

channelization, etc.) that would have a direct and adverse effect on its free-flowing condition or outstanding remarkable resources.

It does not mean that existing wastewater treatment plants or potential reservoir sites cannot be expanded to accommodate carefully planned residential, commercial, and industrial growth. New Castle County is actively seeking solutions to water shortage problems, and this bill does not limit options that are in the best interests of the citizens of Delaware.

This legislation does not replace the authority of state, county, and municipal governments to regulate land use in the watershed.

It simply prohibits Federal funds from being used to interfere with the free-flowing nature of the river or its unique resources. In doing so, it elevates the status of the river in competing for Federal preservation grants. Finally, it mobilizes the states, local governments, and communities in the watershed to work together to preserve this unique, free flowing river.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge House Resources Committee Chairman, DON YOUNG; Parks Subcommittee Chairman, JIM HANSEN; Resources Committee Staff, Tod Hull; my colleague, JOE PITTS; National Parks Staff, Chuck Barscz; and all the citizens in Delaware and Pennsylvania who have worked for over 30 years to protect White Clay Creek.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the combination of White Clay Creek Watershed's unique features and the strong local support for protecting the watershed justify its designation as a wild and scenic river. The Senate passed companion legislation by unanimous consent on April 13, 2000. I urge my colleagues to give their strong support to this bill.

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I urge support for the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1849, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1515

# DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND UNITED STATES TERRITORIES CIRCULATING QUARTER DOLLAR PROGRAM ACT

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5010) to provide for a circulating quarter dollar coin program to commemorate the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5010

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

## SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "District of Columbia and United States Territories Circulating Quarter Dollar Program Act".

## SEC. 2. ISSUANCE OF REDESIGNED QUARTER DOLLARS COMMEMORATING THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND EACH OF THE TERRITORIES.

Section 5112 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting after subsection (m) the following new subsection:

"(n) REDESIGN AND ISSUANCE OF CIRCULATING QUARTER DOLLAR COMMEMORATING THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND EACH OF THE TERRITORIES.—

"(1) REDESIGN IN 2009.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the fourth sentence of subsection (d)(1) and subsection (d)(2) and subject to paragraph (6)(B), quarter dollar coins issued during 2009, shall have designs on the reverse side selected in accordance with this subsection which are emblematic of the District of Columbia and the territories.

"(B) FLEXIBILITY WITH REGARD TO PLACEMENT OF INSCRIPTIONS.—Notwithstanding subsection (d)(1), the Secretary may select a design for quarter dollars issued during 2009 in which—

(i) the inscription described in the second sentence of subsection (d)(1) appears on the reverse side of any such quarter dollars; and

(ii) any inscription described in the third sentence of subsection (d)(1) or the designation of the value of the coin appears on the obverse side of any such quarter dollars.

"(2) SINGLE DISTRICT OR TERRITORY DESIGN.—The design on the reverse side of each quarter dollar issued during 2009 shall be emblematic of 1 of the following: The District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

"(3) SELECTION OF DESIGN.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Each of the 6 designs required under this subsection for quarter dollars shall be—

"(i) selected by the Secretary after consultation with—

"(I) the chief executive of the District of Columbia or the territory being commemorated, or such other officials or group as the chief executive officer of the District of Columbia or the territory may designate for such purpose; and

"(II) the Commission of Fine Arts; and

"(ii) reviewed by the Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee.

"(B) SELECTION AND APPROVAL PROCESS.—Designs for quarter dollars may be submitted in accordance with the design selection and approval process developed by the Secretary in the sole discretion of the Secretary.

"(C) PARTICIPATION.—The Secretary may include participation by District or territorial officials, artists from the District of Columbia or the territory, engravers of the United States Mint, and members of the general public.

"(D) STANDARDS.—Because it is important that the Nation's coinage and currency bear dignified designs of which the citizens of the United States can be proud, the Secretary shall not select any frivolous or inappropriate design for any quarter dollar minted under this subsection.

