

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. FROST. 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, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on the motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on the postponed question will be taken later today.

HONORING PAST AND CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES AND ENCOURAGING AMERICANS TO WEAR RED POPPIES ON ME- MORIAL DAY

Mr. SCHROCK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 424) honoring past and current members of the Armed Forces of the United States and encouraging Americans to wear red poppies on Memorial Day.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 424

Whereas the red poppy was the first living plant that sprouted in the battlefields devastated by fighting during World War I;

Whereas red poppies grew abundantly in the trenches and craters of the war-torn battlefields in Northern France and Belgium;

Whereas during World War I, the bloom of red poppies each year and the coming of the warm weather brought hope to those still fighting in the trenches of France and Belgium;

Whereas in 1915, the red poppy inspired Canadian Colonel John McCrae to write the poem "In Flanders Fields" in remembrance of the thousands of soldiers who perished during the three battles of Ypres in Belgium;

Whereas in 1918, John McCrae's poem inspired Moina Belle Michael of Athens, Georgia, to write her own poem entitled "We Shall Keep the Faith", in which she promised to wear a red poppy to memorialize American soldiers killed in World War I, and later to raise millions of dollars to support and employ disabled American veterans of all wars;

Whereas on November 11, 1921, the first Poppy Day was held in the United Kingdom and was a national success;

Whereas the red poppy is a symbol of sacrifice throughout the world;

Whereas the red poppy has been worn in the United States for more than 80 years as a way to remember those individuals who

died fighting for freedom and democracy around the world and to raise money to help disabled veterans; and

Whereas in 2004, wearing a red poppy on Memorial Day is especially timely considering the sacrifices United States soldiers are making in Iraq and Afghanistan for freedom, democracy, and security: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress honors past and current members of the Armed Forces of the United States and their families by encouraging every American to wear a red poppy on Memorial Day as a sign of admiration and thanks to those individuals who died to preserve freedom and democracy in the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCHROCK) and the gentleman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCHROCK).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCHROCK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Con. Res. 424, the concurrent resolution currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SCHROCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SHADEGG).

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 424.

Mr. Speaker, many of those watching today's proceedings may notice that many of us here on the floor are wearing the red poppy. It is, in fact, a symbol of Memorial Day and an acknowledgment of the sacrifice made by armed services personnel in fighting for our freedom throughout the world.

Next weekend, our Nation will celebrate Memorial Day. All too often we forget the purposes of those celebrations, but Memorial Day is a very important day set aside to honor and acknowledge the sacrifice of all of those who have served our Nation and died in their service to our Nation. It is a day, as we will hear during this debate, with a long and important history.

It is a day which began as Decoration Day, following the deaths during the Civil War of so many soldiers, a day, as we will hear in this debate, civilians went to the fields to decorate the graves of soldiers who had died in battle and decorated the graves of all soldiers, both Confederate and Union.

Mr. Speaker, it is most fitting that this year, in this resolution, we would call upon the American people to make a special point of wearing a red poppy and of acknowledging the ultimate sacrifice made by our troops. Because this year, on Memorial Day, we will have troops in the field in both Iraq and Afghanistan, and throughout the world, who are serving our Nation and who

themselves have been joined by soldiers who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

This resolution acknowledges the importance of the red poppy, which has been adopted by the American Legion and by the Auxiliary of the American Legion as the official flower honoring the sacrifice of those who have died in our Nation's service.

□ 1245

It seems to me, as Members will hear in this debate, there was a time in our Nation when all Americans on Memorial Day wore a red poppy to acknowledge sacrifices made by our Armed Forces personnel. It has now become a worldwide tradition.

I commend the gentleman for offering the resolution, and I encourage my colleagues to join in this debate, and I thank them for wearing the red poppy today.

Some 535 red poppies were donated to Congress, and every Member of the House and Senate has a red poppy to wear today and on Memorial Day in recognition of this grand tradition and in recognition of the sacrifice paid by our soldiers, including those who have lost their lives in the recent battles in Afghanistan and Iraq, one of those soldiers being Pat Tillman from my State whose life was tragically lost within the last month.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this resolution.

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

I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 424, introduced by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SHADEGG). This timely resolution honors the men and women who serve in uniform and calls on all Americans to recognize the sacrifices of those who have given their lives to protect our freedom by wearing a red poppy on Memorial Day, May 30.

In 2 weeks, our Nation will observe Memorial Day. Sadly, the true meaning of Memorial Day seems to have faded over the years, and for many young Americans, Memorial Day is often seen as just another holiday or the beginning of summer. This is sad and unfortunate as Memorial Day is a time to remember and honor those who have died in service, defending our Nation.

