

government regardless of party but the cause of the good leadership of the gentleman from Ohio. He has been one who has treated every Member with respect, not arrogance or not dismissal but respect. I think that is the sign of a good leader. It is the sign of a good Member of this body. It is the real charge and responsibility of any chairman regardless of party. You do not see partisan politics playing a part most of the time, 99 percent of the time, with this chairman. He is trying to be even-handed with respect to all Members.

I listened to the gentleman from Colorado tonight speak on the rule and state that he was grateful for the inclusion of some provisions in this bill after working with this chairman and our subcommittee but was opposed to the bill. A narrower-minded chairman might have said, "Well, if you're not going to support my bill, your provisions are not going in this bill." But this is the modern era of fairness in politics, I hope, and I expect, and I believe, especially with the gentleman from Ohio at the helm.

I join not only the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) but virtually every single Member of this body in paying tribute to the gentleman from Ohio, thanking him profusely for all the good work that he has done and his commitment to the interior jurisdiction of this government, this Congress and trying his best and our best to have the best bill that can ever come out of this House as it relates to the national treasures of our public lands.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Washington for those kind remarks, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. All time for general debate has expired.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. Terry) having assumed the chair, Mr. LATOURETTE, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4578) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

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REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4635, DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-675) on the resolution (H. Res. 525) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4635)

making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

□

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken tomorrow.

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RECOGNIZING 225TH BIRTHDAY OF UNITED STATES ARMY

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 101) recognizing the 225th birthday of the United States Army.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.J. RES. 101

Whereas on June 14, 1775, the Second Continental Congress, representing the citizens of 13 American colonies, authorized the establishment of the Continental Army;

Whereas the collective expression of the pursuit of personal freedom that caused the authorization and organization of the United States Army led to the adoption of the Declaration of Independence and the codification of the new Nation's basic principles and values in the Constitution;

Whereas for the past 225 years, the Army's central mission has been to fight and win the Nation's wars;

Whereas whatever the mission, the Nation turns to its Army for decisive victory;

Whereas the 172 battle streamers carried on the Army flag are testament to the valor, commitment, and sacrifice of the brave soldiers who have served the Nation in the Army;

Whereas Valley Forge, New Orleans, Mexico City, Gettysburg, Verdun, Bataan, Normandy, Pusan, the Ia Drang Valley, Grenada, Panama, and Kuwait are but a few of the places where soldiers of the United States Army have won extraordinary distinction and respect for the Nation and its Army;

Whereas the motto of "Duty, Honor, Country" is the creed by which the American soldier lives and serves;

Whereas the United States Army today is the world's most capable and respected ground force;

Whereas future Army forces are being prepared to conduct quick, decisive, highly sophisticated operations anywhere, anytime; and

Whereas no matter what the cause, location, or magnitude of future conflicts, the Nation can rely on its Army to produce well-trained, well-led, and highly motivated soldiers to carry out the missions entrusted to them: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress, recognizing the historic significance of the 225th anniversary of the United States Army—

(1) expresses the appreciation of the people of the United States to the Army and the soldiers who have served in it for 225 years of dedicated service;

(2) honors the valor, commitment, and sacrifice that American soldiers have displayed throughout the history of the Army; and

(3) calls upon the President to issue a proclamation—

(A) recognizing the 225th birthday of the United States Army and the dedicated service of the soldiers who have served in the Army; and

(B) calling upon the people of the United States to observe that anniversary with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPENCE) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPENCE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.J. Res. 101.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to call up this resolution today honoring the United States Army on the occasion of its 225th birthday. On June 14, 1775, the Continental Congress resolved to create the American Continental Army. From that day until the present, millions of Americans have served at home and abroad, in peace and in war, as soldiers in America's Army. It is fitting that we honor the memory of those who have served in our Army by reflecting on its proud traditions and history.

The Army, first and foremost, is this Nation's arm of decision. It was the Army that achieved victory at Yorktown, making possible our independence and securing our place in history. From Trenton, Mexico City, Gettysburg and Santiago, to the Meuse-Argonne and Normandy, from the Pusan Perimeter and the Ia Drang Valley, to Panama and Iraq, the Army has prevailed in thousands of battles, large and small, in defense of this Nation and in the cause of liberty. In its 225-year history, tens of thousands of soldiers have sacrificed their lives on distant battlefields so that Americans could know victory in war and prosperity in peace.

