

Now that cooler heads have prevailed, Mr. Speaker, we are forced to consider the Senate-passed companion version of this legislation as a means of undoing the damage that was done to the gentleman from Texas' bill. This is good legislation, Mr. Speaker. It is unfortunate that my friends in the majority's insistence on a pointless amendment to the House bill has resulted in delaying its enactment.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill. I want to thank my good friend from Utah, the chairman of the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands, for pushing for this legislation to be brought to the floor.

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 pass the Senate bill, S. 366.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NORTHERN COLORADO WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT LAND CONVEYANCE

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4389) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain water distribution facilities to the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4389

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

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **CONTRACT.**—The term “contract” means the contract between the United States and the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District providing for the construction of the Colorado-Big Thompson Project, dated July 5, 1938 (including any amendments and supplements).

(2) **DISTRICT.**—The term “District” means the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District.

(3) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(4) **TRANSFERRED WATER DISTRIBUTION FACILITIES.**—The term “transferred water distribution facilities” means the North Poudre Supply Canal and Diversion Works, also known as the Munroe Gravity Canal, the Charles Hansen (Supply) Canal and Windsor Extension, and the Dixon Feeder Canal, all of which are facilities of the Colorado-Big Thompson Project located in Larimer County, Colorado.

SEC. 2. CONVEYANCE OF TRANSFERRED WATER DISTRIBUTION FACILITIES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall, as soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act and in accordance with all applicable law, convey to the District all right, title, and interest in and to the transferred water distribution facilities.

(b) **SALE PRICE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall accept \$150,315 as payment from the District and \$1,798,200 as payment from the power customers under the terms specified in this section, as consideration for the conveyance under subsection (a). Out of the receipts from the sale of power from the Loveland Area Projects collected by the Western Area Power Administration and deposited into the Reclamation fund of the Treasury in fiscal year 2001, \$1,798,200 shall be treated as full and complete payment by the power customers of such consideration and repayment by the power customers of all aid to irrigation associated with the facilities conveyed under subsection (a).

(2) **NO EFFECT ON OBLIGATIONS AND RIGHTS.**—Except as expressly provided in this Act, nothing in this Act affects or modifies the obligations and rights of the District under the contract.

(3) **PAYMENTS.**—Except as provided in subsection (c), the District shall continue to make such payments as are required under the contract.

(c) **CREDIT TOWARD PROJECT REPAYMENT.**—Upon payment by the District of the amount authorized to be accepted from the District under subsection (b)(1), the amount paid shall be credited toward repayment of capital costs of the Colorado-Big Thompson Project in an amount equal to the associated undiscounted obligation for repayment of the capital costs.

SEC. 3. LIABILITY.

Except as otherwise provided by law, effective on the date of conveyance of the transferred water distribution facilities under this Act, the United States shall not be liable for damages of any kind arising out of any act, omission, or occurrence based on any prior ownership or operation by the United States of the conveyed property.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule the gentleman from Utah (Mr. Hansen) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) 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.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4389 transfers a small component of a much larger project. The larger overall project was built from 1938 to 1957 and called the Colorado-Big Thompson project. The water is used primarily to help irrigate 615,000 acres of northeastern Colorado farmland.

The proposed legislation will divest the Bureau of Reclamation of responsibility for future management, liability and replacement of the North Poudre Supply Canal and Diversion Works, the Charles Hansen Supply Canal and Windsor Extension, and the Dixon Feeder Canal.

An agreement on the sale price has been worked out between the District, the Bureau of Reclamation and Western Area Power Administration for the facilities to be conveyed under this act.

I urge an aye vote on this legislation.

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

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

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I will not oppose the provisions of this bill. I ask that my colleagues support this legislation.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, while I will not oppose H.R. 4389, I will note that this project transfer bill does not in my view represent good stewardship of a valuable Federal asset. The bill is full of generalities, and the United States and taxpayer-owners get practically nothing out of this deal. No environmental benefits will result from this transfer, and public involvement opportunities are minimal. My formal views on H.R. 4389 are set forth in the Committee Report accompanying the bill.

The bill mandates conveyance without first allowing the Secretary to determine whether such a conveyance is in the public interest. The bill should, instead simply authorize the conveyance so the Secretary can make such a determination.

The bill does not provide for local public involvement prior to final action on the transfer.

The bill fails to provide for environmental protection and enhancement. Environmental protection and enhancement are the appropriate quid pro quo to mitigate for post-transfer loss of federal control and applicability of most federal laws.

Finally, H.R. 4389 creates a fixed “sale price” prior to knowing the details of the transfer. The United States should negotiate a fair price for the conveyance only after the terms and conditions of transfer are established through negotiations with local stakeholders.

Transfers of Western water projects to local beneficiaries are not inherently bad, but H.R. 4389 should not be used as a template for future transfers. These projects are publicly-owned, and taxpayer interests should be recognized and protected.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. 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 pass the bill, H.R. 4389, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

VETERANS' ORAL HISTORY PROJECT ACT

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5212) to direct the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress to establish a program to collect video and audio recordings of personal histories and testimonials of American war veterans, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5212

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 “Veterans’ Oral History Project Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds as follows:

(1) Military service during a time of war is the highest sacrifice a citizen may make for his or her country.

(2) 4,700,000 Americans served in World War I, 16,500,000 Americans served in World War II, 6,800,000 Americans served in the Korean Conflict, 9,200,000 Americans served in the Vietnam Conflict, 3,800,000 Americans served in the Persian Gulf War, and countless other Americans served in military engagements overseas throughout the 20th century.

(3) The Department of Veterans Affairs reports that there are almost 19,000,000 war veterans living in this Nation today.

(4) Today there are only approximately 3,400 living veterans of World War I, and of the some 6,000,000 veterans of World War II alive today, almost 1,500 die each day.

(5) Oral histories are of immeasurable value to historians, researchers, authors, journalists, film makers, scholars, students, and citizens of all walks of life.

(6) War veterans possess an invaluable resource in their memories of the conflicts in which they served, and can provide a rich history of our Nation and its people through the retelling of those memories, yet frequently those who served during times of conflict are reticent to family and friends about their experiences.

(7) It is in the Nation's best interest to collect and catalog oral histories of American war veterans so that future generations will have original sources of information regarding the lives and times of those who served in war and the conditions under which they endured, so that Americans will always remember those who served in war and may learn first-hand of the heroics, tediousness, horrors, and triumphs of war.

(8) The Library of Congress, as the Nation's oldest Federal cultural institution and largest and most inclusive library in human history (with nearly 119,000,000 items in its multimedia collection) is an appropriate repository to collect, preserve, and make available to the public an archive of these oral histories. The Library's American Folklife Center has expertise in the management of documentation projects and experience in the development of cultural and educational programs for the public.

(b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act to create a new federally sponsored, authorized, and funded program that will coordinate at a national level the collection of video and audio recordings of personal histories and testimonials of American war veterans, and to assist and encourage local efforts to preserve the memories of this Nation's war veterans so that Americans of all current and future generations may hear directly from veterans and better appreciate the realities of war and the sacrifices made by those who served in uniform during war-time.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM AT AMERICAN FOLKLIFE CENTER TO COLLECT VIDEO AND AUDIO RECORDINGS OF HISTORIES OF VETERANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress shall establish an oral history program—

(1) to collect video and audio recordings of personal histories and testimonials of veterans of the armed forces who served during a period of war;

(2) to create a collection of the recordings obtained (including a catalog and index) which will be available for public use through the National Digital Library of the Library of Congress and such other methods as the Director considers appropriate to the extent feasible subject to available resources; and

(3) to solicit, reproduce, and collect written materials (such as letters and diaries) relevant to the personal histories of veterans of the armed forces who served during a period of war and to catalog such materials in a manner the Director considers appropriate, consistent with and complimentary to the efforts described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

(b) USE OF AND CONSULTATION WITH OTHER ENTITIES.—The Director may carry out the activities described in paragraphs (1) and (3) of subsection (a) through agreements and partnerships entered into with other government and private entities, and may otherwise consult with interested persons (within the limits of available resources) and develop appropriate guidelines and arrangements for soliciting, acquiring, and making available recordings under the program under this Act.

(c) TIMING.—As soon as practicable after the enactment of this Act, the Director shall begin collecting video and audio recordings under subsection (a)(1), and shall attempt to collect the first such recordings from the oldest veterans.

SEC. 4. PRIVATE SUPPORT.

(a) ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS.—The Librarian of Congress may solicit and accept donations of funds and in-kind contributions to carry out the oral history program under section 3.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF SEPARATE GIFT ACCOUNT.—There is established in the Treasury (among the accounts of the Library of Congress) a gift account for the oral history program under section 3.

(c) DEDICATION OF FUNDS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law—

(1) any funds donated to the Librarian of Congress to carry out the oral history program under section 3 shall be deposited entirely into the gift account established under subsection (b);

(2) the funds contained in such account shall be used solely to carry out the oral history program under section 3; and

(3) the Librarian of Congress may not deposit into such account any funds donated to the Librarian which are not donated for the exclusive purpose of carrying out the oral history program under section 3.

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act—

(1) \$250,000 for fiscal year 2001; and
(2) such sums as may be necessary for each succeeding fiscal year.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) 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.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5212 was introduced by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON) and has 230 cosponsors. The bill creates a recording program within the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress to collect videotaped histories of American war veterans.

There are 19 million veterans in the United States, but only about 3,400 remaining who served in World War I. As the bill points out, of the 6 million World War II vets alive today, almost 1,500 die each day. We are currently observing the 50th anniversary of the Korean conflict.

This program will ensure that future generations have access to the memories and experiences of veterans acquired during their service to the Nation. These individual stories will provide historians with invaluable information to give context to some of the greatest moments in our history and some of the most tragic. It will also provide the public with a way to remember and celebrate the sacrifices made by the men and women who have fought to protect our freedom.

The Library of Congress, through the National Digital Library, Local Legacies program and other activities has developed the capability to digitize materials collected and to make them available to all Americans through the Library's Web pages so that the greatest number of Americans can benefit from the memories of our veterans.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately the lead cosponsor of this legislation the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON) could not be here for floor debate at this time. I will ask as part of general leave that his written statement on this bill be made part of the RECORD.

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I thank the distinguished gentleman from Utah for his comments and his undertaking the responsibility to make sure this bill passes in a timely fashion. He is one of the good Members of this body and is always there when you need him.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to speak in support of H.R. 5212, as amended, the Veterans' Oral History Project Act. The manager's amendment in my opinion has strengthened an already good bill and I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS), certainly the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND), and the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON) for all their work in getting this legislation to the floor.

This bill directs the American Folklife Center, as the gentleman from Utah said, at the Library of Congress to establish a program to collect video and audio of personal histories and testimonials of America's war veterans.

□ 2030

Our war veterans include 19 million men and women who risked their lives so that this bold experiment in democracy could flourish. Their record of valor, courage, and bravery is unmatched in world history.

The numbers of men and women, Mr. Speaker, who have served our Nation is staggering: 4.7 million in World War I; 16.5 million in World War II; 6.8 million in the Korean War; 9.2 million in the Vietnam War; and 3.8 million in the Persian Gulf War. Of these veterans, almost 19 million are still with us today. In my district, there are more than 11,000 military retirees.

Though these numbers are astounding, the veterans' stories and achievements are even more remarkable.

Among these 19 million nationwide and 11,000 in Maryland's fifth district are the Doughboys, who broke the German resistance at Meuse-Argonne and forged victory in World War I; the brave paratroopers who jumped behind enemy lines and the courageous soldiers who charged the beaches of Normandy; the men who endured the vicious fighting in the Pacific theater, including five brutal months at Guadalcanal.

These veterans climbed Pork Chop Hill and endured the losses at Heartbreak Ridge in the Korean War, a war, Mr. Speaker, whose 50th anniversary we are honoring this year.

They quietly patrolled the rivers in search for a hidden enemy in the jungles of Vietnam.

These 19 million veterans saw their countrymen fall around them; yet they continued to march forward. They continued to fight, not for their personal glory, but for our freedom. By passing this bill, Mr. Speaker, we allow their firsthand accounts to become part of our Nation's history.

It is imperative that we act soon, tonight. The Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that 572,000 veterans will die this year, including an estimated 1,500 World War II veterans each day, as the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) pointed out. As we lose these men and women of courage, we also lose their stories of valor and honor. We must make every effort to learn their stories. These remembrances will help not only those interested in America's past; they will guide those who will lead America's future.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate two of our body, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND), a Democrat, and the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON), a Republican, two distinguished Representatives in this body, who have joined together to make sure that we remember and that generations yet to come will remember.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to ask unanimous consent to yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND), a distinguished leader on this legislation, whose efforts, along with those of the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON), have resulted in this being on the floor and on the front lobes of our brains tonight, and ask that he be allowed to control this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland? There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, first of all I want to thank my friend and colleague from Utah for agreeing to call up this legislation tonight and sticking around, even though we are approaching the debate hour in this town. But I also want to thank the gentleman from California (Chairman THOMAS) and his majority staff of the Committee on House

Administration, and the ranking member, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) and his staff, for all the help and cooperation and support they have shown in regards to this legislation that my friend and colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON), and I introduced just a couple of weeks ago.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is very simple, but I believe it is very important; important if this country has an interest in preserving our history. What this legislation basically does is directs the Library of Congress to establish a national archives for the collection and preservation of the oral history through videotape testimony of our veterans who are still with us today.

