

Madam Speaker, let me associate myself with the words of both of my colleagues. Again, I want to thank Mr. WU for sponsoring the resolution. I also want to thank Mr. COBLE for his service, not only to the United States Coast Guard, but to our subcommittee. He is one of our strongest members and has tremendous passion about the Coast Guard.

As I was listening to both of them, I could not help but think about the fact that the Coast Guard does not always get the recognition that it deserves. It has a little bit over 41,000 members. It is a small agency, a small organization; but I call them our thin blue line at sea. Certainly, Coast Guard Group Astoria is typical of the men and women whom I see all over our country as I travel, and I commend them on so many things that they have done so well.

On that note, when we look back at Katrina and at all of the agencies which operated during Katrina, there is absolutely no question that the United States Coast Guard was the agency that went far beyond the call of duty, rescuing some 35,000-plus lives. Many of these people would have perished if it were not for the bravery and the courage of the United States Coast Guard.

In this resolution, while we are addressing Coast Guard Group Astoria, I think it also says to the other members of the Coast Guard that we are a grateful Congress and that we appreciate everything that they do every day in putting their lives on the line so that they can continue to be our thin blue line at sea.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1062, as amended, introduced by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WU), recognizing the Coast Guard Group Astoria's more than 60 years of service to the Pacific Northwest.

With 325 Coast Guard personnel and six units, Group Astoria's area of responsibility encompasses over 140 miles of coastline between Queets, Washington, and Pacific City, Oregon. Group Astoria conducts numerous missions, such as search and rescue, aids-to-navigation, homeland security, and enforcement of laws and treaties.

Each year, Coast Guard Group Astoria receives more than 800 distress calls, assists over 1,700 mariners and save approximately 100 people from perishing at sea. Since 2003, Group Astoria has saved over 500 lives and assisted more than 10,000 recreational boaters and commercial mariners in distress.

Since 2003, Group Astoria had conducted over 1,200 Living Marine Resource missions to ensure commercial fishing vessels are not over-fishing in certain areas, conserving marine resources for future generations.

Air Station Astoria assets provide coverage and respond to offshore distress calls up to the Canadian border and down to northern California. In December 2007, crews from Air Station Astoria flew 28 sorties in 130 knot winds during the Pacific Northwest winter storm saving 136 people. Air Station Astoria also provides assistance to the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and other local responders with inland search and rescue.

This August, Group Astoria will gain additional responsibilities and will be redesignated as Sector Columbia River, making the title "Group Astoria" a historical name. In light of these planned transitions, H. Res. 1062 recognizes Coast Guard Group Astoria for 60 years of noble service and honors the brave Coast Guard men and women who put their lives at risk every day for the safety and security of the people in the Pacific Northwest.

I thank the gentleman from Oregon for bringing forth this resolution to recognizing the Coast Guard Group Astoria's more than 60 years of service to the Pacific Northwest.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 1062.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1062 that recognizes the Coast Guard Group Astoria's more than 60 years of service to the Pacific Northwest.

Let me take a moment to commend Congressman DAVID WU for bringing this resolution to the floor and giving us the opportunity to commend the Coast Guard for its continued service.

The Coast Guard Group Astoria, based out of Warrenton, Oregon, operates three Sikorsky HH-60 Jayhawk helicopters as it patrols and responds to emergencies throughout the Pacific Northwest. I know how important the Coast Guard is because of its presence in the Port of Long Beach in the 37th District of California, which I represent. I see on a regular basis just how hard those men and women work to protect our coastal areas and waterways. Their presence in my district, as well as my position on the Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, make me acutely aware of how important the Coast Guard is to our national security and safety.

We are indebted to the men and women who dedicate their lives to the Coast Guard. These brave men and women, such as those who have spent the last 60 years working for Coast Guard Astoria, are ready and willing to serve their country in whatever way necessary. I support this resolution and urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1062, 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. CUMMINGS. 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 DR. HECTOR GARCIA

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 222) recognizing the leadership and historical contributions of Dr. Hector

Garcia to the Hispanic community and his remarkable efforts to combat racial and ethnic discrimination in the United States of America.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 222

Whereas Dr. Hector Garcia changed the lives of Americans from all walks of life;

Whereas Dr. Hector Garcia was born in Mexico on January 17, 1914, and immigrated to Mercedes, Texas, in 1918;

Whereas Dr. Hector Garcia is an honored alumnus of the School of Medicine at the University of Texas Medical Branch, Class of 1940;

Whereas Dr. Hector Garcia fought in World War II, specifically in North Africa and Italy, attained the rank of Major, and was awarded the Bronze Star with six battle stars;

Whereas once the Army discovered he was a physician, Dr. Hector Garcia was asked to practice his profession by treating his fellow soldiers;

Whereas Dr. Hector Garcia moved to Corpus Christi, Texas, after the war, and opened a medical practice; rarely charged his indigent patients, and was recognized as a passionate and dedicated physician;

Whereas he first became known in south Texas for his public health messages on the radio with topics ranging from infant diarrhea to tuberculosis;

Whereas Dr. Hector Garcia continued his public service and advocacy and became founder of the American G.I. Forum, a Mexican-American veterans association, which initiated countless efforts on behalf of Americans to advance opportunities in health care, veterans benefits, and civil rights equality;

Whereas his civil rights movement would then grow to also combat discrimination in housing, jobs, education, and voting rights;

Whereas President Kennedy appointed Dr. Hector Garcia a member of the American Treaty Delegation for the Mutual Defense Agreement between the United States and the Federation of the West Indies;

Whereas in 1967, President Lyndon Johnson appointed Dr. Hector Garcia as alternate ambassador to the United Nations where he gave the first speech by an American before the United Nations in a language other than English;

Whereas Dr. Hector Garcia was named member of the Texas Advisory Committee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights;

Whereas President Reagan presented Dr. Hector Garcia the Nation's highest civilian award, the Medal of Freedom, in 1984 for meritorious service to his country, the first Mexican-American to receive this recognition; and

Whereas Pope John Paul II recognized him with the Pontifical Equestrian Order of Pope Gregory the Great: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) encourages—

(A) teachers of primary schools and secondary schools to launch educational campaigns to inform students about the lifetime of accomplishments by Dr. Hector Garcia; and

(B) all people of the United States to educate themselves about the legacy of Dr. Hector Garcia; and

(2) recognizes the leadership and historical contributions of Dr. Hector Garcia to the Hispanic community and his remarkable efforts to combat racial and ethnic discrimination in the United States of America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CONYERS. I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CONYERS. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, this resolution was brought to the Judiciary Committee's attention by our friend SOLOMON ORTIZ of Texas, which recognizes the leadership and historical contributions of Dr. Hector Garcia to the Hispanic community and to the Nation in his remarkable efforts to combat racial and ethnic discrimination. Dr. Garcia was born in Mexico, and his family settled in Mercedes, Texas. So this concurrent resolution recognizes the leadership and historical contributions of this great American.

It is singularly important to me that he graduated from a segregated high school in Texas. Segregated how? Well, it was segregated because Hispanics could not go to the schools that everybody else went to. Of course, African Americans couldn't either, so I guess they had two levels of segregation. Eventually, he got through the University of Texas, and then became a doctor. During World War II, he was a combat engineer, which is a field of the military that I, too, served in. The rest, as they say, is history.

It is my intention to yield to our colleague Mr. ORTIZ, who has more detail that we can add to this, though, Madam Speaker, at this moment, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, first of all, I want to thank my Texas colleague Mr. ORTIZ for introducing this resolution. It reflects well on him and on a wonderful individual who has contributed so much.

I support House Concurrent Resolution 222, which recognizes the leadership and the historical contributions of Dr. Hector Garcia. My colleague in the other body, Senator CORNYN of Texas, sponsored a similar resolution during the last Congress, and I am glad to see that it is being considered in the House this year.

In 1914, Hector Garcia was born in Llera, which is a small town in Mexico. As a child, he was brought to Mercedes, Texas, after his parents fled the Mexican Revolution in 1917. He graduated from the University of Texas Medical School in 1940 and used that education to serve his country in the United States Army.

In the Army, Dr. Garcia served during World War II as an infantryman, as a combat engineer, and as a medical doctor. He earned the Bronze Star medal with six battle stars for his distinguished service; but his public service did not end there. Dr. Garcia founded the American GI Forum in 1948, which fights for equal treatment of Mexican American veterans in medical care and educational benefits.

President Lyndon Johnson made Dr. Garcia the first Mexican American to serve as an ambassador to the United Nations. He also became the first Hispanic to serve on the United States Commission on Civil Rights; and in 1984, President Ronald Reagan bestowed upon Dr. Garcia the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

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

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas, SOLOMON ORTIZ, whom we recognize as the dean of the Hispanic Caucus and whom I thank for bringing to our attention this great Texan and American.

Mr. ORTIZ. Thank you, Chairman CONYERS, for giving a beautiful description of my good friend Dr. Garcia, and thank you for bringing this to the floor.

I also want to thank my good friend from Texas (Mr. SMITH) for bringing this resolution to the floor.

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor an American hero who is very well respected in the community. Today, we honor the life and work of Dr. Hector P. Garcia, who is a recognized leader of better health care for all Texans and who is a legendary civil rights advocate and promoter of education for Hispanics.

My resolution, H. Con. Res. 222, honors a lifetime of the extraordinary achievements of Dr. Hector P. Garcia, who lived and worked in my congressional district in Corpus Christi, Texas, for many years.

Dr. Garcia's family emigrated from Mexico in 1914 and settled in Mercedes, Texas. After graduating from medical school, he served with great distinction in World War II. He attained the rank of major and earned the Bronze Star with six battle stars. When the Army learned that Dr. Garcia was a physician, he was asked to practice his profession by treating his fellow soldiers.

When he moved to Corpus Christi, he opened a private practice where he treated all patients regardless of their ability to pay. I was there many times when people just didn't have any money. He was able to give them what they needed free of charge. He was a very honorable man, and he turned down profit to make a better life for all of us, not only in south Texas but throughout the United States.

Dr. Garcia first became known in south Texas for his public health messages on the radio. He was on the air

three times a week with a Spanish program, "Your Health and Welfare." During this time, he struggled to bring attention to severe illnesses such as tuberculosis, which enabled the public to become better educated about its health needs. His messages brought to light the many health issues of the region and the glaring poverty in south Texas.

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A man of tremendous talents, Dr. Garcia prized education and fought for other Americans to also value education. In the 1940s, he struggled to abolish the one-room segregated "Mexican schools" that one would find across the Texas landscape. As a result of this example of leadership, Texas schools in Corpus Christi were eventually desegregated, substandard schools for children of Mexican and Latino descent were closed, and students who previously did not have access to adequate education were given the same opportunities available to others. Because of these efforts, four schools are named after him in Texas and one in Chicago, Illinois.

Perhaps most significantly, he emerged as founder of the GI Forum, a Mexican American veterans association to redress the injustices experienced by returning World War II veterans. The GI Forum initiated countless efforts on behalf of Americans in the areas of health care and veterans benefits, and now have more than 160,000 members in 500 chapters in 24 States and Puerto Rico. His civil rights movements would then grow to combat discrimination in housing, in education, and in voting rights.

In recognition of these achievements, President John F. Kennedy appointed Dr. Garcia a member of the American Treaty Delegation for the Mutual Defense Agreement between the United States and the Federation of the West Indies. As President Kennedy once said in another context, "In each of us, there is a private hope and dream which, when fulfilled, can be translated into benefits for everyone." Dr. Garcia understood this uplifting concept as he fought discrimination against the voiceless, for which we should all be proud of.

In 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed Dr. Garcia as alternate ambassador to the United Nations, where he gave the first speech by an American before the United Nations in a language other than English. Dr. Garcia spoke Spanish to a captivated audience.

President Reagan presented Dr. Garcia the Nation's highest civilian award, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, in 1994 for his tremendous service to this country, the first Mexican American to receive that distinction.

Americans should do all they can to learn about Dr. Garcia. He dedicated his life to the less fortunate, and will always be remembered for giving so much of himself for this country and for all of us.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to Mr. CHET EDWARDS of Texas, a real leader on improving relations not just in Texas but across the country.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Speaker, let me begin by thanking the chairman for his kind comments and for his leadership for our country.

Madam Speaker, America is a better country today because of the life and service of Dr. Hector P. Garcia. And we will be a better country tomorrow if every school child hears his story. It is the story of an immigrant child who worked hard, became a physician, and dedicated his entire life to his family and service to country. It is a story that one person can make a difference. It is a story of the timeless values of hard work and service to others. It is the quintessential American story of love of country, expressed through a lifetime of service to others.

One of the greatest privileges of my lifetime was to know Dr. Hector Garcia. He left the world a better place, and his life story continues to inspire everyone who hears it. And it is my hope that every school child in America will hear his story, a true champion of our Nation's never-ending quest for equal opportunity for all.

As a child growing up in Corpus Christi, Texas, Dr. Garcia's hometown, I lived on the same block. At the time, I did not know he was a World War II hero who earned a Bronze Star and the rank of major. I did not know this champion in the cause of American's Hispanic veterans. Yet as I grew older and learned of Dr. Garcia's heroic lifetime of service on the battlefields of war, in the halls of Congress, and in the offices of his medical practice, his life's story became an inspiration that led me to public service.

Had it not been for Dr. Hector, as we called him, I probably would not be in Congress today. For that I am personally grateful. But I am even more grateful for how he made a difference in our Nation's history. May God bless and forever keep in his loving arms Dr. Hector P. Garcia.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 222, a resolution that recognizes the life and contributions of Dr. Hector P. Garcia.

