

and her mother were taken to the woods of Paneriai outside of Vilnius, stripped down to their underwear, lined up at the edge of pits, and viciously gunned down.

Fruma and Gitta Kaplan did not face their horrible fate alone. Prior to 1941, Vilnius was home to one of the most vibrant Jewish communities in Europe. It was called the "Jerusalem of the North." Artists, scholars, philosophers, and religious leaders all lived there, men and women renowned for their intellectual and cultural talents. After the Nazi invasion, they were slaughtered—55,000 of Vilnius' 60,000 Jews perished during World War II.

The death warrants for Gitta and little Fruma were signed by Aleksandras Lileikis, the Chief of the Lithuanian Security Police for Vilnius Province. He supervised the slaughter of Vilnius' Jewish community with precision and zeal, sending Jews to Paneriai regardless of age and infirmity. The Kaplan documents make up only a small portion of the overwhelming evidence which establishes Lileikis' guilt. Our own Department of Justice calls this evidence in the Lileikis case a "shockingly complete paper trail."

Lileikis and his deputy, Kazys Gimzauskas, escaped Lithuania and came to the United States after World War II. They lived quite lives, Lileikis in Massachusetts and Gimzauskas in Florida, evading the consequences of their crimes. It wasn't until this past decade—after the collapse of the Soviet Union and the opening of archives and other sources of information not available until that point—that the U.S. Department of Justice was able to accumulate the evidence which established the legal basis for stripping U.S. citizenship from these two individuals, who covered up their horrendous crimes. They were deported from the United States and ended up back in the newly independent Lithuania.

Since their return to Lithuania, Lileikis and Gimzauskas classified their wartime activities as the deeds of "Lithuanian patriots," slandering the legacy of the untold thousands of courageous Lithuanians who fought to defend their national identity against Soviet might. Even so, these shameless men were never brought to trial, as their claims of medical and age-related infirmities stalled court proceedings indefinitely. The legal amendments passed by the Seimas promise to alter this status, because the Prosecutor-General of Lithuania can now initiate trials for Lileikis and Gimzauskas without further delay.

Lileikis and Gimzauskas are not alone. Several other Nazis have been denaturalized and deported by the U.S. Department of Justice, and the memory of the Holocaust demands that they be brought to justice as soon as possible. It is imperative that the Lithuanian Government send a firm and principled message that the murder of 240,000 of its Jewish citizens in the Holocaust will never be forgotten, not in this generation or in any generation to come. It is my hope that Lithuania will soon demonstrate this commitment by opening trials against Lileikis, Gimzauskas, and other Lithuanians who participated in Nazi atrocities.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud recent statements by President Valdas Adamkus, Prime Minister Andrius Kubilius, and Speaker Landsbergis in support of the immediate prosecution of Nazi war criminals. As the Prime Minister eloquently noted at the January Holocaust con-

ference in Stockholm, pursuing war criminals is "a moral duty that must be fulfilled in the 21st century as well," and that "forgiving and forgetting [the culprits] is out of the question." I could not agree more strongly with this sentiment.

The prosecution of Nazi war criminals will complement and strengthen the efforts of the question." I could not agree more strongly with this sentiment.

The prosecution of Nazi war criminals will complement and strengthen the efforts of the Lithuanian Government to promote Holocaust education. The Commission for the Investigation of Crimes Committed during the Nazi and Soviet Occupation of Lithuania, formed in 1998 and ably co-chaired by Dr. Zingeris, promises a thorough study of "the role of Lithuanians and others in the local population as perpetrators and/or collaborators in the Holocaust." The most vital responsibility of the Commission is clearly stated in its mission statement: "Support for the preparation of educational materials and curricula for school students at all levels, to promote study, discussion and understanding of Lithuanian history during the Nazi and Soviet occupations." Mr. Speaker, the true measure of the Commission's success rests in its ability to convey its findings to the children and grandchildren of today's Lithuanians. I am hopeful that it will achieve this goal.

Mr. Speaker, I welcome the changes that have taken place in Lithuania over the past decade. As I mentioned earlier, I had the opportunity this past January to visit Vilnius and see first-hand the changes. While there, I participated in the Lithuanian opening of "The Last Days," a documentary produced by Steven Spielberg and the Shoah Foundation about the experiences of five Hungarian survivors of the Holocaust. I was one of those five survivors, Mr. Speaker. As I walked through the neighborhood formerly occupied by the Jewish Ghetto, I was reminded of a part of Lithuanian heritage that can never be replaced—the talents and gifts of a quarter million murdered citizens and their unborn descendants. The loss overwhelmed me.

Later that evening, at the movie premiere, I was joined in my emotion by President Adamkus, Prime Minister Kubilius, Speaker Landsbergis, and a host of other prominent Lithuanian leaders. They attended as representatives of modern Lithuania—a nation strengthened by perseverance, emboldened by freedom, and sensitive to the consequences of human rights denied. It is a nation that, I am confident, will continue to learn from the lessons of its past and will use them to shape its future. The passage of the amendments to allow war criminals to be tried in absentia, and the prospect that the cases of Aleksandras Lileikis and other Nazi murderers will soon move forward, further strengthens my faith in this conviction.

Mr. Speaker, it is in this spirit that I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting S. Con. Res. 19. The accomplishments of the Lithuanian people during the past decades are impressive, but they pale only in comparison to the promise of this great nation in the years to come.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on

Senate Concurrent Resolution 91, the pending measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Ms. LEE. 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. GILMAN) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate concurrent resolution, Senate Concurrent Resolution 91.

The question was taken.

Mr. GILMAN. 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.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KOREAN WAR AND THE SERVICE BY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES DURING SUCH WAR

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 86) recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Korean War and the service by members of the Armed Forces during such war, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.J. RES. 86

Whereas on June 25, 1950, Communist North Korea invaded South Korea with approximately 90,000 troops, thereby initiating the Korean War;

Whereas on June 27, 1950, President Harry S. Truman ordered military intervention in Korea;

Whereas approximately 5,720,000 members of the Armed Forces served during the Korean War to defeat the spread of communism in Korea and throughout the world;

Whereas casualties of the United States during the Korean War included 54,260 dead (of whom 33,665 were battle deaths), 92,134 wounded, and 8,176 listed as missing in action or prisoners of war; and

Whereas service by members of the Armed Forces in the Korean War should never be forgotten: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Congress—

(1) recognizes the historic significance of the 50th anniversary of the Korean War;

(2) expresses the gratitude of the people of the United States to the members of the Armed Forces who served in the Korean War;

(3) honors the memory of service members who paid the ultimate price for the cause of freedom, including those who remain unaccounted for; and

(4) calls upon the President to issue a proclamation—

(A) recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Korean War and the sacrifices of the members of the Armed Forces who served and fought in Korea to defeat the spread of communism; and

(B) calling upon the people of the United States to observe such anniversary with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on House Joint Resolution 86, now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

The forgotten war. That is what many of our Korean War veterans think about their service in Korea and the Korean era, and yet there are so many names in the Korean War that are permanently installed in the American lexicon. Such names as Inchon, the 38th parallel, Heartbreak Ridge, Pork Chop Hill. How is it that we have come to forever remember the places of war but overlook the people that sacrificed and endured?

I would like to share a soldier's story. And there are many stories that individuals can share, whether it is in the sea or on the ground or in the air, but I would like to tell this one of a teenager from White County, Indiana, by the name of Bill Green.

1500

On June 23, 1950, before dawn, North Korean artillery opened fire across the 38th parallel with preparatory fires. A half hour later, the North Korean Army commenced a four-prong attack with an estimated nine divisions, numbering 80,000 men, 150 tanks and numerous artillery pieces.

At the time, Mr. Green served with K Company, the 21st Infantry, and the 24th Infantry. He was stationed in Japan as part of the World War II Army of Occupation under General Douglas MacArthur.

In less than a week, Mr. Green and his unit were air transported to Korea and formed Task Force Smith. The Force was tasked to delay and defend the attacking North Koreans at Osan, only 50 miles from the North Korean border.

Task Force Smith was comprised of the 7th, the 24th, and the 25th Divisions, as well as the 1st Cavalry. They were severely undermanned and totaled 66 percent of the normal combat strength. The 24th Division, to which Mr. Green was assigned, had only 10,800 men of a required 18,900 strength.

In fact, when Mr. Green's company arrived in Korea, it carried only two 81-mm base plates and two mortar tubes but no bipods to stabilize the weapon and no sights to aim the weapon.

In addition, K company had no recoilless rifles, the main weapon used against tanks, and the only jeep in the weapons company was a privately owned vehicle belonging to one of the privates. Furthermore, the artillery attached to Task Force Smith possessed only 13 anti-tank artillery rounds.

On July 2, 1950, the Task Force moved north from Pusan, South Korea, pushing through endless lines of bewildered refugees and retreating South Korean Army units.

On July 5, 1950, a strong force of North Korean infantry and tanks struck Task Force Smith as it stood alone in the roadway between attacking communist forces and the rest of a free South Korea. The outnumbered Americans fired artillery, bazookas, mortars and their rifles at North Korean communists and their Russian-made tanks.

During the battle, Task Force Smith was hopelessly outgunned and outnumbered. In the area of operations for the 24th Division, Mr. Green's 21st regiment was outmanned nine to one, approximately 9,000 to 1,000. The 21st Infantry, with only two rifle companies, a battery of 105 howitzers, two mortar platoons, and six bazooka teams received its baptism of fire in Korea by holding an entire enemy division for 7 hours. Escaping impending doom near Osan, the 21st fought its way out of encirclement and retreated 12 miles south.

Following the battle at Osan, Task Force Smith defended the town of Taejon, half way between the North Korean border and Pusan, the last stronghold of American and South Korean forces.

In August and September, Mr. Green participated in the defense of Pusan, which was only one area between advancing North Korean forces and the sea.

On September 19, 1950, Task Force Smith attacked across the Naktong River, breaking out of the Pusan Perimeter and beginning the rapid advance to the north, thus escaping the fall of South Korea and the certain death of thousands of Americans and South Koreans.

The reason I pause to share this is, this was an individual who was, like many others, teenagers, young men in their 20s even. They went and served in the military. This was the aftermath of World War II. They found themselves in the comfort of an occupation force. They were not adequately trained. They were not adequately manned and staffed. They were not even adequately resourced. Yet they were called because their country called them to duty. And that is what they were, called to duty. And they had to face an outnumbered force.

Yet they fought with truly an American character. They fought for no bounty of their own but to only leave freedom in their footsteps. The Korean War. Over 55,000 lost their lives in the Korean War. It is only proper that we

pause and think about those, many of whom had just served in World War II, some of whom were not young enough to have served in World War II, Mr. Speaker, but they found themselves in a similar position as Mr. Green.

My father, John Buyer, is a Korean War-era veteran. He went to Culver Military Academy. He went to the Citadel. After all those years of military training, he decided to decline his commission, and wanted to go into medicine. But he got drafted. And instead of all his peers serving in the officer corps, my father taught me many things in his silence.

He ended up as a sergeant in the Army. Not once did he ever complain. Not once did he ever say, oh, I could have been an officer. No. His country called and he did his duty, like millions before.

I do not know whoever said that the Korean War was the forgotten war. But from my point of view, as a son of a Korean War-era veteran, it is a meaningful war to me.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this resolution, H.J. Res. 86, a resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Korean War.

I cannot help, while sitting here awaiting my moment to speak, to think of names like Barney Rostine, Richard Yates, Jim Sparks, schoolmates of mine who paid the ultimate price and were killed in action during the Korean War.

I was fortunate to have a roommate in law school who later became a judge in Brookfield, Missouri, by the name of Robert Devoy, who fought in the Pusan Perimeter, the conflict of which the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER) just mentioned. So it is with great respect and reverence that I support this resolution today.

Fifty years ago this June, President Harry S. Truman ordered United States military intervention on the Korean Peninsula. Over the next 3 years, over 54,000 Americans paid the ultimate price; and 33,000 were actually killed in action. Over 110,000 Americans were wounded or missing in action. In addition, over 228,000 South Korean soldiers and untold numbers of civilians gave their lives.

These stark statistics serve as a reminder to all of us that the aphorism "freedom isn't free" is more than just a few words. The sacrifices of thousands of American service members purchased the freedom that South Koreans enjoy to this day, a freedom that our military continues to protect.

In many respects, our participation in the Korea conflict presaged and has served as a model for our way of military operations today.

Korea was the first multilateral United Nations operation, and it has become the longest standing peacekeeping operation in modern times.

The unfortunate experience of Task Force Smith has taught us the paramount importance of sending forces into battle only when they are adequately trained and equipped.

We have also learned that units cannot be thrown piecemeal into battle but must be engaged in a coordinated fashion with air and sea power and with overwhelming force.

The lessons of the Korean War, taught at such great costs, have served us well in the conflicts in which we have participated since then, from Vietnam to the Persian Gulf War and now in Bosnia and Kosovo.

As much as we may be inclined to remember the leaders who ultimately brought us victory in the Korean War—Truman, MacArthur, Acheson, Walker and Ridgeway—it is really the men and women who served so bravely to whom we should pay tribute today. And that is what we do. Without their selfless dedication, their valor, their perseverance, the people of South Korea would not be living in a free and prosperous society as they are.

This resolution recognizes their service, expresses the gratitude of the American people, and calls upon the President of the United States to issue an appropriate proclamation, something he unquestionably should do.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support H.J. Res. 86.

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

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EWING), the sponsor of the bill.

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

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Joint Resolution 86, which I proudly have introduced in this House.

The year 2000 marks the 50th anniversary of the Korean War. This joint resolution recognizes this important anniversary and the sacrifice of all members of the Armed Forces who served there.

I thank the 210 of my colleagues who have cosponsored this important piece of legislation, and I thank them for offering their support to the Korean War veterans.

On June 25, 1950, communist North Korean forces crossed the 38th Parallel and invaded the country of South Korea. Two days later, on June 27, 1950, President Harry S. Truman called on American military forces to intervene. Over the next 3 years, 5.72 million Americans would heed the call to service.

When the fighting came to an end on July 27, 1953, 92,134 had been wounded, 54,260 Americans had died, 33,665 of which were battle dead; 8,176 were either prisoners of war or missing in action.

Every time I have visitors come to this great city, one of the things that I like to see them take in, particularly at night, is the Korean War Memorial.

It is truly a most moving tribute to our servicemen.

The Korean War ended just before I graduated from high school, but it was a real part of my life. My brother was serving in the military. Later I met many of my future college fraternity brothers who had served in Korea, and I shared stories with them. But even though the fighting in Korea ended in 1953, for the next 40 years, America stood on the victory of our soldiers in Korea. And I believe that the victory in Korea started the downfall of communism, until its ultimate defeat 10 years ago. And yet, our military still serves freedom's goals in Korea in protecting this country.

In my own Congressional district, veterans have joined together to build a Korean War Veterans National Museum and Library in Tuscola, Illinois. This may well be the first facility solely devoted to the remembrance, research, and study of the Korean War.

By calling on the President to issue a proclamation recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Korean War and calling on the American people to observe this occasion with appropriate ceremonies and activities, efforts such as these of the veterans in the 15th District of Illinois remembering this war will be very, very meaningful.

As veterans across the country join together over the next 3 years to remember both the victories and their fallen colleagues, we in Congress must take the lead by saying thank you to those who returned and those who did not.

Regretfully, the Korean War is often referred to as "the forgotten war." By passing this resolution, we in the House of Representatives, Republicans and Democrats, but first of all Americans, we can help end that nomenclature for the Korean War.

I would not only like to thank Chairman SPENCE for bringing this bill forward for consideration, but I would also like to thank him and all of our colleagues whose service here in this chamber was preceded by their sacrifice in Korea in defense of freedom.

In a short while, we will vote on this joint resolution. Let it not be forgotten that we may not even have this opportunity to vote this day had it not been for these heroes who so faithfully fought to protect the republic. To the veterans who served and those who made the ultimate sacrifice, we say thank you.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. McNULTY).

1515

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in very strong support of this joint resolution of which I am proud to be a cosponsor. I agree with the author of this resolution and the other Members who have spoken in saying that it is high time we remove any remaining perception that this is a forgotten war. I am very proud of the fact that in the 21st District of the State of New York, it is certainly not forgotten. We have beautiful memorials to the Korean War vet-

erans both in Albany and in Troy; and on the first Monday of every month, Mr. Speaker, in Albany, we salute a distinguished veteran. We do the same thing on the second Monday of every single month in Rensselaer county to keep the memories alive and to give thanks.

And so today I salute and pay tribute to the more than 54,000 Americans who gave their lives in service to our country, a sacrifice which my brother made in a succeeding war. I also salute those who are still alive today from the Korean era; and there are many, like my friend Ned Haggerty who is twice the recipient of the Purple Heart.

This is a good resolution, also, for us to generally stop and pause and get our priorities straight and to remember that had it not been for the men and women who wore the uniform of the United States military through the years, we would not have the privilege of going around bragging about how we live in the freest and most open democracy on earth. Freedom is not free. We paid a tremendous price for it. That is why when I get up in the morning as my first two priorities, I thank God for my life and then I thank veterans for my way of life. Today, I especially thank those from the Korean era.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP), chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Indiana for yielding time to me. I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EWING) for introducing this measure.

Mr. Speaker, June 25 will mark the 50th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War. It is called the forgotten war not because it was not important, but because it came between the most popular war, World War II, and the most controversial war, the war in Vietnam. It was the first real resistance to world communism.

America at the mid-century point still yearned for peace. That was especially true for those of us who fought during World War II. But it was not to be. World War II had made America the undisputed champion of the free world. There was no other power capable of responding when North Korea launched an all-out predawn attack on the south hoping to unite the Korean peninsula under Communist rule. North Korea with the aid of the Soviet Union and Communist China thought conquest would be quick and easy.

Mr. Speaker, they were wrong. The Korean War was as bitter and bloody as any war America ever fought. It taught us many lessons and still teaches us today. It taught a lesson to those who thought America would not accept the role of defender of the free world. Mr. Speaker, it is my hope by the time this year is over, neither the Korean War nor the men who fought in it will be forgotten any longer. It certainly will not be forgotten by the more than 50,000 families who lost loved ones in the Korean War.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES).

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time. I rise in strong support of this bill. With over 60,000 military retirees and veterans in my district, which includes thousands of Korean War veterans, I am proud to be a cosponsor of this bill and to speak in support of its passage today.

The 50th anniversary of the Korean War is a time for all Americans to reflect on the incredible sacrifices made by our men and women in preserving liberty on the Korean peninsula. Mr. Speaker, our Korean War veterans are America's heroes for their incredible courage and bravery. They fought for freedom under some of the harshest combat conditions imaginable.

Last December I had the opportunity to visit our troops stationed in Korea. I saw firsthand the rough terrain and cold and cruel climate that our Korean veterans endured and which our troops today continue to bear in defense of peace along the 38th Parallel. Looking back on these sacrifices, none of us should ever forget the honorable service of our Korean War veterans, nor should we forget the sacrifices made by their families.

As the Korean War memorial in Washington, D.C. reflects, freedom is not free. No one knows that better than our Korean War veterans. Millions of American soldiers left their families, friends, and their lives to defend the people of a faraway land, far from the United States. They are part of our American legacy that has always been ready to take up arms whenever necessary to protect our national security and turn back the attacks of totalitarianism. When we stand and take stock of the freedom and security that our Nation enjoys today, let us never take for granted the contributions and patriotism of our Korean War veterans.

This 50th anniversary commemoration should, therefore, serve as a strong reminder of our gratitude to our Korean War veterans and to our soldiers currently deployed around the world serving proudly on behalf of this country. It honors the memory of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for the cause of freedom and recognizes our continuing commitment to those who remain unaccounted and still missing. Let us with this resolution begin a year of remembrance and recognition.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SWEENEY).

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

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution.

When war broke out in Korea, America plunged headlong into conflict half a world away without even a week's notice. Brave men and women from around our great nation

responded immediately to the call for help. They left families, traveled thousands of miles from home to the Korean peninsula, fought fiercely for freedom, and turned back the tide of communist aggression.

Some may call Korea the "Forgotten War", but we must never forget the enormous sacrifices these fine American's made. I fill with pride as I listen to veterans from my district speak of their Korean War experiences. One can only imagine the horrors of war they underwent. I salute those who endured the bitter cold, driving monsoon rains, nerve-racking machine gun fire, and relentless bombardment in their successful attempt to protect freedom for all.

It is time, Mr. Speaker, to recognize and honor these great Americans. General Matthew Ridgeway, 8th United States Army Commander, best described what the service men and women were fighting for under his command in Korea. He accurately noted "this has long since ceased to be a fight for freedom for our Korean Allies alone and for their national survival. It has become, and it continues to be, a fight for our own freedom, for our own survival, in an honorable, independent national existence." Our fine men and women fought to uphold the principles of our democracy. They fought for our liberty.

