

last survivors of World War I. He has got photographs of all of them, of recent date, of those who have died—some of them have died—and he has done research on all of them. As I mentioned, there are only three from all over the world who fought from all nations, Frank Buckles being one of those. Some other individuals are encouraging Congress to give the authority to build this memorial.

In Kingwood, Texas, which is one of the places I represent down in Texas, there is an educator there by the name of Jan York. Jan York loves America like educators do. She got her Creekwood Middle School kids to do research a couple of years ago on World War I and on its last survivors, and that's when they came up with Frank Buckles. They, too, are passionate about making sure that a memorial is built on The Mall for all who served in World War I. Let me mention this:

There are memorials for the World War I veterans in different places in the United States. There is one in Kansas City. But can we have too many? Should we not have one on The Mall? I mean this is Washington, D.C. When you go through Washington, D.C., you see memorials and monuments for all kinds of people—wonderful people. Some of them aren't even Americans. The memorials and monuments are appropriate. They're needed. But should we not build a memorial on The Mall for all of those who served in World War I—the war that was supposed to end all wars? I think that we should.

Anyway, Jan York has helped her school get involved in this, and the Creekwood Middle School folks and other schools in the country are encouraging Congress to help build a memorial. This memorial is not going to be funded by taxpayer money. Don't get me wrong. This is not something the taxpayers are going to be required to contribute to. All Congress has to do is authorize its being built and there being a commission, and then private funds will be collected from groups like the Creekwood Middle School.

I want to thank Senator ROCKEFELLER, who is down the hall in the Senate. He is helping to promote legislation that will allow us to move forward and have congressional approval to build this memorial on The Mall—this appropriate memorial for people like Frank Buckles, who is the lone survivor.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is imperative that we as a Nation understand our history. Many of us don't think about the past. We only think about the future. We think, unfortunately, many times: What can America give us? What can America do for us? as opposed to: What can we do for America? What can we do for people who have served our great country in the military, and what should we do as a Nation to honor those individuals?

America has always had to defend who we are as a Nation. I carry in my pocket, like maybe most Members of

Congress, this little book, the Constitution of the United States, which has not only the Constitution but the Declaration of Independence in it as well.

If we just remember a little bit of history, just a little bit, back in the colonial days, in 1776, there were these Americans who did not like being treated a certain way by the most powerful empire that had ever existed in the history of the world—the British Empire. It was the most powerful empire at the time, and it was led by the most powerful king, King George. They got together, and they said, You know, we are going to liberate ourselves from this type of tyranny, which is how they looked at it. So they came up with this Declaration of Independence.

Now, in legal terms, what that meant was they indicted the King of England for crimes against the United States. Their remedy, the punishment for the King and for England, was to separate. They concluded their Declaration of Independence, that important document that later led to the Constitution, with this phrase:

“And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.”

Then they had to fight for what they believed in—7, 8 years of long war to get this country free. Then it was the War of 1812, the Spanish-American War, the war with Mexico, World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and we are still engaged in two great wars today.

In all of those wars, Mr. Speaker, it has been America's youth who has gone to war to protect the rest of us. Unlike other countries, it has been said that America goes to war not to conquer but to liberate. That is true. We've got troops fighting right now, not to conquer but to liberate. America goes to battle so that others will live in freedom. Our enemies go to battle so that others will die in tyranny. That is what is happening in Afghanistan and Iraq. It has always been the American warrior who has had to protect this document—people like Frank Buckles.

Today, occasionally, we get to see those great warriors from the current wars. They come back to this Capitol, and we see them. Many Members go visit the wounded warriors. I have had the honor to be in Iraq and Afghanistan and see our military in action. The finest military that has ever existed in the history of the world represents us today.

Yet, to some extent, at home, America is disengaged. We are more interested, unfortunately it seems, in what is in it for us as opposed to what is in it for America. Frank Buckles and the generations before him and after him have always asked: What is in it for America? What can we do for America?—not what America can do for us.

So it seems to me we owe it to Frank Buckles and we owe it to those dough-

boys who have all died, who have all passed away except him, to build and honor them for what they did for the rest of us—for without them, we certainly would not be here. Without each generation that has been called upon to bear arms to protect our Nation, we would not be here. Many of them died at young ages, including those 600,000 Americans who died in the Civil War, which is when our country went to war within itself.

It would be appropriate that we honor these individuals by approving this memorial on The Mall. It would be equally as important that we remember Frank Buckles, his being the lone survivor. I hope he lives a long time. He told David DeJonge not too long ago, I'm headed to 115.

Well, the way he is, he may get it. He's just that way.

Yet, when he passes away, we should honor him as the last doughboy. He should lie in state here in the Capitol rotunda. He should be buried with full military honors. Our Nation should remember him, as it is important we should remember all those who served throughout the United States, by building and approving the memorial here on The Mall.

□ 1440

You know, when they went overseas, they said they weren't coming back until it was over over there. They did not come back until it was over over there, and they came back victorious. We over here have the obligation and the opportunity to get it right over here. And the way we get it right is to honor Frank Buckles and honor all of those who served in the great World War I, those that served and did not come home and those that served and did come home, to continue the American way of life and preserving this little document called the Constitution of the United States of America.

And that's just the way it is.

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

VACATING 5-MINUTE SPECIAL ORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the ordering of a 5-minute Special Order speech in favor of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is vacated.

CONGRESSMAN ETHERIDGE BIDS FAREWELL TO CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the House. I will be leaving Congress at the conclusion of this term, and I want to take a few minutes to speak to my colleagues and the people of North Carolina's Second

District, the people whose hopes and dreams, whose fears and apprehensions, whose challenges and opportunities have been my first and only priority every day for the past 14 years.

We are joined here today in the gallery by my wife, Faye, who has been the foundation of my world for 45 years. No man has ever been blessed with a finer family, and Faye has been the light of my life for each of those days.

I want to thank Faye. It's not easy being a Congressman's wife. The schedule is never your own; it's constantly shifting. Folks call your house or knock on your door—they have ours—at all hours of the day and night. And unfortunately, this past year brought us ugliness on a scale never seen before. Faye has endured it all and has been for me a constant source of strength, a sounding board of unfailing common sense, and a partner in every sense of the word. Thank you, Faye.

And I want to thank my staff. As Members, we get all the credit and the glory, but it is the folks behind the scenes who do the grunt work that make it all possible. I have always said I have the best staff on Capitol Hill and also the best staff back in my home district, and I believe that's true.

We are joined today—I hope by watching—by Russ Swindell, my chief of staff; Pat Devlin, my D.C. chief; Dr. David Weinreich, Ph.D, my legislative director; senior legislative assistant Chris Medley; legislative assistants La'Tanta McCrimmon and Andrew Dugan; legislative correspondent Mim Williams; press secretary Austin Vevurka; executive assistant Julia Cava; and staff assistant Mollie Jones.

In my Lillington office, district representatives William Munn and Mercedes Restucha. And our Raleigh district staff, representatives Carolyn Smith, Sonia Barnes, and Mike Little; Amy Hornbuckle, who is our district scheduler, a very difficult job; Christy Sandy, our grants coordinator; and Debbie Privette, caseworker and projects coordinator.

We call ourselves "Team Etheridge," and for 14 great years we've been an incredible, effective team. I am proud of each and every member of Team Etheridge, and prouder still of what together we have accomplished for the people of North Carolina and this great country.

As I look back on my service in this body—a body which I am proud to have had the opportunity to serve in—I am reminded of the many great men and women I have had the honor to serve with here in the people's House, folks like DAVID PRICE of North Carolina, and really the entire North Carolina delegation, leaders like STENY HOYER and the entire Democratic leadership who made this session one of historic significance on behalf of the American people.

On the other side of the aisle, I've been proud to have worked with people like my friend JERRY MORAN of Kansas,

Ray LaHood, and our former colleague, Bob Riley, now the Governor of Alabama. This body needs more people willing to put partisan differences aside in order to get work done for the greater good of our country.

I have been honored to serve with so many individuals I admire, like JOHN SPRATT of South Carolina, COLLIN PETERSON, IKE SKELTON, JOHN LEWIS, and others far too numerous to mention. Congress may be an imperfect institution, but our Nation is fortunate to have had the benefit of statesmen and patriots serving in this body.

My life has truly been the American Dream. I was raised on a Johnston County tenant farm where neither my mother nor my father owned their home nor the land they farmed. Neither had a high school education, but valued education. Yet, I have been able to serve my country in the United States Army, graduate from college, play basketball, have a successful career in business, be elected to leadership positions at the county, State and Federal levels.

All that was possible by education. Public education is the key to the future because it provides for everyone who is willing to work hard the opportunity to make the most of his or her God-given ability. That is why, for me, all of my years in public life have been about creating a brighter future for our children.

As we look to the future, we can take great pride in the many accomplishments and countless lives that have been touched. Every single day since we opened our doors in 1997, my staff and I have worked hard to provide outstanding constituent services to anyone and everyone who needed our help in the Second District. These are real lives we have changed, from disabled veterans who needed benefits, to senior citizens who needed assistance with Medicare, or a nonprofit requiring a grant to keep serving people in our community; and I am truly proud of my staff for the constituent services they provided in our district.

I know I am biased, and I admit that, but I think we have the staff that is second to none. We have achieved significant policy changes and accomplishments that really are making a difference in people's lives. Our Home-town Heroes Act gives widows and orphans of first responders—and those first responders include rescue squad, firemen, and sworn police officers—who were killed in the line of duty—or lose their life, I should say, in the line of duty—the peace of mind that comes with receiving survivor benefits. Because of this law, those who die of a heart attack or stroke as they protect our communities are recognized in the same way as others who make the ultimate sacrifice to keep us safe.

□ 1450

The other day, a friend of mine sent me a clipping from the Boston Globe about a local firefighter who died on

Thanksgiving Day after suffering a heart attack, responding to an emergency call. Now, I've never lived in Boston. I've lived my whole life in North Carolina, except for the time I was away on military service. But because of the work we did on the Home-town Heroes Act, the widow and two young children of that brave firefighter will have the security of the Federal Public Safety Officers' Benefits fund that they would not otherwise have had. That is a story that is replicated across this country thousands of times. That fact gives me a sense of pride and makes my heart glow.

The HIRE Act that was passed into law last year provided tax credits to small businesses that add workers to their payroll. That new law is helping turn the recession into a recovery, and it's replacing unemployment checks with paychecks for the middle class and workers struggling to get into the middle class.

For the first time in history, we had the opportunity to write a farm bill that is about nutrition and energy and provides hope for the future of family farmers and rural communities. And the Etheridge School Construction bonds that I spent more than 12 years working to get passed into law are being put to work now in North Carolina and all across America. All across this country, the Etheridge bonds are creating jobs, building schools, and improving education for our children.

Those are just a few of the examples of a record of accomplishments that I will always be proud of and a legacy of leadership that I hope others will look to follow.

I have approached my role as a Member of this body as representing all the people of the Second District in North Carolina, listening to all sides of an issue and doing right by the people. Sometimes you don't always make everyone happy, but I can rest my head on a pillow at night knowing that I always did what I thought was right for the people that I represent in the Second District of North Carolina.

I have always believed that public office is a public trust. I've worked every day in the people's House, the U.S. House of Representatives, to honor that trust and to earn the faith of the people that I was elected to serve.

As I prepare to leave this office, I do so with my head held high, with my heart filled with gratitude for all the people who have helped me along life's journey. Many of us are disappointed by the outcome of the previous election, none more than I am. But we move forward, knowing that God still has work for us to do. There are many ways to serve the people, and other opportunities to serve will come. And at the end of the day, I will always be a proud North Carolinian, a patriotic American, and a humble public servant.

May God continue to bless the United States of America.

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BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT PRIOR TO SINE DIE ADJOURNMENT

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House, reports that prior to sine die adjournment of the First Session, 111th Congress, on December 19, 2009 she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval the following bill and joint resolution.

H.R. 3326. Making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 64. Making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2010, and for other purposes.

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House, further reports that on December 23, 2009, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill.

H.R. 4284. To extend the Generalized System of Preferences and the Andean Trade Preference Act, and for other purposes.

BILL AND JOINT RESOLUTION APPROVED PRIOR TO SINE DIE ADJOURNMENT

The President notified the Clerk of the House that on the following dates, he had approved and signed bill and joint resolution of the following titles:

December 19, 2009:

H.R. 3326. An Act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

December 22, 2009:

H.J. Res. 62. A joint resolution appointing the day for the convening of the second session of the One Hundred Eleventh Congress.

SENATE BILL APPROVED PRIOR TO SINE DIE ADJOURNMENT

The President notified the Clerk of the House that on the following date, he had approved and signed the bill of the Senate of the following title:

December 22, 2009:

S. 1472. An Act to establish a section within the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice to enforce human rights laws, to make technical and conforming amendments to criminal and immigration laws pertaining to human rights violations, and for other purposes.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT AFTER SINE DIE ADJOURNMENT

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House reports that on December 24, 2009, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills:

H.R. 3819. To extend the commercial space transportation liability regime.

H.R. 4314. To permit continued financing of Government operations.

BILLS APPROVED AFTER SINE DIE ADJOURNMENT

The President notified the Clerk of the House that on the following date, he had approved and signed bills of the following titles:

December 28, 2009:

H.R. 3819. An Act to extend the commercial space transportation liability regime.

H.R. 4284. An Act to extend the Generalized System of Preferences and the Andean Trade Preference Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4314. An Act to permit continued financing of Government operations.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 10 of House Resolution 976, the House shall stand adjourned pursuant to section 2 of House Concurrent Resolution 223.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until Tuesday, January 12, 2010, at noon.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. FOXX) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. GUTHRIE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. POE of Texas, for 5 minutes, December 16.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, December 16.

Ms. FOXX, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced her signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 3789—An act to limit access to Social Security account numbers.

S. 3987—An act to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act with respect to the applicability of identity theft guidelines to creditors.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, December 13, 2010, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

10757. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Acequinocyl; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2009-0812; FRL-8851-7] received November 16, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

10758. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's final rule — Truth in Lending [Regulation Z; Docket No. R-1366] received November 15, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

10759. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's Annual Report for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve covering calendar year 2009, in accordance with section 165 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10760. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Georgia; Prevention of Significant Deterioration and Nonattainment New Source Review Rules [EPA-R04-OAR-2006-0649-201059; FRL-9229-5] received November 16, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10761. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; New York Prevention of Significant Deterioration of Air Quality and Nonattainment New Source Review [EPA-R02-OAR-2010-0321; FRL-9212-1] received November 16, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10762. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plans; State of Colorado; Interstate Transport of Pollution Revisions for the 1997 8-hour Ozone NAAQS: "Interference with Maintenance" Requirement [EPA-R08-OAR-2007-1035; FRL-9229-2] received November 16, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10763. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plans; State of North Dakota; Interstate Transport of Pollution for the 1997 PM2.5 and 8-hour Ozone NAAQS: "Interference with Maintenance" Requirement [EPA-R08-OAR-2009-0557; FRL-9229-1] received November 16, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10764. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Cobalt Lithium Manganese Nickel Oxide; Withdrawal of Significant New Use Rule [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2009-0922; FRL-8853-2] (RIN: 2070-AB27) received November 16, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10765. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Extension of Deadline for Action on the Second Section 126 Petition From New Jersey [EPA-HQ-OAR-2010-0473; FRL-9227-6] received November 16, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10766. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental