

education, and moral support that our Nation can provide. Our military support groups and organizations play a vital role in providing services to members of our Armed Forces and their families, including financial assistance, employment assistance, tax return preparation, counseling, prayer groups, and sending care packages.

The resolution we considered today provides an opportunity for each of us, regardless of political views, religion, ethnicity, gender, or background to come together, and to recognize and honor our nation's heroes and those that support them and their families.

Though we may be divided by our positions on the war in Iraq, we stand together to support our veterans. Our nation has a proud legacy of appreciation and commitment to the men and women who have worn the uniform in defense of this country. We must be united in seeing that every soldier, sailor, airman, and marine is welcomed back with all the care and compassion this grateful nation can bestow.

All too many of our veterans are left without the help and support they need to transition from the horrors they bravely face on the front lines of battle to successful civilian life. According to the Veterans of all ages were homeless.

The V.A. also reports 400 veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan alone have already become homeless, and this figure only takes into account those who have sought services from V.A.-sponsored programs. Experts have predicted that the trauma resulting from the extreme horrors of these modern wars could lead to a surge in homeless veterans in the coming years.

I chose to celebrate one of our heroic daughters of Texas, Specialist Monica L. Brown of the United States Army with House Concurrent Resolution 320 for her efforts earlier this year.

Spec. Brown was the first woman in Afghanistan and only the second female soldier since World War II to receive the Silver Star, the nation's third-highest medal for valor. This soldier from Lake Jackson, Texas was only 10-years-old, when on April 25, 2007, Specialist Brown as part of a four-vehicle convoy patrolling near Jani Kheil in the eastern province of Paktia that was attacked. She saw her fellow soldiers injured, she grabbed her aid bag and started running toward the burning vehicle as insurgents opened fire. All five wounded soldiers from her platoon scrambled out. Under this commotion, she assessed her patients and moved them to a safer location because they were still receiving incoming fire.

The Pentagon's official policy is to prohibit women from serving in front-line combat roles in the infantry, armor or artillery, but the nature of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, with no real front lines, has seen women soldiers take part in close-quarters combat more than previous conflicts.

According to the army four Army nurses in World War II were the first women to receive the Silver Star, though three nurses serving in World War I were awarded the medal posthumously in 2007. Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester, of Nashville, Tenn., was the first to receive the Silver Star in 2005 along with two fellow male soldiers for her gallantry during an insurgent ambush on a convoy in Iraq.

Though I have opposed the war in Iraq from its inception, I remain absolutely committed to

ensuring that we recognize, celebrate, and honor the service of our sons and daughters in and returning from, Iraq and Afghanistan.

I am proud to support H. Res. 1200 by my colleague, Congresswoman SUTTON. I firmly believe that we should celebrate and support our armed forces and their families, and I remain committed, as a Member of Congress, to both meeting the needs of veterans of previous wars, and to provide a fitting welcome home to those who are now serving. Current serving military personnel and veterans have kept their promise to serve our nation; they have willingly risked their lives to protect the country we all love. We must now ensure that we keep our promises to them.

Currently, there are over 25 million veterans in the United States. There are more than 1,633,000 veterans living in Texas and more than 32,000 veterans living in my Congressional district alone. I hope we will all take the time to show appreciation to those who have answered the call to duty. As Winston Churchill famously state, "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting our troops, their families, and those groups that are working to support them.

Ms. BORDALLO. 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 resolution, H. Res. 1200, 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. COLE of Oklahoma. 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.

HONORING TOBY KEITH'S COMMITMENT TO MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1255) honoring Toby Keith's commitment to members of the Armed Forces.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1255

Whereas thousands of celebrities have donated their time to entertain members of the Armed Forces both in the United States and abroad through the United Service Organizations (hereafter known as the "USO");

Whereas since the USO's founding in 1941, country music personalities have been an essential element of the USO's entertainment;

Whereas Oklahoma native Toby Keith made six USO tours around the world, per-

forming in such locations as Cuba, Germany, Belgium, Kosovo, Italy, and Africa; and entertaining more than 135,000 members of the Armed Forces in Middle East Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom;

Whereas Toby Keith has volunteered to perform at some of the most dangerous and remote locations in the Persian Gulf, which require Apache escorts and include Forward Operating Bases with total populations of not more than 50 members of the Armed Forces;

Whereas, on April 24, 2008, while performing in Kandahar, Afghanistan mortar fire disrupted his concert;

Whereas few, if any, performers have traveled to such remote and dangerous military bases with Toby Keith's frequency;

Whereas Toby Keith has acted as a valuable liaison between forward deployed troops, the USO, and the American public;

Whereas Toby Keith makes it a priority to give tickets to members of the Armed Forces here in the United States;

Whereas Toby Keith allows members of the Armed Forces to eat and drink for free in his restaurants; and

Whereas Toby Keith co-wrote and performed the hit song "American Soldier" honoring the sacrifices that America's soldiers make on a daily basis: Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) honors Toby Keith's commitment to our country's Armed Forces overseas;

(2) encourages other entertainers to take into consideration Toby Keith's deep commitment to boosting the morale of our Nation's Armed Forces when supporting USO operations; and

(3) a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Toby Keith.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1255 to honor Toby Keith's commitment to strengthening the morale of our Armed Forces and working with the United Services Organizations, the USO, to accomplish this important task. I thank my colleague from Oklahoma, Mr. TOM COLE, for bringing this measure before the House.

Toby Keith has gone above and beyond his celebrity to bring members of our Armed Forces the joy and laughter of entertainment no matter where in the world they serve. From Cuba to Kosovo, Italy to Africa, and many more locations, both welcoming and dangerous, Mr. Keith has played for more than 135,000 men and women in uniform.

In April of this year, Mr. Keith performed in Kandahar, Afghanistan,

where the nervous sounds of mortar fire disrupted his concert. However, Mr. Keith continued to travel to remote and dangerous locations bringing a bit of the American spirit and character alive on stage. His travels are a testament to the importance of morale in the men and women who continue to serve our Nation abroad every day.

By working with the USO, Mr. Keith has helped bring together two very different worlds: the world of an average American who can work during the day and watch a concert at night, and the world of the military abroad who must keep constant guard both day and night.

Mr. Keith's performances and even the free meals he gives the military at his restaurants remind both Americans working at home and those serving abroad that we must keep each other in our minds and hearts and we must keep our morale high. Like Mr. Keith, we should all find something positive to contribute to each other as we face these dangerous times.

By passing this resolution, we are honoring a person who has used his talents to serve the men and women in uniform as they continue to serve our country. Toby Keith is just one of the hundreds of entertainers who have volunteered to entertain the troops with the support of the USO to generate a spirit and morale that is invaluable to this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 1255.

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1530

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend a great Oklahoman and American patriot, whose unceasing support for the men and women in our armed services has been a hallmark of his career. Country music star Toby Keith was born and raised in my hometown of Moore, Oklahoma, and is now a resident just south of us in Norman, Oklahoma, and has made it his mission as an entertainer to keep our troops entertained and to boost their morale as they serve this Nation in some of the most dangerous, remote places on the planet.

This resolution outlines Mr. Keith's commitment to our troops and encourages other entertainers to take into consideration Toby Keith's deep commitment to boosting the morale of our Nation's soldiers when supporting USO operations.

As many of you know, Mr. Speaker, Toby Keith is one of the most successful country music stars of the last two decades. His songs not only appeal to a wide variety of listeners but are also critically acclaimed.

On a personal note, I'll tell my friend on the other side of the aisle, he's actually a very good Democrat. But like all of us, I think he's an American and I'm proud to say an Oklahoman, far ahead

of being affiliated with any political party.

Despite his fantastic success as a performer, I'm here to highlight the work Mr. Keith has done for the United Service Organizations. Since the founding of USO in 1941, thousands of celebrities have taken time out of their lives to visit service men and women who sacrifice their lives for the cause of freedom. These shows not only help to boost morale among our troops but also help to connect our Armed Forces to America when they are far from home, Mr. Speaker.

Since before the United States entered the Second World War, the USO has been the bridge between the American public and the U.S. military. These performances also remind the troops that we are all eternally grateful for the work they do.

Today, the USO delivers its programs and services at more than 130 locations around the world. More recently, the USO opened centers in Kuwait, Qatar and Afghanistan to support service members participating in Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom. The organization relies on over 25,000 volunteers, and servicemembers and their families visit USO centers 5.3 million times a year, Mr. Speaker.

