

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS) (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1333

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). The question is on passage of the bill.

Pursuant to clause 10 of rule XX, the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 397, nays 12, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 465]

YEAS—397

Abercrombie	Cooper	Gutierrez
Ackerman	Costello	Gutknecht
Aderholt	Cramer	Hall
Akin	Crane	Harman
Alexander	Crenshaw	Harris
Allen	Crowley	Hastings (FL)
Andrews	Cubin	Hastings (WA)
Baca	Culberson	Hayes
Bachus	Cummings	Hayworth
Baker	Cunningham	Herger
Baldwin	Davis (AL)	Herseth
Ballenger	Davis (CA)	Hill
Barrett (SC)	Davis (FL)	Hinchee
Bartlett (MD)	Davis (IL)	Hinojosa
Barton (TX)	Davis (TN)	Hobson
Bass	Davis, Jo Ann	Hoeffel
Beauprez	Davis, Tom	Holden
Becerra	Deal (GA)	Holt
Bell	DeFazio	Honda
Berkley	DeGette	Hooley (OR)
Berman	Delahunt	Hostettler
Berry	DeLauro	Houghton
Biggert	DeLay	Hoyer
Bilirakis	DeMint	Hulshof
Bishop (NY)	Deutsch	Hunter
Bishop (UT)	Diaz-Balart, L.	Hyde
Blackburn	Diaz-Balart, M.	Inslee
Blumenauer	Dicks	Isakson
Blunt	Dingell	Israel
Boehlert	Doggett	Issa
Boehner	Dooley (CA)	Istook
Bonilla	Doolittle	Jackson (IL)
Bono	Doyle	Jackson (IL)
Boozman	Dreier	Jackson-Lee
Boswell	Duncan	(TX)
Boucher	Edwards	Jefferson
Boyd	Ehlers	Jenkins
Bradley (NH)	Emanuel	Johnson (CT)
Brady (PA)	Emerson	Johnson (IL)
Brady (TX)	Engel	Johnson, E. B.
Brown (OH)	English	Johnson, Sam
Brown (SC)	Eshoo	Jones (OH)
Brown, Corrine	Etheridge	Kanjorski
Brown-Waite,	Evans	Kaptur
Ginny	Everett	Keller
Burgess	Farr	Kelly
Burns	Fattah	Kennedy (MN)
Burr	Feeney	Kennedy (RI)
Burton (IN)	Ferguson	Kildee
Butterfield	Filner	Kilpatrick
Buyer	Forbes	Kind
Calvert	Ford	King (IA)
Camp	Fossella	King (NY)
Cantor	Frank (MA)	Kingston
Capito	Frelinghuysen	Klecicka
Capps	Frost	Kline
Capuano	Galleghy	Knollenberg
Cardin	Garrett (NJ)	Kolbe
Cardoza	Gerlach	LaHood
Carson (IN)	Gibbons	Lampson
Carson (OK)	Gilchrest	Langevin
Carter	Gingrey	Lantos
Case	Gonzalez	Larsen (WA)
Chabot	Goode	Larson (CT)
Chandler	Goodlatte	Latham
Chocoma	Gordon	LaTourette
Clay	Goss	Leach
Clyburn	Granger	Lee
Coble	Graves	Levin
Cole	Green (TX)	Lewis (CA)
Collins	Green (WI)	Lewis (GA)
Conyers	Grijalva	Lewis (KY)

Linder	Pearce	Slaughter
Lipinski	Pelosi	Smith (MI)
LoBiondo	Pence	Smith (NJ)
Lofgren	Peterson (MN)	Smith (TX)
Lowey	Peterson (PA)	Smith (WA)
Lucas (KY)	Petri	Snyder
Lucas (OK)	Pickering	Solis
Lynch	Pitts	Souder
Majette	Platts	Spratt
Maloney	Pombo	Stark
Markey	Pomeroy	Stearns
Marshall	Porter	Stenholm
Matheson	Portman	Strickland
Matsui	Price (NC)	Stupak
McCarthy (MO)	Pryce (OH)	Sullivan
McCarthy (NY)	Putnam	Sweeney
McCollum	Quinn	Tancredo
McCotter	Radanovich	Tanner
McCrery	Rahall	Tauscher
McDermott	Ramstad	Taylor (MS)
McGovern	Rangel	Taylor (NC)
McHugh	Regula	Terry
McIntyre	Rehberg	Thomas
McKeon	Renzi	Thompson (CA)
McNulty	Reyes	Thompson (MS)
Meek (FL)	Rodriguez	Thornberry
Meeks (NY)	Rogers (AL)	Tiahrt
Menendez	Rogers (KY)	Tiberi
Mica	Rogers (MI)	Toomey
Michaud	Rohrabacher	Towns
Miller (MI)	Ros-Lehtinen	Turner (OH)
Miller (NC)	Ross	Turner (TX)
Miller, Gary	Rothman	Udall (CO)
Miller, George	Roybal-Allard	Udall (NM)
Mollohan	Ruppersberger	Upton
Moore	Rush	Van Hollen
Moran (KS)	Ryan (OH)	Velázquez
Moran (VA)	Ryan (WI)	Visclosky
Murtha	Ryun (KS)	Vitter
Musgrave	Sabo	Walden (OR)
Myrick	Sánchez, Linda	Walsh
Nadler	T.	Wamp
Napolitano	Sánchez, Loretta	Waters
Neal (MA)	Sanders	Watson
Nethercutt	Sandlin	Watt
Neugebauer	Saxton	Waxman
Ney	Schakowsky	Weiner
Northup	Schiff	Weldon (FL)
Norwood	Schrock	Weldon (PA)
Nunes	Scott (GA)	Weller
Nussle	Scott (VA)	Whitfield
Oberstar	Serrano	Wilson (NM)
Oliver	Sessions	Wilson (SC)
Ortiz	Shadegg	Wolf
Osborne	Shaw	Woolsey
Ose	Shays	Wu
Owens	Sherman	Wynn
Oxley	Sherwood	Young (AK)
Pallone	Shuster	Young (FL)
Pascarell	Simmons	
Pastor	Simpson	
Payne	Skelton	

NAYS—12

Castle	Jones (NC)	Paul
Flake	Kucinich	Royce
Franks (AZ)	Obey	Sensenbrenner
Hefley	Otter	Shimkus

NOT VOTING—24

Baird	Greenwood	Millender-
Bishop (GA)	Hart	McDonald
Bonner	Hensarling	Miller (FL)
Cannon	Hoekstra	Murphy
Cox	Kirk	Reynolds
Dunn	Manzullo	Tauzin
Foley	McInnis	Wexler
Gephardt	Meehan	Wicker
Gillmor		

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised that there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1340

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 465, H.R. 5025—Transportation/Treasury Appropriation bill, I was on leg-

islative business and arrived after the vote. Had I been here I would have voted in the affirmative.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 464 and 465, I was meeting with the Governor of Florida concerning hurricane damage. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall No. 464 and “yea” on rollcall No. 465.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, today, I missed the following rollcall votes: rollcall number 461—on agreeing to the Rangel amendment to H.R. 5025, rollcall number 462—on agreeing to the Olver amendment to H.R. 5025, rollcall number 463—on agreeing to the Stenholm amendment to H.R. 5025, rollcall number 464—on motion to recommit H.R. 5025, rollcall number 465—on passage of H.R. 5025. Had I been present I would have voted “nay” on rollcall votes 461 and 464, and I would have voted “yea” on rollcall votes 462, 463 and 465.

REQUEST FOR REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2028

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, because the bill as introduced was drastically changed in committee, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 2028.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LINDER). Under clause 7 of rule XII, the Chair may not entertain a request to delete a cosponsor after the last committee authorized to consider the bill has filed its report with the House.

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 motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas or nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMISSION ACT

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2449) to establish a commission to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2449

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The American Civil War was a defining experience in the development of the United States.

(2) The people of the United States continue to struggle with issues of race, civil rights, the politics of federalism, and heritage which are legacies of the Civil War and Reconstruction.

(3) There is a resurgence of interest in the Civil War that is evidenced by the multitude of publications, exhibits, reenactments, research organizations, Internet and multimedia resources, historic parks, and preservation associations focused on the Civil War.

(4) The years 2011 through 2015 mark the sesquicentennial of the Civil War.

(5) The sesquicentennial of the Civil War presents a significant opportunity for Americans to recall and reflect upon the Civil War and its legacy in a spirit of reconciliation and reflection.

(6) The United States Civil War Center at Louisiana State University, Louisiana, and the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College, Pennsylvania, have been designated by the Federal government to plan and facilitate the commemoration of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War.

(7) The State of Virginia—

(A) witnessed more Civil War military engagements on its soil than any other State;

(B) hosts more historic sites related to the Civil War than any other State; and

(C) is home to the Pamplin Historical Park and the National Museum of the Civil War Soldier and the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, both of which are nationally recognized centers of expertise in the study of the Civil War.

(8) The African American Civil War Museum located in Washington, D.C., is the only museum in the nation dedicated to the study and understanding of the role of African Americans in the Civil War.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to establish a Civil War Sesquicentennial Commemoration Commission to—

(1) ensure a suitable national observance of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War;

(2) cooperate with and assist States and national organizations with programs and activities for the observance of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War;

(3) assist in ensuring that any observance of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War is inclusive and appropriately recognizes the experiences and points of view of all people affected by the Civil War; and

(4) provide assistance for the development of programs, projects, and activities on the Civil War that have lasting educational value.

SEC. 3. CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION COMMISSION.

The Secretary of the Interior shall establish a commission to be known as the Civil War Sesquicentennial Commemoration Commission (hereafter in this Act referred to as the “Commission”).

SEC. 4. COMPOSITION OF THE COMMISSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall be composed of 25 members as follows:

(1) GOVERNMENT MEMBERS.—The Commission shall include—

(A) 2 Members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(B) 2 Members of the Senate appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate, in consultation with the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader of the Senate;

(C) the Secretary of the Interior or the designee of the Secretary;

(D) the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, or the designee of the Secretary;

(E) the Secretary of the Department of Education, or the designee of the Secretary;

(F) the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, or the designee of the Chairman;

(G) the Archivist of the United States, or the designee of the Archivist;

(H) the Librarian of Congress, or the designee of the Librarian; and

(I) the Director of the National Park Service, or the designee of the Director.

(2) PRIVATE MEMBERS.—The Commission shall include—

(A) 5 members appointed by the President from among individuals who are representative of the corporate community; and

(B) 9 individuals, appointed by the President, from among persons who by reason of education, training, and experience, are experts on the Antebellum, Civil War, and Reconstruction eras, including—

(i) 6 individuals with expertise in history;

(ii) 1 individual with specific expertise in art history, historic preservation, or a related field;

(iii) 1 individual with expertise in anthropology, cultural geography, sociology, or a related field; and

(iv) 1 individual with expertise in political science, law, economics, or a related field.

(b) TERMS.—Members shall be appointed for the life of the Commission.

(c) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the Commission shall not affect its powers, and shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(d) INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.—The appointment of the members of the Commission shall be made not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 5. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

(a) MEETINGS.—

(1) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which all members of the Commission have been appointed, the members appointed under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 4(a)(2) shall call the first meeting of the Commission.

(2) SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS.—The Commission shall hold subsequent meetings at the call of the chairperson.

(b) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—At the initial meeting, the Commission shall elect a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson from among its voting members.

(c) QUORUM.—A majority of voting members shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number may hold meetings.

(d) VOTING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall act only on an affirmative vote of a majority of the voting members of the Commission.

(2) NONVOTING MEMBERS.—The individuals appointed under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 4(a)(1) shall be nonvoting members, and shall serve only in an advisory capacity.

SEC. 6. DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.

(a) ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE SESQUICENTENNIAL.—The Commission shall—

(1) plan, develop, and carry out programs and activities appropriate to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the Civil War;

(2) encourage interdisciplinary examination of the Civil War;

(3) facilitate Civil War-related activities throughout the United States;

(4) encourage civic, historical, educational, economic, and other organizations throughout the United States to organize and participate in activities to expand the understanding and appreciation of the significance of the Civil War;

(5) coordinate and facilitate the public distribution of scholarly research, publications, and interpretations of the Civil War;

(6) provide technical assistance to States, localities, and nonprofit organizations to further the commemoration of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War;

(7) develop programs and facilities to ensure that the sesquicentennial commemoration of the Civil War results in a positive legacy and long-term public benefit; and

(8) encourage the development and conduct of programs designed to involve the international community in activities that commemorate the Civil War.

