannot be forgotten. It was because of them and the Allied forces that we are in a position today to take preventive measures against such an occurrence ever happening again.

As much as some people wish to deny history, this event was real. A Holocaust took place. These 82 soldiers not only became prisoners, they became witnesses and messengers who could share with us firsthand this terrible event so that we might understand and learn from the tragic mistakes of the past.

To let this moment pass us by without action by this body would cast a pall on the memory of these valiant, selfless men. We have learned of the terrible circumstances at the concentration camps. We have previously honored innocent civilian victims of these camps. Some of those people were our friends and family members, and many were people we did not know. Now we have the opportunity to bestow proper honor and recognition of those service men who were fighting on our behalf. And who ended up in the Buchenwald concentration camp. I urge all of my colleagues to join together and support his admirable resolution.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MICA] that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 95.

The question was taken.

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Concurrent Resolution Resolution 95.

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

There was no objection.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS JIMMY STEWART MADE TO THE NATION

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 109) recognizing the many talents of the actor Jimmy Stewart and honoring the contributions he made to the Nation.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 109

Whereas James M. ("Jimmy") Stewart made more than 80 films including comedies, westerns, and dramas of suspense;

Whereas Jimmy Stewart won an Academy Award for best performance by an actor in 1940 for his performance in "The Philadelphia Story" and received four other Oscar nominations for his performances in "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington", "It's a Wonderful Life", "Harvey", and "Anatomy of a Murder";

Whereas Jimmy Stewart received a Screen Actors Guild Award in 1968 for "fostering the finest ideals of the acting profession"; the American Film Institute's eighth life achievement award in 1980, a Kennedy Center Honor in 1983, a special Academy Award in 1984 for "50 years of meaningful performances" and "for his high ideals, both on and off the screen", and the annual tribute by the Film Society of Lincoln Center in 1990;

Whereas Jimmy Stewart appeared in a number of television shows and Broadway plays and received a Tony Award;

Whereas Jimmy Stewart's poetry was compiled into his 1989 book entitled "Jimmy Stewart and his Poems";

Whereas Jimmy Stewart enlisted in the military and served during World War II as operations officer, chief of staff, and squadron commander of the Second Combat Wing of the U.S. Eighth Air Force in England;

Whereas Jimmy Stewart's military decorations include two Distinguished Flying Crosses, the Air Medal, multiple oak leaf clusters, six battle stars, and the Croix de Guerre with Palm;

Whereas Jimmy Stewart attained the rank of colonel during World War II and the rank of brigadier general in 1959, making him the highest ranking entertainer in the American military;

Whereas Jimmy Stewart was active in national politics in his later years and was a close personal friend of former President Ronald Reagan;

Whereas Jimmy Stewart testified before Congress in 1988 in favor of a bill that was later enacted to require film exhibitors and distributors to disclose to the public whether certain culturally, historically, or aestheti-

cally significant films had been colorized or otherwise altered from the original; and

Whereas in 1985 President Ronald Reagan awarded Jimmy Stewart the Nation's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom; Now, therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress recognizes the many talents of the late James M. ("Jimmy") Stewart and honors the artistic, military, and political contributions he made to the Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MICA] and the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. CUMMINGS] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MICA].

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

Mr. Speaker, from time to time the U.S. House of Representatives and our Congress honors the memory and talents of great Americans. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Jimmy Stewart. As an actor, as a citizen, and in his personal life, Jimmy Stewart exemplified the best of America.

Most Americans know Jimmy Stewart through his many movies. All of us have seen at least some of these movies, and he endeared himself to us by his performances. As laymen, though, we probably did not fully appreciate what a consummate craftsman he was. His acting appeared so natural that many wrongly believed that he was not acting at all, just being himself. But, according to biographers and critics, that was deceptive.

□ 1245

What appeared so natural to us was instead the result of talent magnified many times over by dedication and hard work.

Frank Capra, who directed Jimmy Stewart in his most famous movies, "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" and "It's a Wonderful Life," had this to say about Jimmy Stewart's acting ability:

There is a higher level than great performances in acting. The actor disappears and there is only a real live person on the screen. There are only a few actors, very few indeed, capable of that level of performance, and that tall string bean sitting over there, he is one of them.

He was referring, of course, to Mr. Stewart.

Jimmy Stewart's personal life was also exemplary. He married his wife Gloria in 1949 and remained married to her until she died in 1994. That is no mean feat in Hollywood and in days where marriages sometimes seem to last only weeks or months. He also contributed to his community. He was an adviser to Princeton University's Theater in Residence, and served on the executive board of the Los Angeles Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

Jimmy Stewart also set a model for all of us in citizenship and patriotism. He was already a famous actor when World War II broke out. Perhaps he could have used his influence to stay