

The commemorative coins that would be issued under this legislation would be available next year, in suitable recognition of the 100th anniversary of that event.

The history of the building since it ceased being a Mint facility is less glorious. While operating as a museum, it was damaged by at least one earthquake, in 1989, and was said to be too expensive an operation for Treasury to keep open. It finally closed in 1995, with its exhibits sent off to other museums or back to those who had lent them.

Now, a new project to earthquake-proof the building, renovate it and open museums—on San Francisco and on the Gold Rush, as well as a numismatic museum—has gained momentum, and the surcharges on the sales of gold and silver commemorative coins authorized in this legislation will add millions to that important project. I will note that while Greeks were the first producers of coins, Romans were the first to collect them. Romans initially prized Greek coins, especially the older issues, but they later collected their own coins. Now, many Americans, while collecting foreign coins, are proud to collect U.S. coinage, from the early days down through the 50-State quarters and, I hope soon, the Presidential dollars. A coinage museum in this grand old building would be a boon to collectors, teachers, and students.

Mr. Speaker, this proposal is an excellent idea for a commemorative coin. It has received the required two-thirds co-sponsorship of House members, and if enacted will proceed at no cost to the taxpayer. I urge its immediate passage.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,  
Washington, DC, October 25, 2005.  
Hon. WILLIAM M. THOMAS,  
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means, U.S.  
House of Representatives, Longworth House  
Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN THOMAS: I am writing concerning H.R. 1953, the “San Francisco Old Mint Commemorative Coin Act,” which was introduced in the House and referred to the Committee on Financial Services on April 28, 2005. It is my expectation that this bill will be scheduled for floor consideration in the near future.

As you know, Section 7 of the bill establishes a surcharge for the sale of commemorative coins that are minted under the bill. I acknowledge your committee’s jurisdictional interest in such surcharges as revenue matters. However, I request that your committee forego action on H.R. 1953 in order to allow the bill to come to the floor expeditiously. I appreciate your cooperation in so doing, and agree that your decision to forego further action on this bill will not prejudice the Committee on Ways and Means with respect to its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation. I would support your request for conferees on those provisions within your jurisdiction should this bill be the subject of a House-Senate conference.

I will include a copy of this letter and your response in the Congressional Record when this bill is considered by the House. Thank you again for your assistance.

Yours truly,

MICHAEL G. OXLEY,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,  
Washington, DC, November 4, 2005.  
Hon. MICHAEL G. OXLEY,  
Chairman, Committee on Financial Services,  
Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN OXLEY: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 1953, the “San Francisco Old Mint Commemorative Coin Act,” which was introduced in the House and referred to the Committee on Financial Services on April 28, 2005.

As you noted, the Committee on Ways and Means maintains jurisdiction over matters that concern raising revenue. Section 7 of H.R. 1953 establishes a surcharge for the sale of commemorative coins that are minted under the bill, and thus falls within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means. However, in order to expedite this bill for floor consideration, the Committee will forgo action. This is being done with the understanding that it does not in any way prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation.

I appreciate and agree to your offer to include this exchange of letters on this matter in the Congressional Record during floor consideration.

Best regards,

BILL THOMAS,  
Chairman.

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

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, one can see that this is a strong bipartisan bill that deserves the support of every one of our colleagues.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FEENEY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1953, as amended.

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. LANTOS. 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.

□ 1100

RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING  
CONTINUING DEDICATION AND  
COMMITMENT OF EMPLOYERS  
OF MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL  
GUARD AND THE OTHER RE-  
SERVE COMPONENTS

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 302) recognizing and commending the continuing dedication and commitment of employers of the members of the National Guard and the other reserve components who have been mobi-

lized during the Global War on Terrorism and in defense of the United States, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 302

Whereas as of early November 2005, more than 460,000 members of the National Guard and the other reserve components have been mobilized for active duty since September 11, 2001, leaving their families to protect the United States in the Global War on Terrorism or to support hurricane disaster relief operations;

Whereas during this period of increased mobilization and deployment, employers in the spirit of patriotism have maintained job security for those mobilized reserve-component members and their families;

Whereas the Civilian Employment Information Program of the Department of Defense, a database program implemented by the Department of Defense as of March 31, 2004, to identify employers of the 1,100,000 members of the National Guard and the other reserve components, will enable the Department of Defense to improve communication with the employer community and target support and render assistance to employers of reserve component personnel who are identified for mobilization;

Whereas employers of all sizes understand that the predictable mobilization and deployment of members of the National Guard and the other reserve components are the keys to building and maintaining employer support;

Whereas the employer community continues to work with the Department of Defense to show its support for the National Guard and the other reserve components and to better understand and adhere to the obligations spelled out in the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act; and

Whereas the employer community recognizes that the missions and duties of members of the Armed Forces both abroad and in securing the homeland will be necessary: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) the employers of members of the National Guard and the other reserve components deserve the Nation’s sincere recognition and gratitude for their sacrifice and strong support of the goals and struggles of the United States during the Global War on Terrorism and in support of hurricane disaster relief operations;

(2) those distinguished employers of the members of the National Guard and the other reserve components who have gone above and beyond the obligations and requirements of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act deserve the Nation’s commendation; and

(3) the Secretary of Defense should continue to develop long-term strategies to maintain a high level of support between the Department of Defense and employers of members of the National Guard and the other reserve components by—

(A) continuing to build and maintain the Civilian Employment Information Program database of the Department of Defense implemented by the Department of Defense as of March 31, 2004;

(B) continuing to work with employers to build a more predictable system for the mobilization and demobilization of members of the reserve components; and

(C) encouraging officials of the Department to actively seek opportunities to address employer groups on future mobilization plans and future roles of the reserve components.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FEENEY). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 302.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in strong support of H. Res. 302.

Mr. Speaker, since September 11, 2001, we have been a changed nation. The horrific events of that day in New York, in our Nation's capital and over the skies of Pennsylvania changed us as a people that day. We became a nation at war, and the defense of our homeland became of top priority.

Our uniformed young men and women answered the call, but in addition to these soldiers, sailors, Marines, airmen and corpsmen, more than 460,000 members of the National Guard and other Reservists have been mobilized for active duty over the last 2 years. Their sacrifice and assistance has been essential in our fight for freedom.

Now it is important to remember that it is not only on foreign soil or in defense of our Nation against terrorism that we have all benefited from the sacrifice of these men and women. Just weeks ago, as we all saw when natural disasters devastated our gulf coast region, Reserve personnel and National Guard components were at the forefront of relief and rescue efforts.

While each of us benefits from the sacrifice of these men and women called to service, it is sometimes too easy to forget the contribution made by behind-the-scenes heroes, that is, the employers and business owners, many of whom are small businesses who employ these Guardsmen and Reservists.

I am sure that each of us has heard in our towns and communities, the businesses who employ Guard and Reserve have gone above and beyond what is required to support our troops and ensure that their jobs are waiting for them when they return. As we honor the service of our men and women, also we should commend the patriotism and effort of all those who provide them their living.

I would also take this opportunity to commend the Department of Defense for bringing its Reserve civilian employer information database online this year. This system represents the culmination of a year-long effort to establish a Department of Defense-wide system to capture and understand who employs the 1.2 million members of the

seven Reserve components. I would urge the Department of Defense to continue to develop this system and other long-term strategies so that we can maintain the historic level of support between the department and the employers of our Reservists.

Mr. Speaker, at the end of this week we will honor our Nation's veterans. As we do so, it is equally fitting to honor our Nation's Armed Forces and Reserves as we do today. I commend those on the forefront who have given so much in their support.

I thank my colleague for sponsoring this resolution and ask my colleagues that it be adopted.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and commend my colleagues from Texas and California for offering the resolution today.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure there is not one of us in the House of Representatives that has not been impacted by one of our Guard and Reserve units being called up and mobilized in regards to the operations ongoing in Iraq and Afghanistan. All of us are terribly proud of the tremendous sacrifice and courage and service that has been exhibited by our Guard and Reserve units throughout the country.

Recently, I had a chance to return to Iraq for my third trip in country. It is invaluable experience in getting a firsthand account in regards to the ongoing operations, the progress that is being made, what is working and perhaps, more importantly, what is not working. The time that we were able to spend with our troops on the ground is time well spent because they do tend to tell us like it is, what is working, what is not, what we need to improve upon in regards to the policy of what is taking place.

But having gone to Iraq now on three separate occasions, I can honestly state that nothing has made me prouder to be an American than seeing our troops in uniform there performing their duties. They are so well-trained, so well-motivated. They are, in short, the best our Nation has to offer.

