

offer our substitute proposal that has brought this issue to the floor when it does come to the floor?

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman for that inquiry, and the gentleman is absolutely correct. It is an important issue. The committee expects to mark it up and prepare it for the House by Wednesday of next week.

We would hope to have it on the floor then the following week; and then, of course, the Committee on Rules will deliberate on that. And I am sorry I cannot answer at this time what rule will be reported.

I do appreciate the concern the minority has, and I will relay that on to the Committee on Rules.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his reply, and I understand the fact that he may not be able to predict what the Committee on Rules would do, but can the distinguished Leader, based upon what I understand are conversations that I have not participated in, but I think some have, can the Leader advise me whether or not it would be his intention to advise the Committee on Rules that the minority have the opportunity to offer its substitute on an issue of such magnitude to the American people?

Mr. ARMEY. Let me again thank the gentleman for his inquiry. I have not participated in the discussions to which the gentleman refers. I will consult with those Members of our leadership that have been involved in those discussions and then act in accordance with what I understand from those discussions.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his response, and, again, would hope very sincerely that on a matter of this magnitude that the House would have the opportunity of considering at least two substantive alternatives and the substantive alternative offered by the minority party as it sees fit to offer it.

Mr. ARMEY. I appreciate the gentleman's interests; and certainly I understand, having been in the minority, myself, how strongly you must feel about that.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman.

AUTHORIZING AWARD OF MEDAL OF HONOR TO ED W. FREEMAN, JAMES K. OKUBO, AND ANDREW J. SMITH

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate bill (S. 2722), to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to Ed. W. Freeman, James K. Okubo, and Andrew J. Smith, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate bill, as follows:

S. 2722

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

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY TO AWARD MEDAL OF HONOR TO ED W. FREEMAN, JAMES K. OKUBO, AND ANDREW J. SMITH.

(a) INAPPLICABILITY OF TIME LIMITATIONS.—Notwithstanding the time limitations in section 3744(b) of title 10, United States Code, or any other time limitation, the President may award the Medal of Honor under section 3741 of such title to the persons specified in subsection (b) for the acts specified in that subsection, the award of the Medal of Honor to such persons having been determined by the Secretary of the Army to be warranted in accordance with section 1130 of such title.

(b) PERSONS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE THE MEDAL OF HONOR.—The persons referred to in subsection (a) are the following:

(1) Ed W. Freeman, for conspicuous acts of gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life and beyond the call of duty on November 14, 1965, as flight leader and second-in-command of a helicopter lift unit at landing zone X-Ray in the Battle of the Ia Drang Valley, Republic of Vietnam, during the Vietnam War, while serving in the grade of Captain in Alpha Company, 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion, 101st Cavalry Division (Airmobile).

(2) James K. Okubo, for conspicuous acts of gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life and beyond the call of duty on October 28 and 29, and November 4, 1944, at Foret Domaniale de Champ, near Biffontaine, France, during World War II, while serving as an Army medic in the grade of Technician Fifth Grade in the medical detachment, 442d Regimental Combat Team.

(3) Andrew J. Smith, for conspicuous acts of gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life and beyond the call of duty on November 30, 1864, in the Battle of Honey Hill, South Carolina, during the Civil War, while serving as a corporal in the 55th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment.

(c) POSTHUMOUS AWARD.—The Medal of Honor may be awarded under this section posthumously, as provided in section 3752 of title 10, United States Code.

(d) PRIOR AWARD.—The Medal of Honor may be awarded under this section for service for which a Silver Star, or other award, has been awarded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY) is recognized for 1 hour.

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

Mr. Speaker, S. 2722 authorizes the award of the Medal of Honor to three individuals who have been recommended for the award following a review by the Secretary of the Army.

In authorizing an award S. 2722, waives the time limits established in the law for the award of the Medal of Honor. The three cases involve extraordinary valor in combat and represent well the high standard for bravery that is the hallmark of our Nation's most cherished decoration, the Medal of Honor.

Corporal Andrew J. Smith, 55th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, saved the regimental colors from capture on November 30, 1864, during the Battle of Honey Hill, South Carolina, when an assault left one-half of the regiment's officers and a third of the enlisted men killed or wounded.

Technician Fifth grade, James K. Okubo, Medical Detachment 442nd Reg-

imental Combat Team, rescued several badly wounded members of his unit while under heavy enemy fire on October 28, 29, and November 4, 1944, near Biffontaine France.

Captain Ed. W. Freeman, 229 Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, repeatedly flew into one of the hottest and most embattled landing zones of the Vietnam War to provide essential supplies and evacuate wounded on November 14, 1965, at landing zone X-ray during the battle of the LaDrang Valley, Republic of Vietnam.

The legislation would provide the appropriate honors posthumously to three valiant Americans of very different backgrounds, engaged in three very different battles. No matter how different the men, no matter how different the tactical or technological aspects of the conflicts in which they found themselves, they each reflected the best character of the American soldier.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to note that this legislation would, if adopted by the House, permit Mr. Okubo's family to receive his medal along with other Asian-American veterans who will receive Medals of Honor in a White House Ceremony on June 21.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of S. 2722.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE).

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY) for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2722, which is before the House today authorizing the Medal of Honor for James K. Okubo, Ed. W. Freeman, and Andrew J. Smith for the heroic actions as outlined by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY).

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These three individuals are highly deserving of this award for their conspicuous bravery under fire in the defense of our great nation.

I am particularly pleased that this legislation is the culmination of an exhaustive effort to recognize James K. Okubo for his valor during World War II. Mr. Okubo, a Japanese-American, originally from Washington State, like hundreds of others was sent to an internment camp in California at the outset of World War II. Despite being subjected to this shameful treatment, he never wavered in his patriotism and dedication to this country.

James Okubo entered the Army and was assigned as a medic in the legendary 442nd Regimental Combat Team. In October of 1944, Technician Okubo and his unit were tasked with the rescue of the "Lost Battalion" from Texas. The "Lost Battalion" was surrounded by German forces and threatened with annihilation.

During a 2 day period of heavy machine gun fire, mortar and artillery fire, Technician Okubo provided first-aid to 25 fellow soldiers wounded in the