

Mr. SIMMONS. 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.

CONGRATULATING THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 386) congratulating the United States Air Force Academy on its 50th Anniversary and recognizing its contributions to the Nation.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 386

Whereas on April 1, 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed legislation establishing the United States Air Force Academy to prepare young men for careers as Air Force officers;

Whereas in July 1955, the first class entered the Air Force Academy, attending classes in temporary facilities at Lowry Air Force Base in Denver, Colorado;

Whereas the Air Force Academy moved to its permanent home near Colorado Springs, Colorado in August 1958;

Whereas the first class of 207 cadets graduated in June 1959;

Whereas in 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed legislation authorizing each of the Service Academies to expand enrollment from 2,529 to 4,417 students, and today, 4,000 cadets attend the Air Force Academy;

Whereas women were first admitted to the Air Force Academy in June 1976, and the first class that included women graduated in June 1980;

Whereas 44 classes and 35,000 cadets have graduated from the Air Force Academy in its 50-year history;

Whereas the mission of the Air Force Academy is to inspire and teach outstanding young men and women to become Air Force officers and to prepare and motivate them to lead the Air Force in its service to the Nation;

Whereas the Air Force Academy is recognized worldwide as the premier developer of aerospace officers and leaders with impeccable character and knowledge; and

Whereas April 1, 2004 marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Air Force Academy: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) congratulates the United States Air Force Academy on its 50th Anniversary;

(2) acknowledges the continued excellence of the United States Air Force Academy and its critical role in the defense of the United States; and

(3) recognizes the outstanding service to the Nation that graduates from the United States Air Force Academy have provided.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. SNYDER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that

all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON).

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON) for her leadership in proposing this resolution. I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 386 which congratulates the U.S. Air Force Academy on its 50th anniversary and recognizing its contributions to the Nation.

It is particularly meaningful to me to be here today. I have several perspectives. In addition to being a Member of Congress, I am a veteran myself. I served 31 years in the Army National Guard. But I greatly appreciate the service of the Air Force. It has been extraordinary, the military professionalism that truly has been generated by the Air Force Academy.

I had the extraordinary opportunity firsthand to accompany the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON), as the ranking member of the Committee on Armed Services, to visit Iraq last September; and I saw firsthand the success of the precision bombing which protected the civilian population and protected the schools and the mosques while the military targets were utterly destroyed in one of the most successful military operations in the history of the United States, protecting the American people from the terrorists by going after them in Afghanistan, going after them in Iraq. And American families are safer.

Additionally, I am grateful to be a service academy parent. I know firsthand how academies promote the high standards of academics. Actually, my son went to an academy which is in the State of Maryland, not in the State of Colorado, but I do have great appreciation for the Academy.

There are facts that should be known, that 32 cadets have been selected as Rhodes Scholars, including our colleague, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON), who also has, I think, the great distinction of being the first female graduate of the Air Force Academy serving in Congress.

Additionally, six cadets have accepted Marshall scholarships; nine cadets have received the Harry S. Truman scholarship; 92 cadets have been accepted as Guggenheim Fellows. There is so much to be appreciative of of the military service, the academic success of the Air Force Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of the resolution.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 386 intro-

duced by the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON) and my colleague on the Committee on Armed Services; and I commend her on your efforts to recognize the 50th anniversary of the United States Air Force Academy.

On April 1, 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed into the law a bill that established the United States Air Force Academy; and this Thursday, April 1, 2004, the Nation will recognize the 50th anniversary of this Academy and its efforts to inspire and develop outstanding young men and women as Air Force officers.

However, the history of the Academy began long before the bill was signed by President Eisenhower. One of the first to recognize the need and to advocate for an air service academy was Brigadier General Billy Mitchell, often considered to be the father of the United States Air Force. He was an outspoken advocate of strategic air power, and he had attempted to establish an air school for many years.

