

HONORING JOHN D. DINGELL FOR HOLDING THE RECORD AS THE LONGEST SERVING MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 154) honoring JOHN D. DINGELL for holding the record as the longest serving member of the House of Representatives.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 154

Whereas John D. Dingell was sworn in as a Member of the United States House of Representatives on January 3, 1956;

Whereas John D. Dingell took office after winning a special election on December 13, 1955, to replace his father, who had served with distinction as a 12-term Congressman and proud supporter of President Roosevelt during the New Deal;

Whereas John D. Dingell, prior to being sworn in as a Member of Congress, had already dedicated himself to public service through his work as a National Park Ranger, a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army during World War II, and an Assistant Prosecutor in Wayne County;

Whereas John D. Dingell was appointed by Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, which would later become the Committee on Energy and Commerce;

Whereas John D. Dingell has authored or been instrumental in the passage of some of the Nation's most important environmental laws, including the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990;

Whereas John D. Dingell's length of service has given him the wisdom to foresee the long-term implications of congressional actions, as shown in his warning during the 1999 debate over deregulation of the financial services industry that "You are going to find that they [banks] are too big to fail, so the Fed is going to be in and other Federal agencies are going to be in to bail them out. Just expect that";

Whereas John D. Dingell has been a strong and vigorous defender of civil rights and civil liberties, having led the drafting and supported the Civil Rights Acts of 1957 and 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and is well known as a champion of the Second Amendment;

Whereas John D. Dingell made health care for all Americans a priority during his entire career, having offered legislation (first introduced by his father) in every Congress since 1957 that would provide for national health insurance, having presided over the House of Representatives on April 8, 1965, when Medicare passed the House, having been a leader in getting the Children's Health Insurance Program signed into law in 1997 and an expansion of the program signed into law in 2009, and having been an active leader on many other health care issues during his tremendous career;

Whereas John D. Dingell has been a tireless advocate on behalf of working Americans, and was described by President Obama on June 15, 2008, as "somebody who has done more for working people than just about anybody in the history of the House of Representatives";

Whereas John D. Dingell was elected to his 28th term as a Member of the House of Representatives on November 4, 2008, and has served as the Dean of the House since the 104th Congress; and

Whereas John D. Dingell will become the longest serving Member of the House of Representatives on February 11, 2009: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. HONORING JOHN D. DINGELL FOR HOLDING THE RECORD AS THE LONGEST SERVING MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the Honorable John D. Dingell for his tireless advocacy on behalf of his constituents in the State of Michigan in the past, present, and future;

(2) honors the Honorable John D. Dingell for his lifelong commitment to public service;

(3) celebrates the Honorable John D. Dingell and his more than 53 years of dedication to the United States Congress, as well the Nation and the ideals upon which it was founded; and

(4) congratulates the Honorable John D. Dingell upon attaining the record for longest serving Member of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 2. TRANSMISSION OF ENROLLED RESOLUTION.

The Clerk of the House of Representatives shall transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the Honorable John D. Dingell.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE).

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I introduced this resolution, along with my Michigan colleagues, so that we might recognize the milestone reached by the gentleman from Michigan, JOHN D. DINGELL, who, as of today, has served longer in the House of Representatives than any Member in its history.

I have had the great privilege to work closely with JOHN DINGELL the past 32 years. I can tell you that through all the changes we have seen in this institution over those years, JOHN DINGELL has played a major role in those that have made this a better country. Throughout his tenure here, he has remained constant in his determination, his toughness, and certainly, in his fairness.

JOHN knows of the great importance of the automobile industry in this country. He knows that when line workers can earn a decent enough wage to support their family and send their children to college, our whole economy prospers. He knows that what America drives drives America.

JOHN played an essential role in the passage of the Chrysler loan guarantee in 1979, which actually earned \$311 million for our government. Recently, he provided a wealth of knowledge necessary to pass the bridge loans to the Big Three automakers.

JOHN's expertise and devotion to providing all Americans with health care is unsurpassed in this Congress. Historians writing about health care will always note the role of two men bearing the name JOHN DINGELL, the one serving today and his father.

His rich Polish heritage is demonstrated each year on Fat Tuesday

when I enjoy the delicious paczki which he presents to me.

I've always been grateful to have a reliable friend and adviser in JOHN DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, this is a better Congress, a better country, and I know I am a better congressman, but more importantly, a better human being, because of JOHN DINGELL.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) be permitted to control the remainder of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON).

Mr. UPTON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, today is Dingell Day. JOHN DINGELL has served more than 53 years in this body. And at a wonderful reception last night in Statuary Hall it was commented over and over, it is not length of his service, but it in fact is the quality of that service.

As chairman of the powerful Energy and Commerce Committee, he has been certainly one of the most influential legislators in the history of the United States, as he'd like to say, with jurisdiction over almost everything. In fact, I think he coined this term many years ago when he said, "If it moves it's energy, and if it doesn't, it's commerce. With that, our committee has that jurisdiction." And this resolution honors that service.

Mr. Speaker, time will judge all of our actions, and serves as the legacy that each of us will carry as it relates to the difference that we made on behalf of the districts that we represented, but also the Nation that we serve. And history will certainly look favorably on the wonderful service of JOHN DINGELL in this body. He has been on the right side almost all the time, but not always, but certainly he's been an architect of the great debates that we have had in this Chamber.

JOHN DINGELL is a governing type of legislator, and he knows that good ideas are not just Democratic ideas, and that awful ideas are not just Republican ideas. He demands the best from all of us. And, as a consequence, he has had tremendous relationships with the ranking member or the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, certainly, for all the years that I've served, whether it be with Norman Lent, Tom Bliley, Billy Tauzin, and certainly JOE BARTON, one of his best friends.

JOHN DINGELL doesn't care about the pride of authorship. He wants the job done. We've sat and had many conversations about issues that he's asked me to carry, and it has strengthened those bills as we moved those pieces of legislation to the floor.

We teamed most recently on the auto legislation. DALE KILDEE, the sponsor of this resolution, and myself are co-

chairs of the Auto Caucus. But together, we teamed together with all of our Michigan colleagues, regardless of party, and we were able to shepherd that legislation through to really help try and save the manufacturing base of this country over these last few months.

For me, I've always enjoyed the relationship that I've had with my good friend, JOHN DINGELL. Obviously, there are times when we've been on the opposing side of an issue, but plenty of times when we've been in the same fox-hole, on the same side. And I'll confess, it's the latter that I enjoy the most. It's a lot easier for, I would like to think, the both of us when we're on the same side.

But JOHN DINGELL plays by the rules. I think maybe in another life he would have been an umpire or a referee. Ken Duberstein, Ronald Reagan's former Chief of Staff, said this most recently: "He followed wherever the facts dictated. Sometimes you don't like what he finds, but you know that he did it honestly. He is a straight shooter." Indeed, he is.

We are a wonderful and diverse country, and we know that sometimes this is a very tough place to govern. And it comes with the territory that to be a good legislator, you need to be blessed with a lot of things. Luck is one. You need a great staff. You need a district back home that respects your decision-making, you need colleagues that know that you're somewhat of an expert and they will listen. But you also need a great spouse. All of those elements make a necessary and personal sacrifice to the success of your career.

Well, JOHN DINGELL has been one that has hit a home run with all of those qualities. He has been a man for all seasons. He is a true giant in the history of this institution. We wish him well in the many years that he has left.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) for yielding, and for introducing this resolution honoring the distinguished dean of our delegation, Congressman JOHN D. DINGELL.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to yield myself such time as I may consume.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PETERS. I also, Mr. Speaker, would like to ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on House Resolution 154.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MELANCON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. PETERS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Here in Washington and across the country, Congressman DINGELL is known and respected for his legislative accomplishments. But as a lifelong

resident of Southeast Michigan, I know that Mr. DINGELL's responsiveness and service to his constituents over 53 years is just as impressive. John Dingell has never lost touch with the people that he serves, and being their voice in Washington has always been his top priority. His service to the residents of his community sets an example for other lawmakers to follow, and certainly sets the bar for me, as a new Member of Congress.

Mr. DINGELL's constituents know that he cares more about getting things done for them than he does about getting honors for himself, and that's why I think it's fitting that, as we are honoring him here on the floor today, he is preparing to actively participate in a hearing being held by the Energy and Commerce Committee's Oversight and Investigation Subcommittee, making sure that the food that our children and our families consume is safe.

Mr. DINGELL is an inspiration for all of us.

I now yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SCHAUER).

