

women and their families. And that particular provision passed this House and has been sitting over in the Senate for a very, very long time. It is a provision that had huge support in this House. And along with giving working families their \$1,000 per child tax credit and extending it to 2004, rather than what the gentleman is suggesting, allowing it to go away in 2005, giving the working families that you have such concern for only 2 years of benefits, we think they ought to get the benefits permanently, but if we cannot get it permanently, we would like those benefits to be until 2010.

So if we just take up the Senate bill, they may enjoy it for 1 or 2 years, but then it goes away in 2005. We think they ought to be able to count on it until 2010, and we think military families ought to have the tax relief they deserve.

Mr. HOYER. I will tell you, Mr. Leader, very seriously that these 6½ million families, these 12 million children will, frankly, not understand that the perfect of what you just spoke was the enemy of the extraordinarily good, which is included in the Senate bill. And I will tell the gentleman further, during the Senate bill, unlike the bill that we passed in the House, the men and women in combat who fall within the income constraints which were covered in the Senate bill were not covered in the House bill. And while we certainly agree with you on helping all of the military who qualify, we certainly believe that the folks in combat whose combat pay is now counted against them for qualifications under this bill, would be helped by the Senate bill. So I think we could help the men and women in combat first.

And I will tell you also, Mr. Leader, we are prepared to offer unanimous consent for a companion know bill as we pass the Senate bill to fix the problem or address the problem of which you have spoken with reference to the military. But we ought not to, Mr. Leader, with all due sincerity, if we are excited, if we believe this is an important thing to do, if you wanted to make it permanent, you could have done so, of course, you did not make it permanent. You did it 5 more years than we did it. We were in the constraints of the Senate bill.

We would like to make it permanent as well. However, what we would not like to do is have July come and there be no relief for these families which is going to happen if the perfect, if the objective of doing everything defeats us in doing something.

Mr. DELAY. I just cannot let the gentleman get away by scaring working families in this country by saying they will get no relief. That is entirely untrue.

In the bill that we passed and signed by the President in 2001, it gave these working families refundable tax credits. It just did not, what we are discussing is accelerating 2 years up to this year and giving them an addi-

tional \$400 from this, in addition to the \$600 that they are already receiving. So to say that they get no relief, I think, is just untrue. And to say that the military families are not covered by the bill passed by this House is also untrue, because military families are covered by the bill passed by this House and is presently in conference.

Mr. HOYER. Well, the bill passed, I think we disagree on some of the information, Mr. Leader, that you have just said. I do not think you are accurate on some of that information, but be that as it may.

Mr. DELAY. If the gentleman will yield, I am not accurate that since 2001 working families have been receiving refundable tax credit?

Mr. HOYER. The gentleman is accurate on that. As you know, in the Senate bill, we increased from 10 to 15 percent the credit that would be available to them. That was dropped, as you know, in the conference.

Mr. DELAY. Were they not to receive that 15 percent starting in 2005?

Mr. HOYER. That is correct.

Mr. DELAY. And we were talking about accelerating the 15 percent to 2003?

Mr. HOYER. That is correct.

Mr. DELAY. Which is in the House bill sitting in conference right now.

Mr. HOYER. The House bill has not been taken up, Mr. Leader. It is very nice to say and, reclaiming my time, that it is in the House bill. It is permanent in the House bill. We do a lot of things in the House bill. On our side, we did not believe the House bill was going to be taken up, and we said that, which is why we said we ought to take up the Senate bill and pass it and do something, even though we were not doing everything, and we still maintain that position. And as I am reminded, and I would remind the leader, this House voted to instruct the conferees to take the Senate bill.

So we are simply giving unanimous consent to do what the House has already voted on that same day last Thursday to do, and that is, pass the Senate bill. That is what we instructed the conferees to do. So it is not as if we are asking for something that the House has not voted on to do and to accelerate the passage of this legislation so we can help these families.

Mr. DELAY. Will the gentleman yield? The gentleman is correct. The motion instructed the House to accept the Senate bill in a small margin in doing that. Unfortunately, the Senate does not agree with our motion to instruct. And as the gentleman knows, it is not binding anyway. The Senate decided to go to conference. They could have and they decided to work out the differences between the House and the Senate, and those conferees will be meeting hopefully next week and produce a bill that will give much needed relief to families in this country.

Mr. HOYER. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Leader, I hope we are not going to

give people the impression that a body that passed a bill 94 to 2 would not agree to us passing their bill because, frankly, I do not think that is the case.

I understand what you are saying, and I understand that they have been told you are not going to take the Senate bill; and, therefore, they need to go to conference. So they are bowing to practicality. What I am saying is we ought to bow to needs and to practicality and pass the bill. And I am saying to you that we can give you and will give you unanimous consent to do exactly that so that these folks can get that which they will not get, and that is, the additional payment which was provided for in the conference but not reported out of the conference, and, therefore, we are going to leave 200,000 armed services personnel not advantaged as others were in the bill.

We are going to leave 6½ million families with 12 million children not advantaged, as was the intent of the Senate, and I think most of the House.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2003

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday next for morning hour debates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

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

There was no objection.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Resources:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
June 19, 2003.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I hereby resign from the Committee on Resources.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve you and Chairman POMBO.

Sincerely,

ADAM H. PUTNAM,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 284) and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 284

Resolved, That the following Members be and are hereby elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

Committee on Agriculture: Mr. Neugebauer.

Committee on Resources: Mr. Neugebauer.

Committee on Science: Mr. Neugebauer.

