

I am pleased that today the House of Representatives, through its recognition of that special day of the stamp issuance as Frank Sinatra Day, is giving another well-deserved honor to this man who contributed so much to our Nation and our culture. It has been 10 years since the death of Frank Sinatra, talented singer, actor and caring person, and Sinatra's music continues to speak to each of us today in a way that is both personal and emotional.

My colleagues, of course, know of my personal love for Mr. Sinatra's music. At this age, I carry close to 2,000 songs on my iPod from Sinatra alone. I was introduced to the English language by listening to Frank Sinatra records when my father came back from World War II. At that time, I remember my father saying something profound. He said, "You know, the English language takes a bad rap. People say that it is not a romantic language." He said this to me in Spanish. "But," he said, "if you listen to the way this man sings the English language, you will recognize that it is indeed a romantic language if sung properly."

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Through the years, I used those records at the beginning of my time in New York City to learn to enunciate and to imitate the way he used the English language, because when he sang it was perfect. In fact, in Germany, in Japan, and other countries, businessmen use Frank Sinatra records to learn how to pronounce the English language. Maybe that is the reason why I am the only New Yorker who says "Tuesday" instead of "Toosday," because Mr. Sinatra would have never tolerated "Toosday."

Personally, for me as a fan, I know the big difference between those songs that everybody recognizes from Mr. Sinatra like "New York, New York" and "My Way," and those other bittersweet melodies that he made famous that you only listen to sometimes at 3 o'clock in the morning. That was Sinatra the singer.

Then there was another side very briefly to Mr. Sinatra. At a time when certain entertainers were not allowed to stay in certain hotels in this country, it was Mr. Sinatra who said, If they can play, I want them in my band. I don't care what they look like, I don't care what their religion is, I don't know what their color is, I don't care. If they can play and they have talent, I want them in my band. It was because of that that Las Vegas began to integrate for the first time due to that work. This was the other side of Frank Sinatra.

And lastly, the one you will see on TV this month, Sinatra, the actor, the one that could either give you the happy-go-lucky Pal Joey, or the very daring Man With a Golden Arm, talking about drug addiction at a time when that was not a subject.

This was the whole of Frank Sinatra, and we as Americans honor him this

week with a commemorative stamp. I commend all of us to buy that stamp, and just think of this as I close. Our gossip notes, our water bills, and, yes, our love letters will carry the smile of Frank Sinatra for a time to come.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill and I commend the gentleman from New York. I regret that I have to follow the gentleman from New York, because I too grew up listening to Sinatra wondering if the Rat Pack would be my future. Now I am in Congress; it could be that it came true.

But whether you admire Dean Martin, Sammy Davis, or Frank Sinatra, they all had one thing in common; they changed the world with their bigger than life behavior. They also changed the world with their generosity. Frank Sinatra was famous for his generosity. Even better than that, he was also famous for having problems with people, and then turning around and being overly generous to people that he had had difficulties with. He helped some years, many years ago give Buddy Rich, a famous jazz drummer, money to start a band even though only a few years earlier they had been arch enemies. He picked up the hospital bills of Bela Lugosi and many others. He funded hospital activities around the world. He lived his life big and he lived it every day. He stretched. He was in fact a great actor. He was in fact somebody who would act in parts that perhaps lesser men would have shied away from, wanting to preserve their image.

And certainly his music spanned not only generations and decades, but it spanned every genre. He was able to do that. He was able to reinvent himself from the forties, the fifties, the sixties, and even the seventies. In fact, even as his age increased and perhaps just a slight bit of that famous beautiful voice disappeared, he found ways to redo music, and his music lives on today. I am not surprised that a thoroughly modern man from New York would have 2,000 Frank Sinatra songs. My only question is, why don't you have more?

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time totally in support of this resolution.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from New York for sponsoring the measure at hand, and I would certainly urge passage of this bill.

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. 1144, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

NATIONAL MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 334) supporting the goals and objectives of a National Military Appreciation Month, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 334

Whereas the vigilance of the members of the Armed Forces has been instrumental to the preservation of the freedom, security, and prosperity enjoyed by the people of the United States;

Whereas the success of the Armed Forces depends on the dedicated service of its members, their families, and the civilian employees of the Department of Defense and the Coast Guard;

Whereas the role of the United States as a world leader requires a military force that is well-trained, well-equipped, and appropriately sized;

Whereas the Federal Government has a responsibility to raise awareness of and respect for this aspect of the heritage of the United States and to encourage the people of the United States to dedicate themselves to the values and principles for which Americans have served and sacrificed throughout the history of the Nation;

Whereas service in the Armed Forces entails special hazards and demands extraordinary sacrifices from service members and their families;

Whereas the support of the families of service members enhances the effectiveness and capabilities of the Armed Forces;

Whereas the observance of events recognizing the contributions of the Armed Forces is a tangible and highly effective way of sustaining morale and improving quality of life for service members and their families;

Whereas on April 30, 1999, the Senate passed S. Res. 33 (106th Congress), entitled "Designating May 1999 as 'National Military Appreciation Month,'" calling on the people of the United States, in a symbolic act of unity, to observe a National Military Appreciation Month in May 1999, to honor the current and former members of the Armed Forces, including those who have died in the pursuit of freedom and peace;

Whereas on March 24, 2004, the House of Representatives passed H. Con. Res. 328 (108th Congress), entitled "Recognizing and honoring the United States Armed Forces and supporting the goals and objectives of a National Military Appreciation Month," and on April 26, 2004, the Senate passed H. Con. Res. 328 by unanimous consent; and

Whereas it is important to emphasize to the people of the United States the relevance of the history and activities of the Armed Forces through an annual National Military Appreciation Month that includes associated local and national observances and activities; Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) supports the goals and objectives of a National Military Appreciation Month; and

(2) urges the President to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States, all Federal departments and agencies, States, localities, organizations, and media to annually observe a National Military Appreciation Month with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may 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 California?

There was no objection.

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

Representing the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I rise to join my colleagues in the consideration of H. Con. Res. 334, as amended, a resolution supporting the goals and objectives of National Military Appreciation Month, which, for the past 10 years, has been recognized in the month of May.

Initially created by an act of Congress back in 1999, the National Military Appreciation Month provides each and every one of us an opportunity to acknowledge and honor the heroic men and women who have served and are now serving in our country's Armed Forces.

The bill before us was introduced on April 24, 2008, by Congressman CHRISTOPHER SHAYS of Connecticut. And while cosponsored by only 60 Members of Congress, I am sure that each and every member of this body stands in support and admiration of the thousands of men and women serving in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform amended and reported the bill favorably by voice vote on May 15, 2008, and today we now have a chance to move the bill one step closer to enactment.

Mr. Speaker, let us join with citizens across America in showing our appreciation for the service and sacrifice these brave men and women display in order to provide for the defense and the protection of our great country. In particular, let us show our gratitude to those currently serving abroad in Afghanistan, Iraq, and other pockets of the world, and to the families that stand by and support their loved ones during deployment in times of war.

The passage of H. Con. Res. 334 will send a strong message to our troops and veterans that we honor, respect, and appreciate their dedication to the liberties and freedoms we as Americans hold so dear.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the goals and the objectives of National Military Appreciation Month by voting in favor of H. Con. Res. 334.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this important resolution, and yield myself such time that I may consume.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of National Military Appreciation Month, which was first passed on May 1999. I might note that in May 1999, perhaps the reason for the Congress seeing fit to have a National Appreciation Month for our military was that in fact we were in a time of comparative peace. We were at a time in which we wanted to let our military know that we appreciated them standing guard in peacetime as well as in war.

For the last 7 years, though, we have been at war. Our troops have been deployed in Afghanistan since shortly after the September 11 attack on our Nation. In fact, this last weekend, as part of the Military Appreciation Month, I was in Oceanside in my own district where 44,000 Marines reside at Camp Pendleton. Except they don't get to reside at Camp Pendleton; they are on their third and fourth deployments throughout that region.

I didn't just thank the senior NCOs and the officers, who I appreciate their continued service because they have stayed in and reenlisted during this time of war, but I also thanked the incredible amount of young men and women and their families who showed up and who in fact joined after this war began, and many of them after this war had been going for many, many years.

It is in fact our military that is with us in good times and bad. They stay with us in the worst of times. They also enlist in the hardest of times.

Many people would say I never voted for this war. I wouldn't vote for this war. This war is wrong. Men and women of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard don't say whether the war is right or wrong. They make a statement about whether America is right or wrong. In their eyes, and in my eyes, America is right. We have a process which we observe in order to ensure that we do not easily go into war, we do not easily send our troops into harm's way.

However, our men and women are in harm's way today. And for this month, like every day that we are at war, we should honor our men and women in uniform. We should make that extra effort to try to do what we can for those returning home and for those who remain behind, the families, the children, the husbands, the wives, making sure that every day they are taken care of, that their special needs, because of the absence of the loved one, are observed. And when they come home, they don't come home from the first deployment, the parade is not as easy to recognize; they don't come home from the last deployment. It is not so easy to say, we are coming home for good.

So I urge my colleagues and I urge all of America to think about the appreciation we can show year round to in fact realize that a parade is just as important to a troop who has come home from their third deployment. Recognition, a picnic, or some other

way of saying we care about your continued service, is just as important in the sixth and seventh year of a struggle that could in fact go on for many years in order to bring freedom and a way of life that is acceptable to the people of Afghanistan and Iraq and other countries throughout the world.

Today we can recognize where our men and women are fighting, but we don't often recognize where they are standing so that we don't have to fight. And I would like to close by recognizing the men and women who are in the Sudan, who are in fact trying to do what they can in Africa for some very troubled spots in which we don't recognize it as our fighting but we certainly have to recognize that we are trying to make a difference for those people who in their struggles every day realize that they are at war.

I join with the gentlelady from California in urging the support for this resolution. I join with the gentleman from Connecticut in recognizing that every day, every month, should be National Military Recognition Month.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 334, which expresses support for National Military Appreciation Month. I introduced this resolution to pay tribute to the men and women who serve in our Armed Forces.

This May is the 10th National Military Appreciation Month. As we approach Memorial Day, I believe it is an appropriate time to thank our service men and women for their service to our country. The men and women who serve our country and defend freedom deserve to be treated with nothing less than the highest level of dignity and respect.

Our country is at war and the brave men and women of our military deserve the full support of every American. We need to provide them with every resource they will need in the difficult months and years to come, starting with our gratitude and respect.

I am grateful for this resolution being brought to the floor, and support its adoption.

Mr. ISSA. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATSON. 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 concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 334, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

ARNOLD PALMER

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1152) honoring Arnold Palmer for his distinguished career in