Mr. SCHAUER. Colleagues, I can think of no greater honor than to pay tribute to JOHN D. DINGELL, Jr. of Michigan, who, today, becomes the longest serving Member in the 220-year history of the U.S. House of Representatives.

As one of Michigan's newest Members, today is my 36th day as a Member of Congress. Today is JOHN DINGELL's 19,420th day. As Chairman DINGELL told the press this week, "It isn't how long, it's how well." No one has done it better than Chairman DINGELL.

As a Representative whose district is next door to his, what is most remarkable to me is how universally loved, revered and respected he is by his constituents. Their faith in him is acknowledgment of his selfless service and unblemished record of always putting the needs of real people first, whether championing universal health care, clean water or good jobs and a strong middle class.

In the many years I've known Chairman DINGELL, he has been a great and supportive mentor. My first week on the job here, the Dean offered me a simple piece of advice, stay focused on the issues that are most important to your constituents and your district, and ignore the rest.

Chairman DINGELL, thank you for sharing your wisdom and being the statesman that our founders envisioned. And most of all, thank you for all that you continue to do.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, at this point I would yield 1 minute to the distinguished minority leader of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER).

Mr. BOEHNER. Let me thank my colleague from Michigan for sponsoring this resolution.

I rise today to congratulate our colleague and my friend, JOHN DINGELL, as

the longest serving Member in the history of the United States House of Representatives. And while we've heard this said, I think, in some way before, it's not the fact that Mr. DINGELL is the longest serving man or Member of the House, it's the fact that he's been a giant of a man over all these years.

I know I've only been here 18 years and 2 months, but early on in my congressional career, I had a chance to work with Mr. DINGELL. And over the course of my time here in Washington, he and I have developed a very close friendship. And his word is his bond. Whether he's with you or against you, you never have to have any doubts about where JOHN DINGELL is.

And we've been on the same side, thankfully, many times. But even when we're in opposition to each other, it's not as though we are opposed to each other. We maybe have different ideas about which way to move ahead, but he really is someone that is revered by all of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

□ 1045

And it is my honor as the Republican leader, JOHN, to come here today and to say thank you and congratulations.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I would now yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HILL).

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, some of you may know that, in my younger days, I broke a few athletic records, but today, JOHN DINGELL has broken a record that shows exactly what kind of man he is—a devoted public servant. I rise today to honor JOHN DINGELL's service to the people of Michigan and to the Nation.

He is an undeniable leader but also a teacher and a mentor. He has been in Washington for some years now, but he has never strayed from his midwestern roots. Everything he does is for the betterment of his constituents.

Mr. Speaker, back in the '50s and '60s, the reputation of Congress was much higher than what it is today. Today, the low approval ratings are of concern to me and to, I think, a lot of people, but back in the '50s and '60s when Mr. DINGELL was a prominent Member of this body, the reputation of Congress was high. People in America respected the Congress of the United States, and it was because of the way people like JOHN DINGELL respected the institution of our Congress.

We need to return to those days. The days of slashing and burning this institution need to disappear. We need to follow the leadership of people like JOHN DINGELL, who throughout his entire career was never a slash and burn politician. He was a person who may have disagreed with you, but he never disrespected you, and that is why all of us in this body respect a man like JOHN DINGELL. It has been an honor and a privilege for me to serve on the commerce committee with him. He has helped me tremendously.

JOHN, I pause today to thank you for your service and to tell you how much

I respect you, not only for what you have done for me but for what you have done for this institution.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, at this point, I would yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MCCOTTER).

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, it is a great day for Michigan. Having grown up there, I first heard the name DINGELL used in conjunction with the auto industry because the people in my neighborhood, whether they were blue collar, white collar or car dealers, knew that there was one person in this Congress who would always look out for them and that, as long as he was in this body, they would have a voice and a hope.

Today, we celebrate the fact that that voice has been in this Chamber longer than any other Member of the United States House. As someone from Michigan, I am eternally grateful, not only for his service to this institution but for his service to neighborhoods like mine throughout our entire State and our country.

As I have told you earlier, it is often said on the radio that mere greatness is fleeting but that goodness and greatness are timeless.

Chairman DINGELL, with your service to this institution, to your beloved State of Michigan and to the country which you defended as a veteran, they will always consider your service timeless as will be their gratitude for it.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I now would like to yield 3 minutes to a colleague of mine, the distinguished gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN).

Mr. LEVIN. Well, for you, JOHN—and I guess I'm not supposed to be directing my comments to a particular Member. To JOHN DINGELL and to Debbie Dingell, this is an emotional moment, but it is for all of us.

To know JOHN DINGELL, one has to know his roots and his father's—coming from an area that saw the middle class develop. Really, for many, for the first time, there were jobs that really paid. There was health care for so many for the first time. They were provided pensions for the first time, and in most cases, in many cases for the first time, provided for a single family house.

For JOHN DINGELL, the automotive industry was not a special interest. It was an area that had interests that were special, and so JOHN DINGELL has never forgotten those roots. He has never forgotten the blossoming of the middle class and his determination to fight for it. JOHN DINGELL has never forgotten his roots. It is a good example for all of us.

Another example has been that JOHN DINGELL was able to grow beyond his roots in a sense, to have a sense that there were underdogs virtually everywhere. So JOHN DINGELL came here, not only fighting for those who were part of a new middle class but for those who were not, and he had the courage, if one remembers, it was not so easy, to

fight for the rights of every human being.

As has been so often said, JOHN DINGELL's service here is more than the days numbered; it is the issues fought for with esteem and success. So this is an emotional moment for us all—as I said, for JOHN and Debbie DINGELL but, I hope, for all America—because his service has been a truly American service and story.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, at this point, I would yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from the great State of Michigan (Mrs. MILLER).

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to join so many of our colleagues, not just from the great State of Michigan but from the great, great Nation of America to honor our colleague here—truly a giant, a giant of this House and a legendary leader in Michigan as well—Congressman JOHN DINGELL, as he becomes the longest serving Member of this House in the history of this body.

Every Member of this House is addressed by the term “the honorable,” but perhaps no other Member of this House deserves that title more than the Honorable JOHN DINGELL.

For the last 19,420 days—an amazing number—more than 53 years, JOHN DINGELL has served the people of Michigan and of our Nation with honor and with distinction. He has been a vocal fighter for our State, a champion for working men and women across this great Nation. He is a man whose word is his bond, and I know that personally from so many experiences. His word is his bond. If he gives you his word, Mr. Speaker, take it to the bank.

None of us can ever doubt the sincerity with which he approaches his cause nor his ability to work with Members across the aisle in different Chambers to find solutions to the enormous challenges that have been facing our Nation during his long tenure here, and there is no better ally to have when fighting an issue than JOHN DINGELL. Again, I know this from personal experience because he is a zealous advocate for his cause and an incredible leader and, again, has that rare ability to bring people together.

As my colleague from Michigan said, there is simply no better person with whom to share a foxhole than JOHN DINGELL, and while I will respect and honor JOHN DINGELL for his service to the people of his district, Michigan and this Nation, the thing that gives me the greatest pleasure is to be able to call JOHN DINGELL “friend.” I say that with the greatest sincerity, Mr. DINGELL.

Congratulations, Mr. Chairman, and my sincere best wishes for another 19,000 days of service here in this establishment.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPs).

Mrs. CAPPs. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and

with the greatest reverence for my colleague and my mentor, the Honorable JOHN DINGELL.

I was fortunate enough to join the Energy and Commerce Committee in 1999. Over the past 10 years, we have confronted difficult times and difficult legislation, but whether as ranking member or as chairman, JOHN led us all honorably and always with the greater good in mind.

As a nurse, working with Mr. DINGELL on health care has been an honor. Indeed, it has been the privilege of a lifetime. In fact, I have kept my R.N. current because, with Team Dingell, I work on health care advocacy as much in this body as I ever did as a school nurse in Santa Barbara County, whether it was in passing the Nurse Reinvestment Act or in opposing the misguided Medicare Modernization Act or, when we were back in the majority, in holding our very first hearing on children's health care, and in passing also the Genetic Information Non-discrimination Act. First and foremost, Mr. DINGELL has always been concerned about improving health care for all Americans.

Of course, behind every great man is, quite often, a strong woman. This has never been more true than it is with the Dingells. In fact, I had the pleasure of getting to know Debbie Dingell before I really got to know JOHN because I first came to Washington as a congressional spouse. She worked hard with JOHN to ensure that the Energy and Commerce Committee remained collegial, and she would often keep JOHN and all of us company during late-night markups. I use this occasion then also to pay tribute to her today for all she does to support JOHN's great work and service.

