

Act proposed in H.R. 2559 will continue to ensure that the best possible program is being designed for Federal employees.

Under the Long-Term Care Corrections Act, all Federal employees entitled to an annuity under the Federal Retirement System will be eligible to participate in the long-term care program, as was intended when the Long-Term Care Security Act was enacted.

Additionally, as in the case with the health and life insurance policies issued through the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program and the Federal Employees Group Life Insurance Program, long-term care insurance policies issued through the Federal long-term care program would be exempt from premium taxes imposed by States and local governments, making premiums competitive for Federal employees. Obviously, this program improves substantially the health benefits program for Federal employees.

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

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from Illinois for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to rise to reflect the broad-based support that this provision has within the Congress. This is not going to cost the American taxpayer any money, but it will provide some personal security for the great many Federal employees who need long-term care insurance.

This was a good idea. There were any number of Members, particularly from the Washington metropolitan area, who pushed it. It is an important benefit, and it is one that all of the Federal workers throughout the country are going to appreciate. And particularly at this time when they are working under such fear and anxiety, it is the appropriate thing to do. I know it will be much appreciated.

So I strongly support this measure. I thank the gentlewoman from Virginia and the gentleman from Illinois for bringing it to the floor today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I simply reiterate my strong support for this excellent legislation.

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

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 2559 has strong bipartisan support. The Office of Personnel Management and long-term care insurers also support it. It will substantially improve the Federal Government's long-term care insurance program, and I urge all Members to support this measure.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion

offered by the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2559.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. 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.

CONGRATULATING BARRY BONDS FOR RECORD-BREAKING SEASON

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 266) congratulating Barry Bonds on his spectacular, record-breaking season for the San Francisco Giants and Major League Baseball.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 266

Whereas Barry Bonds has brought distinction to Major League Baseball and excellence to the San Francisco Giants, following in the baseball footsteps of his father, Bobby Bonds, and his godfather, Willie Mays;

Whereas Barry Bonds has had an outstanding career that so far includes 3 Most Valuable Player awards, 10 All-Star Game appearances, 8 Rawlings Gold Glove awards, and the distinction of being named Player of the Decade for the 1990s by the Sporting News;

Whereas in 2001 Barry Bonds had one of the greatest seasons in Major League Baseball history, achieving 73 home runs, a slugging average of .863, and an on-base percentage of .515;

Whereas Barry Bonds has established himself as the most prolific single-season home run hitter in Major League Baseball history, hitting his 73rd home run on October 7, 2001, eclipsing the previous record of 70 home runs set by Mark McGwire in 1998;

Whereas Barry Bonds has attained the rank of 7th place on the all-time Major League Baseball home run list with 567;

Whereas Barry Bonds drove in 136 runs to set a Giants franchise record for runs batted in by a left fielder, and has recorded at least 100 RBI's in each of 10 different seasons;

Whereas of Bonds' 73 home runs, 24 gave San Francisco the lead and 7 tied the game;

Whereas Barry Bonds also hit the 500th home run of his career during the 2001 season, a 2-run game-winning home run which landed in the waters of McCovey Cove, San Francisco;

Whereas Barry Bonds, at age 37, is the oldest player in Major League Baseball history to hit more than 50, 60, and 70 home runs in a single season;

Whereas Barry Bonds has recorded 484 stolen bases in his career, becoming the only Major League Baseball player to both hit more than 400 home runs and steal more than 400 bases;

Whereas Barry Bonds' 233 stolen bases achieved while playing for San Francisco place him 6th on the Giants franchise list behind his father, Bobby, who is 5th with 263 stolen bases;

Whereas Barry Bonds has proven himself to be an active leader not only in the Giants

clubhouse but also in the community, donating approximately \$100,000 to the September 11th Fund to aid the victims of the terrorist attacks in New York, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania; and

Whereas Barry Bonds has also devoted his time and money to support the Link & Learn Program of the United Way, and has been an active participant in numerous other San Francisco Bay area community efforts: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives congratulates Barry Bonds on his spectacular record-breaking season in 2001 and outstanding career in Major League Baseball, wishes him continued success in the seasons to come, and thanks him for his contributions to baseball and to his community.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 266.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my distinguished colleagues, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the author of this resolution; and the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE), who sponsored a similar resolution, House Resolution 262, for introducing these measures.