Let us never forget the 5,720,000 Americans who nobly served on land, in the air, and at sea during the Korean War. Their sacrifices were immeasurable and accomplishments great in places like Pusan, Chosen Reservoir, Yalu River, and Inchon. They faced an enemy of superior number, but never their equal in determination and fortitude. These Americans took the first stand against communism and won.

The Korean War taught us several things which are applicable today. First, it reminds us to recognize, appreciate and take care of the veterans who fought for this country. Let us continue to build upon our first session successes in regards to veterans legislation. We must honor our commitment to veterans, as they honored their obligations in Korea.

It also reminds us of the importance of having a fully manned, equipped, and trained force. Ready forces deter the type of aggression we saw exhibited in Korea. America's forces must have the resources to be able to protect our freedom.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in supporting House Joint Resolution 86, recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War. America's men and women served bravely and deserve our highest recognition.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), chairman of the Committee on International Relations.

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time. I am pleased to rise in support of this resolution enabling Congress to duly recognize the significance of the 50th anniversary of the Korean War and allowing us to pay tribute to our armed forces who served and honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice or are still unaccounted for as a result of the Korean War. Regrettably the Korean veterans have not received due

recognition, the Korean War having become known as the forgotten war. I hope we can change that designation.

Those who served in Korea faced the same harrowing experiences and personal sacrifices that all veterans face while engaged in hostilities. The Korean War was the first successful multinational operation carried out under U.N. auspices. At the same time, the strong U.S. desire to keep the Soviet Union out of the conflict placed severe constraints on U.S. operations in Korea.

Over the past few years, there has been a strong focus on the 2,000 unaccounted-for POWs and MIAs of the Vietnam war. While our hearts go out to all the families of missing veterans, we must not forget that 8,100 veterans are still unaccounted for in Korea. Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I urge our distinguished colleagues to support H.J. Res. 86 so that the efforts of our Korean veterans can be duly recognized.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO).

(Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO. Mr. Speaker, I want to join my colleagues in honoring the veterans of the Korean War on the 50th anniversary of the beginning of this international conflict. The men and women who served in the armed forces during this so-called forgotten war are to be commended for the sacrifices they made while fighting in this distant land.

I especially want to commend the veterans from Puerto Rico who served our country during this period. Over 61,000 Puerto Rican soldiers served in Korea, constituting 8 percent of the U.S. forces. Individually, they received numerous awards for gallantry in combat, including 8 recipients of the Distinguished Service Cross and 129 recipients of the Silver Star. The Army's most decorated unit during the Korean conflict was the Puerto Rican 65th Infantry Regiment, which was known throughout the Army as the Borinquenos, which is from the Indian name for Puerto Rico. In total 3,049 Puerto Ricans were wounded in combat and 756 gave their lives in defense of American democratic values. I would like to share a letter from General Douglas MacArthur, the Supreme Commander for the allied powers in the Korean operation, who wrote to the commander of the 65th Infantry on February 12, 1951:

"The Puerto Ricans forming the rank of the gallant 65th infantry on the battlefield of Korea by valor, determination and a resolute will to victory give daily testament to their invincible loyalty to the United States and the fervor of their devotion to those immutable standards of human relations to which the Americans and Puerto Ricans are in common dedicated. They are writing a brilliant record of achievement in battle and I am proud

indeed to have them in this command. I wish that we may have many more like them."

I thank the gentleman for allowing me the opportunity to honor the sacrifices of the gallant Americans who served in the armed forces during the Korean War.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BARRETT).

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time. I rise in very strong support of this resolution, which honors the 1.7 million Americans who served our country so courageously in the Korean theater. It is often called the forgotten war, but because of the long-term impact it has had on the world, this war and its veterans certainly should be anything but forgotten.

The Department of Defense is starting a commemoration period lasting until 2003 to honor the many veterans who served in this war. National and international events are planned and an education program is under way to encourage study of the Korean War in high school history programs. I urge all Americans to take time to honor these veterans and reflect on the sacrifices that they made for this country.

I served in the Navy during the Korean War, but I spent the war years stateside. Even though I was never in theater, I still think of the Korean War as the war of my generation. There were 5.7 million of us who served worldwide during the Korean war. Unfortunately, the veterans of that war have never been as honored as their counterparts who served in World War II just a few years before. That is why it means so much to me that we are now taking this opportunity 50 years later to honor these people.

I rise today in strong support of this resolution which honors the 1.7 million Americans who served our country so courageously in the Korean theater. The Korean War is often called the forgotten war, but because of the long-term impact it's had on the world, this war and its veterans should be anything but forgotten.

The Korean War changed the way wars were fought in a nuclear age, and marked the beginning of the Cold War. Our involvement in the Korean War serves as a poignant reminder of the power of American efforts against communist aggression. Since then, we've made a forty year investment in South Korea, toward peace and stability in the region.

The Department of Defense is starting a commemoration period lasting until 2003, to honor the many veterans who served in this war. National and international events are planned, and an education program is under way to encourage study of the Korean War in high school history programs. I urge all Americans to take time to honor these veterans, and reflect on the sacrifices they made for our country.

I served in the Navy during the Korean War, but I spent the war years stateside. Even though I was never in theater, I still think of

the Korean War as the war of my generation. There were 5.7 million of us who served worldwide during the Korean War.

Unfortunately, the veterans of that War have never been as honored as their counterparts who served in World War II, just a few years before. That's why it means so much to me that we are now taking this opportunity—fifty years later—to say thank you to everyone who did their part, to protect and promote democracy. Freedom is not free, but protecting freedom is among the most honorable calls one can answer.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) who saw and was part of the conflict, former staff sergeant in the United States Army, now a distinguished and highly regarded Member of this Congress.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for giving me this opportunity. I guess it was in June of 1950 when I was with the 2nd Infantry Division at Fort Lewis, Washington, when we heard that there was a police action in Korea. In July and August of that year, we were sent to Korea in a troop ship. Most of us were 19, 20 years old, and we were the first troops, American troops, from the States to go into Korea.

The 24th and 25th Divisions having left from Japan going there had been pushed from the 38th Parallel to the Pusan Perimeter. We landed and had substantial casualties but managed to get close to the 38th Parallel. General MacArthur had the Inchon landing and then we moved swiftly north to the Yalu river which separated North Korea from Manchuria, and the entire 8th Army and the 2nd Infantry Division, of which I was a member, were there waiting to go home in September of 1950.

It was on or about this time that the Commander in Chief, Harry Truman, had a dispute with General MacArthur and General MacArthur left and dealt with the President of the United States. During this time, the Peoples' Volunteer Army completely surrounded the entire 8th Army, and on November 30, 1950, a massacre occurred of the 2nd Infantry Division and many of the supporting battalions that were there.

In June, I will be taking some of those veterans back to South Korea, and we are attempting to revisit some of the battle sites in North Korea. It was strange that people found it so easy to forget the tens of thousands of soldiers that responded to the United Nations and responded to President Truman as nations of the world got together to stop Communism. But I do not think that this is unusual to see our young people doing this type of thing.