Now that we have the technology to do it, I believe this Nation should make every conceivable effort to try to preserve this very important piece of American oral history before it is too late, as the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) already indicated.

Time is of the essence. We have roughly 19 million veterans who are still with us today. Of that number, slightly more than 6 million are from the Second World War generation. They are passing away at roughly 1,500 a day, and with them go their memories.

Recently, I have encountered a lot of veterans of the Second World War and the Korean generation who have been more willing to speak about their experiences in the twilight of their years. I have also encountered many family members who regret today the fact that they did not take time to videotape their loved ones, their father or mother or grandparents, in regards to their experience during these great conflicts that shaped the 20th century.

Earlier this year, in April, this Congress declared the American GI as the Person of the Century because of the profound influence and impact they had on the course of human events in the 20th century. I do not think we can honor them any better than by trying to preserve their memories.

What I envision ultimately once this project gets established and implemented is that children in the 22nd, 23rd, or even the 24th century, will be able to access through the Internet the videotaped statements of their great-great-grandfather or grandmother who served during the Second World War or Korean War or the Viet Nam War or the Gulf War. What an incredibly powerful history lesson that would be, and for future historians being able to research this part of history by using firsthand accounts from the videotape testimony we are going to be able to collect and preserve for future generations.

The Library of Congress is uniquely situated to handle this project. They have an American Folk Life Center which is already taking videotape testimony of community leaders across the country asking them how they

would like their communities to be remembered 100 or 200 years from now. So they have the expertise, and they have the technology. They are moving to digitize virtually everything contained at the Library of Congress now, and once we are able to start collecting these videotapes, they are going to be able to index it, digitize it, and make it available over the Internet for anyone interested in learning this part of our Nation's history.

I also envision the help of a lot of family members and encourage their support in videotaping their loved ones, veterans who served in foreign conflicts, members of the VFW, American Legion Halls, who can set up videotaping places within their halls, encouraging veterans to come in and share their story. Class projects, students going out and actually videotaping and interviewing these veterans on tape for educational benefit, and these videotape collections being saved for the family archives purposes for community libraries, or historical societies, but ultimately a copy being sent out to the Library of Congress so we can index it, digitize it and make it available for future generations.

I think this is a worthwhile project, one that will require the cooperation of countless people across the country, but especially from our veterans, who can leave an incredible gift, a gift that will keep on giving to generation after generation, by stepping forward and talking about their experiences in these conflicts that made this Nation the great Nation that it is today.

So I want to again thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON) for all of his work and efforts put into this project. Unfortunately, he had a death in the family tonight, so he is not here to speak in person in favor of the bill. But I want to thank him for being the lead cosponsor on the Veterans Oral History Project. We have worked together on several pieces of good bipartisan legislation, and I am pleased to have joined forces with him yet again today. The gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON) himself is a veteran of the Second World War. He served as a private first class in the United States Marine Corps; and, with any luck, we are going to be able to encourage him and the other veterans in this place to also participate in this important project. But it is going to require a collective effort to do so, and to do it well.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank the author Stephen Ambrose for the support he has shown on the recommendations that he has made in support of the veterans oral history project.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the remarks of the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) on this very worthy piece of legislation.

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

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank a few other people who have been instrumental in the creation of this legislation. Senators MAX CLELAND and CHUCK HAGEL have introduced this bill on the Senate side, and we are hoping towards the tail-end of their session we will be able to bring this up under unanimous consent and see it moved through the United States Senate. They have been instrumental in being able to move this on the Senate side.

I also want to thank, in particular, Steve Kelly and Winston Tabb at the Library of Congress for providing invaluable assistance in the development of the project and for their enthusiasm they have shown for this project.

I want to thank the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion for their support so far in what we anticipate to be a great partnership with those key and important organizations.

I also want to thank Jeff Mazur on my staff, who has sat through countless numbers of meetings and countless number of drafts of this legislation in order to shape it and get it to a point where we were successful in speaking to our colleagues and obtaining close to 250 original cosponsors for this legislation.

But, most of all, I want to thank the veterans of this Nation, those who I personally spoke to and who inspired me and those who I am sure the rest of my colleagues have had an opportunity to meet with and talk to and listen to them tell their stories. Without them, obviously, we would not be enjoying the freedoms and the liberties that we enjoy today. Again, with their support we can make this project what it was intended to be, a living legacy of their service to our country and a gift to future generations.

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, this is a solid, basic bill—with a great purpose.

It is to help honor and remember those Americans who used solid, basic values to perform exceptionally and serve great purposes on behalf of our nation.

Now veterans are modest people. They don't boast. They are matter-of-fact. They feel they "did their job". But the fact is that they did remarkable things—things that we must always remember.

This project will see to that. How?

Simply put, history often records the momentous events. But those momentous events are made up of countless individual storylines. Individual storylines that couldn't all fit into current history books or TV documentaries—stories that need their own archive. This bill will allow the Library of Congress to create such an archive—an archive of videotaped testimonials of the veterans themselves, telling their own stories.

If those stories are not told, recorded, studied, preserved—we risk losing them, and all that they teach us.

This project will seize the moment before us—before too much time has gone by—to go to our veterans and learn of duty, heroism,

sacrifice, fear, humor, patriotism, comradeship, compassion . . . and of darker things and times, almost unspeakable things—and how ordinary Americans stood up to resist them.

Those are lessons we must impart to the next generation. Today, we are helping to see that great purpose is served.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Congressman KIND and Congressman HOUGHTON's bill that allows the public to hear our history directly from the men and women who fought to preserve it.

America's war veterans will be offered the opportunity to share their experiences first-hand by providing an oral history to the Library of Congress.

Most of our history is found in books usually written by those who witnessed or played an active role in the events that made this country what it is today.

Well, this legislation goes a step further and puts a face to the name by video-taping the recollections of our veterans' time in service.

But this bill actually does much more. It allows students, as well as the community, to get involved and learn more about their local veterans.

To actually speak to a veteran who fought for this country, and hear about the events first-hand is the best history lesson anyone can receive.

On Long Island, we have thousands of veterans who answered their country's call to duty and are proud to share their experiences with today's youth.

As someone who lived through the Vietnam era, I remember what a difficult time it was for our country.

I remember watching many of our soldiers leaving to fight with the chance of not returning. Unfortunately, many did not.

For those that made it home, this is an opportunity to talk about the experiences and the sacrifices they endured during this time and share them with the country.

I'd like to commend Representative KIND and Representative HOUGHTON for taking the initiative in drafting this legislation and urge my colleagues to support the measure.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5212 the Veterans Oral History Project Act of 2000. I urge my colleagues to lend this timely and important legislation their support.

This bill would authorize a program within the Library of Congress to supervise and facilitate the collecting of personal histories and recollections of American combat veterans.

These personal histories will include both oral testimony recorded on video-tape, as well as written letters and testimonials from veterans.

As a World War II veteran, I am deeply aware of the importance of my generation recording its stories for those future generations yet unborn.

American veterans played a unique and defining role in shaping the events of the 20th century. The American citizen soldier was responsible for defending the cause of freedom from German aggression in 1917, Nazi tyranny and Japanese imperialism in 1942, and Communist invasion in 1950.

Today, many of these veterans are passing on. There are less than 3,500 World War I veterans alive today, out of a fighting force of over 4.5 million. Moreover, almost 1,500 World War II veterans die each day.

It is vitally important that we gather as many of their personal stories before they are lost to us forever.

This legislation is a good first step toward meeting that goal. It will both help ensure that future generations remember the contributions of those who served in combat, as well as to preserve the triumphs of the citizen soldier over evil in America's 20th century conflicts.

I urge my colleagues to join in supporting this bill.

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 Utah (Mr. HANSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5212, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. KIND. 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.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and add extraneous material on H.R. 5212, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

RUSSIAN ANTI-SHIP MISSILE NONPROLIFERATION ACT OF 2000

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4022) regarding the sale and transfer of Moskit anti-ship missiles by the Russian Federation.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4022

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 "Russian Anti-Ship Missile Nonproliferation Act of 2000".

SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to prohibit the forgiveness or rescheduling of any bilateral debt owed by the Russian Federation to the United States until the Russian Federation has terminated all sales and transfers of Moskit anti-ship missiles that endanger United States national security.

SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

The Congress makes the following findings:

(1) In February 2000, the first of two Russian-built Sovremenny-class destroyers sold to the People's Republic of China arrived in the Taiwan Strait, manned by a mixed Russian and Chinese naval crew. Currently, the Russian and Chinese Governments are discussing the sale of 2 additional Sovremenny destroyers.

(2) Within weeks after the arrival of the destroyers, the Russians are scheduled to transfer the first of several of the ship's most lethal weapon, the radar-guided Moskit (also known as Sunburn) anti-ship missile, which can carry either conventional or nuclear warheads.