

and heroism: the rescue of the Bulgarian Jews from the Nazi Holocaust in 1943. In that critical moment of history, the Bulgarian people, from every walk of life, through a series of resolute actions, successfully stopped the deportation of Bulgaria's Jewish population to Nazi death camps.

Bulgaria was officially allied with Hitler Germany from March 1941 until September 1944, but anti-Semitism was never morally accepted by Bulgarian society. It is said that King Boris III and the majority of the Members of Parliament only reluctantly followed Hitler's official policies, resisting the implementation of anti-Jewish legislation and other restrictions in their entirety.

In February 1943, as a result of Nazi pressure, a secret agreement on the deportation of Bulgarian Jews to Germany was signed between Hitler's special envoy Dannecker and the Bulgarian Commissar on Jewish Affairs Belev. The plan was to start the secret deportation of Jews by cargo trains in the first days of March 1943.

Due to immediate public reaction and the resolute intervention of a group of active citizens, church leaders and politicians, led by the Deputy Speaker of the Bulgarian National Assembly Dimitar Peshev, the Minister of Interior Nikola Gabrovski was forced on March 9, 1943 to cancel deportation orders for Jews from several Bulgarian cities. The trains, which had been waiting to be loaded and sent to concentration camps in Poland, did not depart.

Unfortunately, about 12,000 Jews from Aegean Thrace and Macedonia, who did not at that time have Bulgarian citizenship and who had already been driven out of their homes by the special forces of the Jewish Commissariat, were deported through Bulgarian territory to Germany. The horrible sight of trains carrying Jews from Thrace and Macedonia crossing Bulgaria and strengthened even more the popular resistance against deportation.

Later in March 1943, 43 members of the Bulgarian Parliament from the ruling majority, led by the Deputy Speaker Dimitar Peshev, addressed a bold and decisive letter to the then-Prime Minister Bogdan Filov, in which they called a possible deportation of the Jews an "inadmissible act" which "grave moral and political consequences" for the country.

The Bulgarian Orthodox Church played a crucial part in mobilizing public support against the deportation and exerting its influence on the government. Metropolitans Sefan in Sofia and Kiril in Plovdiv actively contributed to this effort.

The broad popular and civil movement in defense of the Bulgarian Jews culminated in May 1943 when the plan of deportation was finally aborted. King Boris III played a decisive role in this decision by not ceding to Hitler's increasing pressure and by not allowing the deportation to happen. Many other political and professional organizations and groups of intellectuals actively participated in this national movement.

The credit as a whole belongs to the Bulgarian people who showed courage and strength in defending their fellow countrymen. Bulgarians today rightly feel proud of the actions of their predecessors to save from deportation and death nearly 50,000 Bulgarian Jews.

Bulgaria should be proud of this historical event, and its tradition of ethnic and religious tolerance. Bulgaria's history should be recog-

nized, and its people should be commended. Bulgaria should be an example to a region that has been torn apart by so much hatred and violence over the past decade. Let Bulgaria's history be an example to the Balkans and Southeastern Europe. Let Bulgaria's history be an example to all of Europe today, East and West, North and South, Old and New.

Madam Speaker, on this occasion, this Member urges strong support for this resolution and would also particularly like to thank Bulgaria, and the Bulgarian people, for Bulgaria's exceptionally strong support and cooperation with America in the international war on terrorism.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 77, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. CHABOT. 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.

RICHARD K. ARMEY ROOM

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 19) designating the room numbered H-236 in the House of Representatives wing of the Capitol as the "Richard K. Arme Room".

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 19

Whereas, at the end of the 107th Congress, Representative Richard K. Arme retired after 18 years of distinguished service in the House of Representatives, including service as the Majority Leader for 8 years, the longest tenure of any Republican Majority Leader in 92 years: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the room numbered H-236 in the House of Representatives wing of the Capitol shall be known and designated as the "Richard K. Arme Room".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS).

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

Madam Speaker, House Resolution 19 designates room 236 in the House wing of the United States Capitol as the

Richard K. Arme Room. Former Majority Leader Dick Arme represented the 26th Congressional District of Texas for 18 years, and his dedication to the 26th district and to the State of Texas had no bounds. He represented the constituents with honesty, integrity, and was passionate about his fiscally conservative principles. I now represent this same district and will follow in the same spirit. The people of this district, the State of Texas, and our great Nation are better off as a result of Dr. Arme's leadership in Congress.

Former Majority Leader Arme was the first of his family to attend college. He rose from humble beginnings in rural North Dakota to the pinnacle of American government. His was not a path of privilege but of hard work, dedication and strong beliefs. He earned a bachelor's degree from Jamestown College, a master's degree from the University of North Dakota, and a doctorate from the University of Oklahoma.

In 1984, Dr. Arme was elected to his first of nine terms in this body. He quickly made a name for himself as someone dedicated to sound public policies based on conservative principles. During his time in the House, he was instrumental in passage of public housing reform, closing of obsolete and unnecessary military bases, and farm legislation reform, each of which saved the American people money and allowed the Federal Government to better serve the communities impacted.

□ 1530

Dick Arme was also a steadfast conservative who advocated fundamental tax reform and brought the implementation of the flat tax to the national stage. These achievements and ideas all came as all of Dick Arme's accomplishments came, through hard work, persistence and dedication.

In 1992, Representative Arme was elected to the position of conference chairman of the House Republicans, the top policy position within the Republican Conference. In 1994, when Republicans won a majority of seats in this House of Representatives for the first time in 40 years, Representative Arme was elected to serve as majority leader, a position he held for 8 years, one of the longest terms of any majority leader in the history of this body.

In addition to his leadership roles, Majority Leader Arme also served as cochairman of the Joint Economic Committee and as chairman of the Select Committee on Homeland Security, which was responsible for writing the legislation creating the Department of Homeland Security.

The naming of Room 236 as the Richard K. Arme Room is a fitting tribute to a dedicated public servant. I support the legislation and encourage all of my colleagues to do the same.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H. Res. 19 would designate Room 236 in the House of Representatives as the Richard K. Arme y Room. H-236 is located in the Capitol and currently serves as a meeting room.

Mr. Arme y retired at the end of the 107th Congress after serving 18 years in the House. He was born in Cando, North Dakota, in 1940. After graduating from the local high school, he attended Jamestown College in Jamestown, North Dakota. He received his Master's Degree from the University of North Dakota and his Ph.D. from the University of Oklahoma.

Mr. Arme y taught for many years, holding positions at the University of Montana, West Texas State University, Austin College and North Texas State University. While at North Texas State, he was the Chairman of the Economics Department for 6 years.

In 1992, Congressman Arme y became the chairman of the House Republican Conference, and in 1994 he became the majority leader.

Designating this room in the Capitol is an appropriate recognition of Congressman Arme y's civic contributions and his dedicated public service.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUSSLE).

Mr. NUSSLE. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague from Texas for yielding me time.

Madam Speaker, this is a great pleasure for me. This is my resolution, and I cannot think of a prouder resolution and a more meaningful one to me to bring forward than this resolution here today.

A person's work here in Congress speaks much louder than rooms that are named after them or statues that may collect dust in the hallways. It is right and fitting and appropriate that we name this room after Dick Arme y, but I can tell you that the Dick Arme y I know cares very little about what room is named after him. He cares much more about the legacy he has left for his children and grandchildren and this great country we call America.

Some would say that the beauty of our democracy is that when somebody leaves the United States Congress they are quickly forgotten. In some respects that is sad, because we have some great Members who come through our body on both sides of the aisle, Members who go on to bigger and better things, some might say in the United States Senate or the other body as we refer to it, maybe down in the administration, maybe they go home and raise their family, open a business, teach school, whatever it might be. But the beauty of our system and our democracy really does lie in the fact that it is we the people, and that while one great Member passes, a new great Member can hopefully fill those shoes as we move forward.

Dick Arme y speaks often about something very simple that I happen to

believe is very profound. "Freedom works" is a slogan that he has coined, to some extent. It is a long way of saying we hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal and endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

It took a long sentence to get that out back in 1776, but today we can say it very simply as freedom works; freedom works in America, freedom works in our economy, freedom works in our workplace. Freedom may even work in Iraq. Freedom works in a lot of places, in a lot of places that we call America, and Dick Arme y has helped bring freedom to our country.

It is an unusual procedure to bring a resolution to the floor to name anything in the United States Capitol. We do so only under very unusual circumstances. If you walk through the halls, you will find many great leaders with their name on the door. I believe it is appropriate that we take a pause today and name a room. But the name that I think that Dick Arme y would find most appropriate on any room in this Capitol would be freedom.

The nice thing about this is that while I introduced this resolution, I did so with the full support of the Speaker of the House. I talked to him first, because you do not name rooms in the Capitol without talking to the Speaker. I also know I have the support of my entire conference. But what is even more enjoyable is to know we have the support of both sides of the aisle. Democrats who may have disagreed with Dick Arme y during his term had an enormous amount of respect for him, even though there was disagreement oftentimes, and that is true, I think, for many leaders that Republicans look to on the Democratic side as well.

This is a bipartisan resolution. Former leader Arme y is here in the Chamber today. I just want to say to my friend that this is as meaningful a public gesture as we can make, and we mean it with as much heartfelt wishes for you and your wife Susan, and the recognition that what you have done here has not been forgotten. Even though freedom works, our country continues, our democracy will flourish, and the Congress will continue to hopefully do good things that you will find enjoyable to watch from your new chair and your new seat.

Thank you very much for your service. We look forward to the opportunity when we can unveil this room some time in the near future.

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

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

Madam Speaker, the gentleman from Iowa is quite correct that it is hard to leave a legacy. The majority leader himself pointed out how service in this body does take a fair amount from one's family and one's time with one's

family. I am aware of the fact that the retiring majority leader is expecting two grandchildren next month, and what a wonderful legacy it will be for those children when they visit the Capitol in years to come, to visit Room 236, the Richard K. Arme y Room.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 19.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. 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.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 39 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1832

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FLAKE) at 6 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 441, by the yeas and nays;

H. Con. Res. 77, by the yeas and nays; and

H. Res. 19, by the yeas and nays.

Proceedings on H. Res. 122 and H. Con. Res. 85 will be postponed until tomorrow.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

OBSERVER STATUS FOR TAIWAN AT WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY IN MAY 2003 IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 441.