

provided them, too, with an education and a home loan and a small business loan.

Other steps that we can take. We have a discharge petition number 8 sitting beside me that would help widows of veterans to achieve some measure of dignity in their old age. Those widows of servicemen and servicewomen who paid years into the Survivors Benefit Program will only get 35 percent of the retirement pension when they reach age 62. This is not sufficient for people to live on. This is not a sufficient thank-you for those who have been part of a family that have contributed to our Armed Forces and to our Nation's security.

So let us think as we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the GI Bill of Rights and celebrate that wonderful act, let us rededicate ourselves to the task that we have today. Let us honor past veterans by truly honoring present and future veterans in the best way possible by living up to the promises made by a grateful Nation.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RODRIGUEZ).

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend and the chairman, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), and my colleague on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, the gentleman from Maine (Mr. MICHAUD), for his great leadership as the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Benefits.

Mr. Speaker, 60 years ago this June, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed into law one of the most extensive veterans packages to date: the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, commonly known as the GI Bill of Rights.

While our troops were fighting in World War II, the Department of Labor estimated that after the war 15 million men and women who had been serving in the Armed Services would be unemployed. To reduce the possibility of postwar depression, a series of programs for educating and training American troops were designed and recommended to Congress by the American Legion.

Although some felt that the GI bill was too expensive and would lower standards in education, the Congress quickly passed the measure. Now the GI Bill of Rights is credited with contributing to the strong recovery of the United States post-World War II economy, and is recognized as one of the most successful domestic programs in the United States.

The GI bill put higher education within the reach of millions of World War II veterans. Starved for students during World War II, college campuses were suddenly overcrowded. The percentage of college-aged men and women grew. Students who had previously been told they were not college material were able to rise to the aca-

demic challenge. And most important, the GI bill accelerated the number of college-educated Americans.

In the last 60 years, more than 21 million veterans have been able to take advantage of the benefit included in the GI Bill of Rights. Another important provision of the GI bill was the billions of dollars provided to veterans to purchase homes and to start small businesses. These loans allowed the majority of Americans to transform from renters to homeowners, and the backbone of our economy, America's small businesses, prospered.

The GI Bill of Rights has been amended several times through the years, but the goal has remained the same, providing our veterans with a variety of benefits. And for this we thank those who allowed and who had the vision to pass forth this particular piece of legislation. And we thank our veterans for their service.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and, in closing, I do want to thank the good gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the chair of the committee, as well as the ranking member, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS), and the chair of the Subcommittee on Benefits, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. BROWN), for all the hard work that they do dealing with veterans' issues, as well as staff on both sides of the aisle. They work very well together. I do want to thank staff on both sides of the aisle for their hard work in making sure we do what is right for the veterans here in this country.

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, if I could finally thank the gentleman from Maine (Mr. MICHAUD) for his sponsorship of this resolution. It is very timely and extremely appropriate. I thank him for his work on the subcommittee and, of course, thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS), our ranking member, for all of his cooperation. We do things in partnership, and it is greatly appreciated, and I think the veterans benefit from that kind of bipartisanship.

The gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SIMMONS) made the point, and I think it was very well taken, about the great role the American Legion played in drafting this legislation. At the time, there was talk of maybe giving a \$500 bonus to the returning GIs. Then out of the blue, pretty much, Harry Colmery, who was the American Legion National Commander in 1936, a World War I veteran, crafted, as the subcommittee chairman pointed out, on Mayflower stationery this fine concept and practically wrote the GI bill at the Mayflower Hotel. It was quickly grasped by Members of Congress and the President as an extraordinarily good idea, and it really did create the modern-day middle class.

One of the things I do when I wear my international affairs hat, as chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, is to strongly encourage the Eastern European countries, the Russians and others, that if you want a stable middle class, this landmark legislation crafted by the American Legion, and certainly pushed through to completion by the Congress at the end of the world war, is the way to go. It is historic and truly landmark legislation that has profound positive implications and consequences.

I think recognizing it the way we are today is very proper and fitting, and again I want to thank the gentleman from Maine (Mr. MICHAUD) for that.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HAYES). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 91.

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. MICHAUD. 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.

RECOGNIZING THE VETERANS WHO SERVED DURING WORLD WAR II, THE AMERICANS WHO SUPPORTED THE WAR, AND CELEBRATING THE COMPLETION OF THE NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 409), recognizing with humble gratitude the more than 16,000,000 veterans who served in the United States Armed Forces during World War II and the Americans who supported the war effort on the home front and celebrating the completion of the National World War II Memorial on the National Mall in the District of Columbia.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 409

Whereas the National World War II Memorial on the National Mall in the District of Columbia will be the first national memorial to both recognize the courage, bravery, and unselfish dedication of the members of the United States Armed Forces who served in World War II and those who served on the home front and acknowledge the commitment and achievement of the entire American people in that conflict;

Whereas World War II veteran Roger Durbin of Berkey, Ohio, first proposed the construction of a National World War II memorial, and Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur of

Ohio introduced legislation to establish the memorial in the District of Columbia to honor members of the Armed Forces who served in World War II and to commemorate the participation of the United States in that war;

Whereas, in Public Law 103-32 (107 Stat. 90; 40 U.S.C. 8903 note), approved May 25, 1993, Congress authorized the American Battle Monuments Commission, an independent Federal agency, to design and construct the memorial;

Whereas the location selected as the site for the memorial, the Rainbow Pool site on the National Mall at the east end of the Reflecting Pool between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument, was dedicated on November 11, 1995;

Whereas, in an open competition, the American Battle Monuments Commission selected Friedrich St. Florian as the design architect for the memorial, and his final architectural design was approved by the Commission of Fine Arts, the National Capital Planning Commission, and the Secretary of Interior;

Whereas the late Representative Bob Stump of Arizona, who served as Chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives, sponsored several measures to expedite the funding and construction of the memorial, which were enacted as sections 601, 602, and 603 of Public Law 106-117 and Public Law 107-11;

Whereas after eight years of planning, six years of public deliberation, and four years of fund raising, construction began on the memorial in September 2001;

Whereas the memorial would not have been possible without the efforts and dedication of National Chairman Senator Robert J. Dole and National Co-Chairman Frederick W. Smith, who were instrumental in raising over \$194,000,000 for the construction of the memorial;

Whereas these generous contributions came from hundreds of thousands of individual Americans, as well as corporations, foundations, veterans groups, fraternal and professional organizations, States, communities, and schools;

Whereas actor Tom Hanks, the Advertising Council, and the History Channel played a key role in increasing public awareness of the heroic achievements of American World War II veterans and the war effort and in raising support for the memorial;

Whereas President George W. Bush will formally dedicate the memorial on May 29, 2004;

Whereas the memorial will be a monument to the selfless sacrifice and undaunted courage of the members of the United States Armed Forces who served in World War II and a place of remembrance to honor the more than 400,000 American servicemen and servicewomen who died in that conflict defending the United States; and

Whereas the memorial will be a source of inspiration for current and future generations of Americans, giving visitors to the memorial a new appreciation for the accomplishments of America's World War II generation, which united in the quest to free the world from tyranny: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress recognizes with humble gratitude the more than 16,000,000 veterans who served in the United States Armed Forces during World War II and the Americans who supported the war effort on the home front and celebrates the completion of the National World War II Memorial on the National Mall in the District of Columbia.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the prime sponsor of the resolution.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman very much for yielding me this time and for his leadership not only on this issue today, the previous one, but all the many things he does on behalf of our country's veterans. I am delighted to join him as a member of his committee here today on a resolution that I introduced, H. Con. Res. 409, which recognizes the men and women who served during World War II, those who died defending our freedom, and the millions of Americans who supported the effort on the home front.

This resolution also celebrates the completion of the National World War II Memorial here in our Nation's Capital, on the Mall between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial, which will be dedicated on May 29. Veterans who served in World War II and their families have made a tremendous sacrifice for this country, and I am proud to be involved in honoring those men and women with this memorial.

I am also proud to be from a State that has been home to many prominent members of our military, including the gentleman just described in the previous bill, Mr. Colmery, who was a Kansan, and who wrote out the GI Bill of Rights on a napkin here in Washington, D.C. But also two that come to mind today, General Dwight D. Eisenhower, from Abilene, Kansas, and Senator Robert J. Dole of Russell, Kansas.

General Eisenhower rose quickly through the ranks of the military, and during World War II he achieved the rank of a five-star general. He served as the Commander of Allied Forces in our landing in North Africa in November of 1942, and on D-Day he served as Supreme Allied Commander of our troops that began the battle for Europe. General Eisenhower's dedication and sacrifice made a significant difference and brought about the freedoms that we enjoy today as Americans.

A soldier from Russell, Kansas, Second Lieutenant Bob Dole, also fought for freedom and served under General Eisenhower's command. Second Lieutenant Dole served in World War II in the Allied liberation of Northern Italy and was twice wounded and decorated for heroic achievements.

Both General Eisenhower and Senator DOLE achieved greatness on the battlefield and in public service. Senator DOLE is recognized in this resolution for his contribution in making the National World War II Memorial possible. Through his fundraising efforts as the national chairman, Senator

DOLE played a crucial role in raising more than \$195 million in private money pledges to construct this memorial.

All in all, Kansas is proud to be home of approximately 40,000 World War II veterans, and I am honored to be here today to pay tribute to them and to recognize the contribution they made for me and my family and for all those Americans who fought for our great country.

□ 1730

I am honored to be serving in Congress with a number of World War II veterans, my colleagues, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLENGER), the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL), the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA), a group of men who fought the battles of World War II who now serve with distinction in the United States Congress. I would also like to acknowledge the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), who with her foresight and commitment over many years brought about the legislation that establishes this memorial honoring our World War II veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I put my tennis shoes on today and walked to the World War II Memorial this afternoon. It is a tremendous tribute to our Nation's veterans. If it has the impact it had upon me this afternoon, it will be a fitting memorial to those who served our country so well.

In fact, my father, another Kansan, an 89-year-old former staff sergeant from World War II, received a call from his son today, something I have never said before to my dad, Dad, I love you, I am proud of you, I thank you for your service to our country, you are to be honored as a World War II veteran at this memorial, and it means a lot to me and my family to know you and others, all who served like you, have made a difference so important to all the rest of us.

So I am proud to sponsor H. Con. Res. 409, and I thank the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Resources for their support of this resolution, and I ask my colleagues and all fellow Americans to join me in recognizing the contributions and sacrifices of our Nation's veterans, the contributions they have made to protect this Nation and defend our way of life, and acknowledge all those who made the World War II memorial possible.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 409. This important resolution recognizes the service and sacrifice of our World War II veterans, the domestic contributions of Americans in support of the allied victory, and celebrates the completion of the National World War II Memorial located on the National Mall here in Washington, D.C.

I thank the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) for his work on this resolution, as well as all of my colleagues who assisted in its drafting. I especially thank the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for all of her work and perseverance to ensure the establishment of the National World War II Memorial and for her hard work on behalf of the many veterans in the great State of Ohio.

Most importantly, I thank and express my gratitude to all of the World War II veterans. Without their efforts and sacrifice, this world would be a quite different place. This resolution is indeed important and appropriate as we prepare to dedicated the National World War II Memorial. Not only does it recognize the heroic veterans of World War II, but it also commends the individual and collective contributions that American citizens have made on the homefront in support of the Nation's war effort. This memorial that we will soon dedicate and celebrate will stand before us as a reminder of the great sacrifices and the great triumphs of the Greatest Generation.

I am proud and humble to represent the 17th Congressional District of the State of Ohio where many veterans of World War II reside. This resolution is for them and all of those who have fought to protect this great country, and I thank them.

Mr. Speaker, I support this measure, and I urge all Members to do the same.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I first thank the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) for sponsoring this important resolution and for his touching remarks and great work on behalf of the Nation's veterans. It is appreciated by this chairman and many others.

I also want to say I rise in strong support of this resolution which celebrates the completion of the National World War II Memorial on the National Mall here in Washington. More than 16 million Americans served in the armed forces, including my own father who saw horrific action in New Guinea, and he ended up in the Philippines at the end of the war. Very, very rarely would he even talk about it unless my brothers and I really prodded him for details. He finally wrote a lot of it out, which makes for some very disturbing but important reading for any son or daughter who had a father who fought in World War II.

This great memorial will crown that achievement because certainly all of our fathers and mothers who participated in the war effort, whether here at home or abroad or in any way who were a part of that great effort, know that without them we would have been, unfortunately, perhaps saluting the Nazi salute or been part of Imperial Japan; and we know the terrible things that they did during World War II.

This is a fitting tribute I think to the peacemakers, the men and women who

answered the call and did so so gallantly. More than 400,000 of our GIs lost their lives in World War II. As I said, virtually every American rose to the challenge, and that is why they are the Greatest Generation, as said Tom Brokaw.

This is the first national memorial built to honor all of the dedicated Americans who served during World War II. It stands as a monument to the spirit, sacrifice, and commitment of the American people to the defense of the Nation and really the defense of the world, because without intervention of the United States and the great leadership of Presidents Roosevelt and then Truman, the world would have been lost to tyranny.

Someone said freedom is not free, and nothing could have been more appropriately said by that generation in standing up against tyranny.

