

The thing, I guess, that really stands out for me, in the midst of this devastation, it was so neat to see how communities come together, how people work together and all kinds of acts of kindness from family member to family member and from neighbor to neighbor and community to community. It was amazing to see what takes place when devastation hits an area.

The resolution just expresses our commendation for those individuals, those local officials, those families, those people in west central and north central Ohio who did such an outstanding job dealing with the devastation that took place.

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

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend and colleague, Ms. MARCY KAPTUR from Ohio, for as much time as she may consume.

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank the gentleman for yielding. Thank you distinguished Chairman LYNCH, and my dear friend from our delegation Congressman JIM JORDAN.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to rise in support of House Resolution 728, which speaks to the issue of the flooding throughout Ohio in August of this year.

Congressman JORDAN and I stood shoulder to shoulder with the late Congressman Paul Gillmor in Findlay to survey the devastating 100-year flood level. This flooding ripped through the heart of many small towns in northwest Ohio, burying our communities in feet of mud and water while washing away the dreams of so many today.

We know there are probably over \$100 million worth of damages. We owe so much to all the emergency workers—to the fire, to the police, to the local officials like Mayor Iriti, who I thought, did an outstanding job—for trying to address this situation, which wasn't any of their fault or our fault. You had 15 inches of rain within 24 hours; and this flood truly was different.

Instead of simply devastating our community, the flood also sent a shock wave through all of us on the challenge of fresh water management that our region, our very flat region, faces.

It is ironic that in Ohio we were talking about too much water at a time when, now, Georgia and the southeastern States are experiencing record droughts. We know in our region the status quo is not acceptable. We were very pleased that Secretary Chertoff joined us and offered the continuing help of FEMA to address the damage from these floods in August. We knew that our region had potential water management problems. But we never thought they would come now so quickly. We had launched a watershed management partnership in the Western Lake Erie Basin to handle the growing levels of storm water runoff.

The Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Department of Agriculture have driven forward a remarkable partnership that is unique in its scope any-

where in the country for what it is trying to accomplish. At the center of this assessment is the understanding that we must better manage our fresh water asset for the future.

It is our competitive advantage, without question, in the Great Lakes States. We have been buffeted in our region by globalization, but we will not give up our greatest asset. We know we must manage it with a comprehensive basinwide solution.

I think this flooding was a real clarion call to people in our region. We saw the levels of damage and now having to remediate after the fact. But had we had in place structures and systems to handle this level of water, we would not have had the level of damage that we experienced. We know that the level of rainfall was extraordinarily large, but the point is, we were not properly prepared for it, and we have now had this clarion call.

We were very fortunate that the loss of life was minimized, but, nonetheless, people are still digging out. I think this resolution is a very important step forward as we try to handle this precious global asset of fresh water in our region in a much, much wiser way so that we can avoid the flooding of the future.

Even Marathon Oil had eight feet of water in its corporate headquarters in Findlay, Ohio. Business leaders, the chamber, a broad band of public officials and private sector leadership across the region recognize we can't go through this again. We have to think about dry dams. We have to think of reservoirs. We have to think of ways to avoid hundreds of millions of dollars worth of damage and put those dollars to work avoiding that kind of disaster in the future.

In recognizing all of those who helped to handle this enormous tragedy that befell our area, we also look to the future and the fact that we have the Western Lake Erie Basin partnership as a building block toward the future in order to make the future better than the past and to learn the lessons that history has now taught us.

I am very pleased to join my colleagues here today, Congressman LYNCH, who has taken such great leadership on this measure. We, in Ohio, appreciate the response of all the emergency personnel who did so very much, and to the people who suffered, and also to Congressman JIM JORDAN for bringing this to the floor today. We are joined hand in hand as we move forward together in northern Ohio to better manage our fresh water asset for future generations.

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Let me, too, just thank Congressman LYNCH and Congresswoman KAPTUR. Congresswoman KAPTUR has been right at the front of looking at this in a comprehensive way, and we appreciate that. She talked about our mayors both in Findlay and Shelby, Ohio, who have done so much work and who are looking at this overall approach.

Also, we talked about our local officials. I don't know if we mentioned our two U.S. Senators who have been very helpful in this effort as well, looking at this in a broad way.

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

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 728.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

BOSTON RED SOX VICTORY IN 2007 MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL WORLD SERIES

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 782) expressing the sense of the House with respect to the Boston Red Sox victory in the 2007 Major League Baseball World Series.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 782

Whereas in the early moments of October 29, 2007, the Boston Red Sox won their second World Series title in four seasons by besting the Colorado Rockies in just four games;

Whereas the Red Sox won their seventh world title in the 107-year history of the storied franchise;

Whereas the 2007 Red Sox World Champion team epitomized sportsmanship, selfless play, team spirit, determination, and heart in the course of winning 96 games in the regular season, winning the American League East Division Championship;

Whereas Josh Beckett, the major league's only 20-game winner in the 2007 regular season, cemented his place as one of the greatest post-season pitchers of all time, winning four games in the playoffs, including a dominating performance in Game One of the World Series, and keeping the hopes of Red Sox Nation alive by overpowering the Cleveland Indians in Game 5 of the American League Championship series when the team was down 3 games to 1;

Whereas Curt Schilling proved once again his greatness as a post-season pitcher by winning Game 2 of the World Series;

Whereas rookie sensation Daisuke Matsuzaka followed with a win in Game 3, tossing his famed gyroball on baseball's biggest stage;

Whereas left-hander Jon Lester completed a storybook comeback by overcoming adversity and leading his team to victory from the mound by pitching 5 and two-thirds scoreless innings, winning Game Four and completing the sweep;

Whereas Mike Lowell was named the Most Valuable Player of the World Series after batting .400 while scoring six runs and batting in four more, capping off a stellar regular season with an equally impressive post-season and capturing a richly deserved honor;

Whereas Jonathan Papelbon demonstrated complete dominance as the team's closer,

saving three of the four World Series games for the Red Sox and not allowing a run in the 10 and two thirds post-season innings he pitched;

Whereas team captain Jason Varitek once again exemplified the qualities that make him a great team's great captain, guiding his pitching staff with patience and determination, and making one of the toughest positions in baseball seem effortless;

Whereas the 2007 post-season produced many memorable moments from young players and veterans alike, including emerging talents like Dustin Pedroia, Jacoby Ellsbury, and Hideki Okajima and more seasoned players like Kevin Youkilis, J.D. Drew, Bobby Kielty, Coco Crisp, Julio Lugo, and Mike Timlin;

Whereas David Ortiz and Manny Ramirez further enhanced their legendary status as two of the game's greatest hitters ever throughout the regular season and beyond;

Whereas the 2007 Red Sox also included the longest serving member of the Red Sox franchise, Tim Wakefield, along with other integral players Manny Delcarmen, Julian Tavaraz, Eric Gagne, Javier Lopez, Kyle Snyder, Doug Mirabelli, Alex Cora, and Eric Hinske;

Whereas the 2007 season brought fans many magical moments, including rookie Clay Buchholz's September no-hitter in just his second major league start;

Whereas Red Sox Manager Terry Francona continued to lead his team with grace and a steady hand, transforming them into one of the greatest Red Sox teams of all time and capturing his second World Series title in just 4 short years;

Whereas Red Sox owners John Henry and Tom Werner and Red Sox President and Chief Executive Officer Larry Lucchino continued their quest to field the best team in baseball, culminating in another World Series celebration for Red Sox Nation;

Whereas Red Sox Executive Vice President/General Manager Theo Epstein assembled all the parts for a winning team that featured the major league's best pitching staff, a dominant offense, and most important, the hearts and souls of true champions;

Whereas the entire Red Sox organization maintains a strong commitment to charitable causes in New England, demonstrated by the team's decades-long support of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute's Jimmy Fund in the fight against childhood cancers;

Whereas Red Sox fans are everywhere, in the ball parks of opposing teams, in every State in the Union and in many foreign lands; and

Whereas a grateful Red Sox Nation thanks the team for an unforgettable season and for bringing another World Championship home to Boston: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates—

(A) the Boston Red Sox for winning the 2007 Major League Baseball World Series and for all of their accomplishments during a stellar 2007 regular season; and

(B) the eight Major League Baseball teams that played in the postseason;

(2) recognizes the achievements of the Boston Red Sox players, manager, coaches, and support staff whose hard work, dedication, and spirit made this all possible;

(3) commends—

(A) the Colorado Rockies for a solid year, including an impressive late season surge that brought them to their first World Series; and

(B) the fans and management of the Colorado Rockies for their hospitality towards all the Red Sox fans who traveled to Denver for the World Series; and

(4) directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the 2007 Boston Red Sox team;

(B) Red Sox Manager Terry Francona;

(C) Red Sox General Manager Theo Epstein;

(D) Red Sox President and Chief Executive Officer Larry Lucchino;

(E) Red Sox Principal Owner John Henry; and

(F) Red Sox Chairman Tom Werner.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 days within which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleagues in the House and in the Senate and my mom and dad and the entire Red Sox Nation in consideration of House Resolution 782, a bill that congratulates the Boston Red Sox baseball team, our beloved Boston Red Sox baseball team, for winning the 2007 Major League Baseball World Series.

House Resolution 782 was introduced by my friend and colleague, Representative MICHAEL CAPUANO. The Boston Red Sox baseball team did indeed win their second World Series in four seasons, defeating the Colorado Rockies 4-3 in game four at Coors Field in Denver, Colorado, on Sunday, October 28, 2007.

The Red Sox are the first team in this century to win multiple championships since the year 2000. Kevin Youkilis, the first baseman for the Red Sox said, "Pitching will lead you all the way," and that was it, great pitching and timely hitting. This team is now rightfully the best team in baseball.

The Red Sox won the 2004 and 2007 World Series under the great management of Terry Francona. We in Red Sox Nation wish to congratulate the management of the Boston Red Sox baseball team, the players, the coaches, the fans and the entire Red Sox community.

I commend my colleague, Representative CAPUANO, and Fenway Park is actually in his district. I want to thank him for congratulating the Boston Red Sox for winning the 2007 Major League Baseball World Series. From all the members of the delegation, we appreciate his hard work on this matter.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, like the Speaker, growing up a Big Red

Machine fan, I still remember those teams with Johnny Bench, Joe Morgan, Tony Perez, in sixth grade, watching that series.

I rise to recognize the most recent achievements of the Boston Red Sox and commend their victory in the 2007 Major League Baseball World Series. In the last few years, the Red Sox have distinguished themselves as one of the most dominant teams in baseball. Of course, this was not always the case.

After winning their fifth World Series in 1918, their regular season successes were often met by postseason disappointment. Those were the old Red Sox.

In this century, we have the new Red Sox, the team that entered the 2004 playoffs as a wild card and then proceeded to mount one of the most memorable comebacks in baseball history down three games to zero against their arch rival, the New York Yankees.

They came back to win the American League Championship Series and ultimately went on to break the Curse of the Bambino, winning the 2004 World Series in four straight games against the St. Louis Cardinals. In 2007, after winning the American League East Division, the Red Sox again faced adversity in the American League Championship Series down 3-1 to that other great team in Ohio, the Cleveland Indians. They persevered, winning three games in a row to once again represent the American League in the World Series.

The Red Sox went on to win this series again in four games, sweeping the red-hot Colorado Rockies behind the leadership of Manager Terry Francona. The 2007 Red Sox did it all. I congratulate them and their team and the entire Red Sox community.

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

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague and friend, MICHAEL CAPUANO, for as much time as he may consume.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to apologize to you for some of the pain that this moment may be inflicting. I didn't expect you to be in the chair. I just want to express my personal regrets that you have to suffer through this as a lifelong Yankee fan.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman doesn't know the half of it.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to add my voice and congratulations to the Red Sox on behalf of the entire Red Sox Nation, which has always been strong but now growing across the country. Every road game they played, they filled up stadiums, and they filled it up both with supporters of the opponents, because they came to see good baseball and with Red Sox fans they found everywhere across this country.

I will tell you they epitomized, on behalf of all of us, what is good about sports and what is good about America. Baseball is still America's game; it's still America's pastime. We all love watching it, but I will tell you, I will

admit that, as a lifelong Red Sox fan, I always had my doubts until the last play of the last game.

I always figured we could find a way to blow it like we did for 86 years. They are slowly turning me around, and one by one, one game at a time, now two in the last 4 years, maybe I will get over the initial years of my Red Sox days always figuring, come late in the season, the Yankees would sneak up on us and clobber us from behind.

I will tell you that it is nice to begin the new century this way, but I also remember that we started off the last century pretty well too, but then we hit a wall. I don't expect that will happen, I expect this will continue on and on for the Red Sox. As you have probably noted, the Red Sox didn't just keep it all to themselves. They have now handed it off to the Patriots and the Boston College Eagles, and hopefully the Celtics will be able to gain the same type of traction that the Red Sox did.

I end my remarks by simply saying congratulations to the Red Sox. Thank you for a wonderful year on behalf of all of my constituents.

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

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to another friend of Red Sox Nation, part of Red Sox Nation from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY).

Mr. COURTNEY. Thank you, Congressman LYNCH, for letting me join in on today's resolution.

I come from the southern end of Red Sox Nation in eastern Connecticut. We are still closer to Fenway Park than we are to Yankee Stadium or Shea Stadium, so it's still safe for me to publicly speak out on this resolution.

As someone from a multigenerational Red Sox family like Mr. CAPUANO, we suffered and worried and have terrible memories, but obviously this is not our fathers' Red Sox any more.

□ 1245

This is a great team that combined a lot of new players, Dustin Pedroia, "Jake" Jacoby Ellsbury, Daisuke Matsuzaka, along with the 2004 veterans of the last World Series, to again have another great exciting season, particularly the ALCS where they came back down 3-1.

As Mr. CAPUANO said, Red Sox Nation extends far and wide. Last March I was on board the USS *Alexandria*, a nuclear submarine out of Groton, Connecticut, under the ice in Alaska. I spent a day driving around with a great crew, professional and just so impressive in the work they do for our Nation. Sat down for breakfast after sleeping onboard the ship and was immediately confronted by the sailors who said they had only one question for me. I figured it was the war on Iraq, health care. And the one question was, Yankees or Red Sox? I was able to reassure them that I was a Red Sox fan, since they all were as well.

But one of the sailors indicated to me that he was coming up for re-enlist-

ment and his dream was to do it in Fenway Park in front of the Green Monster. When I came back to Washington, we contacted President Lucchino of the Red Sox, who bent over backwards for this sailor and his family, his fiancée, and they did, in fact, stage a re-enlistment ceremony in front of the Green Monster, wearing the 2004 ring as he signed the papers, committing himself again to our Nation. And I just want to read from the Boston Globe the comment of Petty Officer Vecchione who said, "It's a sacred place. I had the ring on my finger as if I was married to the Red Sox for a few minutes."

And I think really what that incident showed, though, is that we have a management who sees that it's a two-way street in Red Sox Nation. We love our players, but they love their fans; and that's why we have such a great fan base who are so passionate about this incredible team that goes back to the early days of baseball.

And I appreciate again the bipartisan support and even the support from some Members who root for other teams in this resolution and urge its passage.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, before I yield additional time, I just want to relate anecdotally how the extent of the Red Sox Nation is expanding.

About a month ago I happened to visit Afghanistan and Pakistan. And while in Afghanistan, I traveled with the 173rd Airborne up in a little place called Nahre. It's about 8,000 feet up into the mountains of Afghanistan. And while I was there, the helicopter, it was not pressurized so it only took us up so far, and then we had to walk up a little ways to the outpost where the 173rd was conducting operations on the Pakistani border, and when we were approaching the camp, there were a group of Afghani villagers off to the righthand side digging a ditch. And while most of them had the traditional headdress of the Afghans at that time on in their project, I did notice one gentleman, an Afghani, probably about 30 years old. And on close inspection, there he was, 8,000 feet in the mountains of Afghanistan, an Afghani villager wearing a Boston Red Sox baseball cap. And that is an indication of how widespread and popular the movement behind the Red Sox has become.

And in closing, I would just like to thank the Red Sox organization. As a corporate citizen, its owners, its managers, its players, coaches, there is no shortage of kindness that they have shown to every cause. From Curt Schilling's support of ALS and the efforts against that disease, David Ortiz and his efforts to help alleviate the effect of the hurricanes in the Dominican Republic, there's no shortage of kindness and good citizenship that has been exhibited by this organization. We recognize them for their excellence.

Mr. Speaker, at this point, in a moment of questionable wisdom, I am actually going to yield to a Mets fan, the

gentleman from New York (Mr. WEINER), for 1 minute, because I am not quite sure what he might say.

Mr. WEINER. Look, I rise without any compunction to offer some level of congratulations to the Red Sox. As the Speaker knows, and you know I'm a Mets fan, so when we played you in 1986, it wasn't that big of a problem. And as bad as our collapse was this year, we have a great deal of empathy for the fans of the Boston Red Sox.

And I must admit there are some genuinely likable players on the Red Sox. This guy, Kevin Youkilis, whom you know, Mr. LYNCH, his great grandfather was named Weiner. So perhaps way back when, there was some baseball talent in the Weiner family, although none has been displayed recently in the congressional baseball game.

And it's no doubt about it that Manny Ramirez from Washington Heights, the New York connection, and Mike Lowell, the MVP, it's hard not to root for that guy.

But I have to say I'm a little surprised there isn't language in this resolution in reference to the MVT, the most valuable traitor. I seem to recall reading that Rudolph Giuliani, that vaunted Yankee fan, who for years and years would put the Yankee pin stripes on, and even has World Series rings, I understand, in his collection, stood up and said that he too was pulling for the Boston Red Sox.

Now, I think there should be some kind of a—

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's time has expired.

Mr. LYNCH. Thank God. Mr. Speaker, I have been remiss, and I would like to at this time yield to my great friend and colleague from Rhode Island, Representative JAMES LANGEVIN, who is a die-hard Red Sox fan and a leader of Red Sox Nation, for whatever time he may consume.

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. I thank the gentleman for yielding on this historic occasion and for the purpose of a great celebration and recognizing the great victory of the Boston Red Sox in this year's World Series.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 782, a resolution that congratulates the Boston Red Sox on winning the World Series on October 28, 2007. As a life-long Red Sox fan, I am so pleased to be here with the rest of the New England delegation to show our appreciation for the Red Sox players, coaches, front office, and the rest of the Red Sox Nation.

The 2007 Red Sox were dominant from the beginning of the season, which is not easy when you have 162 regular season games in a year. In the World Series, the Red Sox faced the Colorado Rockies, a team that had won 21 of their last 22 games, leading up to the last showdown. That statistic didn't faze the Red Sox at all, though;

and whether it was in Boston or Denver, the pitchers made their pitches and the batters showed how hard it was to get an out in their lineup.

With a sense of inevitability, the Red Sox swept the Rockies in four games to win their second World Series in 4 years.

Every player on the team made a contribution. From veterans like Curt Schilling to rookies like Jacoby Ellsbury, Mike Lowell, who helped to keep the Red Sox on top during the regular season and rightfully won the World Series Most Valuable Player.

The 2007 Red Sox not only worked hard; they enjoyed themselves as well and kept the fans entertained, which is easy to do when you love what you do and you're good at it.

We watched Jonathan Papelbon strike out batters, and then we waited for a celebratory dance at the end of the game. It's not often in professional sports that you see a team full of players that has such a strong bond.

It's always a good year when you can follow your baseball team all the way from the beginning of April to the end of October. It's an even better year when they can take the World Series trophy on a parade through Boston.

The 2007 Red Sox played this year with confidence and class and showed us the true definition of team. I look forward to 2008 and adding on to two World Series trophies that we've already won this century.

Again, my congratulations to a great team. Congratulations Boston Red Sox and Red Sox Nation.

I thank my colleague from Massachusetts for yielding, along with his great comments.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, seeing no further speakers on this matter, I yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 782.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PURPLE HEART FAMILY EQUITY ACT OF 2007

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1119) to amend title 36, United States Code, to revise the congressional charter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the United States of America, Incorporated, to authorize associate membership in the corporation for the spouse of a recipient of the Purple Heart medal, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1119

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Purple Heart Family Equity Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP IN THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, INCORPORATED.

Section 140503(b) of title 36, United States Code, is amended by striking "parents and lineal descendants" and inserting "the parents, spouse, siblings, and lineal descendants".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ZOE LOFGREN) and the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 1119, the Purple Heart Family Equity Act of 2007, provides an excellent opportunity for us to recognize and honor the brave women as well as brave men who served our Nation in the armed services.

As many of you know, the Purple Heart is awarded to Armed Forces members who are wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy, and posthumously to the next of kin for those who are killed in action or who die of wounds received in action. It is specifically a combat decoration first conceived in 1782 by General George Washington.

Seventy-five years ago, an organization now known as the Military Order of the Purple Heart was formed for the purposes of protecting the mutual interests of all those who have received the decoration. Composed exclusively of Purple Heart recipients, it is the only veterans service organization comprised strictly of combat veterans.

When the order was federally chartered in 1958, however, very few women had received the Purple Heart. And to this day, women recipients of the Purple Heart do not have the same benefits as their male counterparts.

Under the current law, male members can invite their wives to join the Ladies Auxiliary of the Purple Heart, but there is no place in the order for husbands of Purple Heart recipients. The order has identified at least 97 female purple heart recipients who have joined and who are not enjoying the full benefits of membership that they deserve.

H.R. 1119 seeks to fully honor the women of the Armed Forces who have been awarded the Purple Heart defending our Nation. Specifically, the bill amends the order's Federal charter to allow members to invite their spouses

to join as associate members, both for male and female recipients of the Purple Heart. With this minor revision to the Federal charter, the husbands of female members could join the organization.

This bill also allows members to invite their siblings to join as associate members so that they too can take part in the full honor of their brothers and sisters who fought so bravely for our country and received a Purple Heart. It is only right that we allow the members to include their siblings in this honor.

This bipartisan legislation is endorsed by the Military Order of the Purple Heart. It recognizes the important role women have played in defending our Nation in times of war.

□ 1300

We owe this long overdue recognition to these women and their families. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I thank the gentlewoman for her presentation of H.R. 1119.

The Military Order of the Purple Heart of the United States of America was founded in 1932. And as the gentlewoman stated, it goes back to George Washington. It's rich in our heritage, and it's precious in our reference to those who have bled for this Nation and for the freedom of the people here in the United States of America. It was recognized by the Veterans Administration and represents "veterans in the presentation of claims before the . . . administration," this is the Military Order of the Purple Heart, and also "its service officers are active in veterans hospitals." The organization was federally chartered in 1958.

Active members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart must be persons of good moral character who have received the Purple Heart for wounds received as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces or for those of any country during military combat against an armed enemy of the United States.

The Military Order of the Purple Heart is a sterling organization that provides services to those brave Americans who were wounded defending our country. The order also seeks to promote "patriotic allegiance to the United States, fidelity to the Constitution and laws of the United States, and the security of civil liberty and the permanence of free institutions." And that's all out of their mission. Its goals are "educational, fraternal, historical, and patriotic, perpetuating the principles of liberty and justice which have created the United States." In short, Mr. Speaker, the Military Order of the Purple Heart upholds many of the pillars of American exceptionalism.

Parents or lineal descendants of persons eligible to be active members can be associate members of the order. The order has requested that its charter be