

Two years ago the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) and I sponsored a bill that awarded the Congressional Gold Medal to President Reagan and his wife and his long-time supporter, Mrs. Nancy Reagan. That bill, as the gentleman from Nevada told us, was passed in both houses; and it was signed by the President. With passage of today's resolution we will have the privilege to present our Nation's highest award to Mrs. Reagan this May in the Capitol Rotunda.

President Reagan delivered his second inaugural address in the Rotunda. I well remember that day because it was about one degree above zero and they actually canceled the parade to be held that day for the inauguration of the President. So President Reagan went ahead with his inaugural address, but he moved it to the Rotunda, so that has significance to us. In that address he personified our country as hopeful, big-hearted, idealistic, daring, decent and fair. Those are the exact words I would use to describe President Reagan himself.

Together, the President and the First Lady dedicated their lives to lifting the American spirit and bettering the quality of life for all Americans.

I continue and I know so many people also continue to be inspired by President Reagan's ideals of lowering the tax burden on individual working Americans, of strengthening families, limiting the control of government and achieving peace through strength here for our United States.

In the early 1980s President Reagan's policy and leadership lifted us out of a terrible economic situation. I well remember the record unemployment, the 21 percent interest rates, the double-digit inflation that we lived through during that time. He stated in his campaign that he would bring America back, and he did.

As we all know, the First Lady has been very instrumental in every Presidency. This is especially true of First Lady Nancy Reagan who traveled tirelessly around this Nation promoting her Just Say No campaign in order to stop substance abuse among young people. She knew she was not elected to office. She was not elected to office and yet she put to the best use the clout that she had as First Lady of this Nation to make what I believe was a lasting impact on our Nation's youth.

President and Mrs. Reagan believed in the promise of the American dream. In an era of growing cynicism, they worked in their own upbeat and hopeful ways to make America a place where everybody can rise as high and as far as their ability will take them.

My best wishes go out to President and Mrs. Reagan who have just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Although he has withdrawn from public life and we will be here forever to remember his accomplishments, his wife will come to receive this honor in the Rotunda on May 16. We will be there to greet her, to thank her for her

constant support of this great man and the wonderful activities she herself initiated on behalf of our Nation's youth. We will never forget their achievements.

Now it is time for us to honor these two individuals and to say thank you to our Nation's most magnificent President and his First Lady, Nancy Reagan.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this resolution.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my colleague, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER), and I thank the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) for introducing House Concurrent Resolution 305, and I subscribe to everything that the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) thereafter has said and the gentleman from Washington (Ms. DUNN) has said.

President Reagan was an unusually great President of this country. He lowered the burden of taxation on Americans. He in a large measure was solely responsible through his policies and his tenacity for bringing down the Berlin Wall and ending the Cold War. He was a leader of great proportion. But I rise for a different reason, not just to repeat the same.

It is really appropriate that we use the Rotunda to present this award to Nancy Reagan, and it is because she and the President are still achieving great things for our country.

Mr. Speaker, I lost my mother 4 years ago to Alzheimer's, and I have the greatest of regard for the caregivers of America who today deal with the care and the tragedy of that disease that afflicts their loved ones. I am so proud of the President, President Reagan, in the way he, in such a dignified manner, let the American people know of his debilitating disease; and he met it with the same positive influence that he met every challenge, no matter how great it was, in his life.

As President of the United States, he did wonderful things for our country. As First Lady, Nancy Reagan did wonderful things for our country. And when the Gold Medal is presented, it will be for all the positive accomplishments that he made. But at this time in their lives it also recognizes a couple who are a shining beacon to millions of Americans whose loved ones have been confronted with Alzheimer's, who, as caregivers, give every moment of their day to make the life of their loved one as easy as possible.

So on the 50th anniversary of their marriage, on their recognition of the accomplishments as First Lady and the President, it is also appropriate that we point out to the American people that even today, as a past President and a past First Lady, Ronald Reagan and Nancy Reagan continue to be a beacon to the American people in their handling of the most difficult of diseases in the latter years of their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS), and I thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) for yielding me time, and I urge the support of House Concurrent Resolution 305.

□ 1430

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to urge all of our colleagues to support this resolution in honor of President and Mrs. Reagan.

Mr. Speaker, I said much about President Reagan in the opening of this conversation about his life, and let me close by honoring Mrs. Reagan. President Reagan said for many years that his life started 50 years ago yesterday, that was the day he married Nancy Reagan. She has been a full partner in all of his successes, of which there are many.

It is often the partner, the spouse, that does a lot of the work, while the person up front gets a lot of the credit. She was there from day one, 50 years ago yesterday. She deserves this tribute just as does he. I look forward to their coming here on May 16 to receive this tribute.

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 Georgia (Mr. LINDER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 305, 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. LINDER. 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.

#### AUTHORIZING PRINTING AS HOUSE DOCUMENT OF COLLECTION OF MEMORIAL TRIBUTES MADE IN HONOR OF THE LATE GERALD SOLOMON

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 338) authorizing the printing as a House document of a collection of memorial tributes made in honor of the late Gerald Solomon.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 338

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),*

#### SECTION 1. AUTHORIZING PRINTING OF COLLECTION OF STATEMENTS IN TRIBUTE TO GERALD SOLOMON.

A collection of statements made in tribute to the late Gerald Solomon, together with

related materials, shall be printed as a House document under the direction of the Joint Committee on Printing, with illustrations and suitable binding.

