

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").

“(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) APPOINTMENT.—The Advisory Committee shall consist of 9 members, as follows:

“(A) The Chief of Staff to the Secretary of the Treasury.

“(B) 4 persons appointed by the President—

“(i) 1 of whom shall be appointed for a term of 4 years from among individuals who are specially qualified to serve on the Advisory Committee by virtue of their education, training, or experience as a nationally or internationally recognized curator in the United States of a numismatic collection;

“(ii) 1 of whom shall be appointed for a term of 4 years from among individuals who are specially qualified to serve on the Advisory Committee by virtue of their experience in the medallic arts or sculpture;

“(iii) 1 of whom shall be appointed for a term of 3 years from among individuals who are specially qualified to serve on the Advisory Committee by virtue of their education, training, or experience in American history; and

“(iv) 1 of whom shall be appointed for a term of 2 years from among individuals who are specially qualified to serve on the Advisory Committee by virtue of their education, training, or experience in numismatics.

“(C) 1 person appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives from among individuals who are specially qualified to serve on the Advisory Committee by virtue of their education, training, or experience, including staff employees of the House of Representatives, who shall serve at the pleasure of the Speaker.

“(D) 1 person appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives from among individuals who are specially qualified to serve on the Advisory Committee by virtue of their education, training, or experience, including staff employees of the House of Representatives, who shall serve at the pleasure of the minority leader.

“(E) 1 person appointed by the majority leader of the Senate from among individuals who are specially qualified to serve on the Advisory Committee by virtue of their education, training, or experience, including staff employees of the Senate, who shall serve at the pleasure of the majority leader.

“(F) 1 person appointed by the minority leader of the Senate from among individuals who are specially qualified to serve on the Advisory Committee by virtue of their education, training, or experience, including staff employees members of the Senate, who shall serve at the pleasure of the minority leader.

“(2) CONTINUATION OF SERVICE.—Each appointed member may continue to serve after the expiration of the term of office to which such member was appointed until a successor has been appointed and qualified.

“(3) VACANCY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Any vacancy on the Advisory Committee shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made.

“(B) ACTING OFFICIALS MAY SERVE.—In the event of a vacancy in a position described in paragraph (1)(A), and pending the appointment of a successor, or during the absence or disability of any individual serving in any such position, any individual serving in an acting capacity in any such position may serve on the Advisory Committee while serving in such capacity.

“(4) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson of the Advisory Committee shall be the person serving in the position described in paragraph (1)(A) (or serving in an acting capacity in such position).

“(5) PAY AND EXPENSES.—Members of the Advisory Committee shall serve without pay for such service but each member of the Advisory Committee shall be reimbursed from

the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund for expenses incurred in connection with attendance of such members at meetings of the Advisory Committee.

“(6) MEETINGS.—The Advisory Committee shall meet, not less frequently than quarterly, at the call of the chairperson or a majority of the members.

“(7) QUORUM.—7 members of the Advisory Committee shall constitute a quorum.

“(c) DUTIES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The duties of the Advisory Committee are as follows:

“(1) Advise the Secretary of the Treasury on any design proposals relating to circulating coinage and numismatic items, including congressional gold medals.

“(2) Advise the Secretary of the Treasury with regard to any other proposals or issues relating to any items produced by the United States Mint that the Secretary may request of the Advisory Committee.

“(d) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.—Upon the request of the Advisory Committee, the Director of the United States Mint shall provide to the Advisory Committee the administrative support services necessary for the Advisory Committee to carry out its responsibilities under this section.

“(e) ANNUAL REPORT.—

“(1) REQUIRED.—Not later than January 30 of each year, the Advisory Committee shall submit a report to the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

“(2) CONTENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall describe the activities of the Advisory Committee during the preceding year and the reports and recommendations made by the Advisory Committee to the Secretary of the Treasury.