Committee on Small Business: Mr. McCotter.

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid upon the table.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS LOU GEHRIG AND HIS LEGACY HAVE MADE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST ALS

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Commerce be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 278) recognizing the contributions Lou Gehrig and his legacy have made in the fight against Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I do not intend to object, but I would like to speak from the well so I can stand here with a picture of Lou Gehrig of the New York Yankees.

Today is the 100th birthday of Lou Gehrig, and I am proud to rise today in favor of my resolution H. Res. 78 which celebrates Lou Gehrig's 100th birthday.

Lou Gehrig was born on June 19, 1903, 100 years ago today. He lived a storied life which ended tragically at the hands of a disease that still carries his name, Lou Gehrig's Disease, known as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis or ALS. It is a devastating condition and a testament to Lou Gehrig's courage in the face of this horrible affliction.

In my own family, my grandmother, my father's mother, also died of the same disease and literally thousands upon thousands of Americans are suffering with this ALS disease.

Today there are celebrations in New York in honor of Lou Gehrig, most notably at Yankee Stadium in the Bronx, where I am from, this afternoon. The ALS Association is remembering Lou

Gehrig; today is Lou Gehrig Day at Yankee Stadium, the Iron Horse, that was his nickname, and is raising greater awareness about the disease. The ALS Association is committed to greater awareness about those suffering with ALS and the sacrifices of their loved ones who require the intense care these patients require.

Approximately 30,000 individuals in the United States are afflicted with ALS with about 5,000 new cases appearing each year. ALS destroys the lives of its victims and their families, leaving patients unable to walk, eat or even talk.

□ 1745

The life expectancy of an individual with ALS is only 3 to 5 years from the time of diagnosis. I have had many sufferers of ALS come into my office very courageously to talk about this affliction.

There is no known cure or cause for ALS. Research has given birth to new aggressive treatments for the symptoms of ALS that can extend the lives of patients. Recent advances in ALS research have produced promising leads into neurodegenerative diseases, and it is imperative that this important work continues. Furthermore, the sequencing of the Human Genome holds great promise in the search for cures for many diseases, including ALS.

My resolution honors Lou Gehrig and the contributions his legacy has made in the fight against this terrible disease. It also recognizes the efforts of the ALS Association in raising awareness, pursuing research, and providing support for ALS patients and their families. ALS patients exhibit incredible courage in their fight against this disease, and this resolution commends them for that and affirms the support of Congress for continued research into better treatments and a cure for ALS.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps there was no greater act of courage than when Lou Gehrig gave his farewell speech before the Yankee faithful at Yankee Stadium who were not ready to let him go. I want to read that famous speech into the RECORD. We all know it, where he said he considered himself the luckiest man on the face of the earth. He said: "Fans, for the past two weeks you have been reading about the bad break I got. Yet today, I consider myself the luckiest man on the face of the earth. I have been in ballparks for 17 years and have never received anything but kindness and encouragement from you fans.

"Look at these grand men. Which of you wouldn't consider it the highlight of his career just to associate with them for even one day? Sure I'm lucky. Who wouldn't consider it an honor to have known Jacob Ruppert? Also, the builder of baseball's greatest empire, Ed Barrow? To have spent six years with that wonderful little fellow, Miller Huggins? Then to have spent the next nine years with that outstanding leader, that smart student of psy-

chology, the best manager in baseball today, Joe McCarthy.

"Sure I'm lucky. When the New York Giants, a team you would give your right arm to beat, and vice versa, sends you gifts, that's something. When everybody down to the groundkeepers and those boys in white coats remember you with trophies, that's something. When you have a wonderful mother-in-law who takes sides with you in squabbles with her own daughter, that's something. When you have a father and a mother who work all their lives so you can have an education and build your body, it's a blessing. When you have a wife who has been a tower of strength and shown more courage than you dreamed existed, that's the finest I know. So I close in saying that I may have had a tough break, but I have an awful lot to live for."

Now, Mr. Speaker, I will close by saying that we must do all we can to find a cure for a disease that still ravages the lives of its victims. I am proud that our colleagues in the House of Representatives are honoring a true hero in Lou Gehrig and affirming its commitment to overcoming the scourge of ALS for Lou Gehrig and every person who has fought this terrible disease.

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ENGEL. Further reserving the right to object, Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Nebraska.

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from the Bronx, and a Yankee fan, for yielding to me.

"Today, I am the luckiest man on the face of the earth." That one Yankee phrase immortalizes and is synonymous with courage, and that is why I am proud to stand with my friend from the Bronx and rise in support of his resolution, House Resolution 278. It is brought to the floor on June 19, 2003, the 100th birthday of Lou Gehrig, baseball's original "Iron Horse," and perhaps the greatest, or one of the greatest to ever play the game. As my friend from New York knows, I am a bit of a baseball fan myself, having named two of my children Noland and Ryan.

Now, more importantly, this resolution recognizes the contribution that Gehrig and his legacy have made in the fight against ALS, the disease that claimed Lou Gehrig's life at age 37, and the disease that is named after him.

So what is Lou Gehrig's disease? Quite simply, ALS is the slow but steady deterioration of nerve cells in the brain and in the spinal cord. When these motor neurons can no longer send impulses to the muscles, the muscles begin to waste away causing increased muscle weakness. As the disease reaches its advanced stages, its victims struggle to even breathe and swallow. There is no cure for ALS.

Every day, an average of 15 people are newly diagnosed with ALS. Approximately one out of 800 male deaths and 1 out of 1,200 female deaths in the United States are due to ALS. More