

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4864, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. STUMP. Madam 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.

DONALD J. MITCHELL DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OUTPATIENT CLINIC

Mr. STUMP. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1982) to name the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic located at 125 Brookley Drive, Rome, New York, as the "Donald J. Mitchell Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic," as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1982

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

SECTION 1. NAME OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OUTPATIENT CLINIC, ROME, NEW YORK.

The Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Rome, New York, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Donald J. Mitchell Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic". Any reference to such outpatient clinic in any law, regulation, map, document, record, or other paper of the United States shall be considered to be a reference to the Donald J. Mitchell Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP).

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. STUMP. Madam 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.R. 1982.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 1982 names the Department of Veterans Affairs medical facility in Rome, New York, after Donald J. Mitchell. Mr. Mitchell, a five-term Member of the House, is being honored because of his service as a naval aviator in two wars. A citizen soldier, Mr. Mitchell served his state and Nation, and we honor him with this designation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, the measure now before this House names the outpatient clinic in Rome, New York, after Donald J. Mitchell, a former Member of this House. This is a well-deserved tribute for a truly outstanding American.

A naval aviator during World War II and a veteran of the Korean War, Don Mitchell served the House of Representatives from 1973 to 1983 as a Representative from the City of New York. Prior to being elected to Congress, he served his fellow citizens as a town councilman, a mayor, and as a member of the state assembly as well.

This measure honoring former Congressman Mitchell is strongly supported by the members of the New York Congressional delegation. It likewise deserves the support of each Member of this body.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STUMP. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT). I want to thank the gentleman for bringing this matter before us.

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

Mr. BOEHLERT. Madam Speaker, today we are saluting a genuine American hero, Don Mitchell. Let me tell you a little bit about the man.

Don Mitchell served with great distinction in the United States Navy from 1942 to 1946 as an aviator, then returned home, only to return to the military in the Korean conflict, where he served as a flight instructor. After that service, he returned back home to his beloved Herkimer, New York.

His talents were recognized. His talent for leadership, his vision, were recognized by the people of Herkimer. First they elected him a town councilman. Then they elected him mayor. But his talents were such and so obvious that he was obviously destined for higher office, and higher office came. He was elected to the New York State Assembly, where he served with great distinction for 8 years, and, once again, as they say, cream rises to the top, and before long, Don Mitchell was Majority Whip of the New York State Assembly, a leadership position.

So here is a distinguished American who had served in World War II, served in Korea, served as a town councilman, then a mayor, then in the State Assembly, and was beginning to think perhaps he had done his share.

But the people of Central New York would not have it, because they insisted that his talents go far beyond the community and the State, and he was elected to the United States Congress, where he served with great distinction for 10 years. During those 10 years he served on the House Committee on Armed Services, and defense was very much in his mind and heart.

He provided leadership in that area. I recall particularly his call for an adequate civil defense program for America and the necessity of having an emergency preparedness scheme to protect our Nation and her people.

But Don Mitchell's finest hour perhaps occurred when the Department of the Air Force floated an ill-conceived idea that perhaps the Rome Air Development Center at the Griffiss Air Force Base in Rome, New York, one of the Nation's premier research and development facilities, dealing with command, control, communications and computer technology, and having a very sensitive role to play in intelligence technology, the Air Force thought that maybe Rome Air Development Center should be "disestablished," to use their word, and the assets scattered at other installations around the country.

Don Mitchell would not hear of it, and he led the fight, he was the quarterback of the team, and one year after that announcement was made of the Air Force's intention, Don Mitchell single-handedly convinced the officials in the Pentagon and the Department of the Air Force this should not occur, and it did not. And today, in the year 2000, that fine research and development facility still stands, and it is a tribute to Don Mitchell.

But in the intervening years, the BRAC commission closed the former Griffiss Air Force Base, but they set off in a controlment area that one magnificent R&D facility, and it is still serving our Nation well and proudly.

Don Mitchell has done so much for so many over the years, but let me tell you a little bit about the facility. When the Air Force was going to close the base and the hospital, a lot of people said that should not happen, because we still have a large veterans population, we still have a lot of military retirees and their dependents who need medical service, and we still had, at the Rome Air Development Center, a research laboratory where there were military families and their dependents.

Where were they to be served? I was able to convince the Department of Air Force, working in conjunction with the Veterans' Administration, to transfer that facility that was destined to be closed to the Veterans' Administration, who are operating it today as a full-service Veterans' Administration outpatient clinic, serving an average of 135 patients with quality medical care that they desire, but, more importantly, that they deserve, every single day.

That is a little bit about the facility; that is a lot of bit about the man.

So I want to commend the gentleman from Arizona (Chairman STUMP) for recognizing the importance of honoring a very distinguished American, and I would like to thank all of my colleagues in the House, Republicans and Democrats alike. Every single member of the New York Congressional delegation has cosponsored my bill to honor Mr. Mitchell.

So, collectively today, in the people's House, our House, we stand in the well and we salute a distinguished American.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS) for his work on this, and I would like to especially thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT) for bringing this to our attention.

Having served with Mr. Mitchell many, many years ago on the Committee on Armed Services, it is truly a pleasure to honor a great American hero in this fashion.

Madam 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 Arizona (Mr. STUMP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1982, as amended.

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

The title was amended so as to read: A bill to name the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Rome, New York, as the "Donald J. Mitchell Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic".

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1100

RECOGNIZING HEROES PLAZA IN CITY OF PUEBLO, COLORADO, AS HONORING RECIPIENTS OF MEDAL OF HONOR

Mr. STUMP. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 351) recognizing Heroes Plaza in the City of Pueblo, Colorado, as honoring recipients of the Medal of Honor.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 351

Whereas the Medal of Honor was established by Congress in 1862 and is the highest military declaration bestowed by the Nation;

Whereas the criteria for receiving the Medal of Honor are extraordinarily stringent, requiring that an individual, while a member of the Armed Forces, have "distinguish[ed] himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty" while engaged in combat and that there have been at least two eyewitnesses to the act;

Whereas fewer than 155 of the approximately 3,500 Americans who have been awarded the Medal of Honor are alive, including two who are natives of the City of Pueblo, Colorado;

Whereas the City of Pueblo, Colorado, will be the site for the September 2000 reunion of living recipients of the Medal of Honor; and

Whereas during that reunion, a Medal of Honor memorial, to be known as "Heroes Plaza", will be dedicated: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Heroes Plaza in the City of Pueblo, Colorado, is recognized, effective as of the September 2000 reunion of living Medal of Honor recipients in that city, as honoring the recipients of the Medal of Honor and honoring their commitment to the United States and to serving in the Armed Forces with courage, valor, and patriotism.

The SPEAKER pro tempore Mrs. EMERSON. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona Mr. STUMP and the gentleman from Illinois Mr. EVANS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona Mr. STUMP).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. STUMP. Madam 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 therein on H. Con. Res 351.

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

There was no objection.

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

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

Mr. STUMP. Madam Speaker, H. Con. Res. 351, recognizes Heroes Plaza in the City of Pueblo, Colorado, as honoring recipients of the Medal of Honor. The city will host the annual convention of the Medal of Honor Society later this year. I urge my colleagues to support passage of H. Con. Res. 351.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 351. This resolution recognizes Heroes Plaza in the City of Pueblo, Colorado, as honoring the recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor. During September of this year, the City of Pueblo will be host to a reunion of the living recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor. In conjunction with this gathering, it is indeed fitting and appropriate to recognize Heroes Plaza in Pueblo as honoring the recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

I want to thank all Members who have worked on this resolution. The gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS) is a leader in this effort, and sometime I will have to get down to Pueblo and see the program with the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS); and I salute him again for his work on this issue.

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

Mr. STUMP. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS), the sponsor of this resolution.

Mr. MCINNIS. Madam Speaker, first of all, I would like to thank the chairman, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr.

STUMP), for yielding me this time. I appreciate the fact that he expedited this resolution. Without his assistance, we would not have been able to move forward.

Madam Speaker, I also wish to acknowledge the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS) and appreciate very much his cooperation, and I would wholeheartedly invite the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS) to Pueblo, Colorado, but only based on a commitment from him that he give me an extra day or two to take him up into the mountains and do a little skiing or see a little of that snow, show him the third district.

Anyway, I appreciate the assistance of both of these gentlemen. Clearly, the resolution is very simple in its writing, but it is very deep in its thought. Pueblo, Colorado, has a population of 100,000 people; and of that population four of them have received the Medal of Honor, probably the highest number of Medal of Honor winners proportionate to population of any city in the country.

The City of Pueblo takes deep pride in the military. Their schools incorporate, within their schools, what the real definition of the word "hero" means.

The Medal of Honor winners, when they come to Pueblo for these annual dinners, take extra time and go around to these schools. Many of these schools are poor schools. They go around and speak to these students, and I will say it is really refreshing and relives or brings back up a deep sense of patriotism, for those of us who feel that it is very important.

So this year, the City of Pueblo is recognizing Heroes Plaza and have actually commissioned, and it is a very expensive undertaking, but they have commissioned four statues representing each of the four Medal of Honor winners of the City of Pueblo.

Unfortunately, two of those four have passed away in the past year and will not be present, obviously, for the occasion in September; but, nonetheless, we expect a very large gathering, and we think that this resolution adds to the patriotism of that particular gathering. So I do appreciate the expedited schedule, again thanks to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP), thanks to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS), and thanks to the Speaker pro tempore.

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

Madam Speaker, I would like at this time to thank once again the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS) for all his cooperation in bringing these bills to the floor today, and also thank the chairman of the Committee on Armed Services, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPENCE), and the ranking member, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON), for allowing us to expedite this measure today.

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

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