

□ 1345

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

As the largest purchaser of goods and services in the world, the Federal Government is in a unique position to support veteran-owned businesses, yet navigating this process remains complicated to many veteran entrepreneurs.

One of the most challenging obstacles for veteran-owned businesses is getting certified. This first step toward contracting with the Federal Government is the most important, but also the most complex. This is largely due to the fact that the SBA established its own program, which applies government-wide, and the VA administrators established their own program as well.

Although the two programs share the same goal, each has its own participation requirements. Creating more confusion is the fact that firms can self-certify for the SBA programs, ones verified by the VA may not necessarily be found eligible to receive an SBA set-aside contract, and vice versa.

Coordinating certifications between the SBA and the VA can allow the Federal Government to reap the benefits of goods and services provided by veteran-owned businesses.

Again, I would like to thank Chairman TAKANO and Ranking Member ROE. Finally, I commend the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. KELLY) for leading this long effort and continuing to keep the needs of our veteran business owners in mind, as well as my colleague from Colorado (Mr. CROW).

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1615, 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.

ROSIE THE RIVETER CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT OF 2019

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1773) to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the women in the United States who joined the workforce during World War II, providing the aircraft, vehicles, weaponry, ammunition and other material to win the war, that were referred to as “Rosie the Riveter”, in recognition of their contributions to the United States and the inspiration they have provided to ensuing generations, as amended.

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

H.R. 1773

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 “Rosie the Riveter Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Over 70 years ago there was a call to action, a demand for workers to fill the vacancies left by the men who went to fight in the war.

(2) More than 6 million women answered the call then, entering the workforce during World War II and providing the equipment, weaponry and ammunition to achieve final victory and end the war.

(3) These women left their homes to work or volunteer full-time in factories, farms, shipyards, airplane factories, banks, and other institutions in support of the military overseas.

(4) They worked with the United Service Organizations and the American Red Cross, drove trucks, riveted airplane parts, collected critical materials, rolled bandages, and served on rationing boards.

(5) Our “Rosie the Riveter”, the women who worked and sacrificed to strengthen this country during World War II, are among the greatest living heroines in the United States.

(6) These women persevered, despite often facing harassment from their male colleagues and disapproval from their male family members, and all the while continued to maintain their “other jobs” as caretakers of children and their households.

(7) Minority women also overcame long-held policies of discrimination and made significant contributions to the war effort.

(8) Because of the “Rosies”, Federal, State, and local agencies coordinated with business owners to develop childcare programs and other supports for working mothers.

(9) The example that these women set during World War II continues to inspire us and blaze a path for the working women and young girls of today.

(10) Specifically, the images of “Rosie the Riveter” and the phrase “We Can Do It” continue to symbolize the empowerment of women today, representing patriotic women who want to serve and strengthen their country, and to inspire young girls to become “21st Century Rosies” by aspiring to, and attaining positions of leadership in all walks of life in America.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

(a) ROSIE THE RIVETER.—The term “Rosie the Riveter” includes any female individual who held employment or volunteered in support of the war efforts during World War II.

(b) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Treasury.

SEC. 4. 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 in commemoration to Rosie the Riveter, collectively, in recognition of their contributions to the Nation and the inspiration they have provided to ensuing generations.

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

(c) NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY.—

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

(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the National Museum of American History shall make the gold medal received under paragraph (1) available for display elsewhere, particularly at other appropriate locations associated with Rosie the Riveter.

SEC. 5. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 4 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. 6. 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.

SEC. 7. 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 Texas (Ms. GARCIA) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LOUDERMILK) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material thereon.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

During World War II, American women entered the workforce in unprecedented numbers. More than 6 million women answered the call to duty, filling jobs in factories, farms, shipyards, airplane factories, banks, and other institutions left vacant by the men who went to fight overseas.

These women, despite facing harassment and disapproval from their male colleagues and family members—and, in the case of minority women, long-held policies of discrimination—nonetheless persevered to provide critical equipment, weaponry, and ammunition

to the war effort, all while continuing to serve as primary caretakers for children and as heads of household.

The hard work and sacrifices of these women during the war also paved the way for the development of childcare programs and other Federal-, State-, and local-level policies to support working mothers and families.

Today, the iconic image of Rosie the Riveter, first popularized as part of a wartime recruitment campaign for female workers, continues to be a symbol of female empowerment and inspiration for women who wish to serve and strengthen their country.

H.R. 1773 recognizes the brave, patriotic women who stepped up to serve their country in its time of need and whose leadership and spirit of empowerment continues to inspire ensuing generations.

I thank Ms. SPEIER for joining me in introducing this bill this Congress, and I urge Members to vote “yes.”

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

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

Mr. Speaker, as the son of a World War II veteran, the brother of a Vietnam veteran, and as a veteran myself who served during the time of Desert Storm and other conflicts, I understand that victory in battle is not solely due to the soldier on the battlefield, the airman that is flying over the battlefield, or the marine or the sailor. It is as much the responsibility of all Americans and those who actually supply the weapons and the machinery of war that is so desperately needed by those who are on the battlefield.

We saw this play out in a great way during World War II. As our young men and women were across the pond and throughout the Pacific fighting against tyranny, many here at home stepped up and fulfilled the positions that many of them vacated to go fight on the battlefields.

We are honoring such of those women today, being Rosie the Riveters, where 6 million answered their country's call to make sure that the airmen had the aircraft to fly; that the infantrymen had the bullets and the guns that were needed to defend this country; that the sailors had the equipment, the ships, and the weapons to fight on the seas; and that the Marines that were invading the islands that were held by the Japanese had the materials that they needed.

We could not have seen that victory in World War II if it weren't for these brave patriots who not only took on the roles and the responsibilities that others left to make sure that we had the weapons and the materials and the logistics that were needed, but while also raising families at the same time.

Back in June, I was honored to be one of the official delegates to travel to Normandy, representing the United States and the House of Representatives for the 75th anniversary of D-day.

I was especially honored because my dad was one of those who stepped on the shores of Normandy during that battle.

And, as I was sitting in the audience waiting on the President to give his remarks, there were three lovely ladies sitting in the row in front of me. We began to engage in conversation, and I found out that they were Rosie Riveters. And, of course, I had to have a selfie with Rosie the Riveter.

They became the stars. Regardless of the number of Members of Congress who were sitting in the audience, those three ladies became the focus of many who were there, and rightfully so. And because of their deeds and their patriotism, I fully support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to do so as well, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK).

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, the Rosie the Riveter Congressional Gold Medal Act honors the 20th century icon that unified women and inspired them to join the workforce and help with the war effort.

Throughout our Nation's history, countless Americans have answered the call to service during times of conflict and turmoil. During World War II, women across the country left their homes for factory jobs in support of the war effort, working as riveters, buckers, welders, and electricians.

These Rosie the Riveters embodied the “We Can Do It” spirit forever connected with the famous poster.

I am proud to recognize these home-front heroes, especially my constituent Mae Krier. Mae is 93. She is in the Chamber with us today. She lives in my hometown of Levittown, Pennsylvania.

During the war, determined women like Mae manufactured planes, ships, tanks, weapons, jeeps, and everything else that was needed to defeat the enemy. Mae has said, “We worked, we danced, and we slept on Sundays. Most of all, we were duty-bound.”

Mae has been dedicated to get the real-life Rosies recognized for over 30 years. While this bill serves to get a single medal to the important symbol that is Rosie the Riveter, it truly is bestowing the honor and recognition on the millions of women like Mae Krier.

I am proud to recognize these heroes as an original cosponsor of H.R. 1773, alongside Representatives SPEIER, HUFFMAN, and now 289 of our colleagues. And I commend my fellow Pennsylvanian, Senator CASEY, for introducing this bipartisan bill in the Senate.

This legislation is supported by the Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Marine Corps League, the Philadelphia Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, among countless other orga-

nizations that represent our men and women in uniform and our veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House and Senate to vote “yes” on this important legislation so that we can see these strong American women honored by a Congressional Gold Medal.

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. DESAULNIER).

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for their leadership on this and my friend from Texas for yielding.

I rise today as a proud sponsor of the Rosie the Riveter Congressional Gold Medal Act and thank my colleagues again for their bipartisan leadership on this bill.

During World War II, thousands of women joined the war effort at the Kaiser Shipyards in Richmond, California, now home to the Rosie the Riveter World War II Home Front National Historical Park, as part of the National Park System, where they produced over 700 ships, the most productive shipyards in history.

These brave and dedicated women broke barriers by taking jobs as riveters, welders, and electricians, forever changing the role of women in the workforce. They embodied the “We Can Do It” motto.

Among them is Betty Reid Soskin—a constituent, a friend, and a pillar of my local community—who is now the National Park Service's oldest serving ranger and works at the Rosie the Riveter World War II Home Front National Historical Park at the age of 98.

She has been instrumental in educating thousands of visitors about the Rosies and sharing her experience as a young Black woman working on the home front.

I am so proud to have this important piece of history in my district, and I urge my colleagues to support this tribute to the Rosies' invaluable service to this country.

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, as I have no more speakers on this bill, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to emphatically support this legislation to give recognition to those who stepped up and served our Nation in such an important way during one of the darkest times in our Nation's history to ensure that we not only brought home the victory, but we liberated millions of those in oppression and tyranny across the globe.

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am pleased to bring forward a bill celebrating women from all walks of life who, in difficult, dark days chose to rise to the occasion and serve their country. They did not let themselves be confined to archaic notions of what women can or cannot do, nor did they let others dictate what a woman's place is in society.

Let me remind my colleagues that these Rosies were also Rositas, who came from all parts of our country, including our Hispanic community.

I would like to read from an interview with Aurora Orozco, one of the Rositas from Cuero, Texas, who laid out how so many Latinas contributed. "In the valley there were these packing sheds where they packed tomatoes and lettuce . . . there were not enough men to work, so they started hiring women. So that is when it started to change a little more in women's lives. They were calling from the government for women to go and work in the factories . . . then they started calling women into the Army.

"And first it was like, oh, my goodness, 'dios mio,' how can these women go over there by themselves? Everybody was shocked because we were not used to seeing women leave the house. You didn't leave the house until you were married. With señoritas, everything was so strict and then came this change . . . and I think that was wonderful because it opened a new world for women. It showed that women can be independent. This was a real break for women."

So let us honor the example these women set and continue to blaze a path for the working women of today and future leaders of tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER), the sponsor of this legislation.

□ 1400

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for giving me this opportunity to speak on this very important bill.

Rosie the Riveters who are left in this country deserve a Congressional Gold Medal. In one of the most challenging periods of our American history, women stepped up to serve this country. Six million women entered the workforce for the first time during World War II, offering to build weapons, vehicles, and ammunition that helped us win the war.

The critical contributions of Rosie the Riveters changed the course of world history and blazed a trail for today's working women. The Rosies proved that they could work and succeed in jobs and industries that had long been male-dominated. African American women challenged stereotypes and policies of discrimination to contribute to the war effort. Because of the Rosies, the U.S. Government worked with businesses to develop support for working moms, like childcare programs.

The famous image of Rosie the Riveter, sleeves rolled up, muscles flexed, and a bandanna in place, has inspired generations of women and girls to embody the strength, patriotism, and "We Can Do It" spirit that radiates from the poster.

But even the iconic image can't do justice to the real-life Rosies who took on the mantle of the war effort at home, defied expectations, eradicated barriers to women's participation in the workforce, and made victory possible. It has been one of the great honors of my career to work closely with several of these women during my time in Congress.

Phyllis Gould went to welding school from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. every day for weeks to get a job working at a shipyard in California. She was one of the first women accepted into the boiler-makers union. At 97 years old, Phyllis still works tirelessly to make sure we never forget the sacrifices and the hard work that American women provided during World War II.

Phyllis' sister, Marian Sousa, went to work at 17 years of age as a draftsman in the shipyards in Richmond, California. Marian's volunteer work at the Rosie the Riveter World War II Home Front National Historical Park preserves the Rosie legacy for future generations.

Mae Krier went to work at Boeing Aircraft right out of high school, helping to build B-17s and B-29 bombers. Today, she is one of the foremost Rosie advocates in the country, fighting for recognition of the tremendous wartime contributions of American women.

Betty Reid Soskin, park ranger at the Rosie the Riveter World War II Home Front National Historical Park, worked as a file clerk in the boiler-makers' union hall. Today, she is the oldest national park ranger in the country, dedicated to bringing the Rosies' trailblazing legacy to life for visitors.

These Rosies are true American heroes. It is long past time that they and all the women who served on the home front during World War II receive recognition from the country for which they sacrificed so much. I urge my colleagues to stand with us in honoring our Rosie the Riveters with a Congressional Gold Medal.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GARCIA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1773, 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.

DIRECTING THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE TO MAKE A CORRECTION IN THE ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 2423

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I send to the desk a concurrent resolution and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 72

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That in the enrollment of the bill H.R. 2423, the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall make the following corrections:

(1) In section 2(a)(3), strike "Carrie Chapman Cat" and insert "Carrie Chapman Catt".

(2) In section 4(a)(2)(C), strike the period after "Unum" and insert a period after the closed quotation mark at the end.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 13, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on November 13, 2019, at 11:20 a.m.:

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 1865.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

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AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) at 4 o'clock and 29 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4863, UNITED STATES EXPORT FINANCE AGENCY ACT OF 2019; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. DESAULNIER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 116-289) on the resolution (H. Res. 695) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4863) to promote the competitiveness of the United States, to reform and reauthorize the United States Export Finance