

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield back the balance of my time and urge full support for this resolution.

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

The legislation before us pays tribute to the brave men and women from the city of Des Moines. Let me say that over 400 have been wounded, 50 have been killed, and I think that this is something that, once it's there, people will always see it and know in terms of what happened.

Let me say that I urge my colleagues to support this legislation because I think it's legislation that's broad and that it recognizes the conflict and, of course, the people that have been involved in it in the local area as well.

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. TOWNS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3386.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING AMERICAN LEGION DAY

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 679) supporting the goals and ideals of American Legion Day.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 679

Whereas, on September 16, 1919, Congress issued the American Legion a Federal charter;

Whereas the American Legion, a veterans service organization, remains active at the national, State, and local levels;

Whereas American Legion members, known as Legionnaires, donate millions of volunteer hours in Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities and State veterans homes;

Whereas the American Legion sponsors and supports a number of activities for children and youth, including the National Oratorical Contest, Boy Scouts, American Legion Baseball, Boys State, and Boys Nation;

Whereas the American Legion awards millions of dollars in college scholarships;

Whereas the American Legion National Emergency Fund provides financial assistance to Legionnaires who are displaced by natural disasters;

Whereas the American Legion Family Support Network provides assistance to members of the Armed Forces and their families;

Whereas the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation has provided millions of dollars for programs focused on America's children and youth, such as the Special Olympics and the Children's Miracle Network;

Whereas the American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance program provides grants to veterans who have children and who are experiencing financial hardships;

Whereas the American Legion remains a steadfast supporter of a strong national defense;

Whereas the American Legion supports maintaining a viable but principled foreign affairs agenda;

Whereas the American Legion is a staunch advocate for the principal missions of the Department of Veterans Affairs;

Whereas the American Legion played a principal role in the drafting of the Serviceman's Readjustment Act of 1944, also known as the G.I. Bill of Rights;

Whereas the American Legion supports employment programs and opportunities for veterans;

Whereas Legionnaires believe a veteran's service to the United States goes on long after the veteran is discharged from the Armed Forces; and

Whereas many Americans recognize September 16 of each year as American Legion Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of American Legion Day; and

(2) calls upon the people of the United States to observe American Legion Day with appropriate programs and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all 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 New York?

There was no objection.

□ 1330

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

I rise in support of H. Res. 679, supporting the goals and ideals of American Legion Day, celebrated each year on September 16. This resolution expresses this Chamber's commitment to this important veterans' service group.

The American Legion has nearly 3 million members across the country and worldwide, and of course I think that is so significant.

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

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

I rise to urge passage of this resolution supporting the goals and ideals of American Legion Day.

"For God and country." These four words eulogize and introduce the preamble of the American Legion's constitution, which has been recited by its members at every meeting in its 90-year history.

The history of the American Legion began when it was established as a mutual aid veterans' organization in September 1919. The organization is a congressionally chartered organization and was established so that returning soldiers of World War I would not suffer the same hardships that those from other wars had endured.

Mr. Speaker, they have grown far beyond that original charter, and today

they represent a consolidated organization that looks after veterans from all wars and issues that are so important. Through thick and thin, through popular and unpopular wars, they stay out of the politics of the day and focus on the veterans of yesterday.

So, Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise with the chairman to support this, because the American Legion, in its work in supporting not only veterans, but also youth organizations such as the Boy Scouts, Boys State, Boys Nation, and others, puts together the veterans of yesterday with the youth and future of tomorrow. That is an important issue and one that I think all of us can appreciate.

We have all seen it. Not one Member of Congress can say that they haven't been touched and they haven't seen the work done by the American Legion in their district.

I urge strong support for this resolution.

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

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois, Congresswoman HALVORSON.

Mrs. HALVORSON. Mr. Speaker, I was privileged to introduce House Resolution 679, supporting the goals and ideals of the American Legion Day on September 16.

This resolution helps to honor the service and the sacrifice of the nearly 3 million members, men and women, in nearly 15,000 American Legion posts worldwide.

On September 16, 1919, the American Legion was granted their Federal charter by Congress, and 90 years later they have kept their commitment to serve not only as a resource and a voice on behalf of veterans across America, but also as an organization dedicated to the betterment of America through community service.

Since their founding charter, the American Legion has not wavered from the guiding principles and vision that can be found in their four pillars of service.

The first pillar is a steadfast commitment to ensure that America has the best fighting force in the world. Towards this end, the Legion has been a tireless advocate on behalf of the American soldier to make sure that they have the resources and the tools they need in order to do their job.

The second pillar is making sure that we proudly care for our veterans. And whether it is providing one-on-one assistance to veterans through what can be the confusing and frustrating experience of filing for a disability claim or walking the halls of Congress to educate Members like myself on the legislative issues that are important to our veterans, they do an excellent job. The original GI Bill, for example, helped set the standard for the benefits that we provide to veterans and was spearheaded by the Legion.

The American Legion has been there for our veterans for over 90 years,

standing up to serve those who have served.

Caring for our youth is the third pillar in the American Legion vision. The Special Olympics, the Children's Miracle Network, the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, the American Legion Family Support Network, those are just a short list of the programs that the Legion supports. This is a testament to their belief that taking care of children in America, not just veterans' children, is something that makes our country stronger.

The final pillar comes from the understanding of the word "patriot." Having fought for and defended our freedom, Legionnaires know firsthand that being a patriot means you must take action to preserve America. They know that being a patriot means not just defending our freedoms, but also defending our heritage, culture, and our flag. This pillar has been the foundation for the Legion's support of programs that instill American values in our youth. From Boy Scouts to Boys State, they've been there setting the course for millions of American children as they learn what it means to be an American and why it's so important to preserve our country.

The commitment to the four pillars of service has been the cornerstone of the American Legion ideals and their successes. It serves as a model that all Americans can use to better themselves and to better America. And it has, without question, helped make the country even greater. Millions of Americans have been encouraged, supported, and inspired by Legion programs, and this resolution is just a small way to say thank you.

I would also like to take a moment to recognize and thank the American Legion Auxiliary. Also formed in 1919, the Auxiliary has shown the same devotion to our veterans and our community, and they too deserve to be recognized.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Commander Clarence Hill for his recent election as National Commander. I appreciate his 24 years of service to our Nation in the U.S. Navy and wish him the best of luck during his tenure as Commander.

H. Res. 679 helps to recognize this extraordinary organization whose members have not only fought to protect our country, but chose to continue to serve long after their military service has ended.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentledady from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE).

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the goals and ideals of American Legion Day.

Tomorrow, September 16, marks the 90th anniversary of the American Legion's charter. The American Legion was founded to serve the needs of America's veterans and to promote and protect the rights of those veterans. Ninety years later, the American Le-

gion remains committed to its mission to instill "a sense of individual obligation to the community, State and Nation."

The Legion's nearly 3 million members have given generously of their time in each and every one of our communities. Be it volunteering in veterans hospitals, awarding millions of dollars in college scholarships, or sponsoring activities like Boys and Girls State, Legionnaires continue to devote themselves to the ideal of "mutual helpfulness."

I am so proud to have the highest number of veterans of any Member of Congress. And as I travel throughout Florida's Fifth Congressional District, I get to see firsthand how the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary and their members affect the lives of veterans and their local communities.

Today, I am especially pleased that for the first time a Florida veteran has been elected National Commander of the American Legion. I am proud to congratulate Commander Clarence Hill on his achievement and wish him the very best as he leads the American Legion into what I'm positive will be another wonderful 90 years.

I would also like to thank Representative HALVORSON for introducing this resolution. And I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting the American Legion and recognizing September 16 of each year as American Legion Day.

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

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

I would like to thank Representative HALVORSON for introducing this bill, as well as the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA), the ranking member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for helping us bring this measure to the floor. And I also want to thank the staff and all the people that have worked to make this a reality.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to support H. Res. 679, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of American Legion Day.

The American Legion is our nation's largest and oldest veterans' organization, and has been a steadfast supporter of our Armed Forces and veterans since Congress issued the venerable organization a federal charter on September 16, 1919.

The American Legion has always proven itself to be a tremendous national asset that stands by our troops and veterans. The stalwart patriotism, leadership, and faith in our great country of its 2.7 million members are most commendable.

Having grown up in a Legion family, I know firsthand the commendable programs and services The American Legion provides to veterans and communities. My mother is a former Auxiliary President for the Department of Indiana, so I am especially appreciative of the dedication and devotion of the members of The American Legion and its Auxiliary. They have raised millions of dollars for the Amer-

ican Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund to help fund the education of children who have lost a parent in our nation's service.

Another program, Heroes to Hometowns, works as part of the government's seamless transition effort to coordinate with the communities to ensure returning heroes and their families have the resources needed for a successful transition. The American Legion family also has over 6,000 volunteers that provide countless hours of services each year to their fellow veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my full and heartfelt support for this resolution to support the goals and ideals of American Legion Day and to call upon the people of the United States to observe American Legion Day with appropriate programs and activities.

Mr. TOWNS. 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 New York (Mr. TOWNS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 679.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING THE KANSAS CITY ANIMAL HEALTH CORRIDOR

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 317) recognizing the region from Manhattan, Kansas, to Columbia, Missouri, as the Kansas City Animal Health Corridor, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 317

Whereas 34 percent of the \$16,800,000,000 annual global animal health industry is based in the Kansas City region;

Whereas more than 120 companies involved in the animal health industry are located in Kansas and Missouri, including 4 of the 10 largest global animal health companies and 1 of the 5 largest animal nutrition companies;

Whereas several leading veterinary colleges and animal research centers are located in Kansas and Missouri, including the College of Veterinary Medicine and the \$54,000,000 Biosecurity Research Institute of Kansas State University and the College of Veterinary Medicine, the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources' Division of Animal Sciences, the \$60,000,000 Life Sciences Center, the National Swine Resource and Research Center, and the Research Animal Diagnostic Laboratory of the University of Missouri;

Whereas Kansas City, Missouri, is centrally located in the United States and is close to many of the food animal end customers;

Whereas the Department of Homeland Security selected Manhattan, Kansas, as the future location for the National Bio and Agro-defense Facility (NBAF);

Whereas the \$750,000,000 NBAF project will provide area economic development opportunities by employing 300 people, with an annual payroll of up to \$30,000,000 and over 1,500 construction jobs;