

As a strong supporter of equal rights, I am pleased to support this resolution commemorating the 90th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which extends suffrage to women. The ratification came 144 years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence thanks to support from President Woodrow Wilson, the 66th Congress, and most importantly women's rights pioneers, who fought for women's suffrage for many decades.

As a husband, father of two daughters, and grandfather to granddaughters, I am pleased to live in a country that values the founding principle of equality. The passage of this resolution can also serve as a reminder that discrimination and inequality still exist and that we can always strive for a more perfect union. I urge the passage of H. Res. 1375.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the actions of the House of Representatives in recognizing the importance of the 90th anniversary of the 19th Amendment. I strongly support H. Res. 1375, which recognizes the significance of women fully participating in democracy in the United States, honors the contributions and achievements of women in United States politics, and reaffirms the House's commitment to political and social equality for all women.

On Election Day, in 1920, millions of American women had the chance to exercise their right to vote for the first time. Ninety years ago, on August 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment to our Constitution was ratified guaranteeing women the right to vote. As the House celebrates this special moment in history, it is important to remember the contributions of those leaders in the women's suffrage movement—Ilda B. Wells, and Alice Paul.

Some women, like Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Lucy Stone, were not alive in 1920 when women were granted the right to vote and participate in American politics. Nonetheless, they were women's rights activists who were at the heart of the women's suffrage movement. Their perseverance and persistence laid the ground work which led to the right of every American woman to vote.

While there is still work to be done, women have made tremendous strides toward equality in the United States. At this very moment, we have three women sitting on the Supreme Court of the United States, a female Secretary of State, and a strong woman serving as Speaker of the House. Women are in leadership positions all over the country. In my home State of Georgia, DeKalb District Attorney Gwen Keyes Fleming was recently appointed, by the President, to be the next Southeast Regional Administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency.

Ultimately, women's rights are not just women's rights, but human rights that benefit the entire human race. This chamber must continue to ensure that equal rights apply to all Americans regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, or socioeconomic status.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H. Res. 1375 and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. COHEN. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1375, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### PERMITTING MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO ADMINISTER THE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE TO APPLICANTS FOR NATURALIZATION

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4862) to permit Members of Congress to administer the oath of allegiance to applicants for naturalization, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4862

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. CONGRESSIONAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE.

(a) NATURALIZATION AUTHORITY.—Section 310(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1421(b)) is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading, by striking “COURT AUTHORITY” and inserting “AUTHORITY”;

(2) in paragraph (1)(A)—

(A) by inserting “, by a Member of, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress,” before “or by an eligible court”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following: “A Senator shall have the authority to administer such oath of allegiance only to individuals who reside in the State the Senator represents. In the case of a Member of the House of Representatives, including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress, the Member shall have the authority to administer such oath of allegiance only to individuals who reside in the congressional district the Member represents.”;

(3) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the following:

“(C) LIMITATIONS ON CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORITY.—

“(i) EXTENT OF AUTHORITY.—The authority under this section of a Member of, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress is limited solely to the administration of the oath of allegiance under section 337(a).

“(ii) PERIOD BEFORE ELECTIONS.—A Member of, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress may not administer the oath of allegiance under section 337(a) during the 90-day period which ends on the date of any election for Federal, State, or local office in which the Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner is a candidate.

“(iii) TIME AND PLACE OF CEREMONY.—A Member of, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress shall administer the oath of allegiance under section 337(a) only at such times and places as the Secretary of Homeland Security may designate.”;

(4) in paragraph (2)(A), in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting “or a Member of, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress” after “a court”;

(5) in paragraph (2)(A)(i), by inserting “or subject to paragraph (1)(C)(ii), the Member of, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress” after “the court”;

(6) in paragraph (2)(A)(ii)(I), by inserting “or the Member of, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress” before “such information”;

(7) in paragraph (2)(A)(ii)(II), by inserting “or the Member of, or Delegate or Resident

Commissioner to, the Congress” after “the court”; and

(8) in paragraph (3)(B)—

(A) in the subparagraph heading, by striking “AUTHORITY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL” and inserting “TIMING OF EXCLUSIVE AUTHORITY”;

(B) by inserting “neither” after “Subject to subparagraph (C),”;

(C) by inserting “nor a Member of, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress” after “the Attorney General”; and

(D) by striking “shall not administer” and inserting “shall administer”.

(b) OATH OF RENUNCIATION AND ALLEGIANCE.—Section 337 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1448) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence of subsection (a), by inserting “, the Member of the House of Representatives, including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress, who represents the congressional district in which the individual resides, a Senator who represents the State in which the individual resides,” before “or a court with jurisdiction”;

(2) in the first sentence of subsection (c)—

(A) by inserting “(except to the extent that such section limits the authority of a Member of, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress)” after “Notwithstanding section 310(b)”; and

(B) by inserting “, oath administration by the Member of the House of Representatives, including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress, who represents the congressional district in which the individual resides or a Senator who represents the State in which the individual resides,” after “expedited judicial oath administration ceremony”;

(3) in the third sentence of subsection (c), by inserting “or oath administration by the Member of, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress” before the period; and

(4) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the following: “The authority under this section of a Member of, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress shall be subject to section 310(b).”.

(c) CERTIFICATE OF NATURALIZATION; CONTENTS.—Section 338 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1449) is amended by inserting “, Member of, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress,” after “location of the official”.

(d) FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES OF CLERKS AND RECORDS OF DECLARATIONS OF INTENTION AND APPLICATIONS FOR NATURALIZATION.—Section 339 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1450) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) In the case of an oath administration by a Member of, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress, the functions and duties of clerks of courts described in this section shall be undertaken by the Secretary of Homeland Security.”.

#### SEC. 2. REGULATORY AUTHORITY.

Not later than the date that is 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall issue regulations implementing the amendments made by this Act.

#### SEC. 3. CLERICAL AMENDMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Each of sections 310, 337, 338, and 339 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1421, 1448, 1449, and 1450) is amended by striking “Attorney General” each place it appears and inserting “Secretary of Homeland Security”.

(b) EXCEPTION.—The amendment made by this section shall not affect the authority of any officer or employee of the Executive Office of Immigration Review (including immigration judges (as defined in section 101(b)(4) of the Immigration and Nationality Act)) to

administer the oath of allegiance under section 337(a).

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and add extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 4862, introduced by Mr. SERRANO of New York, will allow Members of Congress to administer the oath of allegiance to naturalizing U.S. citizens.

The naturalization ceremony is a crucial landmark for immigrants. They have waited patiently to immigrate to the United States and have worked hard once they got here and have faithfully fulfilled all their obligations to this country that they have chosen to adopt as their home.

In applying to become U.S. citizens, they have made the choice to become full participating members of our community. Currently, only judges or certain officials in the Department of Justice, the Department of Homeland Security, are allowed to administer the oath of allegiance at naturalization ceremonies.

H.R. 4862 would allow Members of Congress to participate meaningfully in these solemn occasions by allowing them to administer the oath of allegiance at naturalization ceremonies. I have attended many. They are wonderful, heartfelt programs; and I think that the oath being given by a recognized public official such as a Member of Congress would mean much to the people that are becoming American citizens.

The bill, as amended, clarifies the role of a Member of Congress, the naturalization process that will be limited to administering the oath of allegiance. Furthermore, it prohibits a Member of Congress from administering the oath of allegiance within 90 days of any election in which he or she is a candidate to prevent even the appearance of any possible undue influence upon the election.

I commend our colleague, JOSÉ SERRANO, for his leadership in introducing this bill and thank Ranking Member LAMAR SMITH and Immigration Subcommittee Chair ZOE LOFGREN for their support of this measure. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, first of all, I want to compliment Congressman SERRANO for his creative idea to allow Members to administer the oath of allegiance to individuals being naturalized as citizens.

H.R. 4862 gives Members of Congress the ability to play a significant role in the naturalization ceremony, which can be and should be an inspiring experience for those becoming U.S. citizens.

Citizenship is the highest honor our Nation can bestow and naturalization ceremonies give us the opportunity to honor individuals who have come to contribute to America. Americans who take the oath of allegiance know the importance of swearing to "support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic." It is a solemn, yet joyful and patriotic, experience.

I appreciate the majority leader and Congressman SERRANO making some improvements to the initial bill. The revised language clarifies that Members, whether Representatives or Senators, can only administer the oath to individuals from their own congressional district or, in the case of Senators, from their own State.

In order to prevent this privilege from being used for political purposes, no Member can administer the oath of allegiance during the 90 days prior to any election in which that Member is a candidate. The 90-day period parallels the House rules that prohibit House-funded mailings 90 days before an election.

And, finally, I requested that language be added to ensure that the Member can only administer the oath at a naturalization ceremony set up, conducted, and overseen by the Department of Homeland Security, which is the current practice.

The many redrafts of the language do show why legislation should be subjected to proper process where Members can participate in hearings and learn from experts in the issue area.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, which gives Members of Congress the ability to more fully participate in naturalization ceremonies. It is appropriate for Members of Congress, who wrote our naturalization laws, to play an expanded role in helping individuals become a part of the most free and most prosperous country in the world.

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the author of this legislation, Mr. SERRANO of the great State of New York and the home of the Yankees and Frank Sinatra across the river.

□ 1640

(Mr. SERRANO asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SERRANO. I thank the gentleman for the time, and I thank Mr. SMITH for his kind words and his sup-

port of the bill and his suggestions to change the bill.

Any Member of Congress, any American for that matter, who has ever been to one of these ceremonies knows that there is no greater joy seen anywhere than when folks dress up and come with their American flags to become American citizens. It is really a wonderful event. I have had the opportunity to attend a few and have seen the joy and the pride. Usually, one person is becoming a citizen, but he or she will bring 25 members of the family, whether they are citizens or not, because it is that kind of an occasion.

It is also an occasion where they, for the first time, really get to see government up close in that the people that are invited there are from the community, but they are government officials and so on. So up to now—if this bill becomes law—the only people allowed to administer the oath, as has been said, are judges or members of the administration. This bill would allow Members of Congress and Senators to administer that oath.

Now, while the bill does not speak directly to this issue, I will tell you how this idea came about. A member of my community came to me and said, Guess what? I'm going to become a citizen, and I want you to swear me in. I want you to administer the oath.

And I was touched. I said, My God, that you would want me to help you become an American, something that I and so many of us have by birth, since birth, it's a great honor for me.

Then it dawned on me. I said, I should check with staff to see if I'm allowed to do this. And I found out that I'm not allowed to do it.

Now, it won't be that it would take care of that situation of one individual asking for it, but as has been said here, we will not—and this is the change Mr. SMITH was so good at including. We will be invited to ceremonies, as we are now. The ceremonies will be set up by Homeland Security. We will not pick the date, the place, or who is going to get sworn in. But when we're invited now, the possibility is open for the administration officials to say, Why don't you join us in administering the oath, or, Why don't you administer the oath.

And I will tell you again that I don't know that there is a greater honor for someone to become a citizen and a greater honor for us on some occasions to be able to administer the oath. So the changes that are made, because there will be some questions about it, I think are strong changes. They comply with rules that say that none of these ceremonies should ever be politicized. But I really think that as people are being sworn in, to have present a Senator, a Member of Congress, and every so often to have them administer the oath only strengthens the bond between these new Americans and their government, a fuller understanding. After all, we are a question on the immigration test. A lot of people don't know that one of the questions on the

immigration test is: Who is your Congressman? Do you know who your Congressman is? Some don't pass that question; others do pass.

It is a great honor. There is not much more to say. It is a simple thought that should have been taken care of a long time ago, and I'm looking forward to the day when I'm invited to a ceremony and I can administer the oath to someone.

So I thank all the Members, and I hope that this bill can pass and become law.

Mr. KENNEDY. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SERRANO. I yield to the gentleman from Rhode Island.

Mr. KENNEDY. I just want to take this opportunity to thank you for your work on making sure that those who are American citizens, over 4½ million Americans are Americans but don't enjoy the full rights of Americans because of where they live, on an island called Puerto Rico, where people think that you need a passport to get there. It is an American territory. And by virtue of being a territory, people on Puerto Rico do not have full voting rights power.

And your work not just on this, what may be considered a ceremonial thing, but your work to ensure this country fulfills its obligations to treat all Americans with full liberty and their enfranchisement granted under the Constitution is so much something I think needs to be acknowledged. It's great to swear people in, but let's make sure we also guarantee those rights that we already guaranteed Americans, like the 4 million Americans in Puerto Rico or those who live here in the District of Columbia or in any of the territories around the world that are of American domain.

Mr. SERRANO. Reclaiming my time, the gentleman brings up an interesting point that we have discussed at other times on this floor.

I must say that I neglected to mention that the bill also includes Delegates and the Resident Commissioner to be able to administer the oath of office. So, interestingly enough, in the territories, new Americans will become citizens on that day with the participation of the Resident Commissioner or the Delegates.

So, again, thank you. And all this is an extension of the celebration of, as you have said, Mr. SMITH, probably the greatest honor this country gives anyone, which is to become an American citizen. Thank you so much.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

Mr. Speaker, I want to compliment Congressman SERRANO and Congressman KENNEDY as well. They so beautifully described why these naturalization ceremonies are so important and why they are so meaningful to our newest citizens.

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

Mr. COHEN. I yield back the balance of my time and ask that we pass the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4862, 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.

#### HONORING LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICE DOGS

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1614) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that law enforcement service dogs and their handlers perform a vital role in providing for our Nation's security and should be recognized for their service.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 1614

Whereas everyday across the ranks of Federal, State, local, and military law enforcement agencies, service dogs perform a variety of functions to prevent and solve crimes and to ensure the public safety;

Whereas service dogs trained to detect bombs, accelerants, and other weapons can often discover these dangerous devices at airports, train stations, sporting events and many other locations before they are used, preventing mass casualties, and sometimes their mere presence at these locations can prevent dangerous situations;

Whereas service dogs trained to detect narcotics and other contraband are used at our Nation's borders and ports of entry to identify illegal drugs and smuggled goods;

Whereas service dogs and their handlers perform crucial functions in special operations, including crowd control, search and rescue missions, locating missing persons, and tactical building entries, and these service dogs often work in undesirable conditions for little more than food and the affection of their handler;

Whereas service dogs can detect the presence of human remains in operations to locate victims in disaster recovery operations;

Whereas service dogs are used to protect the House of Representatives and Senate chambers, the White House, the Supreme Court, and many other public buildings in Washington, DC, and throughout the country;

Whereas many dogs have given their lives in the performance of these duties; and

Whereas these dogs have become an integral component of modern law enforcement: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) these dogs perform extraordinary services using their special sensory and physical abilities. Their service is rendered with incredible efficiency and dedication and is an important contribution to the security and public safety of our Nation; and

(2) we all owe a debt of gratitude and our sincere appreciation to the loyal service performed by the law enforcement service dogs and their handlers.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COHEN. I ask unanimous consent that all Members 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 Tennessee?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 1614 expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that police service dogs and their handlers perform a critical role in ensuring our national security and deserve to be recognized for their service.

Federal, State, local, and military law enforcement agencies work with service dogs to perform a variety of tasks to prevent and solve crimes and to keep the public safe. Search and rescue dogs often perform a number of functions, such as searching for victims in avalanches, collapsed buildings, and people missing in the wilderness.

#### □ 1650

Service dogs are also used to capture escaped offenders or suspects from crime scenes. These dogs are trained to search for items bearing human scent and are utilized in crime scenes to find evidence thrown away by a suspect.

In addition, dogs are trained to search through buildings, cars, and luggage, and can alert on more than one kind of drug despite the best efforts of smugglers.

Law enforcement service dogs can be trained to alert on guns and bomb-making materials. And often these dogs deter dangerous crimes at sporting events, train stations, airports, and other places by their mere presence.

Due to the dangerous situations these dogs and their handlers are frequently put in, many dogs have given their lives in the performance of their duties.

Today, this resolution recognizes the extraordinary efforts and dedication of these service dogs and their handlers.

Mr. Speaker, my first bill I had as a State senator in 1983 was one to make it a crime to shoot a police service dog, and to make it such because to shoot the dog was really to shoot at law enforcement personnel to try to stop that policeman from having that dog in the pursuit of its duty, and the next bullet would be for the officer. Of course they are valuable and important.

I commend Mr. COBLE for bringing this bill recognizing the contribution that these dogs make to our society and to police practices. I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.