

wildland fires, and greater food scarcity. It's time to take action on climate change.

□ 1230

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT AMENDMENT

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1071) to specify the size of the precious-metal blanks that will be used in the production of the National Baseball Hall of Fame commemorative coins.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1071

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

SECTION 1. SIZE OF PRECIOUS-METAL BLANKS.

Section 3(a) of the National Baseball Hall of Fame Commemorative Coin Act (Public Law 112-152) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “have” and inserting “be struck on a planchet having a”; and

(2) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking “have a” and inserting “be struck on a planchet having a”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) and the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous materials for the RECORD on H.R. 1071.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1071, introduced by our colleague from New York (Mr. HANNA), along with Mr. DOYLE and Mr. GIBSON, two other Representatives from the State of New York.

This is a two-line amendment of the most technical sort. It amends the National Baseball Hall of Fame Commemorative Coin Act, sponsored by Mr. HANNA and Mr. DOYLE, and passed last

year by this Congress. The legislation calls for the Mint to strike and issue next year's coins in commemoration of the Hall of Fame's 75th anniversary.

The coin will be domed, Mr. Speaker, the first of that kind ever done by the Mint. As they did the technical work of preparing to produce the coin, the Mint discovered that using a standard coin blank and stamping the center part into a dome drew the edges of the coin inward a few thousandths of an inch; not a big deal, but enough to be out of spec with the finished size of the coin designated in the legislation.

To avoid making a coin not in compliance with the law, or having to purchase expensive custom coin blanks, this bill simply eliminates the requirement for the finished size and specification that the coins be struck on standard commemorative coin blanks. The result will be a less expensive coin and less work for the Mint.

This is truly a technical amendment, Mr. Speaker. I urge its quick passage.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1071. The bill corrects the specification of the precious metal blanks to be used by the U.S. Mint in making the National Baseball Hall of Fame coins which Congress authorized last term. This correction will result in a cost savings, permitting the U.S. Mint to implement the design specifications using standard-sized blanks and produce the coins by January 2014, the required deadline.

Last Congress, I voted in favor of minting the National Baseball Hall of Fame commemorative coin. Proceeds from the coin will go to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York, to help fulfill its mission of preserving history, honoring excellence, and connecting generations through the rich history of our national pastime.

One of the most popular exhibits at the Hall of Fame is that of Jackie Robinson, who broke the color barrier in 1947, bringing his amazing skills from the Negro League to win Rookie of the Year his first year. He led the Brooklyn Dodgers to 6 pennants in 10 seasons, including their own World Series in 1955. He was the 1949 National League Most Valuable Player. Jackie Robinson was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1962, after his phenomenal career. Most importantly, he showed tremendous grace and poise as he integrated the major leagues and served as an inspiration to so many of us in generations to come. The number he wore—42—as a Brooklyn Dodger has been retired in his honor, and no other ball player can wear that number again.

Baseball is also a wonderful pastime in my own district of Birmingham, Alabama, where we have a minor league team, the Birmingham Barons, and enjoy the baseball.

I ask for passage of H.R. 1071 and urge my colleagues to approve this bill. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. HANNA), who is the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. HANNA. I thank the chairman emeritus for yielding and for his strong support of the National Baseball Hall of Fame commemorative coin bill.

Mr. Speaker, the United States Mint is working hard to produce spectacular coins next year honoring the National Baseball Hall of Fame's 75th anniversary.

As called for in the legislation I authored in last year's Congress, the coin will be unique in the history of the Mint. It will be domed, with the back of the coin depicting stitches that appear on a major league baseball.

In doing the production work, the Mint discovered that the work to make the coin domed would make the finished coin slightly smaller than the standard finished commemorative coin. I am pleased the Mint has brought this to our attention and asked that we do a technical amendment to allow them to use standard coin blanks, instead of having to secure expensive custom ones.

Since all production costs of commemorative coins are passed on to the consumer, this will keep the cost of these coins down for baseball fans around the world who want to commemorate 75 years of collecting, displaying, and honoring our national pastime.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill that actually saves money and effort, and I urge its immediate passage.

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

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GIBSON).

Mr. GIBSON. I thank the gentleman for yielding. And it's a great privilege to rise today in support of this bill.

I'm proud to represent Cooperstown in upstate New York, home of the Baseball Hall of Fame. Baseball, America's pastime, is something that unites us and I think also something that engenders hope throughout our country, the feeling that we all have in April, the possibility that our team could go all the way and win the World Series, something, indeed, that unites us.

A coin is a fitting way to honor the Hall of Fame and also help our efforts for tourism in central New York. And this bill and this coin are able to do all that at no cost to the taxpayer.

I might also say that this competition where we now have children from across the country that are involved in this competition to provide the best design is, I think, going to kindle even more support for baseball. And so I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

I thank Mr. HANNA for his leadership and the chairman for the opportunity to speak this morning in support of it.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend my New York colleagues for

bringing this bill. Obviously, those of us who visited Cooperstown, it's a wonderful place, and I can really think of no better way to start the celebration of the 75th anniversary than to go view the film, "42," about Jackie Robinson.

□ 1240

Baseball has a rich history. It has a history, as with other sports, of bringing people together, putting aside their personal, emotional, or ideological differences. It is a wonderful movie and a lesson for all of us.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1071.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AWARDING CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO ADDIE MAE COLLINS, DENISE McNAIR, CAROLE ROBERTSON, AND CYNTHIA WESLEY

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 360) to award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal to Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley to commemorate the lives they lost 50 years ago in the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, where these 4 little Black girls' ultimate sacrifice served as a catalyst for the Civil Rights Movement, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 360

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

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

The Congress Finds the following:

(1) September 15, 2013 will mark 50 years since the lives of Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley were suddenly taken by a bomb planted in the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama.

(2) The senseless and premature death of these 4 little Black girls sparked "The Movement that Changed the World."

(3) On that tragic Sunday in September of 1963, the world took notice of the violence inflicted in the struggle for equal rights.

(4) The fact that 4 innocent children lost their lives as they prepared for Sunday School shook the world's conscience.

(5) This tragedy galvanized the Civil Rights Movement and sparked a surge of momentum that helped secure the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and later the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by President Lyndon B. Johnson.

(6) Justice was delayed for these 4 little Black girls and their families until 2002, 39 years after the bombing, when the last of the 4 Klansmen responsible for the bombing was charged and convicted of the crime.

(7) The 4 little Black girls are emblematic of so many who have lost their lives for the

cause of freedom and equality, including Virgil Ware and James Johnny Robinson who were children also killed within hours of the 1963 church bombing.

(8) The legacy that these 4 little Black girls left will live on in the minds and hearts of us all for generations to come.

(9) Their extraordinary sacrifice sparked real and lasting change as Congress began to aggressively pass legislation that ensured equality.

(10) Sixteenth Street Baptist Church remains a powerful symbol of the movement for civil and human rights and will host the 50th anniversary ceremony on Sunday, September 15, 2013.

(11) It is befitting that Congress bestow the highest civilian honor, the Congressional Gold Medal, in 2013 to the 4 little Black girls, Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley, posthumously in recognition of the 50th commemoration of the historical significance of the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church.

SEC. 2. 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 presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a gold medal of appropriate design to commemorate the lives of Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley.

(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.

(c) AWARD OF MEDAL.—Following the award of the gold medal described in subsection (a), the medal shall be given to the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute in Birmingham, AL, where it shall be available for display or temporary loan to be displayed elsewhere, as appropriate.

SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under section 2, at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the medal, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses, and amounts received from the sale of such duplicates shall be deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

SEC. 4. STATUS OF MEDALS.

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

(b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) and the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous materials for the RECORD on this legislation.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 4 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, it's an honor to manage this bill and to have worked with my colleague and the sponsor of this legislation, Congresswoman TERRI SEWELL, who is the driving force behind this legislation. She's worked tirelessly to bring this bill to the floor, and it has come to the floor with bipartisan support. Through her work, and those of many Members on both sides, including the Alabama delegation, we're proud that this bill has 296 Members as co-sponsors.

The bill, as the title reflects, posthumously awards a Congressional Gold Medal that recognizes these four little African American girls. Their pictures are on the floor of the House. You can see their very tender age. Their lives were cut short by a bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham on September 15, 1953. Many trace this decisive and heinous act to an impetus for a passage of the historical Civil Rights Act of 1964. There was a national revulsion caused by the deaths of these innocent lives, the calculated bombing in a place of worship. It was, indeed, a sad day for the entire country.

It can correctly be said that 50 years ago my hometown found itself the epicenter of the civil rights movement. The images of conflicts and violence from Birmingham that flickered nationally on what were still predominantly black-and-white TV screens shocked the conscience of the Nation and, I believe, most citizens of Alabama.

During the recent Faith and Politics Congressional Civil Rights Pilgrimage to Alabama, a large bipartisan delegation of Members viewed some of the historic sites in Birmingham. We were led on the pilgrimage by my friend and Congresswoman SEWELL's friend, Congressman JOHN LEWIS, who, from personal experience, spoke authoritatively about those years. As we know, he was beaten many times himself.

The Sixteenth Street Baptist Church is still a vibrant place of worship. Just a few months ago, we stood in a moment of silence in remembrance of the haunting act of evil that occurred there a half century ago.

Churchgoers gathered peacefully on that beautiful fall morning, as they faithfully did every Sunday, to praise, pray, and worship. In fact, 26 children were making their way to the downstairs assembly room to prepare for a sermon, entitled, "The Love That Forgives," when the bomb went off. The four little girls, whose pictures are on the floor of the House—Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley—were almost instantly killed.

Looking at those faces now, they speak as strongly to me on the House floor today as they did to newspaper readers and television viewers at the time of the bombing. As a Congress and