Mr. PALLONE. 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 New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6353, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CODE TALKERS RECOGNITION ACT OF 2008

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4544) to require the issuance of medals to recognize the dedication and valor of Native American code talkers, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4544

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 ''Code Talkers Recognition Act of 2008''.

SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to require the issuance of medals to express the sense of the Congress that—

(1) the service of Native American code talkers to the United States deserves immediate recognition for dedication and valor; and

(2) honoring Native American code talkers is long overdue.

SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) When the United States entered World War I, Native Americans were not accorded the status of citizens of the United States.

(2) Without regard to that lack of citizenship, members of Indian tribes and nations enlisted in the Armed Forces to fight on behalf of the United States.

(3) The first reported use of Native American code talkers was on October 17, 1918.

(4) Because the language used by the Choctaw code talkers in the transmission of information was not based on a European language or on a mathematical progression, the Germans were unable to understand any of the transmissions.

(5) This use of Native American code talkers was the first time in modern warfare that such a transmission of messages in a native language was used for the purpose of confusing an enemy.

(6) On December 7, 1941, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and the Congress declared war the following day.

(7) The Federal Government called on the Comanche Nation to support the military effort during World War II by recruiting and enlisting Comanche men to serve in the Army to develop a secret code based on the Comanche language.

(8) The United States Army recruited approximately 50 Native Americans for special native language communication assignments.

(9) The United States Marine Corps recruited several hundred Navajos for duty in the Pacific region.

(10) During World War II, the United States employed Native American code talkers who developed secret means of communication based on native languages and were critical to winning the war.

(11) To the frustration of the enemies of the United States, the code developed by the Native American code talkers proved to be unbreakable and was used extensively throughout the European theater.

(12) In 2001, the Congress and President Bush honored Navajo code talkers with congressional gold medals for the contributions of the code talkers to the United States Armed Forces as radio operators during World War II.

(13) The heroic and dramatic contributions of Native American code talkers were instrumental in driving back Axis forces across the Pacific during World War II.

(14) The Congress should provide to all Native American code talkers the recognition the code talkers deserve for the contributions of the code talkers to United States victories in World War I and World War II.

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) CODE TALKER.—The term ''code talker'' means a Native American who—

(A) served in the Armed Forces during a foreign conflict in which the United States was involved; and

(B) transmitted (encoded and translated) secret coded messages for tactical military operations during World War I and World War II using their native tribal language (non-spontaneous communications)

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Treasury.

SEC. 5. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDALS.

(a) AWARD AUTHORIZATION.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the award, on behalf of the Congress, of gold medals of appropriate design in recognition of the service of Native American code talkers during World War I and World War II.

(b) IDENTIFICATION OF RECIPIENTS.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the tribes, shall—

(1) determine the identity, to the maximum extent practicable, of each Native American tribe that had a member of that tribe serve as a Native American code talker, with the exception of the Navajo Nation;

(2) include the name of each Native American tribe identified under subparagraph (A) on a list; and

(3) provide the list, and any updates to the list, to the Smithsonian Institution for maintenance under section 5(c)(2).

(c) DESIGN AND STRIKING OF MEDALS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall strike the gold medals awarded under subsection (a) with appropriate emblems, devices, and inscriptions, as determined by the Secretary.

(2) DESIGNS OF MEDALS EMBLEMATIC OF TRIBAL AFFILIATION AND PARTICIPATION.—The design of a gold medal under paragraph (1) shall be emblematic of the participation of the code talkers of each recognized tribe.

(3) TREATMENT.—Each medal struck pursuant to this subsection shall be considered to be a national medal for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

(d) ACTION BY SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—The Smithsonian Institution—

(1) shall accept and maintain such gold medals, and such silver duplicates of those medals, as recognized tribes elect to send to the Smithsonian Institution;

(2) shall maintain the list developed under section 6(1) of the names of Native American code talkers of each recognized tribe; and

(3) is encouraged to create a standing exhibit for Native American code talkers or Native American veterans.

SEC. 6. NATIVE AMERICAN CODE TALKERS.

The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the tribes, shall—

(1) with respect to tribes recognized as of the date of the enactment of this Act —

(A) determine the identity, to the maximum extent practicable, of each Native American code talker of each recognized tribe with the exception of the Navajo Nation;

(B) include the name of each Native American code talker identified under subparagraph (A) on a list, to be organized by recognized tribe; and

(C) provide the list, and any updates to the list, to the Smithsonian Institution for maintenance under section 5(d)(2);

(2) in the future, determine whether any Indian tribe that is not a recognized as of the date of the enactment of this Act, should be eligible to receive a gold medal under this Act; and

(3) with consultation from the tribes listed in following subsection, examine the following specific tribes to determine the existence of Code Talkers:

(A) Assiniboine.
(B) Chippewa and Oneida.
(C) Choctaw.
(D) Comanche.
(E) Cree.
(F) Crow.
(G) Hopi.
(H) Kiowa.
(I) Menominee.
(J) Mississauga.
(K) Muscogee.
(L) Sac and Fox.
(M) Sioux.

SEC. 7. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

(a) SILVER DUPLICATE MEDALS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall strike duplicates in silver of the gold medals struck under section 5(b), to be awarded in accordance with paragraph (2).

(2) ELIGIBILITY FOR AWARD.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A Native American shall be eligible to be awarded a silver duplicate medal struck under paragraph (1) in recognition of the service of Native American code talkers of the recognized tribe of the Native American, if the Native American served in the Armed Forces as a code talker in any foreign conflict in which the United States was involved during the 20th century.

(B) DEATH OF CODE TALKER.—In the event of the death of a Native American code talker who had not been awarded a silver duplicate medal under this subsection, the Secretary may award a silver duplicate medal to the next of kin or other personal representative of the Native American code talker.

(C) DETERMINATION.—Eligibility for an award under this subsection shall be determined by the Secretary in accordance with section 6.

(b) BRONZE DUPLICATE MEDALS.—The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 4 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses, and the cost of the gold and silver medals.

SEC. 8. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF SALE.

(a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There are authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be necessary to pay for the cost of the medals struck pursuant to this Act.

(b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section 7(b) shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIERREZ) and the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within

which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 3 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4544, the Code Talkers Recognition Act of 2008.

This legislation directs the Speaker of the House and the President pro tempore of the Senate to authorize the award of gold medals to deserving individual Native American code talkers from specified Native American tribes.

The bill defines ''code talker'' as a Native American who served in the Armed Forces during a foreign conflict and who participated in military communications using a native language. However, the bill excludes members of the Navajo tribe because, in 2001, the Congress honored Navajo code talkers with Congressional Gold Medals for their contributions as radio operators during World War II.

The legislation further directs the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Defense to identify individual code talkers deserving of this recognition.

I urge passage of this bill.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, DC, September 12, 2008.

Hon. BARNEY FRANK,
Chairman, Committee on Financial Services, Rayburn HOB, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN FRANK: I understand that your committee is considering bringing to the Floor H.R. 4544, the ''Code Talkers Recognition Act of 2007.'' The Committee on House Administration received an additional referral for this bill due to the inclusion of section 5(c), which gives an important role to the Smithsonian Institution in maintaining a list of tribes and receiving medals which the tribes may choose to donate. It is my understanding that the intent of the legislation is that, if the tribes provide the medals to the Smithsonian, they then would become the Smithsonian's property for possible exhibition or other appropriate purpose.

The House Administration Committee is the principal committee of jurisdiction over the Smithsonian Institution under Rule X. We recognize that, at this point in the session, there is a desire to move legislation as expeditiously as possible. Therefore, we will waive any further consideration of the bill and agree to be discharged. However, we do so with the understanding that the Committee does not waive any future jurisdictional claims over similar measures. In the event of any conference with the Senate, the Committee reserves the right to seek the appointment of conferees and to have your support.

I would appreciate the inclusion of this letter in the Congressional Record during any consideration of H.R. 4544 on the House floor.

Sincerely,

ROBERT A. BRADY,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,
Washington, DC, September 19, 2008.

Hon. ROBERT A. BRADY,
Chairman, Committee on House Administration, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing in response to your letter regarding H.R. 4544, the ''Code Talkers Recognition Act of 2007.'' This bill was introduced in the House on December 13, 2007 and referred to the Committee on Financial Services and in addition to the Committee on House Administration. It is my understanding that this bill will be scheduled for floor consideration shortly.

I wish to confirm our mutual understanding on this bill. The legislation gives an important role to the Smithsonian Institution in maintaining a list of tribes and receiving medals which the tribe may wish to donate and I acknowledge your committee's jurisdictional interest in such matters. However, I appreciate your willingness to forego committee action on H.R. 4544 in order to allow the bill to come to the floor expeditiously. I agree that your decision to forego further action on this bill will not prejudice the Committee on House Administration with respect to its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation. I would support your request for conferees on those provisions within your jurisdiction should this bill be the subject of a House-Senate conference.

I will include this exchange of letters in the Congressional Record when this bill is considered by the House. Thank you again for your assistance.

BARNEY FRANK,
Chairman.

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

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4544, the Code Talkers Recognition Act of 2008, introduced by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. BOREN).

This legislation honoring the Native American code talkers, who served this country so honorably in the First and Second World Wars, is long overdue.

Mr. Speaker, the history of Native American code talkers is long and honorable. And I'm going to go through a little bit of this, beginning with their striking display of patriotism.

When the First World War broke out, Native Americans were technically not citizens of the United States—hard to believe, really; nevertheless, many enlisted and fought honorably as part of the American Expeditionary Force that helped to defeat the German armies.

In those days, as the technology of warfare changed and the size of the battlefields grew, it was necessary to transmit tactical information over what we would consider rudimentary and very unsecure communications methods that in many cases were easy for the enemy to intercept.

During the Second Battle of the Somme in September of 1918, and later during the Meuse-Argonne campaign in the waning days of the war, Cherokee and Choctaw natives used their own language to communicate tactical information. Since their languages were not related to any European language, the Germans intercepting it were baffled, even though the code itself was rather simple—a tank was a turtle, for example.

Again, in the Second World War, Native Americans signed up in large numbers to fight in both Europe and in the Pacific theater. The best known of these were the Navajos, who worked with the Marines in the Pacific. But considering both wars, code talkers came from as many as 17 different tribes.

Interestingly, the code talkers weren't used much in the European theater until D-day, because it was known that Adolf Hitler had been aware of the code talkers' successful role in World War I and had sent teams of German anthropologists to learn Native American languages before the start of the Second World War. The effort was largely unsuccessful, though, because there were so many different languages and dialects of those languages.

The role of the code talkers was largely unknown until 1968, when the story was declassified. Since then, President Reagan declared a ''Code Talkers Day,'' and in 2001 President Bush presented the Congressional Gold Medal to several Navajo code talkers.

□ 2145

Unfortunately, the bill authorizing that medal did not acknowledge the role of Code Talker heroes from other tribes in the First World War as well as the second.

Mr. Speaker, it has taken nearly a decade to address this oversight, and through the hard work of the gentlelady from Texas, Ms. GRANGER, and most recently Mr. BOREN, bills were introduced to do so in each Congress since the original legislation passed. We are now at the historic point, thanks to Mr. BOREN's legislation, that we can move to recognize the other heroes from the other tribes. I urge my colleagues to support this bill enthusiastically.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I recognize the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. BOREN) for 7 minutes.

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with the support of 300 of my colleagues to honor a forgotten group of American war heroes. As many of you know, the State of Oklahoma has a long and rich Native American heritage. My congressional district is home to 17 of the 37 federally recognized tribes headquartered in Oklahoma.

Millions of these Native Americans count themselves among the proud veterans who defended this Nation during a time of war. But today, Mr. Speaker, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in honoring the brave service of a small group of veterans. It is estimated that 12,000 Native Americans served in our Armed Forces during World War I and over 45,000 bravely fought during World War II. Among those was a small band of Choctaw Indians that were the beginning of what would become the Native American Code Talkers. They

would eventually play a critical but very unique role in the Allies' victory over evil and tyranny.

During World War I, feeling a sense of duty to the cause of freedom, a number of Choctaws answered the call to serve. They began their service assigned to the 142nd Infantry of the 36th Division of the Texas-Oklahoma National Guard. Their first action was as a unit in France. At that time, communication by telephone and by radio on the battlefield was still developing. But both types of transmissions were under constant surveillance by the German enemy.

Army movements and supply shipments were being ambushed by the Germans on a constant basis costing thousands of lives. At one point Colonel A.W. Bloor, the commanding officer of the 142nd Infantry, believed that the Germans were cracking every message his division sent by radio or by phone. Frustrated with the division's inability to communicate safely, an officer recalled that the division included a company of Native Americans. After hearing these men speak to one another on a regular basis, it occurred to him that their language could hold the key to encoding the Allies' transmissions. After all, a few of these men spoke 20 dialects, many of which had never even been written.

In October of 1918, the Choctaw Code Talkers' ability to secretly communicate over radio resulted in a surprise momentum-shifting attack on the German enemy in northern France's Argonne forest. What began as 6 to 10 Choctaw transmitting a handful of coded messages quickly grew into a much larger group of soldiers spread across the European battle front. As the tide of World War I began to turn in favor of the Allies, military commanders came to rely on these Native American Code Talkers to communicate their most sensitive information.

Many believe to this day that not a single Code Talker transmission was ever cracked by the enemy. Army leaders began to notice immediately that troop movements were no longer mirrored and supply convoys were not ambushed. After realizing the effectiveness of the Choctaw Code Talkers, U.S. military leadership sought out and recruited leaders of such tribes as the Comanche, Choctaw, Seminole, Hopis, Cherokee, Sioux, Navaho, as well as many others.

During World War II, the Native American Code Talkers would once again prove their effectiveness, this time on two fronts, in the Pacific and in Europe. Many high-ranking military officials contend that the United States would have never won the Battle of Iwo Jima without the unbreakable communications of the Native American Code Talkers.

So, Mr. Speaker, with this historical contribution to liberty and freedom in mind, it is our duty to honor these brave men, their families and their tribes. Let us never forget the valiant and noble service of the Native American Code Talkers. They are truly some of America's greatest war heroes.

In closing, I would like to take a moment to thank the many people who have worked tirelessly to commemorate these brave men. There are far too many to name in a brief time, but I would like to mention a few. I would like to commend the National Congress of American Indians for supporting this legislation and for their unwavering dedication to Native Americans everywhere. I would also like to acknowledge Chairman FRANK and his staff for working with me on bringing this legislation to the floor. I would also pay tribute to DALE KILDEE, and most especially my colleague from Oklahoma, TOM COLE, for his tireless effort in getting so many of the cosponsors on this legislation.

Finally, I would like to thank Chief Gregory Pyle of the Choctaw Nation. His dedication and leadership to his people, to all Native Americans, to the State of Oklahoma and to this great Nation is the mark of a true statesman. I am proud to call him both a mentor and a friend.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge support for the Native American Code Talkers Act.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE).

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. I thank my good friend from West Virginia for yielding so graciously.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today in support of H.R. 4544, the Code Talkers Recognition Act, which would award the Congressional Gold Medal to Native American Code Talkers who assisted the allied powers in World War I and World War II to deceive and confuse our enemies in both conflicts. It's a particular personal pleasure to me, Mr. Speaker, because not only am I a Native American, Chickasaw, but my ancestry is both Choctaw and Chickasaw. My great grandfather had both tribes in his veins. And it's a wonderful treat for me to be able to participate in this.

I would also first like to thank my dear friend and colleague, Mr. BOREN, who introduced this legislation and without whose hard work this bill would simply not be here today. He has worked hard and tirelessly to honor a group of Americans that deserve recognition. And I appreciate it so much, my dear friend.

To date only the famous Navaho Wind Talkers have received this prestigious award, and it's only right and proper, Mr. Speaker, that Congress finally recognize all of the Code Talkers that dedicated their service to the United States of America. As an Oklahoman and as the only Native American currently serving in Congress, I am very happy to be here before you today to participate in awarding this honor to these fine individuals and their tribes.

Native Americans have a long, complex and honorable relationship with the United States military. Native Americans have fought against and with the United States military throughout the entire history of our country. And despite the often egregious policies of our government towards Indian country, thousands of Native Americans from dozens of tribes have helped protect our homeland. Indeed the first allies of the United States in the Revolution were the Oneida tribe. There was the Seneca present with Grant when he accepted the surrender of Robert E. Lee. As a matter of fact Robert E. Lee called him the only real American present at the ceremony. And of course in the Plains wars in the West, Indians fought on both sides of the conflict. Indeed our first President, General Washington, once commented the only way to defeat Native Americans was to be allied with Native Americans against other Native Americans because they were formidable and elusive foes.

Over the course of American history, Native Americans have demonstrated outstanding valor on the battlefield. And they have consistently received awards and commendations for their outstanding service. Historically Native Americans have the highest record of service per capita of any ethnic group or demographic group in our country. There are currently over 190,000 Native American veterans.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation awards the congressional medal to 13 individual tribes whose members assisted in this effort of defending our country. By using Native languages that were unidentifiable to the enemy forces in Europe and in the Pacific, the Code Talkers contributed to the victory of allied powers in both the First and the Second World Wars. Without their efforts it is clear that we would have lost countless additional lives and wars would have dragged on longer than necessary. Though most Native Americans did not even have United States citizenship in the First World War, there were a few. My tribe actually did. And we were pretty good negotiators. And most Oklahoma tribes got theirs a little bit ahead. But most tribes and most members who served in our Armed Forces were not citizens. They volunteered their service to defend their country despite that lack of citizenship.

It is estimated that more than 12,000 American Indians and about 600 Oklahoma tribal members served the United States military in the First World War. Despite the fact that most in the United States considered their heritage and their language to be obsolete in the first decade of the 20th century, these individuals volunteered for their country and helped turn the tide in one of the bloodiest wars in human history.

In 1917 a group of eight Choctaw serving in the Army's 36th Infantry Division trained to use their language in code. They helped the American Expeditionary Force win several key battles

in the final big push of the war. Other tribes continued to be recruited into the service of our country in later conflicts. Almost immediately after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor and the United States entered the Second World War, the Army recruited members of the Comanche Nation, located in my district, to assist the Allied Forces. Throughout the war other tribes were also recruited to carry out these efforts. And throughout that conflict, the Axis powers could neither decipher the codes based on Native language nor significantly undermine efforts to communicate in that language. The use of these languages significantly improved the tactical efforts of the Allied powers. These efforts were certainly remarkable, Mr. Speaker, and the contribution of these men clearly deserves to be recognized by Congress.

Mr. Speaker, Native American Code Talkers of the First and Second World War are true American heroes without whose efforts our troops would have certainly suffered greater casualties and would have certainly experienced slower progress in their efforts to end these conflicts. For too long our country has failed to recognize the efforts made by these great Native American citizens. It is time that we acknowledge and honor the contributions and service of these Native Americans who dedicated their service to our country by awarding them the Congressional Gold Medal.

I urge Members to honor these courageous men and their tribes and vote ''yes'' on H.R. 4544.

Mr. GUTIERREZ. I ask if there are any further requests for time on the other side or does the gentlelady yield back?

Mrs. CAPITO. I have no further requests.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4544, the "Code Talker Recognition Act."

As a cosponsor of H.R. 4544, I would like to thank Representative BOREN for introducing this important bill to honor our nation's Native American Code Talkers—including code talkers from South Dakota's Sioux tribes—with this long overdue recognition.

South Dakota is home to the last living Lakota code talker—Clarence Wolf Guts. Clarence, who is an 84–year-old Lakota warrior from the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota, was the personal code talker for Major General Paul Mueller, commander of the U.S. Army's 81st Infantry. He traveled with Gen. Mueller and the 81st as the division moved from island to island during the fight against the Japanese during World War II.

I am privileged to have this opportunity to thank Clarence for his service during World War II and to honor all of our Nation's code talkers—whose efforts prevented the enemy from intercepting vital communications—saving the lives of countless American members of the Armed Forces.

Again, I would like to thank Representtive BOREN for his leadership and to thank our Nation's code talkers, who serve as an inspiration for all Americans to emulate.

Mr. BOSWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4544, the Code Talker Recognition Act.

I am proud to say that this legislation, which I am an original cosponsor, will finally recognize the men who served as code talkers for our great Nation during World War I and World War II.

Eight of those men who specifically will be honored today are members of the Meskwaki tribe based in Tama County, Iowa.

In January 1941, nearly a year before Pearl Harbor, 27 Meskwaki men, then 16 percent of Iowa's Meskwaki population enlisted in the Army. Of those 27, eight became code talkers: Edward Benson; Dewey Roberts; Frank Sanache; Willard Sanache; Melvin Twin; Judy Wayne Wabaunasee; Mike Wayne Wabaunasee; and Dewey Youngbear.

The Meskwaki men trained in Marshalltown and served together in the 168th Infantry, 34th Division. After jungle warfare training in Louisiana and code talker training in Scotland and then in England, they were sent to North Africa.

While in North Africa Frank Sanache ventured out far beyond the battalion and using a walkie-talkie directed artillery fire in the desert. He said "It was the worst place this side of hell."

The enemy was never able to translate the native Meskwaki language, and the Meskwaki Code Talkers, among other Code Talkers are credited with saving the lives of countless members of the United States Armed Forces and contributing significantly to the victory of our Nation.

I am pleased to see that finally this bill will be brought to the House floor—it has taken many years to get to this point and even though many of those who are being honored are no longer with us at least their family members and loved ones have the opportunity to finally see them receive the gratitude and respect of our country.

Mr. GUTIERREZ. 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 Illinois (Mr. GUTIERREZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4544, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

DEFENSE PRODUCTION ACT EXTENSION AND REAUTHORIZATION OF 2008

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6894) to extend and reauthorize the Defense Production Act of 1950, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6894

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 ''Defense Production Act Extension and Reauthorization of 2008''.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF TERMINATION DATE.

Section 717(a) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. App. 2166(a)) is amended by striking ''September 30, 2008'' and inserting ''September 30, 2009''.

SEC. 3. REAUTHORIZATION.

Section 711(b) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. App. 2161(b)) is amended by striking ''2008'' and inserting ''2009''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIERREZ) and the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

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

There was no objection.

□ 2200

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 5 minutes.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 6894, the Defense Production Act Extension and Reauthorization of 2008, and urge my colleagues to support the bill's passage.

This legislation reauthorizes the Defense Production Act of 1950, which expires at the end of fiscal year 2008, through September 30 of 2009.

Although the act is due for a comprehensive review, we did not have adequate time to conduct hearings and a markup in this Congress. Therefore, we are seeking this straight, 1-year extension that makes no substantive changes to the act.

Mr. Speaker, the Defense Production Act, or DPA, is a little known bill of great national significance. Put simply, the DPA gives the President a vital set of tools to ensure the constant readiness of those portions of our industrial base that support national security. These tools include production priorities and financial incentives, but they also extend to monitoring the increasing effects of globalization on the defense base.

Since it was enacted in 1950 during the Korean war, every administration since President Truman's has used the act carefully and prudently.

In addition to its national defense uses, the DPA holds the promise of helping to mitigate civil emergencies