

this measure has been endorsed by a host of Liberty community leaders and organizations, including the village mayor, local chamber of commerce, and residents. I would urge swift adoption of this resolution.

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

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY), the author of this legislation.

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my appreciation to the Committee on Government Reform for bringing this bill to the floor so expeditiously. I also want to express my thanks to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), who is managing the Democratic time, and the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS), who is managing the time for the majority.

I also wish to express my thanks to the elected officials, civic organizations, and individuals in Liberty and Sullivan County, New York, for recommending and endorsing this legislation; as well as the family of Ben Gerow for providing photographs, newspaper articles, and detailed biographical information; and, finally, to the current postmaster in Liberty, New York, Gene DeCarlo, for his assistance.

It is a testament to Ben Gerow's significant contribution to Liberty that there is such overwhelming support in the local community for naming this post office in his honor. There is a true groundswell of support for this legislation. It is endorsed by Liberty community leaders and organizations locally, including the town of Liberty Democratic and Republican Committees, the town of Liberty and the Village of Liberty Boards, the village mayor, the Sullivan County Historical Society, the Greater Liberty Chamber of Commerce, and many Liberty residents and others in Sullivan County who have signed petitions.

Ben Gerow was born in Liberty, New York, in 1880, and died in 1961 at the age of 81. He lived virtually his entire life in Liberty, New York, where he was a pioneer of the automobile age who became a county sheriff, member of the New York State legislature, and a postmaster.

Ben Gerow was involved in the automobile business for 30 years. He was the first man in Liberty to own a gasoline-fueled car. He owned and operated one of the best-known businesses in Sullivan County, Gerow's Garage Machine Shop and Supply Store. He was the first Cadillac dealer in Sullivan County and also sold Fords, Dodges, and owned a rubber tire business. He was a lifelong firefighter as a member and president of the Liberty Hose and Truck Company No. 20.

Legend has it that Ben Gerow was an instrumental coconspirator in the in-

roduction of the first motorized fire truck in Liberty and all of Sullivan County. With a few chosen friends, he got hold of an automobile chassis and a motor, refurbished and repainted it, and outfitted it with the hose and other firefighting equipment. Then one of his crew set fire to a bunch of orange crates, and Ben's motorized equipment whizzed by the firefighters from companies number one and three who were carrying their heavy hose carts by hand. This carefully staged incident reportedly ended the era of man-powered fire trucks in Liberty and in Sullivan County generally.

Ben Gerow was an active civic leader: a founding member of the Liberty Elks Lodge, a member of the Mongaup Lodge, and Free and Accepted Masons, and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

In addition to being a successful businessman, community leader, and honorable public servant, Ben Gerow was married to Angeline Wheeler for 61 years. Together, they raised 14 children in one of Liberty's largest families. It is notable that five of their sons served in World War II all at the same time. Overall, these two wonderful people had 65 descendants, including 34 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren.

At the age of 50, Ben Gerow retired from business and entered politics, a natural transition, given that he is said to have been known by virtually every member of the population in Sullivan County. A lifelong Democrat, he was elected Sullivan County sheriff in 1930 and then elected to a 1-year term in the New York State Assembly in 1933. He was appointed postmaster to the Liberty post office by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1934, and he served in that position for 12 years.

Under Mr. Gerow's administration, the current Liberty post office building was sited and built as a Works Progress Administration project. Given his many accomplishments and contributions to Liberty, naming the Liberty post office in honor of Ben Gerow nearly 60 years after he retired from his long tenure as postmaster is clearly fitting, it is appropriate, and, one might say, long overdue.

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

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHROCK). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3234.

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.

