

day in the middle of the legislative week, in the middle of the legislative session, this is all the leadership of this House can find to ask us to do. There are issues involving the extension of unemployment benefits, and there are other important questions that we should be dealing with. Unfortunately, we do not.

So I do not mean to blame this nice little bill for not being what it is not. This bill deserves to be passed. But this country deserves a chance for this House of Representatives to deal with much more substantive legislation addressing the economic distress that so many of our fellow citizens now encounter.

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

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

I am very pleased that this bill at least addresses in some very small part some of the concerns which the gentleman from Massachusetts holds, and I understand all that. But I think he is correct about this bill. I do not think there is any argument that what we are doing is essentially positive for the environment and for a government agency which can provide these services.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3786, the "Bureau of Engraving and Printing Security Printing Act of 2004."

Mr. Speaker, it is rare when the Members of this body can do something that is good for the country, good for the world, bad for nobody except crooks and terrorists and cost U.S. taxpayers nothing. This is one of those occasions.

Mr. Speaker, by approving this legislation, which would allow the Treasury Department to print currency and security documents such as passports or stock certificates for foreign governments, Members of the House will be voting to help strengthen the economies of friendly smaller nations and cutting the opportunities fraud and identity theft worldwide. Further, should the Treasury Department print any such documents, the work would be done on a fully reimbursable basis while allowing our expert engravers and printers at Treasury to refine their craft by working on anti-counterfeiting techniques that are not yet ready for the high-volume production necessary for U.S. documents but which with refinement someday may find their way to U.S. security documents or currency.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is similar to bills introduced at the request of both this and the previous Administration, which was broadly and bipartisanly approved in this chamber in several recent Congresses. That it never has been considered in the other body is a shame—the Treasury was unable to participate in producing new currency for Iraq that removed the face of the dictator, Saddam Hussein.

No work authorized under this legislation could be performed if doing so would interfere with the Treasury's job of providing currency and other security documents for the U.S. or if such work would not be in full harmony with U.S. foreign-policy objectives. Further, the bill does not prevent foreign nations from sending such printing to a U.S.-based private-sector

printer, although such printing is usually done by government printers in larger nations.

Mr. Speaker, this is good legislation. It deserves our full support, and I recommend its immediate passage.

Mr. CASTLE. 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 Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3786.

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. CASTLE. 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.

#### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND UNITED STATES TERRITORIES CIRCULATING QUARTER DOLLAR PROGRAM ACT

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2993) to provide for a circulating quarter dollar coin program to honor the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2993

*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 "District of Columbia and United States Territories Circulating Quarter Dollar Program Act".

#### SEC. 2. ISSUANCE OF REDESIGNED QUARTER DOLLARS HONORING THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND EACH OF THE TERRITORIES.

Section 5112 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting after subsection (m) the following new subsection:

"(n) REDESIGN AND ISSUANCE OF CIRCULATING QUARTER DOLLAR HONORING THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND EACH OF THE TERRITORIES.—

"(1) REDESIGN IN 2009.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the fourth sentence of subsection (d)(1) and subsection (d)(2) and subject to paragraph (6)(B), quarter dollar coins issued during 2009, shall have designs on the reverse side selected in accordance with this subsection which are emblematic of the District of Columbia and the territories.

"(B) FLEXIBILITY WITH REGARD TO PLACEMENT OF INSCRIPTIONS.—Notwithstanding subsection (d)(1), the Secretary may select a design for quarter dollars issued during 2009 in which—

(i) the inscription described in the second sentence of subsection (d)(1) appears on the reverse side of any such quarter dollars; and

(ii) any inscription described in the third sentence of subsection (d)(1) or the designation of the value of the coin appears on the obverse side of any such quarter dollars.

"(2) SINGLE DISTRICT OR TERRITORY DESIGN.—The design on the reverse side of each quarter dollar issued during 2009 shall be emblematic of one of the following: The District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

"(3) SELECTION OF DESIGN.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Each of the 6 designs required under this subsection for quarter dollars shall be—

"(i) selected by the Secretary after consultation with—

"(I) the chief executive of the District of Columbia or the territory being honored, or such other officials or group as the chief executive officer of the District of Columbia or the territory may designate for such purpose; and

"(II) the Commission of Fine Arts; and

"(ii) reviewed by the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee.

"(B) SELECTION AND APPROVAL PROCESS.—Designs for quarter dollars may be submitted in accordance with the design selection and approval process developed by the Secretary in the sole discretion of the Secretary.

"(C) PARTICIPATION.—The Secretary may include participation by District or territorial officials, artists from the District of Columbia or the territory, engravers of the United States Mint, and members of the general public.

"(D) STANDARDS.—Because it is important that the Nation's coinage and currency bear dignified designs of which the citizens of the United States can be proud, the Secretary shall not select any frivolous or inappropriate design for any quarter dollar minted under this subsection.

"(E) PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN REPRESENTATIONS.—No head and shoulders portrait or bust of any person, living or dead, and no portrait of a living person may be included in the design of any quarter dollar under this subsection.

"(4) TREATMENT AS NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections 5134 and 5136, all coins minted under this subsection shall be considered to be numismatic items.

"(5) ISSUANCE.—

"(A) QUALITY OF COINS.—The Secretary may mint and issue such number of quarter dollars of each design selected under paragraph (4) in uncirculated and proof qualities as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

"(B) SILVER COINS.—Notwithstanding subsection (b), the Secretary may mint and issue such number of quarter dollars of each design selected under paragraph (4) as the Secretary determines to be appropriate, with a content of 90 percent silver and 10 percent copper.

"(C) TIMING AND ORDER OF ISSUANCE.—Coins minted under this subsection honoring the District of Columbia and each of the territories shall be issued in equal sequential intervals during 2009 in the following order: the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

"(6) OTHER PROVISIONS.—

"(A) APPLICATION IN EVENT OF ADMISSION AS A STATE.—If the District of Columbia or any territory becomes a State before the end of the 10-year period referred to in subsection (1)(1), subsection (1)(7) shall apply, and this subsection shall not apply, with respect to such State.

"(B) APPLICATION IN EVENT OF INDEPENDENCE.—If any territory becomes independent or otherwise ceases to be a territory or possession of the United States before quarter dollars bearing designs which are emblematic of such territory are minted pursuant to

this subsection, this subsection shall cease to apply with respect to such territory.

“(7) TERRITORY DEFINED.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘territory’ means the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CASTLE. 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 thereon.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 5 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 2993, the District of Columbia and United States Territories Circulating Quarter Dollar Program Act, introduced on February 10 by the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING).

Similar to the popular 50-State Quarter program I am proud to have authored, the legislation would create a 1-year program to use designs reminiscent of the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands on the reverse of our circulating quarters in the year following the end of the State quarter program in 2008. Passage of this legislation would foster respect for and enhance historical knowledge of the District of Columbia and the territories that are an indispensable part of the United States and also would be an economic windfall for the United States Treasury.

Mr. Speaker, the State quarter program, which reached the halfway mark at the end of December of this past year, has dramatically increased general knowledge of the historical contributions of our 50 States. I believe the legislation under consideration today would do the same for the District and the territories. These areas have some of the highest enlistment rates in our Armed Forces. Their commitment continues through today's conflicts, through the tragic sacrifice of the lives of, among others, Lance Corporal Gregory E. MacDonald of the District of Columbia, and Army Private Jonathan I. Falaniko of Pago Pago, American Samoa.

As well, Mr. Speaker, the District and the territories have many historical, cultural, and athletic contributions to our Nation; and the bill we consider today would allow a great opportunity to recognize them in artwork on the reverse of the quarters.

The 1-year program provides more than intangible benefits to the United

States. It provides an economic boon to our Nation's Treasury. The success of the State quarter program has been overwhelming. The quarters have become one of the most popular collector's items in the United States and abroad; and by the halfway point of the program, the government had already benefited by over \$4 billion, representing coins that have been taken out of circulation by collectors. As a result, it is estimated that if the popularity of quarters produced under this legislation follows similar trends, as much as \$1 billion worth of the quarters may be taken out of circulation.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING) for introducing the bill, and the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) for her tireless campaign towards its passage. I also commend many others who have urged passage in the past, including the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS), who sponsored a previous version of the legislation, and the gentleman from California (Ms. WATERS). Of course, I would also like to thank the ranking member of the subcommittee, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) and the chairman and ranking member of the full committee, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY), and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) for their assistance in making this legislation possible.

I urge swift passage of H.R. 2993 to recognize the invaluable contributions of the District and territories.

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

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

My attention was first drawn to this bill by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia, who has been a very strong advocate for the District of Columbia in this and in other matters. In recognition of her leadership role on this legislation, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I am grateful to the gentleman from Massachusetts for his strong support and advocacy of this bill. May I offer my thanks as well to the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE), who has been with this bill since 1998 and was, from the moment that the territories and the District were not included, helpful throughout and insistent that we be included. Of course, the exclusion of the territories and the District was entirely inadvertent; and he comes once again full circle, because he was chairman at that time.

Indeed, twice before, the House has passed a bill to afford the five insular areas and the District of Columbia a quarter coin bearing a design of their choice on the reverse side. Inadvertently, these Americans were excluded

from the 50-State bill affording this same right to the States in 1998. We owe very special thanks to three successive committee chairs and ranking members of the Committee on Financial Services. It is one thing to ask a committee to come to the floor once with a bill; it is a burden to come three times, even on suspension. I would like to thank the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE), who has chaired the Subcommittee on Domestic Monetary Policy, Trade, and Technology during the 105th Congress, and worked with me and introduced legislation to allow the District and the insular areas to participate in this program.

□ 1115

In the 106th Congress, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS), as chair of the same subcommittee, introduced this bill and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS), as ranking member of the subcommittee, cosponsored the legislation.

Today, I would especially thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING), who is chair of the subcommittee during the 107th and 108th Congress who introduced the bill and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY), the ranking member, who sponsored the bill the last two sessions.

May I also give special thanks to the chair of the full committee, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) for their support. I want to particularly thank the majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), with whom I recently spoke concerning the bill and who kindly agreed to move it to suspension.

To date, there have been over 21 billion State quarter coins minted; 26 States have had their State design on the reverse side of the quarter with four more States to be added before the end of this year. Five are added each year. All the coins are minted according to the year each State ratified the Constitution of the United States or were admitted into the Union.

Although the States have appropriate latitude, there are limitations as to what can be used as a design. According to Public Law 105-124, the Secretary of the Treasury has the final approval of each design. The law gives clear guidance as to what is an acceptable design concept. Such suitable design concepts include State landmarks, landscapes, historically significant buildings, symbols of State resources or industries, official State flora and fauna, State icons and outlines of the States themselves. State flags and seals are not considered suitable.

Among the examples of suitable coins already in circulation are New York's Statue of Liberty, Missouri's depiction of Lewis and Clark as they paddle down the Missouri River with the Gateway Arch in the background, and North Carolina's design depicting the first successful airplane flight.

We look forward to the day when the residents of the District of Columbia

and the insular areas can see similar symbols of their jurisdictions and of their American citizenship appear, as well.

This bill points up the importance of including all Americans in the symbols of American citizenship. The residents of the District and the insular areas are full and equal American citizens. To leave them out of mere expressions of citizenship is to deny the citizenship they revere and share with other Americans. The Americans who live in these areas have fought and died in our country's wars and have extraordinary records of service in the Armed Forces in considerably larger numbers than other States. The District of Columbia alone has lost more service members in Afghanistan and Iraq than many States and lost more in Vietnam than 10 separate States.

We in the Congress are proud to represent all Americans.

There are, of course, significant differences between the States and the jurisdictions covered by this bill. However, qualification to be a part of a program of quarter coins to commemorate congressional districts is not one of them. Under the Constitution, all Americans are equal notwithstanding important differences in form, structure and other significant distinctions. Today, by including all Americans, Congress avoids any appearance of differential or discriminatory treatment and any implication that these areas are colonies as, of course, was never the intention when the five jurisdictions were not included in the original bill as the House has made clear by repeatedly bringing this bill to the floor.

