

play the much-superior Capitol Police Force to a 12-12 tie. For us it was a great joy. But most importantly, we were able to raise nearly \$60,000 for the Capitol Police Memorial Fund. I look forward to next year and for the match-up to continue to honor these brave men and women, and also for the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service, which will be held on Monday, May 15. I support this measure and urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

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

House Concurrent Resolution 360 authorizes the use of the Capitol Grounds for the 25th annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service, a most solemn and respectful public event honoring the brave, heroic officers who have fallen in the line of duty. The event, scheduled for May 15, will be in coordination with the Office of the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police.

Mr. Speaker, on average, one officer is killed in this country every other day. Approximately 23,000 are injured every year, and thousands more assaulted. Sadly, 155 names will be added to the memorial wall this year, including the names of five women who were killed in the line of duty. The fallen officers come from 32 States, the Federal Government, and Puerto Rico. Their average age was 38 years and 7 months. The youngest officer was 21 years old.

The memorial service is a fitting tribute to Federal, State and local police officers who gave their lives protecting our families, our homes, our places of work. They serve every day on the front lines in the battle to keep our communities safe. They sacrifice so much, and for this we are all, each of us, eternally grateful.

It is in this spirit of appreciation that in my hometown, Buffalo, Police Officer Greg O'Shei initiated the public recognition of fallen officers by memorializing their names on signs posted throughout the city of Buffalo. Officer O'Shei's efforts have reminded us every day in Buffalo and throughout the Nation of these brave sacrifices that are made daily.

The ceremony to be held on May 15 is the 25th anniversary of this memorial service which was established as a national event by President Kennedy in 1962. Consistent with all Capitol Hill events, the memorial service will be free and open to the public. I support the resolution and urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this tribute to our fallen peace officers.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this measure and thank my colleague from New York for his tribute to those fallen officers and people who serve and protect us every day.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 360, a resolution to au-

thorize use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service on May 15, 2006.

In October 1962, President Kennedy proclaimed May 15th as National Peace Officers' Memorial Day. Each year on this date we, as a Nation, have an opportunity to honor the devotion with which peace officers perform their daily task of protecting our families, co-workers, friends, and ourselves. The 2006 event marks the 25th anniversary of the Capitol Hill event. In the post September 11 environment, the work of selfless police and firemen has become our model of courage and moral strength.

There are approximately 700,000 sworn law enforcement officers serving the American public today. Ten percent of the police force officers are women. Law enforcement officers include those that work not only for states, counties and the federal government, but also military police, correction officers, and peace officers in the U.S. territories. In 2005, 155 officers were killed on the job; 5 of these officers were women. The leading cause of death was gunshot wound.

It is most fitting and proper to honor the lives, sacrifices, and public service of our brave peace officers. I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 360.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 360.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING AND CONGRATULATING MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD ON ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 371) honoring and congratulating the Minnesota National Guard, on its 150th anniversary, for its spirit of dedication and service to the State of Minnesota and the Nation and recognizing that the role of the National Guard, the Nation's citizen-soldier based militia, which was formed before the United States Army, has been and still is extremely important to the security and freedom of the Nation.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 371

Whereas the Minnesota National Guard traces its origins to the formation of the Pioneer Guard in the Minnesota territory in 1856, two years before Minnesota became the 32nd State in the Union;

Whereas the First Minnesota Infantry regiment was among the first militia regiments in the Nation to respond to President Lincoln's call for troops in April 1861 when it volunteered for three years of service during the Civil War;

Whereas during the Civil War the First Minnesota Infantry regiment saw battle at Bull Run, Antietam, and Gettysburg;

Whereas during a critical moment in the Battle of Gettysburg on July 3, 1863, 262 soldiers of the First Minnesota Infantry, along with other Union forces, bravely charged and stopped Confederate troops attacking the center of the Union position on Cemetery Ridge;

Whereas only 47 men answered the roll after this valiant charge, earning the First Minnesota Infantry the highest casualty rate of any unit in the Civil War;

Whereas the Minnesota National Guard was the first to volunteer for service in the Philippines and Cuba during the Spanish-American War of 1898, with enough men to form three regiments;

Whereas one of the three Minnesota regiments to report for duty in the War with Spain, the 13th Volunteer regiment, under the command of Major General Arthur MacArthur, saw among the heaviest fighting of the war in the battle of Manila and suffered more casualties than all other regiments combined during that key confrontation to free the Philippines;

