

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Fulbright Program, enacted in 1946 and sponsored by then-Senator J. William Fulbright, who represented my home State of Arkansas.

This exceptionally American contribution to the world has educated over 360,000 students from 165 countries, including 52 Nobel laureates and 31 heads of state.

Every year, Fulbright scholarships are given to more than 2,500 Americans, from all backgrounds and in all stages of life, the chance to spend time abroad and gain a global perspective on today's most important issues.

Two years ago, I had the opportunity to plant a tree on the Capitol Grounds in honor of the 70th anniversary of the Fulbright Program and its Arkansas roots. This program has funded the academic pursuits of countless American and international scholars while building economic prosperity and promoting America's respect for freedom, the rule of law, and our democratic values.

The Fulbright Program has my support, and all of our citizens should encourage this uniquely American mission of friendship.

#### SUPPORTING NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of National Adoption Day this coming Saturday.

National Adoption Day began in 2000 when seven cities opened courtrooms on the Saturday before Thanksgiving to alleviate the backlog of pending adoptions. Since then, more than 65,000 children have had their adoption finalized during a National Adoption Day celebration.

The number of North Carolina children in foster care has been increasing, with last year totaling nearly 11,000. There are more than 425,000 children in foster care nationwide, with over 110,000 awaiting adoption by permanent families.

National Adoption Day aims to raise awareness of these children and educate the estimated 47 million Americans who have considered adopting a child in foster care.

May this year's effort be another success by connecting children awaiting adoption with parents who can provide the love and stable environment they need to realize their potential.

#### RECOGNIZING KEVIN MOONEY

(Mr. SMITH of Nebraska asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Kevin Mooney to the communities of Scottsbluff, Gering, and western Nebraska.

This week, after 34 years as a trusted journalist in Nebraska's panhandle, Kevin will retire from his position as news director at KNEB radio.

Throughout his career, Kevin has received six Mark Twain Awards from the Nebraska Associated Press and the Trailblazer Award from the Scottsbluff/Gering United Chamber of Commerce.

Kevin names the local sugar factory explosion in 1996 as the largest story he reported. He stayed on the air all night providing updates to our community.

Kevin is most thankful for his wife, Tracy. He says she has supported him a great deal throughout their 35 years of marriage, given he is on call 24 hours every day.

Even with his busy schedule, Kevin has dedicated himself to community and charity events such as the Thanksgiving in the Valley event. It is a collaboration of KNEB radio and local nonprofits Scottsbluff-Gering Soup Kitchen and Scottsbluff Kiwanis Club. They serve around 400 meals every year on Thanksgiving Day.

Please join me in honoring and thanking Kevin Mooney for his service to Nebraska journalism.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 3:45 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 9 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1546

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. TIPTON) at 3 o'clock and 46 minutes p.m.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

#### RABBI MICHOEL BER WEISSMANDL CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT OF 2017

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2740) to posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Rabbi Michael Ber Weissmandl in recognition of his acts of valor during World War II.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2740

*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 "Rabbi Michael Ber Weissmandl Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2017".

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Rabbi Michael Ber Weissmandl was born in Hungary on October 25, 1903, later moving to Slovakia to study under Rabbi Shumel Dvoid Ungar in Nitra.

(2) During his time in Nitra, he quickly became a senior figure within the local Jewish community and Yeshiva.

(3) Weissmandl was responsible for some of the daring efforts to save the Jewish people of Slovakia from the Holocaust, which include the establishment of a "Working Group", an underground organization that raised funds to negotiate ransom with German and Slovakian officials in order to delay mass deportations.

(4) During the Nazi regime, Weissmandl used his contacts from England to obtain visas, becoming one of the first to actively protect people of Jewish ancestry in Europe.

(5) Weissmandl also wrote telegrams to generate awareness of the Jewish people's plight and encouraged other strategic approaches to stop the Holocaust, including the bombing of railroad tunnels to prevent the transportation of persons to concentration camps.

(6) Weissmandl established a Working Group—a wide variety of people from different political and ideological spectrums—whose common goal was to save people from the "Final Solution".

(7) The Working Group was one of the first to document in writing the accounts of Auschwitz Escapees in a document widely referred to as the "Auschwitz Protocols".

(8) Weissmandl himself later translated the initial documentation from German to Hebrew and included a widely known addendum that pleaded for action.

(9) Weissmandl wrote the first known appeal for the use of Allied air resources to disrupt the Holocaust.

(10) In 1942 when Slovakia started deportation for "resettlement", Rabbi Weissmandl was the first to inform the Working Group that people were being murdered and not sent to work as originally claimed.

(11) Rabbi Weissmandl also played an instrumental role in Solomon Schoenfeld Kindertransport rescue, helping save hundreds of lives.

(12) Rabbi Weissmandl came to America and in 1945 immediately got to work to establish a home and Yeshiva for Holocaust survivors. The Yeshiva of Nitra he established in Mount Kisco, New York, was the first Yeshiva campus in America and became an example that other institutions followed.

(13) Rabbi Weissmandl has significantly influenced the flourishing communities of Talmudic scholars in Brooklyn, New York, and generally across the United States.

#### SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a gold medal of appropriate design, to Rabbi Michael Ber Weissmandl in recognition of his acts of valor during World War II.

(b) PARTICIPATION BY WEISSMANDL COMMITTEE.—For the purpose of the presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Speaker and President pro tempore shall ensure that the Weissmandl Committee may accept the medal on behalf of Michael Ber Weissmandl.

(c) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose of the presentation referred to in subsection