

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

a country, our eyes were opened and we were shocked enough to finally pass civil rights legislation affirming that the rights and protections of the U.S. Constitution do not depend on what color your skin happens to be.

The civil rights struggle was long and hard, filled with both sorrow and joy. There's a special place in history and in our hearts for all of those who were killed and injured in Birmingham.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 5 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to join my colleague, SPENCER BACHUS, as we begin consideration of our bill, H.R. 360. I am proud to have had the entire Alabama delegation, Representatives BONNER, ADERHOLT, ROGERS, ROBY, and BROOKS, as well as Alabama natives Representatives LEWIS and BISHOP, join me as original cosponsors on this legislation. I am also thankful for the leadership of both parties, Speaker BOEHNER, Leader PELOSI, Majority Leader CANTOR, Whips HOYER and MCCARTHY, as well as Financial Services Committee Chairman HENSARLING and Ranking Member WATERS, for their support and leadership. I also want to thank the more than 296 Members of Congress who cosponsored this bill.

H.R. 360 requests that Congress bestow its highest civilian honor, the Congressional Gold Medal, to Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley, who tragically lost their lives during the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in 1963. These beautiful girls never got a chance to live out their promise, but their lives were not in vain. As Dr. King said at their funeral, "They are the martyred heroines of a holy crusade for freedom and human dignity."

At 10:23 on Sunday, September 15, 1963, amid high racial tensions, a bomb went off in the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church as people gathered to worship for Sunday. The explosion killed four little girls who were in the basement bathroom preparing to return for Sunday school. Twenty-two people were injured by the blast, including the younger sister of Addie Mae Collins, Sarah, who survived but lost her eye.

The senseless deaths of four little girls shocked the Nation and became a galvanizing force for the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. But, Mr. Speaker, justice was long delayed because it wasn't until 37 years later, on May 18, 2000, that all four Ku Klux Klan members who planted the bomb were finally brought to justice for their crimes.

These innocent girls lost their lives much too young. Addie Mae Collins, 14, was a reserved and sweet little girl. She liked for people to be at peace around her, they said.

Denise McNair, 11 years old, was a loving and friendly child who already exhibited a take-charge and generous spirit, helping others as she went along the way.

Carole Robertson, 14, was a vivacious young girl who was an avid reader and played the clarinet in the band.

Cynthia Wesley, 14, was an honor student who enjoyed playing the saxophone in her school band. That fateful Sunday was going to be her first day serving as an usher in church.

Although there are many individuals and events of the civil rights movement that rightfully are worthy of recognition, the selection of the four little girls was emblematic of so many who sacrificed and lost their lives for the cause of freedom.

□ 1250

Medgar Evers, Emmett Till, Jimmy Lee Jackson, as well as Virgil Ware and James Johnny Robinson—who was also killed within hours of the 1963 bombing—they were all martyrs for justice whom we should never forget. It was their blood which was shed for the bounty that so many of us now enjoy.

While we recognize that this medal cannot in any way replace the lives lost nor the injuries suffered as a result of the horrific bombing, I hope this medal serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of the many sacrifices made and the great achievements obtained so that this Nation could live up to its ideals of equality and justice for all.

This Nation should never forget those who marched, those who prayed and died in the pursuit of civil rights and social change. It is my sincere hope that their families will receive this highest civilian honor in the humble spirit in which it was intended.

I am delighted today to be joined by the sisters of Denise McNair and Carole Robertson, and the president of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, who are all in the gallery as witnesses to this debate today.

Mr. Speaker, I want to urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation in honoring the lives of these four girls as we pay tribute to their families and recognize the enormous progress that we as a Nation have obtained.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 additional minute.

This recognition is long overdue, and I am grateful to this body for its consideration during this 50th anniversary year.

Dr. King offered the best rationale for granting this Gold Medal in the eulogy that he made at their funerals. He poignantly acknowledged:

History has proven over and over again that unmerited suffering is redemptive. The innocent blood of these girls may well have served as a redemptive force that will bring new light to this dark city. The Holy Scripture says, "A little child shall lead them." The death of these little children may lead our whole Southland from the low road of man's inhumanity to man to the high road of peace and brotherhood.

