

Fein, and he brought them to the negotiating table and sat down with them and worked with them. And he had them to 10 Downing Street and he broke down centuries of division and hatred. And at the same time, he worked with those on the other side, strongly on the other side, not just David Trimble of the Ulster Unionist Party, but also Ian Paisley of the Democratic Unionist Party.

And the Good Friday Agreement would not have been possible in April of 1998 without Tony Blair, but also the Good Friday Agreement went on for almost 9 years afterwards until it was finally brought to its ultimate fruition earlier this month. And it was done because Tony Blair never yielded. There were so many times between April of 1998 and May or June of this year that that agreement could have fallen apart, that it could have splintered, that it could have shattered if Tony Blair was not willing to take that extra step, and he did that.

And during this entire time that he was bringing peace to Northern Ireland and standing with us as our strongest ally, also Britain itself was under attack. And as Mr. BILIRAKIS and Ambassador WATSON mentioned, on July 7, 2005, when the London underground was attacked by terrorists causing large scale carnage and loss of life, and Tony Blair again stood strong and stood firm.

So, this is a moment where it's seldom that we see giants in history, and it's important, I think, that we not wait 50 years or 100 years or several centuries to acknowledge them, but to acknowledge them in their own time as being prophets with honor.

So I, again, say I've had the privilege a number of times of being with Tony Blair. I was with him with President Clinton in Washington and in Belfast and Armagh City in Northern Ireland, and just last month, again, at the British Embassy. He certainly is a man of stature, he's a man of achievement and he's a man of courage.

I am proud to support this resolution, and I urge its adoption.

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, in closing, there was nothing hesitant about Prime Minister Blair's resolve to fight back and send a message to terrorists that the United Kingdom, like the United States, would not succumb to ideology that espouses violence and death.

Like Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher before him, who stood shoulder to shoulder with President Ronald Reagan to bring down the greatest dark force of the 20th century, communism, Mr. Blair stood with President Bush even when few others would accept the challenge to eliminate the dark force of this new century.

Mr. Speaker, as all the previous speakers have suggested, this is most worthy resolution for a most worthy leader. I urge all of my colleagues to

join me in congratulating Prime Minister Tony Blair for his remarkable tenure as Prime Minister of the U.K., and for his steadfast support of the United States, and our invaluable alliance with Great Britain.

We look forward to his successor, Mr. Gordon Brown, following in Mr. Blair's footsteps by maintaining and building on our transatlantic alliance so we can stand strong and together face the uncertainties of a troubled world.

I would like to thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank Ranking Member KING for bringing forth this resolution. And also Ambassador WATSON, I thank you very much. Tony Blair is a true statesman, a man of principle.

Mr. Speaker, 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. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 416.

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.

HONORING JACK VALENTI

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 361) recognizing and honoring Jack Valenti and expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives to his family on his death, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 361

Whereas Jack Valenti was born in Houston, Texas, on September 5, 1921, and resided in Washington, DC and Beverly Hills, California;

Whereas Jack Valenti graduated from the University of Houston with a Bachelor of Arts degree and from Harvard University with a Master of Business Administration degree;

Whereas Jack Valenti served as special assistant to President Lyndon B. Johnson;

Whereas Jack Valenti was the distinguished president of the Motion Picture Association of America for 38 years;

Whereas Jack Valenti was a trusted presidential advisor, a war hero, an author, and a pioneer in the American film industry;

Whereas Jack Valenti was a great humanitarian who served as a powerful spokesperson for the global fight against AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria;

Whereas Jack Valenti was a loving husband to his wife, Mary Margaret, and an exceptional father to his three children, Alexandra, John, and Courtenay;

Whereas Jack Valenti's spirit touched everyone he encountered, whether in his political career or in his time spent with the Motion Picture Association of America;

Whereas Jack Valenti revolutionized the movie industry through the creation of a voluntary movie rating system that has endured to this day;

Whereas Jack Valenti's vision for the movie industry has withstood the test of

time, and has provided guidance for families in their movie viewing experiences as well as safeguards for our filmmakers;

Whereas the vision and character Jack Valenti brought to the movie industry will be greatly missed; and

Whereas on April 26, 2007, Jack Valenti passed away, prompting his friend and confidant, Dan Glickman, to say, "Jack was a showman, a gentleman, an orator, and a passionate champion of this country, its movies, and the enduring freedoms that made both so important to this world. He also embodied the theatricality of our industry with his conviction, quick wit and boundless energy. In a very real sense, he was the ultimate leading man." Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes Jack Valenti as one of the greatest contributors to the motion picture industry;

(2) honors Jack Valenti for his service to his country, for his tremendous accomplishments, and for his contributions to the movie industry and to the Nation; and

(3) extends its deepest condolences to the family of Jack Valenti.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia?

There was no objection.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleagues in the discussion of H. Res. 361, recognizing and honoring Jack Valenti and expressing the condolences to the House of Representatives to his family on his death.

H. Res. 361, which has 95 cosponsors, was introduced by Representative DIANE WATSON on May 1, 2007. H. Res. 361 was reported from the Oversight Committee on June 12, 2007 by voice vote.

Jack Valenti was born September 5, 1921 in Houston, Texas. An honor student and debate champion at Sam Houston High School, he graduated at age 15. Lacking the funds to attend college, he worked for \$11 a week as an usher at a movie theater.

At age 20, Mr. Valenti served in the U.S. Army, which in 1941 was called the Army Air Forces. He flew 51 missions and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. He received his MBA degree from Harvard University in 1948 and 4 years later started an advertising business.

Mr. Valenti served as a Special Assistant to President Lyndon B. Johnson. In 1966, he left the White House to become president of the Motion Picture Association of America for 38 years. He died on April 26, 2007.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague, Representative DIANE WATSON of California, for introducing this legislation and urge the swift passage of this bill.

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

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentelady from D.C. and look forward to the time that she will be a full Member of this Chamber, with all the rights and privileges.

Much as been said about the life of Jack Valenti, and rightfully so. It is impossible to sum up his great life and achievements in the short time we have today.

He held powerful influence on both coasts in the United States, in Washington, D.C., where he served as a political adviser to President Johnson, and in Hollywood, where he served as chief lobbyist of the Motion Picture Association of America. Valenti negotiated both power centers with dignity, determination and deference.

He was born to Houston, Texas, as was pointed out, the grandson of Sicilian immigrants. He excelled in school and finished high school at an early age. Unable to afford college, he worked for a short time in a movie theater, then at an oil company, until he could afford night classes at the University of Houston. His leadership skills, solidified at college, and he was elected student body president. From there, he went on to earn his MBA from Harvard University.

His interest in politics began during a chance meeting with President Johnson, who was looking to reach out to fellow Texans while serving in the Senate. At the meeting, Jack Valenti was fascinated by Johnson and chose to work on his next campaign in Texas. They kept in touch, and he was soon employed by Johnson when he became Vice President.

Jack Valenti was inspired by the Vice President and viewed him as a mentor. Valenti was in the presidential motorcade as it traveled through downtown Dallas, Texas on that fateful tragic day of November 22, 1963, when President Kennedy was assassinated. He said later that that day changed his life forever. Indeed, he became President Johnson's special assistant, and even lived in the White House during the early months of the new President's term.

He left the White House when he was approached by two Hollywood studio executives to take over their fledgling trade group. With a pay raise almost impossible to turn down, he accepted the position and became the chief lobbyist for the Motion Picture Association of America in 1966.

He revitalized the film rating system, bringing it into line with current culture. It is a system which has remained intact, other than modifications Valenti also helped put in place for decades.

Through the years, movies and technologies changed and progressed, as did

his work. He helped the industry thrive even as television and home videos chipped away its dominance. He fought digital piracy and other threats to the film industry.

Valenti left MPAA in 2004, but he remained active in the public stage. He concentrated on the world health issues such as AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. He helped devise the technology by which parents control what programs their children watch.

He continued this work almost until the day in April when he died. He leaves behind his wife of 45 years, three children and two grandchildren. He also leaves behind a legacy of service of principled advocacy and of human warmth appreciated by all who had the privilege of knowing him. His character, his warm personality and his deep southern accent all will be missed as much his has legacy in the worlds of film and public policy.

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, Mr. SHAYS, for his remarks concerning my membership in this House. It is typical of his generosity, and I appreciate it. I also appreciate his voting for the bill for the residents of the District of Columbia to have a vote in this House.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to the sponsor of this bill, the gentelady from California (Ms. WATSON).

