

to look at the merits of the legislation and pass them if they are good bills, and this is a good bill, as admitted by the gentleman from California.

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes to continue this dialogue.

Mr. Speaker, I would say that the speech that the gentleman just gave with respect to this bill and other bills about being considered on the merit is the reason we are asking Members to vote against these bills so that the Democratic Members can have their bills heard on the merits, marked up on the merits and voted up or down on the merits in the full House, that has not happened.

The gentleman can go on and on about 23 percent of the bills. The fact of the matter is we are half of the Congress, and there is a good number of Democratic bills that are languishing for no other reason than I guess that they are Democratic bills. I do not know how that determination is made, but obviously they have not been allowed to be considered on the merits.

Mr. Speaker, I would hope the Members would understand that there is very little else we can do other than to refuse to pass these bills until we get that kind of consideration to protect the rights of the minority Members of the House of Representatives, and I think it is important that we do that.

I think those Members were elected by the same number of people that others were elected by and their bills ought to be considered on the merit. Again, these are not great controversial bills. These are bills that are important to local districts, just as the ones before us today are, but they have not been accorded the same rights and privileges and, therefore, I would ask the members of the caucus and others, if they would like, to join us to vote against these two bills from the Committee on Resources.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that I am pleased to listen to the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) and his change of heart from being 6 years in the minority, because it did not appear this way when he was in the majority, as I mentioned earlier, and I will continue to mention, that more than twice as many bills of the minority have come up under this Congress than came up the last time his body controlled the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS).

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I find this argument rather interesting, and I understand in-

side-the-Beltway politics, as far as getting your time on the floor, but on this bill particularly, I just want to make a point to my friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER), because I know that he worked very hard on the original bill when it passed back in 1993 and 1994, and in my time in this Congress, I have heard the gentleman from California say it once and I probably dare to say I heard him say it a million times that we need to save the salmon, we cannot wait, we have to do it, time is of the essence on all of these issues.

Mr. Speaker, here we have a situation where we clearly have a potential answer, and the remark I would say is that I do not think the salmon really care about inside-the-Beltway politics, but I do know that this issue has to be dealt with, and this is a proper way to deal with it.

So notwithstanding the request on the other side, I would urge my colleagues to support this bill, because on its merits, from the standpoint of the environment, from the standpoint of saving fish, from the standpoint of expanding water quality, this meets to the "T" with strong bipartisan support.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I just want to say that this is a good piece of legislation, and I think both sides recognize that this is a good piece of legislation. We can wrap all the rhetoric around this that we would like, we need to pass this bill and do what we can to help save the salmon. I hope the Members will support this.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LINDER). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3986, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING NEED FOR CATALOGING AND MAINTAINING PUBLIC MEMORIALS COMMEMORATING MILITARY CONFLICTS AND SERVICE OF INDIVIDUALS IN ARMED FORCES

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 345) ex-

pressing the sense of the Congress regarding the need for cataloging and maintaining public memorials commemorating military conflicts of the United States and the service of individuals in the Armed Forces.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 345

Whereas there are many thousands of public memorials scattered throughout the United States and abroad that commemorate military conflicts of the United States and the service of individuals in the Armed Forces;

Whereas these memorials have never been comprehensively cataloged;

Whereas many of these memorials suffer from neglect and disrepair, and many have been relocated or stored in facilities where they are unavailable to the public and subject to further neglect and damage;

Whereas there exists a need to collect and centralize information regarding the location, status, and description of these memorials;

Whereas the Federal Government maintains information on memorials only if they are Federally funded; and

Whereas Remembering Veterans Who Earned Their Stripes (a nonprofit corporation established as RVETS, Inc. under the laws of the State of Nevada) has undertaken a self-funded program to catalogue the memorials located in the United States that commemorate military conflicts of the United States and the service of individuals in the Armed Forces, and has already obtained information on more than 7,000 memorials in 50 States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) the people of the United States owe a debt of gratitude to veterans for their sacrifices in defending the Nation during times of war and peace;

(2) public memorials that commemorate military conflicts of the United States and the service of individuals in the Armed Forces should be maintained in good condition, so that future generations may know of the burdens borne by these individuals;

(3) Federal, State, and local agencies responsible for the construction and maintenance of these memorials should cooperate in cataloging these memorials and providing the resulting information to the Department of the Interior; and

(4) the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the National Park Service, should—

(A) collect and maintain information on public memorials that commemorate military conflicts of the United States and the service of individuals in the Armed Forces;

(B) coordinate efforts at collecting and maintaining this information with similar efforts by other entities, such as Remembering Veterans Who Earned Their Stripes (a nonprofit corporation established as RVETS, Inc. under the laws of the State of Nevada); and

(C) make this information available to the public.

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

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

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

H. Con. Res. 345 introduced by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROGAN)

addresses the need for a cataloged list of the many different public war memorials of the United States. Thousands of public memorials dealing with the United States' involvement in military conflicts exist throughout the world. However, there is no index or record as to their location nor is there a cataloged assessment as to their condition.

Unfortunately, many of these memorials suffer from neglect, disrepair or have been relocated or stored in facilities where they are not accessible to the public.

Currently, the Federal Government only keeps track of those memorials that are federally funded; however, nonprofit organizations such as Remembering Veterans Who Earned Their Stripes have undertaken self-funded programs in an attempt to catalog these memorials.

H. Con. Res. 345 urges the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the National Park Service, to collect and maintain information on public memorials commemorating military conflicts of the United States. The resolution also urges a coordinated effort between the Federal Government and other organizations like Remembering Veterans Who Earned Their Stripes and collecting and maintaining this information which would then be available to the public.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is ready to move forward, and I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 345.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROGAN) a Member who is the author of this legislation.

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, first I want to thank my dear friend, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN), the distinguished chairman, for yielding the time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 345, which addresses the need to create a cataloged list of the thousands of public war memorials in the United States. Mr. Speaker, this resolution is the product of over a decade-long effort by Vietnam War veteran Brian Rooney and the nonprofit organization he founded, Remembering Veterans Who Earned Their Stripes, otherwise known as RVETS based in North Ridge, California.

Mr. Rooney believed that war memorials preserve the memories of our veteran's sacrifices and serve as a reminder of America's history. He discovered that today there is no detailed index or record of the thousands of public memorials dedicated to America's involvement in military conflicts, more importantly, dedicated to those who gave their lives for freedom.

Mr. Rooney investigated conditions for years. He found that these memorials suffer from neglect, disrepair and have been relocated or stored in facili-

ties where they are not accessible to the public. Currently, the Federal Government monitors only those memorials that are federally funded. We have relied on the hard work of individuals like Mr. Rooney who have conducted this arduous task.

H. Con. Res. 345 urges the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the National Park Service, to collect and maintain information on public memorials commemorating military conflicts of the United States.

It urges a coordinated effort between the Federal Government and other entities like RVETS in collecting and maintaining this information which would then be made available to the public. RVETS already has cataloged over 7,000 monuments. They already have done most of the work needed to establish the database.

H. Con. Res. 345 is a bipartisan effort to honor our veterans. I want to thank Brian Rooney for his dedication not just to the country as a Vietnam war veteran, but for the decade he has spent conducting this search so that veterans could be honored.

I understand, Mr. Speaker, that this morning there has been some partisan bickering going on with respect to some of these resolutions, but I would just urge all of my colleagues to put that aside today so that we can appropriately honor veterans who have served our country and who have given their life and service for our country, and vote to support this bipartisan resolution.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), the 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 am pleased to rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 345, and I urge its adoption by the House, and I commend the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ROGAN) for helping to bring this matter to the floor at this time.

This legislation which urges the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Park Service, to gather and maintain information on public memorials commemorating U.S. military conflicts and to make that information available to the public, which will be very useful to the entire nation. It further urges that the Federal Government cooperate with private entities in accomplishing that important goal.

Mr. Speaker, there are literally hundreds, maybe thousands, of memorials and monuments dedicated to our fighting men and women of our Nation's military. These include monuments commissioned and dedicated by the Federal Government, State governments and various localities. Over time, their number has grown to the point where it has become difficult to keep track of all of the monuments that are now in existence.

This legislation will help simplify matters by requesting the Interior Department to initiate action to collect and disseminate information, a step they have undertaken on all of these monuments. The end result will be helpful to both tourists and researchers alike, but particularly to all of our veterans organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I urge our colleagues to lend this bill their full support, and I thank the gentleman for yielding the time to me.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 345.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### CONCERNING THE EMANCIPATION OF IRANIAN BAHAI COMMUNITY

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 257) concerning the emancipation of the Iranian Baha'i community.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 257

Whereas in 1982, 1984, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1994, and 1996, Congress, by concurrent resolution, declared that it holds the Government of Iran responsible for upholding the rights of all its nationals, including members of the Baha'i Faith, Iran's largest religious minority;

Whereas Congress has deplored the Government of Iran's religious persecution of the Baha'i community in such resolutions and in numerous other appeals, and has condemned Iran's execution of more than 200 Baha'is and the imprisonment of thousands of others solely on account of their religious beliefs;

Whereas in July 1998 a Baha'i, Mr. Ruhollah Rowhani, was executed by hanging in Mashhad after being held in solitary confinement for 9 months on the charge of converting a Muslim woman to the Baha'i Faith, a charge the woman herself refuted;

Whereas 2 Baha'is remain on death row in Iran, 2 on charges on apostasy, and 10 others are serving prison terms on charges arising solely from their religious beliefs or activities;

Whereas the Government of Iran continues to deny individual Baha'is access to higher education and government employment and denies recognition and religious rights to the Baha'i community, according to the policy set forth in a confidential Iranian Government document which was revealed by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in 1993;

Whereas Baha'is have been banned from teaching and studying at Iranian universities since the Islamic Revolution and therefore created the Baha'i Institute of Higher Education, or Baha'i Open University, to provide educational opportunities to Baha'i youth using volunteer faculty and a