This resolution recognizes the leadership of Bob Stump, who as chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services, authored legislation to expedite the funding and construction of the memorial. Bob's family must certainly be proud of his role in expediting this memorial and his own valiant service during World War II.

It also recognizes the good work of the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) in helping to bring this memorial about. In 1993, we all know Congress passed legislation that authorized the American Battle Monuments Commission, an independent Federal agency, to design and to construct a memorial. After years of planning, public deliberation and fundraising, construction began in September of 2001. Funded primarily with extensive private contributions, the memorial is located within tennis-shoe distance, according to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), at the east end of the Reflecting Pool between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument. This prominent location is commensurate with the historical importance and lasting significance of World War II to America and to the world.

On May 29, nearly 59 years after the end of World War II, President Bush will dedicate this fitting memorial, and this ceremony may well be the last large gathering of World War II veterans, and it will be very well attended, I am sure.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) for sponsoring this timely resolution.

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

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) for his leadership and for the gentleman's work on the previous resolution on Vietnam human rights today, and also those people who fought in the past for our freedoms that we have today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RODRIGUEZ).

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) for yielding me this time on this important resolution, and I thank the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) for deciding to do this, because it is extremely important.

Mr. Speaker, for over 50 years America's Greatest Generation has been waiting for a memorial to call their own. Although we have many great monuments in our Nation's capital, we lacked a tribute to one of our country's most defining moments. It is with great honor that I stand before this body today to pay tribute to the more than 60 million veterans who served in the United States Armed Forces during World War II. Among them was my father-in-law, Daniel Pena, and many more, relatives and uncles and cousins. I also pay tribute to those Americans who supported the war effort in the home front.

After 8 years of planning, 6 years of public discussion, 4 years of fund-raising and 3 years of construction, we can finally say America's Greatest Generation has won their final battle to have a national monument commemorating their many sacrifices.

It is estimated that our country suffers the loss of more than 1,000 World War II veterans each day. Many of these veterans were new soldiers with very little fighting experience. Many of them were teenagers. All of them were heroes. During this time, Americans were willing to set aside their differences in order to defeat tyranny. The building of this national monument is another way for us to show America's Greatest Generation that their sacrifice was not done in vain.

During Memorial Day weekend, the largest gathering of World War II veterans since 1954 is expected to visit our Nation's capital for the official dedication of the World War II Memorial. Similarly, veterans throughout the country will gather at their local VFWs and American Legion halls to pay respect to the local World War II veterans. As these gatherings occur, it is my hope that Congress continues to support all veterans by providing them with adequate health care and services. It is the least we can do for the Greatest Generation before us.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS), and a personal friend of mine.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, although no resolution or parade will ever be able to express our appreciation enough to our World War II veterans, this resolution is indeed an honorable effort.

Mr. Speaker, the World War II era was a decisive time for our Nation and the world. Sixteen million American

men and women served in uniform, and many more came together at home to support the war effort. The men and women of the Greatest Generation, along with our allies around the world, stood up and turned back fascist tyranny and extremism in Japan.

The World War II memorial soon to be dedicated on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. will be the culmination of many efforts. Its dedication will provide us an opportunity to revisit the history and sacrifices that our World War II veterans made, the civilian home-front efforts, celebrate the American spirit and high ideals. I support this resolution and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL).

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H. Con. Res. 409, a resolution in recognition of the veterans of World War II and celebrate the completion of the National World War II Memorial.

As one of the 12 Members of Congress who is a veteran of World War II, I am proud and pleased that our Nation will be dedicating this World War II memorial on May 29. The memorial is a beautiful and solemn tribute to the 16 million men and women who served, the 400,000 Americans who died, and the millions who supported the war effort at home.

Ours has been called the Greatest Generation, but in reality our parents were the great ones because they survived two wars and a depression, and understood the importance of work and sacrifice. They instilled in the World War II generation a sense of duty that mobilized our country into action and ultimate victory.

While we are engaged in wars overseas, it is fitting I think to pause and remember the selfless sacrifice and the courage of the members of the United States armed services. Like the men and women currently serving, soldiers' valiant efforts in World War II helped secure the freedoms we enjoy today and secured America's leadership throughout the world.

This will be a monument not only for the World War II generation, but also for our children and our grandchildren. I am hopeful that Americans will visit this site for years to come and take time to honor those throughout the ages who answered the call to duty. They did not seek war, but rather yearned for peace and for liberty.

□ 1745

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) who initiated this whole process.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio very much for yielding time and am pleased to join with him, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and all the other Members of this body who have spon-

sored this wonderful resolution to officially now recognize the contributions of the American people to the victory of liberty over tyranny in World War II.

Of course, there will be major Memorial Day celebrations in our country on May 29, indeed the entire week prior, and during that weekend to especially commemorate this Memorial's dedication. I come to the floor this evening to pay honor and tribute to the 16 million Americans who literally bequeathed freedom to us, as well as to all those who served on the home front. If you go down to the memorial today, which has taken 17 years to complete, it is really very poignant to talk to family members who are strolling through the plaza. I met a family last week, a son pushing his father, a World War II veteran, in a wheelchair. All the memories and all of the history come rushing at us. This idea began in 1987 in a place called Jerusalem Township, in the Trustees hall, at the Annual Lucas Township Trustees' fish fry when a wonderful veteran by the name of Roger Durbin approached me. Actually, he shouted at me across the room and said, "Congresswoman Kaptur, Why is there no World War II memorial in Washington, D.C. where I can bring my grandchildren so they understand the reasons that we fought and how the world was changed? From that moment until May 29, now nearly two decades later, every effort was put forward to properly represent the enormous contribution of the 20th century in bequeathing freedom to the next generation.

This memorial will sit between the Washington Monument, representing the founding of our Republic in the 18th century, and the Lincoln Memorial, representing the preservation of the Union in the 19th. This sits between them is a beautiful, reflective, peaceful expression, including waterfalls and 4,000 stars, each representing 100 of those who lost their lives for us and for the cause of freedom. As the tourists have begun coming through, now they tell me at the rate of 5,000 per day, it will be one of the most visited memorials. It is also the most important memorial in our nation's Capital representing the 20th century's most profound achievement. It is located where it belongs, right there on our Mall of Democracy.

And so we prepare for these great patriotic celebrations. Our deepest regret as we celebrate this moment is that so many of those who fought and those who served on the homefront will not be there with us. I also know that every single veteran or their family members who will come here on May 29 will first think not of themselves but of their comrades and their family members and their friends who are not here, and who will not be able to be here.

I just want the American people to know that as we pass this resolution today, I want to acknowledge the pres-

ence in our Chamber today of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), both involved in the Committee on Veterans' Affairs from the very beginning of our service here. I want to acknowledge Congressman Sonny Montgomery and Congressman Bob Stump. Bob has passed. Sonny I know will be with us. Both were key chairs of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs when we passed the two key parts of legislation that made this memorial possible. It took 10 Congresses to get this job done, two decades to get this job done right. Other members who helped in their capacities as committee chairs were Bill Clay of Missouri who is retired, Henry Gonzalez of Texas who has passed, and Esteban Torres of California, who assisted us on the bill related to the coinage, that is, the minting of three coins that raised the initial \$7 million to help us begin the architectural and engineering studies. Speaker Jim Wright and Congressman Jack Brooks, both war veterans themselves when we first introduced this legislation back during the 1980s. And in the other body Senators John Glenn, now retired, and Senator Strom Thurmond who has passed, and of course Senators Bob Dole and JOHN WARNER.

All of these individuals were a part of those early years. Let me mention also Congressman John Grotberg of Illinois, who preceded the current Speaker in this institution, and was so important in helping us bridge the partisan line here to expedite these bills' passage. To his wife and to his family, I wish to assure that he is mentioned respectfully in our proceedings here today.

I also wanted to mention to all veterans who may be listening, and to their families, that as part of this memorial, in fact right adjacent to it, there is going to be in perpetuity, run by our Department of Interior, a veterans' legacy section where you can place the name of your loved one, whether they served in battle or here on the home front. So families can take that information and help record for history of what their loved one did doing World War II. When you enter the site, there is a facility being operated by the Department of Interior with three computer terminals now where families of our country can tell the whole story of America's participation.

This has taken a long time. But we look forward to the moment on May 29 when this entire Nation will say "Our thank you to the most unselfish generation in American history . . . a grateful Nation remembers."

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS).

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the gentlewoman from Ohio for her work on this legislation. It was 20 years ago. We were both freshmen. She has stuck with this issue and pounded away. I am so proud of her

and what she represents. It really tells me what kind of job she is doing as a Congresswoman. I thank the gentleman. Just so all the veterans in our country know that she made it happen more than anybody else.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. EVANS. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, let me just say that the gentleman from Illinois is a combat veteran. I am not. I have many in my family who have been, including those who served in World War II. I have the highest respect for the gentleman from Illinois. If anyone represents perseverance and honesty and integrity in this institution, it is he. It is my privilege to serve with him.

