

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Fulbright Program, enacted in 1946 and sponsored by then-Senator J. William Fulbright, who represented my home State of Arkansas.

This exceptionally American contribution to the world has educated over 360,000 students from 165 countries, including 52 Nobel laureates and 31 heads of state.

Every year, Fulbright scholarships are given to more than 2,500 Americans, from all backgrounds and in all stages of life, the chance to spend time abroad and gain a global perspective on today's most important issues.

Two years ago, I had the opportunity to plant a tree on the Capitol Grounds in honor of the 70th anniversary of the Fulbright Program and its Arkansas roots. This program has funded the academic pursuits of countless American and international scholars while building economic prosperity and promoting America's respect for freedom, the rule of law, and our democratic values.

The Fulbright Program has my support, and all of our citizens should encourage this uniquely American mission of friendship.

#### SUPPORTING NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of National Adoption Day this coming Saturday.

National Adoption Day began in 2000 when seven cities opened courtrooms on the Saturday before Thanksgiving to alleviate the backlog of pending adoptions. Since then, more than 65,000 children have had their adoption finalized during a National Adoption Day celebration.

The number of North Carolina children in foster care has been increasing, with last year totaling nearly 11,000. There are more than 425,000 children in foster care nationwide, with over 110,000 awaiting adoption by permanent families.

National Adoption Day aims to raise awareness of these children and educate the estimated 47 million Americans who have considered adopting a child in foster care.

May this year's effort be another success by connecting children awaiting adoption with parents who can provide the love and stable environment they need to realize their potential.

#### RECOGNIZING KEVIN MOONEY

(Mr. SMITH of Nebraska asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Kevin Mooney to the communities of Scottsbluff, Gering, and western Nebraska.

This week, after 34 years as a trusted journalist in Nebraska's panhandle, Kevin will retire from his position as news director at KNEB radio.

Throughout his career, Kevin has received six Mark Twain Awards from the Nebraska Associated Press and the Trailblazer Award from the Scottsbluff/Gering United Chamber of Commerce.

Kevin names the local sugar factory explosion in 1996 as the largest story he reported. He stayed on the air all night providing updates to our community.

Kevin is most thankful for his wife, Tracy. He says she has supported him a great deal throughout their 35 years of marriage, given he is on call 24 hours every day.

Even with his busy schedule, Kevin has dedicated himself to community and charity events such as the Thanksgiving in the Valley event. It is a collaboration of KNEB radio and local nonprofits Scottsbluff-Gering Soup Kitchen and Scottsbluff Kiwanis Club. They serve around 400 meals every year on Thanksgiving Day.

Please join me in honoring and thanking Kevin Mooney for his service to Nebraska journalism.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 3:45 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 9 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1546

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. TIPTON) at 3 o'clock and 46 minutes p.m.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

#### RABBI MICHAEL BER WEISSMANDL CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT OF 2017

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2740) to posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Rabbi Michael Ber Weissmandl in recognition of his acts of valor during World War II.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2740

*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 "Rabbi Michael Ber Weissmandl Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2017".

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Rabbi Michael Ber Weissmandl was born in Hungary on October 25, 1903, later moving to Slovakia to study under Rabbi Shumel Dovid Ungar in Nitra.

(2) During his time in Nitra, he quickly became a senior figure within the local Jewish community and Yeshiva.

(3) Weissmandl was responsible for some of the daring efforts to save the Jewish people of Slovakia from the Holocaust, which include the establishment of a "Working Group", an underground organization that raised funds to negotiate ransom with German and Slovakian officials in order to delay mass deportations.

(4) During the Nazi regime, Weissmandl used his contacts from England to obtain visas, becoming one of the first to actively protect people of Jewish ancestry in Europe.

(5) Weissmandl also wrote telegrams to generate awareness of the Jewish people's plight and encouraged other strategic approaches to stop the Holocaust, including the bombing of railroad tunnels to prevent the transportation of persons to concentration camps.

(6) Weissmandl established a Working Group—a wide variety of people from different political and ideological spectrums—whose common goal was to save people from the "Final Solution".

(7) The Working Group was one of the first to document in writing the accounts of Auschwitz Escapees in a document widely referred to as the "Auschwitz Protocols".

(8) Weissmandl himself later translated the initial documentation from German to Hebrew and included a widely known addendum that pleaded for action.

(9) Weissmandl wrote the first known appeal for the use of Allied air resources to disrupt the Holocaust.

(10) In 1942 when Slovakia started deportation for "resettlement", Rabbi Weissmandl was the first to inform the Working Group that people were being murdered and not sent to work as originally claimed.

(11) Rabbi Weissmandl also played an instrumental role in Solomon Schoenfeld Kindertransport rescue, helping save hundreds of lives.

(12) Rabbi Weissmandl came to America and in 1945 immediately got to work to establish a home and Yeshiva for Holocaust survivors. The Yeshiva of Nitra he established in Mount Kisco, New York, was the first Yeshiva campus in America and became an example that other institutions followed.

(13) Rabbi Weissmandl has significantly influenced the flourishing communities of Talmudic scholars in Brooklyn, New York, and generally across the United States.

#### 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 Congress, of a gold medal of appropriate design, to Rabbi Michael Ber Weissmandl in recognition of his acts of valor during World War II.

(b) PARTICIPATION BY WEISSMANDL COMMITTEE.—For the purpose of the presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Speaker and President pro tempore shall ensure that the Weissmandl Committee may accept the medal on behalf of Michael Ber Weissmandl.

(c) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose of the presentation referred to in subsection

(a), the Secretary of the Treasury (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the Secretary.

(d) TRANSFER OF MEDAL AFTER PRESENTATION.—Following the presentation of the gold medal in honor of Michoel Ber Weissmandl under subsection (a), the gold medal shall be given to Samuel Dovid Weissmandl or, should he not be present, to Rabbi Menachem Meir Weissmandl.

#### SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

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

#### SEC. 5. NATIONAL MEDAL.

(a) NATIONAL MEDAL.—The gold medal struck under this Act is a 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 Kentucky (Mr. BARR) and the gentleman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2740, the Rabbi Michoel Ber Weissmandl Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2017, introduced on April 25, 2017, by our colleague, Representative NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ, cosponsored by Representative MAST of Florida.

The bill authorizes the award of a Congressional Gold Medal to the Jewish rabbi for his acts of valor during World War II to save many Jewish people from Slovakia from persecution, the atrocities and the Holocaust committed by the Nazis during the Second World War.

Mr. Speaker, I wholeheartedly support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise as the proud sponsor of the Rabbi Michoel Ber Weissmandl Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2017, which will award a Congressional Gold Medal to the rabbi for his acts of valor during World War II.

Rabbi Michoel Ber Weissmandl was born in Hungary in 1903. In 1931 he moved to Slovakia and quickly became

a senior figure within the local Jewish community and Yeshiva.

As fascism spread across Europe in the late 1930s and early 1940s, Rabbi Weissmandl led some of the most daring efforts to save the Jewish people of Slovakia from the Holocaust.

When the Nazis, aided by members of the puppet government in Slovakia, began to move against the Slovak Jews in 1942, Rabbi Weissmandl became a key member of the Bratislava Working Group. This underground organization was comprised of a wide variety of people from different political and ideological spectrums, but united by a common goal: to protect the Jewish people of Europe from Hitler’s Final Solution.

In his role as a member of the Working Group, Rabbi Weissmandl worked to raise funds to negotiate ransom with German and Slovakian officials in order to delay mass deportations. We cannot underestimate the dangers the rabbi undertook in this endeavor.

Had he approached the wrong official or an unyielding Hitler supporter, he most certainly would have put his own life in jeopardy. Despite that peril, he persevered, demonstrating an unyielding determination to stop the slaughter of the innocent.

Using his contacts in England, Rabbi Weissmandl also worked to secure British visas for more than 60 European rabbis after the annexation of Austria, becoming one of the first individuals to protect European Jews by arranging for their escape to England.

The Working Group was also one of the first to record the accounts of Auschwitz escapees in a document widely referred to as the Auschwitz Protocols. Weissmandl later translated the initial documentation from German to Hebrew and included an addendum that pleaded for further action.

He also wrote the first known appeal for the use of Allied air power to disrupt the Holocaust, including the use of aerial bombs to destroy the rail lines and tunnels leading to Auschwitz.

During one of the darkest periods in human history, Rabbi Weissmandl’s efforts to protect the lives of European Jews at the risk of his own life reflect true heroism in the face of unspeakable evil.

We must never forget these contributions, and it is fitting that we honor his legacy by awarding a Congressional Gold Medal in his name.

Mr. Speaker, at a time of unparalleled evil, Rabbi Weissmandl took extraordinary risks to save the lives of Slovakian Jews. To this day, his influence can be felt throughout the Jewish community, not only here in the United States, but around the world.

It is with the utmost respect and honor that I have introduced this bill to award Rabbi Weissmandl with a Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian award in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend, Representative BRIAN MAST, for introducing this bill with me and his work to advance this legislation. I also

want to thank my 295 other colleagues who have cosponsored the bill. I strongly urge passage of the bill.

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

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, Rabbi Weissmandl’s life story is uplifting and his actions are inspiring. This Gold Medal is an overdue honor and is supported by 296 Members of the House.

Mr. Speaker, I urge its immediate passage, and I want to thank Chairman HENSARLING, Ranking Member WATERS, Representative VELÁZQUEZ, and Representative MAST for their leadership on this important legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2740.

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.

#### NATIONAL GEOLOGIC MAPPING ACT REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4033) to reauthorize the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4033

*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 “National Geologic Mapping Act Reauthorization Act”.

#### SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF NATIONAL GEOLOGIC MAPPING ACT OF 1992.

##### (a) REAUTHORIZATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 9(a) of the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992 (43 U.S.C. 31h(a)) is amended by striking “2018” and inserting “2023”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 4(b)(1) of the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992 (43 U.S.C. 31c(b)(1)) is amended by striking “Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009” each place it appears in subparagraphs (A) and (B) and inserting “National Geologic Mapping Act Reauthorization Act”.

(b) GEOLOGIC MAPPING ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—Section 5(a)(3) of the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992 (43 U.S.C. 31d(a)(3)) is amended by striking “Associate Director for Geology” and inserting “Associate Director for Core Science Systems”.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—Section 3 of the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992 (43 U.S.C. 31b) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4), by striking “section 6(d)(3)” and inserting “section 4(d)(3)”;

(2) in paragraph (5), by striking “section 6(d)(1)” and inserting “section 4(d)(1)”; and

(3) in paragraph (9), by striking “section 6(d)(2)” and inserting “section 4(d)(2)”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) and the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HANABUSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.