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO MEMBERS OF U.S. ARMED FORCES DEPLOYED IN OPERATION RESTORE HOPE IN SOMALIA IN 1993

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 291) expressing deep gratitude for the valor and commitment of the members of the United States Armed Forces who were deployed in Operation Restore Hope to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of Somalia in 1993.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 291

Whereas October 3, 2003, marks the 10th anniversary of the major battle in the United States operation to capture key members of the Somali National Alliance led by the terrorist warlord, Mohammed Farah Aidid, in Mogadishu, Somalia;

Whereas Task Force Ranger, which led the assault, was composed of Army Special Forces, Navy SEALs, Army special operations helicopter forces, and Air Force Special Tactics personnel;

Whereas 16 special operations personnel assigned to Task Force Ranger were killed, and another 83 wounded, during one of the most intense and lethal firefights in modern history;

Whereas two of those killed, Master Sergeant Gary I. Gordon and Sergeant First Class Randall D. Shughart, were posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for actions above and beyond the call of duty;

Whereas soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, provided a quick reaction force in support of the combat operation;

Whereas two soldiers of the 10th Mountain Division were killed, and another 28 wounded, while supporting the special operations forces of Task Force Ranger; and

Whereas the valiant efforts of the soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines who were deployed in Operation Restore Hope significantly contributed to the war against terrorism and oppression: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) expresses deep gratitude for the valor and commitment of the members of the United States Armed Forces who were deployed in Operation Restore Hope to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of Somalia in 1993;

(2) recognizes those members, many of whom were killed or severely wounded in direct combat, who acquitted themselves with honor and courage in battle to restore freedom to an oppressed nation;

(3) honors the heroic service of the special operations forces assigned to Task Force Ranger and the soldiers of the 10th Mountain Division who supported them;

(4) extends condolences to the families and friends of those killed and wounded in Operation Restore Hope; and

(5) encourages the American people to remember the sacrifices of those who served.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) and the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within

which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Con. Res. 291, the concurrent resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I do have a statement that I wish to make; but I want to begin by first yielding to the author of this resolution, a gentleman with whom I have had the honor and the opportunity and the pleasure to work both as a member of the Committee on Armed Services and also as a colleague who I know cares very deeply about the sacrifices and the commitments that our men and women in the military make as well as their families; and I want to thank him for his leadership and his observance over this very timely resolution and this very important anniversary date.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES).

(Mr. HAYES asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks, and include extraneous material.)

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding me this time, and I appreciate the persistence with which he pursues his duties on the Committee on Armed Services, or more particularly the Subcommittee on Total Force, or personnel, as we know it more intimately.

Mr. Speaker, just 10 years ago, on October 3, 1993, 18 U.S. servicemen were killed and another 111 wounded in Operation Restore Hope. Often known by Mark Bowden's book and screenplay "Black Hawk Down," this was the major battle of the United States operation to capture key members of the Somalia National Alliance led by terrorist warlord Mohammed Farah Aided in Mogadishu, Somalia. Task Force Ranger, which led the assault, was composed of Army Special Forces, Navy SEALs, Army Special Operations Helicopter Forces, and Air Force Special Tactics personnel. Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment of the 10th Mountain Division supported the lead units as well.

For their heroic and valiant deeds, Master Sergeant Gary Gordon and Sergeant First Class Randall Shughart were posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. Today, it is only right and proper that we take a moment to express our deep gratitude for the valor and commitment of the members of the United States Armed Forces who were deployed in Operation Restore Hope.

□ 1600

As we continue to fight and win the global war on terrorism and support our troops deployed abroad, we must also recognize those members of Operation Restore Hope. They served with honor, they served with courage in the battle and efforts to restore freedom to an oppressed nation. These men represent and embody the special and unique qualities that make America great.

We have the opportunity today to honor the heroic service of the Special Operations Forces assigned to Task Force Ranger and the soldiers of the 10th Mountain Division who supported the operation.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, I wish to also extend my sincere condolences to the families and friends of those killed and wounded in Operation Restore Hope. We must never forget the service and sacrifice of the members of the United States Armed Forces who were deployed in Operation Restore Hope. God bless these men and their families and loved ones, and may God bless America.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution introduced by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES). The resolution before us expresses our Nation's gratitude to those who served in the Armed Forces and were deployed in Operation Restore Hope to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of Somalia in 1993. What began as a humanitarian relief operation in December 1992 to distribute food supplies and prevent the starvation of thousands in Somalia, turned into one of the most intense and bloody battles for U.S. troops since the Vietnam War.

On October 3, 1993, Task Force Ranger, comprised of Army Special Forces, Navy SEALs, Army special operations helicopter forces and Air Force Special Tactics personnel, headed out that fateful morning to search and capture the Somali warlord Mohammed Farah Aidid. As the conflict began to escalate, the soldiers from the 10th Mountain Division provided additional quick reaction combat support for the 17-hour battle of Mogadishu.

That evening, Americans would watch the news in shock and horror as the bodies of American soldiers were dragged through the streets of Mogadishu that tragic day. Over 100 of our Nation's brave combatants were wounded. Eighteen warriors made the ultimate sacrifice, and two of those who died showed uncommon valor and courage and were awarded our Nation's highest honor, the Medal of Honor, and one became a prisoner of war.

Master Sergeant Gary Gordon and Sergeant First Class Randall Shughart were both posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for their actions above and beyond the call of duty. Master Sergeant Gordon and Sergeant First Class Shughart volunteered to secure a helicopter crash site and protect its critically wounded crew, despite the intense gunfire and growing number of enemy personnel closing in. They embodied the bold courage and self-sacrifice of America's soldiers, and, ultimately, willingly gave their lives to protect their comrades in arms.

Chief Warrant Officer Mike Durant survived the helicopter crash and was pulled from the wreckage by Master Sergeant Gordon and Sergeant First Class Shughart. Chief Warrant Officer

Durant was the only one to survive, and was captured by enemy forces. He was held nearly 2 weeks as a prisoner of war before being released.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the battle of Mogadishu and Operation Restore Hope. I am very pleased to join with my colleagues from New York and North Carolina in recognizing the brave and courageous actions of the Special Forces and the soldiers of the 10th Mountain Division and members of the Armed Forces who were deployed in Operation Restore Hope. My thoughts and prayers go out to the families and friends of those who lost a loved one or were wounded in the battle of Mogadishu.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in expressing our appreciation to all those who volunteer to defend our Nation's freedom and to remember the sacrifices of all those who serve.

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

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE), who knows what it means to wear the uniform of the United States of America, a former distinguished officer in the United States Marine Corps and a gentleman who, in a very short period of time, has distinguished himself as a very important member of the Committee on Armed Services and someone with whom I just had the opportunity, and to the extent possible, the happy occasion of traveling to Iraq with, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE).

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in commending the valor and commitment of the brave men and women who served in Operation Restore Hope in Somalia, and I thank the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES) for authoring this important bill.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution is a great honor to these men and women, and we have an opportunity to offer a more meaningful tribute. The best way to honor the troops of Operation Restore Hope is to support the legacy of freedom they fought to preserve.

I am grateful for the opportunity to have served alongside some of the finest troops in the world when I was a commander of Marine Aviation Forces in Operation Restore Hope. The commitment of these men and women to our Nation and to the people of Somalia was exemplary.

Unfortunately, as we learned shortly after the battle of Mogadishu, civilian leadership of Operation Restore Hope did not share the commitment of our troops when the situation became difficult. Today, a decade later, the men and women of the United States Armed Forces again face a difficult challenge, this time in Operation Iraqi Freedom. As in Somalia, American forces have entered Iraq with the best of intentions, and this time, this time we must stay the course.

We commend the troops of Operation Restore Hope for their service as we pray for the safety of those who carry forth the proud tradition of committed service in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I did want to add a few words to those spoken so eloquently by my colleagues, and let me thank the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) for her management of this bill and, of course, for her great work as an esteemed member of the Committee on Armed Services, and also the ranking member, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. SNYDER), of the Subcommittee on Total Force, who is my partner on these issues. We are all part of a team that is very honored today to have this opportunity to present this very worthy, in my estimation, resolution for consideration to the full House. Let me again thank the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES) for his effort and leadership in bringing this measure to the floor at this time.

Certainly, there are many perspectives today with respect to Operation Restore Hope and the battle at Mogadishu, a great deal of debate as to what happened prior to, what happened during, and as the aftermath of that, from the small "p" political perspective; but I would like to believe, and in fact I do believe, very strongly that there is absolutely no debate, no controversy with respect to what happened in Somalia and what happened during the battle of Mogadishu with respect to the incredibly brave and incredibly effective service of those members of our Armed Forces who were there as part of Operation Restore Hope. They were there for one reason. They were there to try to make a country safe for international relief organizations to administer humanitarian assistance.

When those same members who were there for the most peaceful of reasons were called into combat, they fought with incredible honor and skill, and as we have heard here this afternoon, incredible courage.

I do have somewhat of a personal stake in this resolution, Madam Speaker. I was very pleased to hear all of my colleagues speak very graciously about the contributions and sacrifices of the 10th Mountain Division during that particular day, that particular battle. The 10th Mountain Division is deployed out of Fort Drum which is just outside of Watertown, New York, my hometown, and still part of my district back in the State of New York. And specifically, it was the soldiers of the 14th Infantry Regiment, the Golden Dragons, who manned the relief column that ended the Mogadishu fight. It was those same Fort Drum troops that fought through the city for some 12 hours while under continuous heavy fire to clear an evacuation route for the incredibly brave Army Rangers and Delta Force commandos who had been pinned down by forces loyal to the Somali warlord, Mohammed Farah Aidid that day.

During that battle, 18 heroes were killed in total, but two of those troops were from the 10th Mountain Division. Also, 28 were wounded. The two soldiers whose lives were lost that day were Sergeant Cornell Houston and Private First Class James Martin, and I want to add my words of condolences and greatest sympathy, but also greatest appreciation to those two soldiers' families, and to all of the families of the soldiers, not just in the 10th, but in the Armed Services committed to that battle over that period of time in Mogadishu for their incredible sacrifice and for their devotion.

Their courage was uncommon insofar as those of us lesser mortals are concerned. The courage that was shown in Mogadishu and shown in Somalia, however, I think is very symptomatic, not common, nothing that extraordinary could be called common, but that remarkable demonstration of all that makes up our great Armed Services, and things we see every day today in Iraq and Afghanistan and Bosnia and Kosovo; in theater after theater, the men and women not just of the United States Army but of all of the branches of our Armed Services display on our behalf and on behalf of others, simply trying to give people a chance to be free.

This resolution is important because it signifies an incredibly vital anniversary in the history of the United States military, an important anniversary in their incredible contributions and sacrifices on behalf of others, but it is also important for the symbolism, that symbolism that continues today on the streets of Baghdad, that symbolism that continues today on the streets of Kabul and other places, men and women in uniform from villages large and small, from cities medium and large from the United States, who go to these strange, far-away places for one reason, to try to make people's lives better. That is why when people say we are proud to be Americans, we can say it with such conviction.

Madam Speaker, I again thank the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES), and add a final word of urging to all of the Members of the House to vote in support of this great resolution.

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

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, I am very honored to join with my colleagues today, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES), the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE), and particularly the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) for his dedication in this area. I am pleased to join with my colleagues in expressing deep gratitude for the valor and commitment of the members of the Armed Forces who were deployed in Operation Restore Hope to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of Somalia in 1993. I think that we need to be reminded, all of us, of the lessons

learned from Operation Restore Hope, and keep that in our hearts and in our minds as we move forward in this Congress.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. CAPITO). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 291.

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. MCHUGH. Madam 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.

□ 1615

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO OFFER MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 2660, DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

Mr. OBEY. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 7(c) of House rule XXII, I hereby notify the House of my intention tomorrow to offer the following motion to instruct House conferees on the bill (H.R. 2660) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes.

The form of the motion is as follows:

I move that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the bill H.R. 2660 be instructed to insist on the highest funding levels possible for programs authorized by the No Child Left Behind Act.

EXTENDING AUTHORITY FOR CONSTRUCTION OF MEMORIAL TO MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Mr. SAXTON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 470) to extend the authority for the construction of a memorial to Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 470

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

SECTION. 1. MEMORIAL TO MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Section 508(b) of the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-333, as amended) is amended to read as follows:

"(b) COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS FOR COMMEMORATIVE WORKS.—