

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

time as the presentation of the medal under section 6241 or 6250 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:

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

(c) AIR FORCE.—(1) Chapter 857 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§8755. 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 8741 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 8741 or 8752(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:

“8755. Medal of honor: presentation of Medal of Honor Flag.”.

(d) COAST GUARD.—(1) Chapter 13 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 504 the following new section:

“§505. 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 491 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 491 or 498 of this title.”.

(2) The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 504 the following new item:

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

(e) PRIOR RECIPIENTS.—The President shall provide for the presentation of the Medal of Honor Flag designated under section 903 of title 36, United States Code, as added by section 1(a), to each person awarded the Medal of Honor before the date of the enactment of this resolution who is living as of that date. Such presentation shall be made as expeditiously as possible after the date of the designation of the Medal of Honor Flag by the Secretary of Defense under such section.

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. J. Res. 95, the joint resolution under consideration.

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 5 minutes to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LATHAM).

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would like to inquire, would it be appropriate to

recognize the fact that the designer of this flag, Bill Kendall, from Jefferson, Iowa, is in the gallery?

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is reminded not to refer to visitors in the gallery.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, then I shall not refer to the fact that he is in the gallery.

Mr. Speaker, the Medal of Honor, the Nation's highest award for bravery, is a true representation of the best in the American spirit. Requiring eyewitness accounts of gallantry, at selfless mortal risk, and so far above the call of duty as to be beyond reproach should such action not have been undertaken, recipients of this award are surely those for whom the Star Spangled Banner was written; these are the people who make our country the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave. I believe that these worthy individuals are deserving of a significant and continuous public display and believe that a flag is a fitting way to honor our heroes.

As an Iowan, I am proud to continue the tradition of honoring those who have distinguished themselves in battle.

On December 9, 1861, Iowa Senator James W. Grimes introduced S. No. 82 in the United States Senate, a bill designed to promote the efficiency of the Navy by authorizing the production and distribution of medals of honor. On December 21, the bill was passed, authorizing 200 such medals be produced “which shall be bestowed upon such petty officers, seamen, landsmen and marines as shall distinguish themselves by their gallantry in action and other seamanlike qualities during the present war,” referring to the Civil War at that time.

Mr. Speaker, 2 months later on February 17, 1862, Massachusetts Senator Henry Wilson introduced a bill to authorize an Army Medal of Honor. President Lincoln signed the bill on July 14, 1862; and the nonservice specific Medal of Honor was born at that time.

Originally, the Medal of Honor was only to be presented to enlisted men, but on March 3, 1863, this was extended to officers as well.

The last action in which the Medal of Honor was awarded was in Mogadishu, Somalia, on October 3, 1993.

There have been 3,459 Medals of Honor awarded for 3,453 separate acts of heroism performed by 3,439 individuals, including 9 of which were unknown; and today there are 143 living recipients of the Medal of Honor.

Mr. Speaker, I am so proud of Sergeant Bill Kendall for designing this flag. He has worked very, very hard to make sure that these folks who have given so much for our country, many times making the supreme sacrifice for the Nation, are so honored. The intention is to have this flag available for their families, for communities who want to honor Medal of Honor recipients so they can continue to show the

type of respect for these recipients that is so well deserved.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that the House today will move on a unanimous basis to have a flag of honor for the Medal of Honor winners. This design is something that Mr. Kendall came up with. It is, I think, extremely well done. We are very, very proud of Mr. Kendall for all his work on this effort.

Obviously, the Department of Defense may make some changes as to exactly how they believe the final flag should look. But the need for this is real, for the families, for those individuals who are living today that are Medal of Honor winners; and for the communities to show their pride and respect for these individuals is, in fact, proper.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that we can move this bill today.

□ 1815

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Joint Resolution 95, which would designate an official flag of the Medal of Honor and provide for its presentation to each recipient of the Medal of Honor. The Medal of Honor is our Nation's highest military award for valor that can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.

The existence of the Medal of Honor began back in 1861 when Iowa Senator James W. Grimes introduced a bill that authorized the production and distribution of medals of honor to be bestowed upon petty officers, seamen, landsmen and Marines as shall distinguish themselves by their gallantry in action. President Abraham Lincoln signed the bill and the Navy Medal of Honor was born. The next year, 1862, a similar bill for an Army Medal of Honor was introduced and signed into law. The Air Force did not receive its own version of the Medal of Honor until 1965. Until then, Air Force recipients were awarded the Army Medal of Honor.

It was not until 1963 that Congress established guidelines for awarding the Medal of Honor. The medal can only be awarded for action against an enemy of the United States while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force, or while serving with friendly forces in an armed conflict in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

The first Medal of Honor was presented to Private Jacob Parrott, one of six men who were awarded the medal for their action in the great locomotive chase in April 1862. Since then, there have been 3,458 Medals of Honor awarded for 3,453 separate acts of heroism performed by 3,439 individuals. Nineteen service members have received the Medal of Honor twice.

Mr. Speaker, as thousands of our men and women in uniform continue their efforts in the war against terrorism, it is only fitting that we recognize those

who have performed acts of bravery or self-sacrifice above and beyond the call to duty. An official flag to be presented to our Nation's Medal of Honor recipients is only fitting. I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

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

Mr. SCHROCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH).

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from Virginia, a very distinguished member of the Committee on Armed Services, yielding time to me. I particularly want to pay my compliments to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LATHAM) for advancing this very important initiative.

Mr. Speaker, for the last 2 years now, it has been my honor to serve as the chairman of the Subcommittee on Personnel of the Committee on Armed Services. Our main responsibility on that body is to ensure that we do all that we can to provide for those brave men and women who serve this Nation so valiantly and with no hesitation as members of our armed services. We take that responsibility very, very seriously. This bill was originally under our jurisdiction; but thanks to the gentleman from Iowa's very hard work, we were pleased to waive jurisdiction to do everything we could on that committee, the committee that has primary responsibility for our armed services, so that it could move as expeditiously as possible to the House floor for its consideration here today. I certainly join with those who have spoken here previously in underscoring what I believe, as well, is the importance of this initiative and the very important significance that stands behind it.

I think it is difficult for any of us as Americans to look back on September 11 and to discern much that is positive, but certainly one of the more positive attributes of that has been the reaffirmation in the minds of, I have to believe, every American of the heroes that have served in this Nation's military and who continue to serve today. And no matter which branch of the service they may choose to contribute to, no matter what era they may have served in, as we have learned and been reminded of so very importantly since September 11, these are truly men and women who deserve our respect and who earn our honor in such extraordinary ways.

But amongst all those heroes in our military are those who distinguish themselves to an even higher degree. As we have heard the illustrious history of the Medal of Honor, it is one that I think is reward in itself. Clearly the medal that is presented to those and has been presented to those 3,439 individuals in our Nation's history deserves an even added amount of respect. But for all of the symbolism, for all of the appreciation that lies behind the medal, I think that there is more we can and should do. Certainly the designation of this flag as an official

token, as an official representation in addition to the medal, would be, in my judgment, a very, very fitting action.

I understand the House rules and I will not acknowledge that Sergeant Bill Kendall is in the gallery here today, but I certainly want to extend our appreciation collectively on behalf of the House, if I may be so presumptuous, for taking up this initiative and for the designing of what I certainly look upon as a very, very fitting tribute, one that can add to the honor that we feel toward these very, very special individuals. And as the gentleman from Iowa suggested, I think so correctly, one that can carry forward with their family members, with their descendants, to be displayed in those ways that can signify how a loved one, a family member, someone they knew, contributed above and beyond the call of duty.

It is really a rare opportunity in this House, Mr. Speaker, that we have the chance to do something that on the surface may seem relatively simple, but I think beneath it all carries such great significance. Both as a member of the Committee on Armed Services but more importantly as an American, I think this is a very, very special initiative and like the speakers before, I certainly urge all of our colleagues to join in supporting it and giving it the unanimous approval on the upcoming vote that it deserves.

Mr. Speaker, I thank again the gentleman from Iowa for taking this initiative and for working so hard to make this moment a reality.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be part of this presentation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the resolution sponsored by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LATHAM). As we continue our struggle against terrorism, my thoughts, and I am certain the thoughts of many Americans, turn to the military men and women on the front lines. Their commitment and courage never fail to inspire me and lift my spirits. America is justifiably proud of the wonderful people serving our Nation in uniform. Among the brave soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen who have served over our Nation's history, there is a special group of heroes who have through their selfless deeds and sacrifices demonstrated the highest level of gallantry. I am referring to those members who have been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Mr. Speaker, the standards for award of the Medal of Honor leave little doubt about the remarkable nature of the heroic acts involved. The heroic deed of the person must be proven by incontestable evidence to be so outstanding as to clearly distinguish it as being beyond the call of duty. The heroism must involve the risk of the person's life, and it must be of the type of deed that, if the person had not done it,

would not subject the person to any justified criticism. Only one has to read the citations that accompany the medals to appreciate the incredible devotion to comrades and country that is indicative of each recipient.

This resolution would provide an additional honor to every recipient of the Medal of Honor by creating a Medal of Honor flag to be presented to the recipients. The Medal of Honor flag will also be a symbol to all who see it of the great strength and courage that resides within the American spirit.

Mr. Speaker, today as our Nation faces many difficult days ahead, we need this type of symbol to remind us that even ordinary people are capable of great deeds when freedom is threatened. For these reasons, I am proud to join the gentleman from Iowa in this resolution and urge my colleagues to support its adoption.

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my voice of support for House Joint Resolution 95, designating an official flag for the Medal of Honor. Since the Civil War, American soldiers who distinguish themselves in defense of our nation have been honored with the Medal of Honor. In fact, it was at the suggestion of Iowa Senator James Grimes, in 1861, that the Medal of Honor was created. All members of our armed forces are patriots, but the 3,458 soldiers who have received this honor have gone far above and beyond the call of duty. In defense of our nation, they have risked or given up their lives, so that so many can live freely as Americans. In this time of war, as the veterans of the future selflessly defend American freedom and values in the far corners of the world, it is appropriate to move a step further to designate a special flag for Medal of Honor recipients. Its simplicity—thirteen white stars on a blue field, just like the medal it accompanies—allows us all to remember the tremendous cost that a small number of soldiers have paid to ensure our freedom.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISAKSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCHROCK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 95, as amended.

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. LATHAM. 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will now put the question on approving the Journal and on motions to suspend the rules on which further proceedings