

and for decades thereafter, he served as a member of the Polish Relief for Poland Committee, which shipped tons of clothing and food items to Poland and assisted many displaced Poles, including two of his brothers, in finding homes in the U.S. For his service he was awarded in 1995 the Order of Knight's Cross, Poland's highest civilian decoration for service to the Polish Republic. The decoration came from Poland President Lech Walesa.

Since his return to Milwaukee, William Kowalkowski has been active in the Polish-American community, elected as president in 1979 of the Pulaski Council, which is the steering body of some 50 Polish American organizations. He served as president until 1991.

Since 1941, Mr. Kowalkowski has been an active member of the Federation Life Insurance of America, a Milwaukee-based fraternal organization of Polish Americans. He has served for several terms as the organization's national director and national president, a post which he occupied until March of this year.

Because he is a prominent and well-respected member of the community, Mr. Kowalkowski has met with national leaders, including Presidents Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to commemorate William Kowalkowski on the occasion of his retirement from the National Board of Federation Life Insurance of America and commend him on his enduring accomplishments and service to the community.

MEDAL OF HONOR MEMORIAL

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 25, 1999

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and take great pride in describing to my colleagues the events surrounding the dedication of this Nation's only memorial to our 3,410 Medal of Honor recipients—the highest award for Valor given by our country.

On May 28th, the last Memorial Day weekend of the 20th century, I was joined by my Hoosier colleagues Representatives BUYER, MCINTOSH, and HILL, Senator BAYH, Lt. Governor Kernan, Mayor Goldsmith of Indianap-

olis, IPALCO Chairman John Hodowal, and 98 of the 157 living Medal of Honor recipients, to dedicate the new Medal of Honor Memorial. Medal of Honor recipients Sammy L. Davis and Melvin Biddle joined us on the dais, representing their comrades-in-arms.

The new memorial is located along the north bank of the Central Canal in White River State Park, located in downtown Indianapolis. It sits adjacent to Military Park, the site of the city's first recorded 4th of July celebration in 1822, which would later be used as a recruiting and training camp for soldiers from Indiana during the Civil War.

It is at this aptly suited site that the local power utility, IPALCO Enterprises, under the leadership of its Chairman, John Hodowal, who along with his wife, Caroline, and countless IPALCO employees and volunteers, has erected this breathtaking memorial. It was Caroline Hodowal, who first read a newspaper article about the Medal recipients, and then conceived the idea for the new memorial when she and her husband realized that none existed.

Visitors to the site will see citations for each of the 3,410 medal recipients etched into glass walls. The twenty-seven curved glass walls, each between 7 and 10 feet tall, represent the 15 conflicts, dating back to the Civil War, in which selfless acts of bravery resulted in the awarding of the Medal of Honor. Steps, benches and a grassy area provide seating for visitors to rest, reflect and view this magnificent memorial. Additionally, each evening at dusk, a sound system plays a thirty minute recorded account about a medal recipient, his story, and the act for which he received this Nation's highest military honor. As each story is told, lights illuminate the appropriate portion of the memorial to highlight the war or conflict being discussed.

In the words of Mr. Hodowal, this memorial serves two purposes: "It's an opportunity to say thanks for the sacrifices [these men] made, and it's a chance to show the next generation what real heroes look like . . . to show that ordinary people sometimes do extraordinary things."

Mr. Speaker, Indiana has a proud tradition of honoring those who have sacrificed so much to preserve our freedom. We must never forget that our freedom is not free. Because of the selfless sacrifices of so many, we are free to enjoy so much in America. I en-

courage all of my colleagues to visit Indianapolis and see this newest jewel of our city and State. It is something that you will not soon forget.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include in the record the list of the Medal recipients who were the guests of the people of Indiana at the festivities during this past Memorial Day weekend.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AUTHORIZING CONGRESS TO PROHIBIT THE PHYSICAL DESE- CRATION OF THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. RONNIE SHOWS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 1999

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.J. Res. 33, which would outlaw the physical desecration of the American Flag.

Our Flag represents the cherished freedoms Americans enjoy to the envy of others.

To our Nation's veterans and military retirees, it is a constant reminder of the ultimate sacrifice they have made.

Destroying our flag is an affront to all Americans, but to our veterans and military retirees it is much more than that.

Our veterans and military retirees have put their lives on the line for our country, and the American flag is the one thing they can hold and say: "This is what I have defended with my life."

My father was a prisoner-of-war in World War II, captured at the Battle of the Bulge. He fought to protect our democratic freedoms.

But, Madam. Speaker, he did not fight to let Americans destroy the very symbol of their own freedoms that he was willing to die for.

Destroying the flag is tantamount to physically assaulting those heroes who would lay down their lives for their country.

It is against the law for one American to assault another. And so should it be against the law for one American to assault an entire class of American heroes.

Madam Speaker, we need to honor America's heroes and pass this amendment.