(b) PLANS AND REPORT.—

(1) STRATEGIC PLAN AND ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLANS.—The Commission shall prepare a strategic plan in accordance with section 306 of title 5, United States Code, and annual performance plans in accordance with section 1115 of title 31, United States Code, for the activities of the Commission carried out under this Act.

(2) REPORTS.—

(A) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Commission shall submit to Congress an annual report that contains a list of each gift, bequest, or devise with a value of more than \$250, together with the identity of the donor of each such gift, bequest, or devise.

(B) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than December 30, 2015, the Commission shall submit to Congress a final report that contains—

(i) a summary of activities of the Commission;

(ii) a final accounting of funds received and expended by the Commission; and

(iii) the findings and recommendations of the Commission.

SEC. 7. GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The National Endowment for the Humanities shall award grants under this section for the uses described in subsection (b).

(b) USE OF GRANTS.—Grants awarded under this section shall be used for appropriate activities relating to the sesquicentennial of the Civil War.

(c) CONSIDERATION.—In awarding grants under this section, the National Endowment of the Humanities shall consider established university, museum, or academic programs with national scope that sponsor multidisciplinary projects, including those that concentrate on the role of African Americans in the Civil War.

SEC. 8. POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may—

(1) solicit, accept, use, and dispose of gifts, bequests, or devises of money or other real or personal property for the purpose of aiding or facilitating the work of the Commission;

(2) appoint any advisory committee as the Commission considers appropriate for the purposes of this Act;

(3) authorize any voting member or employee of the Commission to take any action that the Commission is authorized to take under this Act; and

(4) procure supplies, services, and property, and make or enter into contracts, leases, or other legal agreements to carry out this Act (except that any contracts, leases, or other legal agreements entered into by the Commission shall not extend beyond the date of the termination of the Commission); and

(5) use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other Federal agencies.

SEC. 9. PERSONNEL MATTERS.

(a) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—Members of the Commission, and members of any advisory committee appointed under section 8(a)(2), shall serve without compensation.

(b) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Members of the Commission, and members of any advisory committees appointed under section 8(a)(2), shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for an employee of an agency under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of the duties of the Commission.

(c) STAFF.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Chairperson of the Commission may, without regard to civil service laws (including regulations), appoint and terminate an executive director and such other additional personnel as are necessary to enable the Commission to perform the duties of the Commission.

(2) CONFIRMATION OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The employment of an executive director shall be subject to confirmation by the Commission.

(3) COMPENSATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Chairperson of the Commission may fix the compensation of the executive director and other personnel without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification of positions and General Schedule pay rates.

(B) MAXIMUM RATE OF PAY.—The rate of pay for the executive director and other personnel shall not exceed the rate payable for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

(d) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—At the request of the Commission, the head of any Federal agency may detail, on a reimbursable or non-reimbursable basis, any of the personnel of the agency to the Commission to assist the Commission in carrying out the duties of the Commission under this Act.

(2) CIVIL SERVICE STATUS.—The detail of an employee under paragraph (1) shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege.

(e) VOLUNTEER AND UNCOMPENSATED SERVICES.—Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, the Commission may accept and use voluntary and uncompensated services as the Commission determines necessary.

(f) SUPPORT SERVICES.—The Director of the National Park Service shall provide to the Commission, on a reimbursable basis, such administrative support services as the Commission may request.

(g) PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTERMITTENT SERVICES.—The Chairperson of the Commission may procure temporary and intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, at daily rates for individuals which do not exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

(h) FACIA NONAPPLICABILITY.—Section 14(b) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Commission.

(i) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate on the date that is 90 days after the date on which the Commission submits its report under section 6(b)(2).

SEC. 10. AUDIT OF COMMISSION.

The Inspector General of the Department of the Interior shall perform an annual audit of the Commission and shall make the results of the audit available to the public.

SEC. 11. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act (other than section 7) \$200,000 for each of the fiscal years 2005 through 2016.

