

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 49) recognizing the 75th anniversary of the Military Order of the Purple Heart and commending recipients of the Purple Heart for their courageous demonstrations of gallantry and heroism on behalf of the United States, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 49

Whereas the Purple Heart is a combat decoration awarded to members of the Armed Forces who are wounded by an instrument of war wielded by the enemy and posthumously to the next of kin in the name of members who are killed in action or die of wounds received in action;

Whereas the Purple Heart was originally conceived as the Badge of Military Merit by General George Washington on August 7, 1782;

Whereas 2007 marks the 225th anniversary of the Badge of Military Merit, the predecessor of the Purple Heart Medal;

Whereas the practice of awarding the Purple Heart was revived in 1932, the 200th anniversary of George Washington's birth, out of respect for his memory and military achievements;

Whereas over 1.5 million Purple Heart Medals have been awarded to members of the Armed Forces fighting in defense of freedom and democracy in the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Somalia, Bosnia, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and other expeditionary conflicts;

Whereas the organization known as the Military Order of the Purple Heart was formed on October 19, 1932, for the protection and mutual interest of members of the Armed Forces who have received the Purple Heart; and

Whereas the Military Order of the Purple Heart is composed exclusively of recipients of the Purple Heart: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) congratulates the Military Order of the Purple Heart on its 75th anniversary as a national organization whose goals are to preserve and sustain the honor of the Armed Forces;

(2) commends all recipients of the Purple Heart for their courage and sacrifice on behalf of the United States; and

(3) encourages all Americans to take time to learn about the Purple Heart and the honor, courage, and bravery it symbolizes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 49, introduced by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES), my good friend and colleague on the House Armed Services Committee.

This resolution honors the men and women in the Armed Forces who have demonstrated selfless and heroic acts on the field of battle. They are recipients of the Purple Heart. I am also proud to be a cosponsor of this resolution that so rightly honors those in uniform who sacrifice so much for our country.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of a medal awarded to soldiers, marines, airmen and sailors who have been wounded or killed by an enemy in combat. To date, over 1.5 million members of the Armed Forces have been awarded the Purple Heart, or its predecessor, the Badge of Military Merit, in conflicts spanning from the Civil War to the present-day Operation Iraqi Freedom and the war on terrorism.

The Purple Heart was revived in 1932 on the 200th anniversary of President George Washington's birth. Originally awarded only to Army soldiers in 1942, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt extended the honor to all military services. In 1962, President John F. Kennedy extended the honor to civilians working alongside the military in the time of war.

The Purple Heart is recognized as the oldest military honor in the United States that is still in use and the first to be given to any soldier who is wounded or killed by an enemy of the United States.

Faced with situations from which most people would shrink, our Nation's warriors have gone boldly into battle and met democracy's enemies with a fierce commitment to protect those liberties that allow all of us to stand here today. They recognized the truth so often overlooked by their fellow citizens: a free Nation requires constant protection and constant protectors.

Even in our modern age, complete with all the technology that human intellect can muster, our men and women in the Armed Forces continue to prove that it is selfless and patriotic citizens that must ultimately stand tall to protect our great Nation.

Formed in 1932, the Military Order of the Purple Heart has the solemn obligation and duty to foster an environment of goodwill among combat-

wounded veterans, promote patriotism, support necessary legislative initiatives, and, most importantly, provide service to all veterans and their families. It fulfills this mission through community and volunteer efforts and by employing low-income combat veterans. Their sacrifice and dedication to this country are a testament to the quality of individuals who volunteer to serve our Nation in uniform.

So it is important that we honor this sacrifice by congratulating the Military Order of the Purple Heart on its 75th anniversary, commend all recipients of the Purple Heart for their courage and sacrifice on behalf of the United States, and encourage all Americans to take time to learn about the Purple Heart and the honor, the courage, and the bravery it symbolizes.

I would also like to note that the Guam Chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart has been a tremendous community leader for all veterans on Guam. Their voice is heard through representation on the Guam Veterans Advisory Council. Our Guam chapter is also accredited to provide assistance to veterans who are applying for VA benefits. The group has been a critical partner for our Nation's most deserving, and we know that the Military Order of the Purple Heart has stood just as strong in communities across the Nation.

At this time, Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Mr. JONES, the sponsor, for his leadership in this cause.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Guam for her very kind remarks and comments.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of my resolution that honors the Military Order of the Purple Heart on its 75th anniversary. The Purple Heart was originally conceived as the Badge of Military Merit by GEN George Washington on August 7, 1782. However, it had fallen into disuse after the Revolutionary War.

The practice of awarding the Purple Heart was revived in 1932, as the gentlewoman said, at the 200th anniversary of George Washington's birth. The organization now known as the Military Order of the Purple Heart was also formed in 1932 for the protection and the mutual interest of all who have received the decoration. This year will mark the 75th anniversary of fostering an environment of goodwill and comradery among combat-wounded veterans.

The Purple Heart is a combat decoration awarded to Members of the Armed Forces who are wounded by an instrument of war wielded by the enemy and posthumously to the next of kin in the name of members who are killed in action or die of wounds received in action.

Over 1.5 million Purple Heart medals have been awarded to members of the Armed Forces fighting in defense of freedom and democracy. Today, more than 500,000 recipients of the Purple Heart are still living.

By this resolution, Congress congratulates the Military Order of the Purple Heart on its 75th anniversary as a national organization whose goals are to preserve and sustain the honor of the Armed Forces. It strongly commends all recipients of the Purple Heart for their courage and sacrifice. Americans should take time to learn about the Purple Heart and the honor, courage, and bravery it symbolizes.

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

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam 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 Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 49, as amended.

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

The title was amended so as to read: "Concurrent resolution recognizing the 75th anniversary of the Military Order of the Purple Heart and commending recipients of the Purple Heart for their courage and sacrifice on behalf of the United States."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING AND EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO THE 1ST BATTALION OF THE 133RD INFANTRY OF THE IOWA NATIONAL GUARD

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 568) honoring and expressing gratitude to the 1st Battalion of the 133rd Infantry ("Ironman Battalion") of the Iowa National Guard.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 568

Whereas 476 members of the 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry of the Iowa National Guard were mobilized for active duty in September and October of 2005;

Whereas 80 members of the 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry have been providing essential support to the Battalion from Iowa National Guard installations in Waterloo, Iowa, and Dubuque, Iowa, and at least 490 members of the 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry were deployed to Iraq in April and May of 2006;

Whereas the members of the 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry have been serving bravely and honorably since those dates in the al-Anbar Province of Iraq, one of the most dangerous parts of the country;

Whereas the 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry deployed as part of the 1st Brigade Combat Team of the 34th Infantry Division, which has completed the longest continuous deployment of any Army National Guard unit during Operation Iraqi Freedom;

Whereas the 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry is the longest-serving Iowa Army National Guard unit since World War II;

Whereas the CBS program "60 Minutes" devoted an entire hour to telling the story of the 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry on May 27, 2007;

Whereas the members of the 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry have completed over 500 missions providing security for convoys operating in the al-Anbar Province;

Whereas the members of the 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry have logged over 4 million mission miles, and have delivered over one-third of the fuel needed to sustain coalition forces in Iraq;

Whereas the members of the 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry have detained over 60 insurgents;

Whereas the members of the 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry were scheduled to return home in April 2007, but had their tours of duty extended until July 2007;

Whereas the members of the 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry left behind civilian jobs, friends, and families in order to serve the United States;

Whereas 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry members Sergeant 1st Class Scott E. Nisely and Sergeant Kampha B. Sourivong gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country when they were tragically killed during combat operations near Al Asad, Iraq, on September 30, 2006; and

Whereas the United States will be forever indebted to the soldiers and families of the 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry for their sacrifices and their contributions to the United States mission in Iraq; Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives honors and expresses gratitude for the service and sacrifices of the members and families of the 1st Battalion of the 133rd Infantry of the Iowa National Guard upon their return home from their deployment in Iraq.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 568, introduced by my colleague from Iowa, Mr. BRALEY, which recognizes the bravery and the tremendous self-sacrifice of the 1st Battalion of the 133rd Infantry of the Iowa National Guard.

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Beginning in September of 2005, this "Ironman Battalion" was mobilized for active duty, and by April 2006, 490 members were deployed to al-Anbar Province to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. Since deploying as part of

the 1st Brigade Combat Team of the 34th Infantry Division, this Iowa battalion has completed the longest continuous deployment of any Army National Guard unit during the Iraqi war, and is the longest deployed Iowa Guard unit since the Second World War.

They have completed over 500 missions and logged over 4 million mission miles, delivering over one-third of the fuel needed to sustain coalition forces in Iraq.

While performing operations in Anbar, this battalion dutifully detained over 60 insurgents, and they remained steadfast and strong when their tour was extended at a time when this country needed their leadership.

On September 30, 2006, Sergeant First Class Scott E. Nisely and Sergeant Kampha B. Sourivong paid the ultimate sacrifice and courageously laid down their lives for this Nation. It is a solemn and sad occasion when this country's sons and daughters give so much, and often words are insufficient to describe the humble gratitude and dignified thanks that we owe these brave soldiers and their families. In times of war, Madam Speaker, it is important that this Nation, this House, halt for a brief moment and speak with actions what words cannot articulate.

I am honored to rise today on the floor of this House to express the thanks of a grateful Nation to the members and the families of the 1st Battalion of the 133rd Infantry of the Iowa National Guard upon their return home from their deployment in Iraq.

The story of Iowa's 1st Battalion of the 133rd Infantry is even more remarkable because their extended tour of duty in Iraq was a crucial component of the surge policy. This battalion made a great sacrifice that has impacted their family lives and their jobs. However, their unfaltering willingness to serve an extended tour allowed the National Guard to reset the force and begin the process of serving in more predictable deployment cycles. They not only sacrificed for our freedom, but for the betterment of their fellow guardsmen across the Nation.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the men and women of the Iowa National Guard, including MG Ron Dardis, Iowa's Adjutant General. Today this House joins the Iowa delegation in bringing this deserving recognition of their National Guard. We want to commend Mr. BRALEY for his leadership in support of the National Guard.

Today's resolution again highlights the important role that the National Guard continues to fulfill through wartime requirements. Indeed, the National Guard is now an operational force that can simultaneously provide wartime capabilities while protecting the homeland. And to achieve this mission, it has taken the participation and support of every State and territory National Guard. All of us are very proud of our National Guard units, and I am very proud of the contributions of