Today, when our country is at war and faces unparalleled dangers, this bill is yet another example of our unity as Americans and our indivisibility in honoring all of our country's citizens. By passing this measure, the House will make it abundantly clear that we are one country and that our hope is that the Senate will join us.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to start by thanking the gentlewoman from District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) for her tenaciousness on this. I always favored this concept as soon as I heard about it. But if it was not for her, frankly, pushing everybody, I do not think we would be where we are today. And I say that because we have been there a couple of times before, and she has had to do it again and again.

I doubt if there will be a Rose Garden ceremony for the signing of this if it passes, but I intend to come over there and shake your hand if it happens, because you deserve a lot of credit for it. We just have to get the Senate to cooperate.

Apropos of comments made earlier by the distinguished gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) on another bill, this is a pretty good day here on the floor, at least this portion of it, as far as the Federal Government is con-

cerned. The BEP hopefully will be able to enter into the business that they can do specifically that the private sector really cannot do as well and perhaps have a chance to add some revenues to the Federal Government as has indicated. This quarter program has already produced \$4 billion in money to the Treasury as a result of the keeping of these coins and collecting.

The chances are that the young people here are all collecting them. When you go to a classroom, you find that they are all collecting these coins.

We still have 5 years to run, hopefully a 6th year to run on this. We hope it will produce, as I indicated earlier, another billion dollars. It is not many programs that actually produce real money, real revenue for the Federal Government.

Pursuant to that, without advocating anything, I would say as an extension of this that I have introduced legislation, as you may know, for a Presidential program on the dollar coins, which is also, according to the studies that have been done, has the ability to produce revenue for the Federal Government as a collector's item, with the spouses to be on a gold coin sold at the price of gold which would be about \$380 right now as a collector's item.

All of these also have the ability to do what this coin has been done and, most importantly, inform not just young people but all of us about our States, as the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) has pointed out, and about our territories, and about our Presidents hopefully.

So I think this has all been a very win-win-win situation. We are very appreciative of what this has done. I would encourage all of us to support this legislation, and hopefully this is something that we will get done this year.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I did want to say that the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) deserves credit not simply for his advocacy here, but for being the main proponent of the whole program, which he correctly points out has been very successful, the State quarter program, the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) is the legislative author of that and is entitled to take all the credit for it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Guam (Mr. BORDALLO).

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) and the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) for managing this bill today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2993, a bill that will authorize the United States Mint to circulate quarter dollar coins depicting an important design representative of the District of Columbia and each respective United States territory.

Guam has long sought to be represented on the back of the quarter

dollar coin in the same manner as the States do. And I guess I will say, Mr. Speaker, that perseverance does pay off eventually. It has been many years, and I thank the gentlewoman from District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON), as well as the subcommittee chairman, the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING), and the ranking member, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY), for their leadership in guiding this legislation to the floor today.

This legislation was championed by the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE). The Commemorative Coin Act was passed in 1997 authorizing the minting of 50 commemorative coin designs representing the unique culture and history of each respective State. The intention was to foster pride amongst citizens of each State, greater appreciation for the diversity of our Nation, and instill a sense of national unity. While this program has been a true success, I am pleased that we now come together to ensure that the District of Columbia, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are equally recognized.

H.R. 2993 will help educate the public that the territories are recognized as being part of the United States, in addition to guaranteeing that our Nation's own capital city is honored. Many people are confused as to the relationship of Guam and the territories to the United States of America. By authorizing United States currency representative of the territories, we can educate our country and the world about the vast reach of our Nation and foster a better understanding about its culture and ethnic diversity.

Guam has a rich and patriotic history, and I support any effort that generates more interest in learning about our islands. Guam is an island approximately 3,500 miles southwest of Hawaii and is the southernmost island of the Marianas chain. With a population of 160,000, the island of Guam is home to two of the Nation's most important and strategic military bases, the Navy's COMNAVMAR base and Andersen Air Force Base. Natives of Guam, or Chamorros, are proud of their unique cultural heritage.

Guam has always been a true melting pot since it was first traversed by Europeans upon the arrival of Magellan in the early 16th century. After serving for centuries as a major stop-off point along the Spanish galleon trade route, Guam was ceded to the United States in 1898 after the defeat of Spain in the Spanish-American War. Since that time, Guam has served as an important gateway to the Pacific and an important center for commerce and cultural exchange between the United States and Asia.

During World War II, Guam was occupied by Japanese imperial forces from 1941 to 1944. However, citizens of Guam proudly and defiantly affirmed their patriotism to the United States.

When American forces arrived in 1944 in its push to win the war in the Pacific, patriots of Guam boarded small boats and paddled out to Navy warships volunteering to join forces to defeat the Japanese. Our island was liberated by the United States Marines and soldiers on July 21, 1944; and soon after, Congress granted United States citizenship to the people of Guam.

It is important to the people on Guam to gain greater recognition as being part of the United States of America. Guamanians have fought valiantly in every American conflict since being incorporated into the United States. Guam had the highest per capita number of deaths in the Vietnam conflict. Guamanians are proud and patriotic, and H.R. 2993 honors their contribution to American valor and culture.

So I do, Mr. Speaker, encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 2993.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA), another able advocate for one of the territories.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I would not be standing here if it had not been for the able leadership and certainly the sensitivity and the commitment from the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) for all these years that we have worked tirelessly in providing for this legislation that we now come to this most historic occasion in presenting this proposed legislation before our colleagues and hopefully in my desire that we pass it.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a Republican or a Democratic issue. This is an American issue. We are talking about the lives of some 5 million of our fellow Americans who live in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia and the insular areas.

I want to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING) for his sponsorship of this legislation and our colleague, also from New York (Mrs. MALONEY), for her support as the ranking member of the subcommittee. And certainly I would be remiss if I did not thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) for his support.

It saddens me, Mr. Speaker, for all these years that we have tried earnestly to provide passage of this legislation, that there is still some misunderstanding or misinformation among some of our colleagues to the point it saddens me that even some may have this idea that we are not worthy enough, we are not worthy enough as those of us fellow Americans coming from the District of Columbia, from the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, where some 3.8 million Americans, U.S. citizens, live, that we do not deserve the privilege of circulating just a quarter dollar in honor of the contributions that we have also made for

all these years to the greatness of our Nation.

□ 1130

I am reminded of a fellow Chamorro who is a retired Marine brigadier general, a former Member and colleague of ours, Mr. Ben Blaz, and he made this statement I have never forgotten over the years. He said to his colleagues here in this Chamber, we are equal in times of war, but we are not equal in times of peace.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation would amend the popular 50 States Commemorative Coin Program Act to include six new designs emblematic of the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and the Northern Mariana Islands. Designs on the reverse side of each quarter dollar issued during 2009 will be selected by the Secretary of the Treasury in consultation with the chief executive officers of these areas.

All five congressional delegates are and were original cosponsors of this bipartisan measure. This measure was first introduced in the 106th Congress and passed overwhelmingly in the House by a vote of 377 to 6. Unfortunately, the 106th Congress ended before the Senate was able to consider our bill.

Again, in the 107th Congress, we introduced H.R. 4005, identical legislation which also passed the House and was received in the Senate in October of 2002. Once again, the Senate was unable to consider this matter before the 107th Congress adjourned. Now we have introduced H.R. 2993; and we are hopeful, Mr. Speaker, that the House and Senate will pass this legislation before the 108th Congress adjourns.

At this time, I also want to thank the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) for her leadership, and I also want to thank our delegates who have worked tirelessly to ensure that this legislation is considered.

Speaking on behalf of my own district in American Samoa, I believe it is only fitting for Congress to acknowledge our relationship with the United States, which has now been in place for over 104 years. Many fellow Americans have never heard of American Samoa. American Samoa has had a long and proud history of supporting the United States. The traditional leaders of the islands of Tutuila and Aunu'u ceded our islands to the United States in 1900. Four years later, the King of Manu'a and his chiefs ceded the Manu'a Islands.

In the early part of the century, the harbor of Pago Pago, which was much sought after, was used as a coaling station for U.S. naval ships; and during World War II, these islands became a staging area for some 30,000 soldiers and Marines before they were sent to Tarawa and Guadalcanal and other parts of the Pacific during World War II. To this day, American Samoa serves as a refueling point for U.S. naval ships and military aircraft.

American Samoa also has a per capita enlistment rate in the U.S. military which is as high as any State or territory. I have had to personally carry two of my soldiers who recently died from Iraq in that terrible conflict. Our sons and daughters have served in record numbers in every U.S. military engagement since World War II to the present operations in Iraq. We have stood by the United States in good times and bad times, and I believe this relationship should be acknowledged with the issuance of a commemorative coin.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2993 affords us an opportunity to recognize the special contributions of the insular areas. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the legislation.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN), another of the able delegates who has been working for this on behalf of her territory.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 2993, the District of Columbia and U.S. Territories Circulating Quarter Dollar Program Act.

It is a pleasure for me to be here as we again move closer toward rectifying the omission of the District of Columbia and the insular areas from the original 50 State Commemorative Coin Program Act. It has been more than 3 years; but with the vote today on H.R. 2993, my constituents as well as those of my colleagues from the Nation's capital and the other territories will finally get the opportunity to have our Nation commemorate and celebrate a significant event or fact about our respective homes.

My district, the U.S. Virgin Islands, also known as America's Paradise, has many ecological, historical and cultural treasures which are worthy of commemoration. We also boast of having been the place where the first Secretary of the Treasury, Alexander Hamilton, grew up and honed the skills which served our fledgling nation so well.

For the benefit of those who might not know this, the Virgin Islands have been a member of the American family since 1917 when Denmark sold the islands of the former Danish West Indies, St. Thomas, St. Croix and St. John, to the United States for just \$25 million.

We are located 1,000 miles southeast of Miami in the Caribbean Sea and are four main islands with numerous keys, with beaches that have consistently ranked among the best in the world. We also boast the only site where the members of Christopher Columbus' party are known to have set foot on what is today the U.S. The Salt River National Historical and Ecological Park was established in 1992 to, among other things, commemorate this important historical event.

Mr. Speaker, the people of the Virgin Islands see it as only fitting that we, along with the residents and citizens of Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia should also have the opportunity to educate our fellow Americans on whose side we have fought to defend and protect our Nation in every conflict from the Revolutionary War to the present day about our unique qualities, as well as promote our pride at being Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE), the champion of the original bill, and our ranking member, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK), for including the District of Columbia and our territories, and I particularly want to also extend our gratitude to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia because it was her leadership and dogged determination that made this day possible, and I ask my colleagues to support her in our effort and vote "yes" on H.R. 2993.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, with renewed appreciation of the gentleman from Delaware and the gentleman from Ohio, the chairman of the full committee, for allowing this measure, so important to so many of our colleagues, to come forward, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I will be very brief. I just want to thank the representatives from the various territories and from the District of Columbia for actual historical lessons here on the floor. I think it behooves all of us, I recall those comments of the gentleman from Nebraska next to me, that perhaps putting the territories and District of Columbia on the quarter is more important than the States in some ways as this is such a good educational tool for our young people. So, hopefully, we will get that done this year.

Based on all I have heard, I think the problem is in the Senate, not the House. So we all need to go to work over in the Senate and get this done.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2993, the "District of Columbia and United States Territories Circulating Quarter Dollar Program Act," and urge its immediate passage.

Mr. Speaker, we all know how fond the American people are of the 50-State quarter program that began in 1999. It has proved popular with collectors, of course, and it has caused all Americans to look at the change in their pockets or their purses in a new light. It has been an invaluable aid in teaching about the unique nature of each state.

All Members salute the gentleman from Delaware, Mr. CASTLE, for his foresight in authoring that legislation. Today we consider a completely separate program, one that is modeled on, but is not part of the State quarter program. Instead of honoring five States a year for a decade, this program will issue six different quarters, for the District of Columbia and the five territories, all in a single year.

Surely, the District of Columbia and the five territories will benefit in similar fashion as the

states have. I think this program will be of particular benefit regarding the territories, which are not as well-known, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, of Guam and the United States Virgin Islands and American Samoa.

I have learned a lot about the territories from previous debates on similar legislation in previous Congresses, Mr. Speaker, and I think this legislation will be educational as well.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation before us has passed the House in a number of Congresses, passing by both recorded and voice votes. I know of no objection to it, and I urge all Members to support its immediate passage.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2993.

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. CASTLE. 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.

#### AUTHORITY TO AGREE TO CERTAIN AMENDMENTS TO THE BORDER ENVIRONMENT COOPERATION AGREEMENT

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 254) to authorize the President of the United States to agree to certain amendments to the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Mexican States concerning the establishment of a Border Environment Cooperation Commission and a North American Development Bank, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment:  
Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

#### SECTION. 1. AUTHORITY TO AGREE TO CERTAIN AMENDMENTS TO THE BORDER ENVIRONMENT COOPERATION AGREEMENT; GRANT AUTHORITY.

(a) AMENDMENT AUTHORITY.—Part 2 of subtitle D of title V of Public Law 103-182 (22 U.S.C. 290m-290m-3) is amended by adding at the end the following:

#### "SEC. 545. AUTHORITY TO AGREE TO CERTAIN AMENDMENTS TO THE BORDER ENVIRONMENT COOPERATION AGREEMENT.

"The President may agree to amendments to the Cooperation Agreement that—

"(1) enable the Bank to make grants and non-market rate loans out of its paid-in capital resources with the approval of its Board; and

"(2) amend the definition of 'border region' to include the area in the United States that is within 100 kilometers of the international boundary between the United States and Mex-

ico, and the area in Mexico that is within 300 kilometers of the international boundary between the United States and Mexico."

(b) GRANT AUTHORITY.—Part 2 of subtitle D of title V of Public Law 103-182 (22 U.S.C. 290m-290m-3), as amended by subsection (a), is amended by adding at the end the following:

#### "SEC. 546. GRANTS OUT OF PAID-IN CAPITAL RESOURCES.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall instruct the United States Federal Government representatives on the Board of Directors of the North American Development Bank to oppose any proposal where grants out of the Bank's paid-in capital resources, except for grants from paid-in capital authorized for the community adjustment and investment program under the Bank's charter of 1993, would—

"(1) be made to a project that is not being financed, in part, by loans; or

"(2) account for more than 50 percent of the financing of any individual project.

"(b) EXCEPTION.—

"(1) GENERAL RULE.—The requirements of subsection (a) shall not apply in cases where—

"(A) the President determines there are exceptional economic circumstances for making the grant and consults with the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives; or

"(B)(i) the grant is being made for a project that is so small that obtaining a loan is impractical; and

"(ii) the grant does not exceed \$250,000.

"(2) LIMITATION.—Not more than an aggregate of \$5,000,000 in grants may be made under this subsection."

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 1(b) of such public law is amended in the table of contents by inserting after the item relating to section 544 the following:

"Sec. 545. Authority to agree to certain amendments to the Border Environment Cooperation Agreement.

"Sec. 546. Grants out of paid-in capital resources."

#### SEC. 2. ANNUAL REPORT.

The Secretary of the Treasury shall submit annually to the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a written report on the North American Development Bank, which addresses the following issues:

(1) The number and description of the projects that the North American Development Bank has approved. The description shall include the level of market-rate loans, non-market-rate loans, and grants used in an approved project, and a description of whether an approved project is located within 100 kilometers of the international boundary between the United States and Mexico or within 300 kilometers of the international boundary between the United States and Mexico.

(2) The number and description of the approved projects in which money has been dispersed.

(3) The number and description of the projects which have been certified by the Border Environment Cooperation Commission, but yet not financed by the North American Development Bank, and the reasons that the projects have not yet been financed.

(4) The total of the paid-in capital, callable capital, and retained earnings of the North American Development Bank, and the uses of such amounts.

(5) A description of any efforts and discussions between the United States and Mexican governments to expand the type of projects which the North American Development Bank finances beyond environmental projects.

(6) A description of any efforts and discussions between the United States and Mexican governments to improve the effectiveness of the North American Development Bank.