

\$651 million included in the President's budget for the Yucca Mountain project. An increase in funds for the Yucca project that is consistently riddled with problems is ridiculous.

Last year the Department of Energy faced insurmountable hurdles it was unable to overcome, resulting in its failure to submit its license application on time. The second highest court in the United States ruled that the Yucca Mountain radiation standards were inadequate to protect the health and safety of the American people and that the EPA knowingly ignored the scientists' recommendations. We are talking about the harmful effects of radiation being underestimated by a mere 290,000 years.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, to its credit, refused to rubber-stamp an electronic database required for licensing the Yucca repository, and expressed serious concerns about the lack of information supplied in the license application.

Instead of dumping even more money into a \$9 billion hole in the Nevada desert, we should be investing in clean, renewable energy sources and moving toward energy independence. Instead, the President is slashing critical funding for renewable energy while adding \$651 million to the Yucca Mountain debacle.

Fraud, waste and abuse in government, look at the Yucca Mountain project. It is the poster child.

□ 1015

#### RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON) laid before the House the following resignation from the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, February 8, 2005.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER HASTERT: Effective immediately I am resigning my position on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

It has been a pleasure to serve on the Committee, and I will continue to support the Committee to achieve its legislative goals. However, because of my recent appointment to the House Financial Services Committee and the House Homeland Security Committee as well as my continued service on the House Resources Committee, it is necessary for me to resign from the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for appointing me to the House Financial Services and Homeland Security Committees. I look forward to these new Committee assignments and working to advance the Majority agenda. Your help was critical and I greatly appreciate your effort on my behalf.

Thank you for your support and for accepting my resignation from the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

STEVAN PEARCE,  
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

#### RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation from the Committee on Government Reform:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, February 8, 2005.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
Office of the Speaker,  
U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I respectfully resign from the Committee on Government Reform, effective immediately.

Sincerely,

KATHERINE HARRIS,  
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

#### ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 73) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 73

*Resolved*, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives (with previously elected members restated for the purpose of ranking):

Committee on Homeland Security: Mr. Young of Alaska; Mr. Smith of Texas; Mr. Weldon of Pennsylvania; Mr. Shays; Mr. King of New York; Mr. Linder; Mr. Souder; Mr. Tom Davis of Virginia; Mr. Lungren; Mr. Gibbons; Mr. Simmons; Mr. Rogers of Alabama; Mr. Pearce; Ms. Harris; Mr. Jindal; Mr. Reichert; Mr. McCaul; and Mr. Dent.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### 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 each motion 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.

Any record vote on postponed questions will be taken later today.

#### EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CONTINUE TO EXERCISE ITS AUTHORITY SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES OF BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Mr. HEFLEY. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to

the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 6) expressing the sense of the Congress that the Department of Defense should continue to exercise its statutory authority to support the activities of the Boy Scouts of America, in particular the periodic national and world Boy Scout Jamborees.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 6

Whereas the Boy Scouts of America was incorporated on February 8, 1910, and received a Federal charter on June 15, 1916, which is currently codified as chapter 309 of title 36, United States Code;

Whereas section 30902 of title 36, United States Code, states that it is the purpose of the Boy Scouts of America to promote, through organization, and cooperation with other agencies, the ability of boys to do things for themselves and others, to train them in scoutcraft, and to teach them patriotism, courage, self-reliance, and kindred virtues;

Whereas, since its inception, millions of Americans of every race, creed, and religion have participated in the Boy Scouts, and the Boy Scouts of America, as of October 1, 2004, utilizes more than 1,200,000 adult volunteers to serve 2,863,000 youth members organized in 121,051 units;

Whereas the Department of Defense and members of the Armed Forces have a long history of supporting the activities of the Boy Scouts of America and individual Boy Scout troops inside the United States, and section 2606 of title 10, United States Code, enacted in 1988, specifically authorizes the Department of Defense to cooperate with and assist the Boy Scouts of America in establishing and providing facilities and services for members of the Armed Forces and their dependents, and civilian employees of the Department of Defense and their dependents, at locations outside the United States;

Whereas sections 4682, 7541, and 9682 of title 10, United States Code, authorize the Department of Defense to sell and, in certain cases, donate obsolete or excess material to the Boy Scouts of America to support its activities; and

Whereas since Public Law 92-249, enacted on March 10, 1972, and codified as section 2554 of title 10, United States Code, the Department of Defense has been specifically authorized to make military installations available to, and to provide equipment, transportation, and other services to, the Boy Scouts of America to support national and world gatherings of Boy Scouts at events known as Boy Scout Jamborees: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that the Department of Defense should continue to exercise its long-standing statutory authority to support the activities of the Boy Scouts of America, in particular the periodic national and world Boy Scout Jamborees.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HEFLEY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the concurrent resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, once again we find the Boy Scouts of America under attack from the American Civil Liberties Union. This time the ACLU has set its sights on the Department of Defense, challenging its longstanding support of the Boy Scouts.

