

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 unfailing 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.

(c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all coins minted under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

#### SEC. 4. DESIGN OF COINS.

##### (a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The design of the coins minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the traditions, legacy, and heritage of the Medal of Honor, and the distinguished service of its recipients in the Nation's history.

(2) DESIGNATION AND INSCRIPTIONS.—On each coin minted under this Act, there shall be—

- (A) a designation of the value of the coin;
- (B) an inscription of the year "2011"; and
- (C) inscriptions of the words "Liberty", "In God We Trust", "United States of America", and "E Pluribus Unum".

(b) SELECTION.—The design for the coins minted under this Act shall—

(1) contain motifs that represent the 3 Medal of Honor designs (Army, Navy, and Air Force) and specifically honor the Medal of Honor recipients of both today and yesterday, such designs to be consistent with the traditions and heritage of the United States Armed Services, the mission and goals of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, and the mission and goals of the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation;

(2) be selected by the Secretary, after consultation with the Boards of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society and Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation and the Commission of Fine Arts; and

(3) be reviewed by the Citizens Coin Advisory Committee.

#### SEC. 5. ISSUANCE.

(a) QUALITY OF COINS.—Coins minted under this Act shall be issued in uncirculated and proof qualities.

(b) MINT FACILITY.—For each of the 2 denomination of coins minted under this Act, at least 1 facility of the United States Mint shall be used to strike proof quality coins, while at least 1 other such facility shall be used to strike the uncirculated quality coins.

(c) PERIOD FOR ISSUANCE.—The Secretary of the Treasury may issue coins minted under this Act only during the 1-year period beginning on January 1, 2011.

#### SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.

(a) SALE PRICE.—The coins issued under this Act shall be sold by the Secretary at a price equal to the sum of—

- (1) the face value of the coins;
- (2) the surcharge provided in section 7(a) with respect to such coins; and
- (3) the cost of designing and issuing the coins (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses, marketing, and shipping).

(b) BULK SALES.—The Secretary shall make bulk sales of the coins issued under this Act at a reasonable discount.

##### (c) PREPAID ORDERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall accept prepaid orders for the coins minted under this Act before the issuance of such coins.

(2) DISCOUNT.—Sale prices with respect to prepaid orders under paragraph (1) shall be at a reasonable discount.

#### SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—All sales of coins minted under this Act shall include a surcharge as follows:

- (1) A surcharge of \$35 per coin for the \$5 coin.
- (2) A surcharge of \$10 per coin for the \$1 coin.

(b) DISTRIBUTION.—Subject to section 5134(f) of title 31, United States Code, all surcharges received by the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this Act shall be promptly paid by the Secretary to the Con-

gressional Medal of Honor Foundation to help finance the educational, scholarship and outreach programs of the Foundation.

(c) AUDITS.—The Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation shall be subject to the audit requirements of section 5134(f)(2) of title 31, United States Code, with regard to the amounts received under subsection (b).

(d) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), no surcharge may be included with respect to the issuance under this Act of any coin during a calendar year if, as of the time of such issuance, the issuance of such coin would result in the number of commemorative coin programs issued during such year to exceed the annual 2 commemorative coin program issuance limitation under section 5112(m)(1) of title 31, United States Code (as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act). The Secretary may issue guidance to carry out this subsection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WATT) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PAULSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WATT. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1209, the Medal of Honor Commemorative Coin Act of 2009. The Medal of Honor was first authorized by Congress in 1861 as the U.S. Navy's highest personal decoration, and other branches of the military followed suit with their own Medals of Honor.

The Medal of Honor is bestowed upon a member of the Armed Forces that conspicuously distinguishes him or herself at the risk of his or her own life above and beyond the call of duty while defending this country against an enemy force.

Fewer than 3,500 Medals of Honor have been awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces, and I commend the bill's sponsor, Representative CHRIS CARNEY of Pennsylvania, for honoring some of America's bravest soldiers and most outstanding citizens by introduction of this bill.

Madam Speaker, I submit the following correspondence:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,  
Washington, DC, May 11, 2009.

Hon. BARNEY FRANK,  
Chairman, Financial Services Committee,  
Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR BARNEY: I am writing regarding H.R. 1209, the "Medal of Honor Commemorative Coin Act of 2009."

As you know, the Committee on Ways and Means maintains jurisdiction over bills that raise revenue. H.R. 1209 contains a provision that establishes a surcharge for the sale of commemorative coins that are minted under

the bill, and thus falls within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means.

However, as part of our ongoing understanding regarding commemorative coin bills and in order to expedite this bill for Floor consideration, the Committee will forgo action. This is being done with the understanding that it does not in any way prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation in the future.

I would appreciate your response to this letter, confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 1209, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the RECORD.

Sincerely,

CHARLES B. RANGEL,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,  
Washington, DC, May 12, 2009.

Hon. CHARLES B. RANGEL,  
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHARLIE: I am writing in response to your letter regarding H.R. 1209, the "Medal of Honor Commemorative Coin Act of 2009," which was introduced in the House and referred to the Committee on Financial Services on February 26, 2009. It is my understanding that this bill will be scheduled for floor consideration shortly.

I wish to confirm our mutual understanding on this bill. As you know, section 7 of the bill establishes a surcharge for the sale of commemorative coins that are minted under the bill. I acknowledge your committee's jurisdictional interest in such surcharges as revenue matters. However, I appreciate your willingness to forego committee action on H.R. 1209 in order to allow the bill to come to the floor expeditiously. I agree that your decision to forego further action on this bill will not prejudice the Committee on Ways and Means with respect to its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation. I would support your request for conferees on those provisions within your jurisdiction should this bill be the subject of a House-Senate conference.

I will include this exchange of letters in the Congressional Record when this bill is considered by the House. Thank you again for your assistance.

BARNEY FRANK,  
Chairman.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1209, the Medal of Honor Commemorative Coin Act of 2009, introduced by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARNEY) as well as my colleague, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK).

This bill would authorize the minting and issuance of up to 500,000 silver \$1 coins and up to 1,000 gold \$5 coins at no cost to the taxpayer. These coins will help raise up to \$8.5 million that can be used to help the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation finance its educational, scholarship, and outreach programs.

Madam Speaker, the Medal of Honor was created during the Civil War to honor individual acts of extreme bravery and replaced a series of other U.S. military medals that had been awarded all the way back to General George Washington during the Revolutionary War. The medal is often known as the

Congressional Medal of Honor because it is awarded often by the President in the name of Congress. It is our Nation's highest military medal.

Madam Speaker, recounting the acts that have earned the Medal of Honor is a window into the acts of courage that strike awe in all Americans: hand-to-hand combat, climbing the walls of a fort into enemy fire, leaping onto a grenade to save the lives of comrades. Each recipient is a hero to whom we owe our freedom.

Since the first medals were awarded, more than 3,400 Medals of Honor have been awarded to a total of 3,400-and-some individuals. And those are good, correct figures. Extraordinarily, 19 people have received two Medals of Honor.

Madam Speaker, the Medal of Honor Foundation, which this legislation will help fund, seeks to educate the public on the values of courage, the values of sacrifice, patriotism, citizenship, integrity and commitment. These are values that are embodied by the medals' winners and are truly American values we can all be proud of. Passage of this bill will help fund the foundation's activities and encourage others to follow in these brave recipients' footsteps. I urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WATT. Madam Speaker, I am told that Mr. CARNEY, the original sponsor of this bill, is on his way to the floor, so I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), who is the principal Republican sponsor of this bill.

Before doing that, however, I want to note that Mr. KIRK was also a principal sponsor of a commemorative coin honoring disabled American veterans that will help fund a memorial to them that is scheduled to be built between the Rayburn and the Ford buildings. This Chamber owes him a round of appreciation for all of his hard work on those important issues.

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman and thank the ranking member for this opportunity to speak in praise of CHRIS CARNEY. It is no accident that CHRIS and I work on a number of pieces of legislation. The bond between us, forged in the United States Navy, is stronger than any partisan bond, and he has become a real hero to me in building these bipartisan efforts to commemorate our men and women in uniform.

We put forward H.R. 1209, the Medal of Honor Commemorative Coin Act, and it is bipartisan legislation. Under the rules of the House, it had to get over 290 cosponsors. We think it will help the Foundation raise over \$5 million for their benefit.

As everyone knows, the Medal of Honor is the Nation's highest award for valor in action against an enemy force, and it symbolizes how uniformed Americans have gone above and beyond

the call of duty in defense of our Nation.

Today I am wearing a Navy Commendation Medal, which in my view is about 17 ranks below what is given in the Medal of Honor. There have been 3,400 medals awarded to date, but we are focusing our effort on the 97 living recipients who are among us.

They are people like Al Lynch of Gurnee, Illinois, a man who serves on my Veterans Advisory Board and who I know and respect. Like many of us veterans, when one of the Medal of Honor recipients walks into a room wearing that very unique insignia, everyone goes silent. I will say, at least from my experience and I think from other veterans, we all know where a Medal of Honor recipient is in the room for as long as he is in the room.

Al grew up in our area, went to high school, enlisted in the Army, and in 1966 volunteered for service in Vietnam as a rifleman and a platoon radio operator. In December 1967, his company was deployed to the Bong Son area of the central highlands. And after a month of almost daily fighting with the enemy, his unit was ordered to the rear for rest and recuperation; but that rest was short-lived, because the company which relieved his unit was ambushed.

As Al's platoon mobilized the next morning, he saw three wounded men. Not thinking of himself, he dashed across 50 meters of open ground, through a hail of enemy fire, and carried them one by one to safety. When his company was forced to withdraw, it was Al who remained to aid his comrades rather than abandoning them. For 2 hours, he defended their position against an advancing enemy.

Following this heroic action, he located the counterattacking friendly company to assist the attack and to evacuate the three casualties. He successfully completed his tour in Vietnam and was sent to Fort Hood, Texas, where he was discharged from the Army in 1969. A year later, just before he was to be married, he learned that for these actions he would receive the Medal of Honor, and on May 14, 1970, President Nixon presented it to him.

We also commend men like Sammy Davis of Flat Rock, Illinois. On November 18, 1967, while serving as a cannoner at a remote fire support base just west of Cai Lay, Vietnam, he came under heavy mortar attack. Sergeant Davis single-handedly fired his howitzer several times at the enemy. Undaunted by an enemy mortar blast which landed 20 meters from his position wounding him, he continued to fight. Disregarding his extensive injuries and his inability to swim, Sergeant Davis used an air mattress to rescue three wounded comrades trapped on the other side of the river with the Vietcong. Upon reaching the wounded men, he stood and fired into the dense vegetation to prevent the enemy from advancing.

You may slightly recognize Sergeant Davis' story because it was the model

for the iconic movie "Forrest Gump," which was largely based on his experience. Footage from the Medal of Honor presentation to Sergeant Davis was actually used in the movie, with Tom Hanks' head superimposed on the body of Sammy Davis.

On July 11, 1969, Captain—then First Lieutenant—Hal Fritz from Peoria, was seriously wounded when he was suddenly ambushed escorting a truck convoy in a seven-vehicle armored column near Quan Loi in Vietnam.

After realizing his platoon was completely surrounded, he ran from vehicle to vehicle in order to reposition his men, assist the wounded, and provide encouragement. When the enemy attempted to overrun the platoon, Captain Fritz manned the machine gun and inspired his comrades to break the assault. Moments later, a second enemy force advanced, and only with a pistol and a bayonet, Captain Fritz led his small group of men in a daring charge that routed the attackers.

When relief arrived, Captain Fritz stayed to manage the troops. And when he saw they were not being deployed effectively, despite his wounds, refused medical attention and organized everything until his wounded comrades were treated and evacuated.

□ 1630

Maybe the most dramatic story that we have in Illinois comes on the day of January 8, 1945. During a battle near Kayserberg, France, Sergeant Russell Dunham of Jerseyville, Illinois, single-handedly assaulted three enemy machine guns using a white robe made of mattress cover as camouflage. Sergeant Dunham crawled 75 yards under heavy fire, and as he jumped to his feet 10 yards from the gun, a rifle bullet hit him, creating a 10-inch gash across his back and sending him spinning 15 yards down the hill into snow.

In excruciating pain, he got back up and renewed a one-man assault. After kicking aside a German egg grenade, Sergeant Dunham shot and killed the German machine gunner and assistant gunner. Sergeant Dunham then proceeded 50 yards through a storm of enemy fire to destroy the second machine gun by throwing two grenades into the emplacement. Under heavy fire from both machine guns and grenades, Dunham again advanced by crawling farther up the hill. At a range of 15 yards, he jumped to his feet and killed the crew of a timbered machine gun emplacement with hand grenades.

Despite a painful wound, Sergeant Dunham spearheaded a spectacular attack that saved many of his men, and he just passed away a month ago.

The stories of these four Illinois residents are just a few of the many extraordinary acts of heroism by soldiers, sailors, and airmen who went beyond the call of duty in the face of grave danger.

The legislation authored by Congressman CARNEY before us, H.R. 1209, is important because it will serve as a

reminder for these brave men and women—still numbering 90 strong—to promote the qualities the Medal of Honor embodies.

As the first U.S. Representative to be deployed into an imminent danger area since World War II, I know many of the sacrifices and challenges that men and women in our Armed Forces face. Almost every morning I think about the men and women I served with in Afghanistan when I left there in January.

This legislation helps us recognize the true heroes among that cadre. I think we will have some more heroes emerge from conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan that are award winners. But today, we mark the 97 who are living, and those 3,400 who all received the Medal.

This legislation will help us raise money for the foundation, will help us advance the values that these awardees embodied, and teach us a very, very painful but important lesson about how important this country is, how valuable it is, and how much it takes to defend her.

Mr. WATT. Madam Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARNEY), the primary sponsor of this bill on our side.

Mr. CARNEY. I thank the gentleman. I rise, obviously, in support of this bill. I do want to thank my good friend and shipmate, MARK KIRK, for working so hard across the aisle to get this done. It is always very heartening in this body when we can do the right thing, and this truly is the right thing to do. It's a commonsense approach that actually recognizes the members of the Armed Forces who have earned a Medal of Honor and provides a chance for the Medal of Honor Foundation to fill its coffers and continue to do the good work that it always intended to do.

The Medal of Honor was first authorized by Congress in 1861 as the United States Navy's highest personal decoration. At that time, the Army and Air Force also created Medals of Honor to award their members.

There have been a total of 3,447 recipients of the Medal of Honor. And as my good friend, Mr. KIRK, said, only 97 are living today.

I am proud to represent a district in Pennsylvania. And I will have you know that Pennsylvania is second only to New York State in Medal of Honor recipients.

It is my hope that these coins issued under this act will serve as a reminder of the importance of this medal and of the acts these brave men and women performed.

The surplus of funds raised from these coins will benefit the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation, a not-for-profit organization chartered by the 85th Congress under legislation signed into law by Dwight Eisenhower on August 14, 1958.

The Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation is dedicated to perpet-

uating the Medal of Honor's legacy through outreach and collaborative efforts. It also raises funds for initiatives that promote the values that the Medal of Honor represents, which is courage, sacrifice, and patriotism.

Some of the examples of the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation activities include working with the staff of the Smithsonian National Museum of American History to establish a dedicated Medal of Honor exhibit as part of the larger permanent exhibit called "The Price of Freedom." They also established a Medal of Honor scholarship program for outstanding students enrolled in the Reserve Officer Training Corps programs for the Army, the Air Force, the Navy, and the Marines. Collaborating in the production of two Medal of Honor documentaries released in 2006; one, "The Medal of Honor," produced by PBS, and two, "The Medal," syndicated for television across the United States. Established an Above & Beyond Citizen Honors program to recognize ordinary Americans who have exhibited in their daily lives the same ideals that the Medal of Honor recipients displayed in combat. The President of the United States joined the Medal of Honor recipients in the laying of a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns this year to initiate the Above & Beyond Citizen Honor ceremonies.

Finally, the foundation distributed more than 53,000 copies of the book "Medal of Honor: Portraits of Valor Beyond the Call of Duty" to public and private school students in every State.

These efforts deserve our support, and so do the men and women who have been awarded the Medal of Honor.

I urge my fellow Members to support this bill to help ensure that the legacy of the men and women whose brave acts earned them the Medal of Honor will be remembered.

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

Mr. WATT. Madam Speaker, it has just been a great, great pleasure for me to listen to the stories of Mr. KIRK and Mr. CARNEY honoring the brave men and women who have received Medals of Honor. I want to thank them for introducing this bill to provide funding to the foundation that is doing, obviously, a great deal of wonderful work in our Nation to honor men and women who have served in the military and those out in the public who have not served in the military. So I commend them.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WATT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1209.

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. WATT. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a

quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### GOLD MEDAL FOR JAPANESE AMERICAN ARMY UNITS

Mr. WATT. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 347) to grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, United States Army, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 347

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

#### SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) On January 19, 1942, 6 weeks after the December 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese Navy, the United States Army discharged all Japanese-Americans in the Reserve Officers Training Corps and changed their draft status to "4C"—the status of "enemy alien" which is ineligible for the draft.

(2) On January 23, 1942, Japanese-Americans in the military on the mainland were segregated out of their units.

(3) Further, on May 3, 1942, General John L. DeWitt issued Civilian Exclusion Order No. 346, ordering all people of Japanese ancestry, whether citizens or noncitizens, to report to assembly centers, where they would live until being moved to permanent relocation centers.

(4) On June 5, 1942, 1,432 predominantly Nisei (second generation Americans of Japanese ancestry) members of the Hawaii Provisional Infantry Battalion were shipped from the Hawaiian Islands to Oakland, CA, where the 100th Infantry Battalion was activated on June 12, 1942, and then shipped to train at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin.

(5) The excellent training record of the 100th Infantry Battalion and petitions from prominent civilian and military personnel helped convince President Roosevelt and the War Department to re-open military service to Nisei volunteers who were incorporated into the 442nd Regimental Combat Team after it was activated in February of 1943.

(6) In that same month, the 100th Infantry Battalion was transferred to Camp Shelby, Mississippi, where it continued to train and even though the battalion was ready to deploy shortly thereafter, the battalion was refused by General Eisenhower, due to concerns over the loyalty and patriotism of the Nisei.

(7) The 442nd Regimental Combat Team later trained with the 100th Infantry Battalion at Camp Shelby in May of 1943.

(8) Eventually, the 100th Infantry Battalion was deployed to the Mediterranean and entered combat in Italy on September 26, 1943.

(9) Due to their bravery and valor, members of the Battalion were honored with 6 awards of the Distinguished Service Cross in the first 8 weeks of combat.