Congratulations to Mr. JOHN DINGELL and to the entire Dingell family for reaching this incredible, amazing milestone.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I have a number of Members who may be coming over. We have no one here at the moment, but I would ask at this point to give all Members the opportunity to revise and extend their remarks and to be able to submit that material for the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHAUER). The request the gentleman is making was granted earlier in the debate.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Many times you will hear us suggest that we are privileged to be on the floor and to be able to speak to a particular resolution. I know that the distinguished gentleman who I speak of this morning, Congressman DINGELL, is a respector and a lover of this institution. He often supports and calls for regular

order, but this morning, I would like to be given a waiver to speak particularly in a personal manner because I believe that the courage of JOHN DINGELL truly has impacted my life. So, even though I might have been—and I can probably say this—just a junior high school student as JOHN DINGELL took his oath of office, he does not realize the many lives like mine that he impacted. I am what I am today because JOHN DINGELL had the courage and the fortitude, the strength and love of this country to stand in times of difficulty.

Where would this Nation be if a man by the name of Martin Luther King had not been listened to by a man like JOHN DINGELL, who then stood on the floor of the House, alongside of a southern President, and voted for the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the 1965 Voting Rights Act?

The southern districts were created and opportunities for many of us to ascend to higher office and to be welcomed in places of accommodation, maybe even for this young President, President Obama, to attend Columbia University or for myself to attend Yale University.

JOHN DINGELL was not thinking about individual persons, nameless persons like me, but he took a stand when he knew that he might be subjected to an enormous primary fight or that he would be considered, if you will, a lover of those colored people.

□ 1100

But like Thomas Jefferson said, "Some men are born for the public."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Jefferson continued, "Nature, by fitting them for the service of the human race on a broad scale, has stamped them with the evidences of her destination and their duty."

JOHN DINGELL has protected my mother. She's in a nursing home. How is she able to do that having worked 37 years as a vocational nurse? Because of Medicare. There are many children in my district who are glad that in 1997 I was able to join JOHN DINGELL for the implementation of the children's health coverage.

So JOHN, I know that you like regular order, but I decided to be personal today. I want to thank you for those 19,420 days because they were not in vain. You saved many lives, you gave us opportunities. I am forever grateful, and I stand here as a daughter of America saying thank you on behalf of the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I am overjoyed today that I have the opportunity to speak on one of America's true public servants. The resolution before us today on the House floor recognizes Representative JOHN DINGELL for his distinguished public service and for his holding the record as the longest serving member of the House of Representatives. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Thomas Jefferson said that "Some men are born for the public. Nature by fitting them for the service of the human race on a broad scale, has stamped them with the evidences of her destination and their duty." If any man or woman I have ever served with is born for the public, it is my good friend from Michigan.

Congressman JOHN DINGELL has been devoted to this chamber since he first started working as a Congressional Page in 1938. He was already a seasoned Washington, D.C. veteran when he won a special election to replace his father who had served his constituents the last 22 years of his life. While few back then knew that he would serve undisrupted for 53 years, everyone knew that he would be a difference maker. He now has an office that is named for the Speaker of the House that first swore him in, Speaker Sam Rayburn from my home State of Texas.

In his illustrious career, Congressman DINGELL has seen it all. He has gone from rank and file member, to Chairman, and accomplished more than most can even dream possible. Starting his career under John F. Kennedy, he has been a driver on the course of history. He has never apologized for his beliefs even during a time when being a "Liberal" was as bad an insult as you could sling.

A devoted advocate for nationalized health care, he has never relented in introducing a national healthcare system at the start of every Congressional Session. He was never able to stomach that there were people among us who lacked the ability to have access to the basic right to care for their health. He has used his natural ability to talk to his fellow Members to help those who need the help the most.

A strict watchman for the people's resources, he went against his own leadership to bring attention to government waste. Making sure that any person, Democrat or Republican, who came to give testimony to his Committee were sworn in under oath, he made sure that even subjects that most would want to keep quiet, he brought in to the light. Whether it is holding hearings on \$600 dollar Pentagon toilet seats or preventing scientific fraud with who discovered the AIDS virus, Congressman DINGELL is the quintessential defender of the little guy. He has never believed that just because an injustice is small it should not be fought with every ounce of effort that he had. I also must thank his lovely, wife Debbie; she has been a mighty force in all he has done and a great support for all his causes.

This man is an American hero and I am honored to be able to vote on this important resolution. We have a chance to thank the man who has done so much for all of our constituents and I hope to be one of the first "yes" votes on this resolution. This resolution can show us all that remaining committed to our constituents is the best path to keep our jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge the passage of this resolution.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I would now like to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from the State of California (Ms. MATSUI).

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, it's a privilege to stand here today to honor a man who is so many things to this body: public servant, respected legislator, champion of the working family,

colleague, counsel, and friend. Above all, JOHN DINGELL is a legend in the halls of the Capitol.

He fought bravely in World War II and performed so admirably that he rose to the rank of second lieutenant. Yet, by the end of the war, JOHN's service to this country was just beginning. He probably did not expect that he would serve in this body for more than half a century. Longevity is impressive, particularly in a hard-nose business like politics.

But what makes JOHN's tenure here so significant is not how long he's served, but what he has accomplished during his tenure. Thousands and thousands of children and families across this country have lived healthier lives because of laws written by JOHN DINGELL. Workers and consumers enjoy protections today that they never had before JOHN came along.

It's been an honor for me to serve with JOHN as he burnishes his legacy on the Energy and Commerce Committee. He's achieved this feat while staying true to the values that drew him to public service: fairness, justice, hard work, and loyalty. And we cannot think about JOHN without thinking about Debbie, the love of his life. Their partnership is an inspiration for all of us, and we honor them both.

Congratulations, JOHN, on this honor and achieving this milestone. We look forward to many, many more.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I would now like to yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN).

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) for the time.

It is with great honor that I am a Member of this House and stand today on this resolution that honors one of the great Members of this House, the Honorable JOHN DINGELL of Michigan.

As a freshman Member last year, I knew of Mr. DINGELL's reputation—which all of America should know—but I knew it from personal knowledge from a former staffer, T.J. Oden, a good friend of mine in Memphis who always referred to Mr. DINGELL with great honor and great distinction and talked of stories of the past and I'd always heard of Mr. DINGELL.

So when I came here, it was one of the great pleasures to meet him, and he treated me not as a freshman, not as a person who wasn't necessarily expected to win their re-election and somebody who would be here for a blip, but as a fellow Member and an equal and offered me advice and courtesies that you don't always see from a senior Member extended to a freshman. And I certainly didn't see them from every Member in this body.

But his term here in the House should be an example to young people all over this Nation who want to enter public service.

While I was a freshman in this House, I was not a freshman in the legislative process having served 24 years in the

State Senate in Tennessee. In my political career, I've seen many people who get into office and the first thing that it seems they want to do is move to a higher office. They take the position and they take votes that will extend them to a higher constituency, whether it's a Congressperson wanting to be a senator, or a State representative wanting to be a State senator, or somebody wanting to be a governor or a statewide officer or President or cabinet member. That's not the purpose, the reason why one should hold public office and be a Member of this House of Representatives.

This is a position that is worthy of dedication unto itself and to this Chamber, as Mr. DINGELL has and his father has served for over three-quarters of a century. He has dedicated himself to this House and to his district and to the issues of importance and not to the advancement of JOHN DINGELL as Senator, Secretary, Governor, or President.

It is that resoluteness and that purpose that I think holds itself out as an example to young people who enter office is to enter an office and to do good in that office and know that that office, when you take an oath, is what you're sworn to uphold and the duty that you should stand to and not to seek self-promotion constantly.

Mr. DINGELL has done that, and that's part of what this record of service shows: a dedication to this House and his district and to the purpose of which he was elected.

In Washington, I have experienced a little over 2 years as a Member of this House, and I have seen people in this community who revere Mr. DINGELL and his bride.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I would yield another 30 seconds to the gentleman.

Mr. COHEN. And in law when a person's reputation and character is put on display for a jury, it is the reputation as they're known throughout the community. And in this community of Washington, there are no two people who are thought of more highly and more revered for their charitable works and their friendship than JOHN DINGELL and his lovely bride, Debbie.

So it's with those issues, the purpose for which he was elected in which he served for this House and for this country. And when he closed his remarks yesterday in the great Rotunda at a celebration honoring him, he closed by saying, "God bless the United States of America." I think it was perfect for Mr. DINGELL because he loves this country, and that's why he served so long and so well.

So I join everybody and ask you to join in voting for this resolution.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, at this point I would yield 2 minutes to another gentleman from the great State of Michigan (Mr. ROGERS).

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand here

and give a moment of honor and praise to a gentleman who has committed himself to this institution and to his country and certainly to his State.

And I have often said along the way that if you ever want to tangle with somebody in politics, there is no better rival you can have than JOHN DINGELL, and you better buckle up and show up and be ready to go. And when you're on his side, there is no better friend to have in this House. And it has been a fun experience to get to know him in a better and more personal way the last 8 years that I've been here.

I will never forget the first day I got here. We happened to meet, I think, in the hallway on the way to the Chamber, and he offered his hand in congratulations. And I said, "Sir, do you have any advice for a new Member here in the House of Representatives?" And he thought about it for a minute and he said, "Michael, if you're going to sup with the devil, make sure you do so with a very long spoon." I thought it was the very best advice that I have ever gotten in this Chamber and in the life of politics in the last 8 years.

He has always been there with a kind word and an offer for help. And when he's against you, as I said before, believe me, you'll know it. He even had some good advice when we were in opposition to certain positions along the way.

But he is truly one of the statesmen of this institution, and we shouldn't forget it. The fact that you can disagree and passionately disagree with civility has always been the hallmark of JOHN DINGELL. And he has that same passion, and you can imagine him having some 53-plus years ago when he showed up in these chambers. And that I draw inspiration from, to know that you can be through all of these tough and very difficult political issues and still show up with a little bit of hip in your getalong, as my dad used to say.

All of those years, all of those accomplishments, all of that civility, that, my friend, is what a statesman is all about.

It has been an honor and a privilege to know you, sir, in the capacity as a United States Representative. You're one of the intellectual giants. Thank you for your service to your State. Thank you for your service to your country.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, at this point I would yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from the good State of Indiana (Mr. BUYER).

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I came to the institution of Congress as a very young man—not as young as you were, JOHN, perhaps—I was 32 years old. I was a fresh, young captain right out of the first gulf war, and I came to the institution of Congress because I wanted to serve my country in another capacity; and I was very upset having seen what men and women do in the name of liberty on a distant battlefield and then to see what had happened to Congress.

To my friend JOHN DINGELL, your party controlled for 40 years, and then the institution became dark and mismanaged, unorganized. There were some bad things that were going on. That propelled me to come to Congress.

And when I came to Congress, I then looked upon my mentors. As a young man, I had great respect because I grew up in an American Legion family, and those guys that would be out in the alley at the fish fries and shoeing me out of the way because they were drinking a beer while they were telling stories and war stories, they were the World War II generation. And I come here to Congress and I got to serve, then, with some of the remaining World War II generation.

And upon my reflection, JOHN, as you reflect upon your 50 years-plus of being here in Congress, I think about what a joy it must have been to have served here in Congress in the 1950s and the 1960s when there were so many individuals here in Congress that were of the product of World War II and Korea. Because these were individuals who had truly crossed over and had seen the world in a different dimension and didn't have time for the political games; what were the great interests that could help our country move forward; Republicans and Democrats working together, building bridges across any of those divides of which individuals who didn't understand that type of dimension or reasoning or the bridge builders of those policies were the products of World War II and Korea.

And I kind of look back to your career and say, you know, it would have been a real joy to serve here in Congress during those two decades. And I got to see the end of that when I was here, and it was Bob Stump and Sonny Montgomery and others.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. UPTON. I yield an additional 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. BUYER. And I think about what a real joy.

And then I watched you, not only as the great JOHN DINGELL, as what you were referred to here in the town as you led the Energy and Commerce Committee, and then how you also then served in the minority. You are a man who believes in the institution, and by that way you teach a lot of us on how to act, our deportment, our demeanor, our tone, and our tenor; but you also respect the institution. And when you respect the institution, that means you respect each other.

And right now, Lady Liberty is weeping. And the reason Lady Liberty is weeping is because we take one of the great men of this institution, and the Democrat leadership moved you out. And they moved you out, JOHN, because you were an institutional man. You're a man that respects open deliberation and debate, and that's who you are.

But if you're an individual who believes that no, it's my way or the highway and I'm going to do it my way, an individual who permits open debate and deliberation of all individuals—everyone here was elected to represent their districts. So we are in equal capacity.

But your leadership, JOHN, moved you out, and that was unfortunate. And that's why I said Lady Liberty is weeping today because right now, we're voting on bills that did not go through particular markups. You know, the Speaker, we spend that 10 hours in the Energy and Commerce Committee and do amendments, and she takes her own bill on up to the Rules Committee, brings it to floor, don't even do amendments so we don't even get to participate in the process.

□ 1115

The reason you can do that is because you move someone out like JOHN DINGELL.

This is a man that everyone in the institution respects, and so when I will reflect upon my tenure in Congress, I will say that I got to serve with some great men and women.

In particular, when I think of Henry Hyde, I will put him in the same arena as Daniel Webster and Henry Clay, the great orators. And I will put you in the same category as Sam Rayburn and some of those great individuals that have served this country, JOHN. I am proud to have served here with you.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed my great honor to yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlewoman from California, our Speaker of the House, NANCY PELOSI.

Ms. PELOSI. Thank you very much. It's so wonderful to see the two gentlemen from Michigan, the two newest Members on the Democratic side from Michigan, one presiding, Mr. SCHAUER, and one controlling the time, Mr. PETERS, as we pay tribute to the dean of the House and certainly the dean of the Michigan delegation, Mr. DINGELL.

Pretty exciting, isn't it, Mr. Chairman, to see these two new young Members to come here to reinvigorate the Congress? You've seen that happen time and time again.

My colleagues, as you know, today, the American flag is flying over the Capitol in honor of the leadership and service of our colleague JOHN DINGELL for becoming the longest-serving Member of the House of Representatives. As we recognize JOHN today, we thank and congratulate his family for sharing him with us: his wife, the lovely Deborah as he refers to her; and his children, John, the Third, Christopher, Jeannie and Jennifer.

Last night, hundreds of people gathered under the Capitol dome as we had a reception on the eve of this historic event at the site of the original House of Representatives to pay tribute to JOHN DINGELL. It was an amazing group to see, Democrats and Republicans, new Members just newly sworn in, and those who had been here for decades.

We were honored to be joined by President Clinton, who on more than one occasion has honored JOHN DINGELL for his service. I think most recently before was for the 50-year anniversary of your service in Congress when many of us came together at that time.

We were joined also by Speaker Foley and former Minority Leader Bob Michel, again as a sign of bipartisanship. All came together to pay tribute to the 19,420 days JOHN DINGELL has served alongside us.

Today, we have an opportunity to again pay tribute on the actual day that he breaks the record. Yesterday was a tie; today, break the record.

It's also a personal privilege for me to speak about JOHN, as my father, Thomas D'Alesandro, Jr., served with JOHN's father in the Congress before JOHN came here.

Every chapter in JOHN DINGELL's life has been lived in service to our country. JOHN came first to these halls, as I mentioned last night and as we all know, as a congressional page. I see that all the pages are gathered in the back of the room to hear the story of one of their colleagues, a former page, who has reached the heights in the Congress of the United States. Thank you, Pages.

He was a page in 1941 when he was standing on the floor when President Roosevelt asked Congress to declare war on Japan. That war called JOHN to serve again, not now as a page but a few years older, and old enough to serve in the military where he rose to the rank of second lieutenant in the Army. It also began a public life dedicated to make America strong, both at home and abroad.

Just barely old enough to be a member of the Greatest Generation, JOHN DINGELL applied his brilliant mind, his great judgment, and his broad vision to making the future better for generations to come. JOHN always made clear that a strong America had to be a healthy America. Continuing a tradition his father had begun in every Congress, JOHN has introduced a bill for universal national health insurance.

Because of his tireless work in securing health care for the elderly, JOHN presided in the House in 1965—he presided where you stand now, Congressman SCHAUER—when Medicare was passed into law. He gaveled it down, and that gavel he used that day still sits on his desk.

To work alongside JOHN DINGELL is to be inspired by the history of our institution and humbled by the seriousness of our work.

JOHN, as I said, yesterday tied the record; today, he broke the record. And every day that he serves from now on he will continue to set a new record, certainly a new record of time in Congress, but that's the least of it, a record of leadership, combined with experience and longevity that makes him such a powerhouse.

To JOHN, we love and respect you, and by any measure, your leadership

and your success have been unsurpassed. Congratulations on this wonderful honor. I look forward to working with you for many weeks, years, every day to break the record, a new record, but as that piles up into years, our country will continue to be well-served by your tremendous leadership.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, at this point, I would yield 4 minutes to the former chairman and now distinguished ranking member of the powerful and influential Energy and Commerce Committee, Mr. BARTON.