This resolution congratulates Barry Bonds for his spectacular record-breaking season in 2001 and his outstanding career, wishes him continued success, and thanks him for his contributions to baseball and his community.

Mr. Speaker, no player has hit as many home runs, 73, in a single season, as San Francisco Giants outfielder Barry Bonds did during this baseball season; but he also accomplished much more than just setting this record. To fully appreciate the remarkable season that Barry Bonds had this year, we must also consider these other achievements.

During this season, Barry Bonds had the highest slugging percentage in a single season at .863. He joined the immortal Babe Ruth as the only hitter to finish a season with a slugging percentage over .800. Furthermore, Barry Bonds had an on-base percentage of .515 in the past 100 years, only four other players finished a season above the .500 mark. Barry Bonds is the first to do so since 1957. He also broke the single-season record for walks with 177.

These accomplishments further adorn a career noted for excellence. Barry Bonds has received three Most Valuable Player awards, eight Gold Gloves, and was named Player of the

Decade for the 1990s by the Sporting News.

Mr. Speaker, Barry Bonds's roots in California run deep. He was born in Riverside, California. He graduated from Sierra High School in San Mateo. After attending college at Arizona State, he now both plays professional baseball and resides in California.

His community activity has included generous support of the United Way's Link & Learn Program and many other San Francisco Bay Charities. He also donated around \$100,000 to the September 11 fund to aid the victims of the terrorist attacks.

Barry Bonds has been a beacon of quiet resolve and hard work and an inspiration to his teammates and to all Americans. I urge all Members to recognize Barry Bonds's extraordinary athletic achievements and his community spirit by supporting this resolution.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I must confess that I grew up as a Brooklyn Dodgers and St. Louis Cardinals fan; and then after moving to Illinois, I became a White Sox and a Cubs fan. But on Sunday, October 7, I think everybody who loves baseball was a San Francisco Giants fan, because it was on Sunday, October 7, 2001, that Barry Bonds, the San Francisco Giants outfielder, hit his 73rd home run, a Major League record, and shattered the slugging percentage record that Babe Ruth held since 1920.

16 years ago, Bonds started out as a Pittsburgh Pirate, when he was sixth in Rookie of the Year. Today, Bonds has passed some of baseball's greatest legends on the career home run list.

Bonds finished the season with a .328 batting average, career high 137 RBIs, and a slugging percentage of .863, easily surpassing the mark of .847 that Ruth set in 1920. Bonds also broke Ruth's major league record by walking 177 times this season, ending up with an on-base percentage of .515, best in the majors since 1957, and tops in the National League since John McGraw's mark of .547 in 1899.

Bonds homered every 6.52 at-bats this season, beating the Major League record of a homer every 7.27 at bats that Mark McGwire set while hitting 70 home runs in 1998.

Voted Player of the Decade for the 1990s by the Sporting News, Bonds was the first player ever to win the league's Most Valuable Player award three times in four seasons.

This resolution congratulates Barry Bonds for his hard work and extraordinary achievements, and I certainly join with the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) in supporting House Resolution 262.

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

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may

consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE).

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Virginia for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot tell you how pleased I am to be down here. Having been born and raised in California, I have been a life-long San Francisco Giants fan, even though they only arrived in 1958.

It gives me great pleasure to stand today and commend this resolution to my colleagues. My connection with Barry Bonds is not only that I come from Northern California and bleed San Francisco Giants colors; but his agent is a family friend of mine, Mr. Scott Boras.

How many of you can recall the names McCovey, Mays, Marichal, Haller, Tito Fuentes, Jimmy Davenport, Jim Ray Hart? It is a long list of names that are steeped in Giants history that lead us to today's proceedings.

Barry Bonds, in fact, may have started with the Pittsburgh Pirates; but in fact he is a San Francisco Giants. His father, Bobby Bonds, came up into the majors serving with the San Francisco Giants; and in his first at-bat hit a grand slam home run, something that has not been often repeated in the major leagues.

Orlando Cepeda, the Hall of Famer with the San Francisco Giants, is one of those who also served with the Giants; Ron "Bear" Bryant, who in 1973 won 24 games; John "The Count" Montefusco, anybody from San Francisco or Northern California knows that name. Frank Robinson, who was the National League's first black manager, served with the Giants beginning in 1981. Jim Ray Hart and Jim Davenport; Tom Haller, Will Clark, "Will the Thrill" Clark. And his teammate Kevin Mitchell, who last took the Giants to the World Series with the Oakland A's.

More recently we have had others. We have had Jeff Kent, Rich Aurilia, and Robb Nen, all adding to the Giants legacy.

But in 2001, we had Barry Bonds and no one else. On August 11, he became the oldest player to ever hit 50 home runs. But do you know what? He did not stop there. He kept swinging. He kept popping that ball out into McCovey Cove, and the Giants kept winning.

As the gentleman from Illinois said, on October 7, as everyone sat riveted in their living rooms and their family rooms across this country, Barry Bonds went yard a 73rd time.

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In the process, he broke Mark McGwire's single season record and, I have to say, a few years back when I watched Mr. McGwire make his challenge, that was a stirring time also.

Bonds broke Maris' record for the most home runs for a left-hander; no asterisk, no nothing, he just did it. He

broke McGuire's and Babe Ruth's record for most home runs on the road and, as the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) said, with a home run every 6.5 at bats, he broke McGuire's record there also. He broke Babe Ruth's record of 170 walks in a single season by walking 177 times. Can anyone imagine that? In the major leagues, the pitchers chose to walk Barry Bonds 177 times. Let me tell my colleagues, the other 29 franchises in the major leagues, you guys are a bunch of chickens; you would not pitch to him. Who knows how many he would have had. He could have had 100 home runs if you would have pitched to him.

He had a slugging percentage of .863, breaking Roger Hornsby's previous single season record of .76 and passing Babe Ruth's major league record of .847. He was on base over half the time. Counting the walks, he was on base every other time he came to bat. That is the first time since 1957 anybody has bat over 500 and the first time in the National League since 1924.

Mr. Speaker, the San Francisco Giants are a long and storied franchise. I have to say these names: Mays, Marichal, McCovey, Cepeda, Tito Fuentes, and the others that I grew up rooting for. These are all great giants, but none have been greater than Barry Bonds in this past year. Just remember that number: 73.

We have struggled over the past 6 or 7 weeks in this country trying to keep things together. My heart goes out to everybody who has suffered a loss. In this time of trouble, and in this time of tragedy, and in this time of trial, I have to say that America has looked to those boys of spring and those boys of summer and, finally, we have looked to Barry Bonds to give us that shining example of what one person can do, even when the other 29 teams are working against him.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this resolution to my colleagues in this House. I compliment the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) for bringing this forward. I am a Giants fan from day one and I will be a Giants fan to the last day and the last breath. Thank God for Barry Bonds and the Giants this year. I urge an "aye" vote on this resolution.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS). I do not know how many home runs the next speaker has hit, but I can tell my colleagues that he has struck many a blow for human rights and for the rights and liberties of people all over the world.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I first would like to thank my dear friend and distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Illinois, for yielding. I want to congratulate the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), my friend, neighbor, and whip-elect, for bringing this resolution to the floor. I am truly delighted that my training, Mr. Speaker, is in economics, because a knowledge of statistics is indispensable in

dealing with this giant in American politics.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to urge all of my colleagues to join the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) and me in supporting House Resolution 266, which congratulates Barry Bonds for his achievement in breaking the major league baseball record for home runs in a single season, and to thank him for his contributions both to baseball and our community.

On October 7 of this year, in beautiful PacBell Stadium in San Francisco, Barry Bonds hit his 73rd home run. This took him past Mark McGuire's previous record of 70 home runs in a single season. In addition, Barry also broke Babe Ruth's record for slugging average, once thought to be untouchable. Mr. Speaker, Barry Bonds did not merely eclipse Ruth's record; he shattered it, setting the new average 16 points above the previous mark. He also set the major league record for walks, drawing 177, a testament to the fear he instilled in opposing pitchers.

Mr. Speaker, at the end of this year's baseball season, Barry Bonds had finished in the top 10 in four major offensive statistical categories: home runs, batting average, runs batted in, and runs scored. He finished the season in seventh place on the all time home run list with 567 career home runs, and I can relate to that, Mr. Speaker. He became the oldest player in major league history to hit more than 50, 60 or 70 home runs in a single season. This dazzling offensive output is what the fans of the San Francisco Giants as well as baseball fans around the Nation have come to expect from this three-time National League Most Valuable Player. This past Sunday, Barry's peers added yet another accolade to his resume: 2001 Players' Choice Player of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, I say this with local pride, but I firmly believe that Barry Bonds' talents can be traced to the fact that he grew up in San Mateo, California, which, I might add, is at the very heart of my own congressional district. His domination of the baseball diamond at Sierra High School in San Mateo is legendary to this very day. Barry grew up around baseball and from a young age he showed star potential. Both Barry's father Bobby and his godfather, Willie Mays, were professional baseball players.

In addition to his baseball exploits, Barry Bonds has been actively involved in community and public service. Since September 11 he has donated \$100,000 to the fund to aid the victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks. His generous contribution was matched by both major league baseball and the San Francisco Giants, bringing the total of \$300,000 for the assistance of the victims of this horrific tragedy. Barry's involvement in the community also includes the Barry Bonds family foundation, which he established 7 years ago, which is headed by his mother, Pat Bonds. The foundation supports activi-

ties and programs to improve education and quality of life for the Bay Area's African American youth. The foundation also supports other charities, such as the Adopt a Special Kid Program and the Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital. Both Barry Bonds and his foundation are also involved in the United Way's "Link and Learn" program. This educational program focuses on raising student achievement by increasing parent involvement, access to tutoring, and exposure to interactive educational technology among low-income children and their families.

Mr. Speaker, it is crystal clear that Barry Bonds is an exceptional baseball player, and he used his celebrity and talents to benefit our community. I encourage all of our colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution, which appropriately honors Barry Bonds for his record-breaking achievement.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 5½ minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the author of this resolution, who functions with the passion of a gladiator herself and is victorious most of the time in whatever it is that she sets out to do.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), the ranking member, for his generosity in yielding time and his kind words, and the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) for bringing this resolution to the floor. I am pleased to join my colleague, the gentleman from California (MR. LANTOS), a big Giants fan, in representing San Francisco and in honoring Barry Bonds today. I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE), who also had a resolution about Barry Bonds, for his generosity in allowing the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) and I to bring this resolution to the floor as we represent San Francisco. But as the gentleman knows, the Giants family extends well beyond that, and we are pleased to share this honor for Barry Bonds today with our California colleague, and I thank the gentleman. I appreciate his kindness. I also thank the Republican leadership for allowing a Democratic resolution honoring Barry Bonds to come to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, in an uncertain time in our country's history, this fall has been as bad as it gets for us. Our spirits were lifted as Barry Bonds hit his 73rd home run on October 7. For those of us who go to the Giants games, we could only say, just think what he would have done if they would have pitched to him, as my colleague said in his remarks. I was there for number 58 on Labor Day. I kept going to the games thinking I would see many more home runs and I saw some, but again, they did not always have the courage to pitch to Barry Bonds. I really hope that all of our colleagues will, in the spirit of friendship and competition, join in congratulating Barry Bonds on his spectacular record-breaking season for the San Francisco Giants and major league baseball.

Our resolution says, whereas Bonds has brought distinction to major league baseball and excellence to the San Francisco Giants, he was following in the footsteps of his father Bobby Bonds and his godfather Willie Mays. My colleagues have to come to San Francisco to see the Willie Mays statue on Willie Mays Plaza there. Barry Bonds has had an outstanding career and that so far includes 3 Most Valuable Player awards, 10 All Star Game appearances, 8 Rawlings Gold Glove awards and the distinction of being named Player of the Decade for the 1990s by Sporting News; whereas also, in 2001, Barry Bonds had one of the greatest seasons in major league baseball history, achieving the aforementioned 73 home runs, a slugging average of 863, and an on-base percentage of 515. Barry Bonds has established himself as the most prolific single season home run hitter in major league baseball history, again hitting his 73rd home run on October 7, 2001, eclipsing the previous record of 70 home runs set by Mark McGuire in 1998, and that seemed like an unachievable goal to break that record. Of Bonds' 73 home runs, 24 gave San Francisco the lead and 7 tied the game.

Bonds also hit the five-hundredth home run of his career during the 2001 season, a two-run game-winning home run which landed in the waters of McCovey Cove, something my colleagues must come visit as well when they come to San Francisco to our PacBell Stadium, which, by the way, is privately funded, very exceptional, again under the leadership of the Giants family headed by Peter McGowan.

Barry Bonds at 37 is the oldest player in major league baseball history to hit more than 50, 60 and 70 home runs in a single season. My daughter is 37 years old, and I remember when we went to Barry Bonds' 30th birthday, which seems like just yesterday. But in any event, he has even at that ripe old age of 37 broken many records.

Barry Bonds has recorded 484 stolen bases. Can we imagine that: Becoming the only major league baseball player to hit both more than 400 home runs and to steal more than 400 bases. Barry Bonds' 233rd stolen bases achieved while playing for San Francisco placed him sixth on a Giant franchise list behind his father, Bobby, who was fifth, with 263 stolen bases. So this is indeed a family affair.

Perhaps more important to Barry Bonds than even his baseball success is his record of community service. He has proven himself to be an active leader, not only in the Giants' club house, but also in the community, donating privately approximately \$100,000 already to the September 11 Fund to aid the victims of the terrorist attacks in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania. Barry Bonds has also devoted his time and personal financial resources to support the "Link and Learn" program of United Way and has been an active participant in numerous

other San Francisco Bay Area community efforts, just too numerous to mention.

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Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join in very enthusiastically and resolve that the House of Representatives congratulate Barry Bonds on his spectacular, record-breaking season in 2001, and outstanding career in major league baseball.

This House wishes him continued success in the seasons to come, and thanks him for his contribution to baseball, and especially his contribution to the community.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to my colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE).

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to just share with the gentlewoman from San Francisco, I know Mr. Bonds hit number 73 against the Houston Astros, but in San Francisco, and in fact in the northern California area, in baseball, the ultimate opponent is the Los Angeles Dodgers, without any doubt.

I have to say, I do not know where the gentlewoman was when he hit number 71, but it was against the Los Angeles Dodgers. I just want to get that in the RECORD. When he turned on that fast ball, imagine the audacity on number 71.

It was the ninth inning and the Dodgers had some rookie in pitching, a little right-handed pitcher. He was throwing heat. Bonds was up and the game was basically over. This guy kept bringing the heat, and he would pitch one and it got by Bonds on strike one, and I think on strike two, I think Bonds actually turned to the catcher and said, "You just put that ball there one more time."

And the pitcher brought the fast ball again, and Bonds turned on, and there was never any doubt. I have to tell the Members, all over San Francisco and in northern California, Mr. Speaker, people jumped to their feet and said "Yes, we broke the record against the Dodgers; life is good, congratulations, Barry Bonds; and we won the game."

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As one who used used to try and emulate those basket catches of Willie Mays, I am pleased to urge strong support for this resolution.

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

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I again commend the distinguished gentlewoman and the gentleman from California for introducing the resolution to recognized Barry Bonds' achievements and working so hard to assure passage. I thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUR-

TON), the chairman of the Committee on Government Reform, and the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), the ranking member, and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), the chairman and ranking member of the Subcommittee on Civil Service and Agency Organization, for expediting consideration by the House.

I might add that the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) wanted it known that he was personally very pleased that Mr. Bonds hit number 73.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 266.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN TERCENTENARY COMMISSION ACT

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2362) to establish the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary Commission, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2362

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 referred to as the "Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary Commission Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds as follows:

(1) Benjamin Franklin was one of the most extraordinary men of the generation that founded the United States. Around the world, he remains one of the best-known Americans who has ever lived.

(2) Benjamin Franklin's achievements include his literary work, his creation of philanthropic and educational institutions, his significant scientific explorations, and his service to the Nation as a statesman and diplomat.

(3) Benjamin Franklin was the only American to sign all 5 enabling documents of the United States.

(4) All people in the United States could benefit from studying the life of Benjamin Franklin and gaining a deeper appreciation of his legacy to the Nation.

(5) January 17, 2006, is the 300th anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin, and a commission should be established to study and recommend to the Congress activities that are fitting and proper to celebrate that anniversary in a manner that appropriately honors Benjamin Franklin.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT.

There is established a commission to be known as the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary Commission (referred to in this Act as the "Commission").

SEC. 4. DUTIES.

(a) STUDY.—The Commission shall have the following duties:

(1) To study activities by the Government that would be fitting and proper to honor Benjamin Franklin on the occasion of the tercentenary of his birth, including but not limited to the following:

(A) The minting of a Benjamin Franklin tercentenary coin.

(B) The rededication of the Benjamin Franklin National Memorial at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, or other activities with respect to that memorial.

(C) The acquisition and preservation of artifacts associated with Benjamin Franklin.

(D) The sponsorship of publications, including catalogs and scholarly work, concerning Benjamin Franklin.

(E) The sponsorship of conferences, exhibitions, or other public meetings concerning Benjamin Franklin.

(F) The sponsorship of high school and collegiate essay contests concerning the life and legacy of Benjamin Franklin.

(2) To recommend to the Congress in one or more of the interim reports submitted under section 9(a)—

(A) the activities that the Commission considers most fitting and proper to honor Benjamin Franklin on the occasion of the tercentenary of his birth; and

(B) the entity or entities in the Federal Government that the Commission considers most appropriate to carry out such activities.

(b) POINT OF CONTACT.—The Commission, acting through its secretariat, shall serve as the point of contact of the Government for all State, local, international, and private sector initiatives regarding the tercentenary of Benjamin Franklin's birth, with the purpose of coordinating and facilitating all fitting and proper activities honoring Benjamin Franklin.

SEC. 5. MEMBERSHIP.

(a) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Commission shall be composed of 15 members as follows:

(1) The Librarian of Congress.

(2) 14 qualified citizens, appointed as follows:

(A) 2 members appointed by the President.

(B) 2 members appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

(C) 2 members appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

(D) 2 members, at least 1 of whom shall be a Senator, appointed by the majority leader of the Senate.

(E) 2 members, at least 1 of whom shall be a Senator, appointed by the minority leader of the Senate.

(F) 2 members, at least 1 of whom shall be a Member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(G) 2 members, at least 1 of whom shall be a Member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives.

(b) QUALIFIED CITIZEN.—For purposes of this section, a qualified citizen is a citizen of the United States with—

(1) a substantial knowledge and appreciation of the work and legacy of Benjamin Franklin; and

(2) a commitment to educating people in the United States about the historical importance of Benjamin Franklin.

(c) TIME OF APPOINTMENT.—Each initial appointment of a member of the Commission shall be made before the expiration of the 120-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP.—If a member of the Commission was appointed to