

When Jerry was elected to Congress, he took on several important issues. For starters, Jerry Solomon spent many years devoted to ending the scourge of drugs, where I had the opportunity to work closely with him. In this capacity, he successfully championed many pieces of legislation requiring random drug testing and penalizing users and sellers of illegal drugs. He was a strong believer that illegal drug use is one of the most pressing issues facing our Nation's youth and fought it wherever and whenever he could.

In addition, when Republicans took control of the House, Jerry Solomon served as the Rules Committee chairman, where he presided over sweeping reforms in the way the House operates. Among other things, his committee abolished proxy voting, opened all meetings to the media and the public, and made Congress subject to the same laws that the American people live under. These were important reforms that fundamentally changed the way this House conducts its business.

In addition to this important work, Jerry served as ranking member on the Veterans Affairs Committee, where, as a veteran of the Korean war, he understood firsthand the importance of meeting the needs of our military veterans to the fullest extent possible. In this capacity, Jerry made sure that veterans were heard and represented when he sponsored the bill that created a cabinet level Department of Veterans Affairs. And, of course, he made certain that we remembered our country's military veterans when he fought for 15 years to see that the Saratoga National Cemetery was established.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation. This country cannot and should not forget the efforts of those like Jerry Solomon who by word and deed made this country a better place.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3392.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3392.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1830

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT VETERANS DAY CONTINUE TO BE OBSERVED ON NOVEMBER 11

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to

the resolution (H. Res. 298) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Veterans Day should continue to be observed on November 11 and separate from any other Federal holiday or day for Federal elections or national observances.

The Clerk read as follows:

Whereas the veterans of the Armed Forces are owed a tremendous debt of gratitude for their service and bravery;

Whereas veterans play important roles in communities throughout the United States;

Whereas maintaining Veterans Day as a legal public holiday separate from all other Federal holidays and days for elections or national observances is the least that a grateful Nation should do in recognition of its veterans; and

Whereas November 11 is a solemn commemoration of the contributions of those who have served and defended the Nation, especially those who gave their lives securing the freedoms enjoyed by all citizens of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that Veterans Day should continue to be observed on November 11 and separate from any other Federal holiday or day for Federal elections or national observances.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 298.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of House Resolution 298. The message of this resolution is simple and straightforward. It is the sense of the House of Representatives that Veterans Day should be observed on November 11. It should be observed separate from any other Federal holiday, election day, or any other national observance.

Madam Speaker, Veterans Day is the one day on which America honors all of those who have served in our Armed Forces. Its roots trace back to Armistice Day, which established November 11 as the day to honor veterans of World War I; but in 1954, after World War II and the Korean War, the name of the holiday was changed to Veterans Day.

For a brief period, from 1968 to 1975, Veterans Day was not observed on November 11. By law it was observed on a Monday in order to provide Federal employees with 3-day weekends, but in 1975 President Ford signed legislation to return the observance of Veterans Day on November 11, where it remains to this day.

President Ford's action supported the expressed will of the overwhelming majority of State legislatures, veterans service organizations and the American people. Yet today, there are those who would alter this distinct opportunity to honor our veterans by merging Veterans Day with other public activities such as election day.

This would be wrong, Madam Speaker. Since our Nation's founding, some 48 million men and women have stepped forward to defend our way of life. There are more than 25 million living veterans who have served in peace and war. More than a million died in service to America; and more than a million and a half have been wounded, and some very seriously.

As we debate this resolution today, America's servicemen and women are fighting in Afghanistan to defend us and our way of life from the terrorists who attacked us on September 11. As President Bush said in his Veterans Day proclamation this year: "Our Nation will always be grateful for the noble sacrifices made by these veterans. We can never adequately repay them, but we can honor and respect them for their service."

It would be a shame and a travesty, Madam Speaker, to allow the special meaning of Veterans Day to be submerged amid a welter of campaign activities. Election campaigns focus on issues that divide us. That is how our democratic system works. We engage in a great national debate over a variety of serious issues. Campaign ads flood television and radio. Campaign activities dominate the news, and then the American people vote and determine who will represent them.

This is a great process, Madam Speaker; but we would lose something very special if it were combined with Veterans Day. We would lose the opportunity to pause and honor our veterans as a Nation united in gratitude for their service. Maintaining Veterans Day as a legal public holiday, separate from all other Federal holidays, is the least that a grateful Nation should do.

I want to congratulate and thank the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY) for introducing this legislation; and, Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to support this important resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, as we just listened to the debate and tributes being paid to Representative Solomon, I think that gives us one of the reasons why this bill is so important; and so I rise in strong support for H. Res. 298, a bill expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Veterans Day should be observed on November 11 and separate from any other holiday or day for Federal elections or national observances.

Madam Speaker, in 1921 an unknown World War I American soldier was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

This site, on a hillside overlooking the Potomac River and the city of Washington, became the focal point of reference for American veterans.

On Sunday November 23, 1921, Miriam Felt, then 23 years old, wrote a letter to her family describing the events in Washington, DC., during the time of that first burial, now known as the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, in Arlington National Cemetery.

Miriam wrote: "Well, this last week has been quite an event in history, and I certainly do wish you all could have been in Washington. It certainly is something I shall never forget. Somehow, you can talk about it and think about it, but the realization of the whole thing struck me so much more by seeing it all, and it was so impressive. Of course, Washington is alive with foreigners of all sorts, and I am turning around all the time to see something else for fear that I will miss something.

"Thursday night after work, Gertie and I went up to the Capitol to see the body in state there. We went up about six o'clock, thinking the crowd would not be so large. But at that time, the line four breast extended over two blocks, and by the time we had reached the Capitol steps and could look back at the crowd, it extended up on one side of the park, down another side, then the third side of it and on beyond the Capitol Building where we could see no farther, so I don't know how much longer it was. It was perfectly beautifully managed, and there was no crowding, and everyone, strangely enough, acted as though they really were there to pay respect to the memory which that body was to represent to the country."

As a postscript, Miriam Felt wrote: "Give my love to Grandpa. Sorry he isn't feeling up to par. Tell him to be a good boy. Tell him too that some of his old 'cronies' marched to Arlington Friday and they looked mighty fine, I'll tell you, and I thought a lot about what he did for his country."

November 11 is a time for us to reflect on what the men and women of the United States military have and continue to do for the country. The feeling of pride and patriotism expressed in Miriam Felt's letter should be felt by all of us. No longer can we take the freedoms that we enjoy today for granted, and no longer can we take the men and women who fought for those freedoms for granted.

Yes, Madam Speaker, I encourage that we hold aside this day for this purpose only and for no other purpose, except to honor and pay tribute to the men and women of this country who have given and continue to give the last measure of devotion that one might have so that we can continue to enjoy the freedoms that we so rightly deserve.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from

Nebraska (Mr. TERRY), who is a prime sponsor of the legislation.

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, certainly as Americans, especially now, we owe the men and women who served our country in times of war a tremendous debt of gratitude. Simply put, we cannot do enough to thank them for their contributions to our great Nation. We cannot do enough to honor them for their dedication to the principles of freedom and liberty which our families enjoy.

To that end, we set aside one day each year, November 11, to recognize the contributions of American war veterans to this great Nation. We keep one day to be mindful of their sacrifices and the sacrifice of their families. Veterans Day is for them, and now the sanctity of that day is in jeopardy.

Just to tell my colleagues a story, last Veterans Day, just a few weeks ago, I attended several ceremonies; and one of the speakers got up at the ceremony in our memorial park in Omaha, Nebraska, and said to the attendees, If Congress has their way, this will be the last time we meet.

He went on to say that combining Veterans Day with election day is a little bit like combining Christmas and Halloween. I do not necessarily agree with his analogy, but the point was well taken.

Whenever I would attend the VFW groups, American Legion clubs at home, this issue was always brought up about protecting the sanctity of the one day a year that we put aside to thank these folks; but somehow some folks here in Washington have been sidetracked. There was an election commission that perhaps one of their recommendations was combining Veterans Day with election day to increase voter turnout. Some people up here on Capitol Hill endorsed that idea. It was a balloon that was floated, and somehow then that became what Congress was going to do to these folks who sacrificed their time and their lives for America.

Today, we have the opportunity then to take something that has just grown way out of proportion and set the record straight, that we in this body wish to see a day of reflection for our veterans who triumphed, who sacrificed; that we will pay tribute to them on that one day a year that we have set aside, the 11th day of the 11th month of each year.

I do not, Madam Speaker, nor do the proud veterans and the proud Americans of the second district, wish to see this date moved or blended in with some other holiday or event. The fact is that Veterans Day holds a patriotic duty for Americans to recognize the commitment of American veterans to duty, honor, freedom and liberty.

Election day is a day of civic obligation, dedicated to separate purposes, and combining this day with others would simply be to disrespect what they have done for us.

I urge my colleagues to vote yes on this resolution.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for yielding me the time, and I thank the distinguished gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA), as well the sponsor of this legislation; and I rise enthusiastically to support this legislation.

I come from a family of veterans, particularly having served in World War II; and every Veterans Day I look forward to embracing and celebrating with my community, with Houston and Houstonians, the veterans that have offered themselves for service so that I might live in freedom.

It is true that veterans everywhere deserve our honor and appreciation. They deserve the parades and the accolades. Now more than ever, as we live in the shadow of September 11 and realize that we collectively must fight terrorism, Veterans Day must be promoted and celebrated because even today we have young men and women going forth to protect our rights.

I have legislation, H.R. 934, which specifically indicates that the possibility of an election day holiday should not be on Veterans Day, and I rise enthusiastically to confirm the importance of voting, but likewise to ensure that no election holiday would take Veterans Day and that we would work to ensure that the sacrifice of our veterans is singularly honored on November 11 every year and that as we fight to ensure that there is opportunity for access to the voting booth that we can do that side by side.

Just this past weekend, Houston, Texas, experienced a very tough election; and that election was that of our city leader, Mayor Lee P. Brown. Many of us are well aware of his leadership in Washington. We base the success of his victory on simply encouraging people to express their viewpoint in getting out to vote.

□ 1845

That is all we want to do, to ensure that the improprieties and the injustices that eliminated people's rights to vote are corrected. We can do that side by side as we protect the veterans' holiday of November 11. So I also ask my colleagues to consider 934. H.R. 934 protects Veterans Day, November 11, as a singular holiday, and it promotes the idea of an election holiday separate and apart from November 11.

I am very gratified for the sponsor of this legislation, and I rise in enthusiastic support of this legislation. I believe that the causes and the purposes of H. Res. 298 are those that this body can collectively support as we pay tribute to our veterans yesterday, today and tomorrow, and then that we also acknowledge the privilege of voting and ensuring that people have the right to vote, and a special day to vote separate, but a day apart from any day we would honor our veterans.

To our veterans I say: You are, in fact, our first responders of freedom and justice and equality.

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN), who has sponsored such legislation.

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

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time, and I rise today, along with my colleague, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY), to offer House Resolution 298, a resolution expressing the sense of this body that Veterans Day should be observed as a separate, distinct national holiday, and I thank the gentleman from Nebraska for all of his work in the interest of so many Members.

Madam Speaker, after the turmoil of last year's national election, President Bush rightly called for the creation of a National Commission on Federal Election Reform, chaired by two of his esteemed predecessors, President Ford and President Carter. Under their able leadership, this commission studied the lessons of that election and formulated a 13-point plan for reform. While they raised many valid points, I respectfully disagree with their third recommendation: that this Congress enact legislation to combine Election Day with Veterans Day.