In 1999 the ACLU of Illinois sued the DOD, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Chicago Board of Education for sponsoring Boy Scout programs because participation in Boy Scouts includes an oath to God. Ultimately, the Chicago Board of Education suspended its sponsorship of scouting activities, and on Tuesday, November 16, 2004, the Department of Defense agreed to issue a worldwide directive to all its military facilities that the Department and its personnel may not sponsor Boy Scout units in an official manner.

Madam Speaker, it is already the policy of the Department of Defense not to sponsor any private non-Federal organization including the Boy Scouts of America. The Department does, however, provide support to the Boy Scouts with use of bases and facilities and donations and the use of surplus equipment.

Currently, the DOD spends \$2 million every 4 years to prepare Fort A.P. Hill, a Virginia military base, for the Boy Scouts' national jamboree. The Department also makes an annual allocation of \$100,000 to support Boy Scout units on military bases overseas and another \$100,000 to improve Boy Scout properties such as summer camps. This support, and not the Department's sponsorship, asserts the ACLU, is in violation of the establishment clause of the first amendment to the Constitution, and is the basis for the lawsuit.

However, since March 10, 1972, the Department of Defense has been specifically authorized to make military installations available to, and to provide equipment, transportation, and other services to the Boy Scouts of America in support of national and world gathering, including events like their jamborees. The Department has also been given authority under title 10 of the U.S. Code to sell and in certain cases donate obsolete or excess material to the Boy Scouts.

While the Pentagon's directive will not impair their continued support for the Boy Scouts, the ACLU lawsuit quite frankly threatens it. Since its inception, millions of Americans of every race, creed, and religion have participated in the Boy Scouts of America. As of October 1, 2004, the Boy Scouts utilize more than 1.2 million adult volunteers to serve 2.863 million youth members organized in 121,051 units. With the help of agencies like the Department of Defense, many of these fine

young men have gone on to become notable world figures. Let me give some examples: Neil Armstrong, Hank Aaron, Sam Walton, President Gerald Ford. And this is just a few.

Madam Speaker, the traditions of the Boy Scouts have been under attack for years by liberal groups. The DOD has been authorized to support the Boy Scouts for over 30 years, and any move to threaten this relationship is simply unconscionable. My resolution encourages the DOD to continue to exercise its statutory authority in its longstanding and successful relationship with the Boy Scouts of America.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN).

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, and I want, first of all, to commend the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY) for introducing this resolution.

The Boy Scouts emphasize God and family and country, and I will tell the Members this: there are many fine charitable religious and civic organizations in this country, but I do not see how there could be any that are finer than the Boy Scouts of America.

I spent 7½ years as a criminal court judge before I came to Congress, trying felony criminal cases. I was told on the first day that I was judge that 98 percent of the defendants in felony cases came from broken homes. I went through 10,000 cases in that time, and I read thousands of times reports saying defendant's father left home when the defendant was 2 and never returned, defendant's father left home to get a pack of cigarettes and never came back. And I know that many outstanding people come from broken homes, but I also know that there are many young boys growing up in this country today without a good male role model in their lives.

In fact, I remember one Friday afternoon going to National Airport after one of the horrible school shootings that we had in another part of the country where a junior high school boy had shot up a school, and the national head of the YMCA was on the CBS national news saying that children were being neglected in this country today like never before. I do not know if that is true and I hope it is not, but certainly it is an epidemic-type problem that the Boy Scouts are in the forefront of working against, of fighting, of trying to make sure that boys are growing up with good male role models and are growing up with good guidance in their lives and are not being neglected as never before like the national head of the YMCA said.

Also, the gentleman from Colorado mentioned the ACLU. I know in the lead case brought by the ACLU, they received \$690,000 in legal fees and

\$160,000 in court costs, \$950,000 from the taxpayers. The gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HOSTETTLER) has introduced a bill to not make the taxpayers pay those types of legal fees. We should pass that type of bill.