Progress on the Air Force Academy began in 1949 when Secretary of Defense James Forrestal established a board of military and civilian educators to recommend a general system of education for the services. The board, which was headed by Dwight D. Eisenhower, then president of Columbia University, and Robert L. Stearns, then president of the University of Colorado, recommended that an Air Force Academy be established; and this was done in 1954 under President Eisenhower's signature.

The Academy's commitment to excellence began with its first class in July of 1955, which was comprised of 306 men who lived in temporary facilities at Lowry Air Force Base in Denver, Colorado. Lieutenant General Hubert R. Harmon, recalled from retirement, became the first superintendent. The Cadet Wing moved to its current location 3 years later in 1958, and the first class graduated in 1959.

In 1964, the academies were allowed to nearly double their enrollment to over 4,400 cadets. In 1976, the first class of women was allowed to attend the service academies, including the Air Force Academy. Since then, more than 35,000 cadets have graduated from the Air Force Academy, including 196 international cadets.

The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) recognized several of the scholarly attributes of cadet graduates, including 32 cadets who have been selected as Rhodes Scholars. I want to call attention to the fact that one of those is my colleague, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON), who was also a Rhodes Scholar.

I also want to recognize 31 cadets have accepted Fulbright-Hays scholarships. Probably even more importantly, Air Force cadet graduates are not only accomplished scholars but have also distinguished themselves on the battlefield. One hundred and twenty-nine graduates have been killed in combat; 36 graduates were prisoners of

war; two were combat aces; and one academy graduate, Captain Lance P. Sijan, received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his extraordinary heroism in Vietnam.

Mr. Speaker, let me congratulate the United States Air Force Academy on its 50th anniversary and recognize the outstanding service that these graduates have provided to our country's defense.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, let me thank my very special colleague, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON), for her efforts to bring this bill forward as an Air Force Academy graduate.

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

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Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I thank my colleague for his kind words.

This resolution is cosponsored by 22 Members of the House, including the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY) in whose district the academy is located, and a man named SAM JOHNSON who was honored in the library of the academy. It is a very young version of SAM JOHNSON that is honored there because he was one of the prisoners of war who served in the Air Force and was a prisoner of war during Vietnam; and, of course, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) is now one of our colleagues here in the House of Representatives.

The gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER), who is chairman of the Committee on Armed Services, and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA) has been a long-time leader in defense in the House of Representatives, and of course, the gentleman from California (Mr. CUNNINGHAM). I was a little surprised that the gentleman from California (Mr. CUNNINGHAM) cosponsored with me because he has always given me a hard time for being, I think he calls me an Air Force puke, which I take in a polite way. Of course, Duke was one of only two aces in the Vietnam War. Duke was a Navy pilot. The other one was Steve Ritchie, a graduate of the United States Air Force Academy.

Thursday is the Air Force Academy's golden anniversary. It has been 50 years since the President of the United States, Dwight David Eisenhower, established the Air Force Academy. It is in the Rampart Range of the Rocky Mountains at over 7,000 feet of altitude, over 18,000 acres of campus in that beautiful State; but it was not for sure that it was going to be located in what seems now the perfect location for an air academy. St. Louis and Wisconsin were also finalists, and I think Colorado is now glad that they agreed to have the Aluminum University north of Colorado Springs.

The mission of the Air Force Academy is to inspire and develop outstanding young men and women to be-

come Air Force officers with knowledge and discipline, motivated to lead the world's greatest aerospace force in service to the Nation; and for 50 years, that is what the Air Force Academy has done.

It has given us graduates who have known that maybe the real mission of the Air Force is to fly, fight, and win. It has given us graduates who have been distinguished in science, graduates who have earned the Medal of Honor, graduates who have been prisoners of war and returned home, graduates who did not return home.

There are 4,000 cadets in the corps of cadets at the Air Force Academy, and every one of them applies to Members of this body, to the people's House, for the opportunity to attend that great institution and to become part of the long blue line. They accept the challenges not only of academics and of leadership, but also of ethics and character embodied in the honor code; and among graduates of the Air Force Academy, it is the honor code which to us sets the academy apart. We will not lie, steal, cheat, or tolerate among us anyone who does. That standard of ethics is the foundation of character for our military officers, and it is something that all of us as graduates are proud of.

So, today, I hope that this House will join me and my colleagues in congratulating the Air Force Academy on its 50th anniversary and recognizing its service to the Nation. They have given us leaders of character for the Nation. I thank all of them for their service.

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

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES), a member of the Committee on Armed Services and a Vietnam veteran helicopter crew chief.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time, and I am here to support and endorse this bill to congratulate the Air Force Academy.

My first term in Congress I was a member of the Visitors Board of the Academy; but most importantly, the Air Force Academy offered my son an appointment. He wound up going to West Point, but it was not an easy decision for him to make; and it was always, for us, a great point of honor to have that offered to my son and, also, more than that, to see the quality of young men and women that come through that great facility.

The academy, I think, symbolizes the best that this country has to offer through its national defense and its military.

I also, if I could, would like to mention that I strongly endorse the bill that reimburses our military personnel for their R&R expenses, travel expenses here as they come back from Operation Iraqi Freedom and the operations in Afghanistan; and in addition to that, I think it is vitally important that this

people's House endorses and supports awarding a different campaign medal for Afghanistan from one for Operation Iraqi Freedom and the battle in Iraq. Those are all important issues for all our military personnel.

With that, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I have no further speakers and would close if it is appropriate.

Mr. Speaker, I think this must be a special day for the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON) today, as an Air Force Academy graduate, to be able to carry this bill on the House floor commending the 50th anniversary of the Air Force Academy; and it is a pleasure to be here with her.

I recognize the strong tradition of service that the Air Force Academy has had to this country, and I am proud to support and endorse this bill.

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

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

On Thursday, at the Air Force Academy, the cadet area of the Air Force Academy is going to be designated as a national historic landmark; and for the 35,000 Americans who have walked around the corners of that terrazzo, it will be a special day.

It is really a privilege and an honor to be here today to honor the Air Force Academy and to wish them all the best on the next 50 years.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, at a time when our men and women in uniform are deployed overseas, it is especially appropriate to acknowledge the contributions of the institution that has trained so many of our Air Force leaders. I join my fellow Americans in celebrating the United States Air Force Academy on its 50th anniversary.

While the vast majority of cadets at this institution have gone on to distinguished careers of service that have made us all proud, it is unfortunate that the Academy's ineffective approach to the problem of sexual assault has tarnished the reputation of the Air Force Academy in the past decade. An investigation commissioned by Congress—chaired by former Congresswoman Tillie Fowler—made recommendations less than a year ago on how to improve the culture at the Air Force Academy to support victims of sexual assault.

Mr. Speaker, the report makes clear that the recommendations made in the report are only a beginning to solving the problem of sexual assault at the U.S. Air Force Academy. It states that the common failure in each of the many efforts made to address this problem over the past decade was the "absence of sustained attention to the problem and follow-up on the effectiveness of the solution."

It is essential that we, as Members of Congress, follow up on the recommendations made to ensure that the

culture of the Air Force Academy does not tolerate sexual assault, perpetrators are punished, and victims are supported. The reputation of such a distinguished institution should not continue to be frayed by its failure to effectively address this one important issue.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WHITFIELD). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 386.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. 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.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3966, ROTC AND MILITARY RECRUITER EQUAL ACCESS TO CAMPUS ACT OF 2004

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 580 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 580

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order (except those arising under the Congressional Budget Act of 1974) to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 3966) to amend title 10, United States Code, and the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to improve the ability of the Department of Defense to establish and maintain Senior Reserve Officer Training Corps units at institutions of higher education, to improve the ability of students to participate in Senior ROTC programs, and to ensure that institutions of higher education provide military recruiters entry to campuses and access to students that is at least equal in quality and scope to that provided to any other employer. The bill shall be considered as read for amendment. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Armed Services now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate on the bill, as amended, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman

from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

On Thursday, March 25, 2004, the Committee on Rules announced that it may meet the week of March 29 to grant a rule which could limit the amendment process for floor consideration of H.R. 3966. The announcement further stated that any Member wishing to offer an amendment submit the amendment to the Committee on Rules by 1 p.m. on Monday, March 29, 2004. No amendments were submitted to the Committee on Rules for their consideration.

H.R. 3966 is based on a simple principle. Colleges and universities that accept Federal funding should also be willing to provide military recruiters the same access as other prospective employers to students in ROTC scholarship programs.

This legislation would improve the ability of the Department of Defense to establish and maintain ROTC detachments and ensure that military recruiters have access to college campuses and students.

Successful recruitment for our military relies heavily on the ability of these recruiters to have access to the students and the students to be able to have access to the recruiter easily.

This bill also requires an annual verification of colleges and universities who already support ROTC that they will continue to do so in the upcoming academic year.

The Department of Defense seeks nothing more than the opportunity to compete for students on an equal footing with other prospective employers. At no time since World War II has our Nation's freedom and security relied more upon our military than now as we engage in the global war on terrorism.

Our Nation's all-volunteer armed services have been called upon to serve, and they are performing their mission with the highest standards. The military's ability to perform at this standard can only be maintained with effective and uninhibited recruitment programs.

As many of my colleagues know, the Armed Forces face a constant challenge in recruiting top-quality personnel, and I believe that ROTC programs are ideally suited to meet those needs. To that end, I urge my colleagues to support the rule and the underlying bill.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I would like to thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK) for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, we are considering this bill, surprise, surprise, under a closed rule. Once again, the Republican majority has decided that thoughtful debate and the ability for Members to

offer amendments is too much of a bother.

We learned that the underlying bill, H.R. 3966, was going to be on the floor at the end of last week when Members left Washington to return to their districts. Most Members did not arrive back in Washington until yesterday afternoon, which is exactly the time the Committee on Rules was meeting to report out this closed rule. So, once again, the majority has gone out of its way to stifle debate, prevent amendments, and rush legislation through the House before people know what hit them.

Mr. Speaker, one of these days, and I hope it is soon, this kind of heavy-handed use of power is going to backfire, especially when there is so much important work that is not being done.

At the end of the debate on this rule, I will urge a "no" vote on the previous question so that the House can consider the critical issue of unemployment insurance for the estimated 1.1 million jobless workers who will have exhausted their regular unemployment benefits without receiving additional aid. This is the largest number of exhautees in over 30 years, and this figure will only continue to grow when 80,000 more jobless workers exhaust their regular benefits and go without any additional aid each week.

As for the underlying bill, H.R. 3966, it is my view that it should be defeated. In 1995 and 1996, Congress passed legislation to deny Defense Department funding to colleges and universities that failed to give military recruiters access to their campus and students. Known as the Solomon Law, this legislation was passed to respond to efforts by several colleges and universities to protest the discriminatory policies of the Pentagon against gay men and women. Over time, the law was expanded to prohibit funding a university might receive from nearly every Federal agency.

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H.R. 3966 would round out that list by expanding it to include the CIA and the National Nuclear Security Administration at the Department of Energy. The bill would also restate the Department of Transportation which was inadvertently deleted 2 years ago.

Now I am grateful that this law does not apply to student financial aid, but, unfortunately, it does apply to all other grants, including research grants.

Last November, a U.S. District Court in New Jersey upheld the constitutionality of the Solomon Law, but the court also determined that the Solomon Law does not give the Pentagon any basis for asserting, as it has in the regulations on implementing the Solomon Law, that universities and colleges must give military recruiters the same degree of access to campuses and students provided to other employers.

Ironically, Mr. Speaker, the Solomon Law is not about equal access at all