As we know in this House, held on the 11th day of the 11th month, a date which marks the armistice which ended the Great War of 1918, Veterans Day began as a day to honor those who fought for freedom with the allies in Europe during World War I. It was later expanded after America's participation in World War II to include those veterans. But it was not until after the Korean War in 1954 that November 11 became a day set aside to honor all those who have worn our Nation's uniform and who have fought and died to preserve the ideals and values we hold most dear.

Now, as a way to increase voter participation and enable more public spaces to be used as polling sites, this commission and others have seized upon the idea of merging Election Day with Veterans Day. This idea is well intentioned but dead wrong. As a New Jersey resident and former national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Bob Wallace, wrote to me in September, "We believe that any suggestion or consideration of Veterans Day serving as Election Day would significantly diminish Congress' original intent to honor the men and women who served in the Armed Forces." As a fellow veteran, I agree.

Bob also said, and I quote, "The historical significance of Veterans Day should remain just that, a day to solemnly honor America's veterans for their patriotism and willingness to sacrifice all for freedom." It could not be said better. This is the reason we have

sponsored this legislation, and I urge the Members of this House to support it.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

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

Mr. GILMAN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time, and I rise in strong support of this legislation expressing the sense of the House that Veterans Day should be observed on November 11 and be separate from any other Federal holiday. I urge my colleagues to lend their strong support to this bill.

I thank the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) for her leadership in bringing the measure to the floor at this time, as well as the ranking minority member, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON), for her work. I also commend the sponsors, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN), for their work on this legislation.

In recent years, there have been a number of proposals to merge Veterans Day with Election Day as one Federal holiday in order to encourage the maximum number of voters to go to the polls. While I support increasing voter participation in elections, I believe that proposals along those lines would be an insult and disrespectful to the contributions and service performed by our Nation's veterans.

For many years, we have had a unique, separate holiday for those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the service of their Nation during our Nation's many military conflicts. It is only fitting that we continue to have a separate holiday for the living who served their country in military service.

Madam Speaker, those who want to encourage election reform by establishing a new Federal holiday can be heard on that subject. However, the service of our veterans should not be diminished in any manner by having Veterans Day share its honor with another Federal holiday observance. November 11, the day honoring our veterans of our Armed Forces, should remain solely a day to honor their contributions and their loyalty to our Nation.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to join in supporting this timely and appropriate measure.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), who chairs the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

(Mr. SMITH of New Jersey asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today in very strong support of this resolution, H. Res. 298, calling for Veterans Day to remain a distinct Federal holiday observed every year on November 11.

Eighty-three years ago, in a forest northeast of Paris, an armistice was signed that ended the fighting in World War I commencing on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918. The war to end all wars was over. It had been won through the selfless service and sacrifice of tens of thousands of American men and women, joining together with millions of our British, French, and other allies.

To commemorate this historic event, the following year, President Woodrow Wilson, who I would note parenthetically was a former New Jersey Governor, issued a proclamation declaring November 11 Armistice Day, saying that, and I quote, "The reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with the gratitude for the victory." Following World War II, Armistice Day was renamed Veterans Day to honor all those men and women who served a grateful Nation.

Madam Speaker, as chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I am unalterably opposed to any proposal that would alter or in any way diminish Veterans Day. In particular, I stand in opposition to the recommendation of the National Commission on Federal Election Reform that Federal elections be held concurrently with Veterans Day.

While I, like every other Member of this House, want citizens to fully exercise their franchise and to vote, I do not believe diluting Veterans Day is a way to achieve that end. Such a change would defeat the purpose of reserving a day in the year to honor all men and women, living and deceased, who have risked their lives to defend our Nation.

Veterans Day, especially when it is coupled with Memorial Day, the day we honor our war dead and those who have died who served honorably, are 2 days, and it is the least we can do, I would say, Madam Speaker. And, again, to diminish it would be wrong.

In 1987, Madam Speaker, Congress made a similar mistake when legislation was approved to change the national Veterans Day observance from November 11 to the fourth Monday in October to create a 3-day weekend for Federal employees. This misguided policy was quickly abandoned following a national outcry from millions of Americans, veterans and nonveterans alike.

Madam Speaker, Veterans Day is more than just a holiday. It is a continuing history lesson for all Americans. It is a reminder that freedom is not free; that our liberties, which are endowed by our Creator, must be defended against all who would remove them.

This is a very good resolution and I urge strong support for it.

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. JEFF MILLER), one of our newest Members of this august body.

Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I rise today in support of H.R. 298.

In respect and recognition of the contributions our servicemen and women have made to the cause of peace and freedom around this world, the laws of the United States make November 11 a Federal holiday in honor of every American who has served this country. While we always appreciate the men and women of the military, it is altogether fitting that we set a time aside to do so publicly. Veterans Day was established for this reason, and November 11 should be set aside for this reason alone.

Throughout the course of American history, nearly 48 million men and women have stepped forward to defend our land, our people, and our principles. Today, there are more than 25 million living veterans who served our Nation, many of them willingly entering harm's way to preserve, protect, and defend our freedom. The strength of the United States is a direct result of their courageous, patriotic, and dedicated service for which we can never fully thank them.

Because of their service to the United States in the cause of freedom and liberty, we are citizens of the greatest Nation in the history of the world. I thank our veterans for their dedicated service to our country, and I also thank their families for sharing their loved ones throughout the years. The excellence of our veterans is a model for men and women everywhere who are asked to defend our country. At this moment, men and women of the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard are serving around the world, and they could have no better example to follow or tradition to live up to.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this resolution and to retain this fitting honor for all of our veterans.

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

The 3 million members of the American Legion and the 100,000 members of the Noncommissioned Officers Association support this resolution. It is also supported by the 370,000 members of the Retired Officers Association, the 1 million members of the Disabled American Veterans, the 2 million members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the members of the Vietnam Veterans Association, the members of the Retired Enlisted Association, and the members of AMVETS.

I do again want to thank the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN) for introducing this resolution, as well as the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), who chairs the Committee on Government Reform,

as well as the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), the ranking member, for having this resolution come to the floor so promptly.

I urge all Members to stand with our Nation's veterans and their organizations in support of House Resolution 298.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Thank you, Madam Speaker and Congressman TERRY, for this important resolution which expresses the sense of the House that Veterans Day should continue to be observed on November 11.

Under current law, November 11 of each year is designated as Veterans Day, a federal holiday honoring veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces. This important tradition began in honor of November 11, 1918—the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in which Americans began laying down their arms. In 1921, this day marked the burial of an unknown World War I American soldier who was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. Historically, similar ceremonies occurred in England and France where an unknown soldier was buried in each nation's highest place of honor. These memorial gestures all took place on November 11.

Armistic Day officially received its name in America in 1926 through a Congressional resolution (44 Stat. 1982). In 1938 it became a national holiday by an Act (52 Stat. 351; 5 U.S. Code, Sec. 87a) as "a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be hereafter celebrated and known as 'Armistice Day.'" Initially, set aside to honor veterans of World War I, in 1954, after World War II, the 83rd Congress amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting the word "Veterans" in order to honor American veterans of all wars.

Just this past Veterans Day, I honored America's veterans and those who gave their lives for America's freedom and democracy at the Veterans Memorial National Cemetery in Houston, Texas. There, I expressed our gratitude to the men and women who have given themselves to national service. Their sacrifice, particularly in light of the September 11 attacks and the ongoing war on terror, reminds us that we cannot take our freedoms and democracy for granted. This important day should be preserved and honored at all costs.

I am a product of America's veterans and have several members of my own family who were veterans of World War II. For them and for all the veterans of this great Nation, I oppose any holiday or Election Day on Veterans Day. That's why, on March 7, 2001 I introduced H.R. 934 which ensures that Election Day never interferes with Veterans Day.