□ 1500

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be the author, with my good friend, DARRELL ISSA, of this resolution to honor the life of a great American and dear friend, Jack Valenti. Both Washington and Hollywood lost an icon in April with the passing of Jack Valenti. For nearly four decades, Jack served as the public face of Hollywood as the head of the Motion Picture Association of America where he was most famous for creating the film rating system we use today.

Jack's career as a public servant began during World War II when he flew B-25 bombers for the United States Army Air Force. After the war, Jack served as one of President Lyndon Johnson's closest advisers. Jack left the White House after several years to become a pioneer in the entertainment industry. Joining MPAA in 1966, Jack created the movie rating system that we use today. Jack served as one of Washington's most effective lobbyists, moving easily between Hollywood and Washington as the president of the MPAA for 38 years.

After his tenure at the Motion Picture Association, Jack joined the fight against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria as a final mission in his extraordinary life and committed himself to working tirelessly to increase the quality of life of those suffering from the devastating effects of disease and poverty across the globe. He served as a relentless spokesman for disease-devastated com-

munities across the globe while navigating the Halls of Congress with statesmanlike agility to ensure that the United States increased its funding to the Global Fund to fight AIDS and to fight tuberculosis and malaria and other programs that save lives.

Not only has the global health community lost a great advocate, but so has the entertainment industry and Washington lost a truly great friend.

So I urge all my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleague in urging passage of this resolution.

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentelady from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON).

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor today for me to pay tribute to Mr. Jack Valenti. As it has been said, by age 15, he was the youngest high school graduate in Houston. He began work as an office boy with the Humble Oil Company, which is now Exxon Mobil, which is near my congressional district.

As a young pilot in the Army Air Corps in World War II, Lieutenant Valenti flew 51 combat missions as the pilot commander of a B-25 attack bomber with the 12th Air Force in Italy. He graduated with a B.A. from the University of Houston and an M.B.A. from Harvard. In 1952, he co-founded the advertising and political consulting agency, Weekly & Valenti, which was in charge of press during President Kennedy's and Vice President Johnson's tragic visit to Texas. He was in the motorcade, six cars behind the President, in Dallas on November 22, 1963. Within an hour of the assassination of John F. Kennedy, Mr. Valenti was aboard Air Force One flying back to Washington with the new President as the first newly hired special assistant to President Johnson.

Later in his position as President and Chief Executive Officer of the MPAA, Mr. Valenti presided over tremendous worldwide change in the industry. New technologies, the arrival of the importance of international markets and the tyranny of piracy radically changed the landscape of the American film and television industry. It was Mr. Valenti's leadership and personal efforts that led the confrontation with these global dangers, problems and opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, our communities and our country have always relied on the contributions of those individuals who have the ability to rise above and beyond the call of duty to make a difference in the lives of others, both personally and professionally. Jack Valenti was one of those rare individuals that demonstrated unfailing and tireless commitment to the betterment of the U.S. movie industry and the entire Nation.

Mr. Speaker, though our community is diminished by his loss, I ask that my

colleagues join me and his friends and his family in celebrating the remarkable life of this man who truly symbolized America at its best, Jack Valenti, a true and loyal Texan.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a true patriot and dedicated public servant, Jack Valenti, whose passing we continue to mourn. From his days as a brave fighter pilot in World War II to his sound advice and counsel to President Lyndon Johnson, Jack always served his country with distinction and honor. A Democrat committed to the ideals of justice and equality, he approached each issue in the spirit of bipartisanship, earning respect on both sides of the aisle for his intellect and his passion.

As a fellow Italian-American, I take special pride in the life, leadership, and many accomplishments of Jack Valenti. His brilliant career, in both the public and private sector, was marked by humanity, humor, and excellence. As head of the Motion Picture Association of America, Jack's leadership helped promote and spread the best of American art and creativity on the silver screen all around the world. It was his sense of responsibility for the well-being of our children that inspired his efforts to establish a rating system to help parents monitor what their children watched.

As a passionate advocate for our children, Jack fought to protect our next generation, lending his powerful voice for those who could not be heard. His concern for the health and well-being of our children spurred his efforts as founder and president of the Friends of the Global Fight Against AIDS, TB, and Malaria, fighting diseases across the globe that for too long have extinguished the flame of hope that should burn brightly in the eyes of every child.

Jack Valenti will be greatly missed, and his accomplishments will be long remembered in the lives of all those he touched. My husband Paul and I express our deepest sympathy to his family, whom he adored, and hope that it is a comfort to his wife Mary Margaret, his children Courtenay, John, and Alexandra, and his two grandchildren that so many people share their loss and continue to pray for them.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 361, recognizing and honoring the life of Jack Valenti and expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives to his family.

Jack Valenti was an American icon who holds a special place in the history of the United States. He was a principled leader, a fiery advocate, but always a gentleman. For over 40 years Jack dedicated himself to one of our country's most enduring and influential cultural exports, the motion picture. While most of the world knows Jack for his work at the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA), many of us would be surprised to know that Jack was buried in Arlington National Cemetery, not Hollywood.

Prior to his life promoting and defending the motion picture industry, Jack piloted a B-25 bomber for the Army Air Forces during WWII, founded his own advertising company and worked for an oil firm in Texas. It was Jack's Texas roots that helped propel him into national politics following the assassination of President Kennedy. As a loyal political advisor to President Lyndon Johnson, Jack cemented his roots in Washington, DC. This city and this country have lost someone that practiced the art of advocacy and consensus that is rarely achieved and sorely missed.

My father, California Senator Fred Farr knew and worked with Jack when they both served in the Johnson Administration and I can say from personal knowledge that Jack was indeed a gentleman who would always offer a kind word, even to his greatest antagonists. The difficulty of Jack's job for the MPAA should not go overlooked, for uniting and assuaging the heads of major Hollywood studios would probably drive even the most savvy party leader batty. That ability to form consensus was only overshadowed by the eloquence in his usage of the English language.

Jack is survived by his wife of over 45 years Mary Margaret Valenti and their three children, John, Alexander and Courtenay; his sister, Lorraine Valenti Dinerstein; and two grandchildren.

As Jack's love of classical literature is well known, I find it fitting to quote Shakespeare in honor of a man that lived several lives in one lifetime:

All the world's a stage,
And all the men and women merely players.
They have their exits and their entrances,
And one man in his time plays many parts,
His acts being seven ages.

I was pleased to call Jack Valenti a friend.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, even as a young child, Jack Valenti showed signs of great leadership and oratory skills. He was a debate champion at his high school. Making good use of his natural ability to persuade and his interest in entertainment, Jack worked as a movie theater usher before enrolling in the University of Houston. After receiving his B.A., he enlisted in the Army Air Force where he participated in 51 flying missions and was honored with the Distinguished Flying Cross. Following his time in the armed forces, Jack graduated from Harvard University in 1948 with a Master's degree in business administration.

Jack Valenti entered the political arena when he was invited to a reception at a Houston Hotel to meet his future mentor and friend, Lyndon B. Johnson. He was immediately inspired by Johnson, who at the time was the U.S. Senate Majority Leader. When Johnson was selected as Kennedy's running mate in 1960, Jack worked on the media campaign. He remained close to Johnson after he became the Vice President.

Following the tragic Kennedy assassination in Dallas, TX, Jack was asked by then-President Johnson to accompany him to Washington where he became a special assistant and close confidant to the new President. After defending Johnson through criticism of the Vietnam War and conspiracy connecting Johnson to the Kennedy assassination, Valenti was offered a lucrative job by MCA Inc. head Lew Wasserman and United Artists' Arthur Krim as head of the Motion Picture Association of America.

In this position, Valenti created the MPAA rating system which initially labeled movies into four distinct ratings: G, M, R and X. This was Valenti's crowning achievement in the entertainment industry; the MPAA system is still used today to provide guidance for movie-viewing families. During his 38 year tenure as president of the MPAA, he was extremely well known in Washington as an advocate for the entertainment industry's major issues. He lobbied for the protection of movie copyrights and the prevention of digital piracy. His voluminous and eloquent style of speaking, coupled with

his unique silver hair and cowboy boots, made him one of the most recognizable figures on the Hill.

His sage observations and folksy wisdom made Jack Valenti one of the most effective players in Washington. He was an advisor to Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle; and all of us fortunate enough to receive his council benefited greatly from our association and friendship with him. We all miss him greatly.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 361, recognizing and honoring Jack Valenti and expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives to his family on his death. I also want to thank my colleague from California, DIANE WATSON, for introducing this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, Jack Valenti was a giant of a man in many respects. While he was well known for his service to Presidents and his work at the Motion Picture Association of America, I came to know Jack best from his tireless and selfless work on behalf of people living with HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

Jack came to this final mission in his life with the same dedication, creativity and vigor that he had so long displayed in serving the MPAA and our nation.

He was a champion for communities devastated by disease throughout the world, and brought both Republicans and Democrats together with his impassioned testimony about the terrible toll that AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria had taken on Africa and the developing world.

I had met with Jack a number of times over the last few years to talk specifically about his work on behalf of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Each time we met I always came away inspired by his energy and his advocacy on behalf of the most vulnerable among us.

We had talked about traveling to Africa together so that he could bear witness to both the tragic impact of AIDS, TB and malaria, and to the hope and dedication of the people—who through it all still maintained their dignity and their optimism for a better tomorrow. Although we never managed to take that trip together, Jack finally made it to Africa for the first time in his life in July of 2006, and I know that he was deeply affected by what he saw.

We had been in the process of organizing another meeting together in March to strategize about AIDS policy and funding for the coming year when he had a stroke. Unfortunately I regret that I never had the chance to talk to him again before he passed away. But I will always remember Jack Valenti for his determined spirit, his compassion, and his friendship. As we continue the global fight against these three diseases, his legacy and his advocacy will continue to serve as a true inspiration for all of us.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in proud support of H. Res. 361, as offered by my distinguished colleague from California and chair of the Congressional Entertainment Caucus, Congresswoman DIANE WATSON. This resolution recognizes and honors the life and lifetime accomplishments of Jack Valenti, while also expressing condolences of the House of Representatives to his family on his death. Having served as a long-

time president of the Motion Picture Association of America, Jack Valenti deserves no better tribute than that of being honored by members of the United States Congress.

Mr. Speaker, Jack Valenti began his political career during the era of the "Great Society." He briefly served as the first special assistant to President Lyndon B. Johnson during his tenure in the White House. However, he resigned from the White House commission in 1966, when he respectfully earned the position as President of the Motion Picture Association of America. Nevertheless, public admiration of this prominent young man followed him from his tenure in politics, unto his career in the film industry and thereafter.

Jack Valenti was born in Houston, Texas on September 5, 1921. During the era of World War II, Mr. Valenti served as a lieutenant in the United States Army Air Corps, flying 51 combat missions as the pilot-commander of a B-25 attack bomber. It was also at this time that he received four decorations—the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with four clusters, the Distinguished Unit Citation with one cluster, as well as the European Theater Ribbon with four battle stars.

His educational attainments are marked with his graduation from high school at the age of 15, the youngest high school graduate in his city. He took several years hiatus to work in the field of oil and gas, as well as to serve his Nation as a pilot in the Army Air Corps. He later went on to earn a Bachelors of Arts degree from the University of Houston, where he worked full-time during the day and attended undergraduate courses at night. He continued to advance his education by obtaining a Masters in Business Administration from Harvard University. In 1952, Valenti assisted in the co-founding of an advertising/political consulting agency. It was this agency that led the press during President John F. Kennedy and Vice-President Lyndon B. Johnson's Dallas, Texas visit in 1963.

Valenti's legacy is prevalent through his invention of the movie/film rating, which is still used today. Such a vision and innovation not only transformed the movie industry, but also provided guidance for families, protection for children moviegoers and their parents, as well as safeguard for our filmmakers.

Mr. Speaker, among many things, it will be the vision and character of Mr. Jack Valenti that will greatly be missed. Rarely are we given the opportunities to recognize and honor the lifetime accomplishments of our American heroes, as well have today. For this reason, I ask my colleagues to rise and join me in honoring the life and lifetime accomplishments of the late Jack Valenti. We who knew and loved him will always remember him as a gentleman, a man with boundless energy, a leader in our Nation, a wartime hero, a proud father and a loving husband, a political consultant, and a movie industry powerhouse. He was one in a million and will greatly be missed.

Today, I ask that we join in recognizing Valenti as one of the greatest contributors to the motion picture industry and honoring him for his service, accomplishments, and contributions to our Nation. I also ask that we extend our deepest condolences to his family—wife, Margaret, and children, Alexandra, John and Courtenay.

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, we have lost a dear friend and national treasure with the

passing of the legendary Jack Valenti, but, his legacy lives on. I know this is a tremendous loss for his family, friends, and many admirers, and I join with my colleagues in the House of Representatives in extending our deepest condolences to all those who loved him. We should all be grateful for the many wonderful memories we share of Jack, memories that cannot ease the pain of our loss but remind us of the amazing accomplishments of this remarkable man. I join with others in the House in expressing our sympathy to Jack's beloved wife of 45 years Mary Margaret Valenti, his three children John, Alexandra, and Courtenay Valenti, and his 2 grandchildren.

Born in 1921 as the grandson of Sicilian immigrants, Jack Valenti became part of the "Greatest Generation" of Americans who served our country in World War II; and he continued to serve our country long after the War. Jack fought tyranny and served the United States by piloting a B-25 attack bomber in the European theater, flying 51 missions, and earning the Distinguished Flying Cross for his heroism and extraordinary achievement. Following the War, Jack made his home in Texas where he established a successful business in Dallas and became a close friend and ally of President Lyndon Johnson. The terrible events in Dallas on November 22, 1963 pulled Jack Valenti back into the service of our country when soon to be President Johnson asked him to return from Dallas to Washington DC to join his Administration where he served his close friend as confidant and key aide to the President. From the Johnson Administration, Jack Valenti was lured into the film industry as the head of the Motion Picture Association of America where he achieved great success as the preeminent trade representative in Washington, D.C. Among other achievements, Jack was the architect of the revolutionary movie rating system, which is essentially still intact today, providing generations of parents and filmgoers with guidelines on the content of films that carried the MPAA rating designation. Jack spoke often about the importance of open and free markets for Hollywood films, and was a passionate and staunch advocate for the protection of intellectual property rights in the digital age.

But, this is only a brief snapshot of what he did, it does not identify who he was. For Jack Valenti was much larger than any of his numerous accomplishments.

Jack was a dear friend to many, and a truly gifted and remarkable individual. Jack earned the respect of Presidents and porters; his common touch and old world style enticed people to gravitate to him. These attributes, teamed with his keen mind and ability to consider a different point of view, allowed Jack Valenti to gain the admiration and respect of people on both sides of the aisle and even on opposite sides of many issues.

But for me, the most important thing to recall is the humanity and warmth he conveyed to everyone whose lives he touched. I was proud and privileged to call Jack my friend. He counseled me on issues we cared about, encouraged me to accept the challenges of this great institution, and comforted me during times of personal tragedy. I will be forever grateful for his friendship, guidance, and counsel.

Jack Valenti is truly the embodiment of the phrase, "his like shall not soon be seen again." He was an original, he became a legend, and, he was ours.

He will be missed.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, Jack Valenti—a man whose prowess as a lobbyist for the movie industry was outshined only by the passion he brought to his work and the steadfast love he had for our country. Jack was a trusted Presidential advisor, a war hero, an author and a pioneer in the American industry.

As President of the Motion Picture Association of America, Jack was one of the most hardworking and dedicated advocates you would find anywhere on Capitol Hill. When he spoke, people listened—and by inventing the movie industry's rating system, he demonstrated just how vital America's business community can be in providing for the common good.

Jack was a consummate professional, a good friend, and someone that I will never forget. My deepest sympathies go out to his family and friends as we mark his passing and commemorate a life that meant so much to people all across this great land.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 361, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ESTABLISHING A WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 189) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" should be established.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 189

Whereas the Vietnam War was fought in Vietnam from 1961 to 1975, and involved North Vietnam and the Viet Cong in conflict with United States Armed Forces and South Vietnam;

Whereas the United States became involved in Vietnam because policy-makers in the United States believed that if South Vietnam fell to a Communist government then Communism would spread throughout the rest of Southeast Asia;

Whereas members of the United States Armed Forces began serving in an advisory role to the South Vietnamese in 1961;

Whereas as a result of the Gulf of Tonkin incidents on August 2 and 4, 1964, Congress overwhelmingly passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution (Public Law 88-408), on August 7, 1964, which effectively handed over war-making powers to President Johnson until such time as "peace and security" had returned to Vietnam;

Whereas, in 1965, United States Armed Forces ground combat units arrived in Vietnam;

Whereas, by the end of 1965, there were 80,000 United States troops in Vietnam, and