(Mr. BARTON of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Thank you, Congressman UPTON.

Mr. Speaker, we're here today to honor one of the true lions of the Congress. I feel like since this is the third time I've made this type of a speech that I'm at a funeral, except for the fact that our honoree is not only alive, but he's still kicking and has lots of life left to give to his constituency and to the Congress and certainly to the committee that he's served as chairman for so many years in the Energy and Commerce Committee.

I've known JOHN DINGELL in some ways since 1985 when I got sworn in as a freshman Member. I've served on the committee that he was the chairman of since 1987. I've served 22 years on the committee, and for the last 17 years, in some shape, form or fashion, I have sat beside him as subcommittee chairman, as ranking member, as full committee chairman, as ranking member of the full committee, and now again as ranking member with he as chairman emeritus.

There is a public side of JOHN DINGELL, and there is a private side of JOHN DINGELL. We have numerous stories about the public side of JOHN DINGELL, the powerful, gruff chairman. You know, some of the private sides of JOHN DINGELL, much less public but just as important, when I had my heart attack 3 years ago, JOHN DINGELL is one of the people that called and gave me solace and counsel and checked on my wife and made sure that she was okay.

When Terri and I had our son 3 years ago, JOHN and Debbie called and asked what kind of a gift, and knowing of their association with the auto industry, I thought a Cadillac Escalade might be in order. But what we got were car seats, a car seat for Washington and a car seat for Texas, very practical gift, also within the House ethics rules and also very thoughtful.

One of the things that has not been said that I'm aware of is that in spite of the many legislative achievements, the Clean Water Act, Safe Water Drinking Act, the Clean Air Act Amendments, a lead role in the original Clean Air Act, JOHN DINGELL is a very humble man. He has not asked that his name be put on any of that legislation.

When I chaired the energy conference report that later became the Energy Policy Act of 2005, I wanted my name on the bill and Senator Domenici and Senator BINGAMAN and Congressman DINGELL. And so I went to Mr. DINGELL. I said, Let's put your name on the bill; we will call it the Barton-Domenici-Dingell-Bingaman bill. And he said, no, he didn't want his name on the bill. I said, Is it because it's too controversial? He said, No, I don't believe that a man should be that presumptuous.

And I may be wrong, but I'm not aware of any piece of legislation that is called the Dingell bill because he just wants to get the job done. He's not interested in personal memorials.

As I've said numerous times, when they write the history of the Congress, of the 20,000 men and women who have had the honor to call themselves U.S. representatives, JOHN DINGELL will be one of those representatives that is highlighted.

I think he's probably the most influential House Member in the history of the Congress who has not been Speaker of the House, and he could have been Speaker at some point in time. And I don't mean that as a personal attack on our current Speaker. I'm just saying the esteem that this man has been held in for over 50 years is something that we should all try to emulate, because on both sides of the aisle, he is really, really held in high esteem and is considered, as I said earlier, one of the lions, not just of this Congress but every Congress.

I consider it one of the highest honors of my life that I have been able to serve with him and by him and learn from him and, on occasion, emulate him.

And, Mr. Speaker, I will also say that he still has work to do. The fact that we're all honoring him with this resolution today—

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has again expired.

Mr. UPTON. I yield the gentleman 1 additional minute.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. The fact that we're honoring this fine gentleman today does not mean that he can rest on his laurels. I fully expect within the month to be totally engaged on opposite sides in the public health care debate as he tries to fulfill one of his lifetime obligations of moving some sort of a national health care bill. I believe in a more market-oriented, private sector approach.

So, while part of me says I wish he would go ahead and retire, the better part of me says we want you here, Chairman DINGELL. We want you engaged in the debate. We want you giving your ideas on what you think is right for the American people, just like you've been doing for the last 53-years-and-some-odd days, because on your best day you make this body and our country a better body and a better country, and even on your worst day, you improve the atmosphere and im-

prove the prospects for a brighter future for our people of the United States of America.

God bless you.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, before yielding more time I ask unanimous consent to extend the time by 10 minutes, equally split between both sides.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to now yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Maryland and the majority leader of the House of Representatives, Mr. HOYER.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the two gentlemen from Michigan, Mr. PETERS and my good friend Mr. UPTON.

There is no partisanship on this floor today. There is a universal expression of respect, affection, admiration, sometimes fear, always awe. I rise to note the service of a great American, a good man, who has advantaged this House, his State, and the American people by his service.

Today, we honor a man who has sat in this Chamber for nearly a quarter of its existence. Think about it. He and his father have served longer than a quarter of the existence of this House. In so many ways, the history of this House is the history of JOHN DINGELL and his family.

His father helped create Social Security. JOHN presided over the House, as has been noted, when we passed Medicare. In his time here, JOHN has had his hand in everything from the Clean Air Act to the Endangered Species Act, to the just recently passed Children's Health Insurance Program.

And JOHN DINGELL sat to the right of the President of the United States as the President signed that bill, and President Obama took that first pen with which he signed that bill and turned to Chairman DINGELL and gave it to him. How appropriate it was for President Obama, a young and vigorous President, whose tenure in public office is relatively short, to turn and give that pen to an individual whose term in office has exceeded now that of every other American in history.

□ 1130

JOHN was here when we passed the first civil rights bill. JOHN was here when we put a man on the Moon. He was here when the Berlin Wall and the Twin Towers fell.

So much of our institutional memory is embodied in this one giant of a man, the longest-serving Member in the history of the House—a walking, talking, Library of Congress.

One way to last this long is to keep your head down, to stay quiet and unobtrusive, to hope that no one notices you year after year. That may be one way. It was not JOHN DINGELL's way. But the other way is to make yourself so instrumental that your constituents and this body could hardly imagine life and legislation without your input,

without your advice, without your counsel, without your prodding, without your expressing a vision for a better America. Everyone here knows that that is the path that our friend JOHN DINGELL took.

For more than half a century—it's been mentioned, 19,420 days—JOHN came here, to this Chamber, every day, asking what he could do to bring a little more security, a little more dignity, a little more prosperity, to his constituents and to my constituents, and to all of our constituents, to his fellow citizens.

And he came here to this Chamber, every day, asking what he could do to advance the ideals that he has held so tenaciously and so ably and defended so passionately throughout his life and throughout his career in this body.

As Michael Barone wrote a few years ago, and I quote, "Whether you agree or disagree, the social Democratic tradition is one of the great traditions in our history, and JOHN DINGELL has fought for it for a very long time."

The good news for my great granddaughter is that JOHN DINGELL is still fighting for that tradition. Still fighting for her and the millions of her cohorts, very small. They will not know JOHN DINGELL personally, but all of them will benefit by JOHN DINGELL's service and passion and caring and effectiveness as a giant among the legislators of our history. He is still fighting. And he will go on fighting.

We know how much more JOHN has to contribute to the life of this House and this Nation as he adds to his record every 24 hours, from here on out. I want to join my friend JOE BARTON, who's JOHN DINGELL's friend, as is FRED UPTON, his friends and his admirers join JOE BARTON in saying that we look forward to JOHN DINGELL's leading us as we confront the issue of the passion of his life and of his father's life. And that is ensuring that every American has the availability of quality health care.

JOHN DINGELL will be the principal sponsor of that health bill, and our principal leader on that effort. He has much to do. As Ulysses once said, "Tho' much is taken, much abides."

I understand that President Clinton quoted that famous Ulysses poem by Alfred Lord Tennyson. That poem ends by saying that, "Tho' we are not now that strength which in old days moved earth and heaven, that which we are, we are. One equal temper of heroic hearts, made weak by time and fate, but strong in will to strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield."

Tennyson did not know JOHN DINGELL, but Tennyson spoke of the character and courage and commitment of our friend, of our historic colleague, our chairman, JOHN DINGELL of Michigan.

Congratulations, and thank you.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, at this time I would yield 2 minutes to my good friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER).

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, the distinguished majority leader, my classmate and friend from Maryland, was absolutely right when he reminded us that just last night at the great ceremony in Statuary Hall, President Clinton directed us to in fact read Tennyson's Ulysses last night.

The thing that struck me as I listened to the majority leader again talk about JOHN DINGELL was something else that President Clinton said. He said, "Interestingly enough, if you look at the number of Presidents with whom," and I underscore, John, with whom, as you said last night, "JOHN DINGELL has served, it is 25 percent of the Presidents—25 percent of the Presidents that we have had in the United States of America."

It is an absolutely amazing accomplishment, and it's a great privilege and honor for me to be able to be part of this.

JOHN DINGELL and I, Mr. Speaker, have not always agreed on every single issue, and I know that has clearly come to the forefront from probably people on both sides of the aisle. But one of the interesting things that I have observed is that alliances regularly shift around here.

In the early 1990s, there was a clash that Mr. DINGELL and I had over the issue of jurisdiction. I was charged by then-Speaker Gingrich early on to bring about a modification in committee jurisdiction. And I did some things that my friend JOHN DINGELL didn't particularly like.

But when I talk about how alliances shift, I have to say that then, just a few years ago, Mr. DINGELL approached me and asked me to help him as he was dealing with a jurisdictional challenge, and I totally agreed with what it was he was trying to do at that point.

And so as you look at a long period of time, while we can have passionate disagreements, it's clear that we can just as passionately come together and agree on some issues.

JOHN DINGELL is clearly an institutionalist. And I told him last night, Mr. Speaker, at the great ceremony in Statuary Hall, that I have always been struck—I have served in almost every capacity one can on the House Rules Committee just upstairs on the third floor, and as all of our colleagues know, this is where Members come to testify on behalf of amendments or proposals that they would like to have considered on the House floor.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. UPTON. I yield the gentleman an additional 2 minutes.

Mr. DREIER. I thank my very good friend for yielding me additional time.

In the Rules Committee, Members have to stand in line to offer their testimony. And sometimes, if questions go on, we don't impose limits there on questioning, as in the case in other

committees, and often one person can be there and testify for a long period of time if the questioning goes on.

Well, we will have maybe two-term, second-term Members come in and they will get antsy and start to pace around and grumble over the fact they are not being immediately recognized before the Rules Committee to testify on behalf of the legislation.

And I will say that I have been regularly struck at the fact that JOHN DINGELL, the Dean of the House, the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, has often come before the House Rules Committee and literally sat patiently for 45 minutes, an hour, an hour and a half, as others have gone before him to testify, never thinking for one second that he should be recognized.

Now, of course I should say parenthetically that when I was chairman of the Rules Committee, I always wanted to rush to recognize JOHN DINGELL as quickly as I possibly could. But his understanding of this institution is, to me, evidenced in what he regularly did when I would see him in that capacity in the House Rules Committee.

And I have to say that he talked about staff members last night, and recognizing the people who give us the opportunity to do the work that we do is something that JOHN DINGELL did so well. And he, of course, talked about his wonderful partner, Debbie.

So, I have to say, Mr. Speaker, this job has a tendency to become very frustrating. When you have gone from the majority to the minority, and Mr. DINGELL knows this, it is frustrating and challenging and difficult. But I am in the minority now, and some of the days aren't as exciting as they were when I was in the majority.

To be able to be here on the day that recognizes JOHN DINGELL's amazing service to this institution is something of which I am very proud, and has given me just the boost that I need.

So, thank you very much, and I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I would now like to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS).

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. As I am a junior Member of the House of Representatives, I am very pleased to join you, Mr. Speaker, in this recognition. I know that there are a lot of old friends in the House of Representatives. But, Mr. Speaker, I hope that Mr. DINGELL will count me as one of his new friends.

19,420 days. I can't even imagine, having only served in this House for a mere 7½ months. And, today I think, Mr. Speaker, we value more than just the longevity of the service, but we value its character, its quality, its substance, and its leadership.

And so I am really pleased to be here today, Mr. Speaker, in celebration of a wonderful time of public service in this institution. And I want to share with you that when I arrived in this Congress, Mr. Speaker, there was one gen-

tleman who pulled me aside in the Members' Cloakroom and he said to me something that I won't forget, and I believe will carry many of our junior Members through our time in service.

Mr. DINGELL said, "You are my peer, and don't you ever forget that, because it will serve you well in this institution." And already that has been true.

Now we talk a lot about the substance of the legislation that Mr. DINGELL has ushered through for all of us—for my parents, my grandparents, for me. But I'd like to talk to about what it means to be a Member because very recently Mr. DINGELL approached me about a situation with a group of high school students from Wyandotte High School in Michigan, who were staying in Hershey, Pennsylvania, but had to play in the inauguration. And it would have been impossible for them to get to the inauguration on time. And so we found a high school out in the Fourth Congressional District in Maryland for these students from Wyandotte.

And what that demonstrated to me again, Mr. Speaker, is that Mr. DINGELL isn't simply about the substance and about the time, but the service.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. PETERS. I yield 1 additional minute.

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Thank you. But it isn't simply about that substance, but it's also about what it means to serve the people. And sometimes that service comes in small ways, and other times it comes in big ways.

And so, already, Mr. Speaker, Mr. DINGELL has demonstrated to me that we are here for the public service, and that means to our constituents in Michigan, in Maryland, and across this country. But we can't forget that. And so I thank Mr. DINGELL for his longevity and for his knowledge and the breadth and also for teaching me a lesson as a junior Member of this institution about what it means to serve.

Mr. UPTON. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I would now like to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY).

□ 1145

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts. I thank the gentleman from Michigan very much.

I think that this is just an incredibly appropriate moment to be honoring Mr. DINGELL, because he is the living link to the principles of fairness, justice, and advancing the public interest that animated the New Deal, and which remain so relevant today to the important issues which we are discussing here, not only on the floor of the House, but all across America: The lessons of why we regulate Wall Street, why we ensure that those who control the finances of all the families in our country have to be watched with an

eagle eye. Mr. DINGELL, who ensured that our securities laws were rewritten to provide for protection against insider trading, curbing penny stock manipulation, increased civil penalties, the 1990 Market Reform Act. He is responsible for so many of the laws that are now going to be looked to, to ensure that we enforce our securities laws against those who have abused the public trust.

So while many people look at his work on the National Environmental Policy Act, the Clean Air Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Children's Health Insurance Act, North America's first international wildlife refuge, there are so many other areas that Mr. DINGELL has been working on, including the financial regulatory area, and all of the telecommunications laws that have made it possible for us to have this revolution which now has the words Google and E-Bay and Amazon and YouTube part of our vocabulary.

But for me, the six words that will be remembered are those six words that are the most feared words that have ever been spoken in the history of the United States Congress, "I'm just a poor Polish lawyer." Those words always preceded a dissection by Mr. DINGELL in brilliant form of the arguments made by those making presentations to the Energy and Commerce Committee.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. PETERS. I yield 1 additional minute to the gentleman.

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts. Invariably, this brilliant dissection of the flaws and the arguments of those who were testifying before our committee resulted in legislation that ultimately produced protections for the American people in areas across the entire spectrum of the lives of every single American. And this legendary legislator has left a legacy which will benefit families in our country for centuries to come, because like the New Deal principles that his father fought to put on the books, JOHN DINGELL has ensured that those principles were carried forward in the laws that were written during his time here. They have been embodied and extended in a way that will protect families in our country and, I might say, around the world, because they will be emulated for generations to come. And we come here today to honor our friend JOHN DINGELL for the incredible service that he has provided to our country.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to say that my good friend ED MARKEY's statement that, "I'm just a poor Polish lawyer," that reminds me of a story. I wasn't going to tell this until then, but those of us on the committee certainly know the story because our good friend Mr. Tauzin has told this story many, many times. And that was when Mr. DINGELL, I think then the chairman, used that line, "I'm just a poor Polish lawyer." And Mr. Tauzin, who is always known

to have one of the best wits ever not only in this body but across the country, was about to relate to him a "Polish joke." Mr. DINGELL reminded him that he was just a poor Polish lawyer. And Mr. Tauzin then said, "Well, I will then tell the joke very slowly."

Mr. Speaker, in the short time that I have served in this body, JOHN DINGELL and I have had really countless conversations and stories. Our offices were across the hall for a number of years, so we would walk to the floor for votes. We would do joint press conferences. We often sat together on the Northwest flight to Detroit, where I then would fly on to Kalamazoo or South Bend and he would stay with his constituents on that side of the State. We obviously worked very closely and in my work on the committee and subcommittees in so many different ways, as not only the dean of the House for Mr. DINGELL, he was also the dean of our delegation and I have been dean of the Republican side of that delegation as well. So our delegations work very closely on many fronts. And in all of those conversations, I want to say I think they have all ended with his closing, "God bless you, my friend."

We are fortunate that God has blessed the Dingell family, certainly this House in all the great work that he has done as a real legislator, a good friend of all the people regardless of party or affiliation, or staying on the issue. He has been there for the country.

