

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, in my heart few things are more sacred than the solemn promises that we have made to our veterans, because all of us today would not be able to enjoy the peace and prosperity we have without the sacrifices of our veterans.

Unfortunately, the President's budget proposal completely fails our veterans yet again by breaking the health care promises made to them years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that legislation has been introduced which corrects the administration's appalling oversight and restores adequate health care benefits that were promised to and earned by our veterans.

The Keep Our Promises Act is a bipartisan bill which will finally fulfill the commitment we made to our military retirees. We need to protect the future of veterans' health care. We need to protect those who have paid the ultimate sacrifices for this country.

I encourage our colleagues to support our Nation's veterans by supporting the Keep Our Promises Act. It is the least we can do, for all that they have done for us.

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ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any recorded votes on H.R. 3557 and H.R. 3642 will be taken after debate has concluded on these motions.

Record votes on remaining motions to suspend the rules will be taken at a later time.

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PRESENTING CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO JOHN CAR- DINAL O'CONNOR

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3557) to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to John Cardinal O'Connor, Archbishop of New York, in recognition of his accomplishments as a priest, a chaplain, and a humanitarian.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3557

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

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) His Eminence John Cardinal O'Connor is a man of deep compassion, great intellect, and tireless devotion to both spiritual guidance and humanitarianism.

(2) John Joseph O'Connor was born on January 15, 1920, in southwest Philadelphia, the son of Thomas J. O'Connor and Mary Gimple O'Connor.

(3) John Cardinal O'Connor joined the Navy Chaplains Corps in June 1952 during the Korean Conflict, served with elements of

both the Navy and the Marine Corps, and saw combat action in Vietnam. He later served as chaplain of the United States Naval Academy and was appointed as Chief of Chaplains of the Navy with the grade of rear admiral, from which position he retired four years later, in May 1979. He was ordained a Bishop by Pope John Paul II on May 27, 1979. He then served as Vicar General of the Military Ordinariate (now the Archdiocese for the Military Services) until 1984.

(4) John Cardinal O'Connor became Bishop of Scranton, Pennsylvania, on May 10, 1983, was named Archbishop of the Catholic Archdiocese of New York on January 31, 1984, and was elevated to the rank of Cardinal by Pope John Paul II on May 25, 1985.

(5) John Cardinal O'Connor has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to public and parochial school education. He has supported and strengthened Catholic schools in their mission to provide a quality education to students of all races, ethnic backgrounds, and religions in the Archdiocese of New York and throughout the Nation.

(6) John Cardinal O'Connor has provided comfort and care to the sick, the elderly, and the disabled and provided millions of people with spiritual and emotional support. He led the effort to open New York State's first AIDS-only unit at St. Claire's Hospital, remaining a frequent visitor and volunteer at the hospital.

(7) Throughout his life, John Cardinal O'Connor has also served on behalf of the poor and the oppressed, as exemplified by his assistance on behalf of famine victims in Ethiopia and victims in war-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina.

(8) Throughout his career, John Cardinal O'Connor has been a strong advocate of interfaith healing and understanding, particularly among individuals of the Catholic and Jewish faiths, and has played a significant role in helping to establish diplomatic ties between the Vatican and Israel.

(9) John Cardinal O'Connor took the inspiring words of the Declaration of Independence—"Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness"—and transformed them into a statement of purpose. He has dedicated his life's work to protecting and defending these inalienable rights of all people.

(10) John Cardinal O'Connor celebrated his 80th birthday on January 15, 2000, and has displayed remarkable courage and the true power of his faith in carrying on his life's work in the face of life-threatening illness.

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The President is authorized to present, on behalf of the Congress, a gold medal of appropriate design to John Cardinal O'Connor, Archbishop of New York, in recognition of his accomplishments as a priest, a soldier, and a humanitarian.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose of the presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

Under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under section 2 at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses, and the cost of the gold medal.

SEC. 4. NATIONAL MEDALS.

The medals struck under this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

SEC. 5. FUNDING AND PROCEEDS OF SALE.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—There is hereby authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund an amount not to exceed \$30,000 to pay for the cost of the medals authorized by this Act.

(b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the sale of duplicate bronze medals under section 3 shall be deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAFALCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS).

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

(Mr. BACHUS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, today we honor a great American, the Cardinal of New York, John O'Connor, a spiritual leader who has been guiding the 2.3 million Catholics in the Archdiocese of New York for 16 years, and millions more in the Navy and Marines as a chaplain for 27 years.

The Cardinal endured military combat when he was called to minister to those entrusted to his care on the battlefields and in the jungles of Vietnam. A general from the Third Marine Division in Vietnam said of him, "No one was more effective in sustaining for all Marines of any religion a particular morale."

Cardinal O'Connor has been more than a spiritual guide for Catholics. He has served as a witness of Christ in his love for others and his heroic stance against moral decay and in his personal relationship with Christ. Above all else, his love for God has been the motivation for his love for all other persons.

His love for others has led him to reach out to those with physical disabilities. He has stood with disabled persons and their caregivers and supported them as cherished members of the church. In doing so, he has made them more visible, and the result often is greater acceptance and inclusion on the local level.

He has reached out to those suffering from alcoholism and emotional illness.

□ 1115

In the early 1980s, he opened the first treatment center exclusively for AIDS patients in a New York City hospital.

His love for the truth has led him to preach lively and clearly against offenses to human dignity. A reoccurring theme of the Cardinal's preaching is that each person has immense value and dignity. That dignity is rooted in our relationship to God being made in his own image.

The Cardinal has preached against hatred based on race or religion, against the abuse of women, against the destruction of the unborn, and against injustice in the political and judicial system. His stands against racism are as strong as his outspokenness

against abortion. Indeed, for the Cardinal, both racism and abortion are rejections of God and both demand the response of love. He has said, "It is God who gave life and God who made life in its diversity. The defilement of the human person is a defilement of God," the Cardinal has said. In a mass in Harlem, he said that people cannot achieve community merely on the basis of respect for each other or honoring authority; it must be on the basis of love.

On Pentecost 1990 following a gang slaying of a black teenager, the Cardinal declared racism a sin and an outrage and led a cathedral mass congregation in a pledge to, and I quote, "treat all men and women of every race and culture with the respect and dignity that is their right as persons made in the image and likeness of God."

The Cardinal said, and again I quote, "The church has always taught that the only answer to hate is love. There are no blacks, no whites, no Asians, no Hispanics, only children of God. This city; tragically, this country, has been filled far too long with the hatred we call racism. It is a sin, it is an outrage," said the Cardinal.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the House today honors John Cardinal O'Connor, a man whom Pope John Paul II once praised as a "strong shepherd of men." On January 15 of this year, Cardinal O'Connor turned 80; and in the twilight of his great career he is courageously waging a battle against cancer. With his strong character and religious devotion, his spirit is thriving, as his comments on his recent visit to the Vatican witness. I am honored to rise before this House in support of this very timely bill that awards a gold medal on behalf of Congress through the President to this man who so deservedly carries the title, "His Eminence."

In 1984, Cardinal O'Connor made his first visit to Rome in his new capacity as archbishop of New York. Pope John Paul II welcomed him as the "archbishop of the capital of the world." Catholic parishioners in America know well Cardinal O'Connor's contributions to the betterment of our society, most especially his many humanitarian endeavors such as his work on behalf of disabled persons and the people who care for them. His efforts to end racism in America command our respect; and in our diverse multicultural, multilingual, and multireligious country, the Cardinal's calls for ecumenical understanding have helped immensely in fostering peaceful fellowship between Catholics and their Jewish and Protestant Christian brethren.

In his devotion to many causes, Cardinal O'Connor has not only served his church with distinction, but also his country. He made the Navy his home for 27 years and through two wars. He retired as a rear admiral in 1979 with a

Meritorious Service Medal, a Distinguished Service Medal and a Legion of Merit award, amongst others. He carries the distinction of being the first Roman Catholic priest to become senior chaplain at the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis.

Upon retirement from the Navy, Pope John Paul II installed him in Rome as a bishop for our Armed Forces, and in 1983, after assuming the bishopric of Scranton, Pennsylvania, he garnered national attention as one of the influential drafters of the America Bishops' pastoral letter on nuclear weapons, "The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response."

In 1984, he assumed stewardship of the Archdiocese of New York. In academia, he holds an M.A. in clinical psychology and a Ph.D. in political theory. Finally, the Cardinal has published several thoughtful books on ecumenical and social issues.

Mr. Speaker, while today we honor a great man, one who has made America a better place, the House should go a step further to learn from Cardinal O'Connor's example and recognize that his spirit and commitment to social justice represent universal human values. For the coat of arms to which his clerical position entitles him, Cardinal O'Connor adopted the motto: "There can be no love without justice." By that he meant, from the beginning of life to the cessation of life, a continuum of justice, a continuum of love. He lived his motto and he preached his motto. No person could do better, no person could do more. We all could emulate the example.