Mr. EVANS. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute. I would like to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO) chairman of the Committee on Resources, which also has jurisdiction, for allowing this resolution to be considered on the floor in such a timely fashion.

I include the following letter from the Committee on Resources as part of the RECORD.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, May 5, 2004.

Hon. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH,
Chairman, Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Cannon House Office Building, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I understand that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs wishes to schedule for rapid Floor consideration H. Con. Res. 409, recognizing with humble gratitude the more than 16,000,000 veterans who served in the United States Armed Forces during World War II and the Americans who supported the war effort on the home front and celebrating the completion of the National World War II Memorial on the National Mall in the District of Columbia. This bill was referred primarily to your committee and additionally to the Committee on Resources.

I have reviewed the legislation and have no objection to its consideration. In fact, I have asked the author to add me as a cosponsor before the bill is voted on by the House of Representatives. Therefore, I have no objection to the Committee on Resources being discharged from further consideration of the bill. Of course, this action should not be construed as waiving the Committee on Resources' jurisdiction over the bill or as precedent for other bills. In addition, if a conference on H. Con. Res. 409 should become necessary, I ask that you support my request to have the Committee on Resources be represented on the conference. Finally, because no bill report will be prepared on the legislation, I ask that you include this letter and any reply in the Congressional Record during consideration of H. Con. Res. 409.

I congratulate you and Mr. Moran for producing a timely and thoughtful bill and I look forward to working with you again on other matters of mutual interest.

Sincerely,

RICHARD W. POMBO,
Chairman.

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

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds just to say that as a Member of this body who arrived here at 29 years old, a member of the generation or two to follow the greatest generation, I would just like to thank all of the veterans who gave us this great system that we have, where young men and young women from all over this country can run for office and get voted on by their community to come down here and represent their views. We have a tremendous system here that was achieved by great sacrifice from those who came before us. Again, I thank everyone who has brought forth this particular resolution and the World War II Memorial that we will be celebrating here in the next few weeks.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 409, which recognizes the 16 million Americans who served in the Armed Forces during World War II and the millions more who supported them at home. As the dedication of the National World War II Memorial and the 60th anniversary of D-Day approach, our country will rightfully be thinking of those Americans who bravely gave or risked their lives to a great cause.

I remain in awe of this generation, of men who accepted the call to travel around the world to spend years fighting in the Asian and Pacific theaters, and of women who kept the country running by assuming jobs in factories, growing victory gardens, and serving overseas in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps and other capacities.

It has been my good fortune to spend some time with veterans and their families in my home district of western Wisconsin, and I always enjoy hearing their stories of wartime. In fact, it was the experience of listening to my uncle, a World War II veteran, that inspired me to introduce legislation creating the Veterans Oral History Project. Almost 4 years after becoming public law, the Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress has collected 16,000 stories and is working at a feverish pace to collect more everyday. This living legacy is testament to the millions of Americans who sacrificed so much during World War II.

Now, almost 60 years after the end of the war, a monument has at last been built in our Nation's Capital that pays tribute to the generation that fought and won World War II. The monument, set in the middle of the National Mall between the Lincoln Memorial and Washington Monument, will remind all visitors to the city that World War II was the defining event of the 20th century and the seminal point for what is often and aptly called "the Greatest Generation."

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, H. Con. Res. 409 resolves that Congress recognizes with humble gratitude the more than 16 million veterans who served in the United States Armed Forces during World War II and the Americans who supported the war effort on the home front and celebrates the completion of the National World War II Memorial on the National Mall in the District of Columbia.

The National World War II Memorial on the National Mall in the District of Columbia will be the first national memorial to both recognize the courage, bravery, and unselfish dedication of the members of the United States Armed

Forces who served in World War II and those who served on the home front and acknowledge the commitment and achievement of the entire American people in that conflict. Many of my family and friends that served in World War II suggested to me some kind of a National World War II memorial. I join with my friend Congresswoman MARCY KAPTUR of Ohio who introduced legislation to establish the memorial in the District of Columbia to honor members of the Armed Forces who served in World War II and to commemorate the participation of the United States in that war.

Congress authorized the American Battle Monuments Commission to design and construct the memorial. The location selected as the site for the memorial, the Rainbow Pool site on the National Mall at the east end of the Reflecting Pool between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument, was dedicated on November 11, 1995. In an open competition, the American Battle Monuments Commission selected Friedrich St. Florian as the design architect for the memorial, and his final architectural design was approved by the Commission of Fine Arts, the National Capital Planning Commission, and the Secretary of the Interior.

