

It is fitting and proper to honor the distinguished Judge Watson with this designation, and I urge support for the bill.

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

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great enthusiasm in support of H.R. 1018, the bill designating the building located at 1 Federal Plaza in New York City as the "James L. Watson United States Court of International Trade Building."

I first introduced this bill in the 107th Congress when it was passed in the House but failed to be brought up in the hectic closing days of the Senate. I commend Chairman YOUNG and Ranking Member OBERSTAR for their commitment to this initiative and willingness to move the legislation early in the 108th Congress. I look forward to speedy action in the Senate to ensure enactment of this legislation that honors one of this nation's greatest jurists.

This bill will attach Judge Watson's name to the courthouse housing the U.S. Court of International Trade where he served for 36 years until his death, having achieved senior status in 1991. He was appointed to what was then the United States Customs Court in 1966 by President Lyndon B. Johnson. Reorganized and renamed by Congress in 1980, the court deals primarily with matters involving trade, including the classification and valuation of imported goods, tariffs, customs and duties and charges of unfair practices by U.S. trading partners.

Judge James L. Watson, who died at the age of 79 in the fall of 2001, was a fine man, a distinguished jurist and a pillar of the Harlem community where he was born. I was honored to have served as one of his law clerks soon after my graduation from law school.

Judge Watson was the nation's most senior African American federal judge, and was the first Black Customs Court judge in modern times assigned to cases in the deep South. As was the practice in the Customs Court, he was also assigned to preside over various criminal and civil matters in Federal District Courts across the country.

The scion of an accomplished family of lawyers, public servants and business people with roots in Jamaica, West Indies, Judge Watson had a distinguished career in New York, prior to his service on the Court of International Trade. After his service in the U.S. Army in WWII, he graduated from New York University and Brooklyn Law School. Moving from the private practice of law into the political arena, he was elected to the New York State Senate, where he served from 1954 to 1963, when he was elected to the Civil Court.

Long before this legislation, Judge Watson had placed his stamp on the functioning of the Court of International Trade. In 1970, he helped modernize the court, bringing it more in line with the rest of the federal judiciary and, as chairman of its committee on rules and practices, was instrumental in rewriting its rules and communications systems.

Judge Watson was a trailblazer in government and the law, with a reputation for fairness, good judgment, and the common touch with people. I will never be able to thank him enough for his service to our community and to our nation. More personally, I will be forever grateful for the opportunity he provided me as a young lawyer and the wisdom he instilled, which guides me to this day.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1018, a bill to designate the court of international trade building at 1 Federal Plaza in New York City as the "James L. Watson United States Court of International Trade Building." The House passed legislation regarding this designation in the 107th Congress, unfortunately, the other body never acted. I am glad that the House is acting on this bill early in the session so that there will be ample opportunity for the other body to complete action on it during this Congress.

Judge Watson, a native New Yorker, was born in Harlem in 1922 and lived and worked his entire life in New York. During World War II, he served with the legendary Buffalo Soldiers Division in the 371st Infantry Regiment, 92nd Division in World War II. After being wounded during service in Italy, he was decorated with a Purple Heart, the Battle Star, the Combat Infantry Badge, and a U.S. Army Commendation.

After the war, Judge Watson graduated from New York University in 1947 and from Brooklyn Law School in 1951. He was elected to the New York State Senate in 1954. In 1962, President Kennedy selected him to accompany then Vice-President Johnson to the Jamaican Independence celebration. In 1963, he was appointed to the Civil Court of New York and hired our colleague CHARLIE RANGEL as one of his staff attorneys. Congressman RANGEL has said: "Judge Watson was my friend and constituent for many years; he was the Judge for whom I clerked after completing law school; and the man who contributed with all of his heart to his family, his community and our Nation."

President Johnson appointed Judge Watson in 1966 to what was then known as the United States Customs Court, now known as the United States Court of International Trade. During his years on the Court of International Trade, he worked to help modernize the Court and facilitated the introduction of computers into the courtroom. After 36 years on the bench, Judge Watson took senior status in 1991. He passed away at his home in Harlem in 2001.

Mr. Speaker, Judge Watson was the Nation's most senior ranking African-American Federal judge and enjoyed a national reputation for handling or fair and just sentences. He was a sought-after public speaker, who served on both the Board of Visitors of Fordham University and the board of the Harlem YMCA. Judge Watson's life serves as a model of diligence, hard work, and fairness. Many, many people, including colleagues, politicians, and other lawyers, sought the wise advice and sage counsel of Judge Watson.

I urge all Members to support H.R. 1081 and honor Judge Watson by naming the building in which he served with distinction for over three decades in his honor.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1018.

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. LATOURETTE. 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.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATOURETTE. 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. 166 and H.R. 1018.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

COMMEMORATING 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORPHAN DRUG ACT AND NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR RARE DISORDERS

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 147) commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Orphan Drug Act and the National Organization for Rare Disorders, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 147

Whereas Congress passed, and President Ronald Reagan signed into law on January 4, 1983, the Orphan Drug Act;

Whereas there are many diseases and conditions, such as Huntington's disease, myoclonus, ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease), Tourette syndrome, and muscular dystrophy, that affect such small numbers of individuals—populations under 200,000—residing in the United States that the diseases and conditions are considered rare;

Whereas there are 6,000 known rare diseases and conditions, affecting approximately 25,000,000 Americans;

Whereas these rare diseases and conditions are sometimes referred to as "orphan" diseases and conditions, and drugs (including biological products) to treat them are sometimes referred to as "orphan drugs";

Whereas, prior to 1983, because so few individuals were affected by any one orphan disease or condition, a pharmaceutical company that developed an orphan drug may have reasonably expected the drug to generate relatively small sales in comparison to the cost of developing the drug and, therefore, to incur a financial loss;

Whereas the object of the Orphan Drug Act was to stimulate the development of orphan drugs;

Whereas the Orphan Drug Act is one of the most successful Federal laws enacted in the last 20 years;

Whereas, prior to 1983, less than 40 therapies existed to treat orphan diseases and conditions as compared today to the more than 238 drugs, foods, and devices that now exist to treat an estimated 11,000,000 patients in the United States;

Whereas 85 percent of orphan drugs are being used to treat serious or life-threatening diseases, 31 percent treat rare forms of cancer, and approximately 50 percent are approved for pediatric uses;

Whereas the National Organization for Rare Disorders, established in 1983, is a federation of voluntary health organizations dedicated to helping people with orphan diseases and conditions and assisting the organizations that serve them; and

Whereas the National Organization for Rare Disorders is committed to the identification, treatment, and cure of orphan diseases and conditions through programs of education, advocacy, research, and service: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That the Congress celebrates the 20th anniversary of the Orphan Drug Act and the National Organization for Rare Disorders, and recognizes the great contributions the Orphan Drug Act has made to the rare disease community.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) and the gentleman from Maine (Mr. ALLEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BILIRAKIS. 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. 147.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 147 which commemorates the 20th anniversary of the Orphan Drug Act and the National Organization for Rare Disorders. This legislation, introduced by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY), was unanimously approved by the Committee on Energy and Commerce on April 30 of this year.

H. Con. Res. 147 recognizes the great contribution the Orphan Drug Act has made to the rare disease community. In the decade before the Orphan Drug Act was enacted, only 10 new treatments for orphan diseases were developed. In the 20 years since it was passed, more than 200 new drugs, foods and devices have been approved by the Food & Drug Administration, and an additional 900 are in various stages of development.

These treatments for rare disorders treat an estimated 11 million patients in the United States. Eighty-five percent of orphan drugs are being used to treat serious or life-threatening diseases, 31 percent treat rare forms of cancer, and approximately 50 percent are approved for pediatric uses.

Last year President Bush signed into law two important bills dealing with rare diseases. The Rare Diseases Act of 2002 established an Office of Rare Diseases at the National Institutes of Health, while the Rare Diseases Orphan Product Development Act of 2002 increased funding for the Food and Drug Administration's Orphan Product Research Grants Program. I am glad we are following the enactment of these important bills by recognizing both the original Orphan Drug Act and the National Organization for Rare Disorders, which has advocated tirelessly for the victims of rare diseases.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this important resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) for his work on this bill. I am proud to support H. Con. Res. 147, legislation which commemorates the 20th anniversary of the Orphan Drug Act and the National Organization for Rare Disorders.

Approximately 25 million Americans suffer from more than 6,000 rare diseases. These diseases include Huntington's disease, Lou Gehrig's disease, cystic fibrosis, and Duchenne muscular dystrophy. Because of the relatively small patient populations associated with rare diseases, pharmaceutical firms are concerned about receiving an adequate return on their investment in developing medications to treat them.

In response to this problem, Congress passed the Orphan Drug Act on January 4, 1983, which allows for incentives, such as market exclusivity, for products developed for rare diseases. Additionally, the Food and Drug Administration has been able to support small clinical trials through Orphan Products Research Grants. The Orphan Drug Act has been effective, leading to the development of more than 183 drugs and four medical devices for rare diseases.

I also note that the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) was a key leader in the development of the Orphan Drug Act. The success and longevity of the Orphan Drug Act are a tribute to his skillful work on this legislation 2 decades ago.

We are also here today to recognize and commemorate the National Organization for Rare Disorders. NORD is a unique federation of voluntary health organizations dedicated to helping people with rare, also known as "orphan", diseases and assisting the organizations that serve them. NORD is committed to the identification, treatment and cure of rare disorders through programs of education, advocacy, research and service.

The purpose of this legislation is to recognize the contributions that the Orphan Drug Act has made to the rare disease community and to commemorate the 20th anniversary of both the Orphan Drug Act and the National Organization of Rare Disorders. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in support of H. Con. Res. 147.

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY), the writer of this resolution.

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), who is known as Mr. Health in Florida, for the gentleman's help on this important issue.

I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 147, a bill recognizing the 20th anniversary of the enactment of the Orphan Drug Act and the creation of the National Organization for Rare Disorders.

For many years, 25 million plus Americans suffering from more than 6,000 rare diseases and disorders, including Huntington's disease, ALS, known as Lou Gehrig's disease, Tourettes syndrome and muscular dystrophy, were denied access to effective medicines because prescription drug manufacturers could rarely make a profit from marketing drugs for such small groups of patients.

A rare disease is a disease that affects a population of less than 200,000 people. Currently, one in nine Americans have a rare disease. Due to the low number of affected patients, the prescription drug industry did not adequately fund research into such treatments. Despite the urgent health need for these medicines, they became known as orphan drugs because no company would commercialize them.

On January 4, 1983, Congress passed and President Ronald Reagan signed into law the Orphan Drug Act. This legislation created financial incentives for research and production of such orphan drugs. In addition, a new Federal program at the National Institutes of Health and the Food and Drug Administration encouraged clinical research and commercial product development for products that target rare diseases.

As a result of this incredible law, which was produced in coordination with Congress, the White House and the pharmaceutical industry, over 238 drugs, biologics, foods and devices now exist, as compared to less than 40 therapies that existed before the law was enacted. Undoubtedly, this can easily be described as one of the most effective laws this Chamber has ever passed.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize an organization which has been committed to bringing a voice to the most underserved medical population in the world, those suffering from rare diseases, the National Organization for Rare Diseases.

NORD, established soon after the signing of the Orphan Drug Act, is a federation of voluntary health organizations dedicated to helping people with orphan diseases and conditions and assisting the organizations that serve them.

NORD has been and will continue to be committed to the identification, treatment, and cure of orphan diseases and conditions through programs of education, advocacy, research and service.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take a moment to thank the gentleman from Louisiana (Chairman Tauzin), the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), the ranking member, the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), and, of course, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) for their effective work and advocacy of this issue. I would also like to thank Bradley Schriber, my legislation counsel, who joins me on the floor today, who first brought this legislation to my attention.

For me, it is a personal sense of pride, because it was the first bill that was a freestanding bill that I authored that was signed into law, and I have the momentous pen in my office. I can look back on my career in Congress and know that in some small way we played a critical role in helping those voices who may be in the minority but are suffering just as those who are suffering from better-known diseases, if you will. I am delighted to be part of this, and I am glad it was brought to the floor today, and I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing this very important year for the millions of men and women and children in this medical minority.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN).

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in voting for Hon. Con. Res. 147, commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Orphan Drug Act and the National Organization for Rare Diseases. As the principal author of the Orphan Drug Act, I am extremely proud of what has been achieved as a result of this landmark legislation.

Almost one in 10 of us is afflicted with what are called rare diseases, diseases that affect fewer than 200,000 people. And yet before 1983 if you were unlucky enough to suffer from such a disease, you had little or no hope that a treatment or cure would be developed. The market for a drug for an individual with a rare disease simply was not large enough for the pharmaceutical companies to justify the high cost of developing a potential treatment.

The Orphan Drug Act was the first in a line of important laws that utilized creative new market incentives to encourage pharmaceutical innovation. No one was more important in the fight to pass orphan drug legislation than Abbey Meyers and the group she founded, the National Organization for Rare Disorders, or NORD. For the last 20 years, NORD has fought tirelessly for people with rare diseases, supported research, pushed for Federal funding and spread information about rare diseases. NORD's work, and the strides we have made against rare diseases thanks to the Orphan Drug Act, justly deserve to be honored in this resolution. I want to join my colleagues in urging that this matter be passed by the House.

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. 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 Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 147, 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. BILIRAKIS. 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.

□ 1432

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida) at 6 o'clock and 30 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. Con. Res. 166, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 1018, by the yeas and nays;

H. Con. Res. 147, by the yeas and nays.

The first and third electronic votes will be conducted as 15-minute votes. The second vote in this series will be a 5-minute vote.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS IN SUPPORT OF BUCKLE UP AMERICA WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 166.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 166, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 377, nays 2, not voting 55, as follows:

[Roll No. 192]

YEAS—377

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen

Andrews
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Ballance

Ballenger
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bass
Beauprez

Becerra
Bell
Bereuter
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boucher
Boyd
Bradley (NH)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brown (OH)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite,
Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza
Carson (IN)
Carson (OK)
Carter
Castle
Chabot
Chocola
Clay
Clyburn
Coble
Cole
Collins
Combest
Cooper
Costello
Cox
Cramer
Crane
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Culberson
Cummings
Cunningham
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DeMint
Deutsch
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Doggett
Dooley (CA)
Doolittle
Dreier
Duncan
Dunn
Edwards
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Farr
Ferguson
Filner
Flake
Foley
Forbes
Ford

Fossella
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Frost
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Goss
Granger
Green (TX)
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Grijalva
Gutknecht
Hall
Harman
Harris
Hart
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hensarling
Herger
Hill
Hinchee
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoeffel
Hoekstra
Holt
Honda
Hoolley (OR)
Hostettler
Houghton
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Inslee
Isakson
Israel
Issa
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Janklow
John
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kaptur
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kleczka
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
LaHood
Lampson
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Lowey
Lucas (KY)

Lucas (OK)
Majette
Maloney
Manzullo
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCollum
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McInnis
McIntyre
McKeon
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Mica
Michaud
Millender-
McDonald
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Napolitano
Nethercutt
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nunes
Nussle
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Osborne
Ose
Otter
Oxley
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pearce
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Portman
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Quinn
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sabo
Sanchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders