

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

by 1969 a peak of approximately 543,000 troops was reached;

Whereas, on January 27, 1973, the Treaty of Paris was signed, which required the release of all United States prisoners-of-war held in North Vietnam and the withdrawal of all United States Armed Forces from South Vietnam;

Whereas, on March 30, 1973, the United States Armed Forces completed the withdrawal of combat troops from Vietnam;

Whereas more than 58,000 members of the United States Armed Forces lost their lives in Vietnam and more than 300,000 members of the Armed Forces were wounded;

Whereas, in 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated in the District of Columbia to commemorate those members of the United States Armed Forces who died or were declared missing-in-action in Vietnam;

Whereas the Vietnam War was an extremely divisive issue among the people of the United States;

Whereas members of the United States Armed Forces who served bravely and faithfully for the United States during the Vietnam War were caught upon their return home in the crossfire of public debate about the involvement of the United States in the Vietnam War;

Whereas the establishment of a "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" would be an appropriate way to honor those members of the United States Armed Forces who served in Vietnam during the Vietnam War; and

Whereas March 30 would be an appropriate day to establish as "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that there should be established a "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" to honor those members of the United States Armed Forces who served in Vietnam.

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 within 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, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleagues in consideration of H. Res. 189, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day be established.

H. Res. 189, which has 54 cosponsors, was introduced by Representative LINDA SÁNCHEZ on February 16, 2007. H. Res. 189 was reported from the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on June 12, 2007 by voice vote.

The Vietnam War was the longest military conflict in U.S. history. The hostilities in Vietnam claimed the lives of more than 58,000 Americans, and some 304,000 were wounded in com-

bat. The Vietnam War was a military struggle fought in Vietnam from 1961 to 1973. The patriotic men and women who served valiantly and faithfully in the United States Armed Forces during the Vietnam War were caught, upon their arrival and return home, in the crossfire of public debate about the involvement of the United States in the Vietnam War.

Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation to establish a Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day to honor those members of the United States Armed Forces who served in Vietnam during the Vietnam War. The time for a Welcome Home Day is long overdue. I know every Member of this House and every American would want to come forward to welcome home these veterans who were not always welcomed home in the way we should always welcome home those who have served us in the Armed Forces regardless of our feelings on the particular conflict in which they came forward bravely to serve us all.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague, Representative LINDA SÁNCHEZ, 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 yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, on March 30, 1973, American combat troops serving in Vietnam completed their service and returned home to the U.S. After 8 years of hard-fought battle and the loss of over 58,000 soldiers, we welcomed our servicemen and women home and wished them a safe return. Over 300,000 troops returned wounded during the war. House Res. 189 seeks to establish March 30 as Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day. It is an opportunity to recognize the heroic service of these many veterans.

For fear that Southeast Asia would fall into communism, Congress passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution in 1964, thereby giving powers to President Johnson to conduct military command in South Vietnam until peace and security had returned to the war-torn nation. One year later, U.S. combat troops were sent to the embattled country. By 1969, approximately 543,000 American troops were in Vietnam.

Thousands of Vietnam veterans participated in various festivities, parades and reunions every year.

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We see them proudly wear their unit numbers, banners, T-shirts and hats covered with pins, sharing stories and updating each other on their lives. It is only fitting that we show our support for these brave men and women by expressing our gratitude for their courageous service.

Around 3 million people visit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial each year. The wall and two accompanying sculptures offer an opportunity to learn about and appreciate the history of the

war and its numerous casualties. It is appropriate to commemorate this significant piece of history by recognizing the day combat troops returned home from war as welcome home Vietnam Veterans' Day.

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

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE).

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I certainly rise in support of H. Res. 189. I have a large number of Vietnam veterans in my district. Several years ago, I had a commemorative coin struck that I gave to the Vietnam veterans. I presented it and called it a long overdue welcome home event. There weren't too many dry eyes as the coins were presented. We need to remedy that, and certainly having a Welcome Home Vietnam Vets Day as this bill calls for is long overdue.

The one thing that I ask Vietnam vets to please always do is when our young men and women are returning today from battle, that they always help the community to welcome them back, because no one would like to be treated the way that many Vietnam vets were treated.

This is a great resolution, and it is long overdue. I certainly support finally having a Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I just would again urge passage. I think this is a very thoughtful thing of our colleague from California to have initiated. Frankly, I wonder why we didn't think of it sooner.

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to join my colleague in his remarks, and especially his remarks as to why didn't we think of this before. I want to assure Vietnam War veterans, it has nothing to do with their service. We have had a number of wars since and perhaps we have been somewhat preoccupied with war, but we will never forget this important and very sacrificial group of veterans.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 189, a resolution that will honor the veterans of the Vietnam War in eastern Connecticut and across our country by calling for the establishment of a "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day."

As we know all too well, the Vietnam War was a painful and turbulent period in our Nation's history. Our military involvement there from 1965 to 1973 came at a time of great upheaval and change that divided our Nation. By the end of the war, more than 58,000 members of the Armed Forces had given the ultimate sacrifice. Much has rightfully been done to honor these lost heroes in the 30 years since the end of the war, including a breathtaking memorial not far away from this Capitol on our National Mall.

However, thousands of our troops came home after serving our country in Vietnam

only to be barraged by anti-war and anti-military sentiments rising from the deep and conflicting passions over our involvement in the conflict. As a result, thousands of young men who served our Nation were denied the welcome home they deserved—a painful memory that I hear about even today when I speak with Vietnam veterans.

Today, 30 years after they returned home, those dark days of war still haunt the veterans of Vietnam. Yet, I have been amazed by the strength and dignity of the Vietnam veterans community in eastern Connecticut. Since the end of the war, these proud men have been unmatched in taking care of their own and supporting one another. This past April, over 100 eastern Connecticut Vietnam veterans gathered once again in Norwich, CT for the 7th Annual Vietnam Veterans Day Commemorative Ceremony. I was proud to join them for the ceremony and to honor their service and sacrifice.

Regardless of what one thinks about our involvement in a military conflict, there is no doubt that any American who wears our Nation's uniform deserves a hero's welcome when they return home. That is why I am proud to support the resolution before us today, which expresses the sense of the House that there should be a day set aside every year on March 30 to honor the service of our Vietnam veterans by establishing a "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day." I sincerely hope that this simple resolution will provide our Vietnam veterans with the recognition they have so long deserved.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 189, which puts the House on record in support of a "Welcome Home Vietnam Veteran's Day." This resolution honors members of the United States Armed Forces who fought in Vietnam from 1961 to 1975. In 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated in the District of Columbia to commemorate those members of the United States Armed Forces who died or were declared missing-in-action in Vietnam. March 30 would be an appropriate day to establish as Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day.

More than 3 million Americans served in Vietnam, and nearly 58,000 lost their lives there. From mountain peaks to tropical rainforest, American soldiers served in hostile country and fought a war for which they were not trained. It was a war of savage, small-unit fighting unlike any other in American history and in a stunning outcome, American soldiers won all of the major battles. About 58,148 men were killed, mostly between the ages of 20 and 29, but some as young as 16 years old. About 2.9 million men in total were involved in the fighting. The average soldier—infantryman—saw about 240 days of combat in 4 years, thanks to the mobility of the helicopter.

As an American, I am very proud of the courageous members of the United States Armed Forces who fought in this war, even though they were not sure of the purpose, to help stop what seemed to be the spreading of Communist beliefs and values. I am more than grateful to the men who gave so that we would be able to live as free as we do today. These men were brave, high spirited, and fearless. These men did something that most Americans never had to do. They risked life and limb in defense of their countrymen. They deserve to be honored for their efforts.

This resolution gives credit where credit is due. It will give Americans a chance to reflect on the men, women, and their stories that were short changed during this difficult time in our history.

Ms. NORTON. 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 the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 189.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. NORTON. 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.

ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL PET WEEK

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 142) expressing the sense of the Congress that there should be established a National Pet Week, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 142

Whereas this year marks the 26th anniversary of "National Pet Week", sponsored by the American Veterinary Medical Association and the Auxiliary to the American Veterinary Medical Association;

Whereas animals and pets give companionship and pleasure in daily living, share the homes of nearly 69,000,000 individuals or families in the United States, and provide special benefits to elderly persons and children;

Whereas the people of the United States have a firm commitment to promote responsible care of animals and pets and guard against cruel and irresponsible treatment;

Whereas teaching kindness and respect for all living animals through education in schools and communities is essential to the basic values of a humane and civilized society;

Whereas the people of the United States are grateful to the veterinary medical profession for providing preventive and emergency medical care and assistance to animals, spaying and neutering animals to combat overpopulation, and contributing to the education of animal owners; and

Whereas the people of the United States are indebted to animal protection organizations, State humane organizations, and local animal care and control agencies for promoting respect for animals and pets, educating children about humane attitudes, and caring for lost, unwanted, abused, and abandoned animals: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress—

(1) that there should be established an annual National Pet Week; and

(2) the goals and ideals expressed during National Pet Week should be guides for the

people of the United States to observe in the care of pets.

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 may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this piece of legislation.

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, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in consideration of H. Con. Res. 142, a bill expressing the sense of Congress there should be established a National Pet Week. H. Con. Res. 142, which has 53 cosponsors, was introduced by Representative CHRISTOPHER SHAYS on May 3, 2007. H. Con. Res. 142 was reported from the Oversight Committee on June 12, 2007, by voice vote.

National Pet Week was jointly founded in 1991 by the American Veterinary Medical Association and the Auxiliary to the AVMA and is now widely celebrated throughout the United States and other parts of the world.

Each year National Pet Week's goals are to promote responsible pet ownership, celebrate the bonding and mutual admiration between animals and humans and promote public awareness of veterinary medicine.

Animals and pets provide companionship and pleasure to nearly 69 million individuals and families in the United States. These individuals have dedicated themselves to the care and responsibility of treating animals with love and respect.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague Representative CHRISTOPHER SHAYS for introducing this legislation and I urge swift passage of this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, today we stand with 69 million households in celebrating the joy of pet ownership and recognizing the obligations of responsible animal care as we call on this Congress to establish a National Pet Week.

Some 63 percent of Americans have accepted the calling of pet ownership and have opened their homes to millions of cats, dogs, birds, fish, and other animals. For this generous action, they are rewarded with love, companionship and support. Studies have shown an additional benefit of pet ownership include a healthier life.

A National Pet Week would also honor those who provide medical treatment as well as responsible care for animals, who are certainly deserving of