(b) GRANTS.—There is authorized to be appropriated \$3,500,000 to the National Endowment for the Humanities to provide grants under section 7, to remain available until expended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased that the House is considering H.R. 2449. This legislation, introduced by the distinguished gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BAKER) creates a commission to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War. I rise in strong support of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps no event shaped the U.S. more than the Civil War. The Civil War was produced by the economic, cultural, and political rivalry between the agrarian South and the industrial North. Though the war was long and dreadful, its outcome preserved the Nation. From South Carolina's secession on December 20, 1860, to General Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox on April 9, 1865, the Civil War set the course for the next century of this Nation's development.

Mr. Speaker, the Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission will ensure a suitable national observance of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. It promises to be inclusive and appropriately recognizes the perspectives and impacts of all people affected by the Civil War.

Specifically, the commission will plan, develop, and carry out programs and activities appropriate to commemorate the Civil War. The commission will annually report to Congress on its work, and by December 30, 2015, the commission will provide to Congress a final report detailing the activities, findings, and recommendations of the commission.

Mr. Speaker, the creation of a Civil War Commission at this point in American history makes it difficult to overlook the similarities between America's current conflict and the war our Nation endured nearly a century and a half ago. In both cases, an immense tragedy forced this Nation to rise up and defend the liberty and freedom of our Union. However, our current enemy is not ourselves, but terrorist extremists who hate American freedom. While Americans were split and hostile on the two sides of the Civil War, today our great Nation remains united behind our servicemen and servicewomen who sacrifice everything to protect our Nation from terror.

Mr. Speaker, this commission will provide an exciting and somber look back at perhaps the most important event in our Nation's history. I thank the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BAKER) for his thorough efforts to commemorate the Civil War.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 2449 would establish a Civil War Sesquicentennial Commemoration Commission to cooperate with and assist States and national organizations with programs and activities to ensure a suitable national observance of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War and to educate Americans about the significance of the war in our national history.

With the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, the Civil War became a war to save the Union and to abolish slavery. The war resulted in the loss of 620,000 lives, the liberation of 4 million slaves, and the ratification of three constitutional amendments that changed the way we define freedom and democracy in this country.

Frederick Douglass moved many free and runaway slaves to enlist in the Union Army and to fight for their freedom when he said, "Once let the black man get upon his person the brass letters U.S., let him get an eagle on his button, and a musket on his shoulder and bullets in his pockets, there is no power on Earth can deny that he has earned the right for citizenship in the United States."

Approximately 180,000 African Americans, comprising 163 units, served in the Union Army during the Civil War, and many more served in the Union Navy. Although black soldiers proved themselves as reputable soldiers, discrimination in pay and other areas remained widespread.

We as Americans continue to struggle with issues of race, the politics of federalism and heritage. The 150th anniversary of the Civil War would give us an opportunity to reflect collectively on our shared history and our identity as Americans. Many say and many believe that we have a democracy, that we as African Americans, for example, have equal rights. But we must ask what it really means, and even in 2004 we must ask is freedom and equal rights a reality for all Americans.

□ 1345

What we do have, though, is the right to struggle, and the need for struggle is just as important today as it was during the Civil War.

Frederick Douglass was right then and Douglass is right now when he said that "Struggle, struggle, strife and pain are the prerequisites for change, and if there is no struggle, there will be no progress."

The American Civil War is a critical part of our Nation's history and development. The 105th anniversary of the war should remind us that we have come a long way, but there is still much work to be done, and in the words of the philosopher, we must remember that freedom is a hard-won

thing. Each generation must win it, and win it again.

The American Civil War was critical to America's development as a nation and a democracy. The 105th anniversary of the war is an appropriate time for us to reflect on its legacy and its impact on our lives.

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

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BAKER).

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his courtesy in yielding me time. I rise here today to speak to my appreciation for his good work in bringing this matter to the floor of the House.

Mr. Speaker, the American Civil War was perhaps the most dramatic forging event in our Nation's history. In a brief period of time, over 600,000 lives were lost. The struggle was immense. But from this incredible event and the huge loss of life, a new nation was forged, with its eye on principle and in practice to afford equal rights to all.

In the course of our history, this Congress has acted with regard to this matter in years past. In fact, there are two institutions. The United States Civil War Center at Louisiana State University and the Civil War Institute at the Gettysburg College have been the only two institutions nationally recognized as Civil War centers. It is my hope and expectation that as the commission itself is appointed and work is commenced, that they will become significant partners with the center at LSU and at the Gettysburg College in coming to the appropriate decisions for the sesquicentennial celebrations of this event.

It is truly an important, formative event in our Nation's history. It is a time when no one should be without education and understanding, for from it we learn much about ourselves and what makes our Nation as great as it is today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL).

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time, and I also thank the chairman of my subcommittee of the Committee on Financial Services for his leadership.

I rise in strong support of this resolution. I have been working with several of my colleagues to organize a Civil War Caucus here in the House of Representatives. Outside this building, just on the West Front, is a statue of General Grant at the very footsteps of the Capitol. A few blocks away from that is a statue of General Meade. Beyond that is the Lincoln Memorial, and beyond that in the hills of Arlington is the Custis-Lee Mansion.

Why do we remember? Why do we erect statues? Why is this bill important? It is important because the Civil War is really not about the past; it is

about our present, it is about our future. It is important because what happened in the Civil War will instruct us in how we meet challenges today.

I serve on the Committee on Armed Services and we are dealing with profoundly difficult challenges around the world, in Iraq, Iran, North Korea, Pakistan, the global war on terror. Sometimes those challenges seem almost insurmountable. What the Civil War teaches all of us is that no challenge is insurmountable.

When I think about the military difficulties that we have in the world today, I also think about the 20th of May on Little Round Top in Gettysburg. It was on that hill that just a small group of men were told to remain in place, to hold that hill at all hazards. They were confronted with enemy in front of them, overwhelming numbers, overwhelming numbers of enemy to their left and above them, and still they held that hill. They repulsed attack after attack after attack, and when they ran out of ammunition and hope, their leader, Colonel Joshua Chamberlain, ordered the men to fix bayonets and charge. That is surmounting challenge.

What we were taught from that battle on many battlefields, on many boats, in north and south, is that we are a unique and special country. That fight was for us. That fight was for our future. That fight was to teach a lesson that higher principles guide us, that there are things worth fighting for that are even more important than ourselves.

This bill is not about statues, it is not about commemoration, it is not about the past. It is about the country we are today and the country we will be tomorrow.

For that reason, I strongly support this bill and urge its adoption.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I will just end by suggesting that the Civil War was the costliest war that this country has ever been engaged in and perhaps one of the most important wars that this country will ever fight. I urge strong support of this resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to join my friend from Illinois in his remarks, and I too urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 2449.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LINDER). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2449, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HUDSON-FULTON-CHAMPLAIN 400TH COMMEMORATION COMMISSION ACT OF 2004

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2528) to establish the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain 400th Commemorative Commission, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2528

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Hudson-Fulton-Champlain 400th Commemoration Commission Act of 2004"

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

(1) The first European exploration of the Hudson River and Lake Champlain and the introduction of steam navigation to maritime commerce were events of major historical importance, both in the United States and internationally.

(2) In 1609, Englishman Henry Hudson, acting in service of the Dutch East India Company, was the first European to sail up the river later named for him in the vessel HALF MOON, and French explorer Samuel de Champlain was the first European to see the lake later named for him.

(3) These voyages were two of the most significant passages in the European exploration and discovery of America, and began two of the earliest contacts in the New World between Native Americans and Europeans.

(4) These explorations led to the establishment of Fort Orange, a Dutch (and later English) settlement of what is now the capital city of the State of New York, and settlement of French Quebec settlements as far south as Lake George. From these early settlements came an influence on the Nation's history, culture, law, commerce, and traditions of liberty which extends to the present day, and which is constantly reflected in the position of the United States as the leader of the nations of the free world.

(5) In 1807, Robert Fulton navigated the Hudson River from the city of New York to Albany in the steamboat CLERMONT, successfully inaugurating steam navigation on a commercial basis. This event is one of the most important events in the history of navigation. It revolutionized waterborne commerce on the great rivers of the United States, transformed naval warfare, and fostered international relations through transoceanic travel and trade.

(6) The National Park Service owns and operates significant resources in New York related to the early history of the nation and the Hudson River Valley.

(7) In 2002, the State of New York established a Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Commission.

(8) In 2003, the State of Vermont established a Lake Champlain Quadricentennial Commission.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to establish the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain 400th Commemoration Commission to—

(1) ensure a suitable national observance of the Henry Hudson, Robert Fulton, and Samuel de Champlain 2009 anniversaries through