Country music personalities have always been an essential element of the USO's entertainment. In the early years, performers like Gene Autry, another notable Oklahoman—actually Gene Autry, Oklahoma, is in my district as well, Mr. Speaker—Patsy Cline, and many other acts from the Grand Ole Opry have traveled around the world to entertain our troops. Today, performers like Neal McCoy and Lee Ann Womack have all gone to Iraq to entertain our troops. However, few celebrities have visited our troops fighting the war on terror in Iraq and Afghanistan with as much fervor and frequency as Toby Keith.

Mr. Speaker, Toby Keith has made six USO tours, including entertaining over 135,000 U.S. service personnel in Iraq, Afghanistan, Cuba, Germany, Belgium, Kosovo, Italy, and Africa. In fact, he has volunteered to perform at some of the most dangerous and remote locations in the Persian Gulf, including forward operating bases with populations of as few as 50 servicemembers that require Apache escort helicopters to reach. In many of these cases, these places and the garrisons literally haven't had entertainment in many, many months.

The USO also noted in our discussions with them, Mr. Speaker, that Toby's brought back valuable insight from forward deployed troops, including things they would request from the USO and the American public. As a result, the USO has developed a program called USO Delivered, which includes transportable USO centers for remote areas.

On April 28, 2008, while performing in one of these dangerous locations, Kandahar, Afghanistan, mortar fire

disrupted one of Mr. Keith's concerts. Instead of packing up and going home, Toby Keith returned to the stage to finish the show. This attitude, that all troops no matter where they are stationed deserve our support, is what makes Toby Keith an exemplary patriot, and all entertainers should, and I'm sure do, take a good lesson from his dedication to our men and women in uniform.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Keith's visits to the USO are not only places where he deserves recognition for supporting our troops. He also freely provides tickets to military personnel for all of his shows in the U.S., and servicemembers showing military ID are allowed to eat and drink for free at his restaurants. Toby Keith also reflects his deep admiration for the troops in his hit song "American Soldier" which hails the work that our Armed Forces do to protect us all on a daily basis.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when the thousands of Americans question the merits of our missions in Iraq and Afghanistan, it is essential that our service men and women know that we support their dedication to America, regardless of our political disagreements at home. Toby Keith has been a stalwart supporter of our troops throughout his career and deserves our recognition and our appreciation. Regardless of one's opinion on our involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan, supporting our men and women overseas is certainly something that all Members of this body encourage and support.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to vote "yes" on House Resolution 1255 and honor a true patriot.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, at this time I have no further requests for time. I am prepared to close after my colleague has yielded back his time. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize for such time as she may consume my distinguished colleague from Washington (Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS).

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Thank you, Mr. COLE, and Members of the House. I rise and I, too, want to applaud Toby Keith and his commitment to our troops and his efforts to encourage our troops, especially when they're serving our country overseas and away from their family and friends.

And while thanking Toby Keith and others and recognizing the important role that our military plays in our country, I rise today out of a frustration that we in Congress right now are refusing to address the important issue of energy and, especially, the Democrats' refusal to bring an up-or-down vote on the American Energy Act.

Our failure to enact a comprehensive energy policy is having real consequences on families and small businesses and especially our seniors. While I was back home last month, I heard time and time again how high energy prices are having real consequences.

For example, Frank and Bannie Bowman, they're retired and live in Walla Walla. They told me that things are so tight they're having to choose between less on groceries and other necessary items and paying their gas bills.

Seventy-one-year-old Fran Balcom in the Spokane Valley told me that she's still working. She can't retire because of high energy prices.

It's time we begin saying "yes" to American energy. We need to move away from foreign oil, produce more energy here at home, and make conservation a priority. It's time we start meeting America's energy needs with American resources, and the American energy bill does just that.

This bill is focused on increasing our American energy supply, promoting conservation, and supporting renewables like hydro, solar, and wind.

Specifically, the bill lifts the ban against offshore energy exploration; promotes safe and environmentally responsible exploration and development of ANWR; develops America's vast oil shale resources; helps expedite the production of domestic coal-to-liquid fuel; provides permanent tax credits for important renewables like solar, hydrogen, and wind energy; and promotes greater energy efficiency by increasing and extending personal and business efficiency tax credits and deductions.

Americans are concerned about energy costs, and they want us to unleash American ingenuity. We can and we must start meeting America's energy needs with American energy, and doing nothing right now is simply irresponsible.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers and simply want to thank the gentlelady from Guam for working with me on this bill. It's personally important since I have the great honor of representing Toby Keith, and he is, indeed, a great American and certainly somebody in Oklahoma we're very proud of.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE) for co-managing the bills here. I've enjoyed it. 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 resolution, H. Res. 1255.

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. COLE of Oklahoma. 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.

HONORING THE 28TH INFANTRY DIVISION FOR SERVING AND PROTECTING THE UNITED STATES

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 390) honoring the 28th Infantry Division for serving and protecting 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. 390

Whereas the 28th Infantry Division was established on October 11, 1879, and is recognized as the oldest, continuously serving division in the Army;

Whereas units of the 28th Infantry Division date back to 1747, when Benjamin Franklin organized a battalion in Philadelphia;

Whereas units of the 28th Infantry Division served in the Revolutionary War, including units that served with distinction in the Continental Army under General George Washington;

Whereas the 28th Infantry Division was integral to the success of World War I campaigns in the European theater, including those in Champagne, Champagne-Marne, Aisne-Marne, Oise Marne, Lorraine, and Mesuse-Argonne;

Whereas the 28th Infantry Division earned the title of "Iron Division" by General John J. Pershing for its valiant efforts during World War I;

Whereas the 28th Infantry Division contributed to military operations in Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, and Central Europe during World War II;

Whereas the 28th Infantry Division's perseverance through the harsh winter of 1944-1945 on the western front led to a decisive victory in the Battle for the Huertgen Forest, the longest single battle engaged by the Army;

Whereas soon after the Battle of the Huertgen Forest, the 28th Infantry Division withstood the onslaught of the main thrust of the last great German offensive during the Battle of the Bulge, giving time for reinforcements to arrive and defeat the Germans;

Whereas the 28th Infantry Division was activated again in 1950 to serve in Germany;

Whereas the 28th Infantry Division was folded into the Army Selective Reserve Force during the Vietnam War;

Whereas the 28th Infantry Division aided relief efforts throughout the devastating aftermath of Hurricane Agnes in 1972;

Whereas the 28th Infantry Division was called into action during the partial meltdown of the nuclear reactor of Three Mile Island Nuclear Generating Station in 1979;

Whereas the 28th Infantry Division contributed to international coalition forces to facilitate efforts in Operation Desert Storm;

Whereas the 28th Infantry Division has been part of peacekeeping missions in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Republic of Kosovo, and the Sinai Peninsula;

Whereas the 28th Infantry Division has deployed troops for Operation Noble Eagle, securing high-profile infrastructure targets in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001, attacks;

Whereas the 28th Infantry Division has deployed troops to Operation Enduring Freedom, which ousted the Taliban regime in Afghanistan;

Whereas in Operation Iraqi Freedom, the 28th Infantry Division played a crucial role in the search for weapons of mass destruction, the invasion of Iraq, the security in post-invasion Iraq, the training of an Iraqi police force, securing transport convoys, and the safe detainment of suspected terrorists;

Whereas the 28th Infantry Division has over 2,600 soldiers who are missing in action from World War I and World War II;

Whereas the 28th Infantry Division has 127 units in 90 armories in 75 cities across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania;

Whereas the 28th Infantry Division has been sent to aid portions of our Nation affected by harsh winter storms, flooding, violent windstorms, and other severe weather emergencies; and

Whereas 10 recipients of the Medal of Honor, 4 recipients of the Legion of Merit, and 258 recipients of the Silver Star have been members of the 28th Infantry Division: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress honors the 28th Infantry Division for serving and protecting the United States and directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the Adjutant General of the Pennsylvania National Guard for appropriate display.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 390, honoring the 28th Infantry Division. I join my colleagues in recognition of the brave men and women who have answered the call of duty and contributed in so many ways to our Nation's safety and security.

The history of the 28th Infantry Division is truly remarkable and a testament to the dedication and sacrifice of those who have served in the division. Officially established way back in 1879, the 28th Infantry Division is one of the oldest divisions in the Army. Its roots trace back to the Revolutionary War era to units in Benjamin Franklin's battalion of Associators in Philadelphia, as well as General George Washington's Continental Army.

In World War I, the 28th Infantry Division fought in six major campaigns: Champagne, Champagne-Marne, Oise-Marne, Lorraine, and Meuse-Argonne. They paid greatly for their efforts, losing over 14,000 men. Recognizing its tough and relentless fighting prowess,