"(E) PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN REPRESENTATIONS.—No head and shoulders portrait or bust of any person, living or dead, and no portrait of a living person may be included in the design of any quarter dollar under this subsection.

"(4) TREATMENT AS NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections 5134 and 5136, all coins minted under this subsection shall be considered to be numismatic items.

"(5) ISSUANCE.—

"(A) QUALITY OF COINS.—The Secretary may mint and issue such number of quarter dollars of each design selected under paragraph (4) in uncirculated and proof qualities as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

"(B) SILVER COINS.—Notwithstanding subsection (b), the Secretary may mint and issue such number of quarter dollars of each design selected under paragraph (4) as the Secretary determines to be appropriate, with a content of 90 percent silver and 10 percent copper.

"(C) SOURCES OF BULLION.—The Secretary shall obtain silver for minting coins under subparagraph (B) from available resources, including stockpiles established under the Strategic and Critical Materials Stock Piling Act.

"(D) TIMING AND ORDER OF ISSUANCE.—Coins minted under this subsection commemorating the District of Columbia and each of the territories shall be issued in equal sequential intervals during 2009 in the following order: the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

"(6) OTHER PROVISIONS.—

"(A) APPLICATION IN EVENT OF ADMISSION AS A STATE.—If the District of Columbia or any territory becomes a State before the end of the 10-year period referred to in subsection (1)(1), subsection (1)(7) shall apply, and this subsection shall not apply, with respect to such State.

"(B) APPLICATION IN EVENT OF INDEPENDENCE.—If any territory becomes independent or otherwise ceases to be a territory or possession of the United States before quarter dollars bearing designs which are emblematic of such territory are minted pursuant to this subsection, this subsection shall cease to apply with respect to such territory.

"(7) TERRITORY DEFINED.—For purposes of this subsection, the term 'territory' means the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands."

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) 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 the House meets to consider a bill that builds on the immense popularity of the 50-State quarter program that has vast numbers of Americans looking in their pocket every day at their change. This is an addition which should be made to the legislation. It is overdue, and it recognizes the contributions of the District of Columbia and the U.S. territories.

There are many issues in this country that divide us, but there are issues that unite us; and I am happy to arise today in the spirit of unity in a bipartisan way to celebrate our diversity, to celebrate the territories that are a part of these United States and also the District of Columbia. It is appropriate and

it is fitting that we should add six new quarters to the 50-State quarter program. Those will be American Samoa, Guam, the Virgin Islands, the Northern Marianas, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia. Without further delay, I think it would be appropriate to hear from the representatives of the District of Columbia and the territories.

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I rise in support of this bill. As most of us are aware, our currency has shown new faces in recent years. Most recently we saw the introduction of the new Sacagawea one-dollar coin which replaces the Susan B. Anthony dollar coin. From 1999 to 2008, the country will witness the implementation of the 50-State circulating commemorative quarter program, which represents the longest running change in currency design in recent memory.

While the obverse of these quarters will continue to feature George Washington's profile, the reverse will feature a design honoring five States per year. Each State will be honored in the order in which it ratified the Constitution or entered the Union.

The bill we are considering today extends the ongoing circulating quarter program to the District of Columbia and the U.S. territories, which were not covered by the law that authorized the current program. These territories include Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands. Depending on how popular the quarter turns out to be in the long term, the Federal Government may end up earning \$5 billion or more in seigniorage, a figure expected to increase with the addition of the District and the territories. I am pleased to join the delegates of the District of Columbia and the U.S. territories in supporting this legislation.

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

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. There are several people which should be recognized as a part of this effort, and I think the first one of those should be the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON). She and her staff have worked tirelessly on this issue, and I would like to particularly recognize Jon Bouker for his work, a member of her staff.

I would also like to salute the delegates of the various territories. The gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) is here with us today. The gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD) is making his way back from Guam. That is quite a chore. The gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) will speak, along with the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

I would also like to recognize the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE). The House may recall that when

he first proposed this quarter program, there was quite a bit of resistance. Some thought that it would be unsuccessful, that it would even be a disaster. That word was used. In fact, it has been a great success. Sometime ago, in fact, when that legislation was brought up, he made assurances to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia that at some time the District of Columbia would be added. I look forward to hearing from these people who played quite a role in bringing this legislation before us today.

