

suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 432.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. SKELTON. Madam 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 ARMED FORCES DAY

Mr. MASSA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 377) recognizing Armed Forces Day and the exemplary service of the members of the United States Armed Forces.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 377

Whereas Armed Forces Day was created in 1949 in connection with the consolidation of the military services in the Department of Defense;

Whereas the purpose of Armed Forces Day is to honor the men and women who are serving in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard, including the National Guard and Reserve components;

Whereas Armed Forces Day is celebrated on the third Saturday in May, which this year is May 16, 2009;

Whereas members of the Armed Forces have performed tremendous service on behalf of the United States;

Whereas members of the Armed Forces have been killed and injured in operations to bring peace and stability in the name of democracy; and

Whereas all Americans express their recognition and gratitude for members of the Armed Forces at home and abroad: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives, on the occasion of Armed Forces Day 2009—

(1) honors and recognizes the service and sacrifice that members of the Armed Forces and their families gave, and continue to give, to the United States;

(2) remains committed to supporting the members of the Armed Forces and their families;

(3) encourages Americans to show their support and appreciation for members of the Armed Forces on Armed Forces Day;

(4) commends the actions of private citizens and organizations who volunteer to support America's wounded warriors; and

(5) expresses the gratitude of the American people to the members of the Armed Forces for their service on behalf of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MASSA) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. FLEMING), each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MASSA. I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and

extend their remarks on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MASSA. I yield myself as much time as I might consume. Madam Speaker, Armed Forces Day was established to recognize the men and women serving in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard. I rise today to urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 377, honoring the exemplary service of the men and women of the United States Armed Forces.

The armed services have performed with dedication and bravery on behalf of the United States of America, and they have been killed or injured in conflicts and operations around the world in order to bring peace and stability in the name of democracy. Armed Forces Day recognizes the sacrifices that the Armed Forces and their families have given and continue to give to the United States of America.

This resolution shows that the House of Representatives remains committed to supporting the members of the Armed Forces and their families. It encourages all Americans to show their support and appreciation for the brave Americans and their families. We also commend those citizens whose organizations volunteer to support our servicemembers and their families at home and abroad.

Those who wear the uniform of our military services deserve our honor and great respect. Armed Forces Day is an opportunity for all other Americans to display their pride and appreciation for this noble and selfless service. So I now call upon Members of this great House to join me in supporting this resolution, thereby expressing our common pride and regard for our military on behalf of a grateful Nation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FLEMING. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 377, which recognizes Armed Forces Day, May 16, and the exemplary service of the members of the armed services. I want to commend my colleagues, Congressmen KEN CALVERT and NEIL ABERCROMBIE, for sponsoring it.

Today we are a Nation at war, with more than 2,750,000 men and women in uniform and more than 270,000 deployed worldwide. The men and women of today's armed services are all volunteers and have willingly, professionally, competently and unselfishly met every challenge this Nation has presented to them. In meeting those challenges, many have died and more have been wounded and injured.

These magnificent men and women come not only from the active components of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard, but also from our hometown communities

as members of the National Guard and the other Reserve components. Their commitment to this Nation and to their services can be measured in many ways. But I believe there is no better evidence of their patriotism and commitment to the defense of America than their astounding willingness to re-enlist and continue serving. Today, such re-enlistment decisions are made with the knowledge that it will mean repeat tours of duty in war zones where death and injury are potential outcomes.

Nevertheless, the most re-enlistment data continues a trend that has existed since September 11, 2001. For example, as of the end of March this year, Army re-enlistments for this year ranged from 111 percent to 114 percent of goal. Marine Corps and re-enlistments range from 197 percent to 204 percent of goal.

When Armed Forces Day was created in 1949, its purpose was to establish a time when all Americans could reflect on and honor the service of the men and women of the Armed Forces. This week, Armed Forces Day will be celebrated on May 16. On that day, I would urge my colleagues to reflect on the extraordinary service rendered not only by those who have previously served, but also of those who now are committed to making this Nation safe. On that day and every day, I would also urge my colleagues to take the time to individually thank every previous and current member of the armed services they encounter for their service.

I heartily recommended that all my colleagues vote "yes" on this resolution.

Mr. MASSA. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FLEMING. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. CALVERT of California for such time as he may consume.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 377, which honors and recognizes Armed Forces Day on May 16. Over the course of our Nation's history, generations of Americans have made tremendous sacrifices to protect the freedoms we hold dear. And we honor these courageous Americans on Armed Forces Day and throughout the month of May.

Armed Forces Day is an opportunity to recognize our troops and their families, as well as rededicate ourselves to the promises our Nation has made to repay their service and sacrifice. When we make our promises to our troops, we must keep them, for they most certainly have kept their commitment to the American people.

Madam Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support H. Res. 377 and to declare to all U.S. servicemembers that we stand with them. When the call of duty sounded, they did not hesitate to answer. Let us not hesitate in our support of all those brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces.

□ 1615

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

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

Madam Speaker, it is with a particular honor that I have been asked to rise to introduce this legislation, remembering in my own life story the excitement of a 17-year-old young man as that individual entered the United States Naval Academy; and reflecting upon a, frankly, long, 30-year journey that has brought me here today in this great House to call upon my fellow colleagues to join me in recognizing the millions of Americans who have now followed the veterans who have joined me now out of the armed services. It is right and just as a son of a military member, as the brother of a military member, as the colleague of so many veterans of this great body, it fills me with emotion and clarity of eye and thought to imagine that that 17-year-old young man could journey so far as to be here today to call upon all Americans to honor all those in service and in uniform around the world. It is a tremendous honor to bring this resolution to the floor of the House of Representatives. I close my remarks on that note.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, the 34th President of the United States, Dwight Eisenhower, said that "it is fitting and proper that we devote one day each year to pay special tribute to those whose constancy and courage constitute one of the bulwarks guarding the freedom of this nation and the peace of the free world."