It is because of the sacrifices made by our veterans for freedom, the flag, and the American people that we are today able to vote, and that I was able to introduce this legislation which provides a greatly needed federal Election Day. It establishes Presidential Election Day on the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November in 2004 and each fourth year thereafter, as a legal public holiday.

This resolution before us today, H. Res. 298 expresses the sense of the House that Veterans Day should continue to be observed on November 11, as under current law, and separate from any other federal holiday. This is an important message, needed to express to our Nation's veterans and those across this great Nation that we will forever remember and

honor those who have served in our Armed Forces.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support it. Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, November 11th is Veterans Day period.

On behalf of the veterans of the U.S. Virgin Islands, who have fought in every one of this country's wars from the Revolutionary war forward, I support H. Res. 298, and commend our colleagues for introducing this resolution expressing the sense of the House, that this day would forever be set aside as the day we honor those who have so nobly served this country and all of us. That is as those from my district would have it.

What a small concession from the country to those who have sacrificed and been willing to fight unto death—willing to make the ultimate sacrifice. But it is of great importance and significance to them.

November 11th is Veterans Day, period. Let's not fix what ain't broke.

Mrs. KELLY. Madam Speaker, I want to rise in support of this measure which reminds us of the importance of honoring our nation's veterans.

In light of our current circumstances, with American soldiers now on hostile ground, we ought to be especially mindful of our efforts to acknowledge and honor those who have served our country.

While I understand that some may see this annual day of honor also as a day of convenience, an already-established holiday that can be used for other purposes, I believe that any effort to place any other designations on this day is unacceptable. These are our veterans. These are the men and women who have put the well-being of their country ahead of their own. It is not asking too much to have one day a year dedicated solely to their efforts.

Our veterans deserve it.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 298, expressing the sense of the House that Veterans Day should be observed on November 11th and separate from any other federal holiday.

Veterans Day originated in 1920 and was originally named Armistice Day to mark the end of World War I on the 11th month, the 11th day, and the 11th hour of 1918. In 1954 Congress broadened the holiday by renaming it Veterans Day to honor American veterans of all wars.

In Presidential Proclamation 3071, President Dwight D. Eisenhower called on the nation to set aside Veterans Day to "solemnly remember the sacrifices of all those who fought so valiantly, on the seas, in the air, and on foreign shores, to preserve our heritage of freedom." He challenged the nation to "reconsecrate ourselves to the task of promoting an enduring peace so that their efforts shall not have been in vain."

On Veterans Day we meet that challenge and honor the 405,399 Americans that lost their lives in World War II, the 58,198 that lost their lives in Vietnam, and thousands of others that lost their lives in all other conflicts. Despite the need to protect the purposes of Veterans Day, the National Commission on Federal Election Reform recommended that Congress enact legislation to conduct federal elections on Veterans Day. We must not diminish the importance of Veterans Day by sharing Veterans Day with any other even which distract our attention from the veterans who have served this country.

Veterans Day is a sacred day to honor veterans for their patriotism, love of country and willingness to make sacrifice for our nation.

I urge my colleagues to vote for House Resolution 298 and maintain the integrity of the day set aside to focus the nation's attention on the important sacrifices made by Veterans.

Mr. EVANS. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 298 and urge all of my colleagues to support this important measure. Mr. Speaker the purpose of House Resolution 298 is simple, but it is as profound as it is simple.

House Resolution 298 expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that Veterans Day should continue to be observed on November 11th. In addition, Veterans Day should be observed separate and apart from any other Federal holiday or day for Federal elections or national observances. Our nation has a long-standing tradition of honoring our veterans on November 11th. As many know, the observance of Veterans Day on November 11th has historic significance. On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, the guns used to wage World War I were officially silenced. This day, Armistice Day, became known as Veterans Day as our nation recognized the sacrifice and service of all our Nation's veterans.

