

Notre Dame. I think it is fitting that the Congressional Gold Medal be awarded to this great American.

I want to commend the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROEMER) and I know the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VIS-CLOSKY) is not here, a great Notre Dame fan as well, but I think as we think about the Congressional Gold Medal, the world will always think about Father Hesburgh every time they see that golden dome on the television screen and the tenacity and the spirit of Notre Dame, much of it has been imbued, developed by Father Hesburgh. I think his fingerprints rest on the university of such great acclaim. It is known throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker, I say to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROEMER), this is very fitting, so I want to thank the Republican leadership, the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS), the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), our ranking member, I believe this is most fitting. I am just honored to be a part, to be able to say that I had a vote in this Congressional Gold Medal award.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, lest anyone think that although this is being presented in a bipartisan way, that it is purely a partisan interest in Notre Dame. I really would be remiss if I did not mention that there are a number of Republicans who have attended and indeed graduated from Notre Dame, and one that I know is no greater Irish hunk than our former colleague Dan Lungren from California, who not only bleeds green and gold, but would occasionally wear green and gold on the floor of the House, especially after a much-needed win over the University of Southern California in the annual football contest.

Having heard these words about Father Hesburgh, this is simply an introduction and an invitation to join in the Rotunda in the presentation of that Congressional Gold Medal.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this legislation, which authorizes the use of the Capitol rotunda on July 13, 2000 for a ceremony to present the Congressional Gold Medal to Father Theodore M. Hesburgh.

We look forward to honoring Father Hesburgh for his many achievements in such areas as education and international and peace studies. This remarkable leader has not only served our nation's presidents but has also served a 35 year tenure as President of the University of Notre Dame and has demonstrated his leadership in a number of international organizations. The list of his accomplishments reflects his devotion to many noteworthy and noble causes.

Father Hesburgh was born in Syracuse, N.Y. on May 25, 1917, the son of Anne Murphy Hesburgh and Theodore Bernard Hesburgh.

Educated at Notre Dame and the Gregorian University in Rome, Father Hesburgh received

a bachelor of philosophy degree in 1939. In 1943 he was ordained a priest of the Congregation of Holy Cross. He received his doctorate at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, and he joined the Notre Dame Department of Religion in 1945. In 1948, he was appointed head of the department and also served as chaplain to World War II veterans on campus. When he was 35, in 1952, Notre Dame named him their 15th president, and he retired on June 1, 1987.

In addition to his accomplishments at Notre Dame, Father Hesburgh's list of appointments and public service demonstrates a life-time of promoting peace, justice, civil and human rights, and education. He has held 15 Presidential appointments in such fields as civil rights, peaceful uses of atomic energy, and Third World development. He chaired the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights from 1969–1972. Between 1979–1981, he chaired the Select Commission on Immigration and Refugee Policy, and its recommendations became the groundwork for Congressional reform legislation 5 years later.

He has also served four Popes, and from 1956–1970 he was Vatican City's representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna. In 1968, Pope Paul IV appointed him head of the Vatican representatives attending the 20th anniversary of the UN's human rights declaration in Teheran, Iran.

In the field of education, Father Hesburgh has served on a number of commissions and study groups that have analyzed issues such as public funding of independent colleges and universities and the purpose of foreign languages and international studies in higher education. His dedication has earned him 135 honorary degrees.

After retiring as president of Notre Dame, Father Hesburgh has continued to promote important causes and, as President Emeritus, to work for his university's future. He has continued to participate in international organizations; he has traveled the world as a distinguished speaker; written numerous articles, books as well as his autobiography, "God, Country, Notre Dame;" and furthered the interest of several Notre Dame academic institutes. Moreover, Father Hesburgh chairs the advisory committee for the Kellogg Institute for International Studies and the Hesburgh Center for International Studies, which was named in his honor.

Numerous awards reflect all of these achievements. In 1964, President Lyndon Johnson awarded him the Medal of Freedom. Other awards include the Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Medal for Worship, the Distinguished Peace Leader Award, and the National Service Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mr. Speaker I urge our colleagues to join in supporting this legislation to recognize Father Hesburgh's many accomplishments as well as his honorable life dedicated to noble causes.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for the resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol rotunda for a ceremony to present the Congressional Gold Medal to Father Theodore Hesburgh, President Emeritus of the University of Notre Dame. I also want to thank my colleague from Indiana, TIM ROEMER, for his leadership in the effort to bestow this honor on Fr. Hesburgh.

As a graduate of the University of Notre Dame, I have long admired Father Hesburgh's commitment to excellence in higher education

and his extraordinary leadership in the cause of civil rights. I was happy to cosponsor the legislation last fall to present him with this distinguished award.

Under Father Hesburgh's stewardship as Notre Dame's president from 1952 to 1987, Notre Dame established itself as a top academic institution while maintaining its standing as a leading Catholic university. Fr. Hesburgh's greatest challenge was to demonstrate that it was possible to achieve prominence in both arenas and he succeeded, creating a model for other Catholic institutions of higher learning across the country.

One of Father Hesburgh's most enduring contributions to the Nation as a whole is his commitment to the pursuit of civil rights for all Americans. As a member of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights for 15 years, three of them as its chairman, Fr. Hesburgh was instrumental in the movement that culminated in the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. His legacy of leadership in the cause of civil rights and other issues of moral imperative has served as an example for America and, indeed, the world.

Mr. Speaker, in light of these and all of Father Hesburgh's many contributions in service to our Nation, I wholeheartedly support this resolution.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 344, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 344, as amended, the concurrent resolution just agreed to.

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

There was no objection.

SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT STATES SHOULD MORE CLOSELY REGULATE TITLE PAWN TRANSACTIONS AND OUTLAW IMPOSITION OF USURIOUS INTEREST RATES ON TITLE LOANS TO CONSUMERS

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 312) expressing the sense of the Congress that the States should more closely regulate title pawn transactions and outlaw the imposition of usurious interest rates on title loans to consumers, as amended.