

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

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank a few other people who have been instrumental in the creation of this legislation. Senators MAX CLELAND and CHUCK HAGEL have introduced this bill on the Senate side, and we are hoping towards the tail-end of their session we will be able to bring this up under unanimous consent and see it moved through the United States Senate. They have been instrumental in being able to move this on the Senate side.

I also want to thank, in particular, Steve Kelly and Winston Tabb at the Library of Congress for providing invaluable assistance in the development of the project and for their enthusiasm they have shown for this project.

I want to thank the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion for their support so far in what we anticipate to be a great partnership with those key and important organizations.

I also want to thank Jeff Mazur on my staff, who has sat through countless numbers of meetings and countless number of drafts of this legislation in order to shape it and get it to a point where we were successful in speaking to our colleagues and obtaining close to 250 original cosponsors for this legislation.

But, most of all, I want to thank the veterans of this Nation, those who I personally spoke to and who inspired me and those who I am sure the rest of my colleagues have had an opportunity to meet with and talk to and listen to them tell their stories. Without them, obviously, we would not be enjoying the freedoms and the liberties that we enjoy today. Again, with their support we can make this project what it was intended to be, a living legacy of their service to our country and a gift to future generations.

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, this is a solid, basic bill—with a great purpose.

It is to help honor and remember those Americans who used solid, basic values to perform exceptionally and serve great purposes on behalf of our nation.

Now veterans are modest people. They don't boast. They are matter-of-fact. They feel they "did their job". But the fact is that they did remarkable things—things that we must always remember.

This project will see to that. How?

Simply put, history often records the momentous events. But those momentous events are made up of countless individual storylines. Individual storylines that couldn't all fit into current history books or TV documentaries—stories that need their own archive. This bill will allow the Library of Congress to create such an archive—an archive of videotaped testimonials of the veterans themselves, telling their own stories.

If those stories are not told, recorded, studied, preserved—we risk losing them, and all that they teach us.

This project will seize the moment before us—before too much time has gone by—to go to our veterans and learn of duty, heroism,

sacrifice, fear, humor, patriotism, comradeship, compassion . . . and of darker things and times, almost unspeakable things—and how ordinary Americans stood up to resist them.

Those are lessons we must impart to the next generation. Today, we are helping to see that great purpose is served.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Congressman KIND and Congressman HOUGHTON's bill that allows the public to hear our history directly from the men and women who fought to preserve it.

America's war veterans will be offered the opportunity to share their experiences first-hand by providing an oral history to the Library of Congress.

Most of our history is found in books usually written by those who witnessed or played an active role in the events that made this country what it is today.

Well, this legislation goes a step further and puts a face to the name by video-taping the recollections of our veterans' time in service.

But this bill actually does much more. It allows students, as well as the community, to get involved and learn more about their local veterans.

To actually speak to a veteran who fought for this country, and hear about the events first-hand is the best history lesson anyone can receive.

On Long Island, we have thousands of veterans who answered their country's call to duty and are proud to share their experiences with today's youth.

As someone who lived through the Vietnam era, I remember what a difficult time it was for our country.

I remember watching many of our soldiers leaving to fight with the chance of not returning. Unfortunately, many did not.

For those that made it home, this is an opportunity to talk about the experiences and the sacrifices they endured during this time and share them with the country.

I'd like to commend Representative KIND and Representative HOUGHTON for taking the initiative in drafting this legislation and urge my colleagues to support the measure.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5212 the Veterans Oral History Project Act of 2000. I urge my colleagues to lend this timely and important legislation their support.

This bill would authorize a program within the Library of Congress to supervise and facilitate the collecting of personal histories and recollections of American combat veterans.

These personal histories will include both oral testimony recorded on video-tape, as well as written letters and testimonials from veterans.

As a World War II veteran, I am deeply aware of the importance of my generation recording its stories for those future generations yet unborn.

American veterans played a unique and defining role in shaping the events of the 20th century. The American citizen soldier was responsible for defending the cause of freedom from German aggression in 1917, Nazi tyranny and Japanese imperialism in 1942, and Communist invasion in 1950.

Today, many of these veterans are passing on. There are less than 3,500 World War I veterans alive today, out of a fighting force of over 4.5 million. Moreover, almost 1,500 World War II veterans die each day.

It is vitally important that we gather as many of their personal stories before they are lost to us forever.

This legislation is a good first step toward meeting that goal. It will both help ensure that future generations remember the contributions of those who served in combat, as well as to preserve the triumphs of the citizen soldier over evil in America's 20th century conflicts.

I urge my colleagues to join in supporting this bill.

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 Utah (Mr. HANSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5212, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and add extraneous material on H.R. 5212, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

RUSSIAN ANTI-SHIP MISSILE NONPROLIFERATION ACT OF 2000

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4022) regarding the sale and transfer of Moskit anti-ship missiles by the Russian Federation.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4022

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 "Russian Anti-Ship Missile Nonproliferation Act of 2000".

SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to prohibit the forgiveness or rescheduling of any bilateral debt owed by the Russian Federation to the United States until the Russian Federation has terminated all sales and transfers of Moskit anti-ship missiles that endanger United States national security.

SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

The Congress makes the following findings:

(1) In February 2000, the first of two Russian-built Sovremenny-class destroyers sold to the People's Republic of China arrived in the Taiwan Strait, manned by a mixed Russian and Chinese naval crew. Currently, the Russian and Chinese Governments are discussing the sale of 2 additional Sovremenny destroyers.

(2) Within weeks after the arrival of the destroyers, the Russians are scheduled to transfer the first of several of the ship's most lethal weapon, the radar-guided Moskit (also known as Sunburn) anti-ship missile, which can carry either conventional or nuclear warheads.