I agree, Madam Speaker, and I am proud to be a cosponsor of this resolution.

Fifty-nine years ago we began the tradition of honoring the Armed Forces on the third Saturday of May as the national Armed Forces Day.

Before 1950 there were individual holidays in honor of each of the five branches of the military—Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard.

President Truman established this single holiday to honor the servicemembers of all branches as an act of unity after the Department of Defense was created.

There are several purposes for celebrating Armed Forces Day—educating the public on the jobs and role of the military, exhibiting the military's state of the art equipment, and most importantly for acknowledging the people who serve our country in the Armed Forces.

Today 1.5 million people are on active duty in the U.S. military. In addition, 850,000 men and women serve in the seven reserve and guard divisions—Army National Guard, Army Reserve, Marine Forces Reserve, Navy Reserve, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, and Coast Guard Reserve.

These brave folks serve our country all over the world at 820 different military installations.

About 140,000 servicemembers are stationed in Iraq and 56,000 are in Afghanistan.

This special day is celebrated every year with parades, military reenactments, air shows, and open houses at military bases.

The theme for this year's Armed Forces Day is "United in Strength."

United indeed, Madam Speaker. "From this day to the ending of the world, we in it shall be remembered. We few, we happy few, we band of brothers; for he today that sheds his blood with me shall be my brother."

Shakespeare penned this quote in Henry V. It represents the unflinching commitment and spirit of unity a military member has with his fellow warriors.

I am a very proud cosponsor of this measure and urge all Americans to offer their thanks to our military members who boldly defend our democratic freedoms at home and abroad.

And that's just the way it is.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MASSA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 377.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. FLEMING. Madam 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.

MEDAL OF HONOR COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT OF 2009

Mr. WATT. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1209) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition and celebration of the establishment of the Medal of Honor in 1861, America's highest award for valor in action against an enemy force which can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the Armed Services of the United States, to honor the American military men and women who have been recipients of the Medal of Honor, and to promote awareness of what the Medal of Honor represents and how ordinary Americans, through courage, sacrifice, selfless service and patriotism, can challenge fate and change the course of history.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1209

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Medal of Honor Commemorative Coin Act of 2009".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds as follows:

(1) The Medal of Honor, first authorized by the Congress in 1861 as the United States Navy's highest personal decoration, the Army Medal of Honor was authorized by the Congress in 1862, and the Air Force Medal of Honor was authorized by Congress in 1956.

(2) The Medal of Honor is presented by the President of the United States in the name of the Congress, to a person who, while a member of the United States Armed Forces, distinguishes himself or herself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his or her life above and beyond the call of duty while engaged in action against an enemy of the United States; while engaged in military operations involving con-

flict with an opposing foreign force; or while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

(3) The deed performed must have been one of personal bravery or self-sacrifice so conspicuous as to clearly distinguish the individual above his or her comrades and must have involved risk of life.

(4) Incontestable proof of the performance of the service will be exacted and each recommendation for the award of this decoration will be considered on the standard of extraordinary merit.

(5) Fewer than 3,500 Medals of Honor have been awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces.

(6) The Congressional Medal of Honor Society is a not-for-profit organization chartered by the 85th Congress under a legislative act signed into law by President Dwight D. Eisenhower on August 14, 1958, and membership in the Society is restricted to recipients of the Medal of Honor.

(7) Society members are joined together for the purpose of forming and maintaining friendship among all living recipients of the Medal of Honor and remembrance of posthumous and deceased recipients; they are dedicated to the protection and preservation of the dignity, honor and name of the Medal of Honor; service to others; service to Nation; and the promotion of allegiance to the Constitution and the Government of the United States.

(8) Members of the Society act to foster patriotism and to inspire and encourage the youth of America to become worthy citizens.

(9) The Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization founded by the Society in 1999, is dedicated to—

(A) perpetuating the Medal of Honor's legacy through outreach and collaborative efforts;

(B) raising funds for initiatives that promote what the Medal of Honor represents, operation of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society headquarters, and the public outreach activities of the Medal of Honor Society's membership; and

(C) promoting American values and the qualities of courage, sacrifice and patriotism through increased awareness, education, scholarships, behavior and example.

(10) Through its educational and outreach programs, the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation promotes heroism, selflessness and distinguished citizenship among American youth and brings public awareness to the actions of ordinary Americans who have made and are making a profound difference in preserving our freedoms.

SEC. 3. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.

(a) DENOMINATIONS.—In recognition and celebration of the founding of the Medal of Honor in 1861, and notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") shall mint and issue the following coins:

(1) \$5 GOLD COINS.—Not more than 100,000 \$5 gold coins, which shall—

(A) weigh 8.359 grams;

(B) have a diameter of 0.850 inches; and

(C) contain 90 percent gold and 10 percent alloy.

(2) \$1 SILVER COINS.—Not more than 500,000 \$1 coins, which shall—

(A) weigh 26.73 grams;

(B) have a diameter of 1.500 inches; and

(C) contain 90 percent silver and 10 percent copper.

(b) LEGAL TENDER.—The coins minted under this Act shall be legal tender, as provided in section 5103 of title 31, United States Code.