

the Inspector General of the Department of Agriculture to conduct an investigation in the deaths of any firefighters killed by wildfire. This investigation is separate and independent of any Forest Service internal review. An independent examination of what went wrong will help provide information on how similar events can be prevented in the future and how firefighters can better be prepared and protected and how lives can be saved. Independent investigations will also help to ensure oversight and accountability in the Forest Service.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation may not benefit the families in my district that have endured the tragic loss of their loved ones; yet I am confident that they, more than anyone, understand the value of requiring independent investigations in the future. Should such a tragedy occur again, everyone concerned will have more confidence and faith in an independent investigation than an internal agency review.

It is the hope that no firefighter will lose their life battling a wildfire; yet we should pass this bill to make certain that if there is a loss of life, that tragedy will be independently investigated to identify what happened, why it happened, and how it can be prevented in the future.

□ 1430

In addition, no matter how much we improve the quality of investigations, it is vital that we take the necessary steps to improve forest health through responsible forest management practices. We have already seen too many devastating fires in the West this year that have caused terrible damage and harm to property and families.

Congress must act to address forest health and management practices. Regrettably, for too long this has not been a priority of the Federal Government. This "hands-off approach" has contributed to the devastation we see today in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, indeed throughout the West. Effective forest management is vital to removing the root causes of forest fires.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Senator MARIA CANTWELL for her leadership in the other body. She has introduced companion legislation and has tirelessly worked to ensure that this legislation becomes law. The goal of H.R. 3971 is simple and straightforward: Ensuring independent investigations to improve firefighting safety. I urge Members to support H.R. 3971.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DAN MILLER of Florida). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3971.

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. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. 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. 3971.

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

There was no objection.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1802

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ISAKSON) at 6:00 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.

NEW RIVER GORGE BOUNDARY ACT OF 2002

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will now resume proceedings on the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 3858.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3858.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The remaining votes on postponed questions will be resumed later this evening.

CONGRATULATING NAVY LEAGUE OF UNITED STATES ON ITS CENTENNIAL

Mr. SCHROCK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 416) congratulating the Navy League of United States on the occasion of the centennial of the organization's founding.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 416

Whereas the Navy League of the United States was founded in 1902 with the encouragement of President Theodore Roosevelt to serve and support the United States sea services, namely the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marine;

Whereas the Navy League has more than 77,000 active members;

Whereas the Navy League is unique among military-oriented associations in that it is a civilian organization dedicated to the education of American citizens and the support of the members of the sea services and their families;

Whereas the Navy League supports active duty members of the sea services through the adoption of naval vessels, installations, and units and the hosting of commissioning ceremonies, award programs, and other recognition programs;

Whereas the Navy League supports America's young people through its youth programs, including sponsorship of the Naval Sea Cadet Corps and the Navy League Scholarship Program, and through its promotion of youth-oriented activities in local communities, such as the Reserve Officers' Training Corps and other recognized youth programs;

Whereas the Navy League is widely respected by citizens, community and industry leaders, and public officials; and

Whereas Navy League programs are welcomed in communities throughout the United States, and members of the Navy League are recognized for their integrity and patriotism; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress, on the occasion of the centennial of the founding of the Navy League of the United States in 1902, congratulates the Navy League and its members for their role as the foremost civilian organization dedicated to supporting the United States sea services.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCHROCK).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCHROCK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Con. Res. 416.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise today to encourage my colleagues to join me in honoring the Navy League of the United States for its 100 years of service to service members, their families and their communities. I recently introduced House Resolution 416 to congratulate the Navy League on its 100th anniversary, its 100th year of service to America. The Navy League of the United States was founded in 1902 with the encouragement of then-President Theodore Roosevelt.

The Navy League is unique among military-oriented associations. It is a civilian organization dedicated to the education of our citizens and the support of the men and women of the sea

services and their families, including the adoption of ships, installations, and units; commissioning ceremonies; award programs; and other recognition programs.

The Navy League works closely with the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and U.S.-flag Merchant Marines through a network of nearly 78,000 active members and over 330 councils in the United States and around the world. The Navy League is widely respected by citizens, community and industry leaders, and public officials. Navy League programs are welcomed in communities throughout the Nation, and members are recognized for their integrity and patriotism.

For instance, just this morning I met with the leaders of the Navy League in the Second Congressional District of Virginia, which I represent, on plans they have for the commissioning ceremonies of the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan in May of next year. They are expecting over 35,000 people to attend the event. The members of the Hampton Roads Navy League will handle all the events surrounding this monumental ceremony.

This is just one example of the kind of support they provide to America's sea services around the world.

As a retired Navy captain, it is a privilege for me to bring this resolution to the House floor and recognize the Navy League and the outstanding role that it plays to members of our sea services.

I ask Members to join me in thanking the Navy League of the United States for its long-standing service. I encourage all Members to support this resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 416 introduced by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCHROCK). The resolution congratulates the Navy League of the United States for 100 years of service to this Nation.

Established in 1902, the Navy League and its more than 77,000 active members have been dedicated to educating Americans about the importance of maintaining a strong maritime force and providing support to sea service members and their families.

While the Navy League is a civilian organization, it works closely with the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and U.S. Merchant Marines through over 330 councils in the United States and around the world. In addition, these services allow the United States to maintain our presence around the world, ensure the freedom of our seas, and promote America's national security interests and global stability.

The Navy League also reaches out to our children through the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps and the Navy League Scholarship Program. The U.S. Naval

Sea Cadet Corps has over 8,500 cadets, ages 11 through 17, that learn seamanship skills, maritime history, customs and traditions. Cadets also learn to build their courage, self-reliance, and confidence, and are offered opportunities to travel and train with Sea Cadets from foreign countries, such as Belgium, Bermuda, Canada, Great Britain, Japan, Sweden and the Netherlands.

The Navy League has provided over \$25,000 in scholarships and awards. The League also provides support for Navy and Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps and Reserve Officer Training Corps units across the United States.

The Navy League councils also support military personnel and their families through "adoption" of ships, installations, and units, commissioning ceremonies, awards and other recognition programs.

Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor of House Concurrent Resolution 416, I urge my colleagues to support this measure and join in extending heartfelt congratulations to the Navy League and its members on their century of dedication and commitment to our Nation's maritime forces.

Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 416 and congratulate the Navy League of the United States on 100 years of service to Navy communities around the country.

The Navy League, Pensacola Chapter, is one of the largest in the country with 1010 members and growing. It is actively supporting the Navy and the community. Both the Pensacola and Santa Rosa Chapters host annual Sailor of the Year and Flight Instructor of the Year Award Ceremonies. These awards recognize the best of the best from the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Air Force active duty that serve on the emerald coast. They also support and co-founded the community's annual military appreciation month, where active and former military members are given special consideration throughout the month. On a recent visit to my district, the Secretary of the Navy, Gordon England, recognized the Pensacola Area Navy Leagues as exemplary and was impressed by the display of support for visiting ship and air-wing crews.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my good friend from Virginia, Mr. SCHROCK, for introducing this measure. My community and I are grateful for the Navy League and wish them well in their next 100 years.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCHROCK) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 416.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DESIGNATING OFFICIAL FLAG OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR

Mr. SCHROCK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 95) designating an official flag of the Medal of Honor and providing for presentation of that flag to each recipient of that Medal of Honor, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.J. RES. 95

Whereas the Medal of Honor is the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force which can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas the Medal of Honor was established by Congress during the Civil War to recognize soldiers who had distinguished themselves by gallantry in action;

Whereas the Medal of Honor was conceived by Senator James Grimes of the State of Iowa in 1861; and

Whereas the Medal of Honor is the Nation's highest military honor, awarded for acts of personal bravery or self-sacrifice above and beyond the call of duty: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF MEDAL OF HONOR FLAG.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 9 of title 36, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 903. Designation of Medal of Honor Flag

“(a) DESIGNATION.—The Secretary of Defense shall design and designate a flag as the Medal of Honor Flag. In selecting the design for the flag, the Secretary shall consider designs submitted by the general public.

“(b) PRESENTATION.—The Medal of Honor Flag shall be presented as specified in sections 3755, 6257, and 8755 of title 10 and section 505 of title 14.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“903. Designation of Medal of Honor Flag.”

SEC. 2. PRESENTATION OF FLAG TO MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS.

(a) ARMY.—(1) Chapter 357 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 3755. Medal of honor: presentation of Medal of Honor Flag

“The President shall provide for the presentation of the Medal of Honor Flag designated under section 903 of title 36 to each person to whom a medal of honor is awarded under section 3741 of this title after the date of the enactment of this section. Presentation of the flag shall be made at the same time as the presentation of the medal under section 3741 or 3752(a) of this title.”

(2) The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“3755. Medal of honor: presentation of Medal of Honor Flag.”

(b) NAVY AND MARINE CORPS.—(1) Chapter 567 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 6257. Medal of honor: presentation of Medal of Honor Flag

“The President shall provide for the presentation of the Medal of Honor Flag designated under section 903 of title 36 to each person to whom a medal of honor is awarded under section 6241 of this title after the date of the enactment of this section. Presentation of the flag shall be made at the same