

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 670, a bill that conveys to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands the 3 miles of submerged lands surrounding each of our islands. I want to thank the leaders from both sides of the aisle, particularly Chairman HASTINGS and Ranking Member MARKEY of the Natural Resources Committee, and my very good friend, Dr. JOHN FLEMING, chairman of the Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs Subcommittee, for their support of H.R. 670.

I would like to note, also, that the language of H.R. 670 previously, as my good friend has noted, passed the House in the 111th Congress by a vote of 416–0. As we know sometimes happens, however, though favorably reported from its committee of jurisdiction, the other body took no final action. So I hope that Members of this House will join me today in making a second effort to get this bill enacted into law.

The Northern Mariana Islands is the only United States coastal jurisdiction that does not have ownership of the submerged lands off its coasts. H.R. 670 corrects that irregularity and provides the same ownership rights over the submerged lands surrounding the Northern Marianas as are provided by Federal law to Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and American Samoa.

This bill provides equity to the people of the Northern Marianas. It returns management of these near-shore lands and waters to those who know them best and need them to be well-managed. It gives the people of the Marianas, who have such limited land resources, the power to protect and to benefit from the seas around our 14 islands.

To highlight the importance of this point, in 2006, Louisiana leased 392,118 acres of its submerged lands for oyster harvest, profiting the State and providing an economic opportunity for holders of 8,167 leases. Likewise, the State of California leases tracts off its submerged lands for oil and gas extraction, creating jobs and contributing to the State's economy. Other coastal jurisdictions have similar stories to tell about the important role that coastal lands and waters can play in economic growth.

For the area I represent, which has suffered declining GDP year after year since 2004 and a 20 percent drop in 2009, gaining control of surrounding submerged lands could help to turn things around. Whereas now the Federal Government is in charge and does nothing with the potential of these lands, H.R. 670 would put the local government in charge. We would be free to develop offshore wind farms or other energy alternatives and be responsible for protecting the rare marine environment, which is both our legacy and our trust, and also makes our islands alluring to tourists.

What H.R. 670 does for the Northern Marianas is what this Congress previously has done for other U.S. coastal

jurisdictions. In the 1941 case of *U.S. v. California*, the Federal courts found that the Federal Government owned the submerged lands off the shores of California and other coastal States. These States then turned to Congress to regain control of their submerged lands, and Congress granted these States title to the waters and submerged lands out to 3 miles in the Submerged Lands Act of 1953.

□ 1650

History repeats itself here.

In 2005, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the submerged lands and waters off our coastline did not belong to the people of the Northern Marianas—despite that we had fished and sailed there for at least 3,500 years. The Ninth Circuit did recognize, however, that Congress had the power to convey the submerged lands to the Marianas. H.R. 670 does exactly that. H.R. 670 employs the constitutional authority of this Congress to dispose of Federal property, the same authority that Congress used to convey offshore lands to Guam, the United States Virgin Islands, and American Samoa under the Territorial Submerged Lands Act of 1974.

Finally, let me say there is great support for this legislation among the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, so much so that when I was sworn in as the first Representative of the Northern Mariana Islands in the House of Representatives, this was my first bill. The Governor of the Northern Marianas has expressed his support. The Northern Marianas Legislature has passed a resolution in favor of a return to local management. In addition, the Obama administration has expressed its support for the conveyance of submerged lands to the people of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This House, too, as I said at the beginning, has given overwhelming support to the language of this bill, which passed the House unanimously on July 15, 2009.

Once again, I ask for your support. H.R. 670 costs nothing. Congress has the constitutional authority to enact this bill. It will provide equity—the same ownership and responsibility for surrounding lands and waters that every other coastal area of our Nation enjoys.

I want to thank all of those Members who are cosponsors of this bill, and I ask that my colleagues support H.R. 670.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of this particular resolution.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 670, "To convey certain submerged lands to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in order to give that territory the same benefits in its submerged lands as Guam, the Virgin Is-

lands, and American Samoa have in their submerged lands" conveys to the government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands submerged lands surrounding such islands and extending three geographical miles outward from their coastlines.

The Act provides the American public, more specifically the occupants of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, with added ways to use and enjoy land surrounding their coastlines. It is in a spirit of encouraging the most beneficial use of natural resources that I support the idea of providing an expanded use of otherwise unused land to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. It is the responsibility of all Members of Congress to fulfill our moral obligation to promote harmony between Americans and their natural resources.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 670, to convey certain submerged lands to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in order to give that territory the same benefits in its submerged lands as Guam, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa have in their submerged lands.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 670.

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. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. 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, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

AUTHORIZING USE OF CAPITOL ROTUNDA FOR CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL CEREMONY

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 29) authorizing the use of the rotunda of the United States Capitol for an event to present the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to Neil A. Armstrong, Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin, Jr., Michael Collins, and John Herschel Glenn, Jr., in recognition of their significant contributions to society.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 29

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF THE ROTUNDA OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL TO PRESENT THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The rotunda of the United States Capitol is authorized to be used on November 16, 2011 for the presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to Neil A. Armstrong, Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin, Jr., Michael Collins, and John Herschel Glenn, Jr., in recognition of their significant contributions to society.

(b) PREPARATIONS.—Physical preparations for the conduct of the event described in subsection (a) shall be carried out in accordance

with such conditions as may be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. HARPER) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRADY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mississippi.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

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

This resolution authorizes the use of the rotunda on November 16 to present the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to Neil A. Armstrong, Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin, Jr., Michael Collins, and John Herschel Glenn, Jr., in recognition of their significant contributions to society.

Mr. Speaker, on May 25, 1961, President Kennedy spoke to a joint session of Congress. He said that it was time for a "great new American enterprise—time for this Nation to take a clearly leading role in space achievement." He committed this Nation to achieving the ambitious goal of landing a man on the Moon and returning him to Earth safely.

President Kennedy added, "I believe we possess all the resources and talents necessary" to accomplish the mission—and that we did as exhibited by the gentlemen to be honored in the rotunda this November.

Bravely pursuing the unknown, these four individuals helped this Nation achieve scientific and technological advancements which inspired the world.

Mr. Speaker, Neil Armstrong was the spacecraft commander for *Apollo 11*, the first manned lunar landing mission in history. He was the first person to land a craft on the Moon and the first to step foot on its surface. His immortal words are forever etched in our national memory.

"Buzz" Aldrin piloted the Lunar Module "Eagle" and was the second person to walk on the Moon.

Michael Collins piloted the Command Module "Columbia" in lunar orbit and helped his fellow *Apollo 11* astronauts complete their mission on the Moon.

Seven-and-a-half years earlier, John Glenn paved the way for these achievements by becoming the first American to orbit the Earth in February of 1962.

Two years ago, on the 40th anniversary of *Apollo 11*'s historic lunar landing, the New Frontier Congressional Gold Medal Act was passed by Congress. Forty-two years ago, in July of 1969, millions of Americans were transfixed on a place over a quarter of a million miles away. Eyes watched as we stepped into the unknown, walked on the Moon and made history.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present this resolution today, and I urge my

colleagues to support it in honoring the achievements of these national heroes.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, DC, October 3, 2011.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: I write to notify you that the Committee on House Administration hereby waives further committee consideration of S. Con. Res. 29, a concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the rotunda of the United States Capitol for an event to present the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to Neil A. Armstrong, Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin, Jr., Michael Collins, and John Herschel Glenn, Jr., in recognition of their significant contributions to society, in order that the legislation may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

Sincerely,

DANIEL E. LUNGREN,
Chairman.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol rotunda to award Congressional Gold Medals to Neil A. Armstrong, Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin, Jr., Michael Collins, and John Herschel Glenn, Jr., for being pioneers of space exploration. The bill granting the medals was sponsored by former Representative Alan Grayson in the 110th Congress and was signed into law by President Obama on August 7, 2009.

It can be said that these four heroes are trailblazers, but their paths ensured they were not the last. They showed everyone that the impossible is possible and inspired generations to study, question, and explore the world beyond our own planet. For that, they have not only left a mark on history but on the will and determination of mankind.

As President John F. Kennedy noted in a speech to Congress on May 25, 1961, "I believe that this Nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the Moon and returning him safely to the Earth." And so we did.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me today in supporting this concurrent resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL), the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

Mr. HALL. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 29, authorizing the use of the Capitol rotunda to present the Congressional Gold Medal to the crew of *Apollo 11*—Buzz Aldrin, Neil Armstrong, and Mike Collins—and to the first American to orbit the Earth, John H. Glenn.

