

firemen and the like, and always wanting to be a fireman when they grew up. But at age 16 they were able to actually put that into action and become cadets in the Westwood Fire Department.

Chris saw every opportunity to serve as a chance to shine. This is why it was no surprise when he enlisted in the U.S. Marines in 2003. And as a marine, Sergeant Hrbek served four tours of duty, which included two combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. But it was indeed on December 23, 2009, when they were under heavy enemy fire that he saved a life, and it was of his own Sergeant Major, Sergeant Major Raymond Mackey.

As it was recounted later on to his family, Chris had been out on a patrol at that time when he heard an explosion about 10 paces behind him. Chris turned to see what it was, and he saw Sergeant Major Mackey badly wounded by the explosion.

So what did he do?

Well, he immediately turned his attention to Mackey, applying seven tourniquets and saving the Sergeant Major's life, and he did this all while under attack at the time. This is truly a definition of grace under fire. And for his valiant efforts Chris earned a Bronze Star with a Combat V. However, Chris was not able to ever receive that medal in person.

For it was on January 14 that Sergeant Chris Hrbek was killed on patrol in Helmand Province in Afghanistan after he encountered an IED. Hrbek's family posthumously accepted the Bronze Star on behalf of his life at his funeral. A letter was issued to his parents from the Marine Corps, and I think it really captured the sentiment that I know all America shares. It said, "by his zealous initiative, courageous actions, and exceptional dedication to duty, Sergeant Hrbek reflected great credit upon himself and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service."

After Chris died in combat he received a hero's welcome back in his hometown in Westwood, New Jersey. It was on January 20th, this year, that his flag-draped coffin passed through the streets of Westwood, which were lined as far as you could see with flags and residents and students all coming out who stood proudly, side by side, in a mass of people, to pay tribute to this young man.

Now, joining the procession were the Marines from Camp Lejeune who served alongside him. And one of the marines was Sergeant Ryan Harsman. Sergeant Harsman noted, When Chris walked into a room everyone knew that he was there. He just had that presence. He never ran out of fuel.

Now, the New York Fire Department also honored Chris and, this month, bestowed the title of honorary firefighter, because Sergeant Hrbek had been accepted to begin training with the fire department over in New York

City, but he deferred his enrollment twice so that he could continue his service to the U.S. Marines.

Sergeant Hrbek set the highest example, someone who was willing to risk his life to save the lives of others. And so I am proud to be the sponsor of H.R. 4628 honoring the life of Sergeant Hrbek.

And I, with my colleague, join all my colleagues here to support this legislation memorializing Chris and his service to his hometown of Westwood, New Jersey, where Christopher Hrbek will forever be remembered as a hero, as a heroic marine, a loving husband, a son and a brother as well.

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, we have no further speakers on this, but I continue to reserve.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I consume to close. Let me just say that Sergeant Christopher Hrbek died preserving the lives of his fellow soldiers and the freedom of this Nation. And I urge that we support this bill to honor that spirit of sacrifice of a true hero embodied by Sergeant Hrbek.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I ask all Members on both sides of the aisle to join with Mr. GARRETT in honoring this proud young marine and in supporting H.R. 4628.

I yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4628.

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. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF NOWRUZ AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF IRANIAN-AMERICANS

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 267) recognizing the cultural and historical significance of Nowruz, expressing appreciation to Iranian-Americans for their contributions to society, and wishing Iranian-Americans and the people of Iran a prosperous new year.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 267

Whereas Nowruz marks the traditional Iranian New Year, which originated in ancient Persia, and dates back more than 3,000 years;

Whereas Nowruz, meaning a "New Day", occurs on the vernal equinox and celebrates the arrival of spring;

Whereas Nowruz symbolizes a time of renewal and community, it harkens the departure from the trials and tribulations of the previous year and brings hope for the New Year;

Whereas Nowruz is celebrated by nearly 300,000,000 Iranians and other peoples all over the world, including in the United States, Iran, and other countries in Central Asia, South Asia, Caucasus, Crimea, and Balkan Regions;

Whereas Nowruz is celebrated by more than 1,000,000 Iranian-Americans of all backgrounds, including those with Baha'i, Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Zoroastrian, and non-religious backgrounds;

Whereas the people of Iran have a long history of celebrating Nowruz and are congratulated for their bringing in of the New Year;

Whereas Nowruz embodies the tradition that each individual's thinking, speaking, and conduct should always be virtuous, and the ideal of compassion for our fellow human beings regardless of ethnicity or religion, and symbolizes a time of renewal and community;

Whereas the United States is a melting pot of ethnicities and religion and Nowruz contributes the richness of American culture and is consistent with our founding principles of peace and prosperity for all;

Whereas in 539 B.C., Cyrus the Great established one of the earliest charters on human rights, which abolished slavery and allowed for freedom of religion, and this marker in Iranian history has had significant impact on the respect for human rights that Iranian-Americans carry today;

Whereas Nowruz serves to remind the United States of the many noteworthy and lasting contributions of Iranian-Americans to the social and economic fabric of society in the United States;

Whereas Iranian-Americans continue to make contributions in all sectors of American public life, including as government, military, and law enforcement officials working to uphold the Constitution of the United States and to protect all people in the United States;

Whereas Iranian-Americans are vibrant, peaceful, and law-abiding citizens, many of whom are Baha'i, Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and Zoroastrian faiths; and

Whereas the Iranian-American community continues to enrich the tapestry of the diversity in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the cultural and historical significance of Nowruz;

(2) expresses its appreciation for the contributions of Iranian-Americans to society in the United States in observance of Nowruz; and

(3) wishes Iranian-Americans and the people of Iran and all those who observe this holiday a prosperous new year.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and add any extraneous materials.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I present House Resolution 267 for consideration. This legislation recognizes the cultural and historical significance of the traditional Iranian holiday of Nowruz, expresses our appreciation for the contributions of Iranian Americans to the United States and wishes all Iranian Americans, as well as the people of Iran, a prosperous new year.

This resolution has been offered by my friend and colleague, Representative MIKE HONDA of California.

I am going to yield to him such time as he may consume.

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I want to thank my good friend and colleague, Mr. LYNCH from Massachusetts, for yielding me time.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my resolution, H. Res. 267, of the Iranian American community. Last year I introduced this resolution, which honors the Iranian New Year or Nowruz.

This resolution recognizes the cultural and historic significance of Nowruz, expresses appreciation for the contributions of Iranian Americans to society, and wishes Iranian Americans and the people of Iran a prosperous new year.

Nowruz will occur on March 21st of this year, and translates as "A New Day" or the first day of spring. This ancient holiday is rooted back to the Zoroastrian ancestors of modern Iran, and is celebrated over the first 13 days of spring.

Iranian American constituents of mine tell me it is their favorite time of the year, when families get together, picnic at a park, and celebrate the coming of spring and the new year. Many Iranian Americans also take the time to visit friends and contribute to local charities during this holiday.

Nowruz is not just celebrated by Iranians or Iranian Americans though. It is celebrated by over 300 million people across this world, and over one million Iranian Americans in our country. That is what intrigues me about this holiday. Nowruz festivities bring people together from all walks of life, not just Iranians, to join and celebrate as a community.

This ancient holiday has survived centuries of religious differences and political rivalries, and is celebrated by a diverse group of people from different religious and ethnic backgrounds.

Iranian Americans have made noteworthy and lasting contributions in all sectors of American public life, including as government, military, law enforcement officials, and in the fields of medicine, engineering and business.

I am proud to represent the civically engaged Iranian American community in my Silicon Valley district who continue to teach all of us about their rich cultural history. I've had the oppor-

tunity to have meaningful dialogues with them over the years and witness firsthand their contributions to our society.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to stand on the House floor today to recognize and honor the exceptional ways in which the Iranian American community enriches our Nation's diversity. I wish the Iranian American community, and all those who celebrate Nowruz, a prosperous new year.

□ 1500

Mrs. BIGGERT. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 267 and join my colleague from California (Mr. HONDA) in expressing appreciation to Iranian Americans for their contributions to society and wishing the people of Iran a prosperous new year.

Nowruz, meaning "new day," is a 3,000-year-old tradition that marks the beginning of spring and is celebrated by over 300 million people worldwide. Originated in ancient Persia, Nowruz is not limited to a specific ethnicity, religion, or creed. To commemorate the ideals and principles of Nowruz, families decorate a special table called the Haft Seen or Seven S's with items that symbolize significant characteristics associated with Nowruz such as love, life, prosperity, beauty, health, happiness, honesty, and faith.

In congratulating Iranian Americans and Iranians throughout the world on this momentous holiday, I think it is important to acknowledge the many significant contributions of these fellow citizens and neighbors to the framework of our great Nation. Ustad Elahi, an Iranian philosopher, believes that it is everyone's duty to be useful in society and placed such importance on service to society that he considered it to be the true meaning of piety and altruism. Iranian Americans continue to hold true to this principle as evidenced by their many noteworthy contributions to this Nation. From science and technology to commerce and trade; academia and medicine to music and the arts, Iranian Americans continue to enrich the social and economic fabric of American society.

Madam Speaker, I hope that our colleagues will join in recognizing this holiday by strengthening the ties of mutual respect with one another while advancing a harmonious exchange of ideals with our neighbors. We should mark the coming year with a revival of our shared values, principles, and ethics in the spirit of Nowruz.

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

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I ask all Members on both sides of the aisle to join with Mr. HONDA, the principal sponsor of this resolution, and support House Resolution 267.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 267.

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. LYNCH. 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.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. DAHLKEMPER) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

House Resolution 1145, House Resolution 1170, House Resolution 1163, and House Resolution 267, in each case by the yeas and nays.

Proceedings on H.R. 4628 will resume later in the week.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

RECOGNIZING 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1145, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1145, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 392, nays 0, not voting 38, as follows: