

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

□ 1515

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 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 recognize 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

the Commission as a Member of the Congress, and ceases to be a Member of the Congress, that member may continue to serve on the Commission for not longer than the 30-day period beginning on the date on which that member ceases to be a Member of the Congress.

(e) **TERMS.**—Each member shall be appointed for the life of the Commission.

(f) **VACANCIES.**—A vacancy in the Commission shall not affect the powers of the Commission and shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made.

(g) **BASIC PAY.**—Members shall serve on the Commission without pay.

(h) **TRAVEL EXPENSES.**—Each member shall receive travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with applicable provisions under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code.

(i) **QUORUM.**—Five members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number may hold hearings.

(j) **CHAIR.**—The Commission shall select a Chair from among the members of the Commission.

(k) **MEETINGS.**—The Commission shall meet at the call of the Chair.

#### SEC. 6. ORGANIZATION.

(a) **HONORARY MEMBERS.**—The President—  
(1) shall serve as an honorary, nonvoting member of the Commission; and

(2) may invite the President of France and the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom to serve as honorary, nonvoting members of the Commission.

(b) **ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**—The Commission shall form an advisory committee, to be composed of representatives of the major extant institutions founded by or dedicated to Benjamin Franklin, including the following:

(1) The Executive Director of the American Philosophical Society.

(2) The President of the Franklin Institute.

(3) The Librarian of the Library Company.

(4) The Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

(5) The President of the University of Pennsylvania.

(c) **ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARIAT.**—The Commission shall seek to enter into an arrangement with the Franklin Institute of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, under which the Institute shall do the following:

(1) Serve as the secretariat of the Commission, including by serving as the point of contact under section 4(b).

(2) House the administrative offices of the Commission.

#### SEC. 7. POWERS.

(a) **HEARINGS AND SESSIONS.**—The Commission may, for the purpose of carrying out this Act, hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, and receive such evidence as the Commission considers appropriate.

(b) **POWERS OF MEMBERS AND AGENTS.**—Any member or agent of the Commission may, if authorized by the Commission, take any action that the Commission is authorized to take by this Act.

(c) **OBTAINING OFFICIAL DATA.**—The Commission may secure directly from any department or agency of the United States information necessary to enable the Commission to carry out this Act. Upon request of the Chair of the Commission, the head of that department or agency shall furnish that information to the Commission.

(d) **MAILS.**—The Commission may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other departments and agencies of the United States.

(e) **ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.**—Upon the request of the Commission, the Administrator of General Services shall provide to the Commission, on a reimbursable basis,

the administrative support services necessary for the Commission to carry out its responsibilities under this Act.

(f) **PROCUREMENT.**—The Commission may enter into contracts for supplies, services, and facilities to carry out the Commission's duties under this Act.

(g) **DONATIONS.**—The Commission may accept and use donations of—

(1) money;

(2) personal services; and

(3) real or personal property related to Benjamin Franklin or the occasion of the tercentenary of his birth.

#### SEC. 8. DIRECTOR AND STAFF.

(a) **APPOINTMENT.**—The Commission may appoint a Director and such additional personnel as the Commission considers to be appropriate.

(b) **APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN CIVIL SERVICE LAWS.**—The Director and staff of the Commission may be appointed without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service, and may be paid without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of that title relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates.

#### SEC. 9. REPORTS.

(a) **INTERIM REPORTS.**—The Commission shall submit to the Congress such interim reports as the Commission considers to be appropriate.

(b) **FINAL REPORT.**—The Commission shall submit a final report to the Congress not later than January 16, 2007. The final report shall contain—

(1) a detailed statement of the activities of the Commission; and

(2) any other information that the Commission considers to be appropriate.

#### SEC. 10. TERMINATION.

The Commission shall terminate 120 days after submitting its final report pursuant to section 9(b).

#### SEC. 11. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated \$500,000 for the period of fiscal years 2002 through 2007 to carry out this Act, to remain available until expended.