But above all, the first good start is to pass this resolution, and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and express our very strong support for one of the most outstanding organizations in this country today, the Boy Scouts of America.

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to control the time of the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) in his absence.

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

There was no objection.

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

Today I rise in support of the resolution introduced by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY), my good friend. I wholeheartedly endorse this resolution, which expresses the sense of Congress that the Department of Defense should continue to provide assistance and support to one of America's most treasured institutions, the Boy Scouts of America.

The Boy Scouts of America is one of the finest organizations in our country. Countless young men have learned the values of God, home, and country as young scouts, and the Boy Scout motto, "Be Prepared," has inspired generations of youths to prepare for and lead full and productive lives.

One of the most significant lessons taught by the Boy Scouts is the importance of being a patriotic American. To call into question the status of the Boy Scout organization and potentially deprive young men who are military dependents of the opportunity to participate in Boy Scout troops on their military bases, is an absolute shame.

I was fortunate as a boy, as a lad, to join the Boy Scouts when I was growing. I still remember how proud my mother and my father were when I attained the rank of Eagle Scout. I remember it as if it were yesterday. The sponsor of my Eagle Scout class was Dr. Milton Eisenhower, and as I mounted the podium with the other branded Eagle Scouts and a rose was handed to me, which I was to hand to my mother, which I did, and Dr. Eisenhower, after hearing my name called off, my first name being Ike, he leaned over to me, shook hands with me, and said, "That is what they used to call me, Ike." So evidently all the Eisenhower boys were called by that name.

Madam Speaker, later I was an assistant scout master. I later was the cub master of a cub troop in my hometown. I am enormously proud of our family who also participated in the scouting program, one of our sons of course being an Eagle Scout. I am honored to have continued the association with Boy Scouts of America to today.

So I call on my colleagues to join us in voting for this concurrent resolution, for standing up for the young men, Boy Scouts of America, who are really the future leaders of our country.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

The gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) knows firsthand the impact of the Boy Scouts in the lives of a young boy, and I appreciate very much his statement.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON).

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

I stand in enthusiastic support of H. Con. Res. 6, which urges the Department of Defense to continue to exercise its statutory authority to support the activities of Boy Scouts of America, and particularly letting them have jamborees on military posts and bases.

When we look at the name Boy Scout, to call somebody a Boy Scout in society today, it is a term that one would say this guy is squeaky clean. This is a good kid. This is a hard worker. This is somebody who likes his family. Indeed, if we step back and see what the Boy Scout organization is about, there are strong things of God, family, and country, which of course the ACLU cannot stand. The ACLU seems to wake up in the morning and look for ways to tear down great institutions in our society; so it is no wonder they would again attack another one, with the Boy Scouts being their goal.

What do kids learn in Boy Scouts? The gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) just talked about how it can help kids who do not have fathers, who may have had a broken home and a hard life. What does it teach them? It teaches them the value of hard work. It teaches them goal-setting. It teaches them team effort, community service. It is open to all. It teaches them respect for one another.

Boy Scouts is a good organization, and in our society in order for a representative democracy to thrive as it has, we need good civic clubs like Rotary and Kiwanis.

□ 1030

We need good nonprofit institutions like the Cancer Society and the Heart Fund and the United Way. We need good churches and good synagogues. But for children, young people growing up, these things start out with youth groups at church, 4-H Clubs, Girl Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, Young Life, YMCA and, of course, the Boy Scouts. This is about the United States of America and developing good citizens.

So I urge the passage of H. Con. Res. 6, so that the Boy Scouts can continue to have these important jamborees

that teach the kids so many good instructional values as they grow up, and have these things hosted on military bases when practical and necessary.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON). Without objection, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) for the balance of his time.

There was no objection.

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HOSTETTLER).

(Mr. HOSTETTLER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 6 and America's Boy Scouts. Unfortunately, the assault on the Boy Scouts of America continues. In the name of tolerance and acceptance, some would force the Department of Defense to abandon America's Boy Scouts. Rather than allow this private organization to continue receiving support from the Department of Defense, they would rather compel the Department of Defense to terminate the relationship between military families and this important quality-of-life program.

It is a shame that the U.S. Congress even has to consider this bill, yet here we are actually debating whether such an organization that instills service and integrity in our Nation's boys is worthy of support from the Department of Defense.

The Scout's Law says that Scouts must be trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent. We can only hope that all Americans would ascribe to such a code of morality. Imagine the effect on our culture if all of us resolved to commit to the Boy Scouts Oath. Rather than condemn the Boy Scouts for such a code, this organization deserves our whole-hearted support.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I urge the Boy Scouts to remain unwavering in their principles as expressed in the Scout Law and Oath. Likewise, I urge my colleagues to continue to support this fine organization by voting in favor of H. Con. Res. 6.

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 6, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the Department of Defense should continue to exercise its statutory authority to support the activities of the Boy Scouts of America, in particular the periodic national and world Boy Scout Jamborees.

Title 10 of the United States Code, specifically authorizes the DOD to make military installations available to, and to provide equipment, transportation, and other services to, the Boy Scouts of America to support national and world gatherings of Boy Scouts at events known as the Boy Scout Jamboree.

For almost 100 years, the Boy Scouts of America has given generations of young men

the tools to become moral, responsible, and ethical adults. By its actions, the Department of Defense is not only defying the law, but also turning its back on these outstanding young men.

Let me be very clear, the Boy Scouts of America is the Nation's foremost youth program of character development and values-based leadership training.

In addition, the Boy Scouts of America offers young people responsible fun an adventure, and in the process, it instills lifetime values and helps to develop ethical character. It is also an organization that promotes family values and service to country.

I urge my colleagues to pass this resolution.

Mr. KLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for the Boy Scouts of America and the right of the Department of Defense to continue their support of this proud organization.

The Boy Scouts of America enjoys a long tradition of excellence. For nearly a century young men have joined the scouts, and have come away with essential life skills and character building experiences. Many of my colleagues here today claim alumni status in the Boy Scouts and credit their scouting experience in the development of a commitment to civic responsibility. I am proud to include myself in this group. And, I am especially proud that my son, now a major in the U.S. Army is an Eagle Scout.

The Department of Defense has long shared in the support of the Boy Scouts and their mission of preparing young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes. Unfortunately, a small group threatens to put in jeopardy the well-being of this outstanding organization for the purposes of political grandstanding.

I stand today with my colleagues to encourage the Department of Defense to continue their critical support of the Boy Scouts of America, and protect their constitutional right to free speech.

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong Support of H. Con. Res. 6 and the Boy Scouts of America. I would like to thank my colleague, Representative JOEL HEFLEY, for introducing this important resolution to support the Boy Scouts of America and their Jamborees.

To all Scouts everywhere, I say continue to live your life according to the Scout law, and you will find that you will go far in life.

To those adults involved in the Scouts, I say, thank you. Thank you for your work to mold young people into fine citizens that will do great things for our country.

The Scout leaders who teach Scouts about self respect, self reliance, and the wonders of our natural world do our nation a great service. Without the Boy Scouts and others who have worked to instill these values in our society, many in this institution would not be able to carry on the hard work to protect our natural resources and wild lands.

Last Congress, I introduced H.R. 5428 which, if passed, would restore the ability of our armed forces to directly support Scout troops and ensure that the Scouts will continue to have the use of Fort A.P. Hill and the assistance of our armed forces for its jamboree. I intend to work with my colleagues to introduce similar legislation again in this Congress.

Madam Speaker, I grew up a Boy Scout, became a Scoutmaster, and watched proudly

as both my sons became Scouts. I will continue to protect the Scouts from those that wish to harm this fine organization.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote for H. Con. Res. 6.

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise to oppose H. Con. Res. 6, a resolution expressing, the sense of Congress that the Department of Defense should continue to exercise its statutory authority to support the activities of the Boy Scouts of America.

I do not oppose the Boy Scouts. However, I do oppose the Federal Government using its resources to support an organization that blatantly discriminates against various groups.

As a private organization, the Boy Scouts may exclude individuals from membership based on their sexual orientation, religion, or gender. I disagree with that decision, but it is their right.

But I oppose a resolution commending any part of our government—even the Department of Defense—for supporting the Boy Scouts or any other organization that promotes active discrimination.

The author of this resolution may be concerned that courts are calling into question the appropriateness of the support the Department of Defense provides to the Boy Scouts. I hope the courts do move forward to end this explicit government support of discrimination. We should do that here in Congress, but instead my Republican colleagues are trying to hinder the courts from enforcing civil rights.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, today I voted against H. Con. Res. 6, because I am disappointed with the Boy Scouts of America's exclusionary policies that prevent gay boys and teens from participating in scouting. While the Boy Scouts' positive work within our Nation's communities is notable, the message that the organization sends to gay youth by shutting them out diminishes its greater goals of teaching respect, personal honor, and service.

It is important to encourage and support all of our children and by excluding gay youth the Boy Scouts of America is preventing some young men from experiencing the positive benefits Scouting can offer.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I have long admired the services of the many Boy Scout volunteers and have benefited from the organization myself. It is sad that their good works have been clouded by a policy that governs who can participate in the organization. Until the organization changes that policy, I do not feel comfortable voting for resolutions such as this.

I look forward to the day the Boy Scouts of America can better represent their communities by extending membership to all persons who abide by the Boy Scout creed.

Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 6—Sense of Congress that the Department of Defense should continue its support of the Boy Scouts of America.

I rise as a life-long member of the Scouts, and a proud Eagle Scout.

This week marks the 95th anniversary of the incorporation of the Boy Scouts of America. Madam Speaker, the Boy Scouts stand for something—they stand for what we want all young Americans to be.

To be Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful and Friendly.

There are not many organizations, Madam Speaker, that stand for the same values and

principles today that they did at the time of their founding or incorporation. The Boy Scouts of America are not an organization that has changed its core values in order to maintain a sense of political correctness in an age of vanishing values.

There are not many organizations that exist today, like the Boy Scouts of America that are willing to stand up and tell young men that they should strive to be:

Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful,  
Thrifty, Brave, Clean and Reverent.

Those are the principles of the Boy Scout Law. And it is my sense, and I believe the sense of my constituents and those of the rest of America, that Congress continue to support the Boy Scouts of America.

The Boy Scouts will be gathering this summer at Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia, and Congress should resolve to encourage in strong terms that the Department of Defense continue its support of the Scouts today, for the coming national jamboree, and in the future.

Mr. HEFLEY. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and encourage everyone to support this resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 6.

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. HEFLEY. Madam 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.

#### ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 74) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

##### H. RES. 74

*Resolved*, That the following named Members and Delegates be and are hereby elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

(1) COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET.—Ms. Schwartz of Pennsylvania (to rank immediately after Mr. Cuellar).

(2) COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY.—Mr. Smith of Washington, Mr. Van Hollen.

(3) COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY.—Ms. Loretta Sanchez of California, Mr. Markey, Mr. Dicks, Ms. Harman, Mr. DeFazio, Mrs. Lowey, Ms. Norton, Ms. Zoe Lofgren of California, Ms. Jackson-Lee of Texas, Mr. Pascrell, Mrs. Christensen, Mr. Etheridge, Mr. Langevin, Mr. Meek of Florida.

(4) COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT.—Mrs. Jones of Ohio, Mr. Gene Green of Texas, Ms. Roybal-Allard, Mr. Doyle.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### HONORING THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 26) honoring the Tuskegee Airmen for their bravery in fighting for our freedom in World War II, and for their contribution in creating an integrated United States Air Force.

The Clerk read as follows:

##### H. CON. RES. 26

Whereas the United States is currently combating terrorism around the world and is highly dependent on the global reach and presence provided by the Air Force;

Whereas these operations require the highest skill and devotion to duty from all Air Force personnel involved;

Whereas the Tuskegee Airmen proved that such skill and devotion, and not skin color, are the determining factors in aviation;

Whereas the Tuskegee Airmen served honorably in the Second World War struggle against global fascism; and

Whereas the example of the Tuskegee Airmen has encouraged millions of Americans of every race to pursue careers in air and space technology: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that the United States Air Force should continue to honor and learn from the example provided by the Tuskegee Airmen as it faces the challenges of the 21st century and the war on terror.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS).

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam 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. 26.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, in March of 1942, five young men at a rural Army airbase in Tuskegee, Alabama, graduated from aviation cadet class in the Army Air Corps. These men, like other World War II fighter pilots, accepted extraordinary risks to carry out their missions. They were brave and patriotic. Hailing from towns and cities across America, these young soldiers came to Tuskegee, Alabama, with the dream of serving our Nation in the air. They would graduate with honors as captains and lieutenants.

From 1942 to 1946, 992 fighter pilots would graduate from this rural Army airbase in central Alabama. Their missions would be over enemy territory in Italy and North Africa, some of the