

and whether it was in Boston or Denver, the pitchers made their pitches and the batters showed how hard it was to get an out in their lineup.

With a sense of inevitability, the Red Sox swept the Rockies in four games to win their second World Series in 4 years.

Every player on the team made a contribution. From veterans like Curt Schilling to rookies like Jacoby Ellsbury, Mike Lowell, who helped to keep the Red Sox on top during the regular season and rightfully won the World Series Most Valuable Player.

The 2007 Red Sox not only worked hard; they enjoyed themselves as well and kept the fans entertained, which is easy to do when you love what you do and you're good at it.

We watched Jonathan Papelbon strike out batters, and then we waited for a celebratory dance at the end of the game. It's not often in professional sports that you see a team full of players that has such a strong bond.

It's always a good year when you can follow your baseball team all the way from the beginning of April to the end of October. It's an even better year when they can take the World Series trophy on a parade through Boston.

The 2007 Red Sox played this year with confidence and class and showed us the true definition of team. I look forward to 2008 and adding on to two World Series trophies that we've already won this century.

Again, my congratulations to a great team. Congratulations Boston Red Sox and Red Sox Nation.

I thank my colleague from Massachusetts for yielding, along with his great comments.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, seeing no further speakers on this matter, I yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 782.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PURPLE HEART FAMILY EQUITY ACT OF 2007

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1119) to amend title 36, United States Code, to revise the congressional charter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the United States of America, Incorporated, to authorize associate membership in the corporation for the spouse of a recipient of the Purple Heart medal, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1119

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 "Purple Heart Family Equity Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP IN THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, INCORPORATED.

Section 140503(b) of title 36, United States Code, is amended by striking "parents and lineal descendants" and inserting "the parents, spouse, siblings, and lineal descendants".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ZOE LOFGREN) and the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days 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 gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 1119, the Purple Heart Family Equity Act of 2007, provides an excellent opportunity for us to recognize and honor the brave women as well as brave men who served our Nation in the armed services.

As many of you know, the Purple Heart is awarded to Armed Forces members who are wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy, and posthumously to the next of kin for those who are killed in action or who die of wounds received in action. It is specifically a combat decoration first conceived in 1782 by General George Washington.

Seventy-five years ago, an organization now known as the Military Order of the Purple Heart was formed for the purposes of protecting the mutual interests of all those who have received the decoration. Composed exclusively of Purple Heart recipients, it is the only veterans service organization comprised strictly of combat veterans.

When the order was federally chartered in 1958, however, very few women had received the Purple Heart. And to this day, women recipients of the Purple Heart do not have the same benefits as their male counterparts.

Under the current law, male members can invite their wives to join the Ladies Auxiliary of the Purple Heart, but there is no place in the order for husbands of Purple Heart recipients. The order has identified at least 97 female purple heart recipients who have joined and who are not enjoying the full benefits of membership that they deserve.

H.R. 1119 seeks to fully honor the women of the Armed Forces who have been awarded the Purple Heart defending our Nation. Specifically, the bill amends the order's Federal charter to allow members to invite their spouses

to join as associate members, both for male and female recipients of the Purple Heart. With this minor revision to the Federal charter, the husbands of female members could join the organization.

This bill also allows members to invite their siblings to join as associate members so that they too can take part in the full honor of their brothers and sisters who fought so bravely for our country and received a Purple Heart. It is only right that we allow the members to include their siblings in this honor.

This bipartisan legislation is endorsed by the Military Order of the Purple Heart. It recognizes the important role women have played in defending our Nation in times of war.

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We owe this long overdue recognition to these women and their families. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I thank the gentlewoman for her presentation of H.R. 1119.

The Military Order of the Purple Heart of the United States of America was founded in 1932. And as the gentlewoman stated, it goes back to George Washington. It's rich in our heritage, and it's precious in our reference to those who have bled for this Nation and for the freedom of the people here in the United States of America. It was recognized by the Veterans Administration and represents "veterans in the presentation of claims before the . . . administration," this is the Military Order of the Purple Heart, and also "its service officers are active in veterans hospitals." The organization was federally chartered in 1958.

Active members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart must be persons of good moral character who have received the Purple Heart for wounds received as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces or for those of any country during military combat against an armed enemy of the United States.

The Military Order of the Purple Heart is a sterling organization that provides services to those brave Americans who were wounded defending our country. The order also seeks to promote "patriotic allegiance to the United States, fidelity to the Constitution and laws of the United States, and the security of civil liberty and the permanence of free institutions." And that's all out of their mission. Its goals are "educational, fraternal, historical, and patriotic, perpetuating the principles of liberty and justice which have created the United States." In short, Mr. Speaker, the Military Order of the Purple Heart upholds many of the pillars of American exceptionalism.

Parents or lineal descendants of persons eligible to be active members can be associate members of the order. The order has requested that its charter be

amended so that siblings and spouses of members can also become associate members.

I am pleased that H.R. 1119, the Purple Heart Family Equity Act of 2007, as amended by the Judiciary Committee, provides that spouses and siblings of persons eligible to be active members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart can become associate members.

If I just look at the bill for the sake of clarity, Mr. Speaker, the current law is parents and lineal descendants. This strikes parents and lineal descendants and replaces it with the parents, spouse, and lineal descendants. This is something that has been agreed to and promoted by the members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, by Republicans and Democrats in the Judiciary Committee. I do not recall opposition to this. I believe one could say that it is clearly without opposition, perhaps unanimous on the Judiciary Committee.

I urge adoption of H.R. 1119.

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

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield 4 minutes to the author of the bill, my colleague from California, Congresswoman DAVIS.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from California as well.

Mr. Speaker, I was honored for the opportunity to introduce the Purple Heart Equity Act along with Representative VIRGINIA FOXX, Minority Whip ROY BLUNT, Chairman JOHN MURTHA, and a number of other bipartisan sponsors. We came together, and this is a unanimous bill because honoring the women who have won the Purple Heart is something that we can all stand behind.

As commander of the Continental Army, as has been mentioned, George Washington wanted to recognize soldiers whose sacrifices and distinction forwarded the cause of independence. As a result, he created the Military Merit. He also designed the award, shaped it like a heart in the color purple. And after the Revolutionary War, this award was actually abandoned. But in honor of the bicentennial of Washington's birth, President Herbert Hoover revived the award in 1932, and it maintained its original design and became more known today, of course, as the Purple Heart.

In that same year the Military Order of the Purple Heart formed with the mission of fostering a positive environment among wounded veterans as well as providing services to all veterans and their families. But when the organization was federally chartered in 1958, few women actually had won the Purple Heart. So, under the current law, male members today can invite their wives to join the Ladies Auxiliary of the Purple Heart, but there is no place in this organization for the husbands of female members.

So that's why H.R. 1119 is important today, because it adds the word

"spouses" to the Federal Charter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. And with this small update, the husbands of female members will have the option of joining the organization just as the wives do.

Just a little bit more history, Mr. Speaker. The first woman to be awarded the Purple Heart was Lieutenant Annie G. Fox after she was killed in the attack on Pearl Harbor. Since then, the Military Order of the Purple Heart has identified at least 97 female Purple Heart recipients who have joined the organization.

It has been 66 years since Lieutenant Fox earned the award, and now it is time, certainly time, that we act to fully honor the courageous women who are bestowed with the Purple Heart. H.R. 1119 honors and recognizes these brave women and future recipients of the Purple Heart. This is the least, certainly, we can do for the women who sacrifice for our country.

And, finally, H.R. 1119 will allow the siblings of all who belong to the organization to join as associate members.

By passing this legislation today, we certainly honor every family whose son or daughter or sister or brother has won the distinguished Purple Heart.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I urge support for this bipartisan bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ZOE LOFGREN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1119, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to revise the congressional charter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the United States of America, Incorporated, to authorize associate membership in the corporation for the spouse and siblings of a recipient of the Purple Heart medal."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

KENDELL FREDERICK CITIZENSHIP ASSISTANCE ACT

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2884) to assist members of the Armed Forces in obtaining United States citizenship, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2884

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 "Kendall Frederick Citizenship Assistance Act".

SEC. 2. FINGERPRINTS FOR MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, including section 552a of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the "Privacy Act of 1974"), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall use the fingerprints provided by an individual at the time the individual enlisted in the Armed Forces to satisfy any requirement for fingerprints that is part of an application for naturalization if—

(1) the individual may be naturalized pursuant to section 328 or 329 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1439–1440);

(2) the individual was fingerprinted in accordance with the requirements of the Department of Defense at the time the individual enlisted in the Armed Forces; and

(3) the individual submits an application for naturalization not later than 24 months after the date on which the individual enlisted in the Armed Forces; and

(4) the Secretary of Homeland Security determines that the fingerprints are sufficient to adjudicate the applicant's naturalization application.

(b) *MOST TIMELY AND EFFECTIVE ADJUDICATION.*—Nothing in this section shall preclude an individual described in subsection (a) from submitting new fingerprints to the Secretary of Homeland Security. If the Secretary of Homeland Security determines that submitting new fingerprints would result in more timely and effective adjudication of the individual's naturalization application, the Secretary shall inform the individual that submitting new fingerprints would result in more timely and effective adjudication of the individual's naturalization application, along with a description of how to submit new fingerprints.

(c) *COOPERATION.*—The Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall determine the format of fingerprints acceptable for usage under subsection (a). The Secretary of Defense, or any other official having custody of the fingerprints referred to in subsection (a), shall make such prints available to the Secretary of Homeland Security for the purpose described in subsection (a) without charge and shall otherwise cooperate with the Secretary of Homeland Security in fulfilling the Secretary's satisfaction of the requirement under subsection (a).

SEC. 3. PROVISION OF INFORMATION ON MILITARY NATURALIZATION.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 30 days after the effective date of any modification to a regulation related to naturalization under section 328 or 329 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1439–1440), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall update as necessary the appropriate Internet site or sites maintained by the Secretary to reflect such modification.

(b) *SENSE OF CONGRESS.*—It is the sense of the Congress that the Secretary of Homeland Security should update as necessary the appropriate application form or forms promulgated by the Secretary not later than 180 days after an effective date described in subsection (a).

SEC. 4. REPORTS.

(a) *ADJUDICATION PROCESS.*—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the entire process for the adjudication of an application for naturalization filed pursuant to section 328 or 329 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1439–1440), including the process that begins at the time the application is mailed to, or received by, the Secretary of Homeland Security, regardless of whether the Secretary determines that such application is complete, through the final disposition of such application. Such report shall include a description of—

(1) the methods of the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of Defense to prepare, handle, and adjudicate such applications;