

the Vietnam and gulf wars, and supported combat forces in Iraq. Today they continue to build and maintain bases and infrastructure for coalition forces in the global war on terror.

In addition to their military support, the Seabees have also provided vital humanitarian assistance around the world in times of peace. They have helped rebuild after devastating earthquakes, such as the one in Haiti in 2010, and they have led various construction projects in a number of undeveloped countries.

Mr. Speaker, we should pass this bill to honor the brave men and women who have played such an important role in both our military and humanitarian efforts around the globe. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6138.

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

Mr. GOSAR. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BROWNLEY).

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, as the very proud representative of Naval Base Ventura County, the West Coast home of the Navy Seabees, I rise today in support of H.R. 6138, which would designate the United States Postal Office in Port Hueneme, California, as the U.S. Naval Construction Battalion "Seabees" Fallen Heroes Post Office Building.

My bill is intended to honor the many brave men and women of the U.S. Naval Construction Battalion, also known as the Seabees, who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. In their more than 70-year history, the Seabees have diligently and honorably served our great Nation in times of war and peace with their renowned can-do spirit. They say: "The difficult we do immediately. The impossible takes a little longer."

First established in 1942 after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Seabees were created to meet the demand for capable builders who could also fight. Their motto is "We build, we fight." During World War II, over 250,000 Seabees passed through the Naval Construction Battalion Center at Port Hueneme on their way to or from the Pacific theater.

The Seabees also played vital roles in the Korean war, the Vietnam war, the Persian Gulf war, the Iraq war, and in Afghanistan, moving the immovable and taming the untamable to build bases, roadways, airstrips, and other critical infrastructure necessary for our troops to succeed in their missions.

Although primarily known as builders, many Seabees fought tenaciously throughout these conflicts, side by side with other servicemembers. For instance, Construction Mechanic Third Class Marvin Glenn Shields, who trained at Port Hueneme, battled bravely alongside U.S. Special Forces in the Battle of Dong Xoai in Vietnam despite being badly wounded. Ignoring

his wounds, Marvin helped return a wounded special forces second lieutenant back to safety while destroying a Viet Cong machine gun emplacement. His bravery and heroism cost him his life. For his conspicuous gallantry, Marvin was awarded the Medal of Honor after his death.

My bill would honor the contributions of all of our fallen Seabees to our Nation. I am both honored and proud to lead this effort to recognize the heroism of many brave Seabees like Marvin Shields who have paid so dearly for our freedom. We are forever indebted to them for their immense service to our Nation.

Finally, I would like to thank the chair and ranking member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform for supporting my bill, as well as my colleagues from California who are all cosponsors of the bill. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6138.

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

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of the bill. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6138.

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.

DR. ROSCOE C. BROWN, JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6282) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2024 Jerome Avenue, in Bronx, New York, as the "Dr. Roscoe C. Brown, Jr. Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6282

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

SECTION 1. DR. ROSCOE C. BROWN, JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2024 Jerome Avenue, in Bronx, New York, shall be known and designated as the "Dr. Roscoe C. Brown, Jr. Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Dr. Roscoe C. Brown, Jr. Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may

have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GOSAR. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6282, introduced by the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO). The bill designates a post office in the Bronx, New York, as the Dr. Roscoe C. Brown, Jr. Post Office Building.

As a member of the Tuskegee Airmen in World War II, Dr. Brown was the first African American fighter pilot to shoot down a German fighter jet. After serving in World War II, Dr. Brown earned his Ph.D. at New York University, where he later taught, and served as the president of Bronx Community College.

His service to the Nation is admirable, and I look forward to learning more about his extraordinary life from my colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO).

I urge Members to support the bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 6282, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2024 Jerome Avenue, in the Bronx, New York, as the Dr. Roscoe C. Brown, Jr. Post Office Building.

Born in 1922, Dr. Roscoe Brown, Jr. fell in love with aviation after visiting the Smithsonian Institution. During World War II, Dr. Brown joined the Tuskegee Airmen, conducting 68 missions and becoming the first African American fighter pilot to shoot down a German fighter jet. He earned the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service, and, in 2007, Dr. Brown and his fellow remaining Tuskegee Airmen were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal by President George W. Bush.

Following his honorable military service, Dr. Brown earned his Ph.D. at New York University and served as the president of Bronx Community College for 17 years. He also served as an informal adviser to many political leaders in New York City and founded 100 Black Men, an organization dedicated to improving conditions for African Americans.

Mr. Speaker, we should pass H.R. 6282 to commemorate the selflessness exhibited by Dr. Roscoe Brown, Jr.'s military and community service. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO).

(Mr. SERRANO asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SERRANO. I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to pass H.R. 6282. This legislation will rename the Morris Heights Post Office in the Bronx, New York, in my district, after a legend. Dr. Roscoe Brown was a giant among men and a revered figure in the Bronx, New York City, and the Nation.

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I had the privilege of knowing Dr. Brown for decades and considered him a dear friend. He faced the horrors of segregation early in his life, but he never let that stop him from achieving what he wanted and set out to do.

Dr. Brown was a fearless Tuskegee Airman during World War II, conducting some 68 missions and becoming one of the first fighters to shoot down a German fighter jet. The heroism he displayed paved the way for the desegregation of the Armed Forces and, decades later, earned him and his fellow airmen a Congressional Gold Medal.

After the war, he went on to further his studies at New York University, where he eventually served as a professor and an academic of the highest caliber. For 17 years, Dr. Brown served as president of Bronx Community College, which is located in my district, leading an institution that gave hope of a better life through education to a predominantly minority and nontraditional student population.

Throughout his life, Dr. Brown was a quiet, yet fierce advocate and leader that many turned to during the racial discord that plagued the city of New York in the sixties and seventies. His activism in the civil rights movement led him to start 100 Black Men, a civic organization devoted to improving the treatment of African Americans in New York.

Dr. Brown was also an avid runner and participated in nine New York City Marathons. During his tenure at Bronx Community College, he established the Annual Hall of Fame 5K and 10K races to help benefit the school. His invitation to participate in one of those races inspired me to start running myself, and I have now run that particular race for more than 30 years.

While his accomplishments and contributions are far too numerous to list, it is fair to say that Dr. Brown left the world around him in a much better place than which he found it. He was a unique individual with a great smile, a great sense of humor, and a great sense of history. Above all, he was a coalition builder. No one was too far for him to speak to or to bring close to him.

We will miss him, and I know that he is looking on us today. This is a small but very important tribute for a great man, Dr. Roscoe Brown.

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

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6282.

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.

MERCHANT MARINE OF WORLD WAR II CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2992) to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the U.S. Merchant Marine of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated and vital service during World War II.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2992

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 "Merchant Marine of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) 2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the Allied victory in World War II and the restoration of peacetime across the European and Pacific theaters.

(2) The United States Merchant Marine was integral in providing the link between domestic production and the fighting forces overseas, providing combat equipment, fuel, food, commodities, and raw materials to troops stationed overseas.

(3) Fleet Admiral Ernest J. King acknowledged the indispensability of the Merchant Marine to the victory in a 1945 letter stating that without their support, "the Navy could not have accomplished its mission".

(4) President and former Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces, Dwight D. Eisenhower, acknowledged that "through the prompt delivery of supplies and equipment to our armed forces overseas, and of cargoes representing economic and military aid to friendly nations, the American Merchant Marine has effectively helped to strengthen the forces of freedom throughout the world".

(5) Military missions and war planning were contingent upon the availability of resources and that the United States Merchant Marine played a vital role in this regard, ensuring the efficient and reliable transoceanic transport of military equipment as well as both military and civilian personnel.

(6) The United States Merchant Marine provided for the successful transport of resources and personnel despite consistent and ongoing exposure to enemy combatants from both the air and the sea, such as enemy bomber squadrons, submarines, and mines.

(7) The efforts of the United States Merchant Marine were not without sacrifices as they bore a higher per capita casualty rate than any other branch of the military during the war.

(8) The United States Merchant Marine proved to be an instrumental asset on untold occasions, participating in every landing operation by the United States Marine Corps from Guadalcanal to Iwo Jima as well as providing, for instance, the bulk tonnage of material necessary for the invasion of Nor-

mandy which "would not have been possible without the Merchant Marine", as a 1944 New York Times article observed.

(9) In also assessing their performance, General Dwight D. Eisenhower stated, "every man in this Allied command is quick to express his admiration for the loyalty, courage, and fortitude of the officers and men of the Merchant Marine. We count upon their efficiency and their utter devotion to duty as we do our own; they have never failed us".

(10) During a September 1944 speech, President Franklin D. Roosevelt stated, the Merchant Marine has "delivered the goods when and where needed in every theater of operations and across every ocean in the biggest, the most difficult, and dangerous transportation job ever undertaken. As time goes on, there will be greater public understanding of our merchant fleet's record during this war."

(11) The feats and accomplishments of the Merchant Marine are deserving of broader public recognition.

(12) The United States will be forever grateful and indebted to the U.S. Merchant Marine for their effective, reliable, and courageous transport of goods and resources in enemy territory throughout theaters of every variety in World War II; that these goods and resources saved thousands of lives and enabled the Allied Powers to claim victory in World War II.

(13) The Congressional Gold Medal will be an appropriate way to shed further light on the service of the Merchant Marine in World War II and the instrumental role they played in winning World War II.

SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the award, on behalf of the Congress, of a single gold medal of appropriate design to the U.S. Merchant Marine of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated and vital service during World War II.

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

(c) AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE MUSEUM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the gold medal in honor of the U.S. Merchant Marine, the gold medal shall be given to the American Merchant Marine Museum, where it will be available for display as appropriate and available for research.

SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

Under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, 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 of the medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.

(a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—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 section 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FOSTER) each will control 20 minutes.