“(f) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT DOES NOT APPLY.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act shall not apply with respect to the Committee, except that each meeting of the Advisory Committee shall be open to the public following publication of a notice of the meeting in the Federal Register.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation, and to insert extraneous material on the bill, H.R. 4903.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge passage of H.R. 4903, the Keep Monticello on the Nickel Act, introduced by the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR) with the bipartisan sponsorship of the Virginia delegation.

As the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR) will describe in more detail, the bill allows for the redesign of the 5-cent coin for the years 2003, 2004, and 2005 to recognize the importance of the Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark expedition that began 200 years ago next year.

The bill specifies that all redesigned coins shall bear the image of Thomas Jefferson on the face or obverse and that in 2006 and thereafter the coin bear the image of Jefferson on the obverse and of his home, Monticello, on the reverse. The images of Jefferson may be different and the view of Monticello that returns to the coin might differ from the current one.

Mr. Speaker, the bill also contains numerous other provision which the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR) will describe.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to manage time on the Keep Monticello on the Nickel Act, legislation that preserves the portrait of Monticello on the nickel.

All Americans are familiar with the role that Thomas Jefferson played in our Nation's founding. Jefferson was the third President of the United States, the author of the Declaration of Independence, and the founder of the University of Virginia. One of the foremost intellectuals in American history, Jefferson produced many of his finest writings at Monticello, his picturesque mansion outside of Charlottesville; and it is appropriate that we preserve the mansion on our Nation's coinage.

Our distinguished colleague from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR) has put forward a plan to mint to commemorate the plans of Lewis and Clark for 3 years and revert to the Monticello for 2006. That is a reasonable compromise. We support the Cantor legislation. I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR), the sponsor of the legislation.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in favor of H.R. 4903 that would authorize the U.S. Mint to redesign the nickel for 3 years to recognize the Lewis and Clark expedition and to ensure Monticello, the Virginia estate of Thomas Jefferson, has its place on the reverse side of the nickel after 2005.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, the bill would authorize and establish a Citizen's Coin Design Advisory Committee that would report directly to the Secretary of the Treasury. The purpose of this committee would be to advise the Secretary on the design or redesign of coins and metals providing a broad range of input from professional and citizen representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I introduced this legislation after representatives from the Mint came to my office and informed me that the image of Thomas Jefferson's Monticello would be removed from the reverse side of the nickel and would be replaced by the image of a Native American and an eagle facing

westward to recognize the 200th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark expedition. The Treasury Department has the authority to change the nickel once every 25 years. It was the intent that this new design be presented as the replacement for Monticello.

I learned further that this new design was chosen internally at the U.S. Mint with no input from Congress or the American people. Even more striking, I was shocked to learn that the Mint planned to announce this redesign in just 10 days from our meeting.

As a proud Virginian and American, I was concerned about the Mint's plan because Jefferson's beloved Monticello represented so much to the people of the Commonwealth of Virginia and, for that matter, to all Americans. I also feared that the new design and the process by which it was conceived was reminiscent of the failed Sacagawea one-dollar coin experience.

Monticello is the autobiographical masterpiece of Thomas Jefferson or as he called it, his "essay in architecture," and is recognized as an international treasure. Monticello, "little mountain" in Italian, is the only home in America on the World Heritage List of Sites that must be protected at all costs. It is there that Jefferson assumed his place in history, shaping, debating, and producing his prolific writings on the topics of liberty, democracy, and equality for all.

In America after September 11 we all know that these are the very principals that are under attack by the radical terrorists and their global organizations.

H.R. 4903 authorizes the U.S. Mint to implement an interim design change on the reverse side of the nickel for the years 2003, 2004, and 2005 in order to recognize the 200th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark expedition. In 2006, Monticello will once again resume its place on the 5-cent piece. Additionally, so that the American people will not experience another Sacagawea debacle, my bill provides a mechanism to ensure public input to this or any redesign of our coinage.

The bill creates a nine-member coin design advisory committee which will make recommendations to the Secretary of the Treasury as to the appropriate designs for the Lewis and Clark series. It will review all designs or redesigns of circulating and commemorative coins and of Congressional Gold Medal ideas that the Mint is assigned with. This committee will be made up of a coin collector, an internationally recognized coin museum curator, an expert in American history, and either a sculptor or a medallic artist, all appointed by the President, as well as four persons named by the leadership of the House and the Senate.

This committee will be able to provide the Secretary of the Treasury with a broad range of expertise and input to ensure that any redesign or circulating coinage as well as the design for commemorative coins or Con-

gressional Gold Medals be artistically appropriate and consistent with broad American themes and values.

Mr. Speaker, this bill represents a positive step forward, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4903 today.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4903, the Keep Monticello on the Nickel Act. For nearly 65 years, the image of Thomas Jefferson's Monticello has graced our Nation's nickel. This legislation, introduced by my friend and colleague from the Commonwealth of Virginia, Mr. CANTOR, is a win-win. It ensures that Monticello has a permanent home on the five-cent piece, and also recognizes the need for a fair and open process to evaluate other commemorative coinage efforts, such as the one honoring the bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark expedition.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, Thomas Jefferson was the author of the Declaration of Independence and the Statute of Virginia for Religious Freedom, the third president of the United States and the founder of the University of Virginia. He voiced the aspirations of a new America as no other individual of his era. From his home in Monticello, Jefferson served his country for over five decades.

Monticello is more than a classic piece of architecture; its significance even supercedes the fact that it is the only house in the United States on the United Nation's prestigious World Heritage List of sites. It is more: a symbol of Jefferson's age of optimism, of all that was and is great about America. It is, quite simply, Jefferson's autobiographical masterpiece.

Mr. CANTOR's legislation strikes a reasonable balance. It provides for nickel redesigns in 2003 and 2004 to commemorate both the Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark expedition, returning Monticello to the reverse side of the coin in 2005. The legislation also establishes a Congressionally-appointed advisory board, whose responsibility it will be to advise the Secretary of the Treasury on any proposed changes to U.S. coins.

I join my fellow Members of the Virginia Delegation in urging all Members to support H.R. 4903, to allow for a three-year recognition of one of Jefferson's greatest accomplishments, the Louisiana Purchase, before returning to the foundation of all of his successes, Monticello.

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

Mr. KING. 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 New York (Mr. KING) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4903, 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.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "To ensure continuity for the design of the 5-cent coin, establish the Coin Design Advisory Committee, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1645

TRUE AMERICAN HEROES ACT OF 2002

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5138) to posthumously award Congressional gold medals to government workers and others who responded to the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon and perished and to people aboard United Airlines Flight 93 who helped resist the hijackers and caused the plane to crash, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the Spirit of America, recognizing the tragic events of September 11, 2001, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5138

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 "True American Heroes Act of 2002".

TITLE I—MEDALS FOR RESPONDERS AND RESISTERS

SEC. 101. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDALS FOR GOVERNMENT WORKERS WHO RESPONDED TO THE ATTACKS ON THE WORLD TRADE CENTER AND PERISHED.

(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—In recognition of the bravery and self-sacrifice of officers, emergency workers, and other employees of State and local government agencies, including the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and of the United States Government and others, who responded to the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City, and perished in the tragic events of September 11, 2001 (including those who are missing and presumed dead), the Speaker of the House and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold medal of appropriate design for each such officer, emergency worker, employee, or other individual to the next of kin or other personal representative of each such officer, emergency worker, employee, or other individual.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury shall strike gold medals with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the Secretary to be emblematic of the valor and heroism of the men and women honored.

(c) DETERMINATION OF RECIPIENTS.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall determine the number of medals to be presented under this section and the appropriate recipients of the medals after consulting with appropriate representatives of Federal, State, and local officers and agencies and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

(d) DUPLICATIVE GOLD MEDALS FOR DEPARTMENTS AND DUTY STATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall strike duplicates in gold of the gold medals struck pursuant to subsection (a) for presentation to each of the following, for permanent display in the respective offices, houses, stations, or places of employment:

(A) The Governor of the State of New York.

(B) The Mayor of the City of New York.

(C) The Commissioner of the New York Police Department, the Commissioner of the New York Fire Department, the head of