These great Americans need no introduction. Yet no matter their heroic accomplishments, it is well worth re-

membering the huge risks each of these individuals confronted as they began to push the boundaries of human exploration in outer space.

While the technologies they relied on to conduct their flights were considered cutting edge during their day, many of these systems had never been fully tested except during the actual first flights performed by these men.

On February 20, 1962, John Glenn rode to orbit atop an Atlas rocket that had been adapted from a military design to carry the Mercury capsule *Friendship 7* to orbit. His flight lasted nearly 5 hours before returning safely to Earth. Seven years and 5 months later, *Apollo 11* astronauts Buzz Aldrin, Neil Armstrong, and Mike Collins were launched. After a 4-day flight, Neil and Buzz landed on the Moon, becoming the first humans to walk on its surface.

I was honored to chair a hearing just 2 weeks ago that included Neil Armstrong and fellow *Apollo* astronaut Gene Cernan, the last American man to walk on the Moon, as witnesses. Mr. Armstrong prefaced the hearing with a very dramatic video that included footage of his descent inside the *Eagle* lunar module to its landing.

□ 1700

Many of you, I'm sure, have seen this footage, but to hear Neil Armstrong offer a live narration as the *Eagle* descends and settles on the Moon's surface is something I'll never forget.

I also want to recognize my good friend Buzz Aldrin, whom I've come to know over the years. Buzz has never failed to counsel me on all things related to space and NASA, and I appreciate his commitment to our country and to our space program.

Mr. Speaker, the last Congress passed legislation, signed by the President, authorizing the Congressional Gold Medal for these brave astronauts. The legislation before us today, S. Con. Res. 29, authorizes the use of the Capitol rotunda on November 16, some 43 days hence, to formally make the award.

I support the resolution and urge all Members to support it as well.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. I thank the gentleman from Mississippi, my friend.

I urge all Members to support this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman LUNGREN and Ranking Member BRADY for their support on this matter.

I urge my colleagues to support this concurrent resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. Con. Res. 29, which would authorize the use of the Capitol rotunda for an event on November 16, 2011 to present Neil A. Armstrong, Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin, Jr., Michael Collins, and John Herschel Glenn, Jr., with the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian award that this nation can bestow

on an individual. I would like to call to your attention in particular the deeds of one of those outstanding individuals, "Buzz" Aldrin.

Buzz Aldrin was born at Mountainside Hospital in New Jersey in 1930. He graduated from Montclair High School in 1946, turning down a scholarship at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in favor of the chance to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point, where he graduated third in his class in 1951. I am proud to represent Montclair, and I am sure that the citizens of my Eighth District would agree that Buzz Aldrin is one of our most distinguished natives.

After graduating from West Point, Aldrin received his commission as a second lieutenant in the United States Air Force. He flew 66 combat missions during the Korean War, and shot down two enemy fighters during his distinguished service there. Following the war, Aldrin served as an instructor at the U.S. Air Force Academy, and later earned his Doctor of Science Degree from MIT. In 1963, he was selected to become a NASA astronaut.

On July 20th, 1969, Buzz Aldrin walked on the moon as a member of the crew of NASA's *Apollo 11* mission. He was the second human being ever on the moon, following his crewmate Neil Armstrong. He is the first astronaut to both spacewalk and set foot on the moon.

Since his retirement from active duty in 1972 after 21 years of service, Col. Aldrin continues to advocate for space travel, appearing repeatedly on television, in print, and in person around the country. He has helped NASA to develop new training techniques, and has proposed innovative new ideas for manned missions to the planet Mars and its moons. As an author, he has published two science-fiction novels, two autobiographies, and several children's books.

Col. Aldrin has been honored with countless awards and distinctions for his service with the U.S. Air Force, with NASA, and to the country. These awards include the Air Force Distinguished Service Medal, the NASA Exceptional Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Buzz Aldrin also has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and was inducted into the New Jersey Hall of Fame in 2007. It is fitting that he now be bestowed the Congressional Gold Medal.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing and commemorating the achievements of brave heroes such as Buzz Aldrin.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, the citizens of New Jersey's Eighth District, and me in recognizing Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin, Jr. and his colleagues for their outstanding service to this nation in the name of science, education, and discovery.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 29 authorizing the use of the rotunda of the United States Capitol for an event to present the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to Neil A. Armstrong, Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin, Jr., Michael Collins, and John Herschel Glenn, Jr., in recognition of their significant contributions to society. Their hard work and perseverance exemplify the work ethic we stand for as a nation, and I can think of no place better than the rotunda to honor their leadership and sacrifice in service to this country.

The rotunda of the United States Capitol offers the perfect venue to show the necessary respect to three men who risked their lives to change the course of history in the name of the United States of America. In the tension of the Cold War, when it seemed the existence of the free world had been brought into question, these three men stepped directly into harm's way in service to their country. A ceremony in the rotunda will evoke the honor and respect that we owe to these three brave men, and I offer my full support for the use of this space.

The Congressional Gold Medal is an award bestowed by Congress for outstanding deeds or acts of service to the security, prosperity, and national interest of the United States. The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest civilian award, and these men are deserving recipients.

The importance of this event is particularly relevant to the 18th district of Texas given the city of Houston's role in the Apollo legacy. Not long after President Kennedy set our nation on the course of putting a man on the moon, Houston became a key player in the realization of that goal. Before uttering his famous phrase, Neil Armstrong, communicated with Johnson Space Center's Mission Control Center from the surface of the moon, stating "Houston, the *Eagle* has landed." The historic lunar landing remains a cornerstone of the American legacy, and at a time when the very existence of NASA sits in question, it is especially important that we deliver a ceremony that will propel the memory of NASA pioneers into future generations.

Neil A. Armstrong, Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin, Jr., Michael Collins, and John Herschel Glenn, Jr. were called to service by their country, in a time when two great nations challenged each other and boldly raced into space. In the bleak years of the Cold War, we conquered a new frontier, and in turn understood things about the universe we never thought possible. These men played an important role in American history that will benefit generations to come, and are well deserving of this honor.

It is in a spirit of deep appreciation that I am pleased to join my colleagues in supporting S. Con. Res. 29, authorizing the use of the rotunda of the United States Capitol for an event to present the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to Neil A. Armstrong, Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin, Jr., Michael Collins, and John Herschel Glenn, Jr., in recognition of their significant contributions to society.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. HARPER) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the concurrent resolution, S. Con. Res. 29.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LEGISLATION AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS IMPLEMENTING UNITED STATES-COLOMBIA TRADE PROMOTION AGREEMENT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 112-58)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit legislation and supporting documents to implement the United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement (Agreement). The Agreement is an important part of my Administration's efforts to spur economic growth, increase exports, and create jobs in the United States, while promoting our core values. The Agreement will create significant new opportunities for American workers, farmers, ranchers, businesses, and consumers by opening the Colombian market and eliminating barriers to U.S. goods, services, and investment.

The Agreement also represents a historic development in our relations with Colombia. Colombia is a steadfast strategic partner of the United States and a leader in the region. The Agreement reflects the commitment of the United States to supporting democracy and economic growth in Colombia. It will also help Colombia battle production of illegal crops by creating alternative economic opportunities.

Under the Agreement, tariffs on over 80 percent of U.S. consumer and industrial exports will be eliminated immediately. United States agricultural exports in particular will enjoy substantial new improvements in access to Colombia's market. Currently, no U.S. agricultural exports enjoy duty-free access to Colombia. Once the Agreement enters into force, almost 70 percent, by value, of current U.S. agricultural exports will be able to enter Colombia duty-free immediately. In addition, the Agreement will give American service providers greater access to Colombia's \$134 billion services market. This will help to level the playing field, since 91 percent of our imports from Colombia have enjoyed duty-free access to our market under U.S. trade preference programs.

The Agreement contains state of the art provisions to help protect and enforce intellectual property rights, reduce regulatory red tape, and eliminate regulatory barriers to U.S. exports. The Agreement also contains the highest standards for protecting labor rights, carrying out covered environmental agreements, and ensuring that key domestic labor and environmental laws are enforced, combined with strong remedies for noncompliance. Colombia has already made significant reforms related to the obligations it