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN).

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. I thank the distinguished gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5010, the District of Columbia and U.S. Territories Circulating Quarter Dollar Program Act. I want to begin by thanking the former chairman, the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE), the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS), and the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH), as well as the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAFALCE) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS), for their support in getting this bill to the floor so quickly today. It is indeed a pleasure for me to be here this afternoon as we move closer toward rectifying the omission of the District of Columbia and the insular areas from the original 50-State commemorative coin program act. It took us nearly 2 years, but with the vote on H.R. 5010 today, the United States citizens of the District of Columbia and the territories will finally get the opportunity to have our Nation commemorate and celebrate a significant event or fact about our respective homes.

This is a great day for all of us because with this bill we will finally be able to celebrate, all of America.

While my district, the U.S. Virgin Islands, also known as America's Paradise, has many ecological, historical, and cultural treasures which are worthy of commemoration, we also boast of having been the place where the first Secretary of the Treasury, Alexander Hamilton, grew up and honed the skills which served our then fledgling Nation so well.

For the benefit of those who might not know this, the Virgin Islands have been a member of the American family since 1917, when Denmark sold the islands of the former Danish West Indies, St. Thomas, St. Croix and St. John, to the United States for just \$25 million.

We are located 1,000 miles southeast of Miami in the Caribbean Sea and are four main islands and numerous keys, with beaches that have consistently ranked among the best in the world. We also boast the only site where members of Christopher Columbus' party are known to have set foot on what is

today U.S. soil. The Salt River National Historical and Ecological Park was established in 1992 to, among other things, commemorate this important historical event.

Mr. Speaker, the people of the Virgin Islands see it as only fitting that we along with the residents and citizens of Guam, American Samoa, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia should also get the opportunity to educate our fellow Americans at whose side we have fought to defend and protect our Nation about our unique qualities as well as promote our pride at being Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia because it was her leadership and dogged determination that made this day possible.

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

I would also like to recognize the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAFALCE) for their work on this bill and also the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) for her work.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding this time to me and for yielding me his time from the other side of the aisle. It was not necessary, but I think it does show the bipartisan spirit in which this bill in particular has come to the floor. I also want to thank the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH), the chairman of the full committee, and the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAFALCE), his ranking member, and I thank the gentlewoman from California, the ranking member of the subcommittee for her strong support of this bill and for her consistently strong support of the District of Columbia.

I appreciate especially the initial work of the then chairman of the committee, the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE), and, of course, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS), the current Chair, who has worked as tirelessly with us as we have with him to make sure that we would get to the day when all American jurisdictions would be included in the coin commemoration act under discussion here today.

When the District and the four insular areas were inadvertently left out of the 50-State Commemoration Coin Program Act, we did not see any reason to hold everyone else up. We thought that the act should proceed so that the 10-year period for incorporating States could go forward because we had the assurance of the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) that D.C. and the insular areas would indeed be included. I knew he would keep his word. There was never any doubt about that. Not only did he move immediately in that direction by joining all of us who are delegates as a cosponsor of the bill, but

the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) also never lost a beat in continuing in that tradition until the work was done.

□ 1530

In any case, no damage has been done because there is a 10-year period according to date of admission to the Union, and, therefore, they would not have gotten to us anyway before now.

We are very pleased that the first 10 States are already on-line, some of them joyously touting their coin. We know that the differences between the States, the District and the territories was never meant to be invidious and never has been in this body; and we have never been so treated in this body. We are all Americans, and we appreciate that this body has, for the most part, included all of us whenever possible. That was always the intent on both sides of the aisle here.

After all, there are no differences between the insular areas and the District of Columbia on the one hand and the States on the other with respect to our American citizenship. None of the differences go to participation in a coin commemoration program.

If I may say so, this is a matter of particular pride to the areas and to the District. In a real sense, because we are not States, we perhaps reach out for ways to indicate our unity with the States. We do it in the way we carry the flag, and wave the flag. We do it in our service in the Armed Forces where the territories and the District of Columbia consistently show membership in the armed service greatly disproportionate to their numbers. The District, for example, had more residents who served in the Gulf War than 47 States. So it may be that this coin act, which may not mean very much to the average citizen, it may mean much more to those of us who come from the areas and the District of Columbia, because we look for ways to show that we are full-blooded Americans in jurisdictions of the United States, not colonies or inferior territories. Therefore, we appreciate when this body and the Senate afford us that recognition, the maximum permissible under law.

In the past, we have even won the right to vote in the Committee of the Whole, although that was withdrawn. D.C. especially longs for all the recognition it can get. If you were part of a jurisdiction in the United States that was third per capita in Federal income taxes, you would look for all the recognition from those who control the United States Treasury that you could get, and so this D.C. coin is just another way of saying we, too, are Americans.

We note that on one side of the coin will be the picture of the father of our country, and I cannot tell my colleagues what it will mean to the people I represent, that the other side, will be some image of the District of Columbia. We are already talking about what it should be. We are going to hold a

competition to see what it should be. There is going to be enormous excitement when we get to that day.

We know that day is not going to be there for a few years now, but the excitement is bubbling up in the District already. We appreciate that there has been no controversy whatsoever about our participation in the coin program. Indeed, we know that in this case the more the merrier because it means more money to the U.S. Treasury.

We note with particular joy that this program has already brought \$1.8 billion into the United States Treasury.

We mean to be a part of filling the coffers of the Treasury along with the 50 States and the other areas.

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 7 minutes to the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA).

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I do not especially recognize and compliment my good friend from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) for not only his management of the legislation on the floor, but for his outstanding leadership as chairman of the Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy that provides jurisdiction for this kind of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I do want to thank the gentleman for his assistance and for his tireless efforts to bring this legislation down to the floor. I would like to also compliment and thank my good friend, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON), and her outstanding leadership and her tireless efforts for the past couple of years in bringing this to the attention, not only to the attention of our colleagues, but also especially the merits of this legislation and why we are here now today.

Mr. Speaker, I also would like to thank the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) for his outstanding assistance in garnering support from both sides of the aisle in seeing that this legislation is taking corrective action of what was done previously; and, of course, I want to thank my good friend, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) representing our side of the aisle, in bringing this legislation now to the attention of the Members.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support strongly of H.R. 5010, a bill to amend the Circulating Quarter Dollar Program Act to include the District of Columbia and the U.S. territories.

Before proceeding, I would like to echo the sentiments expressed by my good friend, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia, (Ms. NORTON). I wished that her pleadings for all of these years would not be taken as a political issue but to do only that which is right. Mr. Speaker, 600,000 U.S. citi-

zens paying income taxes, and they have no representation here in the halls of the Congress.

I think there is tremendous contradiction to the whole principle of democracy and what representation is. As an example, taxation without representation is what she represents today. I wish my colleagues would not look upon her as a Democrat or a Republican, but as a representative of 600,000 income tax-paying citizens of our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I recall years ago when the question of the territories of Alaska and Hawaii were brought to the attention of the Members, and there was concern whether we were going to have two Democratic Senators' or two Republican Senators' representation on political issues but not on the principle. They thought that Hawaii was going to be a Republican State; that is not the case today. They thought that Alaska was going to be a Democratic State; it is not the case.

The point here is that representation truly ought to be brought for full consideration of this Chamber, and I sincerely hope and I fully support the contention and the efforts made by my good friend, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON). The District of Columbia definitely needs representation, and that is all they are asking for, and we ought to do that which is right.

Mr. Speaker, it comes as no surprise that I am a strong supporter of this bill. It would add six additional jurisdictions to the Commemorative Coin Program Act by extending the program an additional year.

Mr. Speaker, in the 105th Congress, when we passed the Commemorative Coin Program Act, the insular areas and the District of Columbia were omitted from the legislation.

Current law authorizes the minting of 25-cent coins to commemorate each of the 50 States through state-specific designs on one side of the coins. It is a 10-year program with five States being honored each year.

This bill amends current law by adding an 11th and part of the 12th year to the program. During this period, the District of Columbia and the five insular areas would also be recognized through the minting of 25-cent coins. Commemorative designs on one side of the coins will be selected by the Secretary of the Treasury in consultation with the chief executives of these areas.

This legislation is very timely, Mr. Speaker; and I would also like to note that my district this year celebrated its 100th year of its most unique political relationship with the United States, and many Americans are not aware of this. It certainly would be a special honor to see this legislation enacted into this year.

American Samoa has had a long and proud history of supporting the United States ever since the traditional leaders of the main island of Tutuila ceded

their island to the United States on April 17, 1900, and then his Majesty King Tuimanua of the Manua Islands ceded his islands in July 1904. Tutuila's beautiful harbor is the deepest in the South Pacific and the Harbor of Pago Pago was used as a coaling station for United States Naval ships in the early part of the century; and it was a major staging area for some 30,000 Marines during World War II, as it was part of our military strategy of troop movements to Micronesia to the Solomon Islands and Guadalcanal and other areas of the Pacific. To this day American Samoa serves as an important refueling station for U.S. ships as well as military aircrafts.

Mr. Speaker, American Samoa has many of its sons and daughters who serve in all branches of the Armed Forces, and they serve very proudly. Congress has recognized American Samoa's proud heritage on numerous occasions and many of my constituents have served honorably in special recognition especially of this Union for 100 years now.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is only fitting to acknowledge the centennial anniversary of our relationship with the United States in this commemorative coin. I ask my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Mr. Speaker, the delegate, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON), and also the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) both mentioned, I think, a very important point, one that I learned when I served in the U.S. Army, and that was the fact that our citizens in Puerto Rico, District of Columbia, Guam, they all serve in the military. They are very capable soldiers. As the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia said, more served in the Gulf War from the District of Columbia than 47 States.

I can tell my colleagues from my personal experience that anyone who served in the military knows that they will meet a lot of residents or citizens of Puerto Rico or Guam or American Samoa.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BACHUS. I yield to the gentleman from American Samoa.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I know that two of our colleagues are absent because of the tremendous distance, our resident commissioner from Puerto Rico (Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO) and the delegate from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD) would have been more than happy to participate in our deliberations this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to note their absence, but I know they would have been more than happy to participate, but cannot because of the long distances that we have to travel coming in between. I want to thank the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) for noting the service that those of us

who come from the insular areas and our good friend, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia, we serve in the armed forces just as well, we bleed.

I think it is time also that sometimes our friends from the 50 States of our Union could give us the proper recognition. After all, we can always print money, but we can never print that life when it comes back in a body bag. I know my good friend, the gentleman from Alabama, he and I served in the Army together. We know what that means. And I think this is what America is all about.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia, for recognizing the service of our insular areas.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I thought when I yielded to the gentleman, he might also want to mention something about pro football, but I will yield a few more seconds in case he might want to mention that.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I would be happy to. We have 16 Samoans that currently play in the NFL out of a humble population maybe out of 200,000 nationwide. That means for every 12,000 Samoans living here in the United States, we produce one NFL player, Mr. Speaker. Maybe we need to have a couple more Samoans.

Mr. BACHUS. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, I think that illustrates a very important point, and that is that when our school children collect that coin from American Samoa, they are going to find out that more pro football players per 10,000 people by far come from American Samoa than from any other States or territories. They are going to learn some other beautiful things.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would yield further, now that we are on the subject of professional football, I hope it is not just to be playing in the NFL, but I am sure that our people from the insular areas, from Puerto Rico, that we would also like to see our sons and daughters in medicine, law, engineering and in business, all different walks of life. I realize that sometimes when they see Samoans they have a very different stereotyping of my people. They think that we are mean, that we are violent, but we are really very nice people, as long as you do not provoke us.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, when they get that quarter, they are going to learn all of those wonderful things.

Mr. Speaker, I again want to say that when the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) proposed this, he really precipitated our school children doing something that a lot of teachers and a lot of parents were not able to do, and, that is, have our school children learn not only the 50 States but now with the addition of the year 2009, the six additional quarters, they will learn the locations, and they will learn something about the States, the District of Columbia, and the territories.

□ 1545

I think there are school children out there that are eagerly awaiting these quarters. I also want to say this, and here is some more good news about this, the taxpayers of the United States are currently profiting by \$200 million per every quarter issued. So the net effect of this on the Treasury, using today's estimate, will be a net gain of \$1.2 billion by including these additional coins.

Now that was not the reason for it, but it just means that as is oft, we find that good acts sometimes have their own rewards that we do not know about. This will be an additional benefit to the people of the United States.

Finally, I want to say that in conclusion that Mr. MURKOWSKI from Alaska, and I think someone said about Hawaii but Alaska, one of the last territories to be admitted to the United States, he has introduced this bill in the Senate and he has high hopes for quick passage of the Senate bill once the House bill is passed, which we anticipate will happen today.

So I would like to close by simply urging the House to unanimously approve this. The Committee on Banking and Financial Services and Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy approved this unanimously. We strongly feel that this action ought to be taken; that it is one that does unite our country, pulls us together, gives us common identity, very worthwhile legislation; and we hope that the Senate will follow suit very quickly.

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, as I close out this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to give thanks to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) for his leadership on this issue. I must say that whether it is this issue or debt relief, I have found my colleague to be extremely fair in using the power of his chairmanship to make sure that he gives equal opportunity to all of our colleagues with their issues.

I am very pleased and proud that we have such a great working relationship and that he indeed has been more than fair, not only on this issue but on many other issues. Let me just say to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and to the representatives of the other territories who have spoken today and those who are not here, I am so very pleased that this particular legislation gives them the opportunity not only to support the 50 States circulating commemorative quarter program and to make sure that the District and the territories are included, but it gives an opportunity to speak to the unfairness of a lack of the ability to vote on important issues facing this Nation and its territories and the District, and I am very pleased that the gentleman has had an opportunity here today to remind us one more time that there is

much unfinished work to be done as we try and deal with the question of the District of Columbia and the territories.

I have been working on voting rights for the District for many, many years, long before I left the California State assembly where at one time I think working with Walter Washington and some others and Fauntroy, we were talking about a constitutional amendment, I believe at that time. I think these representatives are so focused and many of us are so focused on these issues because there are important issues here that cannot be swept under the rug. We were all raised and socialized and educated on the idea that this country began with the belief that there should be no taxation without representation. That is drummed into our heads early on in learning of the history of this Nation. So we believe that. We believe very strongly that there should be no taxation without representation, and so, again, while this is about a coin and while this is about making sure that we include the District and territories that were left out of the original legislation, this also, too, is about the whole very, very basic tenet that there should be no taxation without representation.

We use this time today to add our voices one more time to asking that the right thing be done, not only with this coin but with voting rights and full participation by the District and the territories.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, once again I want to reiterate the contributions that the District of Columbia and our territories make each day, not only to the defense of our country but the professionals that they supply, the men and women that work daily. They are an integral part of our country, and it is time that we pass this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I do want to say that the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD) gave an excellent statement to the full committee and those remarks will be in the RECORD. We found out late Friday that this was going to be on the docket for today. Unlike some of us in the Continental United States, it takes 2 or 3 days, sometimes travel arrangements, to be here and it was just too late. That is unfortunate that that happened but those representatives simply could not get back here quick enough, but they will be given every opportunity and will be making statements about this legislation.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer a few remarks about this bill.

As the author of the original 50 State quarter legislation in 1996, I have taken a keen interest in the administration and potential expansion of the 50 State quarter program.

I am proud to support the expansion of the quarter program to the District of Columbia and the U.S. Territories. I think this bill can best be understood in the context of the legis-

lative history of the original 50 State quarter program.

When I first proposed the 50 State quarter legislation, I was met with a lot of resistance from the administration, which had serious misgivings about how the program would be received by the public. They wanted to downgrade the bill to a study.

Fortunately, it has been a huge success. All one has to do is turn on the television to see dozens of ads selling State quarters and fancy maps to display them. In fact, our biggest problem with the program is that people cannot get their hands on the quarters fast enough. That will continue to be an issue that I will press with the mint and the Federal Reserve.

Because there had been so much concern in the Administration about whether or not the quarter program would be well received, Congress limited it to the 50 States.

Now, I think even the most skeptical observers would agree that the program should be extended to the District of Columbia and the U.S. Territories without hesitation or delay. This is not a two-bit piece of legislation.

I urge my colleagues to support passage of this legislation today.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor of H.R. 5010, the "District of Columbia and United States Territories Circulating Quarter Dollar Program Act," I rise in support of this very important legislation. Although separate from the program initiated in 1997 by the 50 States Commemorative Coin Program Act, H.R. 5010 will no doubt create the same interest and enjoy the same success as its predecessor.

It was hoped that Commemorative Coin Program will lead the American public to become more aware of the rich history of U.S. coinage, which dates all the way back to the 1790's; that the various designs will generate a collective pride among Americans—not only their home States—but also the United States in general; and that the 50 States Commemorative Coin Program will reflect similar values which exist in each of our 50 States while also celebrating our Nation's diversity.

This objective has partly been met. In addition to serious collectors, U.S. mint surveys indicate that about 15 million kids are collecting the commemorative quarters and, at the same time, learning about their country's history and heritage. Commemorative quarters have outsold Pokemon cards a hundred times over.

Unfortunately, by excluding the District of Columbia and the Territories in the 1997 coin program, we have shortchanged the American public and missed out on an opportunity to present a more accurate reflection of the history and diversity of this great nation. By the same token, many residents of the District, Guam, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands have considered non-inclusion in the commemorative quarter program as the latest manifestation of disregard towards our membership and contributions to this country. If the Commemorative Quarter Program truly intends to celebrate this Nation's diversity, such an oversight is inexcusable.

I represent the island of Guam. In 1994, we commemorated the fiftieth anniversary of Guam's liberation after three years of occupation by the Japanese during World War II. We hold the distinction of being the only civilian

American community to suffer occupation during that war. In 1998, we marked the hundred-year anniversary of the commencement of our relationship with the United States which resulted from the Spanish-American War. Last August, we commemorated the fifty-year anniversary of the enactment of the Organic Act of Guam which granted civil government and U.S. citizenship to the people of Guam. Together with the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, we are the westernmost territories of the United States. Guam is "where America's day begins." These are some interesting points that we on Guam want to share with the American public and these are some of the points that will be conveyed to the American public if the commemorative quarter program is extended to the Territories and the District.

H.R. 5010, the "District of Columbia and United States Territories Circulating Quarter Dollar Program Act," will enable the District and the Territories to share in the pride brought about by commemorative quarters to the fifty states. It would serve the American public to be acquainted with the diversity and culture that defines the Territories and the District. More importantly, having commemorative quarters issued in honor of the District and the Territories, will go a long way towards recognizing areas of this nation that most citizens of the fifty states oftentimes overlook. Passage of this legislation will ensure the Commemorative coin program will finally cover all Americans and all areas where the U.S. flag flies. Seeing a latte stone or tapa cloth on the other side of a coin with George Washington's portrait will be a great testimony to this country's diversity. Who knows, a full examination of representative democracy for all these areas under the American flag could follow this effort to include the Territories and the District. This legislation is significant, important and necessary. It is worth much—much more than two-bits.

Again, I would like to thank my colleagues who have supported H.R. 5010, the "District of Columbia and United States Territories Circulating Quarter Dollar Program Act," and urge its expeditious passage and enactment.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5010, as amended.

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, rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### 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. 5010, the bill just considered.

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