Yet, their service to our country would be made much more difficult if they did not receive the support from back home, first and foremost from their families and loved ones, who also have to endure extreme sacrifice and hardship by allowing them to serve for extended periods of time overseas, typically 1 year boots-on-the-ground in theater like Iraq today. But there is another component to this, another entity that oftentimes gets overlooked, and that is what this resolution today speaks to.

It is the countless employers out there that have to, by law, a law that Congress has passed, allow them to serve our country while keeping their jobs open and safe back home. It is one of those items that people tend not to

think too much about, but it does go to alleviate a lot of the concerns that our serving Guard and Reserve units have, and that is maintaining financial security for the families back home and knowing that when they do return from serving our country there will be a position for them at their place of employment.

In Wisconsin, we have had two companies last year that were recognized for their outstanding service to the Guard and Reserve employees that they have. One is Harley Davidson. The other was Schneider Trucking, located up in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Every year there is a process to try to recognize some of these companies throughout the country that are going above and beyond in regards to their support for Guard and Reserve units, and we commend them here today with this resolution.

In the congressional district that I represent in western Wisconsin, Mr. Speaker, we have had numerous National Guard units who have been called up. This past week we have the 700-member 128th Infantry Guard, who are returning home from their 1 year tour in Iraq, and there is no more happy occasion to attend than the reunion ceremony of those troops when they step off the plane, being reunited with their families for the very first time in a long time.

Beyond the 128th, we are hoping to be able to welcome home soon the 1158th Transportation Guard unit in western Wisconsin, hopefully within the next few weeks. We have also had the 32nd, the 229th, the 652nd, the 829th Engineering Guard units who were called up, gone through their training, deployed and served admirably over in Iraq.

Again, when they come home they face periods of transition, some difficult, some not so difficult, but the one thing that they should not have to worry about is knowing that there is a job for them remaining, that they gave up in order to serve our country. That is why I think this resolution commanding their employers is very important today.

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my great friend from California (Mr. POMBO), the chairman of the Resources Committee.

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to show my appreciation for the National Guard, the Reserves and their employers. This resolution, H. Res. 302, recognizes those employers who accommodate the 1.1 million members of National Guard and other Reserve components. They make it possible for our country to be protected and defended by our patriot volunteers.

This resolution acknowledges all employers from the small-town family business to the public sector that have

provided a stable job to more than 460,000 members of the National Guard and Reserves who have been called to duty since September 11, 2001. These employers have provided our Reservists security in payment, health care and benefits.

Reservists have been called up to serve in great numbers in order to assist with natural disaster relief on the homeland or in support for the global war on terror in Afghanistan and Iraq.

I am proud to say that my district is home to recipients of the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. This award was created to recognize employers who have provided exceptional support to Reservists.

One recipient of the Employer Support Freedom Award, Enterprise Rent-a-Car, has locations throughout my district from Pleasanton to Stockton and my hometown of Tracy. Enterprise received recognition for extending full salary and benefits for the entire length of mobilization, regardless of how much they receive in military pay.

I would also like to mention the sacrifice of Give Every Child a Chance, a nonprofit located in Manteca, California. One of their employees, Oscar, is a military policeman in the Army Reserves. Oscar has served his country in Iraq and in Egypt for a total of 16 months. While Oscar was serving in Egypt, they temporarily replaced him with existing staff. They wrote to me that "While it was a very chaotic month, we knew that when we hired Oscar he had a commitment to serve our country, and we accepted that commitment as part of our dedication to the United States of America."

National Guard members and members of Reserve Forces comprise about 46 percent of our total available military manpower. With such a significant proportion of our Nation's defense dependent upon those who maintain careers in addition to their military service, a cooperative relationship between servicemen and -women and their employers is indispensable.

The support for a healthy relationship has been prevalent from the United States Chamber of Commerce and the local chambers throughout my district. I would like to commend the Department of Defense, specifically the employers' support of the Guard and Reserve, for their cooperation with civilian employees.

Other strong supporters include SBC Communications, Incorporated, and veterans groups like the American Legion.

Our Guard, Reserves and their families sacrifice a great deal in the defense of our country. Please join me in recognizing their employers by supporting the passage of H. Res. 302.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to my good friend from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Wisconsin for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 302. This resolution

recognizes and commends the continued dedication and commitment of employers of the members of the National Guard and the other Reserve components who have been mobilized during the global war on terrorism.

I agree wholeheartedly with the sentiments of this legislation and firmly believe that it is the duty of us at home to support the brave men and women who are serving their country overseas.

Many of the 433,000 Reservists and members of the National Guard that have been mobilized left behind not only their family and friends, but also their careers. Therefore, it is important that we do all that we can to ensure that those jobs are there for them when they return.

I also would like to give special thanks to the employers located in my district and my State that the Illinois National Guard has commended for rising above and beyond the call of duty. Some of the companies in the Chicago area singled out by the Illinois National Guard include Hershey Foods, United Airlines, Motorola, Abbott Laboratories, Boeing, Frito Lay, the Chicago Police Department, the Arlington Heights Fire Department, the Buffalo Grove Police Department, ABN AMRO, Cardinal Health, Mackie Consultants, Mitchell Aircraft, Grainger, the Oak Park Police Department, United Parcel Service, the DuPage County Sheriff and the State of Illinois, to just name a few.

So, again, I strongly support this legislation and urge its passage.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE), my good friend from the Education Committee.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from Texas for the time.

I rise in support of H. Res. 302 and commend the thousands of American businesses for their exceptional support of the employees who voluntarily serve in the National Guard and Reserve. These brave men and women risk their lives to protect our way of life, and the fact that their communities are standing by them and their family is a tremendous statement of gratitude for their service.

In my home State of Delaware, members of the Army and Air National Guard have set an extraordinary example for the rest of the country, with one of the highest national percentages of personnel volunteering for deployment in the global war on terror. These men and women have flown missions and provide support in places all over the globe, spending months away from their loved ones in places like Iraq and Afghanistan.

When Hurricane Katrina hit the gulf region, I am proud to say that the Delaware National Guard was among the first units on the ground, responding with airlift, security personnel and medical supplies.

On October 15, the State of Delaware was among several employers recognized by the Secretary of Defense for their outstanding support of Guardsmen and their families.

As a former Governor in Delaware, I can tell my colleagues that the vocal and active support from our community for the National Guard and Reserve is a long-standing tradition.

□ 1115

Our loyal Chamber of Commerce has a strong relationship with the Guard, and together they have worked diligently over the years to educate businesses and build employer support for our citizen soldiers.

As Veterans' Day approaches and we honor those who served and are currently serving in missions around the globe, it is essential that we recognize the millions of employers, large and small, who continue to ensure that mobilized employees and their families are taken care of.

Mr. Speaker, American businesses have always stepped up when our Nation needs them the most. Today, I commend them for their commitment to our military families and encourage all employers to support the brave men and women who defend our freedom day in and day out.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am sure my colleagues are aware that back in 1994 we did pass the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, which is to protect the National Guard and Reservists and others called up to serve their country. It requires that employers hold jobs for employees when serving abroad, as well as retain some basic benefits for them.

I am also sure my colleagues are aware that many companies have stepped up and gone above and beyond the call of duty. In fact, a recently released GAO report acknowledged that many of the employers exceed the minimum requirements set forth in law. For example, more than 26 percent of the selected Reservists are receiving their salaries or differential pay, 32 percent get medical benefits not required by the law, and 30 percent get some other benefit above and beyond the legal requirements. I commend those companies that see the necessity to step up and make that extra effort to alleviate a lot of the concern that our Guard and Reserve units have.

I have two companies in my congressional district in western Wisconsin in particular that I would like to recognize: Ashley Furniture, which is a large furniture manufacturing company that has many Guard and Reservists employed. They have stepped up by offering the differential pay to those Guard and Reservists, as well as Mathy Construction, who is doing the same exact thing.

Our good friend and colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), has offered H.R. 838 that I would

like to recognize on the floor today. This is a differential pay legislation that would require the Federal Government to pick up the pay difference that the Guard and Reservists are receiving as active military compared to what they would have normally received, and it offers tax incentives to reimburse the companies who are doing this on their own. I think it is worthy legislation, worthy of our support.

Finally, I would like to point out there is one segment of employment that has been particularly hard hit by the call-up of our Guard and Reserves, and that is the first responder units in our congressional districts. Many of the Guard and Reserve units are coming from first responders, whether it is the police or sheriff departments, fire departments, in short, our civilian warriors. They seem to be particularly hard-pressed during these trying times by allowing their workers to go and serve our country.

That has had an impact on the services they are able to provide, because they are giving up some of the most qualified and hard-working employees to do these services for us back in our congressional districts. So I just want to point that out during the resolution discussion today.

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments. He is right on target. Our guys are doing a great job out there, and most of them are civilian warriors.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER), whose husband was Air Force active and later in the Guard, so she has some knowledge of this subject.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman sincerely for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, nearly half a million Americans have served in our National Guard since the beginning of the war on terror. A half million fathers and mothers and brothers and sisters, a half million people so dedicated to protecting our Nation, protecting our families that they have sacrificed time with their own families. This is a half million people willing to confront America's enemies face to face.

Mr. Speaker, none of those great patriots would be able to serve our Nation without the incredible support and the sacrifice of those back home. For each man and woman deployed by the Guard, there is an employer who must operate without an employee. There is a company that must do business and meet its challenges without a member of its team. There is a boss who must get by without his full staff, even though he or she is faced with intense competition and unyielding deadlines.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to see our American businesses answering the call and serving their country by supporting our Guard. They are selflessly going about their business with a half million fewer workers, and they are

doing so without complaint. They are setting an example for future generations by loyally holding those positions open at the same level of pay and with the same level of benefits for when our proud men and women, our Guardsmen return home. American employers are proving that their relationship with the National Guard is as strong and as important as ever. They are proving that the men and women who serve the United States proudly should be well served by our country.

My hometown of Harrison Township, Michigan, is also very proud to be the hometown of Selfridge Air National Guard Base. I have watched as literally thousands and thousands of National Guard members have deployed from Selfridge in defense of America, and I am proud to say that I have also seen countless Michigan employers ensure that Guard members are taken care of when they return home.

I strongly support House Resolution 302, because it is time we in the Congress, here in the House of Representatives, formally recognize the great work and the great sacrifice of American businesses, those who employ our Guard and Reserve members. Though they serve our Nation quietly and nobly, these companies deserve a profound and enthusiastic thank you from their government.

The men and women who have served and now serve our Nation in the Armed Forces make an incredible sacrifice, and this Veterans' Day week this resolution is especially appropriate in an important recognition that their friends and loved ones and their employers back home are sacrificing, too.

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to my good friend from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS).

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 302 and appreciate the efforts of the gentleman from California and our distinguished war hero who just has given me this time.

Many employers have gone above and beyond what the law requires of them, either by making up the loss in income that may occur when their employee is called to active duty or through a variety of other initiatives that recognize this special burden our National Guard and Reservists take upon themselves. Quite simply, those employers who are already recognizing the sacrifices of the Reserve components deserve our sincere praise.

But this body can go further, as Representative KIND points out. We should enact incentives through tax credits for private employers to make up the pay gap; and the Federal Government, the largest single employer of the citizens who make up the Guard and Reserve, should match the examples set by employers throughout this country and pay the difference when a citizen soldier experiences a loss of salary when he or she is activated.

Congressmen LANTOS, GRAVES, McGOVERN, and my legislation would do exactly just that, and I hope this body would consider it soon. Again, I support this resolution, I thank the gentleman from California, and I urge its adoption.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. In closing, I want to again thank my colleagues from California and the gentleman on our committee from Texas for offering this resolution. I encourage our colleagues to adopt it.

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I just want to say that we need to really recognize our guys that are fighting for this country. The Reserve and the Guard are a major part of the effort today.

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of House Resolution 302. This resolution recognizes and commends employers of members of the National Guard and other reserve components who have been mobilized during the global war on terrorism.

This resolution, if passed, would urge the Department of Defense to continue to develop long-term strategies to maintain a high level of support between these conscientious employers and to thank these employers for going above and beyond what is required by law.

I would like to commend the Chairman for bringing this outstanding resolution to the floor today. I am a co-sponsor of this resolution and H.R. 838, The Hope at Home Act. I strongly believe that men and women who choose to serve their country should not be punished for their service by having to leave their current job without financial support. That is why I have co-sponsored legislation that would give tax credits of 50 percent of an employee's compensation to businesses that continue to pay a guardsman or reservist who gets called up to active duty.

In particular, I would like to extend a special thanks to those patriotic employers in America that eliminate this pay gap for their workers by continuing to pay them the difference between their civilian salary and their military pay when mobilized. Nearly 1/3 of reservists have this benefit from their employer.