I urge my colleagues to support this Gold Medal bill so that this country can finally recognize the redemptive

force that the deaths of these four girls made in bringing light to a dark Nation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded that it is not in order to draw to the attention of the House occupants in the gallery.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 2 minutes to my friend, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHOCK).

Mr. SCHOCK. Mr. Speaker, in March, I had the honor to join my friends from Alabama in traveling to Birmingham as part of the 13th annual Congressional Civil Rights Pilgrimage. I was joined by my esteemed colleague, Congressman JOHN LEWIS of Georgia, who led the delegation to numerous landmarks that defined the civil rights movement at the time, including the tragedy that occurred at the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church.

The legislation we are considering today comes 50 years after the senseless death of four young girls when a bomb exploded in their church one Sunday morning in September of 1963.

Less than a month before this bombing, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., stood on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial—not far from where I stand today in the House Chamber—and declared that he dreamed of a day where all people could coexist and thrive together in peace and justice. The echo of his call for peaceful protest was still fresh in the mind of millions when it was replaced by the violent explosion at the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, which injured dozens and killed the four innocent girls. Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley did not live to see Dr. King's dream realized, but their tragic deaths catalyzed the civil rights movement and produced a backlash against these unthinkable acts of violence across the country.

As we have seen in recent tragedies, acts of violence often produce the opposite outcome than that desired by the perpetrators. Less than 1 year after the bomb went off at the church, the Civil Rights Act passed out of this very Chamber and became law in 1964. A year later, in 1965, this Chamber passed and put into law the Voting Rights Act.

Today, the House continues to act. The legislation before us awards the Congressional Gold Medal—which is the highest civilian honor given by Congress—to the four girls whose sacrifice advanced the march of freedom in this country. Their memory is rightly recognized by those who love justice, and it is befitting that we should honor them with the highest recognition.

I am proud to support this legislation and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Ms. WATERS).

Ms. WATERS. I rise today in support of H.R. 360.

The bill posthumously honors the lives of Addie Mae Collins, Denise

McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley who were tragically lost 50 years ago in the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama. The horror of this senseless act of violence stunned the Nation and served as a catalyst for the civil rights movement.

I would like to thank my colleagues on the Financial Services Committee, especially Congresswoman TERRI SEWELL and Chairman Emeritus SPENCER BACHUS, for their work to ensure that these girls receive our highest civilian honor as we commemorate the 50th anniversary of their deaths.

The Sixteenth Street Baptist Church was not an accidental bombing target for the perpetrators. Rather, members of the Ku Klux Klan deliberately targeted the church, designing their attack to strike fear into the hearts of those seeking equal rights. The church was a known sanctuary for civil rights leaders, including Dr. Martin Luther King, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and the Congress on Racial Equality which had become involved in a campaign to register African Americans to vote in Alabama.

On that fateful morning of September 13, 1963, roughly 1 month after the March on Washington, the girls went to Sunday school to hear a sermon entitled "The Love that Forgives" when the bomb exploded, killing them and injuring many others. The bombers had hidden under a set of cinder block steps on the side of the church, tunneled under the basement, and placed a bundle of dynamite under what turned out to be the girls restroom.

The cruelty and violence of this act shocked the Nation and drew international attention to the violent struggle for civil rights, inspiring a wave of legislative action in Congress. By 1964, Congress had passed the Civil Rights Act, a landmark achievement in the fight to outlaw discrimination. By 1965, Congress had passed the Voting Rights Act, which aimed to eliminate voting restrictions that unjustly disenfranchised qualified voters.

I thank you, Ms. SEWELL, for your leadership on this issue and helping this Nation to remember what took place on that day.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 1 minute to the distinguished majority leader, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR).

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to stand before the House today in support of this award to honor Addie Mae Collins, Cynthia Wesley, Carole Robertson, and Denise McNair by awarding them the Congressional Gold Medal.

The 50th anniversary of the attack on the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham is a strong reminder of how many people fought and died in the civil rights movement so that this country could live up to its founding ideals of equality and opportunity.

On a recent trip to Selma, Alabama, I had the opportunity to stand shoulder

to shoulder with Congressman JOHN LEWIS and other civil rights heroes who stood on the front lines and fought to change America for the better. We must never forget the hardships they confronted and sacrifices they made.

While reflecting on such moments in our history, and by honoring those who come before us, I look forward to continuing to focus on ways in which we all can stand together once again and continue to solve our Nation's problems and move forward in unison.

I would like to thank Congresswoman SEWELL, Congressman BACHUS, and the rest of the Alabama delegation for their hard work on this matter and bringing it forward.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN), my mentor and a great leader.

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 360. This timely legislation will provide for the posthumous awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal to Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley. These four precious girls were killed in the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, 50 years ago this year.

□ 1300

1963 was a pivotal year in the struggle for civil rights in our Nation. It marked 100 years after the Emancipation Proclamation and was the year of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s, stirring "Letter from Birmingham City Jail," which sounded the call for nonviolent civil disobedience to counter oppression in the Jim Crow South. In that letter, Dr. King famously proclaimed:

Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

Mr. Speaker, as a veteran of those efforts, I know that the struggle for justice, empowerment, and equal opportunity for all continues to this day.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. CLYBURN. I want to thank my colleague, Representative TERRI SEWELL, for her leadership in this outstanding effort. Representative SEWELL has quickly made her mark in this institution for her tireless devotion to duty and her thoughtful approach to legislating. I am proud to join her in this effort and urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BONNER).

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, this is the right thing to do at the right time and for the right reasons. Hopefully, in some small way, this legislation will bring some form of closure to a cowardly act, one so outrageous that it became a turning point in the passage of the historic Civil Rights Act of 1964.

On behalf of the people of Alabama, I want to say a special thank you to our

colleague, Congresswoman TERRI SEWELL, as well as the dean of our delegation, Congressman SPENCER BACHUS, for their example of working together hand in hand to bring this very appropriate bill to the floor for consideration and for a vote.

While nothing that we do here will ever replace the loss of these four innocent young girls, especially to their families and to their loved ones who have lived with a void in their hearts for the last 50 years, may this action today ensure that their spirit lives on forever.

With that, I urge the adoption of this bill.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished leader of the Democratic Party, the gentlelady from California (Ms. PELOSI).

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank our distinguished colleague, Congresswoman SEWELL, for yielding.

As you can see, there are many of us who are very eager. Our distinguished Democratic whip, Mr. HOYER, and I have had the privilege—he, more than I—to travel to Alabama with JOHN LEWIS. And thank you this morning for informing the Members that that's a transformative experience. Anybody who travels there and sees what happened in the lifetime of many of us here, and certainly in the lifetime of everyone's parents here, in our very own country cannot help but be moved. So I'm pleased to be joining you, Congresswoman SEWELL, Mr. BONNER, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. HOYER, Mr. BISHOP, and other colleagues in coming to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, as we are all acknowledging, 50 years ago, on a Sunday morning, four precious little girls walked into the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, the same day they did every week.

These four little girls were there for Sunday school. They were not civil rights activists; they were not agitators or advocates. They had simply come to church to learn, to pray, to be with their friends and classmates. When you visit there, you see they didn't really have a chance. They were in such close quarters when they went down those steps and the rest.

These four little girls did not enter the church seeking to become symbols of the struggle of equality; yet, in a moment of brutal, horrific, unspeakable tragedy, they would become icons of a movement for justice. The names Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley remain seared in the hearts and minds of us today as painful reminders of a dark moment in our history.

For their families, for their friends, for their loved ones, their loss in a bombing at the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church would change their world forever. Yet even at that time of great change across our country, little did we know that their deaths would change our world forever too.

Among the many milestones of the civil rights movement, September 15,

1963, may be bestowed with some of the greatest pain and anguish. But it was on that day, as this resolution states:

The world took notice of the violence inflicted in the struggle for equal rights.

It was that day that stirred the conscience of our Nation, galvanized the forces of justice, and spurred the momentum to pass the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act—landmark steps in righting the wrongs in our country's past.

It was on that day that the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church became a symbol in the cause of human rights and human dignity, from the streets of Birmingham to communities nationwide. It was that day that once again reinforced what Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., just weeks earlier, called the "fierce urgency of now."

These four girls made the ultimate sacrifice in the battle for civil rights, joining too many fellow Americans in paying for freedom with their lives.

This weekend, I will join the Southern Poverty Law Center to rename and rededicate the Civil Rights Memorial in Montgomery, Alabama. This memorial is a tribute to 40 individuals killed during the struggle. It is a place to remember the fallen, to take heed of their message, to deepen our understanding, and to renew our commitment to equal rights under the law.

They were four small little children going to church—four students, four daughters, four members of a tight-knit community in Birmingham. Four lives ended too soon; four victims to the forces of hatred and prejudice, racism, and injustice. Their senseless and premature deaths ignited the fires of progress and fanned the flames of equality.

I thank the gentlelady, one of our new, not brand-new, but newer Members of Congress, for coming here and joining with colleagues Mr. BACHUS, Mr. BONNER, certainly JOHN LEWIS, and Members of Congress not representing Alabama, but from Alabama. As the resolution that she presents declares, the legacy that these four little Black girls left will live in the minds and hearts of all for generations to come.

To honor that legacy, to cherish their memories, to inscribe their names once more in the pages of history, it is only fitting to bestow our highest civilian honor, the highest honor that Congress can bestow on a civilian, the Congressional Gold Medal, on these four Americans. That will be a glorious day in the Capitol when we all come together under the rotunda, under the dome of the Capitol, to remember them. I hope that is a comfort to their families. They gave so much. So much sprang from that, and we will always remember.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT).

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues, as mentioned, in support of H.R. 360, and to honor the memory of Addie Mae Col-

lins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley, who lost their lives at the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham.

What we do here today honors these four innocent young girls, whose lives were sacrificed in an act of hatred and of violence. And no doubt their deaths, as has been mentioned, marked a significant turning point in the civil rights movement of the 1960s.

As Congressman BACHUS mentioned in his opening remarks, these four young girls, who ranged in age from 11 to 14, were walking into the basement of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church to hear a sermon that was ironically entitled, "The Love That Forgives." Though they could not have known at the time, these four little girls changed the course of history for our Nation. Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley's young lives were cut short on September 15, 1963, but their legacy still lives on today, especially with what we do here, by the Congressional Medal of Honor, which is America's highest civilian honor.

□ 1310

I want to thank my colleague Ms. SEWELL for her leadership on this bill, and I am a proud supporter of H.R. 360. I also thank Mr. BACHUS for this time to speak on the legislation.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 2 minutes to the distinguished Democratic whip, my dear friend, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. I thank Congresswoman SEWELL for her leadership and for yielding this time, and I thank my good friend SPENCER BACHUS for his leadership as well, and I congratulate him and his family for the courage they showed at a time of great stress that this Gold Medal reflects.

Mr. Speaker, the recognition for the victims of this terrible tragedy that befall our whole country on September 15, 1963, is absolutely appropriate, and it is an opportunity for us to say once again the respect we have for these young girls, the respect we have for their families. I say "our whole country" because a wound opened in the soul of America that day from a heinous act of racism and terror.

Those who set a bomb inside the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church that Sunday did so because they believed in a Nation where not all are created equal, where not all are entitled to life and liberty. On that day, many Americans who had turned away with indifference could no longer look away.

Since that day, we have forcefully declared to future generations that America will not be that Nation that looks away. In America, we strive to protect our children from hurt and harm no matter the color of their skin, their faith, their national origin. We hold fast to the values and memory of these four little girls who were killed that day, not the twisted, warped, hateful ideals of their killers.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BACHUS. I yield the gentleman an additional 2 minutes.

Mr. HOYER. Their names have been mentioned but warrant re-mentioning: Addie Mae Collins, Cynthia Wesley, Carole Robertson, and Denise McNair—four of God's children, four beautiful assets of America.

If you go down into the basement of the church, you see their pictures, you see the memorial—and your heart cries. They were brutally murdered while attending Sunday school, as the leader, SPENCER BACHUS, and as TERRI SEWELL have related.

My colleagues, let us honor their lives and their faith in the face of the evil of segregation and prejudice and hate. Let us remember the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., from the funeral of three of those four little girls. He said this:

They have something to say to each of us in their death. Their death says to us that we must work passionately and unrelentingly for the realization of the American Dream.

That fight began with the Declaration of Independence: that we hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men—and, surely, Jefferson meant mankind, women as well—are endowed by God, not by the Constitution and not by our votes on this floor, with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

These four little girls had those robbed that day. Let us recommit ourselves. Let us recommit ourselves to that proposition and to unrelentingly and courageously ensure that that dream, that that promise is fulfilled for all of the little children of this Nation and for all the adults as well.

Let us pass this bill, Mr. Speaker, and send a message that we will never, ever forget their memory.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Alabama has 5½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Alabama has 10½ minutes remaining.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge and thank Mr. HOYER for his recognition of my father's role, of our family's. I am very proud of my father and the courage he showed.

At this time, I yield 2½ minutes to the esteemed chairman of the Financial Services Committee, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING).

Mr. HENSARLING. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 360 to posthumously bestow Congress' highest civilian honor to Addie Mae Collins, Cynthia Wesley, Carole Robertson, and Denise McNair.

I also want to commend my two colleagues on the Financial Services Committee—Ms. SEWELL and our chairman emeritus, Mr. BACHUS, both from Alabama—for bringing this bill before the House.

Mr. Speaker, I was a mere child when these innocents were murdered. I am

no longer a child, but I'm the father of two small children—a 9-year-old and an 11-year-old. I cannot imagine the unspeakable horror of knowing that my children were in church and that one of the great acts of evil known in our Nation's history could be perpetrated upon them.

That act 50 years ago jarred millions in our Nation to the realization that racial prejudice and hatred had just manifested itself in pure, unimaginable evil. Within a year, this body had passed the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

In his eulogy for these four little girls, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., said:

These children—unoffending, innocent and beautiful—were the victims of one of the most vicious, heinous crimes ever perpetrated against humanity. Yet, they died nobly. They are the martyred heroines of a holy crusade for freedom and human dignity.

I certainly cannot add to the words of this great American hero, martyred himself.

I will just end by saying, Mr. Speaker, it is a good and right thing that this body honor these innocent children martyrs, that we never forget, that we always confront evil, and although our Nation was founded on noble principles, we must never cease the work of making America a more perfect Union. With the passage of this bill, I think we do one small act to do that.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the dean of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL).

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

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I commend the sponsors of this legislation, and I urge the adoption of the bill.

It is appropriate that we should honor these four young girls who gave so much to the cause of civil rights. They gave their lives.

Just before this event, we had passed the Civil Rights Act of 1957. Immediately thereafter, we passed legislation, cosponsored by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. Loser) and me, which made it a crime to travel in interstate commerce for the purpose of destroying buildings or churches. Shortly thereafter, outraged by the events that took place on this awful day, the Congress passed the '64 and then the '65 Civil Rights Acts.

□ 1320

These four beautiful children contributed in a most meaningful way to those events which caused the legislation to become law, and they saw to it that we honor their doings today with enactment of this legislation.

I rise in support of H.R. 360, legislation to award a Congressional Gold Medal to four brave little girls who tragically lost their lives 50 years ago in the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama.

I want to thank the gentlewoman from Alabama, Congresswoman SEWELL, for bringing the attention of Congress to this fateful inci-

dent that helped transform the history of our nation and for giving the victims of this attack the recognition for which they are long overdue.

I remember the day of this tragic incident, and my thoughts and prayers continue to be with the families of the victims of this senseless act of violence.

The Sixteenth Street Baptist Church bombing changed the nature of the conversation in Congress, which had stagnated in the 1950s and early 1960s.

With the strong leadership of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and other leaders in civil society, those four little girls did not die in vain.

The Birmingham bombing galvanized the nation and gave real urgency to the Civil Rights movement, which culminated in the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 less than a year later, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 after that.

I was proud to stand with President Lyndon Johnson as he signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 because nothing is more important than ensuring that the rights enshrined in our Constitution are granted to everyone in our society.

In many respects, the movement that was sparked by this tragic bombing 50 years ago continues today. We must continue to make every effort to rid our nation of discrimination of any kind.

Our work today goes beyond voting rights or the right to own property. The battle we must focus on now is one of social justice.

Americans of all walks of life deserve to be treated fairly and decently, whether it's in the workplace, in our businesses, or in political discourse.

As we reflect on this tragedy, let us not forget Dr. King's wise words, which he penned from a Birmingham Jail 50 years ago this month.

He said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK), who has visited the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church with us, and I thank him for doing that.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. I thank my friend from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS).

Mr. Speaker, I rise also to urge passage in support of the bill as we commemorate the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church bombing in Birmingham.

It was a Sunday morning. It was September 15, 1963. And I think it's appropriate that we mention their names again: Addie Mae Collins, Cynthia Wesley, Carole Robertson, and Denise McNair.

They were entering their church before the 11 a.m. service when a bomb detonated on the church's east side, and the explosion killed all four young girls and maimed dozens of the parishioners there.

The bombing of that church gave further momentum in the struggle to end segregation and helped to spur support for the passage of the landmark Civil Rights Act right here in this Chamber.

Last month, many of us were honored to commemorate that event and another event that served as a catalyst for action in the civil rights move-

ment. I also joined Members of Congress in the annual pilgrimage across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, the event that marked the beating of peaceful voting civil rights marchers, known as Bloody Sunday, on March 7, 1965. And the pilgrimage was meaningful, as other Members of Congress and I reflected together on how far we've come as a country.

Bloody Sunday and the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church bombing remind us of the long and difficult struggle to end segregation; and it is immensely important, Mr. Speaker, that we commemorate these moments and these four little girls, that they led to the advancement of civil rights for the African American community and for our entire country.

Again, I urge passage of the bill.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that 4 minutes of my time be given to Ms. SEWELL to manage, and I reserve the balance of my time. I do that in acknowledgement of her fine work on this legislation and those of her colleagues who visited the church.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Alabama. It has been a pleasure to not only represent Jefferson County with him, but to serve in this body with him. And I thank you for yielding me that time.

I now yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS); and while he may represent Georgia, we claim him as Alabama's native.

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friends, Congresswoman SEWELL and Congressman BACHUS.

It is true that I grew up in Alabama, and I represent Georgia, but Alabama is in my blood.

I want to thank the two of you for bringing this resolution forward to honor these four beautiful little girls killed by a bomb while attending Sunday school on September 15, 1963, at the Sixteenth Street Baptist church.

On that Sunday, when I heard about the bombing that morning, I traveled to the city of Birmingham and stood outside of the church with my friend and my coworker, Julian Bond. We stood and we looked at the church. Later, I had an opportunity to attend the funeral of three of the little girls.

That bombing took place 18 days after Martin Luther King, Jr., had stood here in Washington and said: "I have a dream, a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream."

That was a sad day. It tore out the essence of our hearts. But we didn't give up. We didn't become bitter. We didn't become hostile. We continued. Because of what happened in Birmingham, it inspired us to go to Selma to fight for the right to vote.

I think we're doing the right thing today by honoring these four little

girls. They must be looked upon as those who gave their very lives, gave their blood to help redeem the soul of America and move us closer to a beloved community.

I wonder sometimes why, what, and how. We're a different country and we're a better country because they gave their all.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to another native of Alabama who happens to represent Georgia, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP).

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

Alabama named me, but Georgia claimed me.

I remember vividly the Sunday of the bombing as a young boy in Mobile, Alabama. I'm reminded of the words of James Weldon Johnson:

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;

Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet,
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?

We have come over a way that with tears have been watered,

We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,

Out from the gloomy past,
Till now we stand at last,

Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, Cynthia Wesley: four little girls are bright stars in the constellation shining down now as beacons of light for freedom and justice.

So today, 50 years after the senseless bombing in Birmingham, it's altogether fitting and proper that we should look back and commemorate the significance of the sacrifice of these young girls, these four young lives.

Truly, it was a turning point; and the murder of these youngsters, whose only crime was going to the bathroom in church, sparked a Nation not only to mourn the death of innocence, but to act to quell the turmoil and to move us toward freedom.

I'm happy to join my colleagues, Congresswoman SEWELL, Congressman BACHUS, and all of the colleagues here in this House, to appropriately pass legislation to award the Congressional Gold Medal to these four young martyrs in the fight for freedom.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the former chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLEAVER).

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I say congratulations to Ms. SEWELL and Mr. BACHUS.

I had returned home from a movie. If we went to church, we had the opportunity to do other things; and I went on to church, and so my parents allowed me to go to the movies.

When my sisters and I walked back into the house, our mother was in the

living room with some friends and they were crying. We didn't know what happened, and she said that they had killed some little black girls down in Birmingham.

I had no idea that I would eventually become deeply involved in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and I realized later that the reason for the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church is that it had been the headquarters, the meeting place of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference led by Martin Luther King, Jr.; the vice president, Ralph David Abernathy, and my father in the ministry, who wrote to me, "I am your Paul; you are my solace." And there was also Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth, who says he taught me how to preach.

□ 1330

They met there, and that was reason enough to blow up that building and kill these little girls, innocent little girls.

I was pleased in 1979 when Richard Arrington was elected mayor of Birmingham. And I remember thinking Fred Shuttlesworth had coined the term "Bombingham" because his own home was blown to bits; and on the day Richard Arrington, a Black man, was elected mayor, I said, "It is no longer Bombingham; it is now Birmingham."

Ms. SEWELL, congratulations to you. This should be done, it is being done, and it furthers the way of that name from "Bombingham" to "Birmingham."

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

What we need to fully realize is that the civil rights victories were achieved with the guiding principle of non-violence. There are many regions and nations of the world that have been trapped in endless cycles of ethnic and political violence across multiple generations that have torn the fabric of their societies and families. We always like to think that could never happen here. It did not happen during the civil rights movement because of the principle of nonviolence.

I journeyed, at JOHN LEWIS' invitation, to India where we retraced the steps of Martin Luther King as he retraced the journey of Ghandi. Dr. King took his own religious convictions, affirmed and strengthened by those of Ghandi, and brought back a powerful nonviolent movement which overcame police dogs, water hoses, brutal beatings, bombs, bullets, and acts of violence in a nonviolent way. And love carried the day against hate. That was a proud moment for our country, and it is a model as we go forward.

We in America have the right to petition our government in a peaceful way. Let us use that example and that tradition.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to yield the balance of my time to the gentlewoman from Alabama to manage as she sees fit and give her the right to close, which I think should be her honor.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Alabama controls the remaining 5 minutes.

Ms. SEWELL. I again thank the gentleman from Alabama. It is indeed an honor to be able to manage the floor with you on this bill and cosponsor it with you, and I thank you for your generosity.

At this time I yield 1½ minutes to the distinguished gentlelady from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, often we are taught in the Christian Baptist and African American tradition, which is paraphrasing the words of the Bible, give honor unto those upon whom honor is due. For that reason, I can give tribute to the two Members of Congress without reservation for recognizing the importance, both Congresswoman SEWELL and Congressman BACHUS, for giving honor to those families who languished for over 50 years and wondered did anybody care. We thank Congresswoman SEWELL for her great leadership and Congressman BACHUS for joining and exuding the kind of partnership, the spirit of his family tradition against all adversity, saying I want to join and to speak of nonviolence.

I rise today with great enthusiasm for H.R. 360 and say to the family members, the sisters, the friends of Addie Mae Collins, Carole Robertson, Cynthia Wesley, and Denise McNair, it has been too long.

And so we rise today to be able to make amends for justice that had not been served because of the callousness and indifference, sometimes of criminal collusion, and many times the lack of enforcement of devastation against coloreds, Blacks, Negroes, and African Americans. There was an era that we look sadly upon; but now today, in the spirit of Dr. King's message of non-violence, we are able to say yes, profoundly yes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Ms. SEWELL. I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlelady.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank the gentlelady for her kindness.

We are able to now say profoundly to these girls' relatives that we honor the children who lost their future. We honor them by saying to their families, We care for you. And in the words of John F. Kennedy:

We are confronted primarily with a moral issue. It is as old as the Scriptures, and it is as clear as the American Constitution—justice delayed is sometimes justice denied.

But as Martin Luther King said in the Birmingham jail: "Go wherever injustice is."

Today on the floor of the House, we will remedy injustice. I'm delighted to be a supporter and cosponsor of this great resolution.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS).

(Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Alabama for yielding me this time. I want to commend her for her leadership and commend the leadership of Representative BACHUS from Alabama.

I remember that day vividly as a young activist at the time. We thought it was unbelievable that this kind of tragedy could take place. But I think it reminds all of us that yesterday is yesterday. We look forward to tomorrow, and I again commend the gentlewoman from Alabama and Mr. BACHUS for reminding us of that time and what can happen when we join hands together.

And so I thank you both.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON).

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I think many times people wonder why so often we go back and give homage to our past. It's because we still suffer the damages of the past. And we don't forget the families that have given up so much just for us to be able to vote. And we still struggle for that vote. We still struggle for the right to vote, but we must continue. And I want to say to these families, and I know some of them personally, how much we appreciate the fact that they have been loyal to the cause, loyal to this country, loyal to our military, and stand strong today. And so I want to thank you very much for giving honor. I thank my colleague.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I want to conclude by thanking all of my colleagues, especially my colleagues from Alabama, and all of my colleagues who have participated in today's debate. It is indeed an honor and a privilege for me, a native of Selma, Alabama, a 30-year member of Brown Chapel AME Church, to have the humble honor to be a sponsor of this bill.

I know that I drink deep from wells that I didn't dig, my whole generation does. It is a long time overdue, but I just want to say humbly, Thank you, and I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 360. And again, I thank the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS). It has been an honor to serve with you and to share this time with you.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BACHUS. (Mr. Speaker, it is important to remember that the 4 men suspected of the bombing, Bobby Frank Cherry, Herman Cash, Thomas Blanton, and Robert Chambliss, were not immediately prosecuted because authorities believed it impossible to obtain a conviction in the heated racial climate of the mid-1960s. Alabama Attorney General Bill Baxley successfully prosecuted Robert Chambliss 13 years after the bombing. After the indictment and conviction of Robert Chambliss the bombing investigation was closed. The investigation was reopened in 1995 due to the efforts of Federal Bureau of Investigation Special Agent

Rob Langford and local African-American leaders. In 2001 and 2002 a joint Federal and State task force, under the supervision of United States Attorney Douglas Jones and Alabama Attorney General William Pryor, successfully prosecuted Thomas Blanton and Bobby Frank Cherry with the assistance of State and local law enforcement personnel. We in Alabama and the Nation Owe a Debt of Gratitude for the tireless efforts of then Attorney General Bill Baxley, FBI Special Agent Rob Langford, Local African-American leaders, United States Attorney Douglas Jones, and Alabama Attorney General William Pryor as well as those state and local law enforcement personnel who brought these perpetrators to justice.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise as a supporter of today's legislation that would award a Congressional Gold Medal to commemorate the lives of Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robinson and Cynthia Wesley.

This year we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the atrocious bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama that killed these four little girls on their way to Sunday School. While nothing can bring these innocent victims back, today we honor their legacy with this bill to award them Congressional Gold Medals.

Earlier this year I attended the anniversary of Freedom March in Selma. It was a moving experience. The stories of the struggle for civil rights remind us to continue to fight for the rights and freedoms of all Americans. Today we take another step forward by honoring these four innocent girls who lost their lives on that fateful day, 50 years ago.

□ 1340

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. 360, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. 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 motion will be postponed.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1549, HELPING SICK AMERICANS NOW ACT

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 175 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 175

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1549) to amend Public Law 111-148 to transfer fiscal year 2013 through fiscal year 2016 funds from the Pre-

vention and Public Health Fund to carry out the temporary high risk health insurance pool program for individuals with pre-existing conditions, and to extend access to such program to such individuals who have had creditable coverage during the 6 months prior to application for coverage through such program. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Energy and Commerce now printed in the bill, it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113-8. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 1 hour.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURGESS. 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 Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlelady from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

House Resolution 175 provides for a structured rule for consideration of H.R. 1549. The rule provides for 1 hour of general debate equally divided by the chair and the ranking member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.