

(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 Michael 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 medal 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 gentlewoman 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 Michael 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 Michael 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 Michael 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 understate 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.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to sponsor H.R. 4033, the National Geologic Mapping Act Reauthorization Act. This commonsense measure will continue funding for advanced digital geologic maps in three-dimensional models by reauthorizing funding for the program through 2023. An identical companion bill, S. 1787, was introduced in the Senate by Senator MURKOWSKI and has been favorably reported out of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Geologic maps provide valuable information needed for identifying energy, mineral, and water resources, geologic and environmental hazards, unstable grounds subject to landslides, swelling soils, floodplains, and abandoned mine lands.

With this knowledge, communities and citizens are able to plan for septic systems in rural areas, water treatment facilities, road construction and maintenance, home construction, and other infrastructure.

The Geologic Mapping Act of 1992 established the National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program, or NCGMP. This program allows for coordination between the United States Geological Survey and the various state geological surveys, allowing for geologic maps to be produced efficiently and cost-effectively.

The original authorizing act also created the National Geologic Database, which catalogs data on most geologic maps ever produced in the U.S., which to date has resulted in more than 100,000 products.

Each State and Puerto Rico has an advisory committee and a review panel to analyze the effectiveness of these projects. More than 8,500 new geologic maps have been produced through the NCGMP, with an average of 350 new maps and reports created each year. That is about one a day. About 53 percent of the United States now has been mapped as a result.

The benefits from this program have been felt by end users across the country. Geologic maps in Kentucky, for example, have assisted city planners, water systems developers, and producers of coal and other mineral resources. In Ohio, developers and engineers who used geologic maps were estimated to save an average of \$50,000 on each project. In my home State of Colorado, this program resulted in the production of an advanced geologic map and companion report that showcased recreational and historical min-

ing, leading to efficiency opportunities from Leadville to Salida.

Reauthorizing the National Geologic Mapping Act through H.R. 4033 will continue to provide the economic and developmental benefits of geologic mapping, with effects enjoyed across the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the measure and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4033, and I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BROWN) to give his remarks.

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HANABUSA).

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4033, the National Geologic Mapping Act Reauthorization Act, a bipartisan, practical piece of legislation.

I am proud to have cosponsored this bill with my friend from Colorado and colleague on the Natural Resources Committee, Congressman LAMBORN.

Our bill would reauthorize the National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program for an additional 5 years, which is the primary source of funds to produce geologic maps in the United States.

Even though most people are not familiar with geologic maps, it is hard to overstate their importance.

Geologic maps are essential in supporting a variety of industries, services, and activities that hold immense societal and economic value.

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Geologic maps are used to locate groundwater resources and evaluate groundwater quality leading to better land and habitat management decisions.

Geologic maps help city planners, emergency responders, and landowners assess how vulnerable an area is to sinkholes, landslides, earthquakes, floods, and other deadly and destructive natural hazards.

Geologic maps enable the government and industry to locate and develop mineral resources used for a variety of scientific applications and in military technology and in consumer products.

Further, geologic maps provide valuable information that engineers and developers use when designing and constructing highways, bridges, tunnels, and other transportation assets.

In my home State of Maryland, the value and importance of geologic maps are evident. Even though Maryland is a compact State, it has an incredible variety of landscapes and geology stretching from the beaches on the Atlantic Coast to the Appalachian Mountains.

This type of diversity in our geology demands a robust understanding of the science and an extensive mapping of underground formations.

On top of this, Maryland is home to several institutions that rely on the

secondary and tertiary benefits of the USGS geologic mapping program. The NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Prince George's County, the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, and our military cyber operations in Fort Meade all reap the rewards of a Nation that has broadened its knowledge and capabilities by investing in geological mapping.

There is no doubt the U.S. mapping program is vital to our Nation's safety and prosperity, and I urge a vote in favor.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague and friend across the aisle, Mr. BROWN, for his work on this bill. It was a good collaboration. I appreciate his remarks tonight, and I appreciate what he did. I look forward to working with him in the future.

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

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

This bill would extend the tenure of a very successful bedrock science program for an additional 5 years, as well as make some technical changes to the law.

Since 1992, the National Geologic Mapping Act has supported geologic mapping in the United States through the establishment of the National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program, or NCGMP. The NCGMP is responsible for supporting geologic mapping within the United States and has done so successfully for over 25 years by supporting efforts at the Federal, State, and university levels.

Geologic maps are used in several important ways: mineral, energy, and water resource exploration; geoscience research; toxic and nuclear waste disposal; environmental land use planning; decreasing the impact of natural hazards; constructing and maintaining infrastructure; and much more.

Reliable and accurate geologic mapping is underappreciated by, and in most cases invisible to, the public, but it underpins huge sectors of our economy and is essential for improving the health and safety of every American.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representatives LAMBORN and BROWN for their work on this bill and am happy to voice my support of it.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4033.

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.

STRENGTHENING COASTAL COMMUNITIES ACT OF 2018

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill