

their support of the Arlington National Cemetery. I speak today knowing that this bill will pass overwhelmingly again, but it did not get consideration by the Senate in the past because of problems. While it has been changed and the language has been improved, in my view, there are still serious problems with this bill that I hope the folks who participate, both on the House side and on the Senate side, will look at and either seek to improve or discard the statutory change and consider working with the Army on regulatory changes.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4940, the Arlington National Cemetery Burial Eligibility Act. I urge my colleagues to lend their support to this measure.

This legislation H.R. 4940 will codify existing regulatory eligibility criteria for in-ground burial at Arlington National Cemetery.

It also provides the President with the authority to grant a waiver for burial at Arlington in the case of an individual not otherwise eligible for burial under the military service criteria outlined above but whose acts, service, or contributions to the Armed Forces are so extraordinary as to justify burial at Arlington. Additionally, the measure allows the President to delegate the waiver authority only to the Secretary of the Army.

H.R. 4940 also codifies existing regulatory eligibility for interment of cremated remains in the Columbarium at Arlington. Generally, this includes all veterans with honorable service and their dependents. Finally the measure clarifies that only memorials honoring military service may be placed at Arlington and sets a 25-year waiting period.

Mr. Speaker, in recent years there has risen a valid concern that the remaining available space at Arlington National Cemetery has been filling up too fast. This bill is the latest in a natural progression of legislation that Congress has taken to address this problem. It seeks to balance the demand for burial with the limited space available in a manner which preserves the memory and accomplishments of those interred there in the past.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4940, the Arlington Cemetery Burial Eligibility Act. I would like to thank Chairman CHRIS SMITH and Ranking Member LANE EVANS, as well as MIKE SIMPSON, the Chairman of our Subcommittee, for moving forward with consideration of H.R. 4940. While I am aware of concerns that the bill may exclude certain high government officials from burial at Arlington, I support this measure to codify the requirements for burial in order to conserve the limited space available at this hallowed ground.

I also support the manager's amendment to permit veterans who were buried in marked graves at private cemeteries to qualify for a government marker if they died after September 11, 2001.

This amendment would make a provision of Public Law 107-103, applicable to veterans who die between September 11, 2001 and December 26, 2001. The marker will recognize the veteran's service to our Nation. It is only fitting that this honor be extended those brave American veterans who lost their lives in the terrorist attack on the United States.

I support this bill and urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the bill as amended.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, this bill makes several important changes that will honor our veterans. It rightfully expands eligibility requirements for burial at Arlington Cemetery. It also includes provisions from my bill, the "Captain Jack Panches Memorial Act" which honors our veterans who died during the September 11th attacks by allowing them to have both a private grave marker—and a VA furnished marker to honor their service. This is a benefit already afforded to veterans who died on or after December 27, 2001.

I introduced this legislation in honor of Captain Jack Panches, a retired Navy pilot who worked in military intelligence and was at his desk when terrorists crashed a hijacked jet into the building.

Punches grew up in Tower Hill, Illinois—and his mother (Ruth Godwin) still resides in Ramsey. Captain Panches was buried in a private cemetery, and his family wanted to have a private marker as well as a VA marker to commemorate his long service to our country. Due to a quirk in the law, Panches did not qualify for a newly enacted benefit that would entitle him to both headstones.

This legislation will allow veterans, who like Captain Panches gave their lives during September 11th to be properly honored for their service.

I would like to thank Chairman SMITH and Chairman SIMPSON for all of their help with this legislation. I hope that the Senate will act quickly so that this bill will be signed into law by September 11, 2002.

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

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4940, 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.

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY MEMORIAL HONORING WORLD WAR II VETERANS WHO FOUGHT IN BATTLE OF THE BULGE

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5055) to authorize the placement in Arlington National Cemetery of a memorial honoring the World War II veterans who fought in the Battle of the Bulge.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. 5055

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

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION OF PLACEMENT OF MEMORIAL IN ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY HONORING WORLD WAR II VETERANS WHO FOUGHT IN THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Army is authorized to place in Arlington National Cemetery a memorial marker honoring veterans who fought in the battle in the European theater of operations during World War II known as the Battle of the Bulge.

(b) APPROVAL OF DESIGN AND SITE.—The Secretary of the Army shall have exclusive authority to approve an appropriate design and site within Arlington National Cemetery for the memorial authorized under subsection (a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. SHOWS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

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

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, several years ago, the House adopted a resolution honoring those valiant Americans who survived the last desperate battle in the European theater during World War II, the Battle of the Bulge. Many of the members of our committee and Members of Congress have relatives who fought in this epic struggle. A group of survivors of this most heroic battle have asked Congress to enact legislation to enable them to replace the modest plaque at Arlington National Cemetery commemorating this battle with a more appropriate memorial. The cost of the memorial will be borne by that organization.