#### SEC. 2. NUMBER OF COPIES.

The number of copies of the document printed under section 1 shall be the lesser of—

(1) 114 casebound copies, of which 50 copies shall be provided to the family of the late Gerald Solomon, 1 copy shall be provided to each Senator from the State of New York, and 2 copies shall be provided to each Member of the House of Representatives from the State of New York; or

(2) such number of casebound copies as does not exceed a total production and printing cost of \$25,525, with distribution to be allocated in the same proportion as described in paragraph (1).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER).

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

Mr. Speaker, Jerry Solomon was my friend. He was my leader when I came here. He was the ranking Republican on the Committee on Rules. He was a tough partisan, but he was fair.

Jerry served 20 years in this body before retiring and then dying shortly thereafter. He was born in 1930 in Florida and grew up in the northern regions of upstate New York. He attended St. Lawrence University and was a Marine through and through. He spent 8½ years in active and reserve duty, and was one of the proud recipients of the Iron Mike Award given by Marines to Marines.

He was married to Freda, a high school sweetheart and a sweetheart on her own. They have five children and six grandchildren. They had a marvelous relationship, where Jerry got all the credit and Freda did much of the work, much like, I am afraid to say, in my family. She was a marvelous partner for him and the two of them had a great relationship for many years.

In 1995, Jerry became the chairman of the Committee on Rules, and I was given the opportunity to serve with him on the Committee on Rules. He was a strong leader for our cause and a fair one. He was tough and fair, and you cannot say much more about a politician than that. You appreciate their toughness, but you expect their fairness.

He was outspoken on veterans issues. I recall one day him saying that he was the ranking member, and if he had stayed back on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, he would have been its chairman. And one day he said he would rather, frankly, serve as the Committee on Veterans' Affairs Chair than the Committee on Rules Chair. He thought so much of our veterans, and he fought for them unstintingly through a 20-year career in this body.

His proudest moment was in 1988 when President Reagan signed into law "Solomon's Bill" to elevate the Vet-

erans Administration to a full cabinet level Department. This work won him wide praise from veterans groups over the years.

Jerry was laid to rest with military honors this past year in Saratoga National Cemetery. He was the driving force behind the creation of that cemetery and helped secure the money to buy the land for the cemetery. In 1998, the gentleman from New York (Mr. McNULTY) introduced a bill to name the Saratoga National Cemetery in honor of Gerald Solomon. The bill had 88 cosponsors. However, some of the bureaucrats in the Department of Veterans Affairs were concerned because nothing like that had ever been done. After finding out, Jerry asked his colleague from New York to withdraw the bill because he did not want any controversy associated with the cemetery.

On December 4, 2001, this House passed a measure that did, in fact, name the national cemetery in Saratoga as the Gerald B.H. Solomon National Cemetery. It was signed into law on January 24, 2002.

Those of us who watched him in his work as the chairman of the Committee on Rules recall him standing right at that microphone, with his big expanded file that said Solomon on the front, which held his whole world worth of information and detail on all the issues that he fought for and cared for through all the years. He was the Chair of the National Defense Task Force, he was a congressional adviser to the United Nations Session on Disarmament, he was a representative to the North Atlantic Assembly, Chair of the Political Foreign Affairs Committee, Chair of the House NATO Observer Group and the U.S. Task Force on POWs and MIAs.

During the 1980s, Jerry was one of 13 House Members who served on President Reagan's group of congressional advisers and four generals for foreign policy, national defense, and budgetary initiatives. I was privileged to introduce him at a breakfast one day, and those who knew him would appreciate when I said, "This man has devoted his life to insurance agents, milk producers, and Ronald Reagan, and not necessarily in that order."

He was a firm and staunch fighter for what he believed in. He could always be counted on. He was a great American, an important and dedicated member of this body, and I urge the passage of this resolution on his behalf.

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in support of the concurrent resolution.

I was pleased to serve with Jerry Solomon during 18 years of my service here in the House that we overlapped. He was a passionate advocate of the positions he held. He was a Marine, in the best tradition of the United States Marines, of which he was a member until the day he died. He was a fighter for

the issues that he believed in, but he was also a friend.

He had a good word for almost all on this floor and even in passion and anger he could turn to you with a smile and with a wink and say, we differed on this issue but we serve the American public, and we shall do so together.

It was enjoyable to serve with Jerry Solomon. It was appropriate that the bill, of which the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) spoke, was passed, because Jerry was such a fighter, not only for that facility but for veterans generally. And he was a strong supporter of Ronald Reagan, whom we just set aside a time to honor.

So I am pleased to rise on behalf of this measure and urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time, and I urge my colleagues to support House Concurrent Resolution 338, this resolution on behalf of the printing of the remarks in honor of Jerry Solomon.

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 Georgia (Mr. LINDER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 338.

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.

#### TENO RONCALIO POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3789) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2829 Commercial Way in Rock Springs, Wyoming, as the "Teno Roncalio Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3789

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

#### SECTION 1. TENO RONCALIO POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2829 Commercial Way in Rock Springs, Wyoming, shall be known and designated as the "Teno Roncalio Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the Teno Roncalio Post Office Building.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS).