

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 36) expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the blue star service banner and the gold star.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, today I join with my colleague, Senator HAGEL, to urge adoption of a Senate concurrent resolution on behalf of our troops and their families. Specifically, the resolution encourages families of military personnel to display the Blue Star Service Banner, a tradition dating back to World War I. The Blue Star Service Banner indicates that a loved one is serving our country in the active duty military, and honors their devotion and sacrifice.

The Blue Star Service Banner has its origins in World War I, when mothers of soldiers often sewed blue stars onto white flags by hand, in order to express their love, pride, and concern for their sons serving abroad. The practice was widespread throughout the two World Wars, coming to serve not only as a symbol of pride but also as a reminder to our Nation's citizens of their call to support the war effort. The flying flag urged civilians to remember their commitment to ration gas and food, to buy war bonds, or to work in the factories producing much-needed materials, all in support of the brave men who were placing their lives on the line in defense of our country.

Today, as a new generation of brave men and women faces grave personal risk on the front lines of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, let us renew this time-honored tradition and again hoist flags in support of our troops. Let the families of these men and women display their love, pride, and concern for their loved ones, who have made such tremendous commitments to our country. And let these flags remind American citizens of the ways we can support our troops' efforts abroad: by expressing our gratitude, by making personal sacrifices through donations or volunteer efforts, and by continuing to demonstrate liberty and democracy to the world through vigorous debate and civic participation in the institutions that make our country great.

Our Nation's active-duty military now consists of more than a million men and women, supported by even more families and households, and I introduce this bill today out of respect and solidarity with them all. In particular, I would like to pay tribute to my colleague from South Dakota, Senator TIM JOHNSON, who is Congress' only "Blue Star Parent." As you might imagine, given our relationship, I am particularly well acquainted with this family and their son, Brooks, a sergeant in the Army's 101st Airborne Division, now engaged in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Thank you, Barbara and TIM JOHNSON, and thank you, Brooks, for your contribution to our nation's security.

As images of the conflict in Iraq fill up our television screens and newspapers, many Americans feel helpless and distant, and we long for a way to support our troops. The Blue Star Service Banner allows military families to demonstrate their support, their pride, and their concern for the young men and women who serve our nation with such dedication. I urge you to support the passage of this important resolution and to join with me in calling upon the military families among your constituents to fly the Blue Star flag high and proudly.

Mr. SUNUNU. I ask unanimous consent the concurrent resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid on the table en bloc, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 36) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 36

Whereas the Blue Star Service Banner was patented and designed in 1917, during the height of the First World War, by Army Captain Robert L. Queissner of the 5th Ohio Infantry, who had two sons serving on the front lines;

Whereas the banner quickly became the symbol for a family member serving the Nation and families began proudly displaying these banners in their front windows during the First World War;

Whereas each Blue Star on the banner represents a family member serving in the Armed Services and symbolizes hope and pride;

Whereas beginning in 1918, the Blue Star would signify the living, and a smaller Gold Star would be placed on top of the Blue Star, forming a blue border, if the family member was killed or died while on active duty, to symbolize his or her sacrifice for the cause of freedom;

Whereas the placement of a Gold Star on top of a Blue Star recognizes that those who served together and came home, as well as their families, will always remember the sacrifice of those who died and honor their families;

Whereas the banners were displayed widely during the Second World War;

Whereas many of the banners displayed during the First and Second World Wars were hand-made by the mothers of those serving in the Armed Forces;

Whereas the legacy of the banner continued during the Korean, Vietnam, and Persian Gulf Wars and other periods of conflict, as well as in times of peace;

Whereas the Blue Star Service Banner is the official banner authorized by law to be displayed in honor of a family member serving the United States, while the Gold Star may be displayed in honor of a family member who has made the ultimate sacrifice for the Nation;

Whereas for over 85 years, families have proudly displayed the Blue Star Service Banner showing service men and women the honor and pride that is taken in their sacrifices for freedom;

Whereas the banner may be displayed by members of the immediate family of a loved one serving in the Armed Forces, including active duty service in a unit of the National Guard, Merchant Marine, or the Reserves;

Whereas the banner may be flown by families with a service member stationed either domestically or overseas;

Whereas the display of the banner in the front window of a home shows a family's pride in their loved one and is a reminder that preserving America's freedom demands great sacrifice; and

Whereas this reminder is especially timely during the current conflict with Iraq and the war on terrorism: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) calls on all Americans to honor the men and women of the United States Armed Forces and their families;

(2) honors the men and women of the United States Armed Forces and their families;

(3) encourages these families to proudly display the Blue Star Service Banner or, if their loved one has made the ultimate sacrifice, the Gold Star; and

(4) calls on the media to recognize the importance of the Blue Star Service Banner and its symbolism of the devotion and service of the men and women of the United States Armed Forces.

SEC. 2. The authority on which this resolution rests is the authority of Congress to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper as provided in Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS REGARDING THE BLUE STAR FLAG AND THE GOLD STAR

Mr. SUNUNU. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Armed Services Committee be discharged from further consideration of H. Con. Res. 109 and that the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 109) expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the Blue Star Flag and the Gold Star.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. SUNUNU. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD, without intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 109) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

BIRCH BAYH FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. SUNUNU. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 65, S. 763.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 763) to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 46 East Ohio Street in Indianapolis, Indiana, as the "Birch Bayh Federal Building and United States Courthouse."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SUNUNU. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD, without intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 763) was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 763

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF BIRCH BAYH FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE.

The Federal building and United States courthouse located at 46 East Ohio Street in Indianapolis, Indiana, shall be known and designated as the "Birch Bayh Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building and United States courthouse referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the Birch Bayh Federal Building and United States Courthouse.

TED WEISS FEDERAL BUILDING

Mr. SUNUNU. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 66, H.R. 145.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 145) to designate the Federal building located at 290 Broadway in New York, New York, as the "Ted Weiss Federal Building."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Madam President, I rise today to express my overwhelming support for H.R. 145, a bill to designate the Federal Building located at 29 Broadway in New York City as the "Ted Weiss Federal Building." The building currently houses the offices of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 2, as well as some Internal Revenue Service offices and some Federal Bureau of Investigation offices.

Ted Weiss was born in Gava, Hungary, on September 17, 1927. At the age of 11, to escape persecution by the Nazi regime, Ted Weiss and his family took passage on one of the last passenger ships to leave Hamburg, Germany in 1938. The Weiss family settled in the United States, and in 1946, Ted Weiss graduated from Hoffman High School in South Amboy, NJ. Upon his graduation, Ted Weiss joined the United States Army. After one year in the Army, Ted Weiss enrolled at Syracuse University, where he earned a bach-

elor's degree in 1951 and a law degree in 1952.

Ted Weiss became a naturalized United States citizen and was admitted to the practice of law in 1953. From 1955 to 1959, Ted Weiss served as an Assistant District Attorney for New York City. He also served on the New York City Council from 1962 to 1977. In 1976, Congressman Weiss was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives to serve in the 95th Congress, and each of the seven succeeding Congresses.

As the ranking member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, I am very pleased to lend my full support for this legislation. Ted Weiss was a valued member of the House of Representatives and a good friend to many. For many years, Ted and I worked together as co-chairs of the Congressional Arts Caucus. Ted was tireless in his support for the arts and recognized the value of making the arts accessible to all Americans. The naming of the Federal Building at 29 Broadway is a fitting tribute to a man who dedicated his life to public service and the betterment of our nation. Ted Weiss was an American hero, and he is dearly missed here in the halls of Congress.

Mr. SUNUNU. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD, without intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 145) was read the third time and passed.

CARL T. CURTIS NATIONAL PARK SERVICE MIDWEST REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS BUILDING

Mr. SUNUNU. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 70, S. 703.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 703) to designate the regional headquarters building for the National Park Service under construction in Omaha, Nebraska, as the "Carl T. Curtis National Park Service Midwest Regional Headquarters Building."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. HAGEL. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Nebraska U.S. Senator Carl T. Curtis. Curtis represented Nebraska in Congress for 40 years, longer than any other Nebraskan. He began at an early age. A well-known anecdote depicts Curtis as a young boy near Minden, NE, delivering speeches to the animals on his family's farm, in the absence of more engaging company. Not that he always found it here in Congress.

Curtis's life was always about hard work, common sense, and accomplishment. He began his career by obtaining

a law degree by "reading the law" on his own and passing the bar. In Nebraska politics, he was known as a giant-killer, defeating two incumbent Governors, one former Governor, one Governor-to-be, and two former House Members. He is the only elected official in Nebraska State history to win statewide office while losing both Omaha and Lincoln. Curtis remained determined and victorious in the Senate when, in 1975, he waged a successful battle against Senator Jacob Javits, R-NY, for the chairmanship of the Senate Republican conference. As the new chairman of the Republican conference, he changed its role to be that of a research body, providing Republican Senators with relevant information on emerging national issues. The function of the current Senate Republican conference began under Curtis's leadership.

During his 16 years in the House and 24 years in the Senate, Curtis served on the Finance, Agriculture, Rules, and Space Committees. He helped establish a blueprint for flood control and irrigation along the Missouri River. He worked tirelessly to enact the energy tax bill and the Tax Reform Act of 1976. Throughout his life, Curtis was an advocate for small business, agriculture producers, and social security reform. He was a selfless public servant who respected and lived traditional American values.

Outside of the Halls of Congress, Curtis actively supported his fellow Republicans. One of his political highlights came when he was asked by the late Arizona U.S. Senator, Barry Goldwater, to serve as his floor manager at the 1964 Republican National Convention in San Francisco. With Curtis's help, Goldwater won the GOP Presidential nomination that year.

After Curtis finished his distinguished tenure in Congress in 1979, he went back to practicing law in Nebraska, while continuing to be an active voice in politics and an adviser to many Republican candidates and officials. He also filled his time writing his book, "Forty Years Against the Tide," which highlighted his opposition to the welfare state. After Curtis retired, he spent many happy days in Nebraska with friends, family and his wife Mildred.

Curtis had a full political career, but the cornerstone of his life was his family and friends. His first wife, Lois Wylie-Atwater, championed him throughout his political career, along with their two adopted children. After Lois's death, Curtis found companionship in Mildred Genier Baker. They married in 1972. Curtis's journey came to an end on January 24, 2000, but his remarkable legacy lives on. Senator Curtis was a friend and political mentor to many of us. We will always appreciate his willingness to help each of us, his courtesies, his friendship and his integrity. Naming the new Park Service building in Omaha after Senator Carl T. Curtis is an appropriate