

the United States war efforts. The best way for us to do those things is to grant an exemption for these individuals from the English language requirement for naturalization. This exemption, like our fulfillment of the promise, is long overdue.

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker I stand with my colleagues in support of H.R. 371, the Hmong Veterans Naturalization Act.

By approving this bill, we will make an important contribution to the efforts of the thousands of Hmong veterans and their families to become United States citizens. For over two decades, Hmong veterans have encountered serious obstacles that have impeded their ability to become U.S. citizens. This bill addresses this by exempting Hmong veterans from English language proficiency and residency requirements.

Many Americans are only beginning to appreciate and recognize the invaluable service and bravery of Hmong veterans. Today, we have an opportunity to assure that their service to freedom and to the United States will not be forgotten.

Hmong veterans fought in the Vietnam War alongside American forces at great personal peril and loss of life. They performed critical roles in dangerous missions, collected vital intelligence, rescued downed American pilots and defended sensitive American installations at remote locations.

Tragically, at the end of the war and as a result of their service and bravery, tens of thousands of Hmong freedom fighters and their families constantly faced the horrible reality of life in prison camps and the threat of genocide.

Many Hmong veterans and their families sought refuge in the United States. California's Central Valley, which I represent, has been a primary relocation site for them. I am proud that the Central Valley is one of the most ethnically diverse parts of the country and that the Hmong community has contributed greatly to that diversity and enriched us with their traditions.

In light of their service, heroism and dedication to freedom, it is only fitting that America embrace those Hmong veterans that fought with distinction and honor. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this bill.

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today I rise as a cosponsor of H.R. 371, the Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act of 1999, to honor the Hmong people, many of whom risked their lives or died in service to the United States during the Vietnam War.

There are over 16,000 Hmong in my home-state of Wisconsin, and the legislation before the House of Representatives today will help many Hmong patriots who made it to the U.S. and are currently separated from their families.

This bill will allow more Hmong people to become United States Citizens by providing interpreter-assistance during the citizenship test. Unlike other languages, written characters were only introduced in the Hmong language in recent years, so learning to read in a foreign language presents an extremely difficult challenge. By providing interpreters, the family reunification process in the Hmong community can begin sooner.

Providing this service is a very small token of our appreciation for a people that so loyally fought on behalf of the United States, some of whom started fighting at the age of 10. The Hmong "mountain men" not only rescued

downed American pilots, but fought heroically alongside U.S. soldiers in the Vietnam War.

It is my hope that by passing this bill today, the United States Congress will show its gratitude to the Hmong people, in appreciation of the many sacrifices they have made for this country.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this is an important bill because the Hmong have stood by the U.S. at a crucial time in our history and now is the time to repay and honor the loyalty of Hmong veterans. The Hmong were a pre-literate society. I would like to congratulate Congressman BRUCE VENTO for his leadership on this issue.

The Hmong had no written language in use when the United States recruited them during the Vietnam War. The best symbol of why H.R. 371 is necessary is the Hmong "story cloth," the Pandau cloth, that is their embroidered cloth record of important historical events and oral traditions.

The Hmong were recruited, largely, as boy soldiers. Many of the veterans of the U.S. secret Army were recruited at age 12, 13 and 14 years of age. The CIA in coordination with "Air America" built hundreds of airstrips and bases for the Hmong and their American advisors to conduct military operations.

The Hmong were critical to the American war strategy in S.E. Asia—especially the U.S. air strategy. Mr. Speaker, this legislation provides for the expedited naturalization of Hmong veterans of the U.S. Secret Army currently residing in the United States (as legal aliens) who served with U.S. clandestine and special forces during the Vietnam War by allowing them to take the citizenship test with a translator since the Hmong are a tribal people with no written language, thus relying solely on the "story cloths".

The bill is capped at 45,000, in terms of the total number of Hmong veterans, their widows and orphans who currently reside in the United States who would fall under the legislation. This cap is supported by the Hmong veterans in the United States and is considered to be a generous cap. I support this legislation to provide relief to the Hmong heroes.

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act because I feel that we should reward these brave individuals who assisted American efforts in the war against communism in Southeast Asia. The Hmong which we seek to honor today were a Laotian-based guerrilla group who fought valiantly alongside American and South Vietnamese troops in Vietnam. Many Hmong risked and lost their lives in defense of democracy at a crucial time in the history of that region. With Communism spreading across the Asian continent during the 60's, it was crucial for American troops to receive indigenous help in defense of South Vietnam. They were brave soldiers of freedom at time of great uncertainty, and their efforts have gone largely ignored for far too long.

Today, the Hmong are valuable citizens and employees in many communities across the United States, including the 10th district of North Carolina which I have the privilege to serve. In fact, I employ several Hmong in my company in Hickory, NC. They are truly great citizens who offer a strong work ethic and another facet of cultural diversity to my community, and to communities across this nation.

The Laotian Hmong have been the victims of persecution and genocide at the hands of

the Communist government in Laos, largely due to the help they provided America during the Vietnam War. Now it is time for us to reward them for their sacrifice and service. Please vote yes today on H.R. 371; let us reward these brave people by expediting the naturalization of Hmong aliens who served with these special guerrilla units in Laos during the Vietnam War.

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 Illinois (Mr. HYDE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 371, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to facilitate the naturalization of aliens who served with special guerrilla units or irregular forces in Laos."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMORIAL TO HONOR DISABLED VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1509) to authorize the Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation to establish a memorial in the District of Columbia or its environs to honor veterans who became disabled while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1509

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. MEMORIAL TO HONOR DISABLED VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES.

(a) MEMORIAL AUTHORIZED.—The Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation is authorized to establish a memorial on Federal land in the District of Columbia or its environs to honor veterans who became disabled while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.

(b) COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS FOR COMMEMORATIVE WORKS.—The establishment of the memorial shall be in accordance with the Commemorative Works Act (40 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.).

(c) PAYMENT OF EXPENSES.—The Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation shall be solely responsible for acceptance of contributions for, and payment of the expenses of, the establishment of the memorial. No Federal funds may be used to pay any expense of the establishment of the memorial.

(d) DEPOSIT OF EXCESS FUNDS.—If, upon payment of all expenses of the establishment of the memorial (including the maintenance and preservation amount required under section 8(b) of the Commemorative Works Act (40 U.S.C. 1008(b))), or upon expiration of the authority for the memorial under section 10(b) of such Act (40 U.S.C. 1010(b)), there remains a balance of funds received for the establishment of the memorial, the Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation shall transmit the amount of the balance to the Secretary of the Treasury for deposit in the

account provided for in section 8(b)(1) of such Act (40 U.S.C. 1008(b)(1)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN).

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

I would first like to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON), for his efforts in introducing this bill. He has worked diligently in preparing this legislation. I urge Members' consideration and support of H.R. 1509.

A significant portion of veterans who served in defense of our Nation are disabled. In fact, there are nearly 2.3 million disabled veterans in America today who have fought in foreign conflicts ranging from the Gulf War to World War I. There are even 13 disabled veterans from the Mexican border war against Pancho Villa. Although we honor these men and women on Memorial Day, there is no memorial to commemorate those veterans who were disabled during our Nation's conflicts. H.R. 1509 serves to recognize our disabled veterans by authorizing the Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation to construct a memorial honoring their sacrifice on behalf of our country.

The Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation will be responsible for all expenses associated with the establishment of this memorial. This bill ensures that its establishment will be in compliance with the Commemorative Works Act and that Federal funds will not be used to pay for the memorial.

Mr. Speaker, I again commend the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) for his tireless work on behalf of America's veterans, and H.R. 1509 reflects his years of service. The gentleman from Texas is a true war hero, and I urge Members to support this bill.

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may use.

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation as described by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN).

The minority side of the committee is in strong support of this legislation and in support of taking this important first step in the process. We look forward to a time hopefully when visitors to the Washington area can see a tangible reminder of the courage and the dedication displayed by many of our disabled veterans.

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

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the

gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON), the author of this legislation.

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I appreciate the gentleman's help in getting this through the committee. I appreciate the help from the Democrat side as well.

I want to ask my colleagues to support this legislation which I introduced. It is to establish a memorial honoring our Nation's disabled veterans. The memorial expresses our thanks and, at the same time, honors the nearly 2.3 million disabled American veterans in our country today.

This memorial would pay tribute to the men and women who have fought in every major conflict this Nation has entered since the great Civil War, including 471,000 wounded in the Civil War; 234,000 wounded in World War I; 670,000 wounded in World War II; 100,000 wounded in Korea; 300,000 wounded in Vietnam; and nearly 500 wounded in the Persian Gulf War.

Despite those staggering numbers, they do not even begin to represent those who returned with no visible physical wounds but who suffered more through emotional agonies wrought by war.

There are monuments, memorials dedicated to the wars our Nation has fought and to those who lost their lives in the effort to preserve the freedom that we all enjoy. But we have not properly acknowledged the sacrifices of those who went and fought those same battles to preserve the same freedoms and who paid a severe price.

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We have yet to honor those who returned from battle with the scars and wounds which serve as daily reminders of how just costly a war can be and how precious the privileges that we enjoy in this Nation are.

This memorial would be the only one dedicated to disabled American veterans, many of whom are still living, thereby giving the American people an opportunity to honor and express their gratitude to those who have sacrificed so much for each of us.

It has been 25 years since the conclusion of the Vietnam War, which we have seen on TV in the past week, and 50 years since the Korean War. Those are two wars in which I fought. And I fear the passage of time is going to allow our wounded veterans to fade from the Nation's memory and conscience.

This memorial will ensure that our Nation will not forget the dedication and devotion to duty, honor, and country demonstrated by all disabled American veterans. It is time to honor their commitment to this Nation and to our freedom which we so richly enjoy.

God bless everyone. I hope my colleagues can see clear to passing this bill.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) for his excellent remarks, and I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER).

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1509, which authorizes a memorial to honor disabled American veterans.

This legislation, sponsored by my friend and distinguished veteran, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON), honors those veterans who not only risked their lives but gave part of themselves for our freedom. The courage and the conviction that are demonstrated by these heroes is inspiring and uniquely American.

Mr. Speaker, the soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines who defend our country are national treasures. Disabled veterans are brave men and women who deserve to be honored and remembered for their sacrifices. Their sacrifices teach us one lesson above all, freedom is not free. Our national security is preserved because we have men and women who are willing to pay the price, bear the burden, and meet the demand of keeping our country safe and secure.

All of us owe a great debt to those who wear the uniform in defense of America. As I like to say every day when I get up, I thank God for my life. And I thank our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines for our way of life.

While we can never adequately thank the millions of American disabled veterans, this memorial will stand as an eternal reminder of their honor, service, and sacrifice. These are the heroes who protected freedom in America and ensured democracy for the world.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1509, a bill to establish a memorial honoring veterans who sustained disabling injuries in the service of their nation. I commend the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) for bringing this measure to the floor at this time, and I urge all of our colleagues to join in supporting this worthy endeavor.

H.R. 1509 grants authorization to the Disabled Veterans Life Memorial Foundation to establish a memorial in our District of Columbia to honor all those veterans who became disabled while serving in our Armed Forces. The establishment of the disabled veterans memorial will be in accordance with the Commemorative Works Act, and this Foundation will be responsible for both managing contributions for and paying the expenses of establishing this memorial.

While all of our veterans deserve our support and appreciation, those who became disabled during their period of service deserve our special recognition. The Federal Government has recognized their extraordinary sacrifices

through the provision of free medical care from service-connected disabilities and the issuance of monthly disability pensions.