The resolution before us honors those who have given their lives in service to their country and encourages Americans to wear a red poppy on Memorial Day.

A number of people have asked, "Why wear a red poppy?" The red poppy grew abundantly in the battlefields of World War I, and it was the inspiration for several poems at the time, including such notable poems as "Flanders Fields," written by John McCrae in May, 1915, and a poem by Moina Michael, entitled "We Shall Keep the Faith," written in November, 1918.

The first Poppy Day was held in England on November 11, 1921, and since that time, the red poppy has been a

symbol of sacrifice. For over 80 years, the red poppy has been worn to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country and to raise money to help our disabled veterans.

A poem attributed to Don Crawford entitled, "Why Wear a Poppy" captures the significance of this special flower, and I would like to read the poem for the RECORD.

WHY WEAR A POPPY

"Please wear a poppy," the lady said
And held one forth, but I shook my head.
Then I stopped and watched as she offered them there,
And her face was old and lined with care,
But beneath the scars the years had made
There remained a smile that refused to fade.
A boy came whistling down the street,
Bouncing along on care-free feet.
His smile was full of joy and fun,
"Lady," said he "May I have one?"
When she pinned it on he turned to say,
"Why do we wear a poppy, today?"
The lady smiled in her wistful way,
And answered "This is Remembrance Day,
And the poppy there is the symbol for
The gallant men and women who died in war,
And because they did, you and I are free,
That's why we wear a poppy, you see.
I had a boy about your size,
With golden hair and big blue eyes.
He loved to play and jump and shout,
Free as a bird he would race about.
As the years went by he learned and grew
And became a man—as you will too.
He was fine and strong with a boyish smile,
But he'd seemed with us such a little while
When war broke out and he went away.
I still remember his face that day.
When he smiled at me and said 'Good-bye,
I'll soon be back, Mom, so please don't cry.'
But the war went on and he had to stay,
All I could do was wait and pray.
His letters told of the awful fight,
(I can see it still in my dreams at night.)
With the tanks and guns and the cruel
barbed wire,
And the mines and bullets, the bombs and
fire.
Till at last, the war was won,
And that's why we wear a poppy, son."
The small boy turned as if to go,
Then said, "Thanks, lady, I'm glad to know.
That sure did sound like an awful fight.
But your son, did he come back all right?"
A tear rolled down each faded cheek,
She shook her head, but didn't speak.
I slunk away in a sort of shame,
And if you were me you'd have done the
same,
For our thanks in giving, is oft delayed,
Though our freedom was bought, and thou-
sands paid,
And so when we see a poppy worn,
Let us reflect on the burden borne
By those who gave their very all
And asked to answer their country's call,
That we at home in peace might live.
Then wear a poppy. Remember—and give!"

Mr. Speaker, this Memorial Day each hometown across America will pause to remember the heroes of this generation as well as those of the past. Let us honor and pay tribute to the over 900 American service members who have given their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan, along with all those who die in service to their Nation.

On Guam, we have lost three young men in Iraq: Specialist Christopher Wesley, Lieutenant Michael Vega, and Sergeant Eddie Chen. One officer, two enlisted men. Wesley, Vega and Chen,

these three, are a microcosm of the American people, one Western name, one Hispanic name, and one Asian name.

In these troubled times, it is worth reflecting on Memorial Day who we are as a Nation and what values we stand for. We are a Nation of immigrants whose parents and grandparents have come to these shores seeking individual liberty, prosperity and human dignity. The Nation we call our own is a Nation of compassion and justice. It is a Nation worth dying for. It is a Nation of opportunity and freedom.

We on Guam know what freedom is all about because we also know what occupation is. We celebrate Liberation Day on Guam every year as the day of deliverance of enemy occupation and the return of freedom after 32 months of enemy subjugation. We know what it means to thank Marines, soldiers, airmen and sailors for their sacrifices because it was not all that long ago that we were an occupied land.

Tomorrow, I will be accompanying former Congressman General Ben Blaz, the veterans of the 5th Field Service Depot of the United States Marine Corps to Arlington National Cemetery. We will lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier to express our deep appreciation to all those who serve and have served our Nation in uniform. We thank them, honor them, and will never forget them.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, first of all, let me thank the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SHADEGG) for introducing this resolution. I want to thank my very good friend of nearly 3 decades, the gentleman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO), for that wonderful poem. I know the sacrifices the folks on Guam made. I was privileged to serve in Guam during my Navy career, and I know what a great place that is and what a wonderful woman the gentlewoman is.

Mr. Speaker, as our Nation struggles to answer threats to our security in this global war on terror, it is appropriate that we both remember and seek inspiration from the sacrifices of the generations that have gone before in defending our freedoms, our way of life and the ideals on which our Nation is founded. Their sacrifices changed the world in which we live and made possible the freedoms we enjoy in today's world. Ours is a continuation of their struggle.

The red poppy is a symbol that even on the tortured soil of a war-torn battlefield, our soldiers can be reminded that despite the death and violence which surrounds them, the world for which they are fighting is vibrant and future beautiful. This remains an important symbol for every American, both in and out of uniform, who may feel overwhelmed by the death and violence of today's world.

It is important that we stop and consider the sacrifices of our men and women in uniform. Their service is an honorable one, and our Nation owes them a debt we can never fully repay. That our Nation takes a day to contemplate and remember their sacrifice is an appropriate tribute to their efforts.

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

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL), but first thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCHROCK) for his very kind words.

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, and we should wear poppies to honor the sacrifices of our troops, but we should express our support not only on our lapels, but in our budgets.

It is somewhat ironic to me that we would consider this bill, as important as it is, only a few moments after we had a rule on this floor on our defense budget, a rule that excluded an amendment that the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT) and I advanced that would pay for our troops' life insurance.

I have lost four constituents from my district in Afghanistan and Iraq: Raheen Tyson Heigher, Michael Esposito, Jacob Fletcher, and Nate Bruckenthal.

Raheen Tyson Heigher was 19 years old when he joined the Army. And when he was told that he needed life insurance, this young man, being a fearless young man, chose the least expensive life insurance policy because the premium was all that he could afford, and the policy was all that he believed he needed because he believed he would be coming back home.

He did not come back home alive; he was killed on July 24, 2003. His casualty officer called his mother and said, Your son's life insurance policy was \$10,000.

Mr. Speaker, \$10,000 is not adequate. And what is even worse is while Mr. Heigher was taking bullets in Iraq, Uncle Sam was taking 80 cents a month from his gross monthly pay of \$1,987, including hazard duty pay, for his life insurance.

Mr. Speaker, I know that we all agree, when we send troops into combat to protect our national security, they should not have to worry about their family's financial security in the event they do not return.

I know that all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle agree that we have an obligation to honor those who have made the eternal sacrifice every single day, that we must display our commitment and our reverence to them, display it; but also pay for what we owe them as well, not simply display, but pay to help their families.

That would be the true mark of how we honor our heroes, the men and women who have made such heroic sacrifices, with poppies, but also with dollars.

I, of course, will support and proudly vote for this bill, but I hope that my

colleagues in this Congress and that the President of the United States will understand that it is more than just poppies and it is more than just words, it is budgets that count ultimately.

Mr. SCHROCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) to refocus our attention on what this bill is really about.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, I can remember as a young boy, going to downtown Pontotoc, Mississippi, with my parents on Memorial Day to hand out poppies.

I thought Members might be interested in a little history lesson about the origin of Memorial Day which began as Decoration Day. The facts, as I have come to understand them, are that in 1866 a group of Columbus, Mississippi, women met to decide on a way to honor the Confederate war dead in the local Friendship Cemetery.

Once the ladies arrived at the cemetery, one of the women began placing flowers on the graves of Union soldiers, too, because they also had given their lives for their beliefs.

□ 1300

Other women followed suit and soon all of the graves, Confederate and Union, had flowers. This generous gesture was told and retold and finally made its way to the New York Tribune where the short article was seen by a young attorney named Francis Miles Finch. He was so moved by the generosity of the Southern ladies and their Decoration Day that he wrote the poem "The Blue and the Gray" and it was published in the Atlantic Monthly in September of 1867.

Mr. Speaker, other towns may claim Decoration Day or Memorial Day perhaps earlier than the one in Columbus, but Columbus, Mississippi, was the first to honor former enemies. Here is what the Library of Congress said:

"Columbus, Mississippi, thus can rightly claim to be not only one day ahead of Columbus, Georgia, in its observance of Memorial Day but more generous in its distribution of the tributes of honor and mourning."

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent Columbus, Mississippi, in the Congress, the place where Memorial Day first began.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT).

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, I humbly suggest that if we want to make the poppy in our lapels more than a mere gesture, we should vote "no" on the previous question on the rule that will make in order the defense authorization bill. Because by voting "no," we will make in order the consideration of an amendment that I have offered which contains two key elements that go to the very heart of what it is we are discussing here right now.

We would take a little bit of money out of a huge increase in ballistic missile defense and put it in a place where

it will do a lot of good, namely, in targeted pay increases to our enlisted personnel, particularly our NCOs and our junior warrant officers. It costs \$300 million. It is not something I pulled out of the air. It was recommended 3 years ago by the last quadrennial review. For 2 fiscal years we have done it; this year we have not in the bill before us. We can rectify that by voting "no" and then voting for the amendment.

In addition, we do something else in the amendment that I would offer, that is, we say to every soldier, sailor, airman and Marine going into combat, into harm's way, Uncle Sam is going to see to it that you get the maximum in servicemen's life insurance, group life insurance, \$250,000. The premium will be paid by an increase in your imminent danger pay, two things that will say volumes to our soldiers about how much we appreciate what they are doing for today, the risks they are taking; two things that we can say that will make more than just this mere gesture a sincere commitment to those who have gone in harm's way and laid their life on the line to make this the home of the free and the land of the brave.

Mr. SCHROCK. Mr. Speaker, we really have had time to debate what the last gentleman has discussed. It is too bad we are saddening the debate on this for that kind of discussion. There was certainly plenty of time for that.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES), one of the strongest advocates of the military that I have ever known.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Virginia and the gentlewoman from Guam, and I want to thank my friend from Arizona for bringing this resolution to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, it is important, whether we agree or disagree on whether our troops should be in Iraq or not, the fact is they are there. They have families that live in my district, the home of Camp Lejeune, Cherry Point, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base; and I think that probably this year as much as ever if not even more than ever that on Memorial Day we the American people wear the red poppy to show our appreciation and our allegiance to the men and women in uniform and those who have given their sons and their daughters to die for freedom.

I brought with me today on the floor for my couple of minutes the faces of the real. To my left, Mr. Speaker, is a young man whose name is Tyler Jordan. Tyler's father was a gunny sergeant, Phillip Jordan, who was killed last year in Iraq. I bring this to the floor, Mr. Speaker, because this photograph speaks much better than I could ever speak. It shows a young man who is looking at the casket of his father. It is showing a young man who has a folded flag under his arm. These are the faces of the families who have given

loved ones from the beginning of this great Nation through and including today.

The other poster, Mr. Speaker, I have outside of my office, 12 of these posters that say "May We Never Forget." The reason for that is why we are here today speaking on behalf of this resolution. The red poppy is a reminder of past wars, of past gifts, of a husband, a wife, a son, or a daughter. This Nation does owe those who have worn the uniform and their families. We should never forget those who wore the uniform for this Nation. We should never forget those who gave their lives.

It so happens that this past Saturday night in my home district, a Reservist, Rodney Murray who died in Iraq 2 weeks ago, I went to visit and I had the chance to speak to the wife, a 24-year-old lady, whose husband, 28, died in Iraq 2 weeks ago. I said, Amanda, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I extend to you my deepest sympathy and my gratitude on behalf of my colleagues. Mr. Speaker, tears came to my eyes. I could not even complete the statement.

I close today by saying to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, please support this resolution, as we will do, and let us not forget as we begin to debate the needs of our retired military and those who have served and their families. God bless America and God bless our men and women in uniform.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to go on record to thank the gentleman from North Carolina. I pass those posters every day on my way to my office. I think it is a wonderful tribute that he is paying to the men and women in service who have lost their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON), ranking member of the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time, and let me compliment my friend and colleague from Arizona for offering this resolution.

It was November 11, 1941. My father, another Ike Skelton, was the best known orator in Lafayette County, and he was invited to speak to the Odessa, Missouri, High School assembly on Armistice Day. By prearrangement with my teacher, he took me out of grade school and we drove to Odessa. I sat in the back of the Odessa student body while I watched the program. The students put on a skit in Army uniform with the leggings and the drill sergeant hat and bass drums simulating artillery, and then my father spoke.

Being a Navy veteran of the First World War, he spoke as a veteran. He said to that student body audience, November 11, 1941, that there are those in this audience that may well have to fight for our freedoms once again. How prophetic he was, because not long thereafter, less than a month, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, and Adolf

Hitler the following day declared war on our country. Two of the young men graduating from that high school class of May 1942 gave their lives in Germany on the battlefield.

In the closing part of my father's speech to those students that day, he recited the poem that came out of the Great War written by a Major John McCrae:

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
Our torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate that we pass this resolution and that we pay honor to those in uniform of yesteryear and that we express appreciation and gratitude for those who defend the freedoms of our country today.

Mr. SCHROCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI).

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I was privileged to grow up the son of Major General Gene Renzi out of Fort Huachuca, Arizona. I grew up in a home where our house was filled with veterans and troops who came back with great life stories of the sacrifices and the contributions that they made to our Nation.

And so it is a great honor for me to stand before you and pay tribute today to those who have given their full measure, who have contributed so much to our society and who have allowed me to breathe free and to stand in the halls of Congress and to try and serve and give a little back.

I am privileged to serve on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs where it is our obligation to hold and to care for the surviving families, the wives, the spouses, the husbands and the kids who have seen their moms and dads go off and who may have lost their loved ones in defense of our Nation.

We are at a time of patriotism in our country, a real crossroads where our resolve is being tested, with the rise of patriotism and the showing of American flags. The wearing of the poppy flower symbolizes a remembrance of past days where we loved our Nation. That time is welcomed.

Each year I have the great honor to walk in parades all around rural Arizona, small towns like Payson, Arizona. I love to stand behind and walk behind our veterans and our troops. It is so moving each year to see the moms and dads along the parade route rise up out of their lawn chairs and show great respect and deference to our flag by removing their hats, putting their hands over their hearts, and calling out to those veterans the great job, the love that they have for them. Again we breathe free because of the sacrifice our veterans have made.

On this Memorial Day, I ask that we raise the flag, that we wear the poppy, and I give thanks and ask God's grace for our troops and our veterans.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the distinguished gentlewoman from Guam for her leadership and also her eloquence. I have heard her often speak of the military personnel in her area, not only speak for them, but advocate for them; and I thank her for her leadership in this issue and many other issues. I thank the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SHADEGG) for his leadership as well, bringing us together on this day, because I believe it is important to announce to the world that there is not one moment of divide amongst us as it relates to the honor and commemoration of those who honor us by giving the ultimate sacrifice, but also taking the oath to serve in the United States military.

Might I say to you that I come with a heavy heart, for I pay tribute today to a young private by the name of Sotelo. I visited with his family as they learned the tragic news just last year of this young, almost 21-year-old in my congressional district who lost his life on the front lines of Iraq.

□ 1315

His mother cried, his father cried, his family members cried, not because they did not recognize his willingness to give the ultimate sacrifice but because not only was it his sacrifice, but as the family looked into the future of his future, they knew that this bright light would be extinguished forever.

We funeralized him at his beloved high school, Reagan High School, the wishes of his parents, on a very hot, very hot and solemn day in June; and then we looked to honor him on this coming Memorial Day. But also we honored him as his mother was able to spend Mother's Day together with other mothers, the Gold Star Mothers, who lost young people in this terrible thing called war.

I was in Flanders Field, in the burial place of thousands of those from World War I, the graveyards near that area. And I simply want to say that death is a horrible experience for those families left longing, but it is for those brave souls who are willing to give their lives that we must stand together and fight for what is right.

This is a day of honor, and I hope on Memorial Day we will honor them by wearing poppies. But I do believe it is important to bring honor today.

I would have hoped that we would have had a bipartisan rule. I think we must also respect the living by keeping veterans' hospitals open and access to health care available, and by providing for the Spratt amendment to provide \$414 million to be able to give an increase in salary. And, yes, I think it is important, even on this day as we raise

this wonderful resolution up, to give honor to those who are in the armed services.

We must recognize that accountability is important. As our line officers today are being prosecuted, this does not taint the entire military, for we respect them, but it does say that we hold those responsible at the top, for they are responsible too.

Mr. SCHROCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY).

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia for yielding me this time.

What a fantastic way to recognize the veterans of all of our wars, but of course this, as we know, the wearing of the poppy, it all started after World War I, and it is talked about in the resolution.

But it was a physician from Canada, Dr. John McCrae, who had a friend who was killed in Belgium and was buried at Flanders Fields, and Dr. McCrae himself, later on, in that war to end all wars, died of pneumonia on the battlefield and never made it back to his practice in Canada. But before he died, of course, he wrote that great poem that we will know today "In Flanders Field," and the last stanza of that poem I think went something like:

"To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be it yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields."

And what Dr. McCrae was saying to us and to future generations and to all generations was, never forget, no matter what battle it was, whether it was the Civil War or Operation Iraqi Freedom today, these young men and women are dying for a cause; and whether one agrees with them or not, they had no choice.

In many cases, they were conscripted. Today, we have an all-volunteer military, but they are there defending our freedom, and many of them are paying the ultimate sacrifice.

So that is what this poppy says. And for me to have a little opportunity today just before Memorial Day to talk about this and to support H. Con. Res. 424, I am very proud to do that. What a wonderful way to honor our men and women in the military.

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

Mr. SCHROCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS).

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

I want to recognize two Fourth Congressional District members of our military, Wilfredo Perez, Jr., from Norwalk, Connecticut; and Tyanna Avery Felder from Bridgeport, Connecticut; both lost their lives in Iraq fighting for freedom and fighting for justice and fighting for the United States of America on behalf of a better world.

We have lost 773 in Iraq. We have lost 122 men and women in Afghanistan. And I think it is just absolutely essential we recognize all who have lost their lives by wearing this red poppy on Memorial Day and asking all Americans do that. I thank the sponsors of this legislation for advocating that kind of recognition.

I close by saluting one community, in the 4th Congressional District, Greenwich, Connecticut. In Old Greenwich the community rings a bell for every American who has lost his or her life fighting for America, and that goes back before the Revolutionary War.

We are a great Nation, with an extraordinary history. We must never forget those who served in battle and came home draped in an American flag.

Mr. SCHROCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT).

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution as we honor both the past and current members of the armed services, and also their families, as we encourage every member of the American public to wear the red poppy on Memorial Day.

To many people, especially the Nation's thousands of combat veterans on this day, history that goes back all the way to the Civil War, it is an important reminder of all those who died in service to their Nation, the brave, the proud, the strong who gave their lives so that so many of us today can have the freedoms that we have.

And it is proper that we honor this today in light of all those men and women who find themselves in harm's way as we speak, risking their lives over in the Middle East. And it is proper also that this House does all that we can do as we continue to work on this side to provide services for our veterans, services of better health care, enhanced housing access, job opportunities, and benefits for their loved ones at home.

So I encourage all Members and the constituency back in the district in the great State of New Jersey to wear a poppy on this day, and also to honor those men and women by going to the cemeteries, visiting memorials, and also by participating in the National Moment of Remembrance at 3 p.m. to pause and think on the true meaning of this day.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank all of my colleagues who spoke in support of this resolution. Each of us will have a chance to spend some time with veterans from our districts on Memorial Day.

We know we owe them more than words for their service, but the words spoken here today came from the heart. And I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the liberators of Guam and all of our cherished veterans

and outstanding servicemen and women in uniform.

I want to thank the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SHADEGG), the author; the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCHROCK); and I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

Mr. SCHROCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SHADEGG), who introduced this resolution.

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

I want to close by thanking all of those who participated in this debate and who discussed the issue of this resolution. The issue of this resolution is not legislation as we debated the last hour regarding the defense appropriation. The issue of this resolution is the honoring of those American armed services personnel who have died in our Nation's service and of the great tradition of Memorial Day.

We heard here today in this discussion that there is indeed a great tradition surrounding Memorial Day that all Americans should be reminded of and should remember; a tradition that, as the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) reminds us, began as far as back as 1866 where veterans who had died, soldiers who had died in the Civil War, both Union and Confederate, had their graves decorated by the wives of Confederate soldiers who had died; a tradition that carried itself forward all the way to this day, a tradition that inspired the poem "In Flanders Fields," read so eloquently by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON), the ranking member of the Committee on Armed Services.

There are indeed many poems that commemorate this great day in our history. One of them, "We Shall Keep the Faith," written by Ms. Moina Michael of Athens, Georgia, the second city that supported and recognized Memorial Day, says:

We cherish too, the poppy red
That grows on fields where valor led,
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies.

We have heard in this debate a discussion of the heroes who serve our Nation today, those who have tragically died in combat both in Afghanistan and in Iraq. I think it is indeed fitting that this year all Americans would acquire a red paper poppy and would acknowledge the sacrifice of those who have died.

As I indicated earlier, the red poppy is the national symbol of sacrifice all over the world, not just here in America. That was a tradition inspired by the fact that the red poppy was the first living plant to sprout from the devastation of the battlefields of northern France and Belgium during World War I; and its bright, vibrant color of red brought life and hope and reassurance to those still fighting and was the inspiration for the poem "In Flanders

Fields," which I would at this point like to insert in the RECORD, as well as the "Poppy Poem" by Doris Theiss, an American Legion member from Arizona, who brought this issue to my office.

It seems to me that it is fitting that this year with so many Americans still engaged in battle and the risk that today or tomorrow or the day after tomorrow or indeed when we celebrate Memorial Day next weekend itself, some American soldier may lose his or her life in the service of our country.

For our colleagues who are watching and for those around the Nation, this four-petaled crepe paper poppy became the official memorial flower of the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary in 1923; and in 1927, at the Paris Convention, it was decided that only veteran-made poppies would be distributed by the American Legion Auxiliary. All of the poppies we see here on the floor today, and I would assume through the balance of this week are handmade by veterans.

I think it is most fitting that we honor our veterans, most fitting in particular that we honor those who paid the ultimate sacrifice. And I would hope that by this debate and by this memorial, Americans across the Nation would remember once again the significance and the meaning of Memorial Day they would hopefully acquire from the American Legion or from the VFW, which also recognizes the red poppy, a red, four-petaled poppy like this one, and this coming Memorial Day weekend recognize and honor the tremendous sacrifice made by all those who have died in our Nation's service.

IN FLANDERS FIELDS

(By Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, MD
(1872-1918) Canadian Army)

IN FLANDERS FIELDS the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place, and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

—
POPPY POEM

A man walked down the street the other day.
The ladies of the Auxiliary came his way.
He took the poppy and gave them a dime.
He mumbled "Why do they take up my time?"

He put the poppy in the bottom hole of his coat;

Next to some pencils and other notes.
When he went home, he placed the poppy on the table;

The red paper flower with the little white label.

As he looked at the flower, as if inspired;
He wondered "Who put this flower in this wire?"

He's probably a man who once stood tall;
And for his country he gave his all.

Now gave his all just to walk with a cane.

His strong hand were a sense of power,
Now he makes this little red flower.
In our world, we are busy with money and power,

While this man's job is this little red flower,
He still takes pride in what he has to do;
Petal by petal he makes this flower for you.
Next year when it comes to Poppy Day,
I'll be glad to see the Auxiliary come my way.

I'll cheerfully give them generously;
For the veterans making this flower could have been me.

May God Bless You,
Doris Theiss.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON. Mr. Speaker, as this country will shortly celebrate Memorial Day, we pay tribute to the veterans who have honored us with their service, and their sacrifice.

As a Nation, we are united in honoring our war dead, we also need to be as united in honoring our living veterans.

In the last paragraph of his second inaugural address, Abraham Lincoln uttered the words that would ultimately comfort untold numbers of veterans and their families for generations to come. Lincoln challenged the divided nation to "Bind up the Nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan."

Mr. Speaker, the promise of lifelong health care that this country made to our men and women in uniform is being threatened, not by the aggression of a foreign power, but by inadequate funding. As our veterans grow older, they require increased dependence on health care services.

Before elected for public office, I served as the chief psychiatric nurse at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Dallas during the 70's. I was privileged to serve in the day care and rehabilitation center of that facility for 15 years. I know firsthand that caring for America's veterans is the ongoing cost of war.

The Dallas Veterans Affairs Medical Center is an excellent example of how our nation can repay some of the debt it owes our brave veterans. The DVAMC operates 216 internal medicine beds, including a 28-bed pulmonary service. Moreover, a number of small VA hospitals and outlying community hospitals refer patients to the DVAMC for the diagnosis and treatment of complicated and unusual problems.

Mr. Speaker, I am worried that the proposed cuts will adversely affect over 70,000 Texas veterans. This number includes more than 18,000 veterans in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. It is estimated that 5,200 active patients in the Dallas-Fort Worth area will drop out of the VA Health Care System.

Mr. Speaker, how can Congress and this administration even consider slashing benefits at a time when our young men and women are still in harm's way in Iraq, Afghanistan and Southwest Asia.

Veterans should not be expected to wait in long lines, and travel farther for health care services at a diminished level. If we fail our obligation to veterans, how can we justify sending more and more young service into harm's way?

As we salute our veterans, we must also recognize the medical care provided by VA medical centers, clinics, and nursing home facilities. I applaud the efforts of the hundreds of compassionate men and women who have dedicated themselves professionally to our

veterans. Let us say to them: We salute you and we thank you.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCHROCK) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 424.

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. SHADEGG. 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will now put each question on which further proceedings were postponed earlier today in the following order:

Previous question on H. Res. 649, by the yeas and nays; if ordered, adoption of H. Res. 649; previous question on H. Res. 648, by the yeas and nays; if ordered, adoption of H. Res. 648; and motion to suspend the rules on H. Con. Res. 424, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. CON. RES. 95, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question on ordering the previous question on House Resolution 649 on which further proceedings were postponed earlier today.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 220, nays 204, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 151]

YEAS—220

Aderholt	Blackburn	Burns
Akin	Blunt	Burr
Bachus	Boehmert	Burton (IN)
Baker	Boehner	Buyer
Balleger	Bonilla	Calvert
Barrett (SC)	Bonner	Camp
Bartlett (MD)	Bono	Cannon
Barton (TX)	Boozman	Cantor
Bass	Bradley (NH)	Capito
Beauprez	Brady (TX)	Carter
Bereuter	Brown (SC)	Castle
Biggert	Brown-Waite,	Chabot
Bilirakis	Ginny	Choccola
Bishop (UT)	Burgess	Coble

Collins	Hyde	Portman
Cox	Isakson	Pryce (OH)
Crane	Issa	Putnam
Crenshaw	Istook	Quinn
Cubin	Jenkins	Radanovich
Culberson	Johnson (CT)	Ramstad
Cunningham	Johnson (IL)	Regula
Davis, Jo Ann	Jones (NC)	Rehberg
Davis, Tom	Keller	Renzi
Deal (GA)	Kelly	Reynolds
DeLay	Kennedy (MN)	Rogers (AL)
DeMint	King (IA)	Rogers (KY)
Diaz-Balart, L.	King (NY)	Rogers (MI)
Diaz-Balart, M.	Kingston	Rohrabacher
Doolittle	Kirk	Ros-Lehtinen
Dreier	Kline	Royce
Duncan	Knollenberg	Ryan (WI)
Dunn	Kolbe	Ryan (KS)
Ehlers	LaHood	Saxton
Emerson	Latham	Schrock
English	LaTourette	Sensenbrenner
Everett	Lewis (CA)	Sessions
Feeney	Lewis (KY)	Shadegg
Ferguson	Linder	Shaw
Flake	LoBiondo	Shays
Foley	Lucas (OK)	Sherwood
Forbes	Manzullo	Shimkus
Fossella	McCotter	Shuster
Franks (AZ)	McCrery	Simpson
Frelinghuysen	McHugh	Smith (MI)
Galleghy	McInnis	Smith (NJ)
Garrett (NJ)	McKeon	Smith (TX)
Gerlach	Mica	Souder
Gibbons	Miller (FL)	Stearns
Gilchrest	Miller (MI)	Sullivan
Gillmor	Miller, Gary	Sweeney
Gingrey	Moran (KS)	Tancredo
Goode	Murphy	Taylor (NC)
Goodlatte	Musgrave	Terry
Goss	Myrick	Thomas
Granger	Nethercutt	Thornberry
Graves	Neugebauer	Tiahrt
Green (WI)	Ney	Tiberi
Greenwood	Northup	Toomey
Gutknecht	Nunes	Turner (OH)
Hall	Nussle	Upton
Harris	Osborne	Vitter
Hart	Ose	Walden (OR)
Hastings (WA)	Otter	Walsh
Hayes	Oxley	Wamp
Hefley	Paul	Weldon (FL)
Hensarling	Pearce	Weller
Herger	Pence	Whitfield
Hobson	Peterson (PA)	Wicker
Hoekstra	Petri	Wilson (NM)
Hostettler	Pickering	Wilson (SC)
Houghton	Pitts	Wolf
Hulshof	Platts	Young (AK)
Hunter	Pombo	Young (FL)
	Porter	

NAYS—204

Abercrombie	Crowley	Hinojosa
Ackerman	Cummings	Hoeffel
Alexander	Davis (CA)	Holden
Allen	Davis (FL)	Holt
Andrews	Davis (IL)	Honda
Baca	Davis (TN)	Hooley (OR)
Baird	DeFazio	Hoyer
Baldwin	DeGette	Inslee
Ballance	Delahunt	Israel
Becerra	DeLauro	Jackson (IL)
Bell	Dicks	Jackson-Lee
Berkley	Dingell	(TX)
Berman	Doggett	Jefferson
Berry	Dooley (CA)	John
Bishop (GA)	Doyle	Johnson, E. B.
Bishop (NY)	Edwards	Jones (OH)
Blumenauer	Emanuel	Kanjorski
Boswell	Engel	Kaptur
Boucher	Eshoo	Kennedy (RI)
Boyd	Etheridge	Kildee
Brady (PA)	Evans	Kilpatrick
Brown (OH)	Farr	Kind
Brown, Corrine	Fattah	Klecza
Capps	Filner	Kucinich
Capuano	Ford	Lampson
Cardin	Frank (MA)	Langevin
Cardoza	Frost	Lantos
Carson (IN)	Gephardt	Larsen (WA)
Carson (OK)	Gonzalez	Larson (CT)
Case	Gordon	Lee
Chandler	Green (TX)	Levin
Clay	Grijalva	Lewis (GA)
Clyburn	Gutierrez	Lipinski
Conyers	Harman	Lofgren
Cooper	Hastings (FL)	Lowey
Costello	Hill	Lucas (KY)
Cramer	Hinchev	Lynch