

811 program, and moves them to the broader section 8 program. The section 8 program is much better equipped to track these vouchers and make sure they are actually being used by people with disabilities. That has been a big problem through that program within the section 811 program.

That money that is now freed up by moving those vouchers over into the section 8 program is now going to be used to build new units. That's really what we need to do here. We need to build more capacity in the system—1.3 million living in inappropriate living; we need more of it for them.

It also will use that money in more creative ways. Instead of just building a full apartment complex with supportive housing in it, it's now going to work with developers who might have affordable housing projects currently underway to have them build in to that complex two or three or four or five units of supportive housing to allow for more scattered site housing throughout the community leveraging existing affordable housing projects to build in scattered site supportive housing projects.

And lastly, it cuts a lot of the red tape and bureaucracy that has restrained applications from moving forward, chiefly by allowing State affordable housing agencies to do a lot of the bureaucratic work that right now is being performed by Housing and Urban Development here in Washington, D.C. We think that through the passage of this Act, we can triple the number of supportive housing units that are built across the country with this 811 program. And I think by doing so, we will do justice by the individual whose name is on this Act.

Mr. Speaker, this Act is called the Frank Melville Supportive Housing Investment Act. Frank Melville was a constituent of mine. He and his widow, Ellen, started the Melville Charitable Trust which funds much of the affordable housing and supportive housing advocacy work in the Northeast and throughout this country. Frank Melville is no longer with us, but this bill—which we hope to pass today and bring to the Senate for its consideration—does justice to his legacy.

I commend this bill to the House for passage. I think it is going to do so much to live up to the initial promise of this Nation's commitment to individuals with physical and mental disabilities.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately Congresswoman BIGGERT is unable to be here today, but I would like to take this opportunity to recognize her work on this legislation.

As an original cosponsor, I know she has worked hard to ensure that the section 811 program continues to be an effective solution to the housing needs of very low-income persons with disabilities.

There are nearly 4 million non-elderly, disabled adults in the United States that are in need of housing assistance. The section 811 program is the only Federal program that allows persons with disabilities to live independently in the community by increasing the supply of affordable rental housing with the availability of supportive services.

H.R. 1675 restructures the section 811 program in a way that provides for a continued creation of permanent supportive housing and provides rental assistance that would make housing affordable for very low-income individuals with disabilities.

This bill will improve the section 811 disabled housing program by streamlining and simplifying the development of HUD section 811 properties and makes changes to the program to encourage integration and mixed-use developments, such as low-income housing tax credits and HOME program funds. This legislation is identical to H.R. 5772, which passed the House during the 110th Congress.

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

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, just briefly to close. In Connecticut during the course of my work in the State legislature, a lot of us would occasionally don a button that said "keep the promise." That was a reminder to us that when we deinstitutionalized those with mental illness, that we had a promise to them to make sure that they had humane and responsible housing in the community. This bill I think does just that. It helps us keep that promise to those people living with mental and physical disability that we are going to find them appropriate and supportive housing in the community.

I thank Representative POSEY for his support and Representative BIGGERT for her advocacy.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1675.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

NEW FRONTIER CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2245) to authorize the President, in conjunction with the 40th anniversary of the historic and first lunar landing by humans in 1969, to award

gold medals on behalf of the United States Congress to Neil A. Armstrong, the first human to walk on the moon; Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin, Jr., the pilot of the lunar module and second person to walk on the moon; Michael Collins, the pilot of their Apollo 11 mission's command module; and, the first American to orbit the Earth, John Herschel Glenn, Jr.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2245

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 "New Frontier Congressional Gold Medal Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that—

(1) as spacecraft commander for Apollo 11, the first manned lunar landing mission, Neil A. Armstrong gained the distinction of being the first man to land a craft on the moon and first to step on its surface on July 21, 1969;

(2) by conquering the moon at great personal risk to safety, Neil Armstrong advanced America scientifically and technologically, paving the way for future missions to other regions in space;

(3) Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin, Jr., joined Armstrong in piloting the lunar module, Eagle, to the surface of the moon, and became the second person to walk upon its surface;

(4) Michael Collins piloted the command module, Columbia, in lunar orbit and helped his fellow Apollo 11 astronauts complete their mission on the moon;

(5) John Herschel Glenn, Jr., helped pave the way for the first lunar landing when on February 20, 1962, he became the first American to orbit the Earth; and

(6) John Glenn's actions, like Armstrong's, Aldrin's and Collins's, continue to greatly inspire the people of the United States.

SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The President is authorized to present, on behalf of the Congress, to Neil A. Armstrong, Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin, Jr., Michael Collins, and John Herschel Glenn, Jr., each a gold medal of appropriate design, in recognition of their significant contributions to society.

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

SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

The Secretary of the Treasury may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 3 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses, and the cost of the gold medals.

SEC. 5. NATIONAL MEDALS.

The medals struck pursuant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

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 pursuant to 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 Florida (Mr. GRAYSON) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. POSEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

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

There was no objection.

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

Today we mark and celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Apollo 11 landing on the Moon on July 20, 1969. On that date, an 11-year-old boy stayed in a hotel room in San Juan, Puerto Rico, all day long—while his parents went to St. Thomas with his sister—and watched in awe to see mankind take this enormous step forward. That 11-year-old boy was me. And if somebody had said to me at the time, One day you will be standing in Congress and celebrating this day, marking this day, I would have said what every other 11-year-old boy would say, Oh, come on. That's ridiculous.

But here we are celebrating this day, marking this day explaining what it means to all of us in conveying a Congressional Gold Medal to Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, Michael Collins, and John Glenn, the first American—and the third human being—to orbit the Earth. Certainly this was the greatest technological achievement of any time, anywhere on this planet by human beings.

But for many of us, it was more than that. For many of us it was the most important moment of our lives.

Think about it. What would you choose as the most important moment of your life? For some of us it would be the fall of the Berlin Wall; for others, it might be the election of Nelson Mandela to lead South Africa and end apartheid in that country; and for sure for others it would mean the election of Barack Obama as the first black President of the United States.

But for many of us, it would mean that time, 40 years ago today, when men landed on the Moon and for the first time, and the only time, in our history visited our celestial neighbor. That's exciting, and it's good to look back on that time and to ask ourselves what led to that moment.

Everybody attributes that moment to President Kennedy, the leader of the new frontier. President Kennedy used these words to spur us to take this action. He said as follows: "We choose to go to the Moon in this decade and do other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard, be-

cause that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills, because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one that we are unwilling to postpone, and one which we intend to win.

"Many years ago, the great British Explorer George Mallory, who was to die on Mount Everest, was asked why did he want to climb it.

□ 1700

"He said, 'Because it is there.' Well, space is there," Kennedy told us, "and we're going to climb it, and the Moon and the planets are there, and new hopes for knowledge and peace are there.

"And, therefore, as we set sail," Kennedy said, "we ask God's blessing on the most hazardous and dangerous and greatest adventure on which man has ever embarked."

That's what President Kennedy said, that this was the greatest adventure on which man has ever embarked, and he was right. These astronauts, these brave three, they crossed dead space for almost a quarter of 1 million miles. They landed with less than 25 seconds of fuel remaining when they finally reached the Moon, and when they reached that Moon, they were only there for 21½ hours. Their moonwalk was only 2 hours and 37 minutes. They brought back a mere 47 pounds of Moon rock, but they inspired everyone on this planet. One-fifth of all of this planet was watching at that moment on TV. One out of every five human beings. That's pretty good ratings, Mr. Speaker.

And when the landing occurred, what we heard was the following: "The Eagle has landed." The eagle meaning the American eagle, because this was an assertion of our superiority as a Nation, our fortitude, our determination, our discipline, and our resourcefulness. That's what led us across that deep space in only 8 years from the first time when President Kennedy set forth this goal to the time that we actually landed on the Moon. "The Eagle has landed." The American eagle has landed.

But then during the moonwalk, we heard another theme. When Mr. Armstrong first put his foot down on the Moon, when Neil Armstrong put his foot down on the Moon he said the following: "One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." Not just Americans, but all mankind.

And when these brave explorers left behind their inscription, the inscription said something very important: "We came in peace, for all mankind."

And when Buzz Aldrin was returning, the day before the flight actually landed back on the Earth, he said the following: "This stands as a symbol of the insatiable curiosity of all mankind to explore the unknown."

So on that day 40 years ago we learned a lot about ourselves. We learned a lot about what kind of people human beings really are. The first

thing we learned is that in our heart we are explorers. We have that spark to see what's on the other side of that hill and then go and find it, and that spark is what led us 50,000 years ago to cross as far as Australia all the way from Africa. And 15,000 years ago one of my ancestors went as far as eastern Siberia in the midst of the Ice Age. And now, today, we see it's possible to explore this whole planet, and that just makes us want to explore other areas as well.

I have visited 175 countries myself. I have that urge to see, to explore, to look beyond the next hill, and it's what makes us human beings. Wolves howl at the Moon; human beings go there.

And we've also learned that these challenges that we pose for ourselves, these goals that we have for ourselves, we reap rewards from just seeking those goals, from pursuing those goals. In this case, NASA developed integrated circuits which led to the modern computer age. They developed computer-directed machining, which is used throughout manufacturing today, including in computers. And they developed fuel cells, which could very well be the key to our energy future. And all of that was done through the Apollo program for less than \$150 billion in today's money, which is actually less than, in many cases, the costs of the war in Iraq for 1 year.

We've also learned something else important about it. When we visited the Moon, we looked back on the Earth, and we have in that day 40 years ago the roots of the environmental movement. Earth Day was first celebrated barely 9 months later on April 22, 1970, because when we went to the Moon and we looked back on the Earth, we saw ourselves. We recognized how fragile the Earth really is.

And Joni Mitchell best captured that in a song that she sang, these words from her song, "Refuge of the Roads." She wrote:

"In a highway service station, over the month of June was a photograph of the Earth, taken coming back from the Moon.

"And you couldn't see the city, on that marbled bowling ball, or a forest, or a highway, or me here least of all."

And so we recognize in that moment, when we looked at the entire Earth, the entire planet, we didn't see individuals, we saw all of us, and it created a newfound respect for the environment.

But beyond that, we reached the realization that we're only beginning to appreciate right now 40 years later, and that realization is this. We are one planet; we are one people. This is not a planet of blacks versus whites; we are one. This is not a planet of men versus women; we are one. This is not a planet of the young versus the old; we are one. We are one species, one set of human beings, one people, proud of our accomplishments, this above all, to visit the Moon.

And when we return to the Moon, as we're scheduled to do 10 years from now, I hope that we'll say not just,

“One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind,” but I hope we’ll say, “Today the Moon, tomorrow the stars.”

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend Representative GRAYSON and the nearly 300 cosponsors of H.R. 2245, the New Frontier Congressional Gold Medal Act. As we know, this legislation authorizes the President, on behalf of Congress, to issue gold medals to Neil Armstrong, Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin, Michael Collins and John Glenn in recognition of their accomplishments, and pave the way for future missions.

As we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Moon landing, we recognize President Kennedy’s vision to support the great explorers of our lifetime, like the Christopher Columbuses, the Magellans and the Marco Polos before them. President Kennedy proved to the world that the free enterprise system of the United States of America would outperform the socialist Soviet Union in the international challenge of landing a man on the Moon and returning him safely to Earth.

One of the highlights of my life was the opportunity to work on the Apollo program as a young man when McDonnell Douglas was the contractor for the third stage. What a privilege it was to work alongside the thousands of men and women who helped make that historic achievement possible.

And you know, from a personal perspective I will always cherish this little medallion that they gave each member of the launch team, the metal part of which was carried to the Moon and back by the Apollo 11 astronauts.

You know, it’s one of those points in time where everyone old enough to be aware of their surroundings knows where they were when man took that historic first step. It was before, as Congressman GRAYSON said, the largest viewing audience in history. I was holding up my 3-month-old daughter in front of the TV so that she might some day be the last person living to have witnessed that historic thing. Just what a marvelous event it was for all.

Let us remember also that their legacy continues in today’s exemplary space shuttle workforce, those who safely and efficiently worked to ensure the completion of the shuttle’s remaining flight manifest. As we hear many times, America’s space program is the only thing for which the United States is undeniably, unequivocally, and universally respected for around this globe.

We sometimes take for granted the thousands of technological spinoffs we enjoy from space exploration, but let us take a moment to recognize the explorers of our lifetime and appreciate how all of us have been inspired by their pursuits and benefited from America’s advances in space.

Hopefully we will continue to maintain the leading edge in space under the leadership of President Obama.

I yield back my time, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I want to note that what the accomplishment was here was to make America number one in space exploration, and I look forward to the time when we are number one in health care, when we are number one in education, when we are number one in meeting our human needs and making a 21st-century workforce.

The thing that inspired people from President Kennedy’s words was the desire to be number one, and that’s something that we can and will accomplish, not only in this particular part of human endeavor but across the board.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to support H.R. 2245, the “New Frontier Congressional Gold Medal Act”, which authorizes the President to award Congressional Gold Medals to Neil A. Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, Michael Collins, and John Herschel Glenn, Jr., who took great risks to lead our nation and society to new frontiers in outer space.

Historic moments in space exploration, such as the 40th anniversary of the first lunar landing by humans that we are celebrating this week, and the first orbiting of the Earth by an American, inspired a generation of young people to devote their careers and lives to the scientific and human exploration of outer space and created a multiplier effect that has benefited American society, including our educational system, our economy, and our national security.

The Apollo 11 mission of Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins and the path-finding Mercury mission of John Glenn continue to spark the excitement and anticipation of what is possible for our nation as explorers of outer space.

Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Gold Medal is a fitting recognition of the unique and lasting imprint that these gentlemen have made on society, and I am pleased that so many of my colleagues in Congress have joined together in their support.

I thank the gentleman from Florida, Mr. GRAYSON, for his leadership in introducing this bill.

Ms. GIFFORDS. Mr. Speaker, today Congress is considering legislation to honor the Astronauts of Apollo 11 and Mercury Astronaut John Glenn with the Congressional Gold Medal, and as a proud cosponsor, I rise to urge support of this bill to recognize the trail-blazing accomplishments of these brave American heroes.

Their courage and the success of their missions have become symbols of what we as Americans can accomplish when we come together and put all of our energy and hard work into reaching a goal in which we all believe.

The launch of Sputnik in 1957 initiated the Space Race of the 1960s between the United States and the Soviet Union. Just 12 years later, this Space Race culminated with Apollo 11’s historic touchdown on the Moon’s Sea of Tranquility in July of 1969.

Even though NASA and the goal of landing men on the Moon were in some sense directly inspired by Cold War rivalries, the Apollo 11 lunar landings and John Glenn’s orbital flight

became a means of uniting all of us here on Earth in a collective adventure of humanity.

Moreover, the lessons learned and the technology developed for John Glenn’s orbital flight and the flight of Apollo 11 to the Moon spawned countless advances which have directly contributed to a better quality of life here on Earth.

In the decades since, many important technologies can be traced back to our space program. For even though the goal landing humans on the Moon had been attained, NASA went on to undertake world-leading research and development initiatives in Earth and space science, aeronautics, and human space flight.

Yet, ultimately it comes down to people—hard-working, dedicated men and women who made it all possible.

That is why I am pleased to join my colleagues in support of legislation to bestow one of the nation’s highest honors, the Congressional Gold Medal, to Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, Michael Collins, and John Glenn.

In closing, I want to commend Representative GRAYSON for introducing this bill, and I urge Members to pass it.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2245.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair’s prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 5 o’clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1832

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. HALVORSON) at 6 o’clock and 32 minutes p.m.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. FLAKE. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(a)(1) of rule IX, I hereby notify the House of my intention to offer a resolution as a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of my resolution is as follows: