

House leadership to help get this bill to the floor today, and I certainly appreciate his efforts.

This bill sets up a private nonprofit insurance system that will help insurance agents and brokers do business across State lines more efficiently. Not only does this help reduce regulatory burden for agents, but it also helps consumers by giving them more choices.

At its core, this is really a small business bill. Most insurance agents and brokers are independent small businesses; they don't have a lot of employees. So when they have to file paperwork for multiple States in order to do business across State lines, that only adds more cost for their compliance. Under this bill, they can register with the new National Association of Registered Agents and Brokers, NARAB, and that will serve as a portal for them to be licensed more easily in other States.

In today's economy, this bill makes sense for small businesses. If a customer moves to another State but wants to keep his insurance agent that has worked for him for years, this bill will streamline the process for that agent to be licensed in other States. If a customer wants that agent's trust to help them with policies for an elderly parent that they are caring for who lives in another State, this bill also makes that feasible.

H.R. 2554 provides a way to streamline insurance agent licensing across State lines without creating a new government bureaucracy, with no cost to the taxpayers, with consistent consumer protections, and without new mandates on States. This bill empowers insurance agents and their customers without making the government bigger or more expensive.

The option for NARAB was first included in the 1999 Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, but the bar was not set high enough. Congress realized that in 2008 when the House passed this legislation by voice vote. While the Senate did not take up the bill last time, my hope is that broad bipartisan support in the House again will move this much-needed bill forward.

We've had a lot of debate and discussion in the Financial Services Committee about the big picture for insurance regulation. There are a lot of perspectives on that issue. The good news about this bill, however, is that this is one insurance reform that we can all agree on.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill. It's good for small businesses, it's good for our community agents, and it's good for the customers that they serve.

I also again want to thank Mr. SCOTT for his cooperation and this bipartisan bill, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2554.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. In closing, Mr. Speaker, let me again thank my colleague, Congressman NEUGEBAUER,

for his distinguished work on this. It has been a pleasure.

Again, as he articulated eloquently a few minutes ago, the two things that this bill really does is it helps American consumers by increasing competition in the marketplace—that is really what we need as we deal with the very topical issue of insurance. And it provides the American people, the American consumer, with choice. So competition and choice are certainly the great beneficiaries of this legislation.

I might add that our act has garnered support from both sides of the aisle. We have both Democrats and Republicans working together on this. Forty-eight of us are sponsors to this bill, and 27 of us belong to the Financial Services Committee, where we have done work on it.

□ 1745

This bill has the support of NAIC, as I said earlier. It shows that the State insurance regulators, themselves, believe that this type of legislation has needed reform. In addition, the Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of America supports this bill. The National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors supports the bill. The National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies, the Property Casualty Insurance Association of America, the Council of Insurance Agents and Brokers, as well as a number of individual insurance companies, all are in support of this bill.

I am proud to have had an opportunity to work with and to have brought this bill before the House. I ask, certainly, for favorable support.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2554, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL TO PRESENT CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO WOMEN AIRFORCE SERVICE PILOTS

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 239) authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony to present the Congressional Gold Medal to the Women Airforce Service Pilots.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 239

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR PRESENTATION OF CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO WOMEN AIRFORCE SERVICE PILOTS.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center is authorized to be used for a ceremony on March 10, 2010, to present the Congressional Gold Medal to the Women Airforce Service Pilots.

(b) PREPARATIONS.—Physical preparations for the conduct of the ceremony described in subsection (a) shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as may be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROSELEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks in the RECORD on this concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 239. As Chair of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Personnel and as co-Chair of the Women's Caucus Task Force on Women in the Military and Veterans, I am privileged to recognize their service.

We are all familiar with the icon of Rosie the Riveter, working in war factories during World War II. Her motto was, "We can do it."

Well, the Women Airforce Service Pilots did it, too. Almost 70 years ago, they became pioneers for women's equality in the armed services. As civilian pilots under the direction of the U.S. Army Air Forces, flying noncombat missions from 1942 to 1944, they bravely stepped into service while their male counterparts were sent to combat.

The Women Airforce Service Pilots are referred to as the "WASP." Unlike many acronyms used in the military, this is an apt name. For like WASP, their work demanded a unique combination of feistiness and strength, underlined by loyalty to their fellow WASP and their country. They flew every type of military aircraft in every kind of mission except combat. They ferried aircraft from factories to military installations. They towed aerial targets, transported cargo, and served in training exercises.

There were 38 of them, roughly, 1,100 women who lost their lives during the war. There are only about 300 surviving WASP. I am astounded by their tenacity and by their bravery. Yet, despite that dedication, these women have encountered difficulties in being recognized for their service. The WASP corps only received full military status

for their service in 1977 after having their records kept secret in classified archival files for more than 35 years.

Next week, on March 10, we will honor their legacy as the first female aviators in American military history with the award of the Congressional Gold Medal. This is the highest civilian honor Congress can give, and it is both well deserved and, certainly, long overdue.

I was proud to have been a co-lead with Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN on the bill awarding them this honor. It is wonderful to see this come to fruition.

Last year, the Union-Tribune in San Diego highlighted several of these women from my district, some of whom will be attending the ceremony next week. I look forward to meeting them, and I hope all of my colleagues will come and meet the WASP from their districts.

To quote Vivian Eddy, one of these intrepid women from my district, their desire to serve our country was "not so much to prove anything to anybody but just to fly."

This ceremony will be an illustrative example of our indebtedness to their fearless, selfless service. This group of unsung heroines demonstrates the courage of women in the past, the integrity with which women continue to serve today, and the enthusiasm of the young women who dream of serving this great Nation in the future.

I hope all of my colleagues will join me in thanking the WASP and their families by offering their support for this resolution.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. HARPER) will control his 20 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. HARPER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today, I rise in support of this resolution, which will authorize the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an event recognizing the Women Airforce Service Pilots as recipients of the Congressional Gold Medal.

The WASP program, as it was known, was the first introduction of female pilots into the United States armed services. During World War II, these women flew noncombat missions in support of the United States military. WASP pilots numbered in the thousands during World War II, and each woman who served in this capacity freed up one of her male counterparts for combat services and other duties. Just as many women performed operational roles on domestic U.S. bases, these female pilots played a critical role in helping to mobilize servicemen for deployment to the European and Pacific theatres of war.

I am pleased that Congress is able to host this exceptional group of women

as they are honored for their contribution to our Nation. I hope my colleagues will join me both in thanking these women for their service to our Nation and in supporting this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KLEIN).

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. I thank the gentlewoman from California and the gentlewoman from Florida for bringing this forward.

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to stand in recognition of these wonderful women who provided such an important role in this war.

I would also like to specifically acknowledge Debbie Holthouse from Boynton Beach, Florida. She resides in my congressional district, and she is going to be honoring her mother.

Her mother is Bette Nogard, who served as a pilot during World War II. Bette Nogard died without any veterans benefits even though she risked her life for our freedom. She was a true hero. I am proud that Congress will be honoring her as well as these other women. I look forward to seeing her here in Washington.

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the distinguished gentlewoman from Florida, Representative ROS-LEHTINEN.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I thank my good friend for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, as the House author of legislation awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to the Women Airforce Service Pilots, WASP, I rise in strong support of today's resolution.

I would like to thank my wonderful friend from California, my colleague, my collaborator, Congresswoman SUSAN DAVIS of California, for her dedicated work in support of the WASP.

Today's bill authorizes the use of Emancipation Hall, a historic place for a historic group of ladies, for an event that will honor a most unique sisterhood of women pioneers. Next, Wednesday, March 10, Mr. Speaker, the United States Congress will present the Congressional Gold Medal to the surviving members of the Women Airforce Service Pilots, WASP. This award serves as a small token of our tremendous appreciation of the remarkable courage and sacrifice made by these women during the perilous times of World War II.

The WASP were the first women in history to fly America's military aircraft. Between the years of 1942 and 1944, these courageous women volunteered to fly noncombat missions so that every available male pilot could be deployed in combat. More than 25,000 women applied for the program, but only 1,830 qualified women pilots were accepted.

Unlike their male counterparts, women applicants were required to be qualified pilots before they could apply for the Army Air Forces' military flight training program. That's what it was called, it sounds odd to say. Al-

though 1,102 women earned their wings and went on to fly over 60 million miles for the Army Air Forces, equal to some 2,500 times around the globe, they never got the recognition that they deserved. Their performances were equal in every way to those of their male pilots. With the exception of direct combat missions, the WASP flew the same aircraft with the same missions as male pilots. Women pilots were used to tow targets for male pilots who were using live ammunition for searchlight missions, for chemical missions, engineering test flying, and for countless other exercises.

In 1944, the WASP were disbanded. Their service records were sealed and classified. By the time the war ended, 38 women pilots had lost their lives while flying for our country. Although they took the military oath and were promised military status, the WASP were never recognized as true military personnel. These 38 women who died in the service of our country during World War II were denied death benefits, including proper military funerals. Not even an American flag covered their coffins, and their survivors never received a single dime.

As a former WASP, Mary Alice Putnam Vandevanter noted in a recent letter, fellow WASP would circulate a "collection hat to make sure that a fallen sister pilot received a proper burial."

It was not until 1977, more than 30 years after the WASP had served, when another woman pioneer, Congresswoman Lindy Boggs, introduced legislation to grant the WASP veterans status. Now, more than 30 years from that important occasion, the United States Congress, on behalf of the American people, will present the WASP with the recognition they deserve and with the recognition, indeed, they have earned.

The WASP are true pioneers, whose examples paved the way for the Armed Forces to finally lift the ban on a woman attending military flight training in the 1970s.

□ 1800

Today, women in the military fly every type of aircraft, from F-15s to the space shuttle. My daughter-in-law, Lindsay Nelson, a Marine Corps pilot, is part of this lasting legacy of the WASP. Lindsay is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy. She served combat tours in Iraq and in Afghanistan, where she flew the F-18 fighter jet. I am so proud of Lindsay and of all of our servicewomen, past and present, who continue to inspire young women to achieve what was heretofore unimaginable.

Of the 1,102 WASP, less than 300 are still alive today, and they are residing in almost every State of our beautiful Union.

I have had the honor and the privilege of meeting WASP from my congressional area of south Florida. Last August, Mr. Speaker, I presented Frances Rohrer Sargent, Ruth Shafer

Fleisher and Helen Wyatt Snapp with framed, signed copies of the WASP Congressional Gold Medal legislation. I cannot tell you how delighted I am that Frances, Ruth, and Helen will be traveling to Washington next week, along with more than 170 of their fellow WASP.

Join me in paying homage to these trailblazers and true patriots who served our country without question and with no expectation of recognition or praise. I hope that all of our colleagues will join us next week to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me and my good friend from California, Mrs. DAVIS, in voting "yes" on this important recognition. We have taken a long time to recognize these brave pioneers, but that date has finally come, thanks to all of our Members.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, but I certainly wanted to say, and I appreciate the wonderful words of my colleague, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, that we are finally having an opportunity to recognize these women in a way that we should have done a long time ago. But we are going to be recognizing the Women Air Force Service Pilots with a Congressional Gold Medal of Honor. I certainly hope our colleagues will join us on March 10 in Emancipation Hall for a very special day, I know, to see and hear from these women who were far more than trailblazers; they served their country and they did it courageously. We are very proud of them and want to let them know how much we care about that service.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 239.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERMITTING USE OF CAPITOL ROTUNDA FOR VICTIMS OF HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 236) permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 236

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF ROTUNDA FOR HOLOCAUST DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY.

The rotunda of the Capitol is authorized to be used on April 15, 2010, for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust. Physical preparations for the ceremony shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as the Architect of the Capitol may prescribe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LUJÁN). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KLEIN) and the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. HARPER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H. Con. Res. 236, a resolution to allow the Capitol Rotunda to be used on April 15 for the purpose of the annual congressional ceremony to commemorate the Holocaust. The congressional commemoration of the Holocaust is a poignant reminder of the atrocities committed by the Nazis and the harrowing experiences of the survivors.

This year, we will be celebrating the heroism of those who liberated the Nazi death camps. The theme for this year's ceremony, *Stories of Freedom: What You Do Matters*, highlights the experience of Allied soldiers who risked their lives for the cause of freedom.

The stories of these soldiers that many of us have heard are inspiring. These soldiers confronted evil and physically saw despair in the eyes of every survivor they encountered. And these soldiers gave the survivors hope. The actions of these liberators changed the lives of the survivors and the course of human history.

Last year, on Veterans Day, I participated in a ceremony that honored American World War II veterans, including Dr. Bernard Metrick of Boca Raton, Florida, who helped liberate a subcamp of Buchenwald while serving in the 8th Armored Tank Division. Dr. Metrick will be joining me in Washington in April to participate in the Days of Remembrance. What Dr. Metrick did, what all of the Allied liberators did, mattered back then, and each and every one of us must learn from their lessons. What we do matters. And that is the message that this ceremony will inspire: What you do matters.

This is both our individual and collective responsibility. Never again can

we allow a Holocaust to occur on our watch. All my life, I personally have felt moved to spread the message of "Never Again." In the Florida Legislature when I served, I passed legislation to mandate Holocaust education in our Florida public schools so that students from all walks of lives and backgrounds could learn the lessons of the Holocaust.

Here in Congress in my capacity as cochair of the Congressional Task Force Against Anti-Semitism, I worked with my cochairman, Congressman MIKE PENCE of Indiana, to organize an annual visit to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum for Members of Congress and their families. This is a unique form of Holocaust education, where the museum serves as a teaching tool to educate U.S. Representatives who have not been to the museum before about how the Holocaust is relevant to their lives and the lives of their constituents.

I am grateful to Speaker PELOSI for appointing me to serve on the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Commission with other Members of the House and Senate and other citizens around the United States, and I hope to advance the cause of Holocaust education in this new role.

I would also like to thank Chairman BRADY and Ranking Member LUNGREN for moving this resolution to the floor today. As a sponsor of this legislation and a member of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, I would like to thank the other cosponsors of this legislation: Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS of Arizona, Congressman STEVE LATOURETTE of Ohio, Congressman ERIC CANTOR of Virginia, and, of course, Congressman HENRY WAXMAN, who worked closely with me on this resolution.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I encourage my colleagues to attend the ceremony on April 15 in the Capitol Rotunda so that we may mourn those who perished and recognize those who sacrificed so much for freedom in the world.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this very important resolution. Under Congress' direction, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum has organized and annually led the National Days of Remembrance ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda. The theme chosen by the museum this year is *Stories of Freedom: What You Do Matters*.

What we do does matter, Mr. Speaker. On occasions like this, there aren't appropriate enough words to share on behalf of the millions of victims of the Holocaust. Yet we here today and those in the Rotunda next month will once again commemorate the lives taken and the lives that suffered due to the unspeakable brutality and evil of that dark moment in history.