

So I want to join the gentleman from California in thanking the Speaker for his fine service.

COMMENDING PRESENT ARMY NURSE CORPS FOR EXTENDING EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES TO MEN AND WOMEN

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Service be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 476) commending the present Army Nurse Corps for extending equal opportunities to men and women, and recognizing the brave and honorable service during and before 1955 of men who served as Army hospital corpsmen and women who served in the Army Nurse Corps, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 476

Whereas in 1901, in the Act popularly known as the Army Reorganization Act, the Congress established the Army Nurse Corps as a permanent corps of the Medical Department of the Army;

Whereas 2001 is the centennial of the Army Nurse Corps;

Whereas the law establishing the Army Nurse Corps designated it as a female unit;

Whereas men, whatever their qualifications or accomplishments, could not enter the Army Nurse Corps because of its designation as a female unit;

Whereas more than 59,000 women bravely served in the Army Nurse Corps during World War II, and more than 5,000 women served during the Korean War;

Whereas some male nurses who might have served in the Army in officer grades instead, due to the exclusion of males from the Army Nurse Corps, served in enlisted grades as Army hospital corpsmen in World War II and the Korean War;

Whereas male nurses expressed concern about this situation to the Surgeon General, their congressional representatives, and newspapers;

Whereas the Congress opened the Army Nurse Corps to males in August 1955, thereby allowing male nurses in the Army to be commissioned as officers, and the Army Nurse Corps became the first gender integrated corps in the Army that year;

Whereas today the Army Nurse Corps is open to both men and women; and

Whereas men and women have bravely served in the Army Nurse Corps in Vietnam, Desert Storm, and other military engagements since 1955: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the present Army Nurse Corps for extending equal opportunities to men and women; and

(2) recognizes the brave and honorable service during and before 1955 of—

(A) men who served as Army hospital corpsmen; and

(B) women who served in the Army Nurse Corps.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 476, which com-

mends the present Army Nurse Corps for extending equal opportunities to men and women, and recognizes the brave and honorable service of the men and women who have served in the Army Nurse Corps and as Army hospital corpsmen.

From the earliest days of this great country, whenever our army was needed, nurses have served. During the Revolutionary and Civil Wars and other times of need, nurses have been there with the soldiers.

Congress officially established the U.S. Army Nurse Corps on February 2, 1901, with 202 nurses serving on active duty. During World War II, the Corps swelled to over 59,000 nurses, all of whom served their country valiantly and honorably.

Indeed, Army Corps Nurses received 1,619 medals, citations, and commendations during World War II, reflecting their courage and dedication. Sixteen medals were awarded posthumously to nurses who died as a result of enemy fire. These included the 6 nurses who died at Anzio, 6 who died when the Hospital Ship Comfort was attacked by a Japanese suicide plane, and 4 flight nurses. Overall, 201 nurses died while serving in the Army during the war.

In 1947, another act of Congress established the Army Nurse Corps as part of the Medical Department of the active army. In 1950, when hostilities broke out in South Korea, 3,460 Army Nurses were on active duty. Many of them were assigned to field, evacuation and new Mobile Army Surgical Hospitals (MASH), only minutes from the battle areas by helicopter.

Unfortunately, due to the gender discrimination of the Army Nurse Corps during World War II, men, regardless of their training and accomplishments, could not receive officer's commissions in the Nurse Corps and thus often had to enlist as hospital corpsmen, subordinate in rank to female nurses.

One of my constituents, Sam Landis, was one of these men. Mr. Landis served as a surgical technician in the Pacific theater during World War II. During the battle of Okinawa, Mr. Landis placed himself at extreme personal risk in tending to anesthetized casualties while his field hospital was being shelled. He was awarded the Bronze Star for his heroic service.

I am proud to offer this resolution which recognizes men like Sam Landis and which commends the Army Nurse Corp for allowing men into this brave and honorable service.

In 1955, Congress opened the Army Nurse Corps to males, thereby allowing male nurses in the Army to be commissioned as officers, and the Army Nurse Corps became the first gender integrated corps in the Army that year.

From the battlefields of the Civil War to the foreign lands of Asia, these Army Nurses and Army hospital corpsmen sought to relieve the pain and suffering of war. And their mission is no less vital in peacetime. Army Nurses perform in a range of medical situations and emergencies. The extensive training, the sense of proud tradition and the strong commitment to help mankind, have made the Army Nurse not only a valuable asset to the Army, but to our country as well.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of H. Res. 476.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING THE FOUR MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS WHO DIED ON DECEMBER 11, 2000, IN OSPREY AIRCRAFT CRASH

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 673) honoring the four members of the United States Marine Corps who died on December 11, 2000, and extending the condolences of the House of Representatives on their deaths, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 673

Whereas on December 11, 2000, an MV-22 Osprey aircraft crashed during a training mission near Jacksonville, North Carolina, killing all four members of the United States Marine Corps onboard;

Whereas the Marines who lost their lives in the crash made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of the United States and the Marine Corps;

Whereas the families of these proud Marines have the most sincere condolences of the Nation;

Whereas the members of the Marine Corps take special pride in their esprit de corps, and this terrible loss will resonate through Marine Helicopter Squadron 1 based at Quantico, Virginia, Marine Medium Tiltrotor Training Squadron 204 based at Marine Corps Air Station New River, North Carolina, and the entire Marine Corps family;

Whereas the Nation joins the Commandant of the entire Marine Corps and the Marine Corps in mourning their loss; and

Whereas the Marines killed in the accident were—

(1) Lieutenant Colonel Keith M. Sweaney, 42, of Richmond, Virginia, assigned to Marine Helicopter Squadron 1, based at Quantico, Virginia;

(2) Major Michael L. Murphy, 38, of Blauvelt, New York, assigned to Marine Medium Tiltrotor Training Squadron 204, based at Marine Corps Air Station New River, North Carolina;

(3) Staff Sergeant Avelly W. Runnels, 25, of Morven, Georgia, assigned to Marine Medium Tiltrotor Training Squadron 204, based at Marine Corps Air Station New River, North Carolina; and

(4) Sergeant Jason A. Buyck, 24, of Sodus, New York, assigned to Marine Medium Tiltrotor Training Squadron 204, based at Marine Corps Air Station New River, North Carolina: Now therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) has learned with profound sorrow of the deaths of four members of the United States Marine Corps in the crash of an MV-22 Osprey aircraft on December 11, 2000, during a training mission near Jacksonville, North Carolina, and extends condolences to the families of those four members of the Marine Corps;

(2) recognizes that those four members of the Marine Corps embodied the credo of the Marine Corps, "Semper Fidelis";

(3) expresses its profound gratitude to those four members of the Marine Corps for