

Mr. SOUDER. 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 California (Mr. HUNTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6375.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those voting have responded in the affirmative.

Mr. SKELTON. 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 question will be postponed.

NAMING OF ARMED FORCES READINESS CENTER IN HONOR OF CAPTAIN WILLIAM WYLIE GALT

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 3759) to name the Armed Forces Readiness Center in Great Falls, Montana, in honor of Captain William Wylie Galt, a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 3759

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

SECTION 1. NAMING OF ARMED FORCES READINESS CENTER IN GREAT FALLS, MONTANA, IN HONOR OF CAPTAIN WILLIAM WYLIE GALT, A RECIPIENT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR.

The Armed Forces Readiness Center in Great Falls, Montana, shall be known and designated as the "Captain William Wylie Galt Great Falls Armed Forces Readiness Center". Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to such facility shall be deemed to be a reference to the Captain William Wylie Galt Great Falls Armed Forces Readiness Center.

□ 1330

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the legislation under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HUNTER. I would also at this time like to yield the balance of my time, after I finish my opening remarks, to the gentleman from Montana (Mr. REHBERG), who was the sponsor of this bill, and I ask unanimous consent that he be allowed to control the time for purposes of debate.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman may proceed.

Mr. HUNTER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this is one of these bills that it is good to go out on as we close down this session of Congress. This is an excellent initiative by my good friend from Montana to name the Armed Forces Readiness Center in Great Falls, Montana, in honor of Captain William Wylie Galt, who was a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Mr. Speaker, we just had a hearing under the leadership of JOHN MCHUGH, who is the outgoing chairman of the Personnel Subcommittee in Armed Services on the Medal of Honor and on the criteria for the award. And we had some initiatives, some good discussions with our service representatives on ensuring that we have the appropriate guidelines for giving this great medal. And it was an uplifting hearing, because it is a hearing in which the acts of Americans who went far beyond the call of duty were reviewed and were discussed.

Mr. Speaker, I think anytime somebody passes this, walks by the Armed Forces Readiness Center in Great Falls, Montana, and they see that it is named after Captain Galt, they are going to be reminded, perhaps inspired, of his heroism.

The Congressional Medal of Honor is a symbol of adherence to duty, honor and country; and I think it is absolutely appropriate that we name, with this dwindling pool of Medal of Honor recipients, and the gentleman, as a veteran of the United States Army knows, we now have a very small pool of living Medal of Honor winners. So I think that wherever it is possible to name our buildings and our institutions and installations after Medal of Honor recipients, it is a point of inspiration for young people that will be enduring.

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

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

I fully support Senate bill 3759. It establishes an Armed Forces Readiness Center in Great Falls, Montana, as a memorial to Captain William Wylie Galt. And reading his resume, reading his citation, receiving the Medal of Honor, it is one of courage and selfless sacrifice. There is no question in my mind this is a very good gesture, as it should be more often, to those who exhibited the highest type of valor for our country.

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

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

I thank the gentleman for his kind words. And there are times in this responsibility of being a Congressman that sometimes you forget why you are

here. It gives me tingles up the middle of my spine to think about the Galt family and how much they have contributed to the State of Montana and to this Nation over the years.

This legislation would name the Armed Forces Readiness Center in Great Falls, Montana, in honor of Captain William Wylie Galt, a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor, as was said.

The Armed Forces Readiness Center will house the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve units who have spent recent tours in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

William Galt was born on December 19 of 1919 in Geysler, Montana. He was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant, Infantry, through the Army ROTC program upon graduation from Montana State University in the spring of 1942.

I sometimes give Mr. HUNTER a hard time because he did in fact attend the University of Montana for 1 year. And I can tell you, Missoula has not been the same since he left.

Captain Galt was in Italy during World War II. For conspicuous gallantry above and beyond the call of duty, Captain Galt, at a particularly critical period following two unsuccessful attacks by his battalion, of his own volition went forward and ascertained just how critical the situation was. He volunteered, at the risk of his life, personally, to lead the battalion against the objective.

When the lone remaining tank destroyer refused to go forward, Captain Galt jumped on the tank destroyer and ordered it to attack. As the tank destroyer moved forward, followed by a company of riflemen, Captain Galt manned the .30 caliber machine gun in the turret of the tank destroyer, located and directed fire on an enemy anti-tank gun, and destroyed it.

Nearing the enemy positions, Captain Galt stood fully exposed in the turret, ceaselessly firing his machine gun and tossing hand grenades into the enemy's zigzag series of trenches despite the hail of sniper and machine gun bullets ricocheting off the tank destroyer.

As the tank destroyer moved, Captain Galt so maneuvered it that 40 of the enemy were trapped in one of the trenches. When they refused to surrender, Captain Galt pressed the trigger of the machine gun and dispatched every one of them.

A few minutes later, an 88-millimeter shell struck the tank destroyer and Captain Galt fell mortally wounded across his machine gun. He had personally killed 40 Germans and wounded many more.

Captain Galt pitted his judgment and superb courage against overwhelming odds, exemplifying the highest measure of devotion to his country and the finest traditions of the U.S. Army.

His courage and unrivaled determination to win for his country led to a win for America that day, but at the cost of his own life. William Galt is a true example of not only a Montana hero, but

an American hero. We are proud to honor him and the great sacrifice he gave to this country.

The U.S. Army Reserve Center on Gore Hill was dedicated to Captain Galt in 1958. Unfortunately, in 2005, the Base Realignment Closure Commission, BRAC, decided to permanently close Galt Hall U.S. Army Reserve Center on Gore Hill in Great Falls, Montana and relocate units to a new Armed Forces Readiness Center near Malmstrom Air Force Base across town.

I believe it is a fitting tribute to name the U.S. Armed Forces Readiness Center in Great Falls, Montana, the Captain William Wylie Galt Great Falls Armed Forces Readiness Center. It gives me a great deal of pleasure to have this legislation passed.

Mr. SKELTON, Mr. HUNTER, thank you for your patience, thank you for your cooperation. Thanks for all that you did.

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

Mr. SKELTON. 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 California (Mr. HUNTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 3759.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT THERE SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED AN IRISH-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 733) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that there should be established an Irish-American Heritage Month.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 733

Whereas, by 1776, nearly 300,000 people had emigrated from Ireland to the United States;

Whereas, following the victory of General George Washington's troops at Yorktown, Lord Mountjoy reported to the British Parliament the surrender of General Charles Cornwallis, proclaiming, "We have lost America through the exertions of the Irish";

Whereas Irish-born Commodore John Barry was the first flag officer of the United States Navy and is endeared by many as the "Father of the American Navy";

Whereas at least 8 signers of the Declaration of Independence were of Irish ancestry;

Whereas 19 Presidents of the United States proudly claim Irish heritage, including the first President, George Washington;

Whereas Irish-born James Hoban designed the White House, and he was integral in its restoration after it was severely damaged by fire in 1814;

Whereas, in 1892, Annie Moore, from County Cork, Ireland, was the first immigrant admitted through Ellis Island, contributing to America's diverse culture by offering the rich customs and culture of her native land;

Whereas at least 263 recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor proudly claim Ireland as their birthplace, making Irish-born individuals the largest group of foreign-born recipients of the prestigious honor;

Whereas Irish-American social reformer Elizabeth Cady Stanton successfully championed women's voting rights, which were granted in 1920 by the 19th amendment to the Constitution;

Whereas pioneers of the American space program were of Irish descent, including Kathryn Sullivan, the first woman to walk in space, and Christa Corrigan McAuliffe, America's first school teacher to bravely engage in space exploration, who ultimately gave her life to the empiricism of knowledge about the surrounding universe;

Whereas more than 44 million American citizens are of Irish descent;

Whereas each year, on March 17th, the United States and its citizens humbly observe St. Patrick's Day in honor of the patron saint of Ireland; and

Whereas the Irish and their descendants have toiled throughout the existence of the United States, contributing significantly to the enrichment of all aspects of life in this Nation, including military and public service, science, education, agriculture, industry, dance, music, theatre, film, literature, visual composition, business, technology, athletics, and leadership: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) an Irish-American Heritage Month should be established; and

(2) the people of the United States should observe such a month with appropriate ceremonies, celebrations, and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

From the very beginning, the United States has been changed for the better by its citizens of Irish descent. Nineteen Presidents, including George Washington, and at least eight signers of the Declaration of Independence were of Irish ancestry; 263 recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor were born in Ireland, as was John Barry, the first flag officer of the United States Navy. And the list of contributions of Irish Americans goes on: Elizabeth Cady Stanton's successful fight for women's voting rights, James Hoban's architectural design for the White House, and Annie Moore's brave passage through Ellis Island as America's first immigrant.

What began as 300,000 Irish immigrants in 1776 has grown to 44 million Irish Americans today. In recognition

of the countless ways in which these Irish Americans have advanced our Nation politically, economically and culturally, I rise today in support of H. Res. 733.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, March is a significant month for Irish Americans. March 17 honors Saint Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. Saint Patrick is commemorated for introducing Christianity to Ireland in the fifth century.

March also commemorates Irish American Heritage Month, which was first proclaimed by the United States Congress in 1995.

Irish immigrants contributed a great deal to the creation of this great Nation, both during the struggle for independence and in the founding of the Republic. Nine of the people who signed our Declaration of Independence and 19 Presidents of the United States claim Irish heritage, including our first President, George Washington.

The largest wave of Irish immigrants came in the late 1840s when the great potato famine ravaged Ireland, caused 2 million people to emigrate to America. These immigrants transformed our cities and rural communities into centers of commerce and cultural diversity. Though they faced terrible discrimination and prejudice, they persevered and took jobs as laborers and built railroads to build a better life for themselves and their families.

Irish Americans have contributed significantly to the enrichment of all aspects of life in this Nation, including military and public service, science, education, dance, literature and much more. And especially, Mr. Speaker, Irish Americans are very actively and consistently involved in public activity, public service activity, public decision-making, running for office, being members of local and State governments and of our national government. I am pleased to support this resolution.

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

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

I hope this can move through unanimously. It is an important bill in the sense of paying tribute to the diversity of America and particularly to the Irish Americans.

As a graduate of Notre Dame, a German Swiss graduate of Notre Dame, although many of my colleagues here are of Irish descent who are Notre Dame grads, it is a particular pleasure for me, as a graduate of Notre Dame, the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame, to move that we unanimously adopt this bill.

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 Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 733.