The history of our Army is inextricably tied with the history of this Nation. In war, our Army has been preeminent on the battlefield. In peace, our Army has provided this Nation with engineers and explorers, diplomats, and presidents. The Washington Monument and the Panama Canal bear concrete witness to the Army's achievements. Lewis and Clark, George W. Goethals, George C. Marshall, as well as Presidents Washington, Jackson, Taylor, Grant, Truman, and Eisenhower are but a few

whose names typify the selfless devotion to duty that is the hallmark of those who have served their Army and their Nation with distinction and valor both on and off the battlefield.

Most importantly, the Army has given us soldiers. Since 1775, Americans from every part of this Nation have answered the call to arms and served in the Army. In each of this Nation's conflicts, soldiers have earned battlefield honors that have made our Army one of the most successful and respected military organizations in history. Their devotion and sacrifice have left an indelible mark on this Nation. Victorious in war, these citizen-soldiers then returned home to win and strengthen the peace. I salute them and thank them for their service.

As we stand on the edge of the 21st century and reflect on 225 years of history, one thing is certain. America will call again on its Army and its soldiers during times of crisis. As in the past, I am confident that the Army and its citizen-soldiers will rise to the challenge.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the United States Army and its soldiers on its 225th birthday. I urge the House to join the gentleman from Missouri and me in strongly supporting this resolution commemorating this significant event.

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

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

I rise in strong support of H.J. Res. 101, a resolution commemorating the 225th anniversary of our United States Army. The principal land force of our country, the United States Army traces its origins to the Continental Army of the Revolutionary War. That Army, raised by the Continental Congress, had the mission of engaging British and Hessian regulars and won our country's independence. That Army was composed largely of long serving volunteers. Now some 225 years and numerous major wars and minor conflicts later, our U.S. Army is again composed of volunteers. We have come full circle. What is important and why we recognize the anniversary of the Army today is that the U.S. Army has defended our Nation and fought with distinction on countless occasions. We in Congress and the American people owe a debt of gratitude to all those who have served in our Army.

While the Army dates from 1775, the U.S. Army as a permanent institution really began in June of 1784 when the Confederation Congress approved a resolution to establish a regiment of 700 officers and men to assert Federal authority in the Ohio River Valley. Congress adopted this tiny force after the reorganization of the government under the Constitution of 1789.

Since then, the Army has served our great Nation with distinction in many, many memorable conflicts. From its humble beginnings, the Army has been the key force in achieving military

success in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Mexican War, the War Between the States, the Spanish-American War, the First World War, the Second World War, the Korean War, and, of course, the war in Vietnam and, more recently, the Persian Gulf War. Hundreds of memorable battles in these many conflicts highlight a truly illustrious history of dedicated service and selfless sacrifice by literally millions of Americans.

Beyond the Army's participation in these major wars, the Army has also been a successful instrument in implementing our Nation's foreign policy objectives and helping to restore democratic institutions of government in a myriad of smaller, short-of-war conflicts and interventions, particularly within the last 50 years. Places like Panama, Grenada, Haiti, Somalia, Bosnia and Kosovo come to mind.

As we think today about the great service of our Army and what it has performed over the years, it is important to bear in mind two key considerations: First, the U.S. Army is really a microcosm of American society. Dating back to the days of the original militia in the Revolutionary War, our Army has succeeded in large measure because of the participation of citizen-soldiers. I believe our Army and our military will continue to be as successful as they have been only as long as the people who comprise our forces reflect the makeup of our country and only as long as they have the support of the American people. We need to continue to recruit and retain high quality personnel so that the total Army will continue to be the formidable force that it is today.

The second characteristic of the Army that has made it such a success is that it has adapted to changes in warfare, tactics, and techniques as well as technology.

□ 2230

It has stayed ahead of our adversaries in efforts to reform, modernize and win wars. From the change from conscription to the all volunteer force; from the use of flintlock muskets to the use of stealth technology of today, the U.S. Army has evolved to become the premier ground force in the world. The effort under way now, to transform the Army into a lighter, more mobile and more lethal force, shows that our Army continues to adapt to the rigors of the modern battlefield and will continue to be successful in the years ahead.

As much as we may be inclined to remember the major wars and battles that ultimately brought us victory over the years, it is really the men and women who serve so bravely and so well to whom we should pay tribute to today. Without their selfless dedication, their valor, their perseverance, America would likely not be the free and prosperous society it is as we enjoy it today.

H.J. Res. 101 recognizes their service, expresses the gratitude of the Congress

and the American people, and calls upon the President to issue an appropriate proclamation, something that he unquestionably should do.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

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

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER), the chairman of our Subcommittee on Military Personnel, and he is an Army veteran.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.J. Res. 101 recognizing the United States Army's 225 years of loyal and dedicated service to the Nation. As we enter the new millennium, we can look back with pride at the Army's tremendous contribution to our Nation's great history.

Today, thanks largely to the service and the sacrifice of millions of men and women who have worn an Army uniform, we enjoy unparalleled prosperity and unequaled freedom.

For more than 2 centuries, American soldiers have courageously answered their Nation's call to arms, as well as serving as a strong deterrent to potential adversaries during times of peace. Whether it was on Lexington Green or the cornfields at Gettysburg or in the trenches of France, or the beaches of Normandy, in the frozen hills around Chosin or the jungles of Vietnam, in the forests of Western Europe or in the deserts of Kuwait, where I was, Army soldiers have fearlessly demonstrated the requisite traits of self-sacrifice and courage under fire that have enabled us to prevail under sometimes enormously adverse conditions.

Their contribution to their current state of well-being is clearly evident. As we enter the 21st century, our Nation finds itself serving in a unique position of global leadership while facing an increasingly complex array of threats. One of the keys to our Nation's success over the decades has been our flexibility and willingness to adapt to an ever-changing environment, without altering the fundamental values that make us uniquely American.

Similarly, the dynamic transformation effort that the Army has recently embarked should create a more strategically responsive force without compromising the core competencies that make it the world's most lethal fighting force. The Army in the 21st century will be more responsive, survivable and lethal. It will be an Army that is respected by our allies and feared by our opponents and honored and esteemed by the American people.

Throughout our Nation's history, our soldiers have stood in constant readiness to defend and preserve the ideals of these our United States. When deterrence has failed, committing American soldiers on the ground has always been the ultimate statement of our resolve to defeat an adversary or compel him to change his course of action.

In 1776, Captain John Parker of Lexington Militia stood on the green and

voiced to the American spirit and said without resolve, men, stand your ground, if they mean to have war, let it begin here.

Unflinching courage and a proud heritage of service to our Nation is the legacy of the American soldier as he has honorably carried out his oath to fight and win our Nation's wars.

As a representative of the people, I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the men and women and their families who serve in the United States Army. The valor, commitment and sacrifice of the American soldier is displayed throughout our Nation's history and is captured in the motto that appears on the emblem of the United States Army: "This we'll defend."

These three words embody the strength and character that makes the Army pervasive in peace and invincible in war.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SANCHEZ).

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, as a Member of the House Committee on Armed Services, I rise to salute the 225th anniversary of the United States Army.

One year before the birth of our country, the United States Army was established. Originally, the Continental Army was comprised of 10 companies from three colonies.

Now, the United States Army comprises 10 divisions, with a strength of 480,000 men and women. The Army is the cornerstone of America's military might and thus its ideals.

And the soldier is the cornerstone of that Army. The courage, dedication and valor demonstrated by numerous individuals and numerous conflicts are to be commended.

For they made famous names such as the Big Red One, the 101st Airborne, Army Rangers and, of course, the Green Berets.

This country and the world are truly indebted to their duty. Happy Birthday, Army.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE).

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Army for 225 years of service to our Nation, and I would like to have it recorded that I would like to join in with my chairman of the Subcommittee on Military Personnel, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER), with his words. I thought they were very eloquent and to the point, and I am happy indeed to be able to associate myself with them.

The United States Army created the year before the Declaration of Independence was signed, has for over 200 years courageously fought this Nation's wars and ensured peace and prosperity. The sacrifices of our men and women in uniform have brought freedom, not just for our country, but also for many others throughout the world.

Particularly, in my own State of Hawaii, the Army has a proud history. On

December 7, 1941, the soldiers of the 25 Infantry Division had the distinction of being the first Army soldiers to see combat in World War II when they fired on Japanese aircraft strafing Schofield Barracks during the attack on Pearl Harbor.

After the attack, the 25th quickly set up its defensive positions to protect Honolulu and Pearl Harbor against possible Japanese attack.

I must also mention the heroism during World War II of the legendary 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the 100th Infantry Battalion. Comprised of Asian-Americans, these two units performed with great valor and courage during the Europe campaign. Already, two of the most highly decorated units in the Army, the bravery of these soldiers will again be recognized when President Clinton on June 21 awards 19 medals of honor later this month for their courage during World War II.

While the Army can justifiably be proud of its history, it is also fearlessly looking to the future. The Army is demonstrating remarkable flexibility by transforming itself in a new fighting force that will be able to win on the battlefield tomorrow, whether that means urban combat in remote parts of the world or peacekeeping in a war-ravaged country.

The capability the Army provides continues to be an important and integral part of our ability to ensure the peace and security of our Nation. But the commitment of our military personnel does not come without peril and price. Duty often calls for prolonged periods away from family and home.

Today, Mr. Speaker, we recognize the sacrifice of those whose dedication and devotion to duty ensure the blessings of freedom every day.

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS), who is a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point.

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution. Mr. Speaker, 225 years ago, our predecessors in this House agreed to form the United States Army.

For 225 years, our sons and our daughters have fought and served this country proudly in 173 different campaigns across the world. From battling the British in Lexington to freeing Kuwait to Iraqi occupation, the United States Army has answered the call to defend the right to freedom all over the world.

In those 225 years, 874,527 men and women have given their lives while serving our country, and 1,226,062 have been wounded.

Today's Army is much different than what was originally envisioned by early Members of Congress. Today's Army not only defends our borders, but it ensures freedom from other countries. It lends its support to the dis-

aster relief. It is an integral part of our Nation's fight against drugs. But the Army has not changed in one important way, it is still the best fighting force in the world.

But I would like to quote General Douglas MacArthur from his 1962 address to the United States Military Academy at West Point, which keeps us focused on the Army's mission, and I quote: "And through all this welter of change and development, your mission remains fixed, determined, inviolable, it is to win our wars. Everything else in your professional career is but corollary to this dedication. All other purposes, all other public projects, all other public needs, great or small, will find others for their accomplishment: but you are the ones who are trained to fight: yours is the profession of arms, the will to win, the sure knowledge that in war, there is no substitute for victory; that if you lose, the Nation will be destroyed; that very obsession of your public service must be duty, honor, country."

For 225 years, the United States Army has been called upon to win our Nation's wars. God bless those who have served the United States Army and the United States of America.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. CLEMENT), who I might say, Mr. Speaker, has served our country in his State of Tennessee so well and ably through the years in the National Guard.

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I first want to say to the chairman of the Committee on Armed Services, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPENCE), and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON), these two gentlemen are real heroes in the U.S. House of Representatives and real heroes in the Committee on Armed Services. Both of them have distinguished themselves in so many different ways; and I know firsthand how they fought for those in uniform, our fighting men and women. They have made a real difference in America.

It is a great pleasure to stand before the House to celebrate the 225th birthday of the United States Army, all the way back to the Continental Congress, the Continental Army, the beginnings of what we call the United States of America, the greatest Nation on the history of this earth, a country that has made a difference and saved the lives of so many people overseas, as well as in the United States.

When I think of the United States Army, knowing that I was a part of them for 2 years and I was discharged a first lieutenant, and then I immediately joined the Tennessee Army National Guard, as the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) mentioned a while ago, and I knew I was not going to make a career out of the military; but I wanted to be a part of the military.

I think it is regrettable that so many of our young people do not have that

experience now. We have an all volunteer force; and, therefore, they will not serve in the military. But serving in the military, it is almost like having a piece of the rock. It gives you a feeling that it is hard to describe and understand, but one does not have to love this country to serve in the military. One does not have to believe in America to serve in the military.

□ 2245

But I congratulate all those that have served, and have served in the U.S. Army, because in my Congressional District I have two predecessors by the name of Andrew Jackson and Sam Houston, and they were truly American heroes. Those two gentlemen, both U.S. Congressmen from the Nashville, Tennessee, area, have served us proudly.

But when I think of the U.S. Army, I think of sacrifice; when I think of the U.S. Army, I think of commitment, I think of discipline, I think of teamwork, I think of individuals that know how to wave that flag. I also know when you have served in the U.S. Army or our Armed Forces, you stand up at various sporting events and other places and say God bless America.

Happy birthday, U.S. Army.

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) the chairman of our Subcommittee on Procurement and also an Army veteran.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my great chairman, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPENCE), for yielding to me, and I want to thank him also for his great service to our Nation, and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON), our ranking member, and all of our colleagues who have commented.

I want to pay homage to a couple of Army guys who I know who were in the 173rd Airborne, the unit I served with, without distinction, in Vietnam. The gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON) was a member of the 173rd Airborne in Vietnam during a very difficult time, and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. NORWOOD) was also a Member of the 173rd Airborne and was a great member of that brigade, which is being stood up and has in fact just been stood up again and brought to life again in Italy just within the last couple of weeks. I wish I could have been with that unit when that momentous event occurred.

But let me just say to my colleagues, we have just left the bloodiest century in the history of the world and in American history. It was one in which 619,000 Americans, or more than that number, were killed in combat. We had an incredible century in which we experienced some very profound moments, ones in which we stood side-by-side with Winston Churchill and helped to defeat Hitler, and one in which President Ronald Reagan stood down the Soviet empire and helped to provide for a more benign climate for this country to enter this century.

A lot of that was carried on the back of the United States Army. The United States Army, unlike other armies in the world, has to take and hold ground in very difficult places. This was commentary when the U.S. Army hit the shores and engaged in the battles in France and the enemy was amazed when they saw that German troops would rise out of trenches and begin to fall at 800 meters, because Americans with rifles knew how to shoot. We held very difficult ground and took very difficult ground in World War II.

My secretary, Helen Tracy, in San Diego, was General George Patton's secretary during World War II, and she will recount the difficulties that the Third Army went through in that very momentous war.

We fought difficult battles in the cold war, from Vietnam to Korea. Those were all battles in the Cold War in which we ultimately prevailed. The Army was a major player in that massive conflict and sacrificed greatly.

My cousin, Jan Kelly, is with us tonight, who just happened to come into Washington, D.C., and I thought it was particularly appropriate that her husband, Ron Kelly, who was a captain, a professional Army officer in Vietnam and Korea, and could be in Washington, D.C., on this anniversary.

I want to also say a word about Pop Carter, who was my platoon sergeant in Charlie Rangers in Vietnam, who came home and ran his farm in Georgia, and whose son, Bobby Carter, went wrong and somehow joined the Marine Corps, but is today a great young warrant officer in that service, and Pop was a symbol of dedication to his country.

Lastly, I just want to mention the last of Ronald Reagan's speech in 1981, when I was sworn in, and I stood by a gentleman named Omar Bradley, then in a wheelchair, while Ronald Reagan pointed out to the Washington Monument. And he said, "There is the monument dedicated to the Father of Our Country, and beyond that is the Lincoln Memorial, dedicated to the man who saved the Union. But beyond those monuments are thousands of monuments marked with crosses and Stars of David that are dedicated to Americans who gave every full bit a measure of devotion to their country as the Founding Fathers, and that, of course, is Arlington Cemetery."

Ronald Reagan said, "Under one of those crosses lies a man named Martin Trepto, who left his little barber shop in 1917, joined the U.S. Army in the Rainbow Division in France, and after Martin Trepto had joined the Rainbow Division in France in 1917 and he had been there only 3 weeks in a country, he was killed. His friends, when they recovered his body, found that he had maintained a diary, and the last entry in the diary said these words: 'I must fight this war as if the success or failure of the United States of America depends on me alone.'"

That is the spirit of the United States Army that has carried us safely

through this century. God bless the Army. Happy birthday.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from America Samoa, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA.

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPENCE), the chairman of the Committee on Armed Services, and certainly our Democratic ranking member as well, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON), for providing this legislation now before the Members for consideration.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Joint Resolution 101, a resolution which recognizes the 225th birthday of the United States Army.

Mr. Speaker, from the establishment of the Continental Army in 1775, today's modern fighting force, considered to be the best land-based fighting force in the world, the Army has fought for our Nation through difficult times. In reviewing the history of our Nation's wars and other campaigns, one only begins to appreciate the enormous role the Army has played in our Nation's history.

As an Army veteran in Vietnam and as a former member of the 100th Battalion and 442nd Infantry Reserve Group in Hawaii, I have experienced a small part of the Army's history and know how difficult war can be.

While we hope future generations may never have to experience any world wars like those of the past, we can all feel assured that our Army is ready to go wherever and whenever it is called.

I want to share with my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, some of the things that happened in World War II, one of the darkest pages of our Nation's history, of what we did to the Japanese-Americans. But despite all the problems that these patriotic Americans were confronted with, we had thousands of Japanese-Americans who volunteered to fight for our Nation. In doing so, the 100th Battalion and the 442nd Infantry Groups were organized to fight the enemy in Europe.

I want to share with my colleagues some of the accomplishments these two fighting units made in World War II. Over 18,000 decorations were awarded to individuals in these two units for bravery in combat; over 9,240 Purple Hearts; 560 Silver Stars; 52 Distinguished Service Crosses; and, one of the things, that I have complained about for all these years, why only one Medal of Honor?

I think this matter has been rectified, and I want to commend the gentleman from Hawaii, Senator AKAKA, whose legislation in 1996 mandated the Congress to review this. I think my colleagues are very happy, as well as myself, in seeing this month we are going to witness 19 Congressional Medals of Honor will be awarded in a special ceremony that will be made next

week, and among them the distinguished Senator from Hawaii, DANIEL INOUE, who originally had the Distinguished Service Cross, and now he will also be awarded the Medal of Honor.

Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to today's soldiers and all those who have gone before them. In addition, too, Mr. Speaker, I want to pay a very special tribute to the hundreds of thousands of Army wives and their children. I think this is perhaps one area that is sorely missing sometimes.

Yes, we do praise our soldiers in harm's way, but also we have to recognize the tremendous sacrifices that wives and their dependents have to make, where the women have to become both the fathers and mothers in the absence of the fathers being away. I think this is something that our country certainly owes to all the Army wives, for the tremendous services and sacrifices they have rendered on behalf of our Nation.

Our soldiers have never let us down, and when we call upon them, they are there to serve. I think my good friends have already made a comment on this, but I want to share it again because I think it is important. This is a special address that was given by the late General Douglas MacArthur to the West Point cadets at the Academy at West Point in 1962. It has been quoted, and I will quote it again.

"What is the mission of the Army? Yours is the profession of arms, the will to win, the sure knowledge that in war there is no substitute for victory, and, that if we fail, the Nation will be destroyed."

Mr. Speaker, I want to say happy birthday, Army, and with exclamation to all the Army soldiers and veterans, I say "Huuah."

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Members who have stayed to this late hour to express the birthday wishes to the United States Army, and a special thanks to our chairman, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPENCE), for introducing this resolution.

There are two types of soldiers and have been through the years. First is the citizen soldier, who historically has served so well and then gone home after a conflict or after the service and performed duties in the civic arena. The second kind of soldier is the one who has made a career of leadership within the United States Army.

I come from Lafayette County, Missouri, which is the western part of the State, and in my home county there are two shining examples of each of these types of soldiers. Harry Earl Gladish was in the First World War, a member of the National Guard, Battery C of the 129th Field Artillery, 35th Division. He was gassed in combat, recovered and came home and elected mayor of Higginsville, a State representative from our county, and served many, many years as a magistrate judge of Lafayette County. The epitome of the citizen soldier.

Then I had the privilege of living next door to another soldier who came back after his distinguished career, a West Point graduate, coming through the ranks as an engineer, as a Brigadier General; built the Alcan Highway as a Brigadier General of the 9th Infantry Division, captured the Remagan Bridge, later retired as a four star general in charge of the entire American Army in Europe, Bill Hoge, General Bill Hoge of Lafayette County, Lexington, Missouri.

Both of these gentleman are gone, of course, but they have left the memory and they have left the example for those who follow; the citizen soldier on the one hand and the professional soldier on the other.

Those who follow in their footsteps and who wear the American uniform today are performing admirably, as long as they have the same spirit. For Judge Earl Gladish or General Bill Hoge, our Army will always be the finest institution of that sort in the world.

So I say happy birthday to the American Army, knowing full well that there are decades and centuries ahead of us where it will perform great tasks for our country. I wish them continued success and Godspeed, as well as a birthday wish.

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

□ 2300

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, it would not be appropriate to close out this proceeding tonight without us remembering one of our colleagues who is now retired from this body, Sonny Montgomery, from the State of Mississippi, one of the greatest supporters of the Army and our military that I have ever known. We all wish him well.

Mr. Speaker, from a lifelong Navy man, I would like to wish the Army a happy birthday on its 225th anniversary.

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this bill, congratulating the Army on its 225th birthday.

In this bill, we take this very appropriate opportunity to recognize the Army for the fighting force that it is, victorious in times of war, and persuasive in times of peace.

This legislation recognizes the 225 years of service the Army has to its record. On June 14th, 1997, a group of colonists came together on the town square in Cambridge, Massachusetts. They did so under the authority of the Continental Congress, even before we had signed the Declaration of Independence.

The group that came together that day, 225 years ago was the humble beginning that secured freedom for our country and has kept the peace since.

I want to join my colleagues today in expressing our appreciation for the Army and the fine work it does every day—work that is done so flawlessly that it sometimes goes unnoticed.

Many people may not realize that the Army today means more than fighting and winning wars on foreign territory. Today's Army means providing humanitarian relief to the flood vic-

tims in Mozambique. Today's Army means taking a proactive role to stop the flow of drugs into his country. Today's Army means homeland defense, because of which we are constantly prepared to respond to domestic threats of terrorism in our cities and on our subways.

These are the kinds of operations that the Army performs every day.

Mr. Speaker, since I became a member of Congress, I have been fortunate enough to interact with many of our brave men and women of the Army. And as an American, it gives me great pride to say that these individuals are some of the smartest, selfless, and most courageous individuals I have ever come across.

The relationship between the institution of the Army and its dedicated troops is one of mutual benefit. But the real winners here, as I have already said, are the American people. And it is on behalf of this country that I want to thank the Army and all of its loyal personnel. Happy 225th birthday, U.S. Army!

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member rises in strong support of this resolution recognizing the long and glorious history of the United States Army.

On June 14, 1775, ten companies of riflemen were authorized by a resolution of the Continental Congress. Since that time our citizen soldiers have carried the banner of freedom around the globe. This Member is proud to have been one of those soldiers, having served as an officer in the "Big Red One," the 1st Infantry Division.

Today's soldier is in many ways very different from those first authorized in 1775. Today's soldier is male, or female, of all races and ethnic origins, far better educated and better equipped, and a professional in every aspect of the word. Yet, they are not so different. Each is as dedicated to protecting the freedoms and rights of Americans as were those first soldiers in our Army. They endure the same long hours, separation from loved ones, and low pay.

This body has embarked on a path to make life better for our soldiers. The FY2001 Defense Authorization and Defense Appropriations bill have made the first steps in returning the attraction and retention of the finest soldiers. These young Americans by their service demonstrate that they truly believe in the principles of this Nation. This body must show its belief in them. This Member hopes that the marking of this very significant birthday will help those Americans who have not had the privilege the serve to understand the difficulties and hardships that our soldiers carry, almost always without complaint, in the name of freedom.

Mr. Speaker, this Member urges all of his colleagues to join in honoring the men and women of our nation's great Army by adopting this resolution. Happy 225th Birthday to the United States Army.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in celebrating the 225th anniversary of the United States Army.

As a combat veteran myself, I am proud to have served with a branch of our Armed Services whose birth was the prelude to our nation's birth.

For more than two centuries, a long line of men and women have courageously and selflessly served in the United States Army and defended our nation's freedom and ideals.

Many—too many—have given their lives in such service. Indeed, we all appreciate that our freedoms are hard-fought. More important, we understand that their continued survival requires us to be prepared, in the words of President Kennedy, “to pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, and oppose any foe.” It’s clear that the Army is ready to meet that challenge.

We cannot predict the security threats our nation will face in the future. But like its sister services, the Army is preparing to meet them. It is undergoing a transition that will increase its mobility and fighting power. It is transforming itself in anticipation that future crises will require a different set of talents and assets than the wars of the 20th century. To their success, I pledge my continuing support.

Mr. Speaker, this annual birthday commemoration is important because it allows us to confer appropriate recognition on the men and women who serve in today’s Army. These men and women, like their predecessors, prepare every day and are ready to go into battle. We pray their service may not be required, but we know that their strength and preparedness are our best weapons in keeping aggressors at bay. Of increasing importance is their role in peacetime and humanitarian operations around the world. To the last, they are ready to use their best efforts to fulfill whatever missions they are tasked to perform.

When I was in the Army during the Vietnam War, I served with the 173rd Airborne. My fellow sky soldiers served with valor. Each upheld the longstanding traditions that characterize the Army—duty, honor, and selfless sacrifice. Indeed, earlier this spring, I was privileged to attend a ceremony in which President Clinton awarded the Medal of Honor to a sky soldier, Specialist Four Alfred Rascon, who during that War was a medic assigned to the Reconnaissance Platoon that came under heavy fire. His extraordinarily courageous acts saved a number of his fellow sky soldiers and, as stated in the citation, “are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.”

Mr. Speaker, in Army units around the world, there are many Alfred Rascons—individuals ready to place their lives in harm’s way. Few will receive a Medal of Honor, but all have the same love of freedom, same love of country, and same dedication to duty. Our nation cannot be better served.

It is truly a privilege to join nearly 480,000 men and women in commemorating the 225th anniversary of their United States Army. I join my Congressional colleagues, and all Americans, in saluting them.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, this week we mark an important day in American history—June 14, 1775 is the day the United States Army was born. The birth of the Army was the prelude to the birth of freedom for our country the following year. This Army earned, and continues to earn, the respect of our allies, for fear of our opponents, and the honor and esteem of the American people.

The Army’s ninth oldest installation was established in 1876 on land donated by the city of San Antonio, Texas. In 1890 the post was named Fort Sam Houston and it has continuously performed five basic roles and missions; as a headquarters, a garrison, a logistical base, mobilization and training, and a medical facility. By 1912 it was the largest Army post in the United States.

Highlights of the post’s illustrative history include:

Geronimo and thirty-two other Apaches were briefly held prisoner there.

The 1st US Volunteer Cavalry (Roosevelt’s Rough Riders) was organized and trained at Fort Sam Houston before heading for San Juan Hill.

Military aviation was born at Fort Sam Houston in 1910 when Lieutenant Benjamin D. Foulois began flight operations there in Army Aircraft #1, a Wright biplane.

Lieutenant Dwight D. Eisenhower met Mamie Doud on the porch of the officers’ mess, married her, and lived in Building 688 on the post.

George C. Marshall, Douglas MacArthur, and John J. Pershing were among sixteen officers who served at Fort Sam Houston and later became general officers and distinguished leaders in the First and Second World Wars.

In 1917 over 1,400 buildings were constructed in three months to house and train more than 112,000 soldiers destined to serve in World War I.

The Army’s first WAAC company arrived in 1942 to train and serve.

Fort Sam Houston, known as the home of Army medicine, has been a leader in the medical field since its first 12-bed hospital was built in 1886. Today, with a new, state of the art, medical treatment facility, the Brooke Army Medical Center, and the Army’s Medical Department Center and School, Fort Sam Houston continues the important medical role it has played since the post was founded.

As we honor the United States Army, our nation’s oldest service, now celebrating its 225th birthday, it is fitting we reflect on the historic role Fort Sam Houston, Texas, has played, and continues to play, in the defense of our country. It is a tangible connection with the history of the Army and the United States. It is important we preserve its legacy for future generations.

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.J. Res. 101, a resolution commemorating the 225th Birthday of the United States Army. I thank the Chairman and Ranking Democrat for bringing this resolution to the floor today.

I know that all Americans share an appreciation for the United States Army, but few know the Army actually predates the existence of this Congress. In mid-June of 1775, the Continental Congress, the predecessor of the U.S. Congress, authorized the establishment of the Continental Army. The Continental Army became the United States Army after the adoption of the United States Constitution, giving Congress the responsibility “to raise and support Armies” in Section 8, clause 12 of Article I.

Through this resolution we consider today, Congress notes the valor, commitment and sacrifice made by American soldiers during the course of our history; we commend the United States Army and American soldiers for 225 years of selfless service; and we call upon the people of the United States to observe this important anniversary with the appropriate ceremonies and activities. Many have observed that the freedoms and liberty we enjoyed in the 20th Century were a result of the wars fought by the United States military, which has the Army as its backbone.

As a former soldier in the Army, I have a unique appreciation for the work it does. As a

member of the House Armed Service Committee which now writes policy to guide the same Army in which I served, I also have a unique appreciation for the job we ask the Army to do today. We ask them to do a dangerous and difficult job. They bleed and die for the cause of liberty and democracy. There is no way those who have not served can understand the everyday life of a ground or airborne soldier.

Let me speak to why it is important that Congress commends the Army so publicly today. As our overall force has drawn down, I find there is more and more of a disconnect between those who fight our wars and the civilians whose interests they protect. It is civilian command and control that is one of the most meaningful aspects of democracy. It is also the closeness of the citizenry and the military that is, in and of itself, representative of a free society.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, but I urge them to do more than just that. I implore them, and the American people, to seek a greater understanding of today’s military and the mission we expect them to do; appreciation of the job they do will follow.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPENCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 101.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING BENEFITS OF MUSIC EDUCATION

Mr. MCINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 266) expressing the sense of Congress regarding the benefits of music education.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 266

Whereas there is a growing body of scientific research demonstrating that children who receive music instruction perform better on spatial-temporal reasoning tests and proportional math problems;

Whereas music education grounded in rigorous instruction is an important component of a well-rounded academic program;

Whereas opportunities in music and the arts have enabled children with disabilities to participate more fully in school and community activities;

Whereas music and the arts can motivate at-risk students to stay in school and become active participants in the educational process;

Whereas according to the College Board, college-bound high school seniors in 1998 who received music instruction scored 53 points higher on the verbal portion of the Scholastic Aptitude Test and 39 points higher on the math portion of the test than college-bound high school seniors with no music or arts instruction;

Whereas a 1999 report by the Texas Commission on Drug and Alcohol Abuse states