And so whether it is World War I or II or whether it is the Korean War or the Vietnam War, I really think we ought to pay more attention to those people who take time out from their families, who put their lives on the line and many times are captured and give

up their lives and then come back home to find themselves faced with getting food stamps and adequate pay and just plainly a lack of respect for what they have done.

1530

It has been 50 years but we have a long way to go, and I thank the gentleman for giving me this opportunity to pay tribute to so many friends and comrades that are no longer with us today.

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

Mr. Speaker, I associate myself with the comments of the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) and for that reason, I would say to the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), I, by way of opening, shared also a soldier's story of Bill Green from White County, Indiana, who is part of Task Force Smith and those of us today, while I am the son of a Korean War veteran, having served in the Gulf War, today now being on the Committee on Armed Services, on the committee we use the example that those who lived with Task Force Smith, that never again will we place our men and women into harm's way whereby they are not trained properly or do not have the adequate resources to do the job. So we never want what the gentleman experienced ever have to happen again to our forces.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON).

(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 from New York (Mr. RANGEL) for his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, some people know I served in Vietnam and was a POW there, but I think there are not too many who know that I also flew in Korea 62 combat missions, and we are here because the Korean War is referred to as the forgotten war, but we have not forgotten it.

Frankly, I was lucky enough to fly with Johnny Glenn and Buzz Aldrin in the same outfit, and I remember one day we went out on the revetments and watched Ted Williams land a shot-up airplane. He sacrificed his career to fight for America in that war.

I think oftentimes we forget there are 8,100 MIA still over there, that we are still searching for their remains. We have not given up.

I also have a lot of friends from Australia, South Africa, England, and other countries. That was one of those wars where one made friends from all over the world.

This resolution shows our strong support for all of those who fought and the many who died. Today there are millions of Korean War veterans who still remember the horrors of their experiences but would gladly fight again if this country called. They are individuals of honor and integrity, and they

deserve to be recognized for their sacrifices to this country, including the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL).

I salute them. Our Korean War era Veterans have never forgotten America; and we are here to say today, we will never forget them. God bless America.

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

Mr. Speaker, as I was growing up in my hometown of Lexington, Missouri, I built model airplanes with a young man by the name of Vance Frick, who I learned just a few days ago passed away, a distinguished lawyer in the State of Missouri.

Vance Frick was in the Air Force of the United States, was shot down, held captive for a long period of time in North Korea and fortunately was able to return to his civilian life.

I have another friend that I would like to mention because this resolution really is very personal to me, the gentleman who retired not long ago as a major general in the United States Army Reserve. His name is Robert Shirkey of Kansas City, a well-known trial lawyer there. If one would have seen him in his uniform before he retired from the Army Reserve, they would have seen he wore a combat infantry badge with a star on top. The star indicated that he not only saw combat as an infantryman in one but two wars. He did yeoman's work in the Second World War in the Pacific in the Philippines as a member of the Alamo Scouts and was called upon again as a young officer to fight again in Korea; which he did.

So it is with the Robert Shirkeys of America that that war was prosecuted, that freedom came to pass in South Korea, that the resolve of America became known, and that America was able to say we are the bastion of freedom for this globe.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER).

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) for yielding this time.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. QUINN).

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) for yielding time to our side.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the resolution. Certainly as we are hearing from other speakers on both sides of the aisle, I join in that support. However, Mr. Speaker, I would like to just put a different angle on this for all of our Members who are listening and will come over shortly to vote. As the chairman of the Subcommittee on Benefits of our Committee on Veterans' Affairs, we are always talking about forgotten veterans, and we have heard this war be referred to as the forgotten war.

I would like to suggest to all of our Members that when we have to fight budget numbers, when we have to talk

about funding things in this institution of ours, that we take the opportunity to make sure that this forgotten war is not forgotten; that all of our veterans are not forgotten. We take the opportunity to fight for every single penny we can for our veterans who have served this country.

So this resolution, Mr. Speaker, is absolutely the right thing to do, to ask our members to continue in that vein, to fight with us for proper funding.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be here today as a Member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and I am honored to be a sponsor of this resolution. House Joint Resolution 86 calls upon the people of the United States to observe the 50th anniversary of the Korean War with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I am pleased to note that in Kansas we are going to do that, and I encourage all citizens of my State to look for other opportunities to say thank you to the veterans of the Korean War.

On July 25, 2000, the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War, in Salina, Kansas, a Korean War Veterans Planning Commission is planning a parade and other festivities to acknowledge the service to our country of our Korean War veterans.

On May 29, Memorial Day, I am planning a ceremony in Abilene, Kansas, at the Eisenhower Center to honor the Korean War veterans of the First District. I look forward to seeing them and their families there and we will pay tribute to their service to our country.

Eisenhower Center is an appropriate place for this ceremony as President Eisenhower played a significant role. A year after he became President, Eisenhower obtained the truce. So today I ask that we all join in supporting this resolution and that Kansans and all Americans recognize the important role these veterans played.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE).

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, the year 2000 does recognize the 50th anniversary of the Korean War, and this joint resolution recognizes the important anniversary and sacrifices of all Members of the armed services who served in that conflict.

This summer, Communist North Korean forces, fifty years ago, invaded across the 38th Parallel and invaded South Korea. Two days later on June 27, 1950, President Harry Truman called on the American forces to intervene; and over the next 3 years, over 5 million Americans served. 54,000 of them died in the conflict, and when the call to duty came, South Dakotans were there to answer the call.

There are 70,000 South Dakota veterans, roughly one-tenth of the entire population of our State. 13,200 of those veterans are Korean War Veterans, which is about 20 percent.

The Korean War is often referred to as the forgotten war. This joint resolution will help ensure that those who served and fought to preserve democracy and freedom in the Korean Peninsula are never forgotten. This historic event is a good opportunity to pay tribute to our Nation's veterans and to ensure they receive the care and treatment they have earned in return for their service.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, H.J. Res. 86 sets the record straight. Never should our courageous veterans, whether it is Bill Green of White County, Indiana or my father, Dr. John Buyer, or the millions who served in the Korean War ever, ever, ever doubt that this Nation understands and appreciates their sacrifices and their contribution to freedom that we enjoy, not only in our Nation but around the world. We must never allow a veteran who fought for this Nation or a family who lost a loved one by either death or is missing in action to ever say that their war was a forgotten war.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EWING) for bringing this resolution to the attention of the House and to the country. I urge my colleagues to send a message that the people who fought in Korea will not be forgotten and to vote in favor of adoption of the resolution.

I thank the ranking member, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON), for his words in support of this resolution and for his contribution to the House.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Joint Resolution 86, legislation I am an original cosponsor of to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Korean War.

It was on June 25, 1950 that Communist North Korean forces crossed the 38th Parallel and invaded South Korea. Two days later, on June 27, 1950, President Harry S. Truman called on American military forces to intervene and protect South Korea's democratically elected government and the freedom of the South Korea's democratically elected government and the freedom of the South Korean people. Over the next three years, 5,720,000 Americans would respond to the call to service.

After three years of battle, the fighting came to an end on July 27, 1953. The American casualties were high. More than 54,000 paid the ultimate price in the defense of freedom, another 92,000 suffered casualties, and 8,176 soldiers never returned home and are listed as missing in action.

Mr. Speaker, the Korean War is often referred to as the forgotten war. Tell that to the families of the more than 158,000 Americans who died, were wounded, or remain missing in action in Korea. Tell that to the People of

South Korea who were able to repel the onslaught of Communism and remain free. Our nation and the entire world owe a debt of gratitude to the millions of Americans, Allied and South Korean troops that defended a free nation. It is fitting that today our nation pays tribute to veterans of the forgotten war and promises that they will never be forgotten.

This resolution expresses the appreciation and gratitude of this Congress and the American people for those who served in uniform during the Korean War. It honors the memory of those who died, were wounded, or never returned home. And it calls upon the President and communities throughout our nation to observe the anniversary of this conflict with all the appropriate and just-deserved ceremonies and activities.

Mr. Speaker, this victory over the forces of evil served as a stepping stone to the ultimate demise of communism almost 40 years later, when President Reagan uttered those now famous words, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall." Our nation has taken great pride in honoring its commitment to provide the best in medical care, compensation, and services to those who have fought to preserve freedom throughout the world. At a time when American servicemen have taken up humanitarian causes half-way around the globe, it is essential that Congress continues to send a strong signal that our nation will make good on its promises to all veterans. It is my hope that in this 50th anniversary year of the Korean War, every American school child will learn of the sacrifices and victories of so many courageous Americans. We owe our Korean veterans nothing less.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Joint Resolution 86, which recognizes the 50th anniversary of the Korean War. I thank my colleague Congressman TOM EWING for introducing this legislation and for helping to bring it to the House floor today.

The resolution seeks to end the Korean War's unfortunate status as the "Forgotten War." We must never, ever forget the more than 90,000 veterans who were wounded in combat between 1950–1953. We must never, ever forget the 54,000 who died in a just and righteous cause. We must never, ever forget the more than 8,000 men who are still unaccounted for—missing in action. We must also never forget the immense sacrifices of our allies—particularly the South Korean people themselves. They, too, suffered terribly from the North's invasion.

The resolution we have before us today is a painful, but powerful reminder of the immense sacrifices made by the 5.72 million Americans who bravely responded to the call of duty. We are all personally grateful for their service and their many sacrifices. Ensuring that the 50th anniversary Korean War is appropriately recognized is the least we can do to honor these brave Americans.

Beyond recognizing the sacrifices made in blood, sweat and tears, we must also remember how pivotal the Korean War was to halting the spread of Communism worldwide. The sacrifices made by American soldiers on battlefields and mountains of the Korean peninsula helped make the containment of Communism, and its eventual demise, a reality some four decades later. Reflecting on the conflicts of the 20th Century, Communism along with Nazism will certainly go down as

one of the great stains on humanity's soul. Communism was responsible for more raw bloodshed, misery, and horror than any other single idea in the history of mankind.

The Korean War has many elements and characteristic that are unique to this struggle for freedom. For instance, the dangers from enemy bullets and bayonets was compounded by the extreme weather conditions of the Korean peninsula. In several battles of the Korean War, not only were American troops forced to fend off enemy fire in difficult terrain, but they had to do it sub-zero temperatures. Veterans lost limbs and fingers to frostbite. Others died outright from exposure. Veterans will tell you that nothing saps morale faster than being freezing cold. Yet for many years thereafter, these veterans received no disability rating from the VA that recognized their exposure to these harsh conditions.

During the 105th Congress I introduced legislation to create a presumptive disability for veterans with cold weather injury, to help those veterans of the Korean War and other conflicts receive the treatment and benefits they need and deserve. In response to the bill, the Department of Veterans' Affairs changed its regulations to make them more friendly to veterans who suffered from cold weather injuries. Those whose sacrifices were forgotten were finally being recognized, even if this recognition was long overdue.

One last point. I think it is particularly appropriate that on the 50th anniversary of the Korean War, that we remember the painful lessons of this conflict. There is a lot of feeling among historians that Secretary of State Dean Acheson's failure in January 1950 to clearly delineate South Korea as being within the U.S. defense perimeter in the Pacific lured the Communist Chinese and North Koreans into believing the U.S. would not respond to an invasion. 50 years later, I fear our nation is dangerously close to making the same mistake on the issue of Taiwan. If our nation fails to make it clear to the same Communist Chinese leadership that the United States will respond with decisive military force to any attempt by the People's Republic of China to invade Taiwan, Korean War veterans who went over at age 25 may be in the uniquely painful position of watching their 25 year-old grandchildren pay the price for appeasement once again.

So, I want to thank Congressman EWING again for introducing this resolution, and especially thank Korean War veterans for their heroic sacrifices.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues to commemorate those heroic Americans who served in the Korean War—some of whom serve in this House.

Mr. Speaker, like my colleagues, it bothers me that this War is called the "Forgotten War." The brave men and women who sacrificed their lives fighting the iron fist of communism and defending freedom shall not be forgotten.

I will never forget the 5 million, seven hundred thousand service men and women who heeded the call to serve America and protect the World from Communism's attack on South Korea.

Mr. Speaker, the reported 33,665 battle deaths, or the 8,176 soldiers listed as "Missing in Action" or "Prisoners of War" can never be forgotten. These heroes made the ultimate sacrifice, for which our nation is eternally grateful.

I represent a Congressional district in Florida where many Veterans have chosen to retire. Many of these Veterans served in the Korean War. When I ask them about their time in the service, they tell me, "Congressman, we just do not want to be forgotten."

And so, Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today and say once again, "Thank You" to those courageous Americans who fought to protect our freedom. As the Korean War Veterans Memorial here in Washington, DC expressly reads: "Freedom is not Free."

As we commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War, this year, we must not forget to thank those selfless Veterans of the Korean War.

Thank you, Mr. EWING for drafting this legislation.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War. It is often called "the forgotten war," but for the men and women who served there and for the families of those who did not return, the Korean war will never be forgotten.

Only 5 years had passed since the end of World War II when another international conflict erupted. On June 25, 1950, the communist forces of North Korea crossed the 38th Parallel and invaded South Korea. The American response was almost immediate. Two days later, President Harry Truman called upon America's military to intervene, and the United States led a United Nations force to the Asian peninsula.

Over the next 3 years, over 5 million American men and women answered the call to duty, eventually defeating communism's attack on South Korea. Over 92,000 of these brave Americans would be wounded during the conflict. Approximately 8,100 would become missing in action or prisoners of war. By the time the fighting ended, 54,260 Americans would have paid the ultimate sacrifice—giving their lives in the defense of freedom.

While communism's defeat would come almost 40 years after our victory in the Korean War, the significance of what our soldiers won there cannot be understated. Our Korean War veterans must never be forgotten. As a Korean War era veteran, I salute these brave men and women.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of H.J. Res. 86 and urge my colleagues to support this important resolution.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the men and women who served at a time in history when a war weary world longed for the quiet of peace.

The dedication to duty by our service men and women during the Korean war is a testament to the strength of our Nation's ideals and principles of democracy. It is right and fitting that during the 50th Anniversary of that sometimes forgotten war, we in Congress and the Nation, honor the service of Americans who helped defend the rights and freedoms of the people of the Republic of Korea.

We cannot forget and should not forget the countless sacrifices and hardships that these brave men and women endured at the outset of this war. We cannot forget the free nations of the world that banded together to fight the tide of aggression along the 38th parallel. We cannot forget the more than 36,000 American lives lost in the defense of democracy and freedom. We cannot and should not forget the hundreds and thousands of Korean War veterans whom we honor today on this House

floor, who still suffer the scars and pains of this conflict.

At a time in history where we see American service men and women deployed throughout the world, we cannot forget the men and women who went before them, who shouldered the burden of democracy and raised the torch of freedom for those who could not carry it by themselves.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress will not forget, nor will future generations of Americans who owe their liberty to these dedicated men and women who served us during the Korean War. I am proud to support this legislation and urge my colleagues to continue to work on behalf of all our Nation's veterans that we may never forget to whom we owe our freedom.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today as a cosponsor of H.J. Res. 86, which recognizes and honors the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War. It is high time that we stand up and recognize the veterans who fought in this "Forgotten War," both in the Korean Theater and on the homefront.

These men and women have no "Saving Private Ryan" to stand as a testament to their heroism or to record their contribution to our security and our freedom. They have no spokesman on the national level to bring attention to their attention to their sacrifices, like Senators Dole and McCain have done for World War II and Vietnam. They are, however, no less deserving of our thanks and our gratitude.

As it reads on the side of the Korean War Memorial, "Freedom is not free." And no one knows that better than the men and women called upon to serve after the Communist forces invaded South Korea early on the morning on June 25, 1950.

In the shadow of a great war and a clear-cut victory, at the start of a period of amazing prosperity at home, America's sons and daughters went to serve half a world away. They "answered a call to defend a country they never knew and a people they never met." They did so bravely, under adverse conditions, in a conflict that lasted far longer than most people predicted.

Over 19,000 Americans were killed in action in Korea. Nearly 800 of those who died in the war called New Jersey home, including over 30 from Morris County. Countless more of New Jersey's sons and daughters were among the nearly 1.5 million who served in the Korean Theater during the war, and millions more who served on the homefront.

There is one veteran who returned to New Jersey that I want to take a moment to honor named Joe Klapper. Joe was a tank commander during the war, and took part in the battle on Heartbreak Ridge. Joe was awarded the Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge and the Legion of Honor as a result of his service in Korea, and was fortunate to return home from the war to start a family. Joe was a "veterans veteran," who worked tirelessly on behalf of his colleagues from Korea, and those who served during other wars as well. Sadly, Joe passed away last September. Had Joe been with us today, he would have been pleased to know that he and his fellow Korean War Veterans were finally getting some of the recognition they so bravely earned, and so rightly deserve.

But we must not let today be the only day we honor Joe and those who served with him in the war. I commend the many veterans in

my home state of New Jersey who are pushing ahead plans to construct a memorial to our Korean War Veterans. In fact, next week, on March 14, veterans from across the state will gather in Atlantic City for the groundbreaking of this memorial. It may seem odd to place a monument to our nation's warriors on the busy, bustling Atlantic City boardwalk, but perhaps this central, well-travelled location will provide my state's forgotten heroes with some well-deserved, if belated, recognition.

I urge all my colleagues today to support H.J. Res. 86 and honor the legacy of the aging warriors who answered our nation's call to serve in Korea. These are the men and women who, as Korean War veteran and former FBI Director William Sessions ably noted, "suffered greatly and by their heroism in a thousand forgotten battles they added a luster to the codes we hold most dear: 'duty, honor, country, fidelity, bravery, integrity.'"

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.J. Res. 86, recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Korean War and honoring the dedication of American soldiers who served in this conflict.

On August 14, 1945 an agreement was signed which divided Korea at the 38th parallel. The northern part of the country was transferred to Soviet control, while the southern portion was placed under control of the United States. Five years later, on June 25, 1950, in the early morning hours, the North Korean People's Army invaded South Korea with seven assault infantry divisions, a tank brigade, and two independent infantry regiments.

Despite a prompt response by the United Nations Security Council calling for an end of aggression from North Korea. The fighting escalated. Five days later on June 30th, 1950, the fate of American involvement in the Korean aggression was sealed. On that day, president Truman ordered U.S. ground forces into Korea and authorized the bombing of North Korea by the U.S. Air Force.

Three years later, 33,629 Americans were dead, 103,248 were wounded, 3,746 were captured and repatriated, and 8,142 were still missing in action. On July 27, 1953, the cease-fire was signed by Lieutenant General Nam Il and Lieutenant General William K. Harrison at 10:00 am at Panmunjom. The Korean war had ended, but Americans had paid a heavy price to preserve freedom.

As an American and a patriot, I believe we have an obligation to remember and honor our nation's veterans. They fought to maintain and preserve our nation's pride and beliefs. What kind of men and women are these that we honor for their heroism and selfless sacrifice in Korea? They are Americans from all walks of life; ordinary people like our mothers and fathers, aunts and uncles. Americans who were inspired by the cause to defend our country, to protect and preserve our freedom.

American troops, time and again, have paid the supreme sacrifice for our nation's freedom. Many people refer to the Korean War as the forgotten war. Thirty-three thousand American soldiers perished in this "Forgotten War". We must never forget the ultimate sacrifice these brave men and women offered for the sake of freedom and democracy.

Mr. Speaker, as the son of a veteran, I am proud to join my fellow members in acknowledging the anniversary of the Korean War and saluting the hundreds of thousands of servicemen who answered to the call of duty.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Joint Resolution 86.

In the year 2000 we will observe the 50th anniversary of the Korean War. I think it is appropriate that we pause to look back and reflect on the contributions and the sacrifices of all the members of the Armed Forces who served in the Korean War. Approximately 5 million, 720,000 service members, including my husband served in the Korean War which began on June 25, 1950 and ended on July 27, 1953.

The majority of Americans living today were born after the Korean War ended or are too young to remember anything about the Korea Era. Perhaps that is one reason the Korean War is often referred to as the "Forgotten War." The purpose of this joint resolution on the Floor of the House today is to ensure that those who served, fought and died in Korea are never again forgotten.

In 1953, the Internet did not exist and in fact many homes had not yet acquired the era's latest technology—which was television—in black and white!

However, technological innovations made during the Korean War became part of the development of the U.S. armed services into the fine tuned machine it is today. It was in Korea that the U.S. began to learn that science and technology, not just manpower, was the key to winning conflicts.

Emphasis was given to protecting the combat soldier on the ground, and individual weapons to stop heavy armor were developed.

The helicopter became a tool to rescue downed airmen or to transport wounded soldiers to newly created Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH) units, which moved with the troops. Plasma, the clear, yellowish portion of blood, was used in war for the first time to save lives.

Korea was the first integrated war for the United States. For the first time in U.S. history, black Americans fought alongside white Americans.

Public support for the Korean War, called a "police action" by President Truman in order to send troops without a declaration of war, was never equivalent to World War II.

Men and women went to fight the war, received the support of their families, but did not experience the triumphant welcome home of World War II veterans. They came home quietly, got jobs, and America forgot them.

Tainted by the fact that a few American prisoners of war had collaborated with the communists and 21 had refused to return home, the American people questioned the integrity of American troops. This would become America's first "unpopular" war.

In the late spring of 1953, after two years of stalemate and the failure of the last Chinese offensive, an armistice was signed. The artillery fell silent, the machine guns and rifles grew quiet. On July 27, 1953, the fighting had ended.

But many Americans have somehow forgotten this terrible conflict. How can it be that a war that cost the lives of so many Americans and wounded twice as many more, and also took the lives of millions of Koreans and Chinese, could be so overlooked by history?

For many Korean War veterans, the war has remained clear in their memories. Their sacrifices are as real today as they were 50 years ago.

I am proud to be one of the 210 Members who have cosponsored this resolution to pay tribute to the service members of the Korean War. We commend their valor, their selfless sacrifice and their love of country.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all our colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join with my colleague from Illinois, Congressman TOM EWING, as an original cosponsor of H.J. Res. 86, a joint resolution which recognizes the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War. We live in peace today, and we owe our freedom as much to those who risked or sacrificed their lives in Korea as we do to the other brave men and women who have defended this Nation in the past century.

The bitter war in Korea was one of the defining conflicts of the 20th Century. Communist North Korea initiated the conflict on June 25, 1950 when it invaded South Korea with approximately 135,000 troops. President Harry S. Truman and the United Nations determined that this was an act of naked aggression that could not stand and committed ground, air and naval forces. Some 5,720,000 Americans served in the Armed Forces during the Korean War.

When it was over, the world was drawn up into two camps that nobody could envision ever changing. Korea was the initial confrontation of the nuclear age, a time President John F. Kennedy once described as "the hour of maximum peril."

There was a time when people called Korea "the Forgotten War." Korean War veterans never felt they were accorded the respect and thanks of a grateful Nation in fair measure. Some 4.1 million Korean War veterans are alive today. They returned home with the same kinds of injuries and needs as veterans of any major war. And make no mistake about it—Korea was a major war.

The decisive struggles of the past century were the wars against totalitarianism. The World War II generation faced the Axis powers with distinction and valor. Those who served in Korea—and those who bolstered our defenses around the globe during the Korean War—faced the forces of Stalinism with honor and great courage. That same honor and courage were displayed in a long series of wars and struggles that led to the fall of the Soviet empire.

For those of us in the Vietnam generation, the Korean War was never "the Forgotten War." It was part of our youth. I join my colleagues in honoring these gallant men and women.

I am honored to cosponsor this bipartisan joint resolution, which recognizes the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War and honors the sacrifice of those who served. Once again, I take this opportunity to say "Thank you."

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OSE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 86, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. EWING. 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will now put the question on each motion to suspend the rules on which further proceedings were postponed earlier today in the order in which that motion was entertained.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Senate Concurrent Resolution 91, by the yeas and nays; and

House Joint Resolution 86, by the yeas and nays.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first such vote in this series.

CONGRATULATING LITHUANIA ON THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS INDEPENDENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and concurring in the Senate concurrent resolution, S. Con. Res. 91.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate concurrent resolution, S. Con. Res. 91, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 384, nays 0, not voting 50, as follows:

[Roll No. 32]

YEAS—384

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Allen
Andrews
Archer
Army
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldacci
Baldwin
Ballenger
Barcia
Barr
Barrett (NE)
Barrett (WI)
Bartlett
Barton
Bass
Bateman
Becerra
Bentsen
Bereuter
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggart
Bilirakis
Bishop
Blagojevich
Bliley
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehkert
Boehner
Bonilla

Bonior
Borski
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brown (FL)
Bryant
Burr
Burton
Buyer
Callahan
Camp
Canady
Cannon
Capuano
Cardin
Carson
Castle
Chabot
Chambliss
Chenoweth-Hage
Clay
Clayton
Clement
Clyburn
Coble
Coburn
Collins
Combest
Condit
Conyers
Cook
Costello
Coyne
Cramer
Crane

Crowley
Cubin
Cummings
Danner
Davis (FL)
Davis (VA)
Deal
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
DeLay
DeMint
Deutsch
Diaz-Balart
Dickey
Dicks
Dingell
Dixon
Doggett
Doolittle
Doyle
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Ehrlich
Emerson
Engel
English
Etheridge
Evans
Everett
Ewing
Farr
Fattah
Fletcher
Foley
Forbes

Fossella
Fowler
Frank (MA)
Franks (NJ)
Frelinghuysen
Frost
Gallegly
Ganske
Gejdenson
Gekas
Gephardt
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gilman
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Goodling
Gordon
Goss
Graham
Green (TX)
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Gutierrez
Gutknecht
Hall (OH)
Hall (TX)
Hansen
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Herger
Hill (IN)
Hill (MT)
Hilleary
Hilliard
Hinchey
Hobson
Hoeffel
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Hooley
Horn
Hostettler
Houghton
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hutchinson
Hyde
Inslee
Isakson
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Jefferson
Jenkins
John
Johnson (CT)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kasich
Kelly
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind (WI)
King (NY)
Kingston
Klecza
Knollenberg
Kolbe
LaFalce
LaHood
Lampson
Largent
Latham
Lazio
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)

Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Lowey
Lucas (KY)
Lucas (OK)
Luther
Maloney (CT)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Markey
Mascara
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McInnis
McIntosh
McIntyre
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Metcalf
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller, Gary
Minge
Mink
Moakley
Mollohan
Moore
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Morella
Murtha
Myrick
Nadler
Neal
Nethercutt
Ney
Northup
Nussle
Oberstar
Obey
Oliver
Ortiz
Ose
Owens
Oxley
Packard
Pallone
Pastor
Paul
Pease
Pelosi
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Phelps
Pickering
Pickett
Pitts
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Portman
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Quinn
Rahall
Ramstad
Regula
Reyes
Reynolds
Riley
Rivers
Rodriguez
Roemer
Rogers
Ros-Lehtinen
Rothman

Roukema
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sabo
Salmon
Sanchez
Sandlin
Sanford
Sawyer
Schakowsky
Scott
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Shimkus
Shows
Shuster
Simpson
Sisisky
Skeen
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Spratt
Stabenow
Stark
Stearns
Stenholm
Strickland
Stump
Stupak
Sununu
Sweeney
Talent
Tancred
Tanner
Tauscher
Tauzin
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Thune
Thurman
Tiahrt
Tierney
Toomey
Towns
Traficant
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Visclosky
Vitter
Walden
Walsh
Wamp
Watkins
Watt (NC)
Watts (OK)
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Wexler
Weygand
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson
Wise
Wolf
Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—50

Bilbray
Bono
Brown (OH)
Calvert
Campbell
Capps
Cooksey
Cox
Cunningham
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
Dooley
Dunn
Eshoo
Filner
Ford
Granger
Hinojosa