

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

Peres was the only surviving member of that founding generation.

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 and its continual support for Israel as we commemorate the 65th anniversary of its independence and the 90th birthday of Mr. Peres.

Maintaining the strong mutual 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.

Mr. Speaker, this honor is richly deserved. The bill has 294 cosponsors in the House, and a version introduced by Senator AYOTTE had 81 cosponsors when it passed the Chamber on March 13. I ask for immediate approval of this important legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY).

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Massachusetts for yielding me this time. I would also like to thank the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS), who is here as well, for his diligent and important work on this bill.

It has been a pleasure to work with him and see him gather his fellow colleagues to support an extremely important piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, this bipartisan bill would award the Congressional Gold Medal to Israel's President, Shimon Peres, in honor of his pivotal role in forging the strong and unbreakable bond between the United States and Israel.

The Congressional Gold Medal is one of the highest civilian honors. It is not lightly conferred or frequently granted. President Peres is most deserving of this extraordinary recognition.

During my last trip to Israel, I had the distinct honor to spend some time with President Peres. What impressed me most about the President was, even at 90 years of age, he is as committed to peace in his beloved Israel as never before.

During the time that I and my colleagues spent with President Peres, particularly as someone who was, at that point, not even a year and in his first term in Congress, the opportunity to listen to Mr. Peres' words of wisdom and counsel over his decades of service was a true gift.

Over his tenure in public life, it is Israel's future that has always lit his way. Throughout our travels in the country, we met with politicians young and old. We visited sites from Jerusalem to Ramallah to the Dead Sea; and in each historic site, every meeting, every church or shrine was a poignant reminder that, without the courage and strength of leaders like President Peres, Israel's story would be very different than it is today.

A few days ago, we celebrated Israel's 66th independence day, and we are also in the midst of Jewish American Heritage Month. Awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to Shimon Peres is a timely and fitting acknowledgement of a man whose influence has touched so many lives in Israel, across the Middle East, and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I urge that my colleagues support this bill. I would also like to thank, for the RECORD, Stanley Treitel, Lee Samson, Rabbi David Baron, Robert Rechnitz, Joe Stamm, and Hassan Ali Bin Ali, who have been instrumental in this bill.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS), the lead Republican cosponsor on this legislation.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman HUIZENGA for yielding, and I also gratefully express my appreciation to Mr. KENNEDY for his work on this. It is always wonderful when Republicans and Democrats can actually get together.

Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to rise today in favor of H.R. 2939 to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Israel's President, Shimon Peres. This award to Shimon Peres is our highest expression of national appreciation.

Indeed, President Peres' lifetime of dedicated service to the State of Israel is unparalleled. No countryman has ever served Israel for so many years, in so many different capacities, as both a key figure in its foundation and its continued survival and rise in the world.

In his 70 years of state service, Mr. Peres has served in high-level cabinet positions, including head of the navy, Minister of Defense, Foreign Minister, Prime Minister, and most recently as President of Israel.

Throughout his political tenure, he has worked diligently to promote diplomacy, democracy, and freedom in Israel, across the Middle East, and across the world in so very many different ways.

Mr. Peres has also been a powerful and dedicated friend to the United States of America, and he has been instrumental in forming this unbreakable bond that we have spoken of so often here that exists between our two nations.

So, Mr. Speaker, not only does this award acknowledge the merit and noble endurance of President Shimon Peres, it is also an expression of the American people's continued commitment to the nation of Israel and its place as a beacon of democracy in the Middle East.

This award reaffirms the important of Israel as the Holy Land, close to the hearts of millions of committed Jews and Christians in America and around the world. Moreover, it is an expression of America's unwavering resolve to our greatest ally in the world.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my esteemed colleagues on both sides

of the aisle for cosponsoring this worthy piece of legislation, and may I also gratefully acknowledge the Shimon Peres Congressional Gold Medal Commemoration Committee for their gallant dedication to the ideals that gave rise to this heartfelt award to Israeli President Shimon Peres.

God bless him, and God bless the friendship between Israel and the United States of America forever.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I would just like to add my voice to comments about Mr. Peres.

Having met him, I will tell you that he is a totally respectable gentleman who has been through more difficult times during his life than hopefully anyone I know will ever have to go through; and yet he has survived them all with class, with dignity, with the ability to bring people together. Again, I hope this bill passes unanimously.

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.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2939, a bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Shimon Peres who is the 9th and current President of Israel.

I have had the honor of meeting with President Peres on many occasions, most recently in February of this year. He is indeed a person very deserving of the honor of receiving a Congressional Gold Medal for his contributions to our nation's security interest in the region and his efforts to advance peace.

A milestone in world history was reached on November 29, 1947, when the United Nations General Assembly voted to partition the British Mandate of Palestine, to create the State of Israel.

The people of the United States began a long history with the modern State of Israel on May 14, 1948, when the people of Israel proclaimed the establishment of the sovereign and independent State of Israel.

The United States Government established full diplomatic relations with Israel and this relationship has been fostered by the work of diplomacy and astute people who worked for the best interest of both our nations.

I along with millions of friends of Israel will mark the 66th year of Israel's independence in May 2014.

President Peres played a pivotal role in assuring the security and resilience of Israel during his years of service to that nation.

In 1949, when Shimon Peres was 26, he was appointed head of the naval service, and after the War of Independence he was appointed head of the Ministry of Defense delegation to the United States.

The time he spent in the United States during the formative period for the new government of Israel helped to develop strong ties within our government with the new nation.

President Peres recognized the importance of an alliance between the United States and Israel. His presence in the United States helped to develop and solidify that relationship that has grown stronger over the last 6 decades.

President Peres returned to Israel in 1952, at age 29, and David Ben Gurion, the Prime

Minister of Israel, appointed Shimon Peres to serve as Director General of the Ministry of Defense.

He worked to re-organizing the Ministry of Defense, and developing the ability of Israel to defend itself.

Israel remains America's staunchest friend in the region—a friendship that has grown stronger over 6 decades. Israel and the United States join to celebrate the accomplishments of President Peres in contributing to peace and security for the region.

Israel shares the United States appreciation for democratic values, common strategic interest, and moral bonds of friendship and mutual respect.

The establishment of a modern State of Israel as a homeland for the Jews followed the murder of more than 6 million European Jews during the Holocaust. This tragic chapter in world history will never be forgotten and the establishment of a modern State of Israel in no way relieves those responsible for that terrible crime.

The people of Israel have established a vibrant and functioning pluralistic democratic political system including freedom of speech, a free press, free and open elections, the rule of law, and other important democratic principles and practices.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues recognizing the work of President Peres and look forward to his continued work to advance message of peace and security he has championed through his efforts as a statesman, scholar and leader of a great nation.

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. 2939, 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.

MONUMENTS MEN RECOGNITION ACT OF 2013

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3658) to grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Monuments Men, in recognition of their heroic role in the preservation, protection, and restitution of monuments, works of art, and artifacts of cultural importance during and following World War II.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3658

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Monuments Men Recognition Act of 2013".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) On June 23, 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt formed the "American Commission for the Protection and Salvage of Artistic and Historic Monuments in War Areas".

(2) The Commission established the Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives ("MFAA") Section under the Allied Armies.

(3) The men and women serving in the MFAA Section were referred to as the "Monuments Men".

(4) These individuals had expertise as museum directors, curators, art historians, artists, architects, and educators.

(5) In December 1943, General Dwight D. Eisenhower empowered the Monuments Men by issuing orders to all commanders that stated they must respect monuments "so far as war allows".

(6) Initially the Monuments Men were intended to protect and temporarily repair the monuments, churches, and cathedrals of Europe suffering damage due to combat.

(7) Hitler and the Nazis engaged in a premeditated, mass theft of art and stored priceless works in thousands of art repositories throughout Europe.

(8) The Monuments Men adapted their mission to identify, preserve, catalogue, and repatriate almost 5,000,000 artistic and cultural items which they discovered.

(9) This magnitude of cultural preservation was unprecedented during a time of conflict.

(10) The Monuments Men grew to no more than 350 individuals and joined front line military forces; two Monuments Men lost their lives in action.

(11) Following the Allied victory, the Monuments Men remained abroad to rebuild cultural life in Europe through organizing art exhibitions and concerts.

(12) Many of the Monuments Men became renowned directors and curators of preeminent international cultural institutions, professors at institutions of higher education, and founders of artistic associations both before and after the war.

(13) The Monuments Men Foundation for the Preservation of Art was founded in 2007 to honor the legacy of the men and women who served as Monuments Men.

(14) There are only five surviving members of the Monuments Men as of December 2013.

SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold medal of appropriate design in commemoration to Monuments Men, in recognition of their heroic role in the preservation, protection, and restitution of monuments, works of art, and artifacts of cultural importance during and following World War II.

(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) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the gold medal in honor of the Monuments Men, the gold medal shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution, where it will be available for display as appropriate and available for research.

(2) SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that the Smithsonian Institution should make the gold medal awarded pursuant to this Act available for display elsewhere, particularly at appropriate locations associated with the Monuments Men, and that preference should be given to locations affiliated with the Smithsonian Institution.

SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 3 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and

overhead expenses, and the cost of the gold medal.

SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.

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

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

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.

□ 1700

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. 3658, 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.

I rise today in support of H.R. 3658, the Monuments Men Recognition Act of 2013, introduced by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER). This bill authorizes the minting and award of a single gold medal collectively in honor of the heroic role played by the men and women of that group in ensuring the preservation, protection, and restitution of monuments, works of art, and artifacts of cultural importance during and following World War II. The medal would be given to the Smithsonian Institution, where it would be available for display or loan as appropriate.

Mr. Speaker, even before the stain of World War II began to spread across Europe, priceless cultural objects were being damaged or appropriated from their rightful owners by corrupt governments. When the horrific carnage of war descended over the continent, many other works—paintings, monuments, cathedrals and other buildings—were threatened, damaged, or destroyed, marring or obliterating centuries of incredibly beautiful handiwork.

Recognizing this disaster, President Roosevelt formed the American Commission for the Protection and Salvage of Artistic and Historic Monuments in War Areas in 1943, and the Commission facilitated the formation of the monuments, fine arts, and archives section under the Allied armies. The men and women who worked tirelessly at the Commission, at home but mostly abroad, were empowered by General Dwight D. Eisenhower to carry out their work throughout Europe, even on the front lines, and became known as the Monuments Men.

As I had noted earlier as we were talking about one of the other medals,