

tirelessly to get the supermajority necessary to consider S. 321 to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Women's Army Corps 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion.

Let me just say that I am so pleased to be a sponsor of this bill, particularly as we end Black History Month, honoring these women, and as we begin Women's History Month. The intersection of those two things is certainly a very appropriate time to mention the Six Triple Eight.

You have heard about the heroic efforts of this only-Black-female battalion in history that served in World War II who are being honored here today. They are being honored because their heroic efforts enabled them, as a central battalion for the delivery of mail, to give people that little measure of a piece of home when they were away.

I just have to ask my colleagues: When there are 7,500 Robert Smiths who weren't able to get their mail during World War II, who did they call? The Six Triple Eight, Black women.

When they were coming under fire and there were 17-and-a-half million pieces of mail that were backlogged and couldn't be sent to these soldiers, who they did call? Oh, yeah, the Six Triple Eight.

When mothers were worried that their sons and wives were worried that their husbands had lost connection, who kept that connection going? The Six Triple Eight.

Their motto was "no mail, low morale." They weren't just sorting mail. They were, in the words of Judi Glaeser printed in the Niagara Gazette on May 21, 2021:

Their work was more than sorting mail. It was ministering to the souls of soldiers, making sure they received that piece of home that reminded them that they were not forgotten.

Today, we are not forgetting them.

I say, in the name of my constituent, who is still alive and will be enjoying her 98th birthday on March 5, Anna Mae Robertson, I congratulate her on this gold medal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Wisconsin.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I just want to enter into the RECORD the names of First Lieutenant Fannie Griffin McClendon of Arizona; Corporal Lena Derriecott Bell King of Las Vegas, Nevada; Private Catherine Romay Davis of Alabama; Private Hilda Griggs of New Jersey; and Private Crensencia Garcia of the Bronx, New York, who are still alive.

And to the son of their leader, Major Charity Adams, I thank the Major for leading the Six Triple Eight to this great victory today.

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

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time. I

thank the sponsor of this bill and the passion she always brings to this floor. I also thank the sponsor of the bill in the Senate, Senator MORAN from Kansas. I thank everybody for their hard work in ensuring the women of the Six Triple Eight receive the recognition they so richly deserve.

As Drexel University historian Gregory S. Cooke notes: They knew what they did would reflect on all other Black people. The Tuskegee Airmen, the Six Triple Eight, represented all Black people. Had they failed, all Black people would be seen to have failed. That was part of the thinking going into the war. The Black battalions had the burden that their role in the war was about something much bigger than themselves.

The women of the Six Triple Eight fought a battle indeed greater than the warehouses stacked to the ceiling with bags and bags of undelivered mail and ensuring our Nation's soldiers received letters from back home. It was also a battle for equality and for recognition and respect from their fellow Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I rise in support of S. 321, the "Six Triple Eight" Congressional Gold Medal Act, which would award Congressional Gold Medals to the members of the Women's Army Corps who were assigned to the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, known as the "Six Triple Eight."

S. 321, the "Six Triple Eight" Congressional Gold Medal Act, directs the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate to arrange for the award of a Congressional Gold Medal in honor of the women of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion in recognition of their pioneering military service, devotion to duty, and contributions to increase the morale of personnel stationed in the European theater of operations during World War II.

On July 1, 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed into law legislation that established the Women's Army Corps (WAC) as a component of the Army.

First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and Mary McLeod Bethune, the founder of the National Council of Negro Women, advocated for the admittance of African-American women into the newly formed WAC to serve as officers and enlisted personnel.

As a result of their efforts, the "Six Triple Eight" formed an all-Black battalion of the Women's Army Corps.

The 6888th had 855 Black women, both enlisted and officers, and was led by Major Charity Adams.

Most of the 6888th worked as postal clerks, but others were cooks, mechanics and held other support positions, making the 6888th a self-sufficient unit.

During World War II, there was a significant shortage of soldiers who were able to manage the postal service for the U.S. Army overseas.

The 6888th left the United States on February 3, 1945, sailing on Île de France and arrived in Glasgow on February 12.

When the 6888th arrived in Birmingham on February 15, 1945, "they saw letters stacked

to the ceiling of the temporary post office, some letters had been in the offices for as long as two years."

Army officials believed that undelivered mail was "hurting morale."

Early in the operation, a White general sent a White officer to "tell them how to do it right," but Major Adams responded, "Sir, over my dead body, sir!"

The battalion finished what was supposed to be a six-month task in three months in May 1945.

The women of the 6888th worked in three different shifts, seven days a week, processing and delivering mail—a morale booster—to the troops in Europe.

The 6888th was a segregated unit, sleeping and eating in different locations from the White, male soldiers.

European "locals" treated them better than other American soldiers did, which was the experience of most Black troops who served during WWI and WWII.

Once the backlog in Birmingham had been dealt with, the 6888th were shipped across the Channel to Le Havre in May 1945 and were sent to Rouen, where they dealt with another backlog of mail, with some letters being three years old.

In February 1946, the unit returned to the United States where it was disbanded at Fort Dix, New Jersey.

There was no public recognition for their service at the time.

On February 25, 2009, the battalion was honored at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery.

Alyce Dixon and Mary Raglan, two former unit members were honored by President Barack Obama and first lady, Michelle Obama in 2009.

The extraordinary accomplishments of this unit are deserving of official congressional recognition and the United States is eternally grateful to the soldiers of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion during World War II, which saved lives, boosted morale and made significant contributions to the defeat of the Axis powers.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this legislation and urge all Members to vote for S. 321, the "Six Triple Eight" Congressional Gold Medal Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 321.

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. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

COUNTY ELECTIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021 UNDER THE SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SELF-DETERMINATION ACT OF 2000

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S.

3706) to provide for the application of certain provisions of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 for fiscal year 2021.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3706

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

SECTION 1. COUNTY ELECTIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021 UNDER THE SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SELF-DETERMINATION ACT OF 2000.

Sections 102(b)(1)(D), 102(d)(1)(F), and 102(d)(3)(D) of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7112(b)(1)(D), 7112(d)(1)(F), 7112(d)(3)(D)) shall be applied for fiscal year 2021.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CAMMACK) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CORREA. 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 the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 3706. This bill makes important corrections to the recently passed Secure Rural Schools reauthorization. Without these corrections, counties would not have the choice of electing to receive SRS payments or electing to receive Federal timber harvest receipts. Rather, they would have to take SRS payments.

Furthermore, the current reauthorization does not allow counties to elect their allocations in advance of their fiscal year 2021 payments, meaning all eligible counties would receive 80 percent Title I funds, 20 percent Title II funds, and no Title III funds.

While Title I payments, used for roads and schools, will be the bulk of the payment either way, it is important to ensure that counties get access to Title III funds. Title III funds are important because they can be used for specified county purposes. These purposes can include law enforcement on Federal land, search and rescue, and wildfire risk reduction.

This fix will help timber-dependent counties across the country and ensure continued support for roads, schools, law enforcement, and environmental benefits.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3706. Under longtime Federal law,

counties located within the National Forest System have received a share of revenues generated through the sale of timber harvested from those Federal lands.

This revenue has been critical for forested counties to support schools, roads, law enforcement, search-and-rescue operations, and other local activities that benefit both our forests and rural communities.

However, with the sharp decline in timber harvesting across the National Forest System since the early 1990s, rural counties have seen revenues for schools and other important local services plummet as a result.

To offset this lost revenue, Congress created the Secure Rural Schools program in 2000 to provide additional funding to participating counties based on their average historical timber payments.

In my own district in north Florida, Putnam County and Marion County have received a combined total of more than \$624,000 through the Secure Rural Schools program, thanks to the sale of timber harvested out of the Ocala National Forest.

□ 1515

In rural counties like Putnam, this funding provides support for the county's schools, roads, and other critical services. It is no different in Marion County.

The recent infrastructure bill, signed into law this past November, reauthorized the Secure Rural Schools for the next 3 years. However, due to a drafting error, this reauthorization did not lock in the payment allocations that participating counties last elected in 2013.

Consequently, payments for this spring will revert to their default levels in permanent law. This means that county allocations will revert to 80 percent for Title I, 20 percent for Title II, and zero percent for Title III.

To correct this problem, S. 3706 will lock in the 2013 elections for the coming year. In doing so, the bill will provide certainty and consistency for county payments that will be made in the coming months.

Fundamental errors like this demonstrate how flawed and rushed the process was to pass the infrastructure bill this last year. It also demonstrates the need for committee consideration and why committees should not be bypassed before bringing a bill to the floor.

However, given the great importance of county payments to both forested counties and rural school districts around the Nation, I support this commonsense technical fix and urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

As we continue to consider how to best steward our national forests and support forested communities, I would like to add that increasing timber harvesting across the National Forest System will better support these counties and reduce the need for this program in the long run.

Regardless of what the critics say, timber harvesting will encourage forest health and will help prevent the devastating wildfires that have torn through America's forests in recent years. Our forests are an important pillar for our rural economies and provide much-needed revenue to our local counties and schools, like those in my own district.

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time and urge adoption of this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3706.

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.

METHAMPHETAMINE RESPONSE ACT OF 2021

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 854) to designate methamphetamine as an emerging threat, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 854

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 "Methamphetamine Response Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. DECLARATION OF EMERGING THREAT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Congress declares methamphetamine an emerging drug threat, as defined in section 702 of the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 1998 (21 U.S.C. 1701), in the United States.

(b) REQUIRED EMERGING THREAT RESPONSE PLAN.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy shall establish and implement an Emerging Threat Response Plan that is specific to methamphetamine in accordance with section 709(d) of the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 1998 (21 U.S.C. 1708(d)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALLONE. 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 S. 854.

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

There was no objection.

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