Yet, Mr. Speaker, remarkably, there is no separate monument to our disabled veterans in our Nation's capital. This legislation will correct that oversight.

For that reason, I urge my colleagues to give this measure their unwavering support.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1509.

The question was taken.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. 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 and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 1509.

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

There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR APPOINTMENT OF ALAN G. SPOON AS CITIZEN REGENT OF BOARD OF REGENTS OF SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate joint resolution (S.J. Res. 40) providing for the appointment of Alan G. Spoon as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

The Clerk read as follows:

S.J. RES. 40

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, in accordance with section 5581 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (20 U.S.C. 43), the vacancy on the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, in the class other than Members of Congress, occurring by reason of resignation of Louis Gerstner of New York, is filled by the appointment of Alan G. Spoon of Maryland. The appointment is for a term of 6 years and shall take effect on the date of enactment of this joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON).

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S.J. Res. 40 provides for the appointment of Alan Gary Spoon to serve on the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

This 17-member board, which governs the Smithsonian Institution, is comprised of the Chief Justice and Vice President of the United States, three Members each from the House and Senate, and nine citizens who are nominated by the Board and approved jointly in a resolution of Congress.

Alan Spoon has served as chief operating officer and director of The Washington Post Company since May of 1991 and was elected president of that organization in September of 1993.

Prior to that experience, Mr. Spoon also served as president of Newsweek Magazine.

The Washington Post Company's involvement in areas of education and electronic information services, as well as producing technology publications, can prove to be a useful background in his service to the Smithsonian.

Before joining The Washington Post, he was a partner with an international consulting firm specializing in corporate strategy.

Mr. Spoon also brings previous experience with the Smithsonian as a member of the National Museum of Natural History's board of directors.

I believe the Smithsonian can benefit from Alan Spoon's financial, marketing, and management background. I urge my colleagues to support S.J. Res. 40.

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

Mr. Speaker, I have listened intently to the words of the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) on behalf of Mr. Spoon's nomination to the Smithsonian Board of Regents.

Mr. Spoon is indeed, as has been represented by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON), an outstanding American, an outstanding member of this community, a distinguished business executive; and he will bring a wealth of knowledge, experience, and wisdom to serve on the Smithsonian Board of Regents.

I share the view of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) that he will be a very, very worthy addition to this Board and will serve the Smithsonian and the Nation well. I rise in support of this resolution.

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. 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 Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate joint resolution, S.J. Res. 40.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on S.J. Res. 40.

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

There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR REAPPOINTMENT OF MANUEL L. IBANEZ AS CITIZEN REGENT OF BOARD OF REGENTS OF SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate joint resolution (S.J. Res. 42) providing for the reappointment of Manuel L. Ibanez as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

The Clerk read as follows:

S.J. RES. 42

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, in accordance with section 5581 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (20 U.S.C. 43), the vacancy on the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, in the class other than Members of Congress, occurring by reason of the expiration of the term of Manuel L. Ibanez of Texas on May 4, 2000, is filled by the reappointment of the incumbent for a term of 6 years. The reappointment shall take effect on May 5, 2000.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON).

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Manuel Luis Ibanez has been on the Board of Regents. I can vouch for his ability. He is being asked for reappointment to an additional 6-year term with the Smithsonian Institution. He served as president of Texas A&M University in Kingsville and is presently Professor of Microbiology.

As a current citizen regent of the Smithsonian, he brings a unique knowledge of science because of his specialization in bacterial physiology. He possesses a broad background in academic and public service and combines that with his institutional experience in the areas of grants, awards, and funding.

Dr. Ibanez has been a successful fundraiser while serving as president of Texas A&M University and lends that experience to an institution that relies on constantly increasing its private fund-raising base.

He has also expressed support for expanding the Smithsonian's traveling exhibitions to reach parts of our country that do not normally have access to such exhibits.