The late Representative Bob Stump of Arizona, who served as Chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives, sponsored several measures to expedite the funding and construction of the memorial, which were enacted. After 8 years of planning, 6 years of public deliberation, and 4 years of fund raising, construction began on the memorial in September 2001.

The memorial would not have been possible without the efforts and dedication of National Chairman Senator Robert J. Dole and National Co-Chairman Frederick W. Smith, who were instrumental in raising over \$194,000,000 for the construction of the memorial. These generous contributions came from hundreds of thousands of individual Americans, as well as corporations, foundations, veterans groups, fraternal and professional organizations, States, communities, and schools. Actor Tom Hanks, the Advertising Council, and the History Channel played a key role in increasing public awareness of the heroic achievements of American World War II veterans and the war effort and in raising support for the memorial. President George W. Bush will formally dedicate the memorial on May 29, 2004.

The memorial will be a monument to the selfless sacrifice and undaunted courage of the members of the United States Armed Forces who served in World War II as well as a tribute to their families and most Americans that joined in the war effort. It is a place of remembrance to honor the more than 400,000 American servicemen and servicewomen who died in that conflict defending the United States. The memorial will be a source of inspiration for current and future generations of Americans, giving visitors to the memorial a new appreciation for the accomplishments of America's World War II generation, which united in the quest to free the world from tyranny.

It is with great respect that I strongly support this resolution.

SMITH ANNOUNCES VETERANS HISTORY
PROJECT

WASHINGTON, DC.—Congressman Nick Smith announced a special initiative today,

encouraging citizens to participate in the Veterans History Project, which is an effort by Congress and the Library of Congress to collect audio- and video-taped interviews of veterans, or civilians who served in support of the war effort, along with other first-hand materials such as photographs, diaries, and letters.

"As we approach Memorial Day, I would like to invite all of my constituents to get involved in the Veterans History Project," Smith said. "I encourage families, friends, historians, teachers, senior care workers, and students to participate and volunteer to interview a veteran."

On Monday, Congressman Smith sat down with James Cox, a WWII veteran, to conduct an interview for the Veterans History Project. Cox served with the famed 30th Infantry Division. The 30th opened the way for General Patton's 3rd Army to drive into Brittany and on to Brest, and was kept in the forefront all the way into Belgium, Holland and Germany. The interview is being aired on cable public service channels. Congressman Smith will be interviewing someone from each county in the 7th District to raise awareness about the Veterans History Project.

"The Veterans History Project is important, not only to preserve the experiences and memories of our nation's veterans, but also to bring families and communities together. Grandchildren should interview their grandparents, students should interview community members, and veterans should interview each other."

The Veterans History Project was enacted in October of 2000. Oral histories and documents collected through this project will be part of the national Veterans History Project Collection at the Library of Congress.

Interview kits are available at Congressman Smith's office in Battle Creek and Jackson. People who have questions about the Veterans History Project should contact the Congressman's office or go to the home page of Congressman Smith's Web site at: www.house.gov/nicksmith, which has a link to the Veterans History Project in the "Quick Links" section. Completed interviews can then be sent to Congressman Smith's office which will then be submitted to the Library of Congress.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMMONS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 409.

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. RYAN of Ohio. 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.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 409.

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

There was no objection.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MURPHY) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on three motions to suspend the rules previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 4299, by the yeas and nays;

House Resolution 622, by the yeas and nays; and

House Resolution 577, by the yeas and nays.

The remaining votes will be taken later in the week.

The first and third electronic votes will be conducted as 15-minute votes. The second vote in this series will be a 5-minute vote.

DR. MIGUEL A. NEVAREZ POST OFFICE BUILDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 4299.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan. (Mrs. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4299, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 405, nays 0, not voting 28, as follows:

[Roll No. 153]

YEAS—405

Abercrombie	Barton (TX)	Blunt	Brown-Waite,	Green (TX)	McKeon
Ackerman	Bass	Boehlert	Ginny	Greenwood	Meehan
Aderholt	Beauprez	Boehner	Burgess	Grijalva	Meek (FL)
Akin	Becerra	Bonilla	Burns	Gutierrez	Meeks (NY)
Alexander	Bell	Bonner	Burr	Gutknecht	Menendez
Allen	Bereuter	Bono	Burton (IN)	Hall	Mica
Andrews	Berkley	Boozman	Calvert	Harman	Michaud
Baca	Berman	Boswell	Camp	Harris	Millender-
Bachus	Berry	Boucher	Cannon	Hart	McDonald
Baird	Biggart	Boyd	Cantor	Hastings (FL)	Miller (FL)
Baker	Billakis	Bradley (NH)	Capito	Hastings (WA)	Miller (MI)
Baldwin	Bishop (GA)	Brady (PA)	Capps	Hayes	Miller (NC)
Ballance	Bishop (NY)	Brady (TX)	Capuano	Hayworth	Miller, Gary
Ballenger	Bishop (UT)	Brown (OH)	Cardin	Hefley	Miller, George
Barrett (SC)	Blackburn	Brown (SC)	Cardoza	Hensarling	Moore
Bartlett (MD)	Blumenauer		Carson (IN)	Herger	Moran (KS)
			Carson (OK)	Hill	Moran (VA)
			Case	Hinchey	Murphy
			Castle	Hinojosa	Musgrave
			Chabot	Hobson	Myrick
			Chandler	Hoekstra	Nadler
			Chocoma	Holden	Napolitano
			Clay	Holt	Neal (MA)
			Clyburn	Honda	Nethercutt
			Coble	Hookey (OR)	Neugebauer
			Cole	Hostettler	Ney
			Collins	Houghton	Northup
			Conyers	Hoyer	Norwood
			Cooper	Hulshof	Nunes
			Costello	Hunter	Nussle
			Cox	Hyde	Oberstar
			Cramer	Inslee	Obey
			Crane	Israel	Oliver
			Crenshaw	Issa	Ortiz
			Crowley	Istook	Osborne
			Cubin	Jackson (IL)	Ose
			Culberson	Jackson-Lee	Otter
			Cummings	(TX)	Owens
			Cunningham	Jefferson	Oxley
			Davis (AL)	Jenkins	Pallone
			Davis (CA)	Johnson (CT)	Pascarell
			Davis (FL)	Johnson (IL)	Pastor
			Davis (IL)	Johnson, E. B.	Paul
			Davis (TN)	Johnson, Sam	Payne
			Davis, Jo Ann	Jones (NC)	Pearce
			Davis, Tom	Jones (OH)	Pelosi
			Deal (GA)	Kanjorski	Pence
			DeFazio	Kaptur	Peterson (MN)
			DeGette	Keller	Peterson (PA)
			Delahunt	Kelly	Petri
			DeLauro	Kennedy (MN)	Pickering
			DeLay	Kennedy (RI)	Pitts
			Deutsch	Kildee	Platts
			Diaz-Balart, L.	Kilpatrick	Pombo
			Diaz-Balart, M.	Kind	Pomeroy
			Dicks	King (IA)	Porter
			Doggett	King (NY)	Portman
			Dooley (CA)	Kirk	Price (NC)
			Doolittle	Kleczka	Pryce (OH)
			Doyle	Kline	Putnam
			Dreier	Knollenberg	Quinn
			Duncan	Kolbe	Radanovich
			Dunn	LaHood	Rahall
			Ehlers	Lampson	Rahmstad
			Emanuel	Langevin	Rangel
			Emerson	Lantos	Regula
			Engel	Larsen (WA)	Rehberg
			English	Larson (CT)	Renzi
			Eshoo	Latham	Reynolds
			Etheridge	LaTourrette	Rodriguez
			Evans	Leach	Rogers (AL)
			Everett	Lee	Rogers (KY)
			Farr	Levin	Rogers (MI)
			Fattah	Lewis (CA)	Ros-Lehtinen
			Feeney	Lewis (GA)	Ross
			Ferguson	Lewis (KY)	Rothman
			Filner	Linder	Roybal-Allard
			Flake	LoBiondo	Royce
			Foley	Lofgren	Ruppersberger
			Forbes	Lowe	Rush
			Ford	Lucas (KY)	Ryan (OH)
			Fossella	Lucas (OK)	Ryan (WI)
			Frank (MA)	Lynch	Ryun (KS)
			Franks (AZ)	Majette	Sabo
			Frelinghuysen	Manzullo	Sánchez, Linda
			Frost	Markey	T.
			Gallegly	Marshall	Sanchez, Loretta
			Garrett (NJ)	Matheson	Sanders
			Gephardt	Matsui	Sandlin
			Gibbons	McCarthy (MO)	Saxton
			Gilchrest	McCarthy (NY)	Schakowsky
			Gillmor	McCollum	Schiff
			Gingrey	McCotter	Schrock
			Goode	McCrery	Scott (GA)
			Goodlatte	McDermott	Scott (VA)
			Gordon	McGovern	Sensenbrenner
			Goss	McHugh	Serrano
			Granger	McInnis	Sessions
			Graves	McIntyre	Shadegg