

Of the 120 cemeteries the VA National Cemetery Administration manages, 58 of them are no longer accepting interments. In anticipation of this, a cemetery in southern Colorado would extend the life of Ft. Logan and Ft. Lyon.

Families would no longer have to travel to these distant locations and instead could bury their loved ones closer to home.

In doing so, space that would otherwise be used at Ft. Logan and Ft. Lyon would remain available for families closer to Denver and Las Animas.

On May 2, 2008 the House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Disability and Memorial Affairs held a field hearing in Colorado Springs, Colorado to review the need for a cemetery in southern Colorado.

The hearing was presided over by Chairman JOHN HALL, Representative DOUG LAMBORN and myself.

Veterans Advocates, VSO's and widows with Gold Star Wives gave testimony in support of the legislation and reinforced the need for such a cemetery.

After hearing testimony and having experienced the difficult driving conditions and an abrupt snow storm, particularly over Monument Hill, then Under Secretary Tuerk committed to bringing a national veterans cemetery to the southern Colorado region.

The cemetery is supported by national VSO's, local veteran's advocates and most importantly the veterans and their families living in Colorado.

With such overwhelming support by the Colorado delegation and Congress, the VA would be acting on the intent of Congress in establishing a cemetery in southern Colorado.

I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support our rural veterans and support this bill.

Mr. WALZ. I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 174.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1615

SUPPORTING AND ENCOURAGING GREATER SUPPORT FOR VETERANS DAY

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 89) supporting and encouraging greater support for Veterans Day each year.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 89

Whereas veterans of service in the United States Armed Forces have served the Nation with honor and at great personal sacrifice;

Whereas the American people owe the security of the Nation to those who have defended it;

Whereas on Veterans Day each year, the Nation honors those who have defended democracy by serving in the Armed Forces;

Whereas veterans continue to provide a valuable service in their communities across the Nation and are important members of American society;

Whereas we must honor and express our sincere gratitude to all our veterans for their unwavering commitment to country, justice and democracy;

Whereas the observance of Veterans Day is an expression of faith in democracy, faith in American values, and faith that those who fight for freedom will defeat those whose cause is unjust; and

Whereas section 6103(a) of title 5, United States Code, provides that "Veteran's Day, November 11" is a legal public holiday: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) encourages Americans to demonstrate their support for veterans on Veterans Day each year by treating that day as a special day of reflection;

(2) encourages schools and teachers to educate students on the great contributions veterans have made to the country and its history, both while serving as members of the United States Armed Forces and after completing their service; and

(3) requests that the President issue a proclamation each year in connection with the observance of Veterans Day calling on the people of the United States to observe that day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

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

Mr. Speaker, each year on Veterans Day, Americans come together to honor our Nation's heroes, over 23 million veterans that have served our country. Again this year, our country is engaged in conflicts that require the dedication of our uniformed troops. Our Nation has a proud legacy of appreciation and commitment to the men and women who have worn the uniform in defense of this great land. We must be united in seeing that every soldier, sailor, airman and marine is welcomed back with all the care and compassion that this grateful Nation can bestow.

House Resolution 89 encourages Americans to demonstrate their support for veterans. No other group of Americans has stood stronger and braver for our democracy than our troops and veterans.

As a member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, it is my honor to serve the veterans of this Nation, and I encourage my fellow Americans to do the same. I firmly believe that Veterans Day should not be observed just once a year, but our Nation's heroes must be celebrated, honored and remembered every single day of the year.

I encourage all Americans to reach out to veterans, thank them and their families for the amazing sacrifices they make, learn more about their contributions to our country, and gain the wisdom of their personal stories.

On this 90th official Veterans Day, it is important to let these heroes know that this grateful Nation honors their service. Pause to remember that service and the sacrifices of each and every one who has worn this Nation's uniform. On Veterans Day and throughout the year, join me and every Member of this House to take the time and show your gratitude to those who have answered the call of duty.

Mr. Speaker, I know as a veteran myself, as a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee and having the honor to serve there, and as a teacher of our high school students, how incredibly important it is to remember the foundations this country was founded on and those who are willing to give and, as we speak, are still willing to give the ultimate sacrifice.

Veterans Day is not a day for sales, and Veterans Day is not a day to take the day off. Veterans Day is a day to understand that all the blessings of liberty and freedom this country has emanate from each and every one of those. So I think it is incredibly important. I urge support for this piece of legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 89, a resolution supporting and encouraging greater support for Veterans Day each year.

Our Nation's veterans have sacrificed so much for the freedoms that we enjoy on a daily basis. Our Nation has an obligation to ensure that those who have served, and especially those who were injured while serving, have the necessary benefits and services available to allow them to lead productive and fulfilling lives.

Today, a new generation of heroes returns home, too often draped in the Nation's flag. Their comrades in arms stand guard and honor their memories as they themselves become the living symbols of the cost of freedom. It is right that today, almost 1 week before our commemoration of Veterans Day, that we consider this resolution encouraging and supporting the observance of this important day for our Nation.

This resolution encourages Americans to demonstrate their support for veterans on Veterans Day each year by treating that day as a special day of reflection, encourages schools and teachers to educate students on the great contributions our veterans have made to our country, and requests that the President issue a proclamation each year in connection with the observance of Veterans Day.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, Mr. BACA of California, for introducing this legislation, as well as Chairman FILNER and Ranking Member BUYER for moving the bill so quickly to the floor for consideration.

I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 89.

Mr. Speaker, having no further speakers, I just again want to say how

important this resolution is. Mr. WALZ said it so eloquently, especially coming from somebody like himself who did many years in the military and rose to a place of such prominence. We appreciate his service.

Again, this resolution basically just says that we need to slow down and do more to recognize the sacrifice of our veterans on this very, very important day. I think it is certainly very fitting.

With that, I urge all of my colleagues to support the resolution.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on House Resolution 89.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Arkansas, my good friend, a tireless supporter of veterans, a true gentleman in this House, and someone who embodies what we are here for. There is far more that unites us than divides us, and nothing makes that clearer than Veterans Day. I think all of us know that when we come together in support of our veterans, it is all that is right in this country. We have our differences, we disagree on things, but nothing will ever shake that.

I want to thank Chairman FILNER and Ranking Member BUYER for their outstanding commitment to this. Maybe some people are wondering why this is H. Res. 89 after all the big numbers. Mr. BACA puts this in first every year in every Congress to make sure that it is ready to go for Veterans Day. For that I thank him.

ANDRÉ CARSON was down here earlier. As I explained to Mr. STEARNS why we did this, one of the things was, it is never hard to get anyone to come and support pieces of veterans legislation. Mr. CARSON from Indiana came back early and did that.

I also want to thank the staff for this package of initiatives going forward before Veterans Day, both the majority and the minority staff, for their tireless work on this. The one thing I have found working in the Veterans' Affairs Committee, the staff are there for our veterans. That is their main purpose, that is what they are there for every day, and they continue to work tirelessly to ensure that we are doing good things.

So it is with that that I ask all Americans to stand proud with our veterans, stand tall, know that those freedoms that they enjoy so much come at an incredible cost to many of our fellow Americans, but to let them know that we are with them every step of the way, and these pieces of legislation will go further to do that.

I urge the unanimous support of H. Res. 89.

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 89, the Veterans Day resolution.

I thank Chairman BOB FILNER and Ranking Member STEVE BUYER for their commitment to this resolution and tremendous support for America's veterans.

As one of many veterans who are now Members of Congress, I am proud to introduce and now seek the passage of this important resolution.

To all my colleagues and fellow veterans, I commend you for your service.

This resolution reminds us that Veterans Day is not just a day off from school or work. This is a special day of reflection to honor those that have defended our freedom.

America would not be the great country that she is, if it were not for our veterans.

When our troops commit to serve our country, they make a promise to serve and protect.

We also have a moral responsibility to protect returning veterans and their families.

Veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan must receive the best treatment. Sadly, for the last few years, I don't believe our Government has held its end of the bargain.

But Congress is working diligently to correct this, most recently by implementing an outstanding GI bill and for adding more support services to veterans and their families.

We all must do our part to recognize America's greatest heroes.

This is why my resolution also encourages schools to educate our young people about the contributions of our veterans to this country.

Last Congress, as Chair of the CHC, I worked closely with Hispanic veterans and Medal of Honor winners from WWII to today.

The stories of courage and sacrifice I heard from them were nothing short of amazing. They deserve to be recognized and thanked.

A special thanks is due to our military families who are often left behind and face the daily rigors of war within their homes in America and overseas.

These families sacrifice so much for their loved ones and for America. I thank you as well; you are the support system and backbone for all these veterans.

On November 11th, on Veterans Day do not forget who the true heroes of this country are. Reflect on the true meaning of Veterans Day, and remember the sacrifices made by so many proud American sons and daughters.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H. Res. 89.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 89, "supporting and encouraging greater support for Veterans Day each year." The roots of Veterans Day can be traced back to the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, in 1919, yet the reigning effects of the efforts of our Veterans reach back much further. From our inception as a Nation, freedom

has never been free; it has been fought for both on battle fields around the world and on the floors of the Congress.

In November 1919, President Wilson remembered our fallen soldiers of WWI with the following words: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations . . ." The Veterans Day that we know today was signed into law on May 26, 1954 by President Dwight Eisenhower. Congress amended the act on November 8, 1954, replacing "Armistice" with Veterans, and it has been known as Veterans Day since.

In its history, America has endured great tests of faith and each of the roughly 42 million men and women who have served this Nation at some point in time is a testament to the fact that this country truly is the land of the free and the home of the brave. For nowhere else in the world can you live a life of liberty in the pursuit of happiness as you can on American soil, this is the American Dream. A dream had by the likes of Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King, Jr., Barbara Jordan and every other American. A dream recently achieved by President Obama, who came from obscurity to the forefront of a truly just nation. Veterans have all done a great service to this Nation and it is our duty to honor them. The Texas Veterans Commission recognizes over 1.7 million veterans in my home state of Texas and within my home district, the 18th District of Texas, we hold our 34,000 veterans in the upmost respect.

Every morning when you wake up, you should thank a Veteran. Every night you make it to bed, you should thank a Veteran. Every breath in freedom you take, you should thank a Veteran. After serving our Nation with honor, our Veterans deserve to be honored.

For these reasons I stand with many of my colleagues in strong support of H. Res. 89, authored by Congressman JOE BACA (CA 43rd District) for the greater recognition of Veterans Day by:

1. Encouraging Americans to demonstrate their support for veterans each year by treating that day as a special day of reflection;
2. Encouraging schools and teachers to educate our children about the many contributions that veterans have made to our society—both during and after their service in the military;
3. Requesting that the President issue a proclamation each year in connection with the observance of Veterans Day calling on the people of the United States to observe that day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

As stated in the resolution, the observance of Veterans Day is an expression of faith in democracy, faith in American values, and faith that those who fight for freedom will defeat those whose cause is unjust. As our Veterans take an oath to take on a just cause, so must we. We must vow to never forget the indisputable fact that our Veterans are the backbone of this Nation, they are the reason we can stand against forces of oppression. We too must stand and fight for our Veterans, to give them the care they both need and deserve.

Mr. WALZ. I have no further requests for time. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 89.

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.

FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 780) recognizing the celebration of Filipino American History Month in October.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 780

Whereas the earliest documented proof of Filipino presence in the continental United States was the date of October 18, 1587, when the first "Luzones Indios" set foot in Morro Bay, California, on board the Manila-built galleon ship Nuestra Senora de Esperanza;

Whereas the Filipino American National Historical Society recognizes the year of 1763 as the date of the first permanent Filipino settlement in the United States in St. Malo Parrish, Louisiana, which set in motion the focus on the story of our Nation's past from a new perspective by concentrating on the economic, cultural, social, and other notable contributions that Filipino Americans have made in countless ways toward the development of the history of the United States;

Whereas the Filipino American community is the second largest Asian American group in the United States with a population of approximately 3,100,000 people;

Whereas Filipino American servicemen and servicewomen have a longstanding history serving within the Armed Services of the United States, from the Civil War to the present Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts, including the 250,000 Filipinos who fought under the United States flag during World War II to protect and defend this country;

Whereas Filipino Americans are an integral part of the United States healthcare system as nurses, doctors, and other medical professionals;

Whereas Filipino Americans have contributed greatly to the fine arts, music, dance, literature, education, business, literature, journalism, sports, fashion, politics, government, science, technology, and other fields in the United States which enrich the landscape of the country;

Whereas efforts must continue to promote the study of Filipino American history and culture, as mandated in the mission statement of the Filipino American National Historical Society, because the roles of Filipino Americans and other people of color have been overlooked in the writing, teaching, and learning of United States history;

Whereas it is imperative for Filipino American youth to have positive role models to instill in them the importance of education, complemented with the richness of their ethnicity and the value of their legacy; and

Whereas Filipino American History Month is celebrated during the month of October: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the celebration of Filipino American History Month as a study of the advancement of Filipino Americans, as a time of reflection and remembrance, and as a time to renew efforts toward the research and examination of history and culture in order to provide an opportunity for all people in the United States to learn and appreciate more about Filipino Americans and their historic contributions to the Nation; and

(2) urges the people of the United States to observe Filipino American History Month with appropriate programs and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) 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 may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and add any extraneous materials.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am proud to present H. Res. 780 for consideration. This resolution recognizes the celebration of Filipino American History Month.

House Resolution 780 was introduced on September 25, 2009, by my friend and colleague Representative BOB FILNER of California. In addition, this resolution was favorably reported out of the Oversight Committee by unanimous consent on October 29, 2009, and it enjoys the support of over 50 Members of Congress. Moreover, the United States Senate passed a companion resolution to this legislation, Senate Resolution 298, by unanimous consent on October 1, 2009.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 780 recognizes the celebration of Filipino American History Month as a unique opportunity to reflect upon the significant advancements of Filipino Americans in our country as well as highlight the countless and diverse contributions of Filipino Americans to our national history and culture.

This monthlong celebration of Filipino American History Month was established in 1988 by the Filipino American National Historical Society to coincide with the 225th anniversary of the permanent settlement of Filipinos in the continental United States.

Notably, the Filipino American National Historical Society recognizes the year 1763 as the date of the first permanent Filipino settlement in the continental United States in the small fishing village of Saint Malo, located in what is now Saint Bernard Parish in Louisiana. These early settlers were

formerly impressed sailors who escaped their oppressive conditions aboard Spanish galleons to establish a Filipino community in present-day Louisiana. The existence of this Filipino settlement was first reported in an 1883 Harper's Weekly article, which is widely believed to be the first article written about Filipino settlers in these United States.

Today, according to the most recent United States Census Bureau estimate, the Filipino American population in the United States is nearly 3.1 million, making the Filipino American community the second largest Asian American group in the United States. And while the majority of our Filipino American population is concentrated in the States of California and Hawaii, Filipino contributions in the field of public service, literature, business, science and other areas have deeply enriched the lives of all Americans across our Nation.

Whether we recall the approximately 250,000 brave Filipino Americans that served during World War II, or our Filipino Americans deployed in the support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, our brave Filipino American servicemen and -women have continually demonstrated their commitment to safeguarding our Nation at great personal sacrifice.

Accordingly, I would like to thank the sponsor of this resolution, my friend and colleague Mr. FILNER of California, for his great work as chairman of our Veterans' Affairs Committee and for ensuring that the economic stimulus legislation signed by President Obama earlier this year included a provision which required that our roughly 15,000 living Filipino veterans of World War II receive their full and deserved veterans benefits.

The contributions of Filipino Americans to our national history are also evident in various other areas, including government and journalism. Notably, in 1994, Benjamin J. Cayetano became the first Filipino American elected a United States Governor. And in 1997, Filipino American journalists Byron Acohidio and Alex Tizon of The Seattle Times were the recipients of Pulitzer Prizes for their outstanding contributions to American journalism.

Mr. Tizon, a native of Manila who came to the United States at the age of 4, was honored for a series of investigative articles about the widespread corruption and inequities in the Federally sponsored housing program for Native Americans. Mr. Acohidio received his Pulitzer for his reporting on the conditions of the American aerospace industry.

Mr. Speaker, these are only a few of the many Filipino Americans whose achievements have greatly contributed to our national history. It is my hope that we can commemorate the contributions of all Filipino Americans