So I know my colleagues will join me and the many cosponsors of this legislation in paying high tribute to a man who has given such outstanding service to his country, his faith, and his pastoral flocks.

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

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman New York (Mr. FOSSELLA), who is the original sponsor of the resolution.

(Mr. FOSSELLA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, first I would like to thank the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) and the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) and the House who have understood the importance of this matter and who have helped me move this legislation forward so quickly. For that they should be commended. I would also like to thank a fellow New Yorker and former member of this chamber, CHARLES SCHUMER, who has introduced identical legislation in the other body.

As we have briefly heard, Cardinal O'Connor has spent a lifetime using one simple tool: love. Love for his country, his church, and his fellow human beings. Therefore, I consider it a great privilege to be able to introduce this legislation, an honor to associate with a man who has done so much for our Nation and for New York City.

Many people know that Cardinal O'Connor is the leader of New York's Catholic archdiocese. What many people do not know is that before his tenure in New York, the Cardinal spent 27 years in the Navy, ministering on behalf of our soldiers at home and abroad. Cardinal O'Connor joined the Navy during the war in Korea and saw combat action with the Navy and the Marines during the Vietnam War. He went on to serve as chaplain at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, instilling our future admirals with a sense of justice. Eventually, Cardinal O'Connor would rise to the rank of Rear Admiral. Upon leaving the military, he was ordained the bishop of the Armed Forces of the United States, but I believe in his heart, he always remained the chaplain.

Cardinal O'Connor is the spiritual leader of 2.3 million Catholics. Despite this challenge he has not limited his advocacy to strictly Catholic matters. Rather, he speaks out on a variety of issues. For example, Cardinal O'Connor has condemned racism in any and all forms. Cardinal O'Connor has also reached out to New York's Jewish community. He has issued unequivocal condemnations of anti-semitism and spearheaded the effort to establish diplomatic ties between the Vatican and Israel. An endowed chair of Jewish Studies is named in his honor at a Catholic Seminary in Dunwoodie, New York.

But more importantly, the Cardinal is not only a man of words, but of action. During the early and most frightening stages of the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s, he opened New York State's first AIDS-only unit at St. Clare's Hospital. He remained a frequent visitor and volunteer at this unit, spending untold hours with those in pain and suffering, and counseling those in their last moments on this earth. He has also fiercely defended inner-city Catholic schools from the budget axe, keeping schools open in the face of severe fiscal restraints, giving an opportunity to so many children who would have no alternative. Today, not only are those schools open, they are thriving. The Archdiocese's Catholic high school's graduation rate is 99 percent. Students from racial and ethnic minority groups make up 52 percent of the enrollment, and 21 percent of those students are non-Catholic.

There is so much good and noteworthy about this man that it is difficult to encapsulate it all in one thought or one speech, but I know that in a body that sometimes thrives on disagreement, there is one thing we can all agree upon: Cardinal John O'Connor is a great man. Yet, despite his high-ranking office, soldiers, priests, and parishioners know in their hearts that the Cardinal has always been a man of the people. As such, Cardinal O'Connor, through his beliefs, words, and actions, epitomized the true meaning of life, liberty and the pursuit

of happiness, and that is why he deserves the Congressional Gold Medal, and that is why I am honored to have introduced this resolution. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. LAFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS).

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from New York has mentioned the Cardinal's important work with the inner-city Catholic schools, and I think that that bears repeating again. The gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) said that students from racial and ethnic minority groups make up 52 percent of that enrollment. Twenty-one percent of them are not Catholic. Amazingly, the New York Catholic high school graduation rate is 99 percent, which is a testimony to the Cardinal.

Mr. LAFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING).

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAFALCE) for yielding me this time. At the very outset I want to commend the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) for the truly outstanding job he has done and the leadership he has shown in bringing this resolution before the House today.

I am proud to join with my colleagues in supporting the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal to John Cardinal O'Connor. I have had the privilege of knowing Cardinal O'Connor since he first became the Archbishop of New York. I am proud to call him a friend. During that time, like so many other New Yorkers, Catholic and non-Catholic alike, I have witnessed the tremendous leadership he has shown, the willingness he has shown to stand up for what is right, the willingness he has shown to speak out on behalf of truths, the willingness he has shown to defy contemporary thinking, the willingness he has shown to make the tough decisions, to speak out on behalf of life, to speak out on behalf of justice, the support he has shown for the inner-city schools where there are many non-Catholic, nonwhite children being educated in the inner cities and Catholic schools by Cardinal O'Connor. And the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) has pointed out, the tremendous results that have been brought about from that education.

In addition to that, we have seen, as the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) pointed out, we have seen the Cardinal literally working with AIDS patients at the hospital, giving of his time and effort. We have seen him reach out to other religions and to forge close relationships with non-Catholics, such as former New York City mayor Ed Koch. In fact, the two of them even coauthored a book several years ago. It was that type of ecumenism where he was able to reach across the religious divide and show how all religions should stand together

as one, and that friendship and relationship with Mayor Koch personifies that.

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In addition, he has reached out to those in need. He has stood behind those police officers that were wounded in the line of duty, such as the hero police officer Steven McDonald who also has told me the tremendous assistance that Cardinal O'Connor has given to him and his family in their time of need.

I have seen Cardinal O'Connor firsthand work on the Irish peace process dealing with many of the players involved, not just in this country, but in Ireland, in Britain, on both sides, Catholic and Protestant alike.

Mr. Speaker, he also has a tremendous sense of humor, a self-deprecating humor, a sense of irony. He has never shown that more during this time of his recent illness, where he is undergoing surgery and treatment for a brain tumor; yet he has courageously come forward and gone before his flock, gone before his congregation and his parishioners, and showed the type of courage in time of adversity that he showed during the good times.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join with my colleagues in voting for this gold medal for Cardinal O'Connor. No one deserves it more than John Cardinal O'Connor; no one personifies more what true religion should be. Whether you are Catholic, Protestant, Jew, Muslim, whatever your religion happens to be, you can identify with Cardinal O'Connor, because he represents eternal truths. He also represents a commitment to peace and justice.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SWEENEY).

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) for yielding the time.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today in support of H.R. 3357, legislation awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to John Cardinal O'Connor.

I want to thank my good friend, the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) for introducing this legislation and for the great work that he has done in this body in bringing forward this legislation so that Congress may bestow its highest honor upon one of the most respected spiritual leaders in my great State of New York and our Nation and in the world.

Cardinal O'Connor celebrated his 80th birthday earlier this year amid standing ovations throughout. And I am pleased that we offer today our own ovation here on the floor in the form of the Congressional Gold Medal.

Mr. Speaker, his 54 years of devoted service as an ordained priest in the Catholic Church has shown him to be a cardinal of the people. He is a tireless advocate of charitable giving; reaching out to the homeless, the elderly, the sick and anyone needing a helping hand. His teaching and deeds on behalf

of those less fortunate are truly an inspiration.

We owe our thanks to John Cardinal O'Connor for over 3 decades of service to the men and women of our military, as chaplain of the United States Navy and Marine Corps, and then as bishop for the Armed Services of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, we owe John Cardinal O'Connor our deepest gratitude for a lifetime of devoted service to the Catholic Church, to our Nation and its people.

Although illness has presented new challenges to Cardinal O'Connor's strength and his retirement is near, I am certain we have not seen the end of his service.

The Congressional Gold Medal is the greatest honor that this House can extend to an individual, and there is none more deserving than John Cardinal O'Connor.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. LAFALCE. Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HANSEN). The gentleman from New York (Mr. LAFALCE) has 11½ minutes. The gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) has 10 minutes remaining.

Mr. LAFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 8 of my minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) for him to yield as he might deem wise.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) controls 8 additional minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) for yielding the time and the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAFALCE) as well.

Mr. Speaker, words are inadequate to express my deep respect, affection, admiration and gratitude to John Cardinal O'Connor, one of the greatest and most consistent moral and spiritual leaders of the 21st century.

Conferring the Congressional Gold Medal on this extraordinarily brave man of conscience is a small but important token of our appreciation of a life so selflessly and wonderfully lived.

Mr. Speaker, I want to especially thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) for sponsoring this legislation today and for the Republican leadership for bringing it up on the floor as well.

Mr. Speaker, I have known Cardinal O'Connor for almost 20 years. Although he would be embarrassed to hear it said, he is a living saint. Cardinal O'Connor is a man after God's own heart. He loves unconditionally and gives generously, expecting nothing in return.

He faithfully proclaims and demonstrates by his words, works, and actions the indescribable blessings of the

Gospel. He is a good and holy priest who radiates Christ and the healing power of God to both believers and non-believers alike.

Over the years, however, there are some, who have belittled, mocked, and rejected Cardinal O'Connor's clear Christian teaching on the sanctity of human life and the duty of all men and women of good will, especially politicians, to protect the vulnerable from violence. Yet, he always treated the enemies of his message with respect and good humor. Amazing!

Thank God, Mr. Speaker, that Cardinal O'Connor has been—and continues to be—a lightning rod for truth and inclusion and protection in law of all persons, regardless of race, color, creed, or condition of dependency. Cardinal O'Connor has worked tirelessly and effectively to bring an end to the culture of death and to usher in a culture of life so that God's will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven.

Notwithstanding the enormous responsibility of being the leader of the New York Archdiocese, which includes 413 churches, 293 schools, and 35 full and affiliate hospitals, he has repeatedly called on all Americans to face up to the cruelty and the inherent violence and injustice of abortion.

Under his leadership, the Archdiocese of New York has reached out to many mothers in need of help, shelter, medicine, or spiritual guidance. His new order of nuns, known as the Sisters of Life, are but one manifestation of his tangible love in action.

Mr. Speaker, in the 25th chapter of Matthew's gospel, Jesus spoke of the last judgment and those who would be blessed in eternity. Jesus said, and I quote, "... For I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was in prison and you came to me." Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, "Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see you sick or in prison and come to You?" and the King will answer and say to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as You did it to the least of these My Brethren, you did it to Me."

Mr. Speaker, Cardinal O'Connor has devoted his life and inspired countless others to do the same to help the least of our brethren, to help the disenfranchised and the unwanted, seeing Christ himself in the lives that nobody else wants and nobody else cares about. And he has done it without any fanfare whatsoever, never seeking applause, never seeking an accolade or pat on the back. He is truly a great man.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA).

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

Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of first meeting Cardinal O'Connor in New York in 1996. I was drawn to meet with Cardinal O'Connor because of an outstanding offer that he had made. He had made an offer to the city of New York and to the New York public schools that the Catholic schools of New York would take the 5 percent lowest performing students in all of New York's public schools, and that he would embrace those students and take them into the Catholic school system, and that the Catholic school system and he would take responsibility for educating those children.

We had an awesome meeting in 1996, a group of four or five of us meeting with Cardinal O'Connor and sharing his view on education. In 1997, we went back to New York, and Cardinal O'Connor testified in front of our Committee on Education and the Workforce about his view and his vision for educating all of the young people in New York City and all of the young people in America.

But perhaps what had the biggest impact on me was actually going to the Catholic schools in New York City. Having listened to what Cardinal O'Connor had to say, and then having the opportunity to take a look at what he was actually doing was awesome, educating kids in some of the most difficult areas of New York City and providing them with hope and opportunity, and providing them with a foundation to move forward.

In a diverse neighborhood, the Catholic schools were not talking about diversity, but they were talking about what brings us together, the saving grace of Jesus Christ. In an area of high poverty, high unemployment, high crime, they do not teach self-esteem, they talk about that every individual is created in the image of God.

I am pleased to be a cosponsor of this legislation to honor Cardinal O'Connor. I only saw a small part of what he did, but was impressed with his commitment and the results that he made to all Americans, and the impact that he has had in the lives of many people in this country and probably around the world.

I wish him the best as he enters his retirement, and thank him for his years of dedication and service.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. REYNOLDS).

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Alabama for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I certainly want to thank my colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) for introducing this legislation. It is an honor for me to be a cosponsor.

Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Gold Medal is our highest expression of national appreciation for distinguished achievements and contributions to the American society. Over the past 224 years, this honor has been reserved for those of uncommon patriotism, leader-

ship, and compassion, whose contributions to our history and culture have been both significant and enduring.

Cardinal John O'Connor, spiritual leader of the archdiocese of New York, is the type of person for whom the Congressional Gold Medal was created. Cardinal O'Connor is widely known for his strength of character, courage of conviction, and humility, and humor. His contributions to our society and culture stretch far beyond the community of the Catholic Church. Whether strengthening the ties among those of all faiths, or personally providing comfort to those afflicted with AIDS or attending to the poor, Cardinal O'Connor has spent a lifetime leading by example, an example that we would all do well to follow.

While perhaps best known as New York's Cardinal, his contributions and achievements can be felt all across America. He signed up for military chaplaincy during the Korean War, served in the Navy and Marine Corps, was Chaplain of the United States Naval Academy, and rose to the rank of Navy Chief of Chaplains.

Cardinal O'Connor's lifetime of leading and inspiring us to be better people and to serve our fellow man with devotion and compassion has earned him this unique distinction. I am proud and honored to join in nominating Cardinal John O'Connor for the Congressional Gold Medal.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD).

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

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to rise today as an original cosponsor of H.R. 3557 and in support of awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to John Cardinal O'Connor, Archbishop of New York. I hope that all my colleagues will join with us in recognizing Cardinal O'Connor's devotion to faith, service, and country.

The Diocese of Scranton, which I am proud to represent, was once home to Cardinal O'Connor. I remember how thrilled I was when in 1983 he became the Bishop of Scranton, and what mixed emotions the people of the diocese had when he was selected to become the Archbishop of New York. We hated to lose a leader that was doing so much for our area. He had the great respect and genuine affection of everyone of all faiths in northeastern and north central Pennsylvania.

Cardinal O'Connor is quoted as saying that he has no intention of fading into the woodwork. We are all very glad to hear that. I am confident that he will continue his ministry of personal compassion to those whose quiet cries are often lost in the din: the unborn, the handicapped, the sick, and the working poor.

One month ago today Cardinal O'Connor turned 80. I say to His Eminence, I wish him belated happy birthday, and I thank him for his many years of selfless service to his Nation and his faith.

I would like to thank my colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA), for his leadership in bringing this bill before the House today to honor this great leader, this great American, John Cardinal O'Connor.

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

Mr. Speaker, Cardinal O'Connor's prayers, his sacrifices, and his personal chastity are a model of how to achieve personal fulfillment and happiness for all of us. As the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAFALCE) has said, the Pope has praised Cardinal O'Connor as a strong shepherd of men. In fact, Cardinal O'Connor has been called a spokesman for the Pope in the United States.

Cardinal O'Connor led the negotiations to restore relations between the Vatican and Israel, and he has proclaimed the Pope's message against a culture of death. But more than a spokesman, he has been a living witness to the civilization of love, which is at the heart of the Pope's message for the new millennium.

Among those that he has shown particular love and sacrifice for are the disabled and their caregivers; for victims of racism, whether from race or religion; the elderly; innercity youth; AIDS victims; the unborn; military personnel; and those with mental illness and alcoholism.

To close, Mr. Speaker, I will simply say this, today, by honoring Cardinal O'Connor we honor all those who put their faith into action each and every day to build a new civilization of love, to treat all men and women of each race and culture with the respect and dignity that is their right as persons made in the image and likeness of God.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA), the sponsor of this bill, and I commend him and the New York delegation.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) for yielding me this time. I want to thank him again for his leadership and the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) and especially Speaker HASTERT, Majority Leader ARMEY, and all of my colleagues, and the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAFALCE), the ranking member, for their support of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard it all. Cardinal O'Connor is a tremendous man, and if we could all be like him, what a wonderful world this could be.

In just a few weeks, Mr. Speaker, there is a spectacle that takes place in New York City called the Saint Patrick's Day Parade, which people come from all over the world to witness. One of the highlights of that parade is just passing by Saint Patrick's Cathedral and the Cardinal will be there with his smile and greeting the parade goers and wishing us all well. I look forward to that day.

I look forward to the House passing this, as well as the other body, in honoring a true great American.

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

Mr. Speaker, in closing, one might think that Cardinal O'Connor had no critics in life. He had many critics, but underlying all of that criticism, in my judgment, was his innate belief in what he and others have called a consistent life ethic.

Senator Hubert Humphrey, a great liberal, a great Democrat, once said that the moral test of government and the moral test of individuals is how they treat those in the dawn of life, our children; how they treat those in the shadows of life, the disadvantaged, our handicapped; and how they treat those in the twilight of life, our seniors, especially those dying.

From the very beginning of life to the very cessation of life, Cardinal O'Connor was consistent in his belief that all deserved justice under the law and as much human love as mankind was capable of. For that, we honor him today.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 3557. At the same time, I rise in total support of, and with complete respect for, the work of Cardinal O'Connor. Cardinal O'Connor is a true hero as he labors tirelessly on behalf of the most needy and vulnerable in our society; promotes racial and religious harmony; advocates the best education for all children regardless of race, religion, or financial status; ministers to the poor, sick, and disabled; all the while standing up for that which he believes even in the face of hostility.

I must, however, oppose the Gold Medal for Cardinal O'Connor because appropriating \$30,000 of taxpayer money is neither constitutional nor, in the spirit of Cardinal O'Connor who dedicates his life to voluntary and charitable work, particularly humanitarian.

Because of my continuing and uncompromising opposition to appropriations not authorized within the enumerated powers of the Constitution, several of my colleagues felt compelled to personally challenge me as to whether, on this issue, I would maintain my resolve and commitment to the Constitution—a Constitution, which only last year, each Member of Congress, swore to uphold. In each of these instances, I offered to do a little more than uphold my constitutional oath.

In fact, as a means of demonstrating my personal regard and enthusiasm for the work of Cardinal O'Connor, I invited each of these colleagues to match my private, personal contribution of \$100 which, if accepted by the 435 Members of the House of Representatives, would more than satisfy the \$30,000 cost necessary to mint and award a gold medal to the well-deserving Cardinal O'Connor. To me, it seemed a particularly good opportunity to demonstrate one's genuine convictions by spending one's own money rather than that of the taxpayers who remain free to contribute, at their own discretion, to the work of Cardinal O'Connor as they have consistently done in the past. For the record, not a single Representative who solicited my support for spending taxpayer's money, was willing to contribute their own money to demonstrate the courage of their so-called convictions and generosity.

It is, of course, very easy to be generous with other people's money.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join in supporting this legislation which will grant long overdue recognition to an outstanding American, one who I am especially honored to call a friend.

This legislation authorizes the President to present, on behalf of the Congress, to His Eminence, Cardinal John O'Connor of New York a gold medal in recognition of his accomplishments as one of our outstanding religious leaders. The medal pays tribute to Cardinal O'Connor for his roles as a priest, as a chaplain, and as a humanitarian.

For most of our colleagues in this chamber, John Cardinal O'Connor is a living legend. His dedication to God and his religion is well known throughout our nation.

However, for those of us who have the honor of representing Districts within the New York Archdiocese, Cardinal O'Connor is more than a legend. He is a living personification of love for one another, for peace, and for living up to the ideals of our Judeo-Christian heritage.

In my Congressional District, Cardinal O'Connor is ubiquitous. He is always on hand for school graduations, for cornerstone layings, and for religious services. Cardinal O'Connor personifies the trait of looking to the future, rather than the past, and his message is consistently a message of hope.

Cardinal O'Connor is a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It is there that he entered the priesthood in 1945. The Cardinal studied at a number of institutions of higher education, and holds advanced degrees in Ethics, Clinical Psychology, and Political Theory. Cardinal O'Connor served as a chaplain with both the Navy and the Marine Corps for a total of 27 years. After leaving military service, His Holiness Pope John Paul II ordained him a Bishop for the Military in 1979. After serving as Bishop of Scranton, PA, he was promoted Archbishop of New York in 1984. He was raised to the position of Cardinal a year later.

The motto on Cardinal O'Connor's personal coat of arms summarizes the philosophy of this outstanding leader: "There can be no love without justice."

Mr. Speaker, His Eminence, Cardinal O'Connor is known for promoting racial and religious harmony, and for advocating the best education possible for all children regardless of race, religion, or financial status. No one in America should forget that Cardinal O'Connor welcomed AIDS patients into the Catholic hospitals of New York back at a time when other institutions of medicine were turning them away. In New York, His Eminence is well known for ministering to the sick and disabled, and for being a friend to the poor.

It is regrettable that in this day and age Cardinal O'Connor has been harassed by elements of our society who feel comfortable attacking those institutions which continue to uphold our

ancient moral standards. The reaction of His Eminence to this misplaced hostility has earned him the respect and awe of all of us.

Mr. Speaker, this medal will be funded by the sale of authentic bronze duplicates of the medal which will be placed on sale by the U.S. Mint. I am honored to associate myself with this legislation initiative, and to congratulate Cardinal O'Connor and to wish him good health and happiness upon his anticipated retirement.

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a bill to award a Congressional gold medal to Cardinal John O'Connor. We are gathering here today to honor a man who has been described as being the spine of the Catholic community throughout the United States. Cardinal John O'Connor has held the most influential post in the U.S. Catholic Church and has led the congregation of St. Patrick's Cathedral since 1984 with unwavering faith and a sense of leading a good Catholic life devoted to service.

His life of service formally began when he was ordained as a Roman Catholic priest in 1945. His service continued to not only include the Church and to God but also to his country as he served in the Chaplain Corps of the U.S. Navy, including assignments in Okinawa and Vietnam.

Cardinal O'Connor was able to revitalize the bishops' sense of urgency about the premier civil right issues of our time. He has indeed left an imprint on New York City and Catholics nationwide as a "prophetic voice" which has constantly challenged people's views—regardless of how upsetting they might be, even to politicians.

The Cardinal has been an icon for and has diligently served the American Catholic community particularly due to his strong bond with Pope John Paul II. He consistently served to participate in and better the Catholic school system and gave children the opportunity to be taught in the traditional Catholic system.

The Cardinal also sought to strengthen the ties between Catholics and Jews. Once, in Jerusalem he went so far as to apologize for the Church's history of anti-Semitism and was a chief advocate in persuading the Vatican to recognize Israel.

Today, we as a nation gather to celebrate the work Cardinal O'Connor has devoted his life to: charity, service to our community, acceptance of others and living a good life in the eyes of God. We would be lucky to be able to follow his example as selflessly as he has led his life. Cardinal O'Connor has left a deep impression on America and he will continue to inspire to follow in his footsteps.

Mr. LAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to help celebrate His Eminence John Cardinal O'Connor. For all of his accomplishments as a priest, a chaplain, and a humanitarian, there can be no way to fully honor him. The Congressional Medal of Honor—the highest honor Congress can bestow—is simply a beginning. While we will do our best in Congress to honor him, it is clear that the true honor is ours for having the privilege of learning from him.

As New York's archbishop since 1984, Cardinal O'Connor has seen the Catholic population of the archdiocese rise from 1.8 million when he arrived to the 2.3 million it is today. In a time where many sense a loss of spiritu-

ality across America, this is a testament to the wonder and grace of Cardinal O'Connor. That he was able to reach out and touch the souls of so many people, help them, guide them—it is inspiring.

We would all do well to follow the examples of what he has done for the people of New York and the American people. Cardinal O'Connor is an outspoken critic of racism. In the face of severe budget challenges, Cardinal O'Connor has protected and preserved inner-city Catholic schools. The Catholic High School's graduation rate is 99 percent. And his commitment to helping the sick and people with disabilities has been unwavering.

It is our responsibility to honor him outside of this House, and beyond just today. We can do that by learning from his grace and practicing what he has taught us.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HANSEN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3557.

The question was taken.

Mr. BACHUS. 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.

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GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BACHUS. 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. 3557, the bill just considered.

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

There was no objection.

□

PRESENTING CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO CHARLES M. SCHULZ

Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3642) to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to Charles M. Schulz in recognition of his lasting artistic contributions to the Nation and the world.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3642

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

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) Charles M. Schulz was born on November 26, 1922, in St. Paul, Minnesota, the son of Carl and Dena Schulz.

(2) Charles M. Schulz served his country in World War II, working his way up from infantryman to staff sergeant and eventually

leading a machine gun squad. He kept morale high by decorating fellow soldiers' letters home with cartoons of barracks life.

(3) After returning from the war, Charles M. Schulz returned to his love for illustration and took a job with "Timeless Topix". He also took a second job as an art instructor. Eventually his hard work paid off and when the *Saturday Evening Post* began purchasing a number of his single comic panels.

(4) It was in his first weekly comic strip, "L'il Folks", that Charlie Brown was born. That comic strip, which was eventually renamed "Peanuts", became the sole focus of Charles M. Schulz's career.

(5) Charles M. Schulz has drawn every frame of his strip, which runs seven days a week, since it was created in October 1950. This is rare dedication in the field of comic illustration.

(6) The "Peanuts" comic strip appears in 2,600 newspapers around the world and reaches approximately 335 million readers every day in 20 different languages. Because of this, Charles M. Schulz is the most successful comic illustrator in the world.

(7) Charles M. Schulz's television special, "A Charlie Brown Christmas", has run for 34 consecutive years. In all, more than 60 animated specials have been created based on "Peanuts" characters. Four feature films, 1,400 books, and a hit Broadway musical about the "Peanuts" characters have also been produced.

(8) Charles M. Schulz is a leader in the field of comic illustration and in his community. He has paved the way for other artists in this field over the last 50 years and continues to be praised for his outstanding achievements.

(9) Charles M. Schulz has given back to his community in many ways, including owning and operating Redwood Empire Ice Arena in Santa Rosa, California. The arena has become a favorite gathering spot for people of all ages. Charles M. Schulz finances a yearly ice show that draws crowds from all over the San Francisco Bay Area.

(10) Charles M. Schulz has given the Nation a unique sense of optimism, purpose, and pride. Whether through the Great Pumpkin Patch, the Kite Eating Tree, Lucy's Psychiatric Help Stand, or Snoopy's adventures with the Red Baron, "Peanuts" has embodied human vulnerabilities, emotions, and potential.

(11) Charles M. Schulz's lifetime of work has linked generations of Americans and has become a part of the fabric of our national culture.

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The President is authorized to present, on behalf of the Congress, a gold medal of appropriate design to Charles M. Schulz in recognition of his lasting artistic contributions to the Nation and the world.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose of the presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

Under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under section 2 at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses, and the cost of the gold medal.

SEC. 4. NATIONAL MEDALS.

The medals struck under this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.