Whereas after the cross-border raids of Pancho Villa and the attempted instigation of a war between the United States and Mexico, the border was secured in part by the Minnesota National Guard;

Whereas the Minnesota National Guard was mobilized for duty in World War I, where many Minnesotans saw duty in France, including the 151st Field Artillery, which saw duty as part of the famed 42nd "Rainbow" Division;

Whereas the first federally recognized Air National Guard unit in the Nation was the 109th Observation Squadron of the Minnesota National Guard, which passed its muster inspection on January 17, 1921;

Whereas a tank company of the Minnesota National Guard from Brainerd, Minnesota was shipped to the Philippines in 1941 to shore up American defenses against Japan as World War II neared;

Whereas these men from Brainerd fought hard and bravely as American forces were pushed into the Bataan Peninsula and ultimately endured the Bataan Death March;

Whereas men of the Minnesota National Guard's 175th Field Artillery, as part of the 34th "Red Bull" Division, became the first American Division to be deployed to Europe in January of 1942;

Whereas when the 34th Division was shipped to North Africa, it fired the first American shells against the Nazi forces;

Whereas the 34th Division participated in six major Army campaigns in North Africa, Sicily, and Italy, which led to the division being credited with taking many of the enemy-defended hills in the European Theater as well as having more combat days than any other division in Europe;

Whereas the Minnesota National Guard served with distinction on the ground and in the air during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm;

Whereas Minnesota National Guard troops have helped keep the peace in the former Yugoslavia, including 1,100 troops who have seen service in Bosnia, Croatia, and Kosovo;

Whereas the Minnesota National Guard has participated in keeping America safe after September 11th, 2001, in numerous ways, including airport security;

Whereas the Duluth-based 148th Fighter Wing's F-16s flew patrols over cities after September 11th for a longer time than any other air defense unit;

Whereas over 11,000 members of the Minnesota National Guard have been called up for full-time service since the September 11th terrorist attacks;

Whereas as of March 20, 2006, Minnesota National Guard troops are serving in national defense missions in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, and Iraq;

Whereas more than 600 Minnesota National Guard troops have been deployed to Afghanistan in Operation Enduring Freedom;

Whereas members of the Minnesota National Guard, serving in the 1st Brigade Combat Team of the 34th Infantry Division, have been a part of the State's largest troop deployment since World War II, with more than 2,600 citizen soldiers called to service in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom;

Whereas the Minnesota National Guard has greatly contributed not only to battles but to the suppressing of violent riots, such as the 1947 national meat processors strike, in which they aided helpless police officers, and the fight against natural disasters such as the Red River flood in 1997 in which they organized search and rescue missions, helped shelter people who were left homeless, ran logistics, and helped sandbagging efforts; and

Whereas on April 17, 2006, the Minnesota National Guard will celebrate its 150th anniversary along with its historical and recent accomplishments: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) honors and congratulates the Minnesota National Guard for its spirit of dedication and service to the State of Minnesota and to the Nation on its 150th anniversary; and

(2) recognizes that the role of the National Guard, the Nation's citizen-soldier based militia, which was formed before the United States Army, has been and still is extremely important to the security and freedom of the Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 371 honoring and congratulating the Minnesota National Guard on its 150th anniversary. Since Minnesota's early days as a frontier territory, Minnesotans have stepped forward to protect and defend their fellow citizens.

Tracing their origins back to the Territorial Pioneer Guard, today's National Guardsmen continue to proudly serve their State and Nation in times of crisis and need. It is this dual service that makes the National Guard unique among our Nation's military services. Whether it is reinforcing levees along the Red River that borders Minnesota and North Dakota, patrolling the skies above New York City, or escorting supply convoys in Iraq, members of Minnesota's National Guard have answered the call of State and na-

tional leaders, as they have done for 150 years.

In recent years, unprecedented natural disasters have highlighted the Minnesota National Guard's traditional State role. In April 1997, heavy winter snowfall and unseasonably warm spring temperatures combined to cause massive flooding of the Red River which forced the evacuation of 50,000 citizens from Grand Forks, North Dakota. As we stand here today, Minnesota's National Guard is again moving to the Red River.

National Guardsmen and residents of both States struggled valiantly to keep the rising water at bay. Despite their best efforts that year, the river could not be contained. Floodwaters quickly breached the levee near Breckenridge, Minnesota, forcing its 4,000 residents to flee. In the midst of heavy rain, snow and 60-mile-an-hour winds, Minnesota National Guardsmen seamlessly switched from their engineering mission to rescue and evacuation operations. Residents of western Minnesota remember the destruction wrought by the floodwaters, later described as a once-in-500-years event; but they also recalled that Minnesota's citizen soldiers were there to assist them throughout the disaster.

In 2005, members of the Minnesota Guard were again called to the scene of a major natural disaster, and the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina soon developed into our Nation's largest evacuation and recovery operation.

Quickly overwhelmed by the devastating effects of the hurricane, the State governments of Mississippi and Louisiana urgently requested assistance, and Minnesota National Guard in conjunction with units from other States responded. C-130s from the St. Paul-based 133rd Airlift Wing hauled more than 600 passengers and 370 tons of cargo to the stricken States while Minnesota Army National Guard aviators transported over 400,000 pounds of sand bags to help reinforce the failing levees.

Since the tragedy of September 11, 2001, the Minnesota National Guard has also answered the calls of our national leadership to perform vital Federal missions.

□ 1430

Following the attacks on New York and Washington, D.C., F-16s from the Duluth-based 148th Fighter Wing provided combat air patrols over the two cities and deployed personnel and aircraft to an alert facility at Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida.

In the years since 9/11, Minnesota's Army National Guard has assumed key stabilization missions throughout the world.

Though the treaty that ended years of conflict in the Balkans bears the name of an Ohio city, soldiers from the Minnesota National Guard played a large role in implementing that peace. In 2003, over 1,000 soldiers from Minnesota took over peacekeeping oper-

ations in Bosnia, performing such vital missions as collecting weapons and identifying mine fields to protect the civilian population.

The Balkan peacekeeping mission was expanded in 2004 when 1,000 members of the 34th Infantry Division, the famed "Red Bulls," deployed to neighboring Kosovo. I was privileged to witness the great work performed by Major General Erlandson and his Minnesota Guardsmen who served on the KFOR mission in Kosovo.

The camaraderie and experience gained in Bosnia and Kosovo has lived on as those two previous deployments volunteered to accompany and assist their fellow Guardsmen as the 1st Brigade Combat Team from the 34th Infantry Division moves out for duty in Iraq. Having just completed 6 months of training in Mississippi, the first BCT has now moved into theater to assume responsibility for stability operations in Iraq.

As the 2,600 Minnesotans travel into harm's way, we must commend and remember the three members of the Minnesota National Guard who preceded them and made the ultimate sacrifice last year in defense of our freedom, 1st Lieutenant Jason Timmerman, Staff Sergeant David Day, and Sergeant Jesse Lhotka.

As we honor the Minnesota National Guard today for 150 years of service, we would do well to heed the words taken from a speech Lieutenant Timmerman wrote for the Lake Benton High School Veterans Day Ceremony in 2003: "Show respect to those who have served. Most important of all, show your gratitude by enjoying the freedoms and rights that so many service members have fought and died for. Don't let their deaths be in vein. Exercise your right to vote, your right to free speech, and be happy for your freedom to do as you wish."

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I too rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 371, honoring and congratulating the Minnesota National Guard for its dedication and service to the State of Minnesota and to the people of this Nation. The role of the National Guard has been and will continue to be extremely important to the security and freedom of the United States, and it is especially appropriate that we recognize this great organization. And so I join my colleague from the other side of the aisle in supporting this measure.

I would also like to recognize the gentlemen from Minnesota, Mr. KENNEDY and Mr. KLINE, for bringing this resolution forward today.

Mr. Speaker, the National Guard represents the spirit of our Founding Fathers and our country's first citizen soldiers who formed the Guard before there was an Army. And the Minnesota National Guard traces its origins to

the formation of the Pioneer Guard in the Minnesota territory in 1856, 2 years before Minnesota became the 32nd State in the Union. The 1st Minnesota Infantry was among the first regiments in the Nation to respond to President Abraham Lincoln's call for troops in April of 1861, when these courageous soldiers volunteered for 3 years of service during the Civil War.

Since then, the Minnesota National Guard has served our Nation in countless ways. Its historical accomplishments are too numerous to list, and its recent contributions have been extraordinary.

Today, Mr. Speaker, we are a Nation at war. Since the September 11 terrorist attacks, members of the Minnesota Guard have been keeping America's airports and waterways safe, and over 11,000 members have been called up for full-time service.

More than 600 troops have been deployed to Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom. More than 2,600 citizen soldiers have been sent to Iraq. Other members of the Minnesota Guard are conducting important national defense missions in Pakistan and Kuwait and Qatar and Oman.

And so I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution. The Minnesota National Guard deserves strong recognition, strong recognition for 150 years of dedicated service, and this is a fitting opportunity to honor its members, the sacrifices they are making every day, and their valuable contributions to the security and freedom of our Nation.

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

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I now take a great deal of pleasure in yielding 5 minutes to the author of this bill, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KENNEDY).

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. I thank the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE), my good friend and my colleagues.

I am pleased to stand here and rise to speak in support of this resolution that we have offered to honor and congratulate the Minnesota National Guard on their 150th anniversary.

On April 17, 2006, the Minnesota National Guard will celebrate 150 years of history, a history that extends from the battlefields of the Civil War to the war on terror in the desert sands of Iraq.

When President Lincoln sent out his calls for troops in the early days of the Civil War, among the first militia units to respond were from Minnesota. These men, who were from the 1st Minnesota Infantry Regiment, saw battle at Bull Run, Antietam and Gettysburg.

At a pivotal moment in the pivotal Battle of Gettysburg in the fight to preserve our national union, the 1st Minnesota answered the call, even though it resulted in the suffering of the highest casualties of any unit in that war. In a real sense, they may have saved the Union.

On July 3, 1963, as my colleague, Gil Gutknecht, so eloquently will speak of, 262 men of the 1st Minnesota Infantry closed the gap in the Union line, stopped the desperate Confederate attack at the center of the line on Cemetery Ridge. Only 47 of them answered the roll call the next day.

Had these men not acted with courage and boldness to turn back the charge and buy the rest of the U.S. Army precious time to reinforce, Confederate forces may have been able to breach Union lines. What began as the beginning of the end of the war would have turned out differently on that day.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the privilege to go to Iraq three times to meet our soldiers and the commanders on the ground. I prefer to talk to the people who are there to learn what is going on, not to see the latest sensationalist 30-second story of gloom and doom and defeat.

On one of these trips, I met with members of the Minnesota Guard serving with the 1st Cavalry Division. I asked them, what is your best and your worst experience here in Iraq? One of them said to me that his best experience was listening to the Iraqis complain to him. I said, you should be in Congress.

He told me that you knew that they knew that the Iraqis would never have dreamed of complaining to one of Saddam's soldiers. But even though he stood there with a rifle over his shoulder, clearly having power over them, they felt comfortable complaining to him, confirming that he and his colleagues had given them a gift of incomparable value, the gift of freedom, the gift of freedom of speech, the gift of protest.

That is what 2,600 members of the Minnesota National Guard now staging in Kuwait as part of the 1st Brigade Combat Team of the 34th Red Bull Division, the highest rated brigade in the whole Guard, are bringing to the Middle East. That is why my nephew interrupted his college studies to recently serve a tour of duty with the Minnesota Guard.

At the same time, while they are bringing safety and security to America by battling terrorists abroad, the Guard is also helping to bring relief to families in need at home. As we speak here today, members of the Minnesota National Guard are responding to destructive flooding in northwestern Minnesota where their experience, professionalism and planning are saving property and lives.

These selfless deeds, at home and abroad, show the sacrifice and heartfelt dedication of every member of the Minnesota National Guard.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate that my colleagues and I rise to honor and congratulate the Minnesota National Guard for 150 years of service to their State and country.

I have absolute confidence that future generations of Americans will con-

tinue to witness firsthand the great deeds of the Minnesota National Guard, and will continue to have cause to say thank you.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM).

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the brave men and women who for the past 150 years have served Minnesota and Americans as members of the Minnesota National Guard.

I would also like to honor the family members who have stood by our Guardsmen and women during times of peace and war.

The men and women of the National Guard have contributed to the freedom and security of this country from their heroism in the Civil War to their service today in Iraq.

The Minnesota National Guard was key in ensuring victory for the Union forces at Gettysburg. They saw battle in the Spanish American War, World War I, World War II, Afghanistan, and Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

These brave men and women have also worked to help and keep the peace in Bosnia, Kosovo and Croatia.

Since September 11, over 11,000 members of the Minnesota National Guard have been activated to help serve and protect Minnesota and the United States. Today the members of the National Guard are serving both within the State and around the world.

In Minnesota, members of the National Guard are critical to helping Minnesotans protect their businesses, their homes and their schools. And they are prepared to stand with them to help these very same citizens rebuild their lives after the flooding recedes in the Red River Valley.

Just last month, I had the honor of attending, along with Congressman COLLIN PETERSON, a send-off celebration for over 2,600 members of the Minnesota National Guard. They were being deployed to Iraq from Camp Shelby, Mississippi.

And I also had the privilege of attending a deployment at St. Paul Holman Field. It was wonderful and a very special moment to be with these men and their families, these women and their families as they were deployed, because the sacrifices these men and women are making to serve our country, and being separated from their families and loved ones is truly something that we as Americans should honor and respect.

It has also been my privilege to work closely with the Minnesota National Guard in my district to maintain the Arden Hills National Guard training site, as well as the Air Guard's Holman field facility. These two facilities are essential to keeping our community strong and the Guard prepared and Minnesota and our country safe.

Mr. Speaker, the history of Minnesota's National Guard is a proud and distinguished history. Farmers, factory

workers, policemen, students, doctors, business owners, for the past 150 years, have become citizen soldiers serving their country and their community.

Every Minnesotan, and all of America, owes a debt of gratitude to the brave men and women who serve our country today as in years past. And today, we send them our thoughts and our prayers for a speedy return home and a very safe return home.

And I would like to take a second to honor a veteran from Minnesota who is on the floor, Mr. KLINE, and his family for the service that they have given our country, for the active duty are also standing side by side.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman for her kind words. And now I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. RAMSTAD).

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I too pay tribute to Colonel KLINE for your heroic service to the country that we all love.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 371, to honor, congratulate and thank the brave men and women of the Minnesota National Guard on its 150th anniversary.

The Minnesota National Guard represents the very best of duty, honor and country. I join the people of the Third Congressional District of Minnesota in thanking each and every Guard member, past and present, for their selfless service.

Mr. Speaker, as has been pointed out by previous speakers today, the Minnesota National Guard traces its origins to the Pioneer Guard of the Minnesota territory in 1856, formed 2 years before Minnesota became the 32nd State. The 1st Minnesota Infantry was among the very first regiments to respond to President Lincoln's call for troops during the Civil War.

□ 1445

In fact, the 1st Minnesota Infantry had the highest casualty rate of any unit in the Civil War. The Minnesota National Guard went on to serve bravely in the Spanish-American War, World War I, and World War II. The Minnesota National Guard also served with great distinction on the ground and in the air during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and Minnesota Guard troops have helped keep the peace in the former Yugoslav republics.

Following the September 11, 2001, attacks by the terrorists on our country, the Minnesota National Guard provided airport security and the 148th Fighter Wing flew F-16 security patrols over United States cities for a longer time than any other air defense unit.

Today, Mr. Speaker, Minnesota National Guard troops are serving in the war on terror in Afghanistan, Iraq, and elsewhere. More than 3,000 citizen soldiers just recently were called to service in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and our thoughts and prayers are with each of those Minnesota troops. In

addition, Minnesota National Guard troops are serving in national defense missions in numerous other countries as well.

Off the battlefield, Mr. Speaker, the Minnesota National Guard has provided countless services to our communities, assisting citizens devastated by natural disasters and maintaining law and order.

Mr. Speaker, great moments and triumphs in American history require valor, bravery, and selfless service, and the brave men and women of the Minnesota National Guard have led the charge for 150 years.

To the men and women of the Minnesota National Guard, congratulations on your 150th anniversary, and thank you. Thank you for your service to Minnesota and your service to our Nation.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR), the ranking member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I join my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, in congratulating our Minnesota National Guard on its 150th anniversary. As my colleagues from Minnesota and our floor manager on the Democratic side have mentioned, this Minnesota National Guard has had a great and distinguished career of service to the Nation.

There is no greater public service than that of military duty. There is no longer a tradition than that of the citizen soldier. It goes back to the very beginnings and foundation of our Nation and of our fight in the Revolutionary War for independence.

Our National Guardsmen served in the Civil War, Gettysburg. They served in the Spanish-American War and World War I, World War II, at Wood Lake, Philippines, Meuse-Argonne in France, and Bataan, North Africa, Sicily, in Korea, in Vietnam, in Kuwait, in Iraq. They have served in Bosnia and Kosovo. And after September 11 it was our Minnesota Air National Guard that flew cover for months over our Nation's capital. Our Guard unit from my district, from Duluth, put in endless and wearying hours. We could hear those aircraft in the wee hours of the morning, protecting us against the foe unknown or terrorist attack that we could not imagine, and they did it without complaint but with enormous professionalism.

This coming Saturday Cloquet E Battery, the 216th Air Defense Artillery Unit, will return safely from their duty in Saudi Arabia and in Iraq.

Over 11,000 of our Minnesota Guardsmen have served some two and three tours of duty in the gulf. We salute them, congratulate them for their extraordinary service.

I have been, as many of my colleagues have already attested in their own experience, to both send-off and

return ceremonies. The most impressive is the open arms, the love with which our citizen soldiers are received on their return, the grateful hearts, the admiration of friends and family for the service that they have performed so selflessly, the tears that are shed, the joy of relief at coming home, but also the anxiety about returning to their job, their place of employment.

After two or three displacements, some have had concerns. Fortunately, employers in most cases have been responsive to their duty to our National Guard, and as they return home and continue their citizen soldier service to America, as we provide for those in the field the necessary body armor, equipment, support services to carry out their duties in the field, we must provide for them as they eventually become veterans and assure that they are treated with the respect of our World War II vets, our Korea vets. And we have learned a great deal from the Vietnam veterans. They too have taught us great lessons, and those lessons must not be lost upon this body nor upon the American public as we welcome home the Iraqi veterans and incorporate them again into society and accord them the support services that they will need and that they deserve and have truly earned.

I join my colleagues in the delegation in saluting our Minnesota National Guard on its 150th anniversary, and I join my colleague, Ms. MCCOLLUM, in congratulating our colleague, the gentleman from Minnesota, manager of the bill on the floor, for his service to our country in the Marine Corps.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his kind remarks.

I would like now to yield 4 minutes to a real historian of this famous Minnesota National Guard, my colleague from the First District of Minnesota, Mr. GUTKNECHT.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I am very pleased to be here and join my colleagues from Minnesota. I want to thank my colleague from North Carolina for his kind remarks as well.

Like the mighty Mississippi River, the tradition and pride of the Minnesota National Guard is long and deep. For 150 years Minnesotans have proudly taken their places in that long line of citizen soldiers, that long line that has never failed us.

Much has been said already today and I will try not to be redundant, but I do want to share some of the history of this very historical Guard. As has been mentioned, they were organized before Minnesota even became a State. Now, 150 years is a long time and many things have changed in our State, in our Nation, in our world. But there has been one constant, and that is the professionalism and the sense of service that we take for granted from our own National Guard.

As was mentioned, in April of 1861, it just so happened that the Governor of

the State of Minnesota, Governor Ramsey, was here in Washington, D.C. on other business when we heard of the firing on Fort Sumter. And President Lincoln put out a call for troops, and Governor Ramsey became the first Governor in the Union to rush over to the White House and volunteer troops to serve to defend the Union. And it then fell upon the Minnesota 1st Infantry to be the first regiments volunteered to serve in that battle for the Union. And the story has been told that when they marched off to war, they were 1,066 strong, but by the end of the day of fighting of July 2, 1863, only 47 could answer the call. They suffered on the late afternoon of July 2, 1863, the highest percentage of casualties of any unit that fought in that tragic war. But they held the line that day. And to this day many people believe that they deserve to be called the saviours of our country because of their sacrifices.

Many years later the colonel who led that regiment, Colonel William Colville, was asked what he thought about as they charged down that hill that day, and he said, "Gad, I thought of Washington." They knew what the stakes were, and they knew that they had to hold that line.

Earlier in the day that pivotal battle was fought, General Hancock rolled by and he asked Colonel Colville, "How long can you hold your position?"

And he responded with a sentence which made military and political history and survives to this day as the motto of the 1st Infantry. He said, "General, to the last man." And as we know, it became no idle boast.

Since the Civil War, the Minnesota National Guard has honorably served in the Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, Operation Desert Shield, Desert Storm. These soldiers helped defend the border against Pancho Villa and maintain the peace in Bosnia, Croatia, and Kosovo.

Today more than 600 National Guardsmen from Minnesota have been deployed to Afghanistan in Operation Enduring Freedom. More than 2,600 Minnesota citizen soldiers are serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. In January I saw firsthand the courage and dedication of the Minnesota National Guard at Camp Shelby. Awaiting their deployment to Iraq, these volunteer men and women maintain the historic spirit and tradition of the Minnesota National Guard.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise in support of this resolution, and I congratulate and recognize the Minnesota National Guard's 150 years of dedicated service. Because of their sacrifices, our Nation and our State are more secure and millions around the world can look forward to a future of peace and freedom.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to my friend and colleague from Minnesota, the ranking member of the House Committee on Agriculture, Mr. PETERSON.

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise as well today to congratulate the Minnesota National Guard for their 150th anniversary, which I believe is officially on April 17. And it is with great pride that I do this because, as people have said, we have great shoulders in the Minnesota National Guard.

As has been mentioned by other speakers, they have a rich history, 2 years older than the State of Minnesota. They have participated in every military action that we have been involved in in this country. And as was mentioned today, we have over 2,600 soldiers that have recently been deployed, some of them yesterday, I believe, to Operation Iraqi Freedom. Many of those soldiers are from my district. Soldiers, too, of the 136th Infantry, called the Bearcats, they were also deployed in Bosnia. I had an opportunity to visit them there. I was as well in Camp Shelby a couple times to visit those folks. And typical of the Minnesota tradition, the Bearcats racked up the highest scores in the training that was done in Mississippi, higher than a lot of our regular Army forces. So we are very proud of them, and they believe in their mission. They are ready to go, and I am sure they are going to uphold the fine tradition of the Minnesota National Guard.

I would also like to recognize and thank their families, their loved ones, and their communities and their employers because those are the folks that probably have got the toughest job in this whole situation, especially with these people that have been deployed two or three times in the last 5 years, which a lot of these soldiers have. So we want to recognize them as well.

I also would like to recognize and thank the Guard and the members that are currently deployed to my communities in the Seventh District of Minnesota along the Red River in the north. We are again having another flood event up there that we seem to have every once in a while. We had a very serious one in 1997, where events very similar to what happened in New Orleans happened in the Red River Valley. The Guard did an outstanding job during that particular event. And today we have 136 Guardsmen that have been deployed up to the Red River Valley, and they are helping us get through this event again today.

I also want to applaud the State of Minnesota, which has undertaken a conscientious policy of providing pay differential to State employees that serve in the National Guard.

□ 1500

Of the approximately 12,000 Guard members in the State, about 500 of them work for the State of Minnesota, and their lives and the lives of their families, during this difficult time of activation, have been made easier by Minnesota's pay differential policy.

Mr. Speaker, I am also a cosponsor and strong supporter of legislation that would allow the Federal Government to follow Minnesota and provide pay differential for Federal employees activated in the Guard and Reserve. I hope that this body will pass this legislation soon, because it has worked well in Minnesota, and I know it will work well for the rest of the country.

So, once again, I rise to congratulate the men and women of the Minnesota National Guard on their 150th anniversary, and thank all of them for their service to the State of Minnesota and their service to the country. I know that they will make us proud, as they always have.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume just to take a few seconds to extend my thanks to the gentleman from North Carolina and my colleagues from Minnesota for their support today of the Minnesota National Guard and their very kind remarks. I would urge all of my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 371 and say happy birthday to the Minnesota National Guard.

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this resolution. I am proud of the Minnesota National Guard and its rich history. The First Minnesota Infantry regiment answered President Lincoln's call to duty in April 1861 and those Minnesota soldiers set the tone for the tenacity and bravery that has become the ingrained ethic of the Minnesota Guard.

The people who make up the Minnesota Guard are some of the brightest our state has to offer. Today, more than 2600 Minnesota National Guard members are in or en route to Kuwait for final preparations before they head to Iraq. The 1st Brigade Combat Team will be deployed to Iraq and is expected to be the only National Guard Brigade Combat Team in Iraq—all others are from active duty Army. This is the largest deployment of the Minnesota Guard since World War II.

While these brave men and women are serving our State and our country in a dangerous place, it is extremely important that we do our part to support them and their loved ones during and after the mission in Iraq. We must provide a strong network of support for families of deployed soldiers, and assist those families and soldiers during the difficult transition period following deployment.

I rise today in support of this resolution, in recognition of the Minnesota Guard's rich history, and in gratitude to those Minnesotans who have answered the federal call to duty.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 371.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 513, 527 REFORM ACT OF
2005

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 755 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 755

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 513) to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to clarify when organizations described in section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 must register as political committees, and for other purposes. The bill shall be considered as read. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on House Administration now printed in the bill, modified by the amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, shall be considered as adopted. All points of order against the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate on the bill, as amended, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on House Administration; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my very good friend from Fort Lauderdale (Mr. HASTINGS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks, and include extraneous material.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 755 provides 60 minutes of debate in the House, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on House Administration. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill and provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on House Administration, modified by the amendment printed in the Rules Committee report, shall be considered as adopted.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in full support of H. Res. 755 and the underlying bill, H.R. 513, the 527 Reform Act of 2005.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the privilege of working on the lobbying and ethics reform effort currently underway in the House. Having worked so closely with so many Members on both sides of the aisle, I am very confident that there is a shared goal to protect the integrity of Congress and to uphold the public trust by implementing bold reform.

The Lobbying Accountability and Transparency Act is moving, as Speaker HASTERT directed, through regular order, and it is being considered by five different committees. One way or another, many of the provisions of the bill focus on outside sources of influence, which have rightly been the targets of good government reform for decades, and I am very proud that we have provided leadership in that effort over the years.

As Members know very well, the current reform process has looked at everything from travel rules, to gift limits, to lobbying disclosure, a wide range of things. However, this entire good faith effort and the bipartisan effort that we are working on would come up woefully short if we did not address an area where outside influence in the form of unlimited contributions continues to play an enormous role. So today we are considering H.R. 513, the 527 Reform Act.

Congress has tried to limit big money in campaigns for many, many years. In fact, I will tell you, I wrote my senior thesis in college on the issue of campaign finance reform on the 1974 act, which was the first big Campaign Reform Act implemented in the post-Watergate era.

As colleagues who were here in 2002 will remember very well, we had a very spirited debate on the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act. Among other goals that were put forward, this bill aimed to get rid of soft money. That was the goal that was stated by those who were champions of the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act. They wanted to do everything possible to ban soft money contributions from political parties, getting it out of the political process altogether.

Along with many of my colleagues, I expressed very strong reservations about banning soft money from parties. I voted against the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act. I was very concerned about it. I worried that by limiting contributions and dictating who could give how much to whom, that we would be violating the first amendment.

I also seriously doubted that banning soft money from parties would effectively get that money out of the system itself. As many pointed out at the time, BCRA left an obvious and easy loophole to exploit because it did not, in fact, ban unlimited money from being raised and spent by political groups called 527s.

And make no mistake, Mr. Speaker, 527s are political organizations. The purpose of 527s under the law is to influence elections. The Supreme Court has written that 527 groups "by definition engage in partisan political activity."

527s were the natural recipients of the soft money that the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act denied to political parties expressly because they are defined by law as political organizations. In fact, many of these 527s were

set up only after the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act passed just so they could be the recipients of the soft dollar contributions.

Now, as our colleague, Mr. LINDER, pointed out during that 2002 debate on BCRA, he said, "By eliminating the role of parties, corporations and labor unions could become increasingly reliant on loopholes, allowing them to spend funds from their general treasuries to influence elections." Mr. LINDER went on to say, "activities that would be undertaken without Federal regulation."

Mr. Speaker, this is exactly what has happened. Mr. LINDER was absolutely right when he portended this. Nonetheless, supporters of BCRA promised that it would indeed get big money out of politics. That, as one colleague said during those debates, would "end the influence, the undue influence of big money in the political process."

Where does this leave us today? For starters, the issue of free speech as it relates to limiting campaign donations is no longer a theoretical argument that many of us engaged in. Campaign limits are allowed, and BCRA is the law of the land, even though so many of us opposed it.

So while many of us did oppose those limits in contributions, we realize that we are governed by laws. We regularly talk about the rule of law. We are not simply governed by our principles, but, in fact, we are governed by the laws, and now every Member's duty, regardless of how we voted on the 2002 act, is to ask ourselves, is the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act working as it was intended?

Clearly, Mr. Speaker, the answer is a resounding no, it is not. Soft money still dominates the political landscape. A handful, a very small handful of wealthy people, still funnel money to organizations involved in campaigns. But now it is going to 527s instead of to political parties.

Mr. Speaker, the money involved is enormous. In the 2003-2004 election cycle, 527 committees raised \$425 million, nearly half a billion dollars. That is \$273 million more than before the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act was enacted. As predicted, the soft money that used to go to political parties found its home in the so-called 527s. In fact, the top 25 individual donors gave more than \$146 million in 2004. As I said, it is a very small group of people, from my perspective, exercising their first amendment rights. But with limits that the court has upheld, I think we have no response other than to respond. Twenty-five individuals, 25 individual donors, again, \$146 million in 2004.

During the current election cycle, Mr. Speaker, that trend has already continued, and we have already seen more than \$58 million expended by the 527s.

Now, we are not talking about a leaky roof here where just a little soft money is dripping into the system. We