

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—within 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 Representative 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 reauthor-

ize 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.

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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

during peacetime. For example, during the California energy crisis, former President Clinton authorized the U.S. Energy Secretary to use the act to compel a continuing supply of natural gas to Pacific Gas & Electric.

Mr. Speaker, the United States is currently fighting wars on two fronts—rebuilding from the damages caused by Hurricane Ike and, regrettably, still rebuilding from Hurricane Katrina. The DPA is a key component of our national security and civil emergency readiness, and we cannot let the act lapse.

I know that some of my colleagues have questions about how the act has been used, if at all, by the current administration during civil emergencies. I share these concerns, but I believe these oversight issues would be best addressed in the next Congress.

Next year, the Financial Services Committee will conduct a comprehensive review of the DPA, specifically looking at proposals to increase the amounts authorized in title III of the act. The 1-year extension will give the committee time to do its work in a thoughtful, bipartisan manner, and I urge the bill's passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6894, the Defense Production Act Extension and Reauthorization of 2008.

In 1950, at the outset of the Korean war and at the behest of President Truman, Congress acted to give the President the ability to meet a specific national security need should we have a shortfall in supplies.

The ability of this Nation to call on private industry to meet the demands of securing a nation are just as prominent today as they were over a half century ago when Congress first enacted this law. In an uncertain world where we face constantly changing threats and remain vulnerable to national disaster, the ability of military and civilian agencies to be given priority service to aid the American people is paramount.

Today, with American soldiers fighting so courageously abroad, we have the same imperative: they must have the resources and equipment they need when they need them.

Similarly, this country has seen the toll natural disasters can take on the Nation. Within the last weeks alone, we have seen Hurricanes Gustav, Hanna and Ike bring destruction to this Nation's shores. Responding to the needs of the families affected should be a priority, and this legislation reauthorizes the President's ability to effectively respond to those needs with priority purchases of supplies, be they water or equipment, to repair damaged railroad switches.

The authorities in this act are too important to be allowed to expire for any amount of time. Yet, Mr. Speaker, without the Congress acting today, these authorities will expire on September 30. The legislation before us

would reauthorize the Defense Production Act in its current form, for 1 year, with no other changes to the DPA's powers. This 1-year extension will continue these authorities while providing the Congress a window to consider any need for updating this act. A recently issued GAO report on the authorities, as well as volumes of other information, will ensure engagement in an important dialogue on how to improve on this authority's taking place. Passing this law today ensures that that debate takes place without the impending pressure of adjournment.

I hope, Mr. Speaker, that we can undertake any needed updates of the act at the beginning of the first session of the next Congress and then extend the authorization for multiple years at that point so that these important authorities remain available to protect America, Americans and American interests, uninterrupted.

In closing, I would like to thank Chairman LUIS GUTIERREZ and full committee Chairman BARNEY FRANK for authoring this bipartisan legislation. Because of their leadership on this issue, Congress has before it today a bill to ensure the American people and their security interests are well served. With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of H.R. 6894.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTIERREZ. I would ask the gentlelady if there are any requests for time on her side.

Mrs. CAPITO. I have no further speakers.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ALTMIRE). 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. 6894.

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.

STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES GIFT OF LIFE MEDAL ACT OF 2008

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6950) to establish the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Gift of Life Medal for organ donors and the family of organ donors.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6950

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; FINDINGS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Stephanie Tubbs Jones Gift of Life Medal Act of 2008".

(b) FINDINGS.—The Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones was dedicated to eliminating health disparities and protecting vulnerable populations.

(2) Through her service on the Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Health, she was a strong voice for those who were poor, elderly, racial and ethnic minorities, and disenfranchised.

(3) Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones' concern for others was demonstrated by the decision to donate her organs, so that as her life ended, the lives of others continued.

(4) There are currently 99,625 candidates for organ donation on the national transplant waiting list. Every 16 minutes, a new name is added to such list. Sixteen persons die each day waiting for a life saving organ transplant.

(5) Minority populations account for nearly 50 percent of those on the national transplant waiting list.

(6) Diseases that can lead to organ failure, such as hypertension and diabetes, are found more frequently in ethnic minority populations than in the general population.

(7) While minorities donate organs in proportion to their population, the rate of organ donations fