

Linder	Nunes	Sessions	Carney	Higgins	Miller, George	Speier	Tiberi	Watson
LoBiondo	Olson	Shadegg	Carson (IN)	Hill	Minnick	Spratt	Tierney	Watt
Lucas	Paul	Shimkus	Carter	Himes	Mitchell	Stearns	Titus	Waxman
Lummis	Pence	Shuster	Cassidy	Hinojosa	Mollohan	Stupak	Tonko	Weiner
Lungren, Daniel E.	Peters	Smith (NE)	Castle	Hirono	Moore (KS)	Sullivan	Tsongas	Welch
Mack	Peterson	Smith (NJ)	Castor (FL)	Hodes	Moore (WI)	Sutton	Turner	Westmoreland
Manzullo	Pitts	Souder	Chaffetz	Honda	Moran (KS)	Tanner	Upton	Whitfield
Marchant	Platts	Stearns	Childers	Hoyer	Moran (VA)	Taylor	Van Hollen	Wilson (OH)
Markey (CO)	Poe (TX)	Stupak	Chu	Inglis	Murphy (CT)	Teague	Velazquez	Wilson (SC)
McCarthy (CA)	Posey	Sullivan	Clarke	Inslee	Murphy, Patrick	Terry	Visclosky	Wittman
McCaul	Price (GA)	Terry	Cleaver	Israel	Murphy, Tim	Thompson (CA)	Walden	Wolf
McCotter	Putnam	Thompson (CA)	Clyburn	Issa	Myrick	Thompson (MS)	Walz	Woolsey
McHenry	Radanovich	Thompson (PA)	Coble	Jackson (IL)	Neal (MA)	Thompson (PA)	Wamp	Wu
McKeon	Rehberg	Thornberry	Coffman (CO)	Jackson Lee	Neugebauer	Thornberry	Wasserman	Yarmuth
McMorris Rodgers	Reichert	Tiahrt	Cohen	(TX)	Nunes	Tiahrt	Schultz	Young (AK)
Melancon	Roe (TN)	Tiberi	Cole	Jenkins	Nye			
Mica	Rogers (AL)	Turner	Conaway	Johnson (GA)	Oberstar	Bachus	Hinchey	Roskam
Miller (FL)	Rogers (KY)	Upton	Connolly (VA)	Johnson (IL)	Obey	Blunt	Hoekstra	Ruppertsberger
Miller (MI)	Rogers (MI)	Walden	Conyers	Johnson, E. B.	Olson	Buyer	Holden	Sanchez, Loretta
Miller, Gary	Rohrabacher	Wamp	Cooper	Johnson, Sam	Olver	Clay	Holt	Sarbanes
Minnick	Rooney	Waters	Costa	Jones	Ortiz	Davis (AL)	LaTourette	Simpson
Mitchell	Ros-Lehtinen	Westmoreland	Costello	Jordan (OH)	Owens	Deal (GA)	Lofgren, Zoe	Stark
Moran (KS)	Royce	Whitfield	Courtney	Kagen	Pallone	Ellison	Meeks (NY)	Towns
Murphy (NY)	Scalise	Wittman	Crenshaw	Kanjorski	Pascarella	Fortenberry	Nadler (NY)	Waters
Murphy, Tim	Schmidt	Wolf	Crowley	Kaptur	Pastor (AZ)	Gohmert	Green, Gene	Young (FL)
Myrick	Schock	Young (AK)	Cuellar	Kennedy	Paul	Grijalva	Richardson	
Neugebauer	Sensenbrenner	Young (FL)	Culberson	Kildee	Paulsen			
			Cummings	Kilpatrick (MI)	Pence			
			Dahlkemper	Kilroy	Perlmutter			
			Davis (CA)	Kind	Perriello			
Blunt	Hare	Richardson	Davis (IL)	King (IA)	Peters			
Boccieri	Hinchey	Roskam	Davis (KY)	King (NY)	Peterson			
Cantor	Hoekstra	Sanchez, Loretta	Davis (TN)	Kingston	Petri			
Cardoza	Holden	Sarbanes	DeFazio	Kirk	Pingree (ME)			
Clay	Holt	Shuler	DeGette	Kirkpatrick (AZ)	Pitts			
Davis (AL)	LaTourette	Simpson	Delahunt	Kissell	Platts			
Deal (GA)	Lofgren, Zoe	Stark	DeLauro	Klein (FL)	Poe (TX)			
Ellison	Meeks (NY)	Towns	Dent	Kline (MN)	Polis (CO)			
Fortenberry	Nadler (NY)	Wasserman	Diaz-Balart, L.	Kosmas	Pomeroy			
Gohmert	Payne	Schultz	Diaz-Balart, M.	Kratovil	Posey			
Green, Gene	Perlmutter		Dicks	Kucinich	Price (GA)			
Grijalva	Pingree (ME)		Dingell	Lamborn	Price (NC)			

□ 1505

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

HONORING DONALD HARINGTON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1040, 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 California (Ms. SPEIER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1040.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 399, nays 0, not voting 31, as follows:

[Roll No. 154]

YEAS—399

Ackerman	Berry	Braley (IA)	Gordon (TN)	McCaull	Scott (VA)			
Aderholt	Biggert	Bright	Granger	McClintock	Sensenbrenner			
Adler (NJ)	Bilbray	Broun (GA)	Graves	McCollum	Serrano			
Akin	Bilirakis	Brown (SC)	Grayson	McCotter	Sessions			
Alexander	Bishop (GA)	Brown, Corrine	Green, Al	McDermott	Sestak			
Altmire	Bishop (NY)	Brown-Waite,	Griffith	McGovern	Shadegg			
Andrews	Bishop (UT)	Ginny	Guthrie	McHenry	Shea-Porter			
Arcuri	Blackburn	Buchanan	Gutierrez	McIntyre	Skelton			
Austria	Blumenauer	Burgess	Hall (NY)	McKeon	Slaughter			
Baca	Boccieri	Burton (IN)	Hall (TX)	McMahon	Smith (NE)			
Bachmann	Boehner	Butterfield	Halvorson	McMorris	Smith (NJ)			
Baird	Bonner	Calvert	Hare	Rodgers	Smith (TX)			
Baldwin	Bono Mack	Camp	Harman	McNerney	Smith (WA)			
Barrett (SC)	Boozman	Campbell	Harper	Meek (FL)	Snyder			
Barrow	Boren	Cantor	Hastings (FL)	Melancon	Souder			
Bartlett	Boswell	Cao	Hastings (WA)	Mica	Space			
Barton (TX)	Boucher	Capito	Heinrich	Michaud				
Bean	Boustany	Capps	Heller	Miller (FL)				
Becerra	Boyd	Capuano	Hensarling	Miller (MI)				
Berkley	Brady (PA)	Cardoza	Herger	Miller (NC)				
Berman	Brady (TX)	Carnahan	Herseth Sandlin	Miller, Gary				

NOT VOTING—31

□ 1512

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1652

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas) at 4 o'clock and 52 minutes p.m.

RECOGNIZING THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF IWO JIMA

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1099) recognizing the 65th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1099

Whereas 2010 marks the 65th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima, in which the United States Marine Corps, directly supported by the United States Navy and elements of the United States Army, captured the island of Iwo Jima during World War II;

Whereas the Battle of Iwo Jima lasted from February 19 to March 26, 1945, and was among the most bitter battles in the history of the Marine Corps;

Whereas more than 70,000 Marines participated in the Battle of Iwo Jima;

Whereas 22 Marines, 4 Navy corpsmen, and 1 Navy landing craft commander received

the Medal of Honor, the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force which can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the United States Armed Forces, for their service during the Battle of Iwo Jima;

Whereas half of the awards issued to Marines and Navy corpsmen of the 5th Amphibious Corps were posthumous awards;

Whereas awards for service during the Battle of Iwo Jima represented more than one-fourth of the 80 Medals of Honor awarded Marines during World War II;

Whereas, in recognition of the particularly treacherous conditions experienced by Marines, sailors, and soldiers during the Battle of Iwo Jima, Commander in Chief of the Pacific Fleet, Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz stated, “Among the Americans who fought on Iwo Island, uncommon valor was a common virtue”;

Whereas the raising of the American flag over Mount Suribachi on February 23, 1945, was witnessed by many Marines all over Iwo Jima and the ships at sea and, upon witnessing the sight, Navy Secretary James Vincent Forrestal said, “The raising of that flag means a Marine Corps for another five hundred years”;

Whereas Joe Rosenthal’s Pulitzer Prize-winning photograph of the 5 Marines and 1 Navy corpsman raising the American flag over Mount Suribachi during the Battle of Iwo Jima produced an iconic and lasting symbol of the courage and determination that helped achieve victory for the United States Armed Forces during World War II;

Whereas the Battle of Iwo Jima was a military victory critical to the assault on Japan, providing a base for American fighter escorts and a way station for bombers raiding Japan;

Whereas the United States success in capturing Iwo Jima was a crucial victory that led to the eventual triumph in the Pacific Theatre during World War II; and

Whereas over 17,000 Marines were wounded and almost 6,000 Marines made the ultimate sacrifice by giving their lives for their country in the Battle of Iwo Jima: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the 65th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima; and

(2) recognizes and commends all members of the United States Armed Forces who participated in the Battle of Iwo Jima for their service and sacrifice, with particular honor and gratitude given to those gallant Americans who gave their lives in defense of the United States and of freedom during the Battle of Iwo Jima.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in 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 New York?

