

the shutdown. Those are positive actions. We know that those positive actions made a difference during that period of uncertainty.

Federal financial regulators have also played an important role in ensuring fair treatment for consumers affected by a shutdown. In January of this year, the FDIC, the OCC, the National Credit Union Administration, the Federal Reserve, the CFPB, and the Conference of State Bank Supervisors partnered to encourage institutions to work with consumers who were negatively impacted. They took it upon themselves to do that, and they had the authority to do so.

In a related financial institution letter, the FDIC encouraged all supervised institutions to consider prudent arrangements that would increase the potential for creditworthy borrowers to meet their obligations.

While I agree with my colleagues across the aisle that we should encourage banks to work proactively with consumers affected by a shutdown, we must also encourage financial regulators to provide some type of clarity as well. This bill ensures exactly that.

I think this bill is sufficient. It deals with the four walls of governance and the data held within government, and I think it is a good piece of legislation that codifies existing practices.

I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. WEXTON), a new member of the Financial Services Committee.

Ms. WEXTON. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 2290, the Shutdown Guidance for Financial Institutions Act.

This legislation would help protect Federal employees, government contractors, and small business owners from some of the financial hardships that arise from a government shutdown.

The shutdown that lasted from late December 2018 through January of this year, the longest in our Nation's history, stretched 35 days and cost the economy billions of dollars.

For more than a month, paychecks were put on hold for 800,000 Federal employees and work-stop orders went on to Federal contractors, resulting in tens of thousands of layoffs. Unlike Federal workers, contractors did not receive backpay.

Thousands of families saw their lives upended. Missing one paycheck is a hardship for many, but missing two can be devastating. Not only were people struggling to make their rent or mortgage payments, some had to rely on food pantries to feed their families or ration their insulin because they could not afford the copay. This was through no fault of their own.

During this time, a lot of companies stepped up with offers of assistance for

people impacted by the shutdowns, including banks and credit unions that offered flexible payment options and no-interest loans.

This was especially important for employees in the national security community because financial difficulties can damage their credit scores and put their security clearances and, therefore, their livelihoods at risk.

While it is positive to see so many lenders taking proactive steps to mitigate harm, there were still issues and confusion at some financial institutions, and regulator guidance from the Federal Government was slow to come. It was not until the 20th day of the shutdown that financial regulators provided guidance, encouraging banks to work with borrowers and account holders affected by the shutdown, and letting banks know that such efforts would not be subject to examiner criticism.

During the shutdown in 2013, it wasn't until the ninth day that similar guidance was released. Let me give you an example of why this matters. I want to read part of a letter that I received from a desperate constituent in the middle of the last shutdown.

She wrote: "My husband and I recently sold our home and put an offer on another home in the area. . . . The mortgage financing for our new home was all set before the government shutdown. Our closing date is set for January 28, 2019, on the new house. Today, we learned that the mortgage company is denying our mortgage application because I am furloughed. They consider me unemployed and too much of a risk to finance."

Thankfully, my constituent and her lender were able to work through this problem. The mortgage was eventually approved, but this never should have happened in the first place.

My legislation would essentially automate the process of issuing guidance by requiring Federal financial regulators to release guidance within 24 hours of the start of a shutdown. It also includes reporting requirements on the effectiveness of the guidance and requires regulators to fix any shortcomings that are identified.

Madam Speaker, despite the uncertainty and the hardship of the last few years, Federal workers have shown a steadfast commitment to service. They serve in every congressional district in every State, carrying out countless vital responsibilities on behalf of the American people. They deserve way better than the way they have been treated.

I thank Chairwoman WATERS and Ranking Member McHENRY for ushering this bill to the floor, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

We should all work to make sure that there is never again a government shutdown. However, if one occurs, this

bill will ease the burden on many vulnerable workers and families.

Once again, I commend the gentlewoman from Virginia for bringing this legislation to the House, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important piece of legislation.

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

Mr. McHENRY. Madam Speaker, I think this legislation puts to rest the need for the Financial Services Committee to legislate around the government shutdown. I am glad we were able to put that to rest, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2290, 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.

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#### MERCHANT MARINERS OF WORLD WAR II CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT OF 2019

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 550) to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States Merchant Mariners of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated and vital service during World War II, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 550

*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 "Merchant Mariners of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2019".

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) 2015 marked the 70th anniversary of the Allied victory in World War II and the restoration of peacetime across the European and Pacific theaters.

(2) The United States Merchant Marine (in this section referred to as the "Merchant Marine") was integral in providing the link between domestic production and the fighting forces overseas, providing combat equipment, fuel, food, commodities, and raw materials to troops stationed abroad.

(3) Fleet Admiral Ernest J. King acknowledged the indispensability of the Merchant Marine to the victory in a 1945 letter stating that, without the support of the Merchant Marine, "the Navy could not have accomplished its mission".

(4) President, and former Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces, Dwight D. Eisenhower acknowledged that "through the prompt delivery of supplies and equipment to our armed forces overseas, and of cargoes representing economic and military aid to friendly nations, the American Merchant Marine has effectively helped to strengthen the forces of freedom throughout the world".

(5) Military missions and war planning were contingent upon the availability of resources and the Merchant Marine played a

vital role in this regard, ensuring the efficient and reliable transoceanic transport of military equipment and both military and civilian personnel.

(6) The Merchant Marine provided for the successful transport of resources and personnel despite consistent and ongoing exposure to enemy combatants from both the air and the sea, including from enemy bomber squadrons, submarines, and mines.

(7) The efforts of the Merchant Marine were not without sacrifices as the Merchant Marine bore a higher per-capita casualty rate than any other branch of the military during the war.

(8) The Merchant Marine proved to be an instrumental asset on an untold number of occasions, participating in every landing operation by the United States Marine Corps, from Guadalcanal to Iwo Jima.

(9) The Merchant Marine provided the bulk tonnage of material necessary for the invasion of Normandy, an invasion which, according to a 1944 New York Times article, “would not have been possible without the Merchant Marine”.

(10) In assessing the performance of the Merchant Marine, General Eisenhower stated, “every man in this Allied command is quick to express his admiration for the loyalty, courage, and fortitude of the officers and men of the Merchant Marine. We count upon their efficiency and their utter devotion to duty as we do our own; they have never failed us”.

(11) During a September 1944 speech, President Franklin D. Roosevelt stated that the Merchant Marine had “delivered the goods when and where needed in every theater of operations and across every ocean in the biggest, the most difficult, and dangerous transportation job ever undertaken. As time goes on, there will be greater public understanding of our merchant fleet’s record during this war.”.

(12) The feats and accomplishments of the Merchant Marine are deserving of broader public recognition.

(13) The United States will be forever grateful and indebted to these merchant mariners for their effective, reliable, and courageous transport of goods and resources in enemy territory throughout theaters of every variety in World War II.

(14) The goods and resources transported by the Merchant Marine saved thousands of lives and enabled the Allied Powers to claim victory in World War II.

(15) The Congressional Gold Medal would be an appropriate way to shed further light on the service of the merchant mariners in World War II and the instrumental role they played in winning that war.

### SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the award, on behalf of Congress, of a single gold medal of appropriate design to the United States Merchant Mariners of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated and vital service during World War II.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the award described in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”) shall strike the gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

### (c) AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE MUSEUM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the gold medal under subsection (a), the gold medal shall be given to the American Merchant Marine Museum, where it will be available for display as appropriate and available for research.

(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the American Merchant Marine Museum should make the gold medal given to the Museum under paragraph (1) available for display elsewhere, particularly at appropriate locations associated with the United States Merchant Marine and that preference should be given to locations affiliated with the United States Merchant Marine.

### 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 under section 3, at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

### SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.

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

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

### SEC. 6. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. McHENRY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 550, the Merchant Mariners of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2019.

I thank the gentleman from California, Representative GARAMENDI, for his work on this bill, which honors the courage and sacrifice of the civilian mariners of the Merchant Marine.

In the early days of America’s involvement in World War II, German U-boats sank numerous vessels during the Battle of the Atlantic. While many think of convoys being attacked as close to Europe, the German Navy also took the war to the U.S. eastern seaboard.

In March 1942 alone, 27 ships from six Allied Nations were sunk off U.S. shores. All told, 733 American cargo ships were lost during World War II.

Despite this danger, some 215,000 civilian merchant marines served with courage to establish and maintain critical supply lines, ensuring that vital supplies, cargo, and personnel reached Allied Forces in both Europe and Asia.

Though they had no military standing or government benefits, these civilian mariners often faced death from German U-boat assaults. These brave mariners paid a heavy price in service to their country, suffering the highest casualty rate of any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II.

An estimated 9,300 mariners lost their lives and another 12,000 were wounded to make sure our uniformed servicemembers could keep fighting. Unfortunately, their sacrifices are commonly underappreciated and often overlooked.

They were not even considered veterans until Congress remedied that disservice in 1988. Many of our histories of World War II gave them a passing mention or do not recognize their vital role in ensuring the success of the Allied forces. It is time that we give these brave mariners the recognition they so richly deserve.

I thank Mr. GARAMENDI for introducing this bill to Congress, and I urge Members to vote “yes.” I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the bill, H.R. 550, the Merchant Mariners of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2019.

For the last two Congresses, Congresswoman SUSAN BROOKS from Indiana has taken this measure on. We passed it out of the House last Congress. It didn’t make its way through the Senate.

Madam Speaker, I commend the hard work that my colleague Mrs. BROOKS put into legislating around this really important recognition of those who served and fought valiantly in their own way during World War II. So many lives were sacrificed by merchant mariners during World War II.

I thank my colleague Mrs. BROOKS for her work to make this day possible, and I thank my colleague Mr. GARAMENDI for his work this Congress to take this across the line for a really nice, bipartisan piece of legislation recognizing the unsung heroes of World War II.

In World War II, merchant mariners sailed across the Atlantic. They traveled abroad, delivering precious cargo to support the war. In the moment of most severe crisis for the United Kingdom, it was our merchant mariners who fed the island nation of Great Britain. It was our merchant mariners and our foodstuffs that fed Europe post-World War II, as well.

It was our merchant mariners who risked their lives in treacherous seas, before the concept of a convoy was invented in World War II, to protect the lives at stake, cargo at stake, the ships

at stake, and to ensure a better opportunity to make it across from the United States and Canada to Great Britain to save that island nation.

□ 1700

They were treacherous times, and the stakes of our actually providing support for the Soviet Union in the worst point of the ravages that they were suffering under Germany in their fight with Germany were substantial as well. The icy seas of the north to bring cargo in to save lives for our Soviet Allies during World War II were substantial, and there are massive numbers of stories of the lives put at risk in order to bring important food to save lives.

It is merchant mariners who were—we use the word “bravery,” but when we think about somebody doing their job of hard labor to make a ship go that is carrying cargo, we don’t think of that as bravery. It is fortitude, the will to keep doing something that is really important, even against tough odds. It shows who merchant mariners are. At sea today, the risks that they take in order to make our global economy work is real. But during World War II, it was on a knife’s edge, and the number of lives that were lost was extraordinary.

By one statistic, 1 out of every 26 merchant mariners was killed during that time period of World War II. Their ships sailed from port to port, and many never reached their final destination. Especially the German Operation Drumbeat targeted these ships in transport in a massive way, knowing that they were traveling mostly unarmed and unescorted.

Just off the North Carolina coast, there are 80 cargo ships that were targeted and 1,600 lives that were lost. That is just off one portion of our East Coast.

There are stories of heroic acts by these folks who were just, in peaceful times, doing a normal trade—an extraordinary trade, but a normal trade—but at war were the number one target in that early stage to break the will of the British and our support of them and then again trying to snuff off the Soviet Union from supplies, food, and weaponry.

So this is a fantastic recognition of the important work that merchant mariners provided, the vital work that they provided during World War II, and a recognition of a trade, a craft, a skill, and the hard work of those folks who did make the cargo go.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI), who is chair of the Subcommittee on Readiness on the Armed Services Committee and a highly valued Member of this House.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I thank Chairwoman WATERS so very much for the opportunity to speak on this bill.

I am very pleased that the House is taking up the Merchant Mariners of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act, H.R. 550.

I am proud to have worked on this bipartisan legislation with my original cosponsors, Representative DON YOUNG of Alaska and Representative SUSAN BROOKS, who I see is joining us here on the floor, finally getting this bill to the floor this session.

This is not the first session. Five years of work have brought us to this point, three Congresses. Mrs. BROOKS, last year, carried this, and we got it out of this House and then to the Senate. My hope is that the Senate will finally send this bill to the President’s desk so it can be signed into law.

Our bill would award the Congressional Gold Medal to our American merchant mariners who served during World War II, including those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Following the award of this medal, given to the American merchant mariners who served during World War II, it will be on display at the American Merchant Marine Museum at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Long Island, New York. It will be there displayed in honor of our Nation’s merchant mariners.

In 1944, Franklin Delano Roosevelt said that the Merchant Marines had “delivered the goods when and where needed in every theater of operations and across every ocean in the biggest, the most difficult and dangerous transportation job ever undertaken.”

Indeed, the Merchant Marines suffered the highest per capita casualty rate of any other branch of the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II. As said earlier, 1 out of every 26 American casualties in World War II was a merchant mariner. An estimated 8,300 American mariners lost their lives. Another 12,000 American mariners were wounded during their wartime service.

Regrettably, the merchant mariners were not granted veteran’s status until 1988, when Congress finally came around to recognizing the need for this. Awarding the Congressional Gold Medal, as our bill does, would finally give merchant mariners from our Nation’s Greatest Generation the honor and respect that they are owed.

Lastly, I want to thank the more than 300 Members of this House who co-sponsored the bill, allowing it to come to the floor for passage, and I also want to thank Mrs. BROOKS and Mr. YOUNG, who carried on in the previous Congresses.

Mr. McHENRY. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS).

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 550, the Merchant Mariners of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2019.

I want to thank the chairwoman and the ranking member for bringing this bill to the floor, but I very much want

to thank the fine gentleman from California, Representative GARAMENDI, for leading the effort this Congress.

Many Members of Congress have been involved in this, including one of our former colleagues, Representative Janice Hahn, whom I worked with closely several Congresses ago, and we have continued to try to bring this effort before the American people and before this House.

Merchant mariners, today, are Federal Government employees who pursue a civil service career in the Navy while assigned aboard U.S. Government-owned ships that support the Navy’s warfighters and warfighting platforms around the world. But, Madam Speaker, as you have already heard, often forgotten, merchant mariners are an integral part of our armed services today and in our Nation’s history, especially during World War II.

They took part in every invasion during World War II, from Normandy to Okinawa. They provided the greatest sealift in history, and they became the difference between victory and defeat.

With an estimated 9,300 casualties, they bore a higher per capita casualty rate than any other branch of the military during World War II. Even so, they were not recognized as veterans until 1988, and they never received the benefits that other World War II veterans received under the GI Bill.

While I was at home many years ago in Indianapolis, I met with a group of family members of merchant mariners and some who served actually during World War II. So it was because of that meeting that I learned so much about their service and decided to take up the mantle in trying to work with Representative Hahn at that time to get the recognition that they deserved.

These loyal, brave men put their lives on the line for the cause of freedom and selflessly answered their Nation’s call to duty. So now is the time, working in a bipartisan way, to get it across the finish line, to formally pay our respect to all of these deserving men and recognize the countless sacrifices and contributions of merchant mariners in our history.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SUOZZI), who is a member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. SUOZZI. Madam Speaker, I thank Chairwoman WATERS for yielding to me today.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 550, the bipartisan Merchant Mariners of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act.

I want to express my deep gratitude to Representative JOHN GARAMENDI, Representative DON YOUNG, and Representative SUSAN BROOKS for carrying this message forward.

This act will award this body’s highest honor, the Congressional Gold Medal, to midshipmen who fought on behalf of our country during World War II. This is particularly important to me because I represent the district that is

home to the Kings Point Merchant Marine Academy, and the Congressional Gold Medal will be housed there at that location.

This is so wonderful that this is finally being done. I am a proud member of the Board of Visitors at the United States Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point.

Kings Point, I want everyone to know, is the only service academy whose students engage in combat during times of war. In fact, during World War II, over 7,000 of these students answered our Nation's call to duty, and 142 students gave the supreme sacrifice.

Today, only 600 of these veterans are still alive. Ralph Crump is one of those veterans.

In 1941, Mr. Crump went on his first cruise as a freshman cadet at the United States Merchant Marine Academy. He was quickly promoted to third assistant engineer.

After his first cruise, Ralph was prepared to return to Kings Point to finish his schooling when his captain told him there was no replacement engineer and he needed to sail cargo for Russia. Over the next 8 months, Ralph and his convoy suffered heavy casualties in the Mediterranean, China, Burma, and India.

Crump later sailed ships taking exiled U.S. diplomats back to Asia, returning with prisoners of war liberated from a Japanese camp near Shanghai.

Ralph finally graduated from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy a year later, in 1946. Today, there is a Ralph Crump wing in the National World War II Museum in New Orleans named in his honor.

This is just one example of so many merchant mariners who did so much during this time, but I especially want to point out the students who served during wartime from the Merchant Marine Academy.

Brave men and women like Ralph at the Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, as well as the mariners who served across the country, deserve this highest recognition. It is not too late. It is time we recognize their sacrifice and award them the much-deserved Congressional Gold Medal.

Madam Speaker, I applaud my colleagues again for their leadership, and I ask the whole House to support our brave merchant mariners.

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

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN), who chairs the Financial Services Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairwoman, and I thank the ranking member as well.

Madam Speaker, we are truly the land of the free because we are the home of the brave. Unfortunately, not all of the brave have been treated the same when they have returned home from war. Such is the case with the

Merchant Marines. These merchant mariners came home, but they didn't come home to the parades that others came home to. Many of them didn't return the same way they left, and many didn't return at all.

I stand here today because I am so proud of the work that these Members of Congress have done to celebrate and appreciate the lives of the merchant mariners. Yes, it is true that they did not become actual veterans until 1988. Yes, it is true that they didn't receive all of the GI Bill benefits that some others received. But it is also true that, though it may be late, they will be properly recognized.

I am so honored to announce that Congressman GARAMENDI, Congresswoman BROOKS, and Congressman YOUNG have done a good thing, a just thing, and a righteous thing.

I would add one additional thing. There is a bill that is currently pending, H.R. 154. This bill would accord \$25,000 to each of these mariners who are alive. It is the right thing and the just thing, and we ought to do it as well.

But today, let's celebrate what has been accomplished. Let's have this Congressional Gold Medal presented, and let's make sure that if we see a merchant mariner, we give them the love that they richly deserve as well. They are truly persons who have made us the land of the free because they are members of the home of the brave.

Mr. McHENRY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to close.

Madam Speaker, on a personal note, on my team on the House Financial Services Committee and when I was chief deputy whip of the House, I had somebody work with me on my team named Phil Poe of Maryland.

Phil, out of college, was inspired by the stories of World War II merchant mariners and inspired by a family member, as well, to get licensed as a merchant mariner. He spent a little time as a merchant mariner and then paid his way through graduate school as a merchant mariner.

So I want to commend his willingness to serve, but I also want to note that, for the RECORD, these stories of World War II merchant mariners are having an impact generations later.

That inspirational story of the risks that they were willing to take, plus the family connection and inspiration he heard from those stories, have made a major difference for him. That work ethic that he developed and learned on that ship really steeled him to do better in graduate school, and by the time he came to the Hill, it was all easy compared to what he had been through.

□ 1715

So these stories we hear from long ago of merchant mariners and their sacrifice still have an impact today, and I am glad we have a Congressional Gold Medal and legislative recognition around the sacrifices that merchant mariners made during World War II.

Madam Speaker, I urge adoption, and yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I, too, join in thanking Representatives GARAMENDI, BROOKS, and YOUNG in bringing this bill to the floor of the House of Representatives and working for its passage.

I would just say a word about the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI), whom I have known for many, many years. We served in the California legislature together, and, of course, I am not surprised that he took time out to recognize those who have not been given credit for their work and what they have done in support of our country. This is typical of Mr. GARAMENDI and the way that he has conducted himself throughout his entire career.

I also thank those Members who have come to the floor today to join in this very special recognition. This is a bipartisan bill that honors those who answered our Nation's call to duty, regardless of the danger and without expectation of accolades. Now it is time that we give these courageous mariners the recognition they have more than earned.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important piece of legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 550, 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.

#### ADVANCING INNOVATION TO ASSIST LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT

Mr. SAN NICOLAS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2613) to require the Director of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network to carry out a study on the use of emerging technologies within the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2613

*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 "Advancing Innovation to Assist Law Enforcement Act".

#### SEC. 2. FINCEN STUDY ON USE OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES.

(a) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network ("FinCEN") shall carry out a study on—

(A) the status of implementation and internal use of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence ("AI"), digital identity technologies, blockchain technologies, and other innovative technologies within FinCEN;