So we say, God bless you, our friend, Mr. DINGELL. We salute you for your service. And we look forward to our continuing strong relationship in so many ways.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I would certainly like to thank Mr. UPTON for his comments and for managing the time on his side, and I would also like to thank Mr. KILDEE for putting forth this resolution.

Today, we have certainly heard some just incredible testimonials from individuals in this House honoring the incredible work of an incredible public servant and statesman, Mr. DINGELL. It certainly is an honor for me to be here and serving with Mr. DINGELL, and it is certainly going to be an honor to continue to serve with him in the weeks and years ahead.

So it is with great pride that I move that the House suspend the rules and agree to House Resolution 154.

Mr. BOSWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American, a great servant of the people, a great patriot, and a great friend, the longest serving Member of the House, the gentleman from Michigan, Congressman JOHN D. DINGELL.

Mr. Speaker, JOHN DINGELL has served his district, his State, his Nation, and this great and noble body with distinction and honor. His achievements on behalf of our Nation are profound, and they are numerous. John's unyielding commitment to bettering the lives of the people he serves, in fact bettering the lives of all Americans, in this great body

shines as an example that we can only hope to live up to.

The gentleman's contribution to our country, and the House of Representatives, will stand the test of time. I wish him many more years of good health, active service, and I look forward to working with him on meeting many of the challenges that we face today. I for one can say, with all honesty and a sense of humility, that I feel fortunate to have been able to serve with our dean, the gentleman from Michigan, JOHN DINGELL.

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize JOHN D. DINGELL and his service to the House of Representatives.

JOHN DINGELL has proven to be a friend, a colleague and an effective legislator in all of the years that I have known him as a Member of Congress.

As a fellow member of the Michigan delegation, I am very familiar with his tireless advocacy on behalf of his constituents in the State of Michigan. With JOHN, Michigan always comes first. You can always turn to him for help, regardless of your party.

For more than 53 years, he has proven to be an unwavering champion of Michigan's working men and women.

His powerful voice is appreciated across the State of Michigan, throughout the American automotive and manufacturing industries, and within our delegation.

Congratulations on your historic achievement, Representative DINGELL. Your dedication to this institution and the people you represent is beyond compare.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join the House of Representatives in honoring Representative JOHN DINGELL as the longest serving member of the House. Mr. DINGELL began his service to his country at the young age of 18, when he decided to join the Army. Ten years later, Mr. DINGELL, the son of a Michigan Congressman, would soon follow in his father's footsteps; in 1955, he was elected to represent a Michigan district outside Detroit and would continue to serve this district for 54 years under 11 presidents.

A friend and colleague from whom I have gained insight and inspiration, Mr. DINGELL has provided this chamber with unprecedented leadership, presiding over the House Energy and Commerce Committee for 15 years and heading important issues such as air quality, consumer protection, health care, protection for automakers, and energy policy. He authored notable bills such as the National Environmental Policy Act of 1970 and the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Today, I regard Mr. DINGELL as one of Washington's most skilled law makers, and am eager to work with him as he helps oversee one of the most important reforms in this Congress: health care legislation. Throughout his legislative career and continuing today, Mr. DINGELL has been focused and has acted with purpose—a purpose to improve social conditions for not only his constituents, but for people across the Nation.

Representative DINGELL continues to provide exceptional leadership to the House of Representatives and will serve as an example of democratic leadership long after he leaves this chamber. I am proud to extend my congratulations and thanks to the Honorable JOHN DINGELL.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished gentleman from Michigan, JOHN DINGELL, has now become the longest serving Member of the U.S. House of Representatives. While Mr. DINGELL's service to this Congress is worth recognition alone, his many accomplishments ensures that he will go down as one of the most influential members in the history of Congress.

JOHN DINGELL's service to this body started all the way back in 1938, when he served as a Page. Later on, he served in the United States Army leaving with the rank of Second Lieutenant. In 1955, Mr. DINGELL was sworn into office to succeed his father and began a remarkable and productive career as a Member of the House.

In 1981, Mr. DINGELL's tenure as the top Democrat on the Energy and Commerce Committee began and continued until this very year. I have served with Mr. DINGELL on the Energy and Commerce Committee for 16 years. In all that time, he always treated Republicans with respect even when we vociferously disagreed, which was fairly often. He was always fair and willing to work to find common ground. He is a true model for all of us to follow.

Mr. DINGELL has received so many awards and so much recognition in his career, that I do not have time to list them all. So I'll highlight a few. He has received recognition from the NAACP for his avid support of civil rights and from the NRA for his support of the Second Amendment. In addition, Mr. DINGELL has been Congress' most outspoken and tireless advocate for the American automobile industry, which is a key component of our nation's economy and of particular importance to the district he represents.

In closing, let's all honor JOHN DINGELL for his vigorous and unflinching support for this institution and for his long and productive tenure in Congress.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise today alongside my colleagues to pay tribute to an extraordinary legislator, my friend JOHN DINGELL.

JOHN DINGELL is, quite simply, a giant of this House. Today he reaches a remarkable milestone, becoming the longest-serving member of this institution. That achievement alone would be worthy of commemoration and celebration. But it's not simply the length of his service that makes JOHN remarkable—it's what he has accomplished in those 53 years.

He held the gavel when the House passed the original Medicare legislation. He shepherded the landmark Clean Air Act into law. He championed the Endangered Species Act. He has fought for health care, for workers' rights and for the people of his beloved Michigan.

He has done all of this—all of this amazing work—with wit, passion, and an unshakeable belief in the American spirit. As he recently said in an interview, "Eighty-two years ago, I hit the jackpot. I was born in the United States of America. That's the greatest thing that ever happened to me."

And on a personal note, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank JOHN and his wife Debbie for their kindness and friendship to my wife Lisa and me. They have enriched our lives in so many ways, and we will be forever grateful.

So congratulations, JOHN DINGELL. Here's to another 53 years of service to America.

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 140 to honor

Congressman JOHN D. DINGELL for holding the record as the longest serving Member of the House of Representatives.

JOHN D. DINGELL's exemplary record of public service and dedication to serving the American people began at the age of 18. During World War II, he served as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army and received orders to take part in the first wave of a planned invasion of Japan. Fortunately, the war ended, probably saving the life of Mr. DINGELL.

After finishing his military service, Congressman DINGELL attended Georgetown University where he studied Chemistry, and later continued his studies at Georgetown Law School. Mr. DINGELL returned to Michigan to work successively as a National Park Ranger, a prosecuting attorney for Wayne County, and he also ran his own private law office.

In 1955, JOHN D. DINGELL took office in the U.S. House of Representatives after winning a special election to replace his father. Congressman DINGELL was elected to his 28th term this past November, and has served as Dean of the House since the 104th Congress.

As a scientist, I recognize that JOHN D. DINGELL's background in Chemistry and his experience as a National Park Ranger helped him understand science and environmental policy. In fact, Congressman DINGELL has authored or been instrumental in the passage of some of our nation's most important environmental laws, including the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.

Mr. DINGELL's more than 53-year length of service has given him considerable wisdom and a deep understanding of Congressional procedures. He has earned the titles "Dean of the House" and "Dean of the Michigan Delegation". He is a model public servant, and we all benefit from his wisdom and good counsel. New Members of Congress and our youth should seek his advice.

On a personal note, I am deeply grateful for Congressman DINGELL's helpful guidance when I joined the U.S. House of Representatives after winning a special election. Also, I sincerely appreciate his willingness to work with me on environmental policy issues. I truly value Mr. DINGELL's friendship and certainly wish him many more years of successful work in the U.S. Congress.

Congressman has tirelessly advocated on behalf of his constituents and the people of Michigan. He deserves to be honored for his lifelong commitment to public service, and his dedication to the U.S. Congress should be celebrated.

Please join me honoring JOHN D. DINGELL by supporting this important resolution.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, history is fleeting, unless you are part of making it. Few in this House, nor outside this body, would take issue with the proposition that JOHN D. DINGELL has been a maker of history most of his days here. I rise today to honor our esteemed colleague, Congressman JOHN D. DINGELL, as the longest serving member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

As the youngest elected, longest serving Member of Congress in the history of the House, I can attest to the trials and tribulations, the trophies and triumphs of tenure. It has been my honor to work alongside Mr. DINGELL over the last 32-plus years.

We have fought together in the trenches of Congress to bring affordable healthcare to the

elderly, to craft a reasoned and balanced view of the U.S. role in a lasting peace in the Middle East, and to champion the safe usage of our precious natural resources.

Today, the "Dynamo of Detroit" has reached a remarkable milestone: 19,420 days of service in the House of Representatives. He stepped into a seat vacated by his late father, John Dingell, Sr., on September 19, 1955, but his service to our Nation began many years prior.

