

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield as much time as she may consume to the gentlelady from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ), with whom I had the honor of serving on the Financial Services Committee.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1726, which will pay tribute to the many patriotic Puerto Ricans who have served in the 65th Regiment throughout our Nation's conflicts. I am very proud today to serve in this body and of the fact that we are having this vote in a bipartisan manner. It is not every day that we have the pleasure of bringing bipartisan legislation to the floor.

I want to recognize Mr. PIERLUISI, the Commissioner from Puerto Rico, as well as Frank Medina and the countless individuals and organizations throughout our Nation and Puerto Rico, for trying to get this recognition to the floor and to the Senate.

Puerto Ricans have a rich heritage of serving in the military. From the American Revolution, when Puerto Ricans volunteered to fight the British, to current conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, Puerto Ricans have fought and bled to defend the United States. The 65th Regiment, in particular, has time and again exemplified the courage of Puerto Rican soldiers. During World War II, these soldiers were initially deployed to protect the Panama Canal before later shipping to Europe. There, members of the unit would earn scores of medals, including Purple Hearts, the Distinguished Service Cross, two Silver Stars and Bronze Stars.

In the Korean war, the 65th made an even greater mark on history, participating in some of the most significant and bloodiest battles of that conflict. In 1950, the American ground situation in Korea deteriorated, prompting the 65th to be sent to Korea as reinforcements. While sailing for Asia, members of the unit adopted their informal name—the “Borinqueneers.” Derived from the Taino word for Puerto Rico, meaning “land of the brave lord,” this title exemplified these soldiers’ fighting spirit.

General MacArthur wrote of the unit’s achievement in Korea:

They are writing a brilliant record of achievement in battle, and I am proud indeed to have them in this command. I wish that we might have many more like them.

I am proud to note, Mr. Speaker, that one of those brave Puerto Rican troops who served in Korea was my late uncle, Luis Manuel Serrano Medina.

Since their participation in the Korean war, the 65th has continued to be an integral part of our Armed Forces, serving in the global war against terrorism and Operation Iraqi Freedom. In San Juan and New York City, the legacy of these brave warriors has been honored with streets in their names. It is only fitting that Congress now recognize these soldiers’ contributions with one of the highest civilian awards. I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on this legislation, and I ask the Senate to do the same.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Chair, I am prepared to close and reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Mr. PIERLUISI and Mr. POSEY for proposing this bill, and I hope that it passes as quickly as possible.

I would just simply like to add one thing, sitting and listening to these things: particularly in World War II, there was never a question by almost anyone about people of German American heritage or Italian American heritage fighting on behalf of the United States of America—even in the European theater. Yet people had questions about other ethnicities which I think is a blot on the history of this great country, and I couldn’t be prouder to be a very small, little part to be here today to try to make amends for those past sins and to say thank you to the Americans who served this great country and helped me live a better life.

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

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I, too, would like to reflect the comments of my colleague from Financial Services, as we have. As the son of a disabled World War II veteran myself, I certainly know what that Greatest Generation had done. No matter where they geographically came from, they fought for that flag that is behind you today, Mr. Speaker, and we appreciate the work that was done by them and by any of those colleagues that are here, and to my colleague from New York, especially her uncle in the service that he had to this fine Nation, and we want to say thank you for that.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge rapid passage of this, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, it is always an honor to recognize the sacrifice and bravery of our men and women in uniform. Today, as a fellow Puerto Rican, I am pleased to join my colleagues in celebrating the Puerto Rican veterans of the 65th Infantry Regiment, who are known as the Borinqueneers.

The Congressional Gold Medal will be the highest award granted by Congress to a Hispanic active duty unit in U.S. history. The Borinqueneers will be only the second Latino individual or group to receive a Congressional Gold Medal. This recognition of their service and sacrifice is long overdue and I thank the authors, the Governor of Puerto Rico, and Puerto Ricans and veterans from Florida to New York, to Illinois to Colorado who have made sure the accomplishments of the Borinqueneers are preserved and celebrated.

The Borinqueneers served during WWI, WWII, and the Korean War. The unit was segregated through most of the Korean War and composed primarily of soldiers from the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico, but also included recruits from other Latino backgrounds. In the face of discrimination and segregation, these brave soldiers performed many remarkable military accomplishments and are known for waging the final battalion-sized bayonet assault in U.S. Army history.

These soldiers fought valiantly on behalf of the U.S. and served our nation honorably with

great skill and courage. General Douglas MacArthur said of the Borinqueneers, “The Puerto Ricans forming the ranks of the gallant 65th Infantry give daily proof on the battlefields of Korea of their courage, determination and resolute will to victory, their invincible loyalty to the United States and their fervent devotion to those immutable principles of human relations which the Americans of the Continents and of Puerto Rico have in common. They are writing a brilliant record of heroism in battle and I am indeed proud to have them under my command. I wish that we could count on many more like them.”

Throughout the course of the Korean War, Puerto Rico’s 65th Infantry Regiment suffered more casualties than did the vast majority of mainland states and according to Department of Defense records, 2,700 soldiers received the Purple Heart for wounds received while in battle, and the Regiment lost 740 Borinqueneers in Korea. The Borinqueneers selflessly served and many gave their lives for our democracy and have earned this recognition from Congress. They have inspired new generations of Puerto Ricans who have continued to answer the call to serve in the Armed Forces of the United States.

To the Borinqueneers of the 65th Infantry Regiment, their loved ones, and to the Puerto Rican soldiers who have followed in their footsteps, I thank you for your proud service to this country. Your sacrifice is just one more reason I am proud of my Puerto Rican heritage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. POSEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1726, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### AWARDING CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO JACK NICKLAUS

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2203) 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, good sportsmanship, and philanthropy.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2203

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

#### SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

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

(2) Jack Nicklaus amassed 120 victories in professional competition of national or international stature, 73 of which came on the Professional Golf Association (in this

Act referred to as the “PGA”) Tour, and professional major-championship titles. His record 18 professional majors, the first of which he won 50 years ago with his win at the 1962 U.S. Open as a 22-year-old rookie, remains the standard by which all golfers are measured. 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 both the regular and senior tours. He also owns the record for most major championships as a senior, with eight.

(3) Jack Nicklaus’ magnetic personality and unfailing 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 being named Individual Male Athlete of the Century by *Sports Illustrated*, one of the 10 Greatest Athletes of the Century by ESPN, and Golfer of the Century or Golfer of the Millennium by every major national and international media outlet. He received 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 five-time winner of the PGA Player of the Year Award. He was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame at the age of 34.

(5) Jack Nicklaus has received numerous honors outside of the world of sports, including several golf industry awards for his work and contributions as a golf course designer, such as the Old Tom Morris Award, which is the highest honor given by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, and both the Donald Ross Award given by the American Society of Golf Course Architects and the Don A. Rossi Award given by the Golf Course Builders Association of America. Golf Inc. Magazine named him the Most Powerful Person in Golf for a record six consecutive years, due to his impact on various aspects of the industry through his course design work, marketing and licensing business, his ambassadorial role in promoting and growing the game of golf worldwide, and his involvement on a national and global level with various charitable causes.

(6) Jack Nicklaus has been involved in the design of more than 290 golf courses worldwide, and his business, Nicklaus Design, has close to 380 courses open for play in 36 countries and 39 States.

(7) Jack Nicklaus served as the Global Ambassador for a campaign to include golf in the Olympic Games, which was achieved and will begin in the 2016 Olympic program.

(8) Jack Nicklaus was honored by President George W. Bush in 2005 by receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest honor given to any United States civilian.

(9) Jack Nicklaus has a long-standing commitment to numerous charitable causes, such as his founding, along with wife Barbara, of the Nicklaus Children’s Health Care Foundation, which provides pediatric health care services throughout South Florida and in other parts of the country. The Foundation has raised close to \$24,000,000 since it was formed in 2004, and has provided health assistance and services to more than 4,000 children and their families through—

(A) Child Life programs (supporting therapeutic interventions for children with chronic and acute conditions during hospitalization);

(B) Miami Children’s Hospital Nicklaus Care Centers (to offer a new option to Palm Beach County-area families with children who require pediatric specialty care); and

(C) Safe Kids Program (aimed at keeping children injury-free and offering safety edu-

cation in an effort to decrease accidental injuries in children).

(10) In October 2012, the Miami Children’s Hospital Nicklaus Outpatient Center was opened to provide pediatric urgent care, diagnostic services, and rehabilitation services in Palm Beach County.

(11) Jack Nicklaus also established an annual pro-am golf tournament called “The Jake” to honor his 17-month-old grandson who passed away in 2005, and it serves as a primary fundraiser for the Nicklaus Children’s Health Care Foundation. The event alone has raised well over \$43,000,000 over the last several years.

(12) Nicklaus has been a tireless supporter of numerous junior golf initiatives, working with the PGA of America Junior Golf Foundation over the course of four decades, including the establishment of the Barbara and Jack Nicklaus Junior Golf Endowment Fund and the PGA-Nicklaus First Tee Teaching Grants. He also is a spokesperson for several PGA of America and USGA growth-of-the-game initiatives. He continues to support several scholarship foundations, other children’s hospitals, and other causes, including spinal-cord research, pancreatic cancer issues, and Florida Everglades restoration.

(13) In 2013, Jack Nicklaus, with the support of the National Park and Recreation Association (NRPA), launched the Jack Nicklaus Learning Leagues, taking team-concept golf to our parks system for children, ages 5 to 12. A non-profit foundation called Global Outreach for Learning Foundation (GOLF) was created to underwrite the program. By the end of 2013, they hope to have the program in more than 100 locations and reach close to 25,000 children.

(14) Jack Nicklaus continues to manage the Memorial Tournament in his home State of Ohio, in which contributions generated through the aid of over 2,600 volunteers are given to support Nationwide Children’s Hospital and close to 75 other Central Ohio charities. This has garnered more than \$5,700,000 for programs and services at Nationwide Children’s Hospital since 1976, so that Central Ohio will continue to have one of the best children’s hospitals in the United States.

(15) Jack Nicklaus serves as an honorary chairs of the American Lake Veterans Golf Course in Tacoma, Washington, which neighbors a Veterans Administration hospital and is designed for the rehabilitation of wounded and disabled veterans. Nicklaus has donated his design services for the improvement of the course, and raised contributions for the addition of nine new holes (the “Nicklaus Nine”), the construction of the Rehabilitation and Learning Center, and the upgrade of the maintenance facilities. The course is considered the only one in the United States designed solely for the use of disabled veterans. It served over 30,000 veterans and their families in 2011 to use the healing powers of golf to help them rehabilitate and recreate. The hope is that American Lake will serve as a pilot program for the more than 150 Veterans Administration hospitals nationwide.

(16) Jack Nicklaus serves as a spokesperson and Trustee for the First Tee program, which brings golf to children who would not otherwise be exposed to it, and teaches them valuable, character-building life lessons through the game of golf, and is a national co-chair of the organization’s More Than a Game campaign.

(17) Jack Nicklaus remains active in tournament golf, although he retired from major championship competition in 2005, when he played his final British Open and his final Masters Tournament, and led the United States to a thrilling victory in the President’s Cup. He consults often with the PGA Tour, and no fewer than 95 Nicklaus courses

have hosted a combined total of almost 700 professional tournaments. In 2013 alone, Nicklaus courses will host 17 PGA Tour-sanctioned events. His Muirfield Village Golf Club in Ohio will be hosting the Presidents Cup in October 2013, making it the only club in history to have hosted all three of the game’s most prominent international team competitions—the Ryder Cup, Solheim Cup and Presidents Cup. It is also expected that his course at the Jack Nicklaus Golf Club Korea in New Songdo City, South Korea, will be named the host venue for the 2015 Presidents Cup—the first time that country has hosted an international team competition of this stature

## SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—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 Jack Nicklaus in recognition of his service to the Nation in promoting excellence and good sportsmanship.

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

## SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

Under such regulations as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe, the Secretary may strike duplicate medals in bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 2 and sell such duplicate medals at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the duplicate medals (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses) and the cost of the gold medal.

## SEC. 4. NATIONAL MEDALS.

The medals struck under this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. CAPUANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. 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. 2203, as amended, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2203, a bill 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, good sportsmanship, and philanthropy, introduced by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TIBERI). This bill authorizes the minting and award of a single gold medal in honor of the life and work of the immensely well-known golf champion.

Mr. Speaker, Jack Nicklaus—nicknamed the Golden Bear—is a world-famous golf professional, a highly successful businessman, executive, prominent advertising spokesman, a passionate and dedicated philanthropist, a devoted husband, father, and grandfather, and a man with a common touch that has made him one of the most popular and accessible public figures in American history. He is widely regarded as one of the most accomplished professional golfers of all time. And I might add, on a personal note, his design up at the Grand Traverse Bay Resort this past summer humbled me in my golf game personally.

Mr. Jack William Nicklaus was born to Charlie Nicklaus and his wife, Helen, on January 21, 1940, in the Columbus suburb of Upper Arlington, Ohio. Young Jack took up golf at the age of 10, scoring a 51 at Scioto Country Club for the first nine holes that he ever played. I suspect that there are more than a few Members here that wouldn't mind carding a 51 right now.

Nicklaus amassed 120 victories in professional competition of national or international stature, 73 of which came on the Professional Golfers' Association Tour. His record 18 professional majors, the first of which he won 50 years ago with his win at the 1962 U.S. Open as a 22-year-old rookie, remains the standard by which all golfers are measured. 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 both the regular and senior tours. He also owns the record for the most major championships as a senior, with eight.

Jack Nicklaus has been the recipient of countless athletic honors, including being named Individual Male Athlete of the Century by Sports Illustrated, one of the 10 Greatest Athletes of the Century by ESPN, and Golfer of the Century or Golfer of the Millennium by every major national and international media outlet. He received the Muhammad Ali Sports Legend Award and first-ever ESPY Lifetime Achievement Award. He became the first golfer and only the third athlete to receive the Vince Lombardi Award of Excellence. He is also a five-time winner of the PGA Player of the Year Award. He was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame at the ripe old age of 34.

But Jack Nicklaus is much more than a golf champion. His magnetic personality and unfailing sense of kindness and thoughtfulness have endeared him to millions throughout the world. He has also received numerous honors outside of the world of sports, including several golf industry awards for his work and contributions as a golf course designer, as I noted earlier, such as the Old Tom Morris Award, which is the highest honor given by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, and both the Donald Ross Award given by the American Society of Golf Course Architects and the Don A. Rossi

Award given by the Golf Course Builders Association of America. Golf Inc. magazine named him one of the Most Powerful Persons in Golf for a record 6 consecutive years due to his impact on various aspects of industry through his course design work, marketing and licensing business, his ambassadorial role in promoting and growing the game of golf worldwide, and his involvement on a national and global level with various charitable causes.

Mr. Speaker, everyone knows Jack Nicklaus, and most of us at least wish we had half the golf ability that he has, but it is important to remember his charitable and leadership works as well. The bill has 304 cosponsors in the House, and a companion bill introduced in the other body is being championed by Senator PORTMAN. I ask for unanimous approval of this important legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield as much time as she may consume to the gentlelady from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY).

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2203, sponsored by Congressman PAT TIBERI, awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to Columbus, Ohio, native Jack Nicklaus. Jack Nicklaus—an alumni of Ohio State University—is a world-famous professional golfer who has amassed 120 victories in professional tournaments worldwide.

While well known for his athletic achievements on the golf course, Jack Nicklaus also has a long history of involvement in, and contributions to, numerous charitable activities. One example: last month I had the opportunity to attend the Legends Luncheon. While only a few years in existence, it has raised more than a half-million dollars in proceeds from his annual Memorial Tournament held in his home State of Ohio in support of Nationwide Children's Hospital located in my district, ensuring that central Ohio will continue to have one of the best children's hospitals in the United States.

In honor of Jack Nicklaus' sportsmanship and philanthropy, I urge my colleagues to join the 304 of us who have signed H.R. 2203 and pass H.R. 2203.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TIBERI), the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Michigan for his kind words about the honoree today. I rise in support of the bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal to a Buckeye native, Jack Nicklaus.

As Mr. HUIZENGA said, often called the "Golden Bear," named after the mascot of his high school in Upper Arlington, he is widely known today as the greatest golfer of all time. Mr. HUIZENGA mentioned the incredible

athletic accomplishments on the golf course. I won't repeat those that Mr. Nicklaus achieved, but as Mrs. BEATTY of Columbus mentioned, it is his philanthropic work that continues today that directly impacts tens of thousands of children and adults.

Through the Nicklaus Children's Health Care Foundation, he has raised nearly \$24 million to support health assistance and services for more than 4,000 children and their families. He continues to host the Memorial Tournament in Dublin, Ohio, on the golf course that he built and designed, the Muirfield Village Golf Club in the congressional district I am so honored to represent. And in that tournament, he has raised over \$5.5 million for Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus that Mrs. BEATTY recognized, giving children access to world-class health care.

He serves as a spokesperson and trustee for the First Tee Program, an organization dedicated to bringing golf to children in areas that aren't normally exposed to it across our country. He serves as the honorary chairman for the American Lake Veterans Golf Course in Tacoma, Washington, a course designed to help rehabilitation of wounded and disabled veterans.

□ 1645

He has donated his time to design services for improvement of the American Lake Veterans course and has raised contributions for the addition of nine new holes and the construction of the course's rehabilitation and learning center for these veterans.

His accolades are many, as Mr. HUIZENGA has said, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Jack's devotion to helping others and giving back to his community is only matched by his devotion to his wife Barbara, their children, and their grandchildren.

I would like to thank, in addition to Congresswoman BEATTY and Congressman STIVERS from Ohio, Congressman YARMUTH for his work in building support for this measure on the floor today.

I would also like to thank Senator ROB PORTMAN for spearheading this effort in the U.S. Senate; and I would also like to give a special thank you to my senior legislative assistant, Rebecca Kastan, for her work in helping move this bill through the legislative process.

I urge my colleagues to award this gold medal to Jack Nicklaus to recognize not only his success on the golf course, but more importantly, for his incredible success, his incredible work off the course in helping tens of thousands of children and veterans across our country.

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

My father would never forgive me if I didn't speak for a minute on this particular bill. I played my first round of golf in the year of 1960, and at that time, the rising star on the course was

the Golden Bear. My father was a crazy, crazy golfer. I, myself, am a recovering golfer. Since I was never that good, I decided to give it up.

We have heard about the incredible statistics accumulated by Jack Nicklaus, and that is all well and good, and I respect that and honor it, and certainly, he is one of, if not the best golfer in history, but that is not really what I want to speak about.

I want to speak about his character, and I don't know him personally, but the way he projects it, and I want to speak about the work he has done since he stepped off the competitive field.

As we have heard already, he is an incredible philanthropist. He has gone around the country helping people do good work to help others, people he doesn't know. He stood for many of the right things in this country during a difficult time.

For those reasons, to me, having been a great athlete, it would have been very easy for him simply to retire, go count his money, make more money, and just fade away. That is the easy thing to do.

The hard thing to do is to then transition yourself into another great leader, a person who leads society. That is what Jack Nicklaus has done. That is why I am very, very glad to be here today, to be a small part of this.

I thank Mr. TIBERI for his hard work on this. I know he assaulted me on it right away. I would like to know who the 130-odd Members you didn't get were; and I will tell you, again, this is a well-deserved honor.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2203, 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.

Mr. MASSIE. 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.

#### AWARDING CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO SHIMON PERES

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2939) to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Shimon Peres, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2939

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

#### SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Shimon Peres was born in Poland in 1923.

(2) The Peres family emigrated to Tel Aviv in 1934, and all of the family members of Shimon Peres who remained in Poland were murdered during the Holocaust.

(3) Before Israel gained independence, Shimon Peres earned the respect of senior leaders in the independence movement in Israel, most notably David Ben-Gurion.

(4) The founding generation of Israel was central to the development of Israel, and Shimon Peres is the only surviving member of that founding generation.

(5) Shimon Peres has served in numerous high-level cabinet positions and ministerial posts in Israel, including head of the Israeli Navy, Minister of Defense, Foreign Minister, Prime Minister, and President, among many others.

(6) Shimon Peres has honorably served Israel for over 70 years, during which he has significantly contributed to United States interests and has played a pivotal role in forging the strong and unbreakable bond between the United States and Israel.

(7) By presenting the Congressional Gold Medal to Shimon Peres, the first to be awarded to a sitting President of Israel, Congress proclaims its unbreakable bond with Israel and reaffirms its continual support for Israel as we commemorate the 65th anniversary of the independence of Israel and the 90th birthday of Shimon Peres, which are both significant milestones in Israeli history.

(8) Maintaining strong bilateral relations between the United States and Israel has been a priority of Shimon Peres since he began working with the United States in the days of John F. Kennedy. The strong bond is exemplified by the following:

(A) President Reagan said to Shimon Peres upon his visit to the United States, "Mr. Prime Minister, I thank you very much for your visit. It's been an occasion to renew a friendship and to review and enhance the strength of our unique bilateral relationship."

(B) At another point President Reagan said of Shimon Peres, "His vision, his statesmanship and his tenacity are greatly appreciated here."

(C) While visiting with Shimon Peres at the Residence of the President in Jerusalem, President Obama described Shimon Peres as "... a son of Israel who's devoted his life to keeping Israel strong and sustaining the bonds between our two nations".

(D) On March 20, 2013, Shimon Peres reaffirmed his belief in the relationship between the United States and Israel, stating, "America stood by our side from the very beginning. You support us as we rebuild our ancient homeland and as we defend our land. From Holocaust to redemption."

(E) On March 21, 2013, Shimon Peres stated, "... America is so great and we are so small. But I learned that you don't measure us by size, but by values. When it comes to values, we are you and you are us ... As I look back, I feel that the Israel of today has exceeded the vision we had 65 years ago. Reality has surpassed our dreams. The United States of America helped us to make this possible."

#### SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall make appropriate arrangements for the award, on behalf of Congress, of a single gold medal of appropriate design in honor of President Shimon Peres.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose of the award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury shall strike a gold

medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the Secretary.

#### SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

Under such regulations as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe, the Secretary may strike duplicate medals in bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 2 and sell such duplicate medals at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

#### SEC. 4. NATIONAL MEDALS.

Medals struck pursuant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. CAPUANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. 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. 2939, as amended, the bill currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise today in support of H.R. 2939, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Shimon Peres, introduced by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY). This bill authorizes the minting and award of a single gold medal in honor of this brave man.

Shimon Peres was born on August 2, 1923, in Wiszniew, Poland. The Peres family immigrated to Tel Aviv in 1934. All of the family's relatives who remained in Poland were murdered during the Holocaust during World War II.

Before Israel gained independence, Shimon Peres earned the respect of senior leaders in the independence movement in Israel, most notably David Ben-Gurion. In 1952, he was appointed deputy director general of the Ministry of Defense, and the following year, he became director general. At age 29, he was the youngest person to hold this position.

He was involved in arms purchases and established strategic alliances that were important for the State of Israel. He has served in numerous high-level cabinet positions and ministerial posts in Israel, including head of the Israeli navy, Minister of Defense, Foreign Minister, Prime Minister, and President, among others.

Mr. Peres has honorably served Israel for more than 70 years, during which he has helped harmonize the foreign policy interests of Israel and the United States. He played a pivotal role in forging the strong and unbreakable bond between our two countries.

Mr. Speaker, the founding generation of Israel was central to the development of that country, and Shimon