

that Congressman MEEKS has expressed. We share a State, and we share a common vision that elevates all of us as individuals and as a Nation and, indeed, as citizens of a world that so much needs the acts of courage and moral integrity that Raoul Wallenberg brought to bear, that he represents for all of us today.

It is such a privilege to work together with all of those who owe their lives to Raoul Wallenberg's action, including a Member of our own body, Congressman Tom Lantos, who now, of course, is no longer with us in this body; but he and his wife, Annette, were spared as a result of Raoul Wallenberg's actions. Indeed, although Mr. Wallenberg lived in the 20th century, his life illuminates us in the 21st century today, and his legacy is represented in the lives of a million descendants around the world, including, of course, here in the United States of those whom Raoul Wallenberg saved.

It is an absolute privilege to have brought this bill to the attention of our colleagues and to have the enthusiastic support of so many who were very happy to cosponsor this bill with Congressman MEEKS and with me. So I am delighted to think that it will, indeed, bring us one step closer to bestowing one of our highest civilian honors on a man who has done so much for humanity and so much for America in so many ways, Raoul Wallenberg.

Mr. MEEKS. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS).

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I thank our good friend and colleague for yielding, and I thank him and Ms. HAYWORTH for their extraordinary work in causing us to recognize Raoul Wallenberg.

I came in contact with the name Raoul Wallenberg and with the official portrait that the Lantos Foundation and others have put together, and I just stand to say to you all that I vigorously support and was a cosponsor of this measure. But more importantly, I know that Tom would be looking down today and thanking all of us, and later, I'm sure with Mrs. Lantos, those that gather would assuredly recognize the extraordinary work that you did in bringing this to the body. And as GREGORY said, Raoul Wallenberg's fate may be unknown, but his fate today is known, and that is that he saved a lot of people, and he is rightly recognized by us for that.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I'd like to yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) as much time as he would consume.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. I want to thank NAN and my good friend, GREG MEEKS, for introducing this bill. GREG and I recently were in Budapest, and we were there for a celebration at the statue of Raoul Wallenberg; and it is something that I'll never forget. It was a good time and a very important time.

What do you say about somebody like Raoul Wallenberg or Schindler?

These people risked their lives to save people who were going to be killed, going to be put in gas chambers, never to be heard from again. And 6 million people died because there weren't more people like Raoul Wallenberg and Schindler.

So, I just want to say I've heard from my colleagues today the things that I would like to have said, and they said it very well; but I just say, in closing, thank God that there are people who are willing to risk their lives to help their fellow man. There just aren't enough of them. When I look around the world and see the horrible tragedies that are taking place in Africa and elsewhere, it makes you wonder if we're ever going to see people like that again, but thank God we have somebody like Raoul Wallenberg.

Mr. MEEKS. I just want to thank the chairman of the European subcommittee for recalling that great day we did have in Budapest at the statue of Raoul Wallenberg. It was a great moment and a solemn moment. When you think about Raoul Wallenberg and when you think about the over 300 Members of this body that are cosponsoring it, today what Raoul Wallenberg is doing is bringing us together. Yet today, Raoul Wallenberg as well, even here in the House as we look and work unanimously on this bill, is bringing people together from all parts of the world, from all kinds of backgrounds, saying that we are standing together for what is right and for a better tomorrow.

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

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time at this point, and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of my colleague Mr. MEEKS' bill to award Raoul Wallenberg a Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of his heroic action in saving the lives of Jews in Hungary during the Holocaust.

Few people could be more deserving of a Congressional Gold Medal than Raoul Wallenberg, a Swedish diplomat stationed in Budapest with the American War Refugee Board, who, at great risk to himself, is credited with saving the lives of approximately 100,000 Jews. In the closing months of World War II, Wallenberg issued Swedish passports to Jews, and was instrumental in preventing the extermination of the Nazi-created Jewish ghetto in Budapest. Many moving stories are told of the depth of his personal concern for the Jews of Hungary, living under threat of death—and of his fortitude and tireless energy in resisting the monstrous plans of the Nazis.

Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to draw attention to H. Res. 610, a resolution I introduced, with my colleague Mr. TURNER of New York, on the fate of Raoul Wallenberg. As Mr. MEEKS' bill points out, "the fate of Raoul Wallenberg remains a mystery." Yet in this mystery we have a few clues—he was arrested by Soviet forces in Hungary in 1945, and, without going into detail on the subsequent Soviet explanations of what happened to him in their custody, we can certainly say that they are incomplete, in-

consistent, and unreliable. We have more than sufficient reason to suspect that the Soviet government has never dealt frankly in explaining what happened to Wallenberg. Most people knowledgeable about the case believe that the Soviet government executed Wallenberg. So my and Mr. TURNER's resolution asks the President and Secretary of State to press the Russian government for a full and complete accounting of Wallenberg's fate. Certainly sixty-seven years after Wallenberg's disappearance, and twenty-two after the demise of the Soviet Union, this is long overdue.

I thank my friend Mr. MEEKS FOR his bill to award Wallenberg the Congressional Gold Medal, and urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a cosponsor of H.R. 3001 to reiterate my support for awarding a Congressional Gold Medal to Raoul Wallenberg for his heroic and brave actions during the holocaust that resulted in the saving of 100,000 Hungarian Jewish lives.

During World War II, Raoul Wallenberg at the age of 31 was sent to Budapest to serve as a Swedish diplomat. The Holocaust was underway throughout Europe and he was instructed by his government to use the tools of his office, including passports and other creative means, to save as many lives as possible. Wallenberg devised a new Swedish passport, the Schutzpass, especially for the purpose of protecting Hungarian Jews. He designed it to look more imposing and official than the actual Swedish passport. The Schutzpass granted the bearer immunity from being sent to the death camps and is credited with saving 20,000 Jewish lives.

Through this and other actions, Wallenberg helped save 100,000 of the 120,000 Hungarian Jews that survived the holocaust in Hungary and hundreds of thousands of American Jews can directly or indirectly attribute their own lives to his efforts. In recognition of these efforts, in 1981, President Ronald Reagan made Raoul Wallenberg an honorary citizen of the United States, an honor only previously extended to Winston Churchill.

I ask my colleagues to join me in support of this legislation in the memory of Raoul Wallenberg and in recognition of his bravery and for the many lives he helped save during World War II.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3001.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. 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.

□ 1620

LENA HORNE RECOGNITION ACT

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1815) to posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Lena

Horne in recognition of her achievements and contributions to American culture and the civil rights movement.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1815

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Lena Horne Recognition Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds as follows:

(1) Lena Mary Calhoun Horne was born on June 30, 1917, in Brooklyn, New York.

(2) At the age of 16, Lena Horne was hired as a dancer in the chorus of Harlem’s famous Cotton Club, where she was introduced to such legendary jazz performers as Duke Ellington, Cab Calloway, Count Basie, Ethel Waters, and Billie Holiday.

(3) In 1940, Lena Horne became one of the first African-American women to perform with an all-White band when she toured with Charlie Barnet’s jazz band as its featured singer.

(4) Lena Horne was discovered by a Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (MGM) talent scout and became the first Black artist to sign a long-term contract with a major studio.

(5) Despite her extraordinary beauty and talent, Lena Horne was often limited to minor acting roles because of her race.

(6) Scenes in which she did sing were cut out when they were sent to local distributors in the South and studio executives cast Ava Gardner as Julie in the film version of *Show Boat* instead of Lena Horne because they did not want it to star a Black actress.

(7) However, Lena Horne dazzled audiences and critics in a number of films, including *Cabin in the Sky* and *Stormy Weather*.

(8) During World War II, Lena Horne toured extensively with the United Service Organizations (USO) on the West Coast and in the South in support of the troops and expressed outrage about the way Black soldiers were treated.

(9) She refused to sing for segregated audiences or to groups in which German prisoners of war were seated in front of African-American servicemen.

(10) During the period of McCarthyism in the 1950s, Lena Horne was blacklisted as a communist for 7 years because of her civil rights activism and friendship with Paul Robeson and W.E.B. Du Bois.

(11) Although Lena Horne continued to face discrimination, her musical and acting career flourished.

(12) In 1957, Lena Horne recorded *Lena Horne at the Waldorf-Astoria*, which reached the Top 10 and became the best-selling album by a female singer in RCA Victor’s history.

(13) Lena Horne rose to international stardom and toured the world, sharing the stage with such names as Count Basie, Tony Bennett, Billy Eckstein, Vic Damone, and Harry Belafonte and also starred in musical and television specials with such giants as Judy Garland, Bing Crosby, and Frank Sinatra.

(14) Lena Horne used her fame to become a powerful voice for civil rights and equality.

(15) In 1963, she participated in the historic March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, at which Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his immortal “I Have a Dream” speech.

(16) Lena Horne also performed at rallies throughout the country for the National Council for Negro Women and worked with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), of which she was a member since the age of 2, the National Council of Negro Women, the Delta Sigma Theta sorority, and the Urban League.

(17) Through the end of the 20th century, Lena Horne continued to entertain large audiences of all ages and backgrounds and appeared on numerous television shows, including *Sesame Street*, *Sanford and Son*, *The Muppet Show*, *The Cosby Show*, and *A Different World*.

(18) In 1978, she was in the film adaptation of *The Wiz*.

(19) In 1981, Ms. Horne captivated audiences with her one-woman Broadway show, *Lena Horne: The Lady and Her Music*, which enjoyed a 14-month run before going on tour and earned her a special Tony and two Grammy awards.

(20) In 2002, 73 years after the Academy Awards were first awarded, Halle Berry became the first Black woman to win an Oscar for Best Actress and recognized in her acceptance speech how Lena Horne paved the way for her and other Black actresses.

(21) Lena Horne passed away in New York City on May 9, 2010, at the age of 92.

(22) Lena Horne was an entertainer, activist, and mother who used her beauty, talent, and intelligence to fight racial discrimination and injustice and rise to international stardom.

(23) A symbol of elegance and grace, she entertained people of all walks of life for over 60 years and broke barriers for future generations.

SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the posthumous presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold medal of appropriate design in commemoration of Lena Horne in recognition of her achievements and contributions to American culture and the civil rights movement.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 2 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses, and the cost of the gold medal.

SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.

(a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursuant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

(b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF SALE.

(a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund, such amounts as may be necessary to pay for the costs of the medals struck pursuant to this Act.

(b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section 3 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and add extraneous material to this bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1815, the Lena Horne Recognition Act, introduced by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS).

This legislation, cosponsored by 308 Members, seeks to authorize the striking and awarding of a Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of the indomitable spirit and overwhelming voice of the great singer Lena Horne.

Few singers have captured the imagination, the ear, and the spirit of the country as did Lena Horne in her magnificent career. Fewer still did that while waging a tireless battle for civil rights through the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s. Ms. Horne was perhaps the top nightclub singer of that era, but still found time to come here for Dr. Martin Luther King’s March on Washington—and she was also at an NAACP rally in Jackson, Mississippi, alongside Medgar Evers on the weekend he was assassinated.

From her earliest performing days—at 16, in 1933, at the famous Cotton Club—until her very last performance in a Duke Ellington tribute album in 2000, her performances riveted audiences. She won a handful of Grammy awards and a Tony award, and she was nominated for other Tonys and for an Emmy as well as a large number of personal achievement and civil rights awards.

Lena Horne appeared multiple times on all of the big television variety shows of the fifties and sixties, and of course, later in her career, hosted her own long-running, one-woman show on Broadway. She also acted in numerous films, including “*Stormy Weather*,” in which she performed what many thought to be her signature song of the same name. Sadly, despite her ability and her beauty, she never landed a starring role.

Mr. Speaker, Lena Horne’s magnificent voice and steadfast fight for civil rights make her a worthy recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal. I salute her, and congratulate the gentleman from Florida for his effort on this legislation. I urge its immediate passage, and reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,

Washington, DC, April 16, 2012.

Hon. SPENCER BACHUS,

Chairman, Committee on Financial Services,
Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BACHUS: I am writing concerning H.R. 1815, the “Lena Horne Recognition Act,” which is scheduled for floor action the week of April 16, 2012.

As you know, the Committee on Ways and Means maintains jurisdiction over matters that concern raising revenue. H.R. 1815 contains a provision that provides for the sale of duplicate medals, and thus falls within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means.

However, as part of our ongoing understanding regarding commemorative coin and medal bills and in order to expedite this bill for floor consideration, the Committee will forgo action. This is being done with the understanding that it does not in any way prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation in the future.

I would appreciate your response to this letter, confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 1815, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration.

Sincerely,

DAVE CAMP,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,
Washington DC, April 13, 2012.

Hon. DAVE CAMP,
*Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
Longworth House Office Building, Wash-
ington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN CAMP: I am writing in response to your letter regarding H.R. 1815, the Lena Horne Recognition Act, which is scheduled for Floor consideration under suspension of the rules on Monday, April 16, 2012.

I wish to confirm our mutual understanding on this bill. The bill contains a provision for a charge for the sale of duplicate medals. I understand your concern with provisions that raise revenue and accordingly would fall under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means. However, this bill is not expected to raise revenue.

Further, I appreciate your willingness to forego action by the Committee on Ways and Means on H.R. 1815 in order to allow the bill to come to the Floor expeditiously. I agree that your decision to forego further action on this bill will not prejudice the Committee on Ways and Means with respect to its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation. Therefore, I would support your request for conferees on those provisions within your jurisdiction should this bill be the subject of a House-Senate conference.

I will include this exchange of letters in the Congressional Record when this bill is considered by the House. Thank you again for your assistance and if you should need anything further, please do not hesitate to contact Natalie McGarry of my staff.

Sincerely,

SPENCER BACHUS,
Chairman.

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

Today, I rise to speak in favor of H.R. 1815, the Lena Horne Recognition Act, introduced by my good friend and colleague from the great State of Florida, Congressman ALCEE HASTINGS, to honor and posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal, one of our Nation's highest civilian awards, to the great Lena Horne.

Lena Horne is known to many as a uniquely talented performer who dazzled audiences on stage and on the silver screen. She was a symbol of elegance and grace; and she entertained people of all walks of life for over 60

years and broke barriers for future generations, winning numerous awards and accolades as a trailblazing African American female performer.

When I think of just yesterday that Major League Baseball, during that era, honored Jackie Robinson—a pioneer and professional baseball player—it's a breakthrough. But during that same period of time, Lena Horne was on the entertainment stage with such grace during a time when it was difficult for her as an African American to travel—places to stay, places to eat—but yet always with that elegance, with that grace, with her beauty, she would perform and entertain but stay true to herself, understanding that she was going to have a better tomorrow for those who followed in her path. She was a trailblazer, making it easier for people to follow.

If you think about the times that we had during that period, you had to be extra special. That's who she was. I can recall, even as my mother sat, she had to smile, because as soon as you said the name, my father would smile because of the beauty and the glory of Lena Horne. Anytime you heard Lena Horne on the radio, he would stop to listen to her voice. And when she was on television later, everything else in the house had to halt so that we could watch the elegant Lena Horne.

So when we think about the prejudice and discrimination that she had throughout her life but how she persevered and ultimately used her talent and fame to become a powerful voice for the civil rights movement and equality, it is for those reasons I congratulate my friend, ALCEE HASTINGS, for bringing this bill forward.

Lena Horne lived in New York. In fact, a good friend of mine, a good personal friend of mine, lives in her old home now that's been landmarked and designated in Addisleigh Park, Queens, which is the heart of my district.

So, Mr. Speaker, today I call on my colleagues to join me in voting in favor of H.R. 1815, to award the elegant, the beautiful Lena Horne the Congressional Medal of Honor for her outstanding accomplishments and her contributions to American culture and society.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, we have no further speakers at this time. I will continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) such time as he may consume.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I thank my good friend for yielding the time, he and Mr. LUETKEMEYER for bringing the measure forward.

I especially want to acknowledge Chairman SPENCER BACHUS and Ranking Member BARNEY FRANK, as well as their respective staffs, for helping us in this matter. And a special shout-out to TIM SCOTT. Like Ms. HAYWORTH helped you with Raoul Wallenberg, TIM and Jennifer DeCasper, from his office,

helped me to gain the number of signatures, as well as to acknowledge my young staffer, Erin Moffet, who learned an awful lot about Lena Horne along the way.

Mr. Speaker, obviously I'm in strong support of H.R. 1815, the Lena Horne Recognition Act, a bill to posthumously honor Lena Horne with a Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of her many achievements and contributions to American culture and the civil rights movement.

I personally felt that I could not allow time to pass without honoring the life and legacy of Ms. Horne, who passed away on May 9, 2010, at the age of 92. Throughout her lifetime, Ms. Horne used her talent and fame to become a powerful voice for civil rights and equality.

It was quite a journey to get this legislation to the floor given the requirement that at least 290 Members of the House must cosponsor the bill. I introduced this bill on May 10, 2011, with the support from 23 other Members, and I'm proud to say today that there are now 308 bipartisan cosponsors, and the measure is also offered in the United States Senate.

While asking my colleagues to support this legislation to award Lena Horne with the Congressional Gold Medal, I was, in some respects, a little disappointed to see that too many people, both Members and staff, were not aware of who this remarkable woman was.

I hope that we can pass H.R. 1815 today and that the Senate will then subsequently pass this legislation and the President will sign this bill into law so that Lena Horne's legacy will finally be given the recognition it rightly deserves by posthumously awarding her with the Congressional Gold Medal. I know her daughter and members of the family—her daughter, Gail Lumet Buckley, I promised that I would call when it passed, and I shall.

Lena Horne was the recipient of the Kennedy Center Honor for her lifetime contribution to the arts in 1984, and in 1989 she received a Lifetime Achievement Grammy Award. She has two stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame for her work in both motion pictures and recording. Additionally, she has a footprint on the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame at the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site.

Although these and other monumental awards and honors were bestowed upon her, Ms. Horne's life was not a story of smooth sailing. Her life was too often plagued by stormy weather, which ironically was the title of her signature song and one of the major films that she starred in. Footnote there: I was in the third grade in Jersey City, New Jersey, and my mother let me stay out of school to see my first motion picture, and I have a memory of it today that stayed with me throughout that time.

Born on June 30, 1917, in Brooklyn—not in Queens, GREGORY—Lena Mary

Calhoun Horne broke racial barriers through her career as a singer, dancer, and actress for 60 years.

□ 1630

Ms. Horne got her start at the age of 16 when she was hired as a chorus dancer at Harlem's famous Cotton Club. Then, at 19, she made her Broadway debut in dancing a feature role in "Dance With Your Gods."

Her path to stardom then led her to tour with Charlie Barnett's jazz band in the early 1940s, when she became one of the first black women to tour with an all-white band.

A few years later, after starting her career as a singer and a dancer, Ms. Horne was discovered by a Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer talent scout, and moved to Hollywood to be an actress, becoming the first black artist to sign a long-term contract with a major studio.

Even given her extraordinary beauty and elegance and talent, she was often limited to minor acting roles because of her race. Among many lost opportunities was the role of Julie in the film adaptation of "Show Boat."

Ms. Horne had previously played this role in an adaptation of act 1 of "Show Boat" that was featured in the 1946 film "Till the Clouds Roll By." But due to the Motion Picture Production Code not allowing the depiction of interracial relationships in film, the distinguished and famous Ava Gardner was cast in this role instead of Lena Horne.

Her fame in films was also limited due to the fact that during that time, many films were shot so that scenes in which black performers were featured could be easily edited out for Southern audiences. Even facing such discrimination, Ms. Horne's perseverance allowed her to overcome such obstacles and led her to dazzle audiences and critics in a number of major films.

Her lead roles included those in the musical "Cabin in the Sky" and the box office hit "Stormy Weather," where Ms. Horne's remarkable performance of the title song in "Stormy Weather" became one of her most notable songs throughout her career. On her last tour, I saw her in Ft. Lauderdale, and she sang three iterations of that song; and the last one, indeed, as she said, was the most powerful. These two roles increased her visibility as well as sealed her legacy in the music and film industry.

The struggle for equal and fair treatment became an inseparable and increasingly political part of Ms. Horne's life even outside of the film industry. She toured extensively with the United Service Organizations in support of U.S. troops during World War II, where she was a major critic of the unfair treatment of black soldiers. Outspoken on the issue, Ms. Horne refused to sing for segregated audiences or to groups in which German prisoners of war were seated in front of the black U.S. servicemen.

Due to her civil rights activism on issues such as these, as well as her

friendship with Paul Robeson and W.E.B. DuBois, Ms. Horne found herself blacklisted during the period of McCarthyism.

While she continued to face discrimination in the film industry in the fifties, her career flourished in television and on nightclub stages across the country. During this time, she returned to her roots as a vocalist and established herself as a major recording artist.

In 1957, she recorded "Lena Horne at the Waldorf-Astoria," which became the best-selling album by a female singer in RCA Victor's history. Ms. Horne used the talent and fame she achieved through such acclaims to become a powerful voice for civil rights and equality. In 1963, she participated in the historic March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom at which Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his immortal "I Have a Dream" speech.

She also performed at rallies throughout the country for the National Council for Negro Women, and worked with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the NAACP, of which she was the cover girl for their monthly bulletin at age 2.

Following her blacklisting from film in the fifties and disillusionment with the industry, Ms. Horne only returned to the screen three more times following the McCarthyism era, one of which was the film adaptation of "The Wiz," in which she was cast as Glinda the Good Witch.

Then in 1981, Ms. Horne finally received the big break she had waited for her whole life, a one-woman Broadway show. "Lena Horne: The Lady and Her Music" was the culmination of her triumphs and struggles. It enjoyed a 14-month run before going on tour and earned her a special Tony award for distinguished achievement in theater and two Grammys.

At the age of 80, Ms. Horne made the following statement, which I believe appropriately captures her legacy; and, Gail, this one is for you.

She stated that:

My identity is very clear to me now. I am a black woman. I'm free. I no longer have to be a credit. I don't have to be a symbol to anybody. I don't have to be a first to anybody. I don't have to be an imitation of a white woman that Hollywood sort of hoped I'd become. I'm me, and I'm like nobody else.

Mr. Speaker, Lena Horne was an extraordinary woman who refused to give up her dreams because of the color of her skin, and used her beauty, talent, elegance, and intelligence to fight racial discrimination. Her perseverance and accomplishments are truly inspirational, having taught us all how to weather the stormy periods of our lives.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 1815, the Lena Horne Recognition Act, so that we may honor the life and legacy of Ms. Lena Horne with a Congressional Gold Medal and through this recognition inspire others with her story.

Someone wrote today, what do Lena Horne and Jack Nicklaus and Raoul Wallenberg have in common? It's my hope that what they will have in common today is each will be recognized for their distinguished achievements and heroic acts on behalf of our society.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1815.

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. HASTINGS of Florida. 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.

PROVIDING FOR AWARD OF GOLD MEDAL TO JACK NICKLAUS

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4040) to provide for the award of a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Jack Nicklaus in recognition of his service to the nation in promoting excellence and good sportsmanship in golf.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4040

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

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) Jack Nicklaus is a world famous golf professional, a highly successful business executive, a prominent advertising spokesman, a devoted husband, father, and grandfather, and a man with a common touch that has made him one of those most popular and accessible public figures in history.

(2) Jack Nicklaus amassed 118 victories in professional competition of national or international stature by the end of 2005, 73 of which came on the Professional Golf Association Tour, and 18 professional major-championship titles. He is the only player in golf history to have won each major championship at least three times and is the only player to complete a career "Grand Slam" on the regular and senior tours.

(3) Jack Nicklaus' magnetic personality and unflinching sense of kindness and thoughtfulness have endeared him to millions throughout the world.

(4) Jack Nicklaus has been the recipient of countless athletic honors, including the Muhammad Ali Sports Legend Award and the first-ever ESPY Lifetime Achievement Award. He became the first golfer and only the third athlete to receive the Vince Lombardi Award of Excellence and is also a