In 1941, when serving as a congressional page in our hallowed halls, he was standing on the House Floor, when President Roosevelt asked Congress to declare war on Japan. He not only heard that call but answered it, and went on to serve in the Army, rising to the rank of second lieutenant.

After taking up his father's mantle to represent the people of Michigan's 15th Congressional District, he worked on legislation that has strengthened the fabric of our Nation, voting on the Civil Rights legislation of the 1960s and helping pass into law Medicare in 1965.

Congressman DINGELL has not just lived history; he has truly made history.

Public service at times rises and sadly falls in the imaginations of our Nation's youth. As testament to what can be the very best of public service, we need to look no further than the legacy of JOHN DINGELL. The length of his tenure only serves to underscore his noble service.

Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to congratulate my colleague on this great milestone. It has been an honor and unique privilege to serve beside him as my senior colleague, my mentor, and my friend. With my election to this Congress, I am now the longest serving House member from the State of West Virginia, and I look forward to many more years of working together with the gentleman who has served his State and this Nation longer than anyone in the history of this House.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor JOHN DINGELL as the longest serving member of the House of Representatives and to offer my support for this resolution. He has been a mentor to many members of Congress, including me.

I have had the privilege of serving and working with Congressman DINGELL on the Energy and Commerce Committee since joining that Committee in 1996. Under his leadership, we have worked to expand and improve healthcare coverage, develop sound energy policy, enhance consumer protection, and address numerous other issues under the Committee's jurisdiction.

I cannot say enough about his leadership to make healthcare more affordable and accessible to all Americans. We worked together on the State Children's Health Insurance Program, or SCHIP reauthorization, which the President signed into law last week, and legislation to expand federally qualified health centers that significantly improves healthcare access for individuals in underserved areas like our district.

Over his career, JOHN DINGELL has had a hand in pieces of legislation from Medicare passing in 1965, to the Clean Air Act, to the Endangered Species Act, the Do Not Call list, and numerous other laws. He also played an unprecedented and vigorous roll in oversight while Chairman of the Committee to ensure government programs are working for the people, and he continues to do so today.

It has truly been an honor to serve with JOHN DINGELL and work closely with him on the Energy and Commerce Committee. I congratulate him becoming the longest serving member in the history of the House of Representatives, and look forward to continuing to work with him on the many issues he has championed as long as I have known him.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend my colleague Congressman JOHN DINGELL on his five decades of distinguished service to the people of Michigan and the United States.

Today we celebrate Congressman DINGELL becoming the longest-serving Member of the United States House of Representatives in this body's history. As we recognize our colleague's longevity, we reserve our highest of praise for the exceptional record of service he has compiled over his years of service.

Our Nation owes a debt of gratitude for Mr. DINGELL's career. If not for JOHN DINGELL, millions of children would not have received health care under the Children's Health Insurance Program. If not for JOHN DINGELL, hundreds of animal species would not have been saved from extinction by the Endangered Species Act. If not for JOHN DINGELL, our atmosphere would not have been protected by the effects of the Clean Air Act. If not for JOHN DINGELL, our Nation's workers, environment, children, and people would not enjoy so many of the protections they do today.

As we commemorate this historical milestone in Congressman DINGELL's career, we must recognize his determination to continue advocating on behalf of all American citizens. Every Congress, Congressman DINGELL introduces legislation creating a health care system guaranteeing coverage to every American. As this House honors its Dean with our words today, I hope that we may have the opportunity to honor him with our deeds by finally creating a long-overdue universal health care system before the end of this Congressional session.

I join my colleagues in applauding the career of Congressman DINGELL and thank Mr. DINGELL for his decades of service to our Nation.

Ms. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Representative JOHN DINGELL Jr., who today becomes the longest serving Member in House history passing the Honorable Jamie L. Whitten. I want to thank Representative DINGELL for his friendship and all the guidance he has shown me over the more than twelve years I have been in Congress. From his service in the United States Army to his diligent study of law at Georgetown University, his unwavering commitment and service to our nation has and will continue to be a benchmark my colleagues and I strive to match.

Representative DINGELL, Jr. began his service in the House on December 13, 1955, and since then has honorably filled the seat his father once held. Over the course of his accomplished career, he has championed legislation that over time has proven to be critical to our nation's well being. As chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee for twelve years, he was an ardent advocate of environmental legislation and broke down partisan barriers in his pursuit to uncover instances of government waste and corruption. Under his watch, the Committee became one of the largest and wide-ranging in the House carrying with it a

reputation for intolerance of federal mismanagement.

While steadfast in his own principles, the Representative's determination to work with others continually sets him apart from other lawmakers. On a personal note, his critical work with me in passing the National Instance Criminal Background Check System (NICS) Improvement Amendments Act of 2007 is a testament to his uncanny ability to find middle-ground on often divisive issues. The work that we did on that legislation will hopefully go a long way towards making our communities safer.

As Representative DINGELL, Jr. begins his 19,420th day in office, I extend my congratulations to him in what has been and what will continue to be an exceptional career.

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate Chairman Emeritus DINGELL for achieving a great milestone that no one has achieved before—serving the people of Michigan for 19,420 days and becoming the longest serving member of the House of Representatives in U.S. history.

Long before I was elected to Congress, I looked to Chairman DINGELL for inspiration and guidance. In fact his service began before I was born.

I was deeply honored after being elected to represent Missouri in this great body when DINGELL, as the Dean of the House, agreed to meet with me and offer his unmatched advice and counsel. What made it even more worthwhile was the fact that he had served with my grandfather ASJ Carnahan in this same body in the 1950s. It was a pleasure to hear of stories he and my grandfather shared together.

He has achieved a great deal since 1955 when he was first elected having presided over the House when Medicare was created to care for some of our most vulnerable citizens 10 years after he was first elected.

Both Congressman John D. Dingell Sr., the Chairman's father, and President Harry S. Truman of Missouri fought for a national health care system together. It was a cause important to Congressman Dingell Sr. and has continued to be a cause Chairman DINGELL has championed. Chairman DINGELL has worked with eleven U.S. presidents spanning his career—a quarter of the 44 Presidents in the entire history of our country.

Today I am delighted that I can continue to tell friends and family that I have served with Chairman DINGELL and look forward to working with him to expand health care so that the more than 47 million Americans without health care can have the peace of mind that they and their loved ones will be cared for.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 154.

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. PETERS. 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 motion will be postponed.

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF MERCED ASSEMBLY CENTER

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 129) recognizing the historical significance of the Merced Assembly Center to the Nation and the importance of establishing an appropriate memorial at that site to serve as a place for remembering the hardships endured by Japanese-Americans, so that the United States remains vigilant in protecting our Nation's core values of equality, due process of law, justice, and fundamental fairness.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 129

Whereas, on February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order No. 9066, authorizing the forced internment of both United States citizens and legal residents of Japanese ancestry during World War II;

Whereas in the largest single relocation of individuals in the history of our Nation, approximately 120,000 Japanese-Americans were forced into internment camps by the United States Government in violation of their fundamental constitutional rights;

Whereas due to this unjust internment, these Japanese-Americans faced tremendous hardships, such as family separation, the loss of their homes, businesses, jobs, and dignity;

Whereas following Executive Order No. 9066, Japanese-Americans in parts of Washington, Oregon, California, and southern Arizona were ordered to report to assembly centers before being removed to more permanent war relocation centers;

Whereas the Merced Assembly Center, located in Merced, California, was the reporting site for 4,669 Japanese-Americans;

Whereas as a young child, United States Congressman Mike Honda and his family were held at the Merced Assembly Center prior to being interned in Amache, Colorado, and his public career has been dedicated to educating and preventing this type of injustice from reoccurring;

Whereas in 1998, then Assembly member Mike Honda authored the World War II Internment of Japanese-Americans: California Civil Liberties Public Education Act, which became California public law in 1999 and serves as an important program to educate the public about the internment;

Whereas February 19th, the 67th anniversary of Executive Order No. 9066, is known as the Day of Remembrance;

Whereas the Merced Assembly Center Commemorative Committee has been charged with the task of establishing a memorial to recognize the historic tragedy that took place at the Merced Assembly Center; and

Whereas the unveiling ceremony for the memorial at the Merced Assembly Center will take place on February 21, 2009: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives recognizes the historical significance of the Merced Assembly Center to the Nation and the importance of establishing an appropriate memorial at that site to serve as a place for remembering the hardships endured by Japanese-Americans, so that the United States remains vigilant in protecting our Nation's core values of equality, due process of law, justice, and fundamental fairness.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from