Mr. Speaker, over 600,000 American troops participated in this action and more than 81,000 were wounded or killed. In scope and number of participants, no American engagement in our storied history was more costly or massive.

The historic significance of the Battle of the Bulge cannot be overstated. If the American and Allied lines had broken, if our frost-bitten GIs fighting and dying in the cold December and January of 1944 and 1945 failed to rally from the ferocity of the initial German assault, or if the weather had not improved enough for our air superiority to turn the tide of battle, World War II could have been prolonged for months or even years. The shape of Europe could have been dramatically different and countless additional Jews, Catholics, Slavs, Gypsies and other political prisoners would surely have died in Nazi death camps.

To put the sheer number of troops involved in the Battle of the Bulge into perspective, remember that there were three armies and six corps, the equivalent of 31 divisions, on the U.S. side alone. Compare these World War II figures to the fact that today, the entire U.S. Army is comprised of 12 active duty divisions and 20 reserve divisions.

One of the most decisive battles in the war in Europe, the Battle of the Bulge, began December 16, 1944 when the German Army, in an effort to trap the allied forces in Belgium and Luxembourg, launched an attack against what were perceived as a weak line of American and allied troops. Their goal was to split the allied forces in Belgium and Luxembourg and race to the coast toward Antwerp. Adolf Hitler and his generals knew that the German Air Force could not maintain regional air superiority, so they were banking on bad weather and relatively green and fatigued American troops who were greatly outnumbered.

At the outset of the battle, the German troops forming three armies numbered approximately 200,000 versus 83,000 Americans. Their goal was to capture bridges over the Meuse River, and in the first 48 hours of the attack, and then press on to Antwerp. At the time of their initial attack, the Germans had more than 30 infantry and seven panzer divisions, with nearly 1,000 tanks and almost 2,000 guns deployed along a front of 60 miles. Five more divisions were soon to follow with at least 450 more tanks.

Although the Americans were caught by surprise, they fought back in those first days of attack in December, holding the line in the north while the Germans pushed through the middle of the bulge toward the Meuse River. One incident, which particularly hardened the Americans and allied forces as to the intent of the German Army, was the Malmedy Massacre, in which 86 American POWs were murdered by the Germans as they moved forward to capture the Meuse River. The same German unit, which was responsible for this infamous massacre, eventually killed at least 300 American POWs and over 100 unarmed Belgian civilians. These incidents only solidified the realization in the minds of the American men on the ground that fighting the Germans down to their last round of ammunition was their only hope.

As I mentioned, the American armies had more than 81,000 casualties, and of these, 19,000 men were killed in action. The British had 1,400 casualties and 200 killed. Both sides lost as many as 800 tanks each, and the Germans lost 1,000 planes. All told, the battle was three times the size of Gettysburg when accounting for the number of American service men and women who participated.

Let me take a moment to thank Stan Wojtusik, National Vice President of Military Affairs for the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge; and Mrs. Edith Nowels, a constituent of the chairman of the committee, who lives in New Jersey, for all of their hard work in helping put this legislation together. Edith Nowels' brother, Bud Thorne, was killed in action during the battle. Bud, after his death, was awarded the Medal of Honor and was one of 17 recipients of the highest combat medal for this particular battle. Eighty-six

servicemen were also awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for their valor during the battle.

According to the citation presented to his family, Corporal Thorne single-handedly destroyed a German tank and, in the words of the citation, "displayed heroic initiative and intrepid fighting qualities, inflicted costly casualties on the enemy and ensured the success of his patrol's mission by the sacrifice of his life."

For Bud Thorne and tens of thousands of other Americans killed and wounded, and the hundreds of thousands who fought alongside, I ask my colleagues to give their full support to this legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5055, a bill to authorize the placement in Arlington National Cemetery of a memorial honoring the World War II veterans who fought in the Battle of the Bulge.

I am proud to be here as a member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to share my continued support for H.R. 5055 with my colleagues in Congress.

As a young man growing up in Mississippi, my life in public service, and advocacy for veterans was indisputably inspired by two great World War II veterans, and one reason I wanted to be on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, my father, Clifford Shows and Sonny Montgomery. Both men, as many did, put their lives on the line to protect, defend, and advance ideals of democracy and our American way of life, by serving in the United States military. Both did so honorably and proudly, despite the mortal risks that faced them. Indeed, my father was taken as a POW at the Battle of the Bulge.

The Battle of the Bulge, fought in the twilight months of World War II, was where Hitler launched his great offensive to defeat the allied forces. The surprise attack, launched through the Belgian Forest, Ardennes, on December 16, 1944, was the largest land battle of the entire war.

My father was one of hundreds of thousands of men who fought for freedom and their own personal survival in this critical battle. He remembers well the conditions his company endured that December. Simple words describe their collective experiences. He said it was rough, hard, and cold. They had no food. They had no place to stay but on the ground where they fought, on the ground where their friends perished. Then, on December 19, my father's troop was captured in an open field surrounded by German troops and forced into Germany, the very Nation of Nazis which was their mission to destroy. For 10 days and 11 nights they were forced to alternate between marching on foot and being locked up in boxcars. For 3 straight days and nights, they were forced to remain in those cars.

You cannot imagine the conditions or the hopelessness of being imprisoned by the Germans on Christmas Day.

I cannot imagine the suffering my father endured during his 5 months as a POW.

By the time the fighting ended on January 25, 1945, there were over 100,000 Germans and 81,000 Americans captured, wounded or killed. The German objective had failed, and the best they had accomplished was temporarily achieving a "bulge" in the American line of defense. As Sir Winston Churchill noted, "It was without any doubt the greatest American battle of the Second World War," and it will, I believe, always be considered as a great American victory.

Today, we honor my father and thousands of other men that fought that bloody battle for our freedom. On the Committee on Veterans' Affairs alone, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. SNYDER), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP) all have family members who also fought so bravely during the severe conditions of that brutal battle. The valiant service rendered by those brave men was not done for any personal reward, just for knowing they had done their part to keep American democracy strong. Our Nation's veterans are our heroes.

Our Nation's veterans are our heroes. They have shaped and sustained our Nation with courage, sacrifice, and faith. They have earned our respect and deserve our gratitude. Today, we honor the Battle of the Bulge heroes by creating a permanent new memorial at Arlington National Cemetery, our military's most hallowed ground.

I am proud that the chairman and ranking member have introduced this legislation, and I am confident we will pass this legislation today. It is the right thing to do.

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

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. JEFF MILLER).

Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time. I will not take 3 minutes today, but I do associate myself with the gentleman's comments and the gentleman's apt portrayal of the infamous Battle of the Bulge, the largest land battle of the Second World War. As has already been pointed out to this Chamber today, Winston Churchill called it "the greatest American battle" of that war.

I strongly support the Battle of the Bulge survivors' request for a new memorial that recognizes the scope of this battle, and I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 5055. I appreciate the chairman and the ranking member for their leadership on this bill.

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI).

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this

time, and I commend our colleagues for bringing this very important resolution to the floor. As I was listening to the debate on the suspensions upstairs, I was personally at first pleased, saddened, a whole mixture of emotions to hear that there was going to be a tribute to those who fought at the Battle of the Bulge, because I cannot remember a time in my whole childhood or growing up that that was not a source of sadness and pride to our family.

□ 1630

My father's brother, John D'Alesandro, died at the Battle of the Bulge; and it was a source of great sadness for our family, for his children. But then the good news was that he received the Purple Heart. Well, that was a scary notion to a child all those years growing up. The Purple Heart? What did that mean? But it meant a wonderful thing about his bravery. So to think that all these many years later when all of us thought that we had to keep the memory alive because of our personal relationship, that this Congress would come here today to recognize those many, many, many people who fought so bravely, who have protected our freedom, who made the supreme sacrifice and those who were willing to make that sacrifice.

I greatly thank our colleagues for what they are doing today, and I can speak firsthand for what it means to so many families across America.

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5055 to authorize a memorial in Arlington National Cemetery Honoring the World War II veterans who fought in the Battle of the Bulge. I urge my colleagues to join in supporting its passage.

The Battle of the Bulge is one of the most famous battles in American military history. In the weeks leading up to the Christmas of 1944, it appeared to the Western Allies that victory over the German Army was near at hand. Since the Allied Landings of D-Day, the German forces were pushed back across the French countryside. By autumn, the Allies had liberated significant portions of Belgium and the Netherlands. It appeared that one final push was all that was needed to force a total collapse of German resistance on the western front and lead to the invasion of the German homeland.

What the Allied commanders were not aware of was the fact that the German dictator was planning one final, desperate offensive. For weeks the German military had been building up its limited stocks of fuel and ammunition. By mid December 1944, they were prepared to launch one final offensive through the Ardennes Forest, in the hopes of splitting the Allied lines and driving to the English Channel.

The German attack came as a near total surprise, and achieved initial success. Poor weather prevented Allied air superiority from being brought to bear, and the German panzers took full advantage of the respite. Yet, in the end, the offensive failed.

The offensive failed because American soldiers shook off their initial shock and fought

with a stubborn tenacity to prevent a German breakthrough. The Allied lines gave way, hence the "Bulge" description, but refused to break. After several days, the weather cleared, and the overwhelming Allied advantage in tactical air power could finally be brought to bear in a concentrated counterattack.

This resolution permits the placement of a marker honoring those veterans who fought in the Battle of the Bulge in Arlington National Cemetery. These veterans put up a tenacious defense, in horrible conditions, against an enemy with superior armored forces. Their success in halting the German Ardennes offensive preserved the Allied lines, and helped to maintain the pressure on Germany's military. After the Battle of the Bulge, the German effort on the western front was finished. Within six months, Germany had surrendered.

The efforts of our veterans in the Battle of the Bulge, like those of all Americans who fought against tyranny in World War II, deserve our recognition and respect. I urge my colleagues to join in supporting this measure, which honors the contributions of the veterans of the Bulge to the Ultimate victory of freedom over tyranny during the Second World War.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5055. This measure authorizes the placement in Arlington National Cemetery of a memorial to honor our brave World War II veterans who fought in the Battle of the Bulge. In particular I thank Chairman CHRIS SMITH and Ranking Member LANE EVANS, as well as MIKE SIMPSON, the Chairman of our Benefits Subcommittee for their strong support for this important bill.

Mr. Speaker, my father-in-law, Victor Gaytan, fought at the Battle of the Bulge. I am very pleased this memorial will honor him and his comrades who fought bravely during that difficult battle.

As Field Marshal Montgomery said, the Battle of the Bulge "was definitely one of the most difficult in which I have been able to participate and the stakes were considerable." Arlington is a fitting place to honor these brave veterans, those that returned as my father-in-law did, as well as those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

I am pleased to support this measure. I urge all members to support the bill.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5055.

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. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 5055, H.R. 3645, and H.R. 4940.

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

There was no objection.

AMERICAN 5-CENT COIN DESIGN CONTINUITY ACT OF 2002

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4903) to amend title 31, United States Code, to specify that the reverse of the 5-cent piece shall bear an image of Monticello, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4903

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 "American 5-Cent Coin Design Continuity Act of 2002".

SEC. 2. DESIGNS ON THE 5-CENT COIN COMMEMORATING THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b) and after consulting with the Coin Design Advisory Committee and the Commission of Fine Arts, the Secretary of the Treasury may change the design on the obverse and the reverse of the 5-cent coin for coins issued in 2003, 2004, and 2005 in commemoration of the bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase.

(b) DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS.—

(1) OVERSE.—If the Secretary of the Treasury elects to change the obverse of 5-cent coins issued during 2003, 2004, and 2005, the design shall include an image of President Thomas Jefferson in commemoration of his role with respect to the Louisiana Purchase and the commissioning of the Louis and Clark Expedition to explore the newly acquired territory.

(2) REVERSE.—If the Secretary of the Treasury elects to change the reverse of the 5-cent coins issued during 2003, 2004, and 2005, the design selected shall commemorate the Louisiana Purchase.

(3) OTHER INSCRIPTIONS.—5-cent coins issued during 2003, 2004, and 2005 shall continue to meet all other requirements for inscriptions and designations applicable to circulating coins under section 5112(d)(1) of title 31, United States Code.

SEC. 3. DESIGNS ON THE 5-CENT COIN SUBSEQUENT TO THE COMMEMORATION OF THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5112(d)(1) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the 4th sentence the following new sentences: "The obverse of any 5-cent coin issued after December 31, 2005, shall bear an image of Thomas Jefferson. The reverse of any 5-cent coin issued after December 31, 2005, shall bear an image of the home of Thomas Jefferson at Monticello."

(b) DESIGN CONSULTATION.—The 2d sentence of section 5112(d)(2) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting ", after consulting with the Coin Design Advisory Committee and the Commission of Fine Arts," after "The Secretary may".

SEC. 4. COIN DESIGN ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 5136 (as amended by section 5 of this Act) the following new section:

"§ 5137. Coin Design Advisory Committee

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established the Coin Design Advisory Committee (in this section referred to as the "Advisory Committee").