There was no objection.

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

I rise today in support of House Resolution 1099, recognizing the 65th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima. I would like to thank my colleague from

Iowa (Mr. BRALEY) for putting this resolution together.

Madam Speaker, I don’t know if you have ever been to the Marine Corps Memorial that sits nearby off Arlington Boulevard and George Washington Parkway atop a knoll overlooking all of the memorials on The Mall, the Washington Monument, and this Capitol building. If you haven’t, I highly recommend going for a thoughtful visit. The memorial is a larger-than-life statue depicting one of the most famous images generated during World War II—Joe Rosenthal’s Pulitzer Prize-winning photograph of the five marines and one Navy corpsman raising the American flag over Mount Suribachi during the Battle of Iwo Jima. At daybreak, the sun rises over the Capitol, illuminating monuments to America’s history of perseverance for freedom. I can think of no better backdrop to this monument than that for which these brave men and women fought—the capital of the free world.

The battle of Iwo Jima lasted from February 19 to March 26, 1945, and was among the most bitter battles in the history of the Marine Corps. Over 70,000 participated, nearly a quarter of those were wounded, and almost 6,000 marines made the ultimate sacrifice by giving their last measure for America in this famous battle. And while the Marines suffered the most casualties in this confrontation, by far, this effort was directly supported by the Navy, which suffered roughly 2,800 casualties, and elements of the Army, which suffered 37 casualties.

Madam Speaker, 22 marines, 4 Navy corpsmen, and 1 Navy landing craft commander received the Medal of Honor, the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force which can be bestowed on an individual suffering in the United States Armed Forces, for their service during the Battle of Iwo Jima. It was Admiral Nimitz who stated, “Among Americans who fought on Iwo Island, uncommon valor was a common virtue.” It is hard to imagine or even truly understand what that experience must have been like.

The Battle of Iwo Jima was a military victory critical to the assault on Japan, which led to the eventual triumph in the Pacific Theatre during World War II. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to recognize and commend all members of the United States Armed Forces participating in the Battle of Iwo Jima for their service and sacrifice, with particular honor and gratitude given to those gallant Americans who gave their lives in defense of the United States and freedom, by voting in favor of House Resolution 1099.

If any of my colleagues haven’t had the opportunity yet, I recommend that they stand at dawn, or during one of the Marine Corps Tuesday Sunset Parades, and reflect upon the Battle of Iwo Jima and the sacrifices our servicemembers have made during all of America’s wars to protect the freedoms we enjoy this very moment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 1099, as amended. This resolution recognizes the 65th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima. I want to commend the sponsor of this resolution, Representative BRUCE BRALEY of Iowa, for introducing it.

The Battle of Iwo Jima in February and March of 1945 has become a symbol of the devotion to duty and valor of all the men who fought there. For marines especially, the action then of five marines and one Navy corpsman raising the U.S. flag on Mount Suribachi, as captured in the iconic photo, is now the standard by which all marines measure themselves. Every marine and many others as well, when viewing that image, are almost compelled to ask: Could I do the same thing? Would I measure up?

By any standard of measure, the Battle of Iwo Jima ranks as one of the most violent and savage in the history of the Marine Corps. The Marines, the Navy, and the Army personnel who fought the battle prevailed because, as Admiral Nimitz, Commander in Chief of the Pacific Fleet at the time, said, “uncommon valor was a common virtue.”

Today, many of those men who won that victory are now gone. Our memory of and tribute to their valor and devotion to duty, however, remain. It is for that reason that we recognize the 65th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima and commend all who served in it.

I urge all Members to support this most worthy bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OWENS. I yield such time as he may consume to my friend and colleague and the sponsor of this resolution, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. BRALEY).

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank my colleague from Colorado for his kind remarks.

Madam Speaker, the photograph to my immediate right is what most people think of when they think of the Battle of Iwo Jima. It is the most famous photograph in the world. It was taken by Joe Rosenthal. It was not a staged photograph. It was taken while the second flag was raised on Mount Suribachi. What most people don’t know is the rest of the story behind that flag raising.

This is a photograph that was taken on the summit of Mount Suribachi that’s commonly referred to as the “gung-ho” photograph. It depicts the unit, the platoon, that was the first to reach the summit of Mount Suribachi and raise the first flag.

One thing that’s important about this photograph is you can actually see the faces of the marines who made that heroic sacrifice. You cannot see the faces of anybody in the Joe Rosenthal photograph, and that was something

that bothered Joe Rosenthal when he saw his photograph weeks after he took it, because in the heat of the battle, that film was sent to be processed away from Iwo Jima and was published and released in newspapers across the United States. It instantly became the most popular symbol of the struggle in the Pacific.