We should only ask so much sacrifice from those who are so willing to give up their lives to serve the cause of American freedom. Financial ruin should not be one of those sacrifices. I will continue to work on behalf of the National Guard and Reserves for better and more equitable treatment.

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to show my appreciation for the National Guard, the Reserves, and their employers. This resolution, H. Res. 302, recognizes those employers who accommodate the 1.1 million members of the National Guard and other reserve components. They make it possible for our country to be protected and defended by our patriot volunteers.

This resolution acknowledges all employers—from the small-town family business to the public sector—that have provided a stable job to more than 460,000 members of the National Guard and Reserves who have been

called to duty since September 11, 2001. These employers have provided our reservists security in payment, healthcare and benefits.

Reservists have been called up to serve in great numbers in order to assist with natural disaster relief on the homeland or in support for the global war on terror in Afghanistan and Iraq.

I am proud to say my district is home to recipients of the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. This award was created to recognize employers who provide exceptional support to reservists.

One recipient of the Employer Support Freedom Award, Enterprise Rent-a-Car has locations throughout my district from Pleasanton to Stockton and my hometown of Tracy. Enterprise received recognition for extending full salary and benefits for the entire length of mobilization—regardless of how much they receive in military pay.

I would also like to mention the sacrifice of Give Every Child a Chance, a non-profit located in Manteca, California. One of their employees, Oscar, is a military policeman in the Army Reserves. Oscar has served his country in Iraq and then in Egypt for a total of 16 months. While Oscar was serving in Egypt, they temporarily replaced him with existing staff. They wrote to me that, “[while] it was a very chaotic month, we knew when we hired Oscar he had a commitment to serve our country, and we accepted that commitment as part of our dedication to the United States of America.”

National Guard members and members of Reserve forces comprise about 46 percent of our total available military manpower. With such a significant proportion of our Nation's defense dependent upon those who maintain careers in addition to their military service, a cooperative relationship between service men and women and employers is indispensable.

This support for a healthy relationship has been prevalent from the United States Chamber of Commerce, and local Chambers throughout my district. I would like to commend the Department of Defense, specifically the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve for their cooperation with civilian employers.

Other strong supporters include SBC Communications, Inc. and veterans groups like the American Legion.

Some employers in California's Eleventh Congressional District giving benefits to reservists are: A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc., Albertson's, Allstate, Bank of America, Best Buy, Cingular Wireless, Citigroup, Contra Costa County, County of Santa Clara, Dow Chemical Company, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Exxon Mobil, Federal Express, Harley Davidson, Home Depot, Lockheed Martin, McDonald's Corp., National Park Service, (Contra Costa County) Office of the Sheriff, Oracle, PG&E Corp., Safeway, SBC Communications Inc., Sears & Roebuck, UPS, State of California, Staples, Sybase, Inc., Target, TGI Friday's, TJ Maxx, U.S. Postal Service, and Verizon.

Additionally, the resolution has received strong support from: U.S. Chamber of Commerce, American Legion of California, Brentwood Chamber of Commerce, Brentwood VFW Post 10789, Dublin Chamber of Commerce, Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, Lodi Chamber of Commerce, Manteca Chamber of Commerce, Morgan Hill Chamber of

Commerce, San Ramon Chamber of Commerce, Stockton Chamber of Commerce, Air Force Sergeants Association, Association of the United States Army, Tino Adame Commander Karl Ross Post, 16, Give Every Child A Chance, American Legion, John Butler CTCS USN (retired), Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, Fleet Reserve Association, The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States, PG&E, General Mills, and SBC Communications, Inc.

I would request that a list of more businesses and public entities recognized by the U.S. Chamber and ESGR be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Our Guard, Reserves and their families sacrifice a great deal in the defense of our country. Please join me in recognizing their employers by supporting passage of H. Res. 302.

The Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award was instituted in 1996 by Secretary of Defense William Perry under the auspices of the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR). The award was created to publicly recognize American employers who provide exceptional support to their employees who voluntarily serve the nation in the National Guard and Reserve.

The 2005 Recipients are:

Alticor, Inc., formerly Amway, provides exceptional support that includes pay differential and continuation of benefits for up to one year when an employee is mobilized.

Citizens Financial Group is a catalyst for employer support within its many Rhode Island communities. With an expanded military leave and benefit program, which includes pay differential and extension of benefits for up to one year, Citizens grants up to five consecutive days of paid leave when a spouse, domestic partner of child is activated for military service.

Eaton is a diversified industrial manufacturer that continues to provide full pay and benefits to their employees who are mobilized for the duration of their service. This is in addition to their compensation that is received from the military.

Enterprise Rent-A-Car's connection to the U.S. military goes all the way back to Jack Taylor, who in 1957 founded the company and named it after one of the U.S. Navy aircraft carriers he served aboard as a naval aviator—the U.S.S. *Enterprise*. Enterprise shows its true loyalty to its employees who serve in the Guard and Reserve by extending full salary, regardless of military compensation, and benefits for the entire length of mobilization.

IDACORP is a leading northwest employer that provides full benefits and pay differential for the entire duration of military service. IDACORP has also funded extensive family outreach programs in communities of Idaho, Washington, and Oregon when massive mobilizations have occurred. This funding provides for a \$250.00 travel voucher for over 3,000 activated National Guard members.

The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) has a long a proud history of supporting its employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve. The LAPD provides pay differential and continuation of benefits for the length of mobilization. Mobilized employees also continue to receive service credit, accumulated annual vacation and tenure for the duration of their military service.

The Louisiana Department of Safety and Corrections (LDSC) is the first Louisiana state agency to achieve ESGR five star status as a supportive employer of its employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve.

Pioneer Financial Services, Inc. is a very strong supporter of its employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve. Pioneer's proactive support includes providing salary differential and benefits for up to two years, paying bonuses in advance of mobilization to assist with financial needs, and assigning a family support coordinator for the employees' families to assist with any issues that may arise during mobilization.

Ryland Homes is an advocate for service in the National Guard and Reserve and demonstrates this patriotic corporate culture by providing full benefits, to include life, health and dental insurance, and pay differential for one year.

Sears Roebuck, and Co. has a long legacy of providing support to its employees who serve in the military dating from 1916. Sears is a long-time advocate of military service, and provides pay differential and continued human resource benefits for its mobilized employees. Sears has led numerous initiatives that demonstrate its commitment to military personnel and family members, including a partnership with the National Military Family Association (NMFA).

South Dakota State University's enthusiasm, patriotism, and support for its National Guard and Reserve employees and students is outstanding. By providing differential pay for its employees and student academic progression support, SDSU leads the way in maintaining its 140-year-old legacy of providing support to members of the armed forces. SDSU provides pay differential for the length of deployment, and also provides employees 40 hours of paid personal leave for preparation of a deployment.

The State of Delaware has enacted legislation that provides deployed servicemembers with differential pay, including continued health, dental and insurance benefits for its mobilized or recalled military employees.

Toyota employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve are provided pay differential, continuation of benefits, and the use or replacement of an employee special-lease vehicle for activated Guardsmen and Reservists and their families while deployed. In 2004, Toyota Motor Sales launched its Hire\*A\*Hero program, an initiative to foster career opportunities for military personnel transitioning back to civilian life. In addition, Toyota received agreement from 1,422 Toyota and Lexus dealers from across America to provide support above and beyond the requirements of the ESGR 5 Star Statement of Support program to their employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve.

USAA continues to show great care and concern for their National Guard and Reserve employees and their families. Employees who are mobilized receive pay differential and continuation of benefits for up to 2 years. USAA has initiated a variety of military support programs, including Operation Keep in Touch, which was designed to keep deployed employees connected to their coworkers. USAA also provides its activated Guard and Reserve employees with a Deployment Preparedness Kit, which contains a comprehensive guide to assist military members with their leave of absence.

## COMPANY INFORMATION FROM U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEMBERS

Con-Way Transportation Services, Inc. provides healthcare benefits for their employee/dependents for one year for regular employees serving active military service.

United Technologies Corp. fully supports its employees who are called to duty in the U.S. military. We provide the salary differential for our U.S.-based employees for as long as they are deployed, as well as medical, dental and employee life insurance. Medical and dental benefits include coverage for dependents.

Dow Chemical Company supports U.S. military efforts with leave assistance provided to employees who are called to service. Dow pays employees' full salaries for the first eight weeks of leave. After that, Dow supplements military pay for the employees for up to five years so that they continue to receive an equivalent amount of pay. Also, medical, dental and life insurance benefits continue for employees and dependents for up to six months. Upon discharge, employees return to work a Dow in positions similar to the ones they had when they left.

On June 18, 2004, 662 Boeing employees who were called to active military duty under U.S. Sept. 11-related orders each received \$3,000 from the company in recognition of their service. Boeing extended the company's normal military leave policy (that normally allows for up to 90 calendar days of pay differential and benefits) to up to five years of pay differential and benefits for individuals called to active military duty under U.S. Sept. 11, 2001-related orders. Boeing's military leave package includes both pay and benefits components to help employees and their dependents.

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. has partnered with organizations such as the VFW to make certain that our fellow Americans serving our country know that America supports them.

Lockheed Martin, adopted special provisions to lessen hardships and disruption for employees called to active duty in support of the war on terrorism. Since 9/11, approximately 1,000 employees have been called up to serve in the war on terrorism and, most recently, the war in Iraq. The corporation made sure they didn't lose any pay or benefits while protecting our freedom. Additionally, they have ensured that when reservists have fulfilled their active duty obligations, they are able to return to the same or like job position they held prior to their departure.

BellSouth fully supports its employees who are members of the armed forces, and pays the difference between an employee's regular salary and what he or she is paid by the military for the duration of the employee's military leave. The company also continues health care coverage for an employee's dependents during this period.

3M salutes the men and women of our Armed Forces for their courage and service to the country. A Reserve or National Guard member who is ordered to active duty in 2003, 2004, 2005 to support the national emergency receives a pay differential (pay equal to the difference between 3M pay at base rate and military pay) and benefits (with some exclusions) for the first 18 months from the initial activation date; this policy continues to be evaluated and may be adjusted based on the current state of emergency.

Intel has longstanding commitment to military reservists. Intel provides a continuous 24

months of salary coordination. In addition to the salary coordination benefit, Intel's reservists and their families retain full health and other benefits for the duration of the leave, and enjoy a variety of support programs.

As it did in the Gulf War, Honda North America, Inc. has paid its associates serving in Iraq the difference between the associate's Honda pay and military pay for the entire time the associate is on active duty, without time limit.

Since October 2001, New York Life Insurance Company has had a military leave policy for employees who are members of the Reserves or National Guard called to military active duty.

Southern Company is proud to support its employees who volunteer for active duty in Iraq by providing those employees with full payment of the difference between their military salary and their Southern Company base salary.

Sears has supported the men and women serving in the U.S. Armed Forces since 1916. Currently, for its employees serving in the Reserves or National Guard, Sears pays the difference between the employees' Sears salary and military pay for up to 60 months. Qualified Sears employees also receive merit pay increases, incentive pay, stock options and the opportunity to participate in life, medical and dental insurance programs. In addition, Sears recently provide a \$2 million grant to the National Military Family Association for unique, innovative programs that benefit military families.

Accenture was named an Outstanding Employer by the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. Accenture offers benefits beyond the requirements of the law in support of our National Guard and Reserve employees, expanding their pay differential and benefits coverage policies.

UPS has had over 1,400 employees called to active duty and we currently have 1,050 still active.

Landstar System, Inc. supports the men and women in our employ who step up to serve in America's military effort by continuing all benefits in place, including health benefits for them and their families and providing a pay differential for one year of active military duty.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FEENEY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 302, as amended.

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. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. 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 question will be postponed.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1953.

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

There was no objection.

## GRANT W. GREEN POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3770) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 205 West Washington Street in Knox, Indiana, as the "Grant W. Green Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3770

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

## SECTION 1. GRANT W. GREEN POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 205 West Washington Street in Knox, Indiana, shall be known and designated as the "Grant W. Green Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Grant W. Green Post Office Building".

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND).

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTMORELAND. 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 Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3770 authored by the distinguished gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CHOCOLA).

Mr. Speaker, this bill would designate this post office in Knox, Indiana, as the Grant W. Green Post Office Building.

As the longest serving postman in Knox history, Grant Green served the people of Knox from 1920 to 1970. For more than half a century, he refused to let anything, "neither rain nor sleet nor snow nor dark of night," keep him from his appointed routes. For 23 years, he delivered mail to all houses located north of the Nickel Plate Railroad tracks, which ran through the center of town. He spent the remaining 27 years of his career delivering mail