

And I would hope that my colleagues would give this resolution resounding support on behalf of Mo Udall, Stewart Udall, and the Udall family—and what public service means to all of us in this country.

I thank the gentleman (Mr. GRIJALVA) for yielding me this time.

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) for 3 minutes.

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I certainly want to thank the gentleman from Arizona, the chairman of our National Parks Subcommittee, for his leadership and sponsorship of this bill. And I certainly want to associate myself with the comments made earlier by our colleague and former chairman of our House Resources Committee, and currently chairman of the Education and Labor Committee, Congressman MILLER, for his comments and commending this legislation to the extent that when you mentioned the name "Udall," it resonates very well in the State of Arizona, which I'm sure my good chairman will always realize that.

I say this with a sense of a tremendous feeling about the Udall family as an early Mormon pioneer family who settled what is now Arizona and the tremendous contributions that these brothers have made to our Nation's environmental issues. How ironic it is from a Western State that you have two dynamic leaders that have shown real leadership in protecting our Nation's environment and all of this, and you think that it comes only from those who want to develop our resources, rather than also looking at the environmental issues as just as important.

Ironically, too, the fact that Stewart Udall's son currently serves as U.S. Senator from the State of Colorado—and I think I'm getting myself mixed up here. There are so many Udalls going around here that even I get confused. Stewart Udall's son, who is TOM, is currently the U.S. Senator from New Mexico, and Mo Udall's son, MARK, is currently the U.S. Senator from Colorado.

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But again, Mr. Speaker, I do want to commend my good friend, the gentleman from Arizona, for his sponsorship of this bill, and I urge my colleagues to pass this legislation, especially the tremendous help that it gives to students of the Native American community in our country.

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize my good friend, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. MITCHELL), for 3 minutes.

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental Policy Amendments Act, H.R. 1035.

Congress established the Morris K. Udall Foundation in 1992 to focus on critical environmental issues, provide resources to train Native American professionals in health care and public policy, and resolve environmental disputes involving Federal agencies to the U.S. Institute of Environmental Conflict Resolution.

Under this measure, the Morris K. Udall Scholarship will also honor Stewart Udall. We can all certainly learn a lot from both Mo and Stu Udall. The Udall brothers were not only prominent U.S. politicians from the great State of Arizona, they were also dedicated public servants.

As a teacher for 29 years, I used to tell my students, when you name something after someone significant, whether it's a park, a school, or a scholarship, this not only honors that person, but it also is meant to set an example. Stu Udall has served the local communities in Arizona, as well as the entire Nation.

From serving in the United States Army Air Corps, to representing the local education community as the school board president of Amphitheater Public Schools, to representing his constituents as a United States Congressman, to serving as Secretary of the Interior under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, Stu Udall has truly set an example for all of what public service means.

It is my hope that recipients of this scholarship will honor Stu Udall and his legacy by also engaging in a life of public service.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I continue to reserve.

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, in closing, let me urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1035. It is a solid acknowledgement of two great Americans that contributed much to this country, and their public policy legacy is obvious and known to all. But I think one thing that they contributed—and I think it is important in our times to remember that as political figures and as public figures they contributed civility to the discourse and they contributed humor to the discourse.

They brought integrity into their decisionmaking, and they were about bridging political differences and not exploiting them. I think that is the kind of legacy that bodes well for all of us that are in public service, and something that not all of us, including myself, mirror all the time.

I come from a region in which the Udall family is part and parcel of the history, the accomplishments, and the legacy of that region. And so with

great pride and with sincere hopes that the House will support this, I urge passage of H.R. 1035.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1035.

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

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

RECOGNIZING NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICERS OF THE U.S. ARMY

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 44) recognizing the service, sacrifice, honor, and professionalism of the Noncommissioned Officers of the United States Army.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H.J. RES. 44

Whereas the Noncommissioned Officer ranks, namely corporals and sergeants, date back more than 230 years in United States Army history, beginning with the birth of the Continental Army in 1775 and highlighted in the westward expansion of the United States, the Civil War, World War I, World War II, the Korean Conflict, the Vietnam Conflict, the liberation of Kuwait, and the current Global War on Terror;

Whereas Noncommissioned Officers are accomplished military professionals who have combined civilian and military education opportunities to become the Army's preeminent body of leadership;

Whereas Noncommissioned Officers are the "backbone of the American Army" and are the standard keepers for the Army in the training, leading, coaching, and mentoring of soldiers;

Whereas Noncommissioned Officers have provided invaluable service and have made great sacrifices in the line of duty, a virtue held most high, and they have continually proven their dedication and a willingness to make great sacrifices on behalf of the United States;

Whereas Noncommissioned Officers recognize their role in training young soldiers to become future leaders, and they also recognize that an important part of their job is caring and looking out for the welfare of junior enlisted members and their families;

Whereas Noncommissioned Officers are the "eyes and ears" of the commander, and have a well-earned reputation for having operational and strategic awareness to interpret and issue orders as necessary within their duties and in the absence of commissioned officers; and

Whereas the United States Army is an institution rich in cultural, ethnic, and gender diversity, and Noncommissioned Officers are outstanding role models for all Americans and are exemplary representatives of the moral character and strength of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress—

(1) recognizes the service, sacrifice, honor, and professionalism of the Noncommissioned Officers of the United States Army;

(2) expresses its deepest appreciation to the Noncommissioned Officers of the Army who serve or have served in defense of the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to recognize, commemorate, and honor the role and contribution of Noncommissioned Officers, past and present, in defense of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. MARSHALL) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, let me first ask 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 Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, the Chief and the Secretary of the Army declared this year to be the “Year of the NCO” within the United States Army. Chairman SKELTON would be here today to handle this motion but for the fact that he is at Walter Reed Hospital visiting a constituent who has been injured in service to the country in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, the NCO, the noncommissioned officer, is often described as the backbone of the Army. The NCO is also described as the eyes and ears of the commander. I was an NCO in Vietnam myself, a little bit young compared to the NCOs we have today, too wet behind the ears to really be a good NCO because a really good NCO is not just backbone and eyes and ears, a really good NCO is a teacher, a leader, almost a father or a mother to the young soldiers that work in the unit that that NCO is in charge of.

NCOs not only train those soldiers, guide those soldiers, try and instill in those soldiers a real spirit of what it is like to be a soldier, what it is like to be a good human being, instilling values, courage, teaching, training, techniques, you name it, but in addition to that, good NCOs do the same thing for young officers, instilling in young officers the kind of experience and wisdom that young officers need to gain as they mature.

NCOs are essentially foremen. They are superintendents. Without NCOs—and we have had them for over 230 years—this Army would not be what it

is today. There is no question about that. They serve with honor. In today’s Army, they sacrifice a great deal, both themselves and their families.

There are many examples of courage under fire by NCOs. Over 100 Medal of Honor winners are NCOs in the United States from the United States Army. And I can’t think of a more fitting tribute, in light of the fact that the Secretary and Chief have declared this to be the Year of the NCO, than that all of us vote in favor of this motion which honors our NCOs in the United States Army.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself so much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Joint Resolution 44, honoring the noncommissioned officers in the United States Army. I thank Congressman Ike Skelton, the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, for introducing this legislation.

No one has better expressed the reason for this resolution than the current Sergeant Major of the Army, Kenneth Preston. In his view, “Today’s NCO Corps is a standard bearer of one of the Army’s greatest success stories, the All-Volunteer Force, and serves as a role model for armies of the world to emulate.”

I fully agree with the Sergeant Major’s statement. Along with my colleague, Mr. MARSHALL of Georgia, I, too, am an Army veteran, and in my own 31-year experience in the Army National Guard and Reserve, noncommissioned officers were indispensable to the accomplishment of the missions we undertook. This is true of NCOs across all branches of the military.

One of my four sons serving today in the military, a Navy doctor, has been so impressed by the leadership and professionalism exhibited by the NCOs with whom he serves that he recommended that I invite one of their children to work as an intern in our office, who is present with us today. Todd O’Brien is the son of Master Chief Petty Officer Tadeo O’Brien. Master Chief O’Brien supports the U.S. Navy SEALs as an independent duty corpsman in the Naval Special Warfare Logistical Support Medical Group 2 at Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, Virginia.

While he serves in a different military branch, he shares the values of service, honor, integrity, and courage common to all professional noncommissioned officers.

The Army is adaptable and successful on the battlefield because the corporals and sergeants have the training, education, professionalism, and operational and strategic awareness to interpret and issue orders as necessary within their duties and in the absence of commissioned officers.

The all-volunteer Army has been able to sustain itself through 8 years of war

in two fronts because of corporals and sergeants who have made great personal sacrifices in the global war against terrorism.

Moreover, the noncommissioned officers of the Army have not only trained future leaders, both officer and enlisted, but they have also gone to extraordinary lengths to ensure the welfare of junior enlisted personnel and their families.

In recognition of the current and historical contributions, sacrifices, leadership, and professionalism of its noncommissioned officers, the Army has designated 2009 as the “Year of the NCO.” This resolution is part of that effort to honor the corporals and sergeants who are the backbone of the Army.

I would urge all Members to vote “yes” on this resolution as one way of expressing their deepest appreciation for the NCOs who are serving and have served.

I would also urge that each one of us, as we go home to our districts and meet with our constituents, take the time to explain what a magnificent Army this Nation has, especially because of the men and women who call themselves NCOs.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the words of my friend from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON). As he noted, he was an officer, a commissioned officer, and who better than a commissioned officer to testify to the importance of noncommissioned officers to the proper functioning of the Army. Frankly, the Army could not function with commissioned officers alone. Noncommissioned officers are more than just the backbone of the Army.

Madam Speaker, I would like to yield such time as he may consume to a fellow NCO from Vietnam, the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA).

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, as a fellow NCO, my colleague, the gentleman from Georgia, and also my good friend, Mr. WILSON from South Carolina, I rise today to draw my colleagues’ attention to House Joint Resolution 44, an act that would recognize the valiant efforts and heroism of the noncommissioned officers of the United States Army.

I would like to commend Chairman SKELTON for his introduction and leadership and sponsorship of this bill, a token of appreciation for those who serve to protect our Nation and our ideals of freedom.

The noncommissioned officer rank has a long and rich history in the United States Army, originating with the Continental Army in 1775. The most visible leaders of the service, the noncommissioned officers have been the backbone of the Army for more than 230 years.

Often referred to as the “eyes and ears” of a commander, noncommissioned officers are not only sought

after for their advice and guidance, but they are the standard keepers of the service, dedicated to the upholding of the Army's and our country's values. Responsible for the training of the Army's future leaders, the noncommissioned officer is integral in executing any given mission of the service.

Madam Speaker, from my own little district of American Samoa, and as a fellow American Samoan, I am very proud to share this little bit of news with my colleagues here in the House today.

Just a few weeks ago, a fellow Samoan, Command Sergeant Major Iuniasolua Savusa, a ranger in the 101st Airborne, was recently selected by Admiral Timothy Keating as the Senior Enlisted Leader of the U.S. Army Pacific Command, or PACOM. In other words, the Command Sergeant Major of all the U.S.; not just Army, but the entire unified military command under the Pacific Command currently in Hawaii led by Admiral Keating.

This command was established in 1947 by President Truman and is considered the largest of the United States' unified commands and consists of approximately 250,000 military personnel. Command Sergeant Major Savusa has a long and substantial career in the U.S. Army. He has served overseas all throughout Europe and was instrumental in the initial incursion of Baghdad in Operation Iraqi Freedom, former Command Sergeant Major U.S. Army Europe, and also Former Command Sergeant Major U.S. Army Central Command.

Command Sergeant Major Savusa is an example of the Toa o Samoa, or many of the Samoan soldiers who are enlisted and have served in the many branches of the Armed Forces.

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I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Command Sergeant Major Ace Vimoto; Command Sergeant Major Charles Tobin; Chief Warrant Officer 5 Kokolua Yandall; Command Sergeant Major Falaniko, retired; and Chief Warrant Officer 5 Save Liuato Tuitele for their contributions to our military.

I must pay a special tribute to Command Sergeant Majors Vimoto and Falaniko for they both had sons who enlisted in the Army and have given the ultimate sacrifice to our country. The son of Command Sergeant Major Falaniko, Private First Class Jonathan Falaniko, was killed in Iraq; while the son of Command Sergeant Major Vimoto, Private First Class Timothy Ray Vimoto, was killed in Afghanistan. We must honor these fathers and sons for their selfless sacrifice and the sacrifice they have made in the protection of our freedoms.

I cannot express the immense pride I have in those who persevere daily to protect the freedom and integrity of the United States. Noncommissioned officers of the United States Army are perhaps the most visible embodiment

of the moral character and strength of the U.S. Army.

I would like to remind my colleagues that this recognition by Congress is the least that can be done to express a deserved gratitude of those who have served and those who continue to serve in our Army today.

With that, Madam Speaker, I again commend my good friends for their management of this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam Speaker, as I think about the significance of this resolution, I am reminded of Sergeant First Class Victor Anderson. Sergeant First Class Victor Anderson from Andersonville, Georgia, was a Sumter County Sheriff's deputy when called to duty as part of the 48th Brigade of the Georgia Army National Guard in Iraq. He was disqualified because of diabetes; nonetheless, he fought his disqualification because he knew he needed to be with his soldiers. He knew that if he was with his soldiers, they were more likely to be successful. They were more likely to be safe.

About 1 week before he was killed by an IED, some of his men were killed by an IED right in front of him, and he sent an email back to his family; and in that email he essentially said this: I do not fight for some ideology. I fight for that man to my left and that man to my right. They are men of their word. When called, they did not run. They came and did their duty. I had to also. Don't worry about me.

Victor Anderson represents the kind of quality that we have in our Armed Forces in sergeants, and I just bless every one of them and thank them for their service.

Madam Speaker, at this point I have no further requests for time, and I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, it is an honor for me to be on the floor today with Congressman MARSHALL, with Delegate FALEOMAVAEGA, two veterans themselves who could tell firsthand heartfelt indication of their appreciation of NCOs.

I come from the State of South Carolina. The State flag of South Carolina is a recognition of the significance of the NCOs to our independence and freedom. This flag of South Carolina has a palmetto tree on the flag. It recognizes the Battle of Fort Moultrie on Sullivan's Island. The British fleet attacked the fort. The soft palmetto logs, the cannonballs hit the logs and bounced off or absorbed. At the same time, they did knock down the American flag. And at that time Sergeant William Jasper had the courage to raise the flag back up, indicating to the British that they were not going to be successful. The British fleet withdrew.

The flag of South Carolina has a palmetto tree. It also has a crescent. The

crescent indicated the rank of a sergeant during the American Revolution on the helmet. So we, the State of South Carolina, are forever grateful for what NCOs have meant, and forever in perpetuity we appreciate what H.J. Res. 44 means.

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of House Joint Resolution 44, which I introduced on April 29, 2009. This resolution honors the service and sacrifice of our Army's Noncommissioned Officers.

As the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, I am privileged to be joined here today by a number of my colleagues in the House to recognize the service, sacrifice, professionalism and commitment of all those who serve and have served our Nation as Noncommissioned Officers in the United States Army.