Veterans Day should be preserved and continue to be the day our nation pauses to recognize all veterans. Let us retain November 11th as Veterans Day and honor all those who have served our nation in uniform.

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 298.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. TERRY. Madam 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.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL RESTRUCTURING ACT OF 2001

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2305) to require certain Federal officials with responsibility for the administration of the criminal justice system of the District of Columbia to serve on and participate in the activities of the District of Columbia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2305

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 "Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Restructuring Act of 2001".

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZING FEDERAL OFFICIALS ADMINISTERING CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA TO PARTICIPATE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Each of the individuals described in subsection (b) is authorized to serve on the District of Columbia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, participate in the Council's activities, and take such other actions as may be necessary to carry out the individual's duties as a member of the Council.

(b) INDIVIDUALS DESCRIBED.—The individuals described in this subsection are as follows:

(1) The Director of the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia.

(2) The Director of the District of Columbia Pretrial Services Agency.

(3) The United States Attorney for the District of Columbia.

(4) The Director of the Bureau of Prisons.

(5) The chair of the United States Parole Commission.

(6) The Director of the United States Marshals Service.

SEC. 3. ANNUAL REPORTING REQUIREMENT FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL.

Not later than 60 days after the end of each calendar year, the District of Columbia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council shall prepare and submit to the President, Congress, and each of the entities of the District of Columbia government and Federal government whose representatives serve on the Council a report describing the activities carried out by the Council during the year.

SEC. 4. FEDERAL CONTRIBUTION FOR COORDINATING COUNCIL.

There are authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2002 and each succeeding fiscal year such sums as may be necessary for a Federal contribution to the District of Columbia to cover the costs incurred by the District of Columbia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.

SEC. 5. DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL DEFINED.

In this Act, the "District of Columbia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council" means the entity established by the Council of the District of Columbia under the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council for the District of Columbia Establishment Act of 2001.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the legislation under consideration, H.R. 2305.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1900

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 2305, as amended, formally establishes the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, a joint Federal-local effort designed to foster cooperation among the various agencies that have law enforcement responsibility in our Nation's capital. I introduced this measure in June of this year, was joined by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) as the original cosponsor of H.R. 2305. The bill was amended in subcommittee, and that is the version that we are now considering.

The amended bill authorizes the heads of six Federal agencies, the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia, the District of Columbia Pretrial Services Agency, the U.S. Attorney for the District, the Bureau of Prisons, and the U.S. Parole Commission, as well as the U.S. Marshal Service, to meet regularly with District law enforcement officials. It also requires the CJCC to submit an annual report detailing its activities to the President, Congress and the appropriate Federal and local agencies.

The District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority, known as the Control Board, originally established the CJCC 3 years ago through a memorandum of agreement. Cooperation between Federal and local law enforcement agencies has become even more critical in recent years because the Federal Government has assumed the responsibility of the District of Columbia courts and corrections functions under the 1997 Revitalization Act.

The CJCC is important because it brings the leaders of all participating agencies to the same table. They will work at getting rid of the interagency obstacles that are hindering attainment of the District of Columbia's criminal justice objectives. There are more than 30 law enforcement agencies with a presence in the Nation's Capital. There are 13 governmental agencies that have a direct role in the criminal justice activities in the District from arrest and booking to trial and correctional supervision. Four of these are city agencies such as the Metropolitan Police Department, six are Federal agencies such as the Office of the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia. And, finally, there are three agencies, Superior Court, Defender Services, and Office of the Corrections Trustee that are local in nature but are funded by the Federal Government.

There is plenty of evidence, including recent reports from the GAO and the Council for Court Excellence, that shows that these individual agencies of the District of Columbia's criminal justice system are not always working in concert; and as a result, efforts at reform have sometimes stalled.

Some prime examples of the lack of coordination have been in the area of police overtime. According to the General Accounting Office the Metropolitan Police Department continues to