

opportunities they need to be able to continue to grow and develop their businesses and the opportunity to be successful rather than to be in a punitive situation where we offer bait and then snatch it back after businesses are, in fact, vested on a course of winning a contract.

Small businesses, needless to say, really have been the driving force in our economy, and I know that Mr. WILLIAMS and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ will agree. After all the hard work these small businesses do, they deserve the courtesy of disclosure from the Federal Government and its contracting agencies.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members on both sides of the aisle to vote in favor of this.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I am in support of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Madam Speaker, this bill will prevent small businesses from being left with nothing to show for contracting opportunities that never materialize for one reason or another. It is my hope that this will increase the number of small businesses willing to take the leap of faith to compete for government contracts.

Before I yield back, I thank Representative MFUME for this bill and all the work he has done for small businesses throughout the years. I appreciate it very much.

While he may no longer be serving on our committee for the remainder of the 118th Congress, I appreciate his contributions that he has made throughout the years to America's entrepreneurs, and he is my friend.

Madam Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8014.

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.

□ 1615

FORGOTTEN HEROES OF THE HOLOCAUST CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

Mr. FLOOD. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 537) to award a Congressional Gold Medal to 60 diplomats, in recognition of their bravery and heroism during the Holocaust, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 537

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 "Forgotten Heroes of the Holocaust Congressional Gold Medal Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The following diplomats will be honored posthumously: Per Anger (Sweden), Jose Maria Barreto (Peru), Lars Berg (Sweden), Philippe Bernardini (Vatican / Italy), Hiram (Harry) Bingham IV (United States), Friedrich Born (Switzerland), Manuel Antonio Muñoz Borrero (Ecuador), Carlos de Liz-Texeira Branquinho (Portugal), Eduardo Propper de Callejón (Spain), Samuel del Campo (Chile), Aracy Moebius Carvalho de Guimarães Rosa (Brazil), José Arturo Castellanos (El Salvador), Carl Ivan Danielsson (Sweden), Luis Martins de Souza Dantas (Brazil), Georg Ferdinand Duckwitz (Germany), Harald Feller (Switzerland), Francis (Frank) Foley (United Kingdom), Jean-Edouard Friedrich (Switzerland), Carlos Almeida Afonseca de Sampaio Garrido (Portugal), Raymond Herman Geist (United States), Feng-Shan Ho (China), Constantin Karadja (Romania), Alexander Kasser (Sándor Kasza) (Sweden / Hungary), Elow Kihlgren (Sweden), Joseph Willem (Joop) Kolkman (Netherlands), Julius Kühl (Switzerland), Aleksander Ładosz (Poland), Valdemar Langlet (Sweden), Charles (Carl) Lutz (Switzerland), George Mandel-Mantello (El Salvador), Florian Manoliu (Romania), Aristides de Sousa Mendes (Portugal), Salomon Jacob (Sally) Noach (Netherlands), Giorgio (Jorge) Perlasca (Spain / Italy), Ernst Prodolliet (Switzerland), Franjo Punčuch (Yugoslavia / Slovenia), Sebastián de Romero Radigales (Spain), Konstanty Rokicki (Poland), Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli (Vatican / Italy), Angelo Rotta (Vatican / Italy), Albert Emile Routier (Turkey), Stefan Ryniewicz (Poland), Gilberto Bosques Saldivar (Mexico), José Ruiz Santaella (Spain), Angel Sanz-Briz (Spain), Abdol-Hossein Sardari (Iran), Henryk Slawik (Poland), Robert Smallbones (United Kingdom), Ján Spišiak (Slovakia), Chiune (Sempo) Sugihara (Japan), Irenaeus Typaldos (Spain), Alexander (Sándor) Újváry (Vatican / Hungary), Selahattin Ülkümen (Turkey), Gennaro Verolino (Vatican / Italy), Vladimir Vochoč (Czech Republic), Ernst Vonrufs (Switzerland), Raoul Wallenberg (Sweden), Guelfo Zamboni (Italy), Peter Zürcher (Switzerland), and Jan Zwartendijk (Holland).

(2) On September 1, 1939, Adolf Hitler and the Nazis began their invasion of Europe, which started World War II and threw the world into chaos. The Nazi plan of mass murder of the Jewish population was in full motion. As battles were being fought between countries, Jews were being rounded up and sent to concentration camps throughout Europe. This process began a mass exodus of people out of Europe, especially those in the Jewish community.

(3) During the war, members of the Jewish community used every tool and means at their disposal to flee Nazi tyranny. Thousands tried to flee on trains or boats to escape from Europe.

(4) While the armies of countries were fighting each other, a handful of diplomats, from around the world, stepped forward and took heroic actions to save Jews fleeing Europe. This was an incredibly dangerous process. If the Nazis discovered the actions of these diplomats they would be expelled, as a few of them were. Also, while worrying about the Nazis, diplomats had to worry about their careers and livelihoods back home. Many of them had strict orders from their home countries to not aid the Jewish population in any way.

(5) These diplomats used every means at their disposal to help Jews fleeing persecu-

tion. One of the most powerful tools the diplomats had to use was the issuing of passports and travel visas contrary to the instruction of the governments of the diplomats. This process alone is responsible for saving hundreds of thousands of Jewish families in Europe. This was not the only tool used as many of the diplomats were connected with the local populations and were great communicators for Jews trying to travel underground. They were able set up safehouses and getaways to hide Jews and especially Jewish children from Nazi authorities. In the most dangerous of times, several of these diplomats confronted the Nazis directly on behalf of the Jews and personally put themselves in grave danger.

(6) Every diplomat knew the dangers and knew what they were up against, and still pushed forward to save those in the most danger.

(7) The Congressional Gold Medal authorized under this Act will help remind humanity that when the diplomats were faced with terrible crises, they went beyond the fold, including risking their careers and the lives of themselves and their families, to engage in this humanitarian mission. The diplomats of today and future generations can look towards these heroes and be inspired by their lives of heroism and sacrifice.

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 single gold medal of appropriate design in honor of the 60 diplomats identified in section 2(1), in recognition of their brave and vital service of saving Jews during World War II.

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

(c) PRESENTATION OF MEDAL.—The single gold medal presented under subsection (a) shall be presented collectively to the eldest next of kin of each of the 60 diplomats identified in section 2(1), who shall receive the medal as part of a delegation consisting of a senior official representative of the country that each diplomat served and the co-chairs of the Forgotten Heroes of the Holocaust Committee.

(d) UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the gold medal in honor of the 60 diplomats identified in section 2(1), the gold medal shall be given to the United States Holocaust Memorial 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 United States Holocaust Memorial Museum should make the gold medal awarded pursuant to this Act available for display elsewhere, particularly at appropriate locations associated with Holocaust remembrance.

SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

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 thereof, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.

(a) NATIONAL MEDAL.—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 sections 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United

States Code, all medals struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF SALE.

(a) **AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.**—There is authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be necessary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under this Act.

(b) **PROCEEDS OF SALE.**—Amounts received from the sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FLOOD) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FLOOD. Madam 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 Nebraska?

There was no objection.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 537, a bill that will posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal to the forgotten heroes of the Holocaust.

Madam Speaker, on September 1, 1939, Adolf Hitler and the Nazis began their invasion of Europe, which started World War II and threw humanity into what would become one of the darkest periods in history.

The Nazis sought the mass extermination of the Jewish people and wasted no time carrying out their vile plan. They hunted, rounded up, and sent Jews to concentration camps across Europe to be murdered in state-sponsored genocide that we now refer to as the Holocaust.

However, a handful of diplomats from around the world took quick and heroic action to save Jews attempting to flee Europe. They resisted the anti-Semitic Nazi agenda, risking their families, careers, and lives to help innocent Jewish people flee persecution.

Despite some receiving direct orders not to help the Jewish population, these diplomats issued passports and travel visas, set up safe houses and getaways to hide adults and children, and communicated with local communities to help fleeing Jews escape by traveling underground to safety.

Because of the actions of these diplomats, hundreds of thousands of Jewish families in Europe escaped death at the hands of Hitler's Nazi regime. Although they were not the only ones who risked their lives to aid the Jewish community, today we celebrate 60 of those diplomats and honor their lives and actions with a Congressional Gold Medal.

Sadly, anti-Semitism is an endemic and unrelenting scourge on history,

rearing its ugly head even today just as it did 80 years ago during World War II.

H.R. 537 honors those 60 diplomats who valiantly defied the systemic hatred by bravely doing what was right to stand up not only for the Jewish community but of all mankind. It is my hope that their courage will continue to inspire Americans today.

Madam Speaker, I support this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it, as well. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 537, the Forgotten Heroes of the Holocaust Congressional Gold Medal Act, sponsored by Representative SALAZAR and myself.

Following the sacrifices honored over the weekend on the anniversary of the historic battle of Normandy, Congress today has the opportunity with this bipartisan bill to honor 60 diplomats from around the world in recognition of their courage, devotion, and sacrifice to rescue countless numbers of Jewish and other persecuted people during the Nazi occupation of Europe.

The Holocaust was the genocide of over 6 million Jews and millions of others by the Nazis and has come to symbolize the depths of human cruelty, dehumanization, and mass violence.

We remember the lives of over 10 million victims of Nazi Germany's persecution and mass executions, and today we recognize some of those individuals who demonstrated humanity and courage. The diplomats recognized by H.R. 537 and honored with this medal come from across the world. They faced a choice between being complacent with their then-Nazi occupiers or following their conscience. Risking their lives and careers, they chose humanity and became heroes.

After the Nazis took control of Germany and waged war on Europe, diplomats and foreign officials were in difficult positions. The diplomats recognized today made the decision to directly confront their own governments, the Nazi occupiers, and sympathizers to protect and rescue Europe's persecuted Jews.

From issuing visas and protective documents to establishing safe houses with hospitals, nurseries, and soup kitchens for Europe's Jewish population, these individuals often defied explicit orders from their superiors.

Individually, these diplomats saved thousands of Jews from persecution. With H.R. 537, each of us can honor their heroism and affirm for the whole Nation how one person, one act of kindness, and one act of civil disobedience can make a difference.

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

Mr. FLOOD. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. SALAZAR), the bill's sponsor.

Ms. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge the passage of my bill, the Forgotten Heroes of the Holocaust Congressional Gold Medal Act.

Anti-Semitism has always been a tragic feature of world history, but there was no greater display of anti-Semitism than when the Nazis tried to wipe out the Jews from the face of the Earth. Hitler and his satanic advisers were the architects of one of the cruelest chapters in the history of humanity called the Holocaust.

We all know too well the horrors of that period, but we often forget the remarkable individuals across the world who, at great personal risk, helped millions and millions of Jews escape the death camps.

H.R. 537 recognizes 60 diplomats—some of them are pictured right here—who used their positions and influence to help those under persecution escape death. How? By issuing fake visas or hiding them in the embassies. They simply smuggled the Jews destined for concentration camps out of the hands of evil.

These heroes come from a variety of nations, including the United States, El Salvador, Mexico, Peru, Ecuador, Chile, Spain, Italy, Poland, Japan, and even Nazi Germany. They displayed undeniable courage and embodied the best of humanity during one of the darkest times of human history.

History, unfortunately, repeats itself, and today denial of the Holocaust is at an all-time high, with one out of five Americans under the age of 30 believing it never happened. Meanwhile, anti-Semitic incidents in this country, in the United States, have gone up more than 300 percent since the terrorist attack on Israel last October.

Honoring the heroes of the past helps us acknowledge the Holocaust as a real event and serves today in the present as a chilling reminder of one of the devastating consequences of silence in the face of evil. Nonetheless, despite these unspeakable atrocities that defined that period, these people demonstrated that humanity also has the capacity for extraordinary acts of courage.

By supporting this legislation, we will honor the memory of these heroes, we will preserve the truth of the Holocaust for future generations, and we will continue to fight anti-Semitism in all its forms.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge Abe Foxman and Art Reidel, as well as my co-lead of this bill, the gentleman from New York, the Honorable Congressman RITCHIE TORRES.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FLOOD. Madam Speaker, I would just underscore the importance of this bill in reminding us of the evils that existed 80 years ago and still exist today, and the bravery that embodied and continues to embody mankind today.

I thank the gentlewoman from Florida for introducing this bill, and I thank the gentleman from New York for his cosponsorship. 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 Nebraska (Mr. FLOOD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 537, 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.

CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF RYAN CORBETT, A UNITED STATES CITIZEN

Mr. MCCAUL. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 965) calling for the immediate release of Ryan Corbett, a United States citizen, who was wrongfully detained by the Taliban on August 10, 2022, and condemning the wrongful detention of Americans by the Taliban.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 965

Whereas United States citizen Ryan Corbett has lived a life of service, by supporting humanitarian projects in Afghanistan by helping the Afghan people start and operate small businesses;

Whereas Ryan Corbett moved his family to Afghanistan in 2010 to help the local population and lived there for over a decade aiding the local Afghan population;

Whereas in 2017, Ryan Corbett founded "Bloom Afghanistan" to provide consulting and microloans to Afghan small businesses to help build a self-sustaining local economy of Afghan small businesses;

Whereas Ryan Corbett is known to his family, friends, colleagues, and associates as a loving father, as well as a kind, service-oriented man;

Whereas Ryan Corbett was forced to leave his life, community, and Afghan partners behind during the August 2021 Taliban takeover of Afghanistan and the ensuing evacuation of American citizens;

Whereas in August 2022, Ryan Corbett traveled to Afghanistan for a 10-day trip to check in on his business and employees and was detained by the Taliban;

Whereas the Taliban detained Ryan Corbett without being charged with a crime or granting him due process in any judicial proceedings;

Whereas, on October 10, 2023, Ryan Corbett was designated as wrongfully detained by the Department of State;

Whereas Ryan Corbett is being held in a 9-foot by 9-foot cell with two other detainees, and has been held in solitary confinement for months at a time;

Whereas the Taliban has not granted Ryan Corbett any consular visits by Department of State personnel;

Whereas during his detention, Ryan Corbett has only had 3 phone calls totaling 22 minutes with his family, and has only had 2 in-person visits with representatives of the

United States protecting power in Afghanistan, Qatar;

Whereas three non-American individuals previously detained with Ryan Corbett have been released and have reported on Ryan's conditions;

Whereas Ryan Corbett's former cellmates stated that prisoners at that facility must survive on scraps of fatty meat, only have access to sunlight once a month, and cannot use the bathroom without permission;

Whereas Ryan Corbett's former cellmates stated that during their captivity, Ryan Corbett was suffering from seizures, fainting, and discolored extremities; and

Whereas Ryan Corbett turned 40 years old during his wrongful detention, and his physical and mental health is rapidly declining due to the stress and harsh conditions, such that his family fears he will not survive his wrongful detention: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) calls on the Taliban to immediately and unconditionally release Ryan Corbett and all other American detainees;

(2) urges the Taliban to respect Ryan Corbett's human rights and to provide full, unfettered, and consistent health and safety visits to Ryan Corbett while in detention;

(3) encourages the Government of Qatar, as the protecting power of the United States in Afghanistan, to continue in its efforts to conduct basic health and wellness checks on Ryan Corbett, thanks Qatar for its efforts thus far, and encourages Qatar to be involved in securing the release of Ryan Corbett;

(4) urges all United States executive branch officials to continue to raise the case of Ryan Corbett and to press for his immediate release in all interactions with the Taliban;

(5) condemns the Taliban's practice of hostage taking and demands the Taliban to stop detaining United States citizens for political gain;

(6) expresses sympathy for and solidarity with the families of all other citizens and lawful permanent residents of the United States wrongfully detained abroad; and

(7) expresses support for the family of Ryan Corbett and a commitment to bringing Ryan Corbett home.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KEATING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCCAUL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, on August 10, 2022, Ryan Corbett was detained by the Taliban in Afghanistan.

Ryan Corbett is a loving husband to Anna, and father of three wonderful children: Ketsia, Miriam, and Caleb. I spent quite a bit of time with the family.

In 2 weeks, his oldest daughter graduates from high school, but instead of

being home with his family right now celebrating his daughter, he is suffering in a Taliban prison.

Ryan Corbett and his family lived in Afghanistan for over a decade. He supported humanitarian efforts and provided opportunities for the Afghan people. He is a good man who has dedicated his life to helping others. He is not a criminal.

Despite pressure to act from the committee I chair, the House Foreign Affairs Committee, it took over a year for this administration to declare Ryan as wrongfully detained.

After constant engagement with this administration, the Corbett family has yet to receive any information regarding a plan to secure his release. Many of these requests for meetings with high-level administration officials have been repeatedly ignored. This is unacceptable. This administration must put a priority on bringing Ryan and other wrongfully detained Americans home now.

Ryan's situation is dire. Ryan's wife, Anna, reports his mental and physical health have significantly deteriorated in recent months.

The Taliban has refused to allow Ryan the voice to advocate for himself. He has only spoken to his wife a handful of times since he has been detained. Ryan is being held in inhumane conditions in a tiny cell with unreliable access to food and no ability to go outside. He is fed only scraps to eat, and he has faced solitary confinement for weeks on end.

Ryan is facing serious medical conditions, experiencing seizures and often fainting. I want to assure Ryan's wife, Anna, along with his family, friends, and coworkers that we will continue our fight every day until we bring him home.

As the father of five children myself, I cannot begin to imagine the pain and suffering Ryan's family is feeling right now.

This Congress and all Americans stand with Ryan, and that is why I am proud to support this bipartisan resolution today that condemns the Taliban regime for its illegal imprisonment of Ryan and demands his immediate release. It calls upon the Biden administration to prioritize bringing all American citizens home who are wrongfully detained overseas.

The President must project strength on the world stage and secure the immediate release of Ryan. Anything less is a failure of American leadership.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1630

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

I rise in strong support of H. Res. 965, calling for the immediate release of Ryan Corbett, a United States citizen, who was wrongfully detained by the Taliban on August 10, 2022, and condemning the wrongful detention of Americans by the Taliban, as well.