Our Nation's Noncommissioned Officers are unlike any other in the world. While many consider them the backbone of the force, I believe they are really the soul of the force. Not only do they provide the leadership, training and mentoring of junior enlisted personnel, but they also are responsible for the development and guidance of our junior officers as well. The responsibilities that an Army Noncommissioned Officer carries are vast, but they often carry out their responsibilities with little fanfare and official recognition. This resolution seeks to acknowledge their contributions, particularly over the last eight years of conflict.

The history of the Army Noncommissioned Officer began with the birth of the Continental Army in 1775. The first Sergeant Major of the Army was Sergeant Major Willion O. Wooldridge. Since then, there have been 13 Sergeant Majors of the Army, and the currently serving Sergeant Major is Kenneth O. Preston. He is the highest ranking Noncommissioned Officer in the United States Army.

Army Noncommissioned Officers live by the NCO Creed, which was written in 1974, and adopted officially by the Army in 1985. The Creed reads:

No one is more professional than I. I am a Noncommissioned Officer, a leader of soldiers. As a Noncommissioned Officer, I realize that I am a member of a time honored corps, which is known as "The Backbone of the Army." I am proud of the Corps of Noncommissioned Officers and will at all times conduct myself so as to bring credit upon the Corps, the Military Service and my country regardless of the situation in which I find myself. I will not use my grade or position to attain pleasure, profit or personal safety.

Competence is my watchword. My two basic responsibilities will always be uppermost in my mind—accomplishment of my mission and the welfare of my soldiers. I will strive to remain technically and tactically proficient. I am aware of my role as a Noncommissioned Officer. I will fulfill my responsibilities inherent in that role. All soldiers are entitled to outstanding leadership; I will provide that leadership. I know my soldiers and I will always place their needs above my own. I will communicate consistently with my soldiers and never leave them uninformed. I will be fair and impartial when recommending both rewards and punishments.

Officers of my unit will have maximum time to accomplish their duties; they will not have to accomplish mine. I will earn their respect and confidence as well as that of my soldiers. I will be loyal to those with

whom I serve; seniors, peers and subordinates alike. I will exercise initiatives by taking appropriate action in absence of orders. I will not compromise my integrity, nor my moral courage. I will not forget, nor will I allow my comrades to forget that we are professionals, Noncommissioned Officers, leaders!

The creed of the Noncommissioned Officer of the United States Army captures the essence of how these individuals live their daily lives. I am honored to have introduced this resolution and I urge my colleagues to join me in support of House Joint Resolution 44 to commend the service of the Army's Noncommissioned Officers.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, urging all of my colleagues to vote in favor of this resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. MARKEY of Colorado). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. MARSHALL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 44.

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. WILSON of South Carolina. 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.

RECOGNIZING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HAWAII STATEHOOD

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 593) recognizing and celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the entry of Hawaii into the Union as the 50th State, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 593

Whereas August 21, 2009, marks the 50th Anniversary of President Dwight D. Eisenhower's signing of Proclamation 3309, which admitted Hawaii into the Union in compliance with the Hawaii Admission Act, enacted by the United States Congress on March 18, 1959;

Whereas Hawaii is "a place like no other, with a people like no other" and bridges the mainland United States to the Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas the 44th President of the United States, Barack Obama, was born in Hawaii on August 4, 1961;

Whereas Hawaii has contributed to the diversity of Congress in electing—

(1) the first Native Hawaiian to serve in Congress, Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole;

(2) the first Asian-American to serve in the Senate, Hiram Fong;

(3) the first woman of color to serve in Congress, Patsy T. Mink;

(4) the first Native Hawaiian to serve in the Senate, Daniel Kahikina Akaka; and

(5) the first Japanese-American to serve in the Senate, Daniel Ken Inouye;

Whereas Hawaii is an example to the rest of the world of unity and positive race relations;

Whereas Pearl Harbor is a strategic military base for the U.S. in the Pacific and also a historical site for the Nation, being the location of the December 7, 1941, surprise Japanese aerial attack that thrust the Nation into World War II;

Whereas Hawaii is home to ¼ of the endangered species in the United States;

Whereas Hawaii has 8 national parks, which preserve volcanoes, complex ecosystems, a Hansen's disease colony, and other sites of historical and cultural significance;

Whereas Kilauea ranks among the most active volcanoes on Earth;

Whereas President Bush nominated the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization World Heritage Centre for consideration to the World Heritage List;

Whereas Hawaii has produced musical legends ranging from traditional favorites such as Alfred Apaka, Don Ho, and Genoa Keawe, to Hawaii renaissance performers such as Eddie Kamae, Raymond Kane, Gabby Pahinui, Israel Kamakawi'ole, the Brothers Cazimero, and the Beamer Brothers, and continuing on to contemporary stars such as Keali'i Reichel, Ledward Kaapana, Jake Shimabukuro, and Raiatea Helm;

Whereas Hawaii is culturally rich, as the Hawaiian culture has been protected through Hawaiian language immersion schools, hula competitions such as the Merrie Monarch Festival, canoeing voyages undertaken by vessels like the Hokule'a, and the continuing historic preservation of Hawaiian traditions;

Whereas the Hawaii Statehood Commission has held a Joint Session of the Hawaii State Legislature in honor of statehood and will be celebrating this milestone with a public discussion and with the arrival of the USS Hawaii; and

Whereas for all of these reasons Hawaii is a truly unique State: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives recognizes and celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the entry of Hawaii into the Union as the 50th State.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) and the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. BACHMANN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise in support of House Resolution 593, a resolution recognizing and celebrating the 50th anniversary of the entry of Hawaii into the Union as our 50th State.

The gentleman from Hawaii, Mr. NEAL ABERCROMBIE, introduced this

measure on June 26, 2009; and having met all of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform requirements and criteria, the bill is now being considered today on the House floor. I should add that the measure comes to the floor with bipartisan support from over 56 cosponsors, demonstrating this body's eagerness to celebrate the admittance of our 50th State, the Aloha State.

Hawaii is one of our country's great treasures. Its cultural heritage is rooted in centuries of precolonial history, and the State continues to protect it with efforts such as Hawaiian language immersion schools and cultural centers. It is home to Pearl Harbor, the headquarters of the U.S. Navy's Pacific Fleet and the site of the surprise attack that led the U.S. to enter the Second World War. Its eight national parks preserve rich natural beauty and intricate ecosystems that support one-fourth of the endangered species in the United States.

Hawaii also contributes to the racial and ethnic diversity of our Nation and of this Congress. It elected this body's first woman of color, Patsy T. Mink; as well as its first Asian American, Hiram Fong. It has also elected Native Hawaiians to Congress, including Senator DANIEL AKAKA. The State also enjoys being the childhood home State of our current Commander in Chief, President Barack Obama.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the State of Hawaii by supporting this measure.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of House Resolution 593.

This summer, on August 21, our Nation will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the entry of the beautiful island of Hawaii into the United States. It was in 1959, Madam Speaker, that then-President Dwight David Eisenhower signed Proclamation 3309 proclaiming the beautiful State of Hawaii as our 50th State.

Hawaii is one of four United States that were independent prior to statehood. The Kingdom of Hawaii existed from 1810 through 1893, and it was an independent republic between 1894 and 1898, when it became a United States territory. It was in 1900 that Hawaii was granted self-governance; and though many attempts were made to achieve statehood, Hawaii remained a territory for nearly 60 years.

The road to statehood for Hawaii was not without its challenges. One of the most devastating times in the history of not only Hawaii but of the Nation as well was the attack on Pearl Harbor and the outbreak of World War II, which interrupted the drive for statehood. But, finally, on August 21 victory was achieved in 1959 when Hawaii was admitted to the Union.