In 1917, at the age of 3, Dr. Garcia immigrated to my hometown of Mercedes, Texas, with his family, where he graduated from my alma mater, Mercedes High School.

Despite the social injustices that pervaded the United States, like those that forced him to attend segregated schools, he earned his medical degree from the University of Texas Medical School.

He served the nation as a commissioned officer in World War II. After the war, he returned to Texas and continued his medical practice. His decision to fight for civil rights was spurred by the gross injustice and inequality he witnessed in the United States. Particularly in the treatment of Hispanic veterans returning from the war. He founded the American GI Forum to help give these Hispanic veterans a voice.

Dr. Garcia also believed that every child should have equal access to education and that everyone deserved health care. He personally treated hundreds of indigent patients regardless of their ability to pay.

Dr. Garcia's life and work continue to be an inspirational force for many, especially in deep South Texas.

His tireless advocacy for civil rights has benefitted all in the United States who view equality as a fundamental component of our Great Nation.

I am honored that I can stand here today and urge my colleagues to pass this resolution recognizing the remarkable achievements of this great American.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 222—Recognizing the leadership and historical contributions of Dr. Hector P. Garcia to the Hispanic community and his remarkable efforts to combat racial and ethnic discrimination in the United States. Dr. Garcia was born in Mexico, in 1914, but his family fled the Mexican Revolution and immigrated to Mercedes, Texas. His is an inspirational story of the possibilities the American Dream holds for immigrants. Through hard work and perseverance, he became a surgeon and served his country in World War II. Dr. Garcia's experiences after his return from the war led him to found the American GI Forum in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Dr. Garcia began helping Mexican-American veterans file claims with the Veterans' Administration, in response to the unacceptably slow treatment they were receiving. On March 26, 1948, he called a meeting to address the concerns of these veterans. This developed into the American GI Forum, which soon had chapters in 40 Texas cities and became the way by which Mexican-American veterans could express their frustration with the discrimination against them.

And so it is with great pleasure that I recognize Dr. Hector P. Garcia, for his service to our country and to the Mexican-American community, and I support this resolution.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to proudly support H. Con. Res. 222 introduced in the House of Representatives by Mr. ORTIZ. H. Con. Res. 222 recognizes the leadership and lifelong contributions of Dr. Hector Garcia to the Hispanic community and his remarkable work on important issues such as civil rights, health care, veteran benefits, the struggle for racial equality, and ethnic discrimination in the United States of America.

Dr. Hector Garcia was born in the city of Llera in Tamaulipas, Mexico, on January 17, 1914. He is the son of two schoolteachers who legally immigrated to Mercedes, Texas, to escape from the violence of the Mexican Revolution in the early 1900s. He graduated in 1940 from the School of Medicine at the University of Texas Medical Branch, and in 1942 volunteered for combat in the Army during World War II. In 1946, after the war, he and his family returned to Texas and settled in Corpus Christi, where he became the president of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC). While in Corpus Christi, Dr. Garcia opened a private practice to treat ill people regardless of their ability to afford health care and he founded the American GI Forum to address VA's discrimination and the right to equality of Hispanic American vet-

erans. Dr. Garcia's strong advocacy and extraordinary work made him the recipient of national and international recognition, including the Nation's highest civilian award in 1984, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and the Equestrian Order of Pope Gregory the Great from Pope John Paul II in 1990.

Dr. Garcia's leadership, advocacy, work and commitment to Hispanic American civil rights equality, access to health care, and the fair treatment of the government's institutions to its citizens regardless of race and ethnicity constitute his legacy, and his invaluable contribution to the proud history of our great nation.

I commend the life and legacy of Dr. Hector Garcia and his contribution to the Hispanic community in the United States of America, and I strongly encourage my colleagues to support this important resolution.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. DEGETTE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 222.

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

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT REGULATION COMPACT AMENDMENTS

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 25) granting the consent and approval of Congress to amendments made by the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the District of Columbia to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Regulation Compact.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

S.J. RES. 25

Whereas the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the District of Columbia entered into the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Regulation Compact in 1960 with the consent of Congress in Public Law No. 86-794, 74 Stat. 1031;

Whereas the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the District of Columbia amended titles I and II of the Compact in 1962 and 1990 with the consent of Congress in Public Law No. 87-767, 76 Stat. 764, and Public Law No. 101-505, 104 Stat. 1300, respectively;

Whereas legislation enacted by the State of Maryland (2008 Md. Laws c. 32 and 2009 Md. Laws c. 76) the Commonwealth of Virginia