Now, this photograph is especially important to me because shown right here in this photograph is a young man named Harold Keller, who was a corporal in the Marine Corps from my hometown of Brooklyn, Iowa. Harold Keller was one of those uncommon heroes that nobody knew anything about after he came home, but he was the second marine to reach the summit of Mount Suribachi. He slept that night under the flag that was erected on top. And while he and his buddy Chick Robeson slept under the flag, buzz bombs and mortars came in toward that flag, because it was the subject of great debate and competition between the Americans and the Japanese.

□ 1700

Harold Keller was remarkable for many other things that happened in this very brief period on an island that was so small, it was less than 10 square miles, and yet 30,000 Japanese soldiers and 70,000 marines and Navy corpsmen occupied that tiny island during this incredibly intense struggle. When Harold Keller first landed on the beach on D-day, February 19, 1945, the first thing he did was save his commanding officer, Lieutenant Keith Wells, who stuck his head up above the berm of that sandy beach and would have had his head blown off had it not been for Harold Keller, who pulled him down as a large piece of shrapnel soared right over where he had been.

He was also friends with Ernest "Boots" Thomas, who was the marine who carried the first flag to the summit and was called down to go on national radio and talk about the historic moment when that flag was unfurled over Mount Suribachi. When Harold Keller was walking up Mount Suribachi with his unit, he saw two stretchers being carried up to the summit, and his comment tells a lot about what they were facing. He told a friend of his, "We'll probably need a hell of a lot more than that." He saved the life of one of his colleagues, Robert Leader, who was later, after the flag was raised, wounded by mortar fire. Harold Keller came upon him, did a field dressing as he found him with his bowels laying outside his body, saved his life, and sent him home, where he became an art professor and gifted artist at the University of Notre Dame.

These are things that are stories behind the flag raising and why this is so important. Another reason this photograph is important to me is, as you look over the shoulders of these marines, you can see the beach down below, and you can see some of the landing craft. One of those landing craft was LST-808 which dropped my father off on Green Beach in Iwo Jima

the same day these flags were raised, and you can see LST-808 down below.

My father was 17 years old, Byard Braley, when he enlisted in the Marine Corps after getting his mother's permission, and he was 18 when he landed on Iwo Jima. He served in the Corps Artillery in the headquarters and service battery of the Fourth 155th Howitzer Battalion, which was commanded by Colonel John Letcher. One of the things John Letcher did was he wrote a book about his experience in the Marine Corps called "One Marine's Story," and this is how he described his first night on Iwo Jima at the Corps Artillery headquarters:

"I had been asleep for perhaps an hour when a shell burst which seemed to be right outside the tent. It was followed in rapid succession by others. The shells were bursting in the air a few feet above the ground and were spraying fragments in every direction. The command post area seemed to be their target, and they were making a hit with every shell. Most of our personnel must have been poorly dug in, just as I was, because mingled with the noise of the shell bursts, I heard screams and cries of wounded men. I was trembling uncontrollably and found myself reciting the Apostles' Creed."

Thirty-five men in my father's unit were killed and wounded during that barrage, and it was something that he carried with him every day of his life until he died 29 years ago. One of the things that we know about the people who served on Iwo Jima is that the ones who were fortunate enough to come home, like my father and Harold Keller, never considered themselves heroes. They considered the heroes their fallen comrades who were buried on that island in the Third, Fourth and Fifth Marine Division cemeteries. And this photo, Madam Speaker, shows the lines of crosses and Stars of David in the Fifth Marine Division Cemetery, with Mount Suribachi in the background.

Probably one of the most compelling cemetery dedications given since the Gettysburg Address was delivered by Rabbi Roland Gittelsohn at the dedication of the Fifth Marine Division Cemetery, and I want you to listen to his powerful words, which we should hear today just as powerfully as when he delivered them. Here is what he said about these fallen comrades:

"Our poor power of speech can add nothing to what these men have already done. All that we even hope to do is follow their example. To show the same selfless courage in peace that they did in war . . . These men have done their jobs well. They have paid the ghastly price of freedom . . . We dedicate ourselves, first, to live together in peace the way they fought and are buried in this war . . . Here lie officers and men, Negroes and Whites, rich men and poor—together. Here no man prefers another because of his faith or despises him because of his color. Here there are no quotas of how many from each group are admitted or

allowed. Among these men there is no discrimination, no prejudices, no hatred. Theirs is the highest and purest democracy."

Madam Speaker, these are the reasons why we gather here today to honor this historic battle, to remember the sacrifice of the most severe battle in Marine Corps history, where one-quarter of the Medals of Honor were awarded in World War II during this one battle. That's why I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and remember, we must never forget.

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I just want to thank my colleague and friend from Iowa again for bringing this resolution. I had the great privilege of standing on Iwo Jima a year ago when some of us on the Armed Services Committee were going to Okinawa to review the Marine transfer that may take place to Guam. The whole island is sacred territory. We were able to bring back samples of the black volcanic sand from the beach right below Mount Suribachi. I have that in my office. We stood on the top of Mount Suribachi. There is a wonderful memorial there right now. It's very touching and very moving for all the reasons that Representative BRALEY has highlighted. Thank you again for bringing this resolution, and I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

Madam Speaker, at this point I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California, Representative HERGER.

Mr. HERGER. Madam Speaker, the American people could not be more clear. They want to fix the problems with our health care system, but they do not want the Democrats' government takeover of health care. It's time to stop the backroom deals and bring transparency to this debate. On a bill that rewrites one-sixth of our economy, adds \$1 trillion to the Federal budget, and affects every American's health care, Members of Congress should stand up and be counted. I call on Speaker PELOSI to grant Republicans' requests for a call of the House so Americans can watch at home and can see and hear how their Representative is voting.

Mr. OWENS. I will continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, at this point I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER).

Mr. BUYER. I would like to thank both parties for recognizing the uncommon virtue and valor. It didn't occur just at Iwo Jima. It occurred in many battlefields and lonely places all over the world. These are military values and virtues which are passed from one generation to the next. They are memorialized, and we've done that here in the Nation's Capital in Arlington by that extraordinary photo that was then transformed into that statue.

The art of man is able to construct monuments and awards that are far

more significant than the narrow span of our own existence. It's the silent lapse of time that displays how frail and how fallible we are as a people. So it truly is what we do with the time that we have that matters most. So those of us with whom we've had the privilege to wear the uniform and fight our Nation's wars and to serve on foreign soil, I can tell you having done that, that it is an extraordinary feeling.

Now for the men and women, the nurses and the men who were in the dark sands of Iwo Jima, what an extraordinary campaign, and we have done everything we can to fulfill their ideal. At times, we fall short. We fall short as a people when we don't fulfill the ideal of their sacrifice; that is, the preservation of freedom and the preservation of individual liberty. And we have to be careful here in the institution of Congress if we don't respect each other with regard to our opinions, with regard to the process, because liberty also in the democratic process is pretty important.

So we have this debate on the health bill. We shouldn't try to scheme. We should be open. This should be the most open and deliberative body in the world so that Lady Liberty that sits on top of the dome can truly shine as that beacon of liberty so that the sacrifices of those marines and the sailors and others at Iwo Jima can live forever. The men and women who wear the uniform, they fight for no bounty of their own, and they leave freedom in their footsteps. They are truly extraordinary people. They also go to a land where they've never been, and they fight for a people that they've never met because they fight for extraordinary ideals. So those sacrifices that occurred on Iwo Jima have been passed on to other generations, those of whom fought in Korea or in Vietnam, in the sands of the first gulf war or even the second gulf war and Afghanistan.

So those of us who inherit the freedoms and those ideals, we are merely trustees for life, and our duty is to concentrate our lives to the greater good, beset by recurrent hopes for a more peaceful and prosperous Union. To do otherwise would be selfish as a people, and it would be wrong to turn to the next generation and say that we did not improve upon it, and we would then not be able to uphold the men, like at Iwo Jima, who did so much for so many.

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

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

Once again, I commend our fighting forces for their service to this country and to the cause of freedom. The freedom they worked and fought for is embodied in the constitutional system we enjoy in this country. Few votes that we have taken in this body will affect our constitutional system of freedom

more than the vote that we take tomorrow on health care. And I would like to show, Madam Speaker, the bills that we have in front of us and the—I think—short time that we've unfortunately had to review them.

Sitting here are the various bills from the House and Senate, the reconciled version, and the committee reports. These total more than 6,200 pages. We've had a brief 72 hours to review these materials by the time our vote rolls around, projected for tomorrow afternoon. That is simply not the way we should do business in the people's House.

If we take 72 hours and subtract 8 hours a day for sleeping so you don't get burnt out completely, in that remaining 48 hours, you could read about two pages a minute if you read from morning until night, and then you would get through these 6,000 pages. You probably couldn't look up very many of the citations, though. That slows you down a bit further. But this is what we are faced with when we have our vote tomorrow.

□ 1715

I think we really should have a different and better process, and the American people deserve better.

Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND).

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I want to thank my friend for the time, and I want to also thank Mr. BRALEY for bringing this resolution and what it means to the men and women who served in our military and especially those who fought so bravely at Iwo Jima.

As I was walking across today to the Longworth Office Building, Madam Speaker, I ran into several veterans out in the crowd. They were asking me about the health care vote that we are going to have tomorrow and about other situations that are going on in our government, and a lot of them asked me, said, You know, I served my country and I didn't expect to have this type of treatment or to have this forced on me or my children or my grandchildren.

One of the interesting facts is that the Senate bill, the Senate bill that is going to be passed in this House tomorrow, that passed in the Senate, evidently had some things in it that maybe people didn't understand.

Chairman SKELTON brought a bill to the floor today to make sure that TRICARE is looked at as an acceptable insurance program. TRICARE, the thing that we give our veterans that serve so faithfully in our military, TRICARE was not even going to be looked at as one of the acceptable insurance programs. We were fixing to strip them of that. And those veterans on the street just could not understand that concept, how that could have gotten by 60 people in the Senate, that evidently didn't know it was in there or didn't care about those veterans that had served our country so bravely.

And, you know, earlier today we had a bill on the floor, a motion to recommit that bill, and I believe there were 178 people that voted "no" originally, and then the votes started changing. And I think it ended up with 39 "no" votes, Madam Speaker, after all of the changes from 170-something down to 39, and it was only a 3-page bill. Now our side certainly—and I am sure the gentlewoman from Wyoming wasn't trying to trick anybody—it was a 3-page bill, very plainly written; but, evidently, nobody had read it and so everybody voted against it. And all of a sudden it started getting around what was in it, about sexual predators being allowed to be in this volunteer group to look after our forest land. So the next thing you know, 140 people are down here changing their vote on a 3-page bill.

Can you imagine what is in a 2,700-page bill that Members of this House have not read? We are going to suffer some unintended consequences. And probably those that are going to feel the greatest loss of those unintended consequences are the brave men and women who have served so faithfully and defended this country and fought for our rights and for our freedoms. And we are fixing to pass legislation that I would venture to say that nobody in this House has read and completely understands.

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, I would like to respond to the comments about the bill and the inability to comprehend it in a short period of time.

I am relatively new to Congress. The Senate bill has been available, I think, for better than 80 days. This sounds more like a college or high school student saying I had to stay up all night and cram because I didn't study during the semester.

There was adequate time for everyone in the House to read the Senate bill. I certainly did. I read the reconciliation bill in one night. So the claim this is being foisted upon us in a manner which does not allow for its comprehension is simply incomprehensible.

I yield 2 minutes to my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, let's return to the subject at hand for a minute. The Republicans are attempting to pretzel into a debate honoring the heroes of World War II, the Greatest Generation, those who liberated the Pacific Rim, those who gave their lives, those who climbed Mount Suribachi against all odds and raised the American flag so bravely, and they are trying to pretzel into the debate some pretty strange things. Let me address a couple.

First, we had the gentleman talking about threats to veterans' health care. There will be nothing in the legislation, the health care legislation, that in any way impinges upon the health

care that our veterans have earned. The gentleman is fully aware that in the House bill, which was thoughtfully written, that that was mentioned and fully protected.

I am not going to apologize for the bipartisan, and it is bipartisan, total incompetence of the United States Senate. I am not going to apologize for that. But we passed a resolution here today to make clear what our intent was, and what will be in the law: veterans' health care benefits fully protected.

While I am on the subject of veterans' health care benefits, I saw the former Chair of the Veterans' Committee here on the floor, and I would remind people, we need a sense of history. There was a year in the Bush administration, after repeated cuts to the veterans' budget, when they were running out of money in June when the Republicans controlled the House, the Senate, and the White House. And it was the Democrats who came to the floor and said we need \$2 billion more immediately to deliver on our obligations to our veterans. And there was a brave guy, he is a Republican, CHRIS SMITH from New Jersey, he was the chairman of the Veterans' Committee, and he voted with the Democrats. And you know what the Republican leadership did? They stripped him of his chairmanship for his advocacy for veterans, and they put that other gentleman who just spoke previously in the chair in his stead.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. OWENS. I yield the gentleman 1 additional minute.

Mr. DEFAZIO. We are still repairing the damage the Bush administration did to the Veterans Health Administration. They need better funding. We are on a path now to give them 2 years of certainty whereas before they were hanging on the cliff, and 1 year in the Bush Republican era they ran out of money in June when the fiscal year ends in October, and they were going to close their hospitals. So don't tell me that you guys here are the great defenders of our veterans.

And then this other gentleman raises this thing about this 3-page Republican motion to recommit where people changed their vote. I didn't have to change my vote; I read it. But he might also reveal that that 3-page amendment was only available 1 minute before it was discussed for 10 minutes on the floor. It was not published online. It was not made available to Members, and Members did not know the content of that.

This health care legislation that will be voted on has been online for 72 hours. The manager's amendment is now up online. That Republican amendment was available for a grand total of about 11 minutes before the vote began.

So let's be honest and consistent around here in our arguments, and let's spend a little more time honoring the Greatest Generation.

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

Madam Speaker, I would like to point out that this pile of paper here representing 2,310 pages was released to the body 3 days ago, March 17. This is the text of H.R. 4872 reported from the House Budget Committee. I would be curious if my colleague from New York has read this 2,300-page document, as well as the several hundred pages of additional committee reports since that time, and possibly we will have a manager's amendment tomorrow. We will find out about that.

But even more substantively, Madam Speaker, is that we are talking tomorrow about a health care plan that the American people do not want. We should not be doing this bill tomorrow or at any time. We should start over with incremental, bipartisan reform that everyone here, or most of us anyway, could agree with, not a partisan bill that only one party will be voting for. The bipartisanship here in the House tomorrow, I suspect, will be the opposition to the bill. There are mandates in the President's proposed plan for health care as the House and Senate are taking it up. There are new taxes. There are cuts in Medicare. There is failure to have tort reform. There is increased government intervention.

Let me mention the increased government intervention. There will be new bureaucratic boards that will come up with a definition of quality and will give more power to the Federal Government through bureaucracy. Provisions such as the Comparative Effectiveness Research Board, the Independent Medicare Advisory Board and others will be set up through this plan. A form of government-run plan will maintain the OPM, overseeing multistate plans and co-ops. There are still, unfortunately, sweetheart deals in this plan. The Cornhusker kickback has some provisions still existing in the current version. The Louisiana purchase is still there. There are carveouts for unions and other sweetheart deals.

And, sadly to say, there are broken promises. The President set several parameters, including that the bill will cost under \$900 billion; that has been broken. That there will be no taxes on those making under 250,000; that promise has been broken. That family's health insurance premiums would go down by \$2,500 a year, and that promise has been broken. And if individuals liked what they had, they could keep it, and that will not be kept either.

The bottom line is that some might compare the last-minute inclusion of a few bread crumbs from the Republican side without true Republican input or knowledge on fraud, waste and abuse, and subsequent comments that we are somehow being partisan for standing up for our constituents and not supporting something that we in principle do not agree with is just plain wrong.

Now let me say this about reconciliation. House Democratic leaders have

been searching for a way to ensure that any move that they make to approve the Senate-passed \$871 billion health care reform bill as it came over from the Senate is followed by Senate action on a reconciliation package of adjustments to the original bill. However, this is a nonstarter. The Senate Parliamentarian has ruled that President Barack Obama must sign Congress's original health care reform bill.

Mr. ISRAEL. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LAMBORN. I yield briefly to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. ISRAEL. I thank the gentleman. Would the gentleman explain to me what reconciliation has to do with honoring veterans at Iwo Jima?

Mr. LAMBORN. Reclaiming my time, let me also conclude by saying that there is another problem with the health care bill that we will be looking at in a few hours tomorrow afternoon on abortion. Abortion funding will be required of the taxpayers in our country.

□ 1730

Current legislation would permit Federal funds to subsidize plans covering abortion, would permit a multi-State health plan to offer abortion coverage, and would require citizens in States that have opted out of elective abortion coverage in their own exchange to still fund Federal subsidies for plans that cover elective abortion in other States.

In addition, the bill includes \$7 billion in new mandatory spending on community health centers, funding that is not subject to any restrictions prohibiting Federal dollars from funding elective abortions. If the current legislation passes the House without abortion funding restrictions, such as was I believe properly introduced in the Representative BART STUPAK amendment, it will be virtually impossible to alter the language through reconciliation as the two versions are reconciled over in the Senate since Senate Republicans have said they will block amendments which require 60 votes to overcome a point of order under reconciliation.

So for those reasons, I would say that we should not be passing the bill tomorrow. It will severely degrade the freedom in our country for those who want to live their lives and not be subject to government control and intervention in all the intimate decisions that they make with their doctors for their own health care.

I would yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OWENS. I yield 1 minute to my friend and colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL).

Mr. ISRAEL. I thank the gentleman.

Madam Speaker, I must say that with all due respect I am profoundly disappointed. I always thought that the one thing that we could all agree on in this body without delay, without distraction, without partisanship and

without politics, is honoring our veterans. We are discussing a resolution honoring the veterans of Iwo Jima, and even that has been politicized, even that has been delayed, even that has been distracted.

Is there anything that you can agree to do with us? Can they not even agree, Madam Speaker, to pass without delay a resolution honoring our veterans without politicizing it and injecting partisanship into it and delay? We are here to honor our veterans. We are here to honor the memory of people who were at Iwo Jima. And instead we turn it into a political debate on an unrelated issue. And for that I am profoundly disappointed.

Mr. OWENS. I yield 2 minutes to my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER).

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I have had a chance to listen to my colleague from Colorado take what should be really a glorious opportunity to honor our vets, to honor vets who served in one of the bloodiest battles World War II or this world has ever seen generally, and to start talking about abortion and about the health care bill. I can't believe that they are taking this approach, Madam Speaker.

I had the opportunity just within the last 2 weeks to work with 11 veterans who served in Iwo Jima who were flying there for the 65th anniversary, which we are honoring today. And to stand with those men, who they and so many others just gave everything they had to protect this Nation, was such a privilege, such an honor. The fact that I and our office could play any role in helping them get back there for the ceremony in which the flag was raised was a tremendous privilege for all of us.

To take the time to veer off into health care when we should be honoring these gentlemen for their service I think is a travesty, and I would say that to my friend from Colorado. This is something that is important. These people served us valiantly. Their service is just honored and is so celebrated in Colorado that I just wanted to get up here today, while I am in the midst of the health care debate, to honor them and to thank them for their service.

Mr. LAMBORN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. PERLMUTTER. I yield to my colleague from Colorado.

Mr. LAMBORN. My good friend has raised a point. I don't know if he was able to be here at the beginning of this resolution, but we had a wonderful discussion about the tremendous valor shown in Iwo Jima. But this is a discussion also—

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Reclaiming my time from my friend, this hour should be dedicated to the veterans. That is what I say.

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and 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. OWENS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1099, as amended.

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. OWENS. 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 MILITARY AVIATORS WHO ESCAPED CAPTURE

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 925) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the meritorious service performed by aviators in the United States Armed Forces who were shot down over, or otherwise forced to land in, hostile territory yet evaded enemy capture or were captured but subsequently escaped, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 925

Whereas aviators in the Armed Forces, including pilots, navigators, bombardiers, weapons control officers, and other aircraft crew members, have served the United States with great courage and distinction in every major conflict during the 20th and 21st centuries;

Whereas thousands of aviators in the Armed Forces have been forced down while performing their missions, as a result of hostile action, mechanical failures, or other problems;

Whereas many of these aviators overcame long odds and great hardships to return to their units and resume their service to the United States;

Whereas some of these aviators tried to evade enemy forces, but were captured, and some of these aviators were compelled to endure arduous confinement, retaliation, and even death as a result of their efforts to evade capture or escape;

Whereas these aviators faced the added responsibility of maintaining the secrecy of their escape and evasion methods in order to protect the lives of people who assisted them and other aviators; and

Whereas the need to maintain secrecy initially may have prevented these aviators from being publicly recognized for their meritorious service in avoiding capture, in escaping from captivity, or for their efforts to escape: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) aviators in the United States Armed Forces who, as a result of hostile action, mechanical failures, or other problems, were forced to evade or escape enemy capture, were captured but subsequently escaped to return to their units and resume their service to the United States, or were compelled to endure arduous confinement, retaliation, and even death as a result of their efforts to evade capture or escape should be publicly recognized for their extraordinary service; and

(2) the Secretaries of the military departments should consider these aviators for appropriate recognition within their branch of the Armed Forces.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent 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 gentlewoman from Guam?

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of House Resolution 925, which recognizes aviators in the United States Armed Forces who were forced to evade or escape enemy capture, were captured but subsequently escaped, or were compelled to endure arduous confinement, retaliation, and even death as a result of their efforts to evade capture or escape. I want to thank my colleague from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) for introducing this measure.

As a member of the House Committee on Armed Services, I am honored to recognize the aviators of the Armed Forces who have valiantly served the United States in every major conflict during the 20th and 21st century. Aviators, including pilots, navigators, bombardiers, weapons control officers, and other aircraft crew members, with fierce courage and distinction face the threat of being forced down each time they take to the skies.

Madam Speaker, House Resolution 925 recognizes those downed aviators that have not only miraculously survived unexpected flight termination, but also have confronted additional dangers escaping or attempting to escape enemy capture on the ground. It also expresses the sense of the House that those downed aviators that were tortured or killed as a result of their efforts to evade capture or escape should be publicly recognized for their extraordinary service. So in honor of these men and women who have selflessly served our Nation, many without the encouragement of public recognition, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" to this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I too rise in support of House Resolution 925, which seeks recognition for aviators who, as a result of hostile action or other causes, were forced to escape and evade their potential captors. Every military aviator who begins a combat mission recognizes and prepares for the possibility that hostile actions or other events will compel the aviator to escape and evade capture.