**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.R. 2362, as amended.

**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 the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BORSKI) for introducing H.R. 2362. H.R. 2362 establishes a Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary Commission. This 15-member Commission will be charged with studying and recommending to Congress activities it considers most fitting and proper to honor Benjamin Franklin.

The Commission will also recommend the entity or entities in the Federal Government the Commission believes most appropriate to carry out those activities. It will coordinate and facilitate such activities.

The Commission will terminate in 2007. The bill authorizes appropriations for \$500,000 over the life of the Commission.

January 17, 2006, is the 300th anniversary of Benjamin Franklin's birth. As the bill's findings observe, Franklin was one of the most extraordinary men of the extraordinary generation that founded the United States. Both here and abroad, he remains one of the best-known Americans who ever lived.

Mr. Speaker, it is impossible in the short time allotted for debate on this bill to fully recount Benjamin Franklin's achievements and his contributions to our Nation. The tenth son, and the fifteenth of the 17 children fathered by Josiah Franklin, a Boston soap and candlemaker, Benjamin Franklin became one of the most illustrious men of his age. He was the only American to sign all five enabling documents of the United States.

The achievements of this largely self-educated man included his literary work; his creation of philanthropic and educational institutions, including what became the University of Pennsylvania; his scientific explorations; and his service to the Nation as a statesman and diplomat.

Almost all Americans are familiar with Franklin's Poor Richard's Almanack, and such pithy sayings as "A penny saved is a penny earned." We all know about his famous kite-flying experiment.

But Benjamin Franklin was also a prolific inventor. He invented bifocals; a catheter; the Franklin stove; a musical instrument, the glass harmonica; the lightning rod; and the odometer.

Franklin also founded the first fire department, and he established the first fire insurance company.

Franklin's political contributions to the Nation were also invaluable. To take just a few, Mr. Speaker, Franklin participated in drafting the Declaration of Independence. The Articles of Confederation in Perpetual Union that he submitted to the Second Continental Congress eventually served as a model for our first Constitution, the Articles of Confederation.

The secret committee that Franklin established at the request of the Second Congress to gain foreign support for America's fight for independence eventually evolved into the State Department.

During the Revolutionary War, Benjamin Franklin himself represented the fledgling Nation in France. In recognition of Franklin's diplomatic work both before and during the Revolutionary War, this bill permits the President to invite the President of France and the Prime Minister of the

United Kingdom to serve as honorary nonvoting members of the Commission.

Mr. Speaker, everyone in the United States can benefit from studying the remarkable life of Benjamin Franklin and gaining a deeper appreciation of his legacy to the Nation.

For this reason, Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this important legislation.

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, first of all, let me commend and congratulate the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BORSKI) for putting forth this resolution. I think it is not only timely, but absolutely important.

Mr. Speaker, during the Revolutionary War, Ben Franklin was quoted as saying, "They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety."

Ben Franklin's words have new meaning today as America engages in a war against terrorism and those who would strip us of our liberty and freedom by threatening our safety.

Though Benjamin Franklin stands tall among a small group of men we call our Founding Fathers, he identified with the ordinary citizen and strived to make their lives better.

He served as postmaster, helping to set up the postal system in Philadelphia, a system that is today being challenged by biochemical terror attacks.

In order to make Philadelphia a safer city, Mr. Franklin started the Union Fire Company in 1736. Those who joined the Union Fire Company in 1736 had the same mission as the brave men and women who ran to their deaths to save lives in two Twin Towers that were ablaze in New York City on September 11.

Benjamin Franklin knew all about liberty and freedom. He helped write the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

He was the only person to have signed all four of the documents which helped to create the United States: the Declaration of Independence, 1776; the Treaty of Alliance, Amity, and Commerce with France, 1778; the Treaty of Peace between England, France, and the United States, 1782; and the Constitution, in 1787.

What would he say about the terror attacks that threaten the very foundation of our country and his and our beliefs?

At the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, Benjamin Franklin stated: "We must all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately." In these trying and challenging times, we must all hang together as Americans, as people who respect the differences of others, as people who believe in life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2352, which will establish a Commission

to recommend to Congress activities to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin. His words and deeds are part of our history, but will help us to overcome the challenges we face today and are sure to face tomorrow.

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

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

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, let me first thank the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for yielding me this time.

I also want to commend the leadership of the floor manager, the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS), for her leadership.

I also want to take a moment to thank the chairman of the subcommittee, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON), and particularly thank the chairman of the full committee, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), for his guidance in bringing this bill to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2362, the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary Commission Act. This legislation would properly pay tribute to a Founding Father, statesman, inventor, and philosopher on January 17, 2006, the 300th anniversary of his birth. Benjamin Franklin is truly one of our Nation's great citizens.

This bill would establish a commission to study and recommend government activities to honor Benjamin Franklin on his 300th birthday, including the minting of a coin and sponsorship of a high school and collegiate essay contest concerning the life and legacy of Benjamin Franklin.

Additionally, this legislation would serve as a contact point for State, local, international, and private sector initiatives.

H.R. 2362 would seek to have the Franklin Institute of Philadelphia, which was founded under Mr. Franklin's bequest, and is the most frequently visited museum in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, serve as the Secretariat of the Commission and house the Commission's administrative offices.

Mr. Speaker, without question, this legislation would hallmark the admiration we have for Mr. Franklin, who was considered a citizen of the world, a friend to all, and an enemy to none.

Mr. Franklin's accomplishments include founding the Pennsylvania Gazette, founding the Nation's first library, founding the first volunteer fire brigade; serving as Philadelphia's postmaster, and later as Postmaster General of the American Colonies; proposing the creation of the University of Pennsylvania; performing the first kite-flying experiment, which led to the evolution of electricity; establishing the first fire insurance company; and, of course, Mr. Speaker, serving the Continental Congress, signing

the Declaration of Independence, and presiding at the Constitutional Convention.

In 1801, President Thomas Jefferson stated that "Ben Franklin was the greatest man, an ornament of the age and country in which he lived. This father of American liberties became the object of general respect and love."

H. W. Brands, a celebrated historian, in his most recent book, *The First American—The Life and Times of Benjamin Franklin*, compliments President Jefferson's statement with his words that "His ingenuity would not die with him, nor his concern for his fellow citizens."

During the wake of the Revolutionary War, in Paris during the war and peace negotiations, at the Constitutional Convention back in Philadelphia, Mr. Franklin served his new country with unsurpassed energy, devotion, and skill. In the eyes of much of Europe, Mr. Franklin was America.

Not only did Franklin make a significant contribution to the establishment of our Republic, but also, as H.W. Brands penned, "He sought knowledge not for his own sake, but for humanity's. His passion for virtue reflected not hope of heaven, but faith in his fellow mortals."

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for this legislation. I want to note that it was cosponsored by the entire Pennsylvania congressional delegation, as well as all the members of the Massachusetts delegation, and I urge support of this resolution.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would simply urge passage of this bill, and add that Benjamin Franklin is probably the most quoted of all Americans who ever lived.

I grew up in a family where both my mother and father were great Benjamin Franklin fans. They would put us to bed at night and make us go to sleep early and by saying "Benjamin Franklin said, 'Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise.'"

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

□ 1530

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) for expediting this bill.

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. 2362, 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.

NORMAN SISISKY POST OFFICE  
BUILDING

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2910) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3131 South Crater Road in Petersburg, Virginia, as the "Norman Sisisky Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2910

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

**SECTION 1. NORMAN SISISKY POST OFFICE BUILDING.**

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3131 South Crater Road in Petersburg, Virginia, shall be known and designated as the "Norman Sisisky Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the Norman Sisisky Post Office Building.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) 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 the bill, H.R. 2910.

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 rise in strong support of H.R. 2910. I commend my good friend and fellow Virginian, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. FORBES), for introducing this measure to honor his distinguished predecessor, the late Congressman Norman Sisisky.

H.R. 2910 honors Norman Sisisky's service to his district, his State and his country by designating the post office located at 3131 South Crater Road in Petersburg, Virginia as the "Norman Sisisky Post Office Building." This bill has the strong support of all Members of the Virginia delegation.

Although born in Baltimore, Maryland, Norman Sisisky grew up in Richmond, Virginia. He graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University in 1949. Following a brief stint in the Navy, he became president of the Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company of Petersburg, Virginia. Under his leadership, that company became one of the largest soft drink bottling operations in the South.

From 1973 to 1982, Norman served in the Virginia House of Delegates. In 1982, he was elected to the House of Representatives where he served until

his untimely death in March of this year. During his 18 years on Capitol Hill, Norman Sisisky compiled a moderate voting record. In fact, he was one of the first members of the conservative Blue Dog Coalition.

He often worked across the aisle to achieve what he believed best for the American people. Few were more effective, especially in matters of national defense. He was the second ranking Democrat on the Committee on Armed Services and was widely praised for his devotion to military and defense issues.

Among the other numerous highlights of his distinguished career was the passage of a balanced budget.

Mr. Speaker, Norman Sisisky left many friends and admirers in this House. He has been rightly remembered as a bridge between the parties and for his sense of humor. I urge all Member to support this important legislation.

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

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a former Member of the Committee on Government Reform, I am very happy to join my colleague in the consideration of H.R. 2910, introduced by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. FORBES). It has met the committee co-sponsorship requirement and is supported by the entire Virginia Congressional delegation.

Norman grew up in Richmond, Virginia, served honorably in the Navy during World War II. He graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University, became a successful businessman as president of the Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company of Petersburg where he lead what was a small business to one of the largest and most profitable in the South.

Norm Sisisky served in Virginia's General Assembly representing Petersburg, Virginia. After serving five terms in the assembly, he was elected to U.S. Congress where he represented Virginia's Fourth Congressional District until his untimely death in March of this year.

Norman Sisisky served as a senior member of the Committee on Armed Services and ranking member of the Subcommittee on Military Procurement. He was always a strong defender and advocate of the armed services, and I know he will be particularly missed in that area. He already has been.

He was a member of the Subcommittee on Military Readiness and the Panel on Military Morale, Welfare and Recreation. He knew the importance of maintaining a strong military. He will always be remembered for standing behind our military families and veterans. He was also one of the most effective advocates in Congress for a strong Navy, particularly, and its ship building program at Newport News. Throughout his career in public service, he helped in a substantial way in making our military second to none.

Norm Sisisky was a hard-working colleague and a dedicated public servant. I think we should also say he was, too, a very witty, urbane and engaging friend to so many of us. And in addition to his public service, we miss his friendship. He leaves a great legacy to the people of Virginia and to our entire Nation.

I commend my colleague, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. FORBES), and all of the Virginia Congressional Delegation. And it is not just confined to Virginia. We have the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) speaking. It should be said that Norm was one of the best-liked Members of this body. I urge swift passage of this bill, and I trust it will be unanimous. This is one small way of remembering Norm Sisisky.

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

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the distinguished sponsor of this bill, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. FORBES), and I ask unanimous consent that he be permitted to control that time.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of our former colleagues, Norman Sisisky, the late Congressman from the Fourth District of Virginia.

Congressman Sisisky passed away earlier this year having lived a rich life of public service and loving commitment to his family. He served his Nation during World War II as a veteran of the U.S. Navy. He went on to serve Virginia in the House of Delegates for 8 years. During his tenure there, his dedication to improving the lives of children earned him the Outstanding Service to Children in Virginia Award in 1978. He served the citizens of both the Commonwealth and the Nation by representing the people of Virginia's Fourth District for more than 18 years in the United States Congress.

Norman Sisisky was well respected by Members from both sides of the aisle, gaining a reputation as a personable man with a keen interest in and knowledge of national security issues. In fact, he is best remembered for his service on the Committee on Armed Services where he helped to shepherd through years of bipartisan legislation to improve the lives of men and women who wear the uniform that he once wore.

Norman Sisisky was a life-long Virginian, born in Richmond and later settling nearby in Petersburg.

He attended college at Virginia Commonwealth University, where he earned a degree in business administration. He built an outstanding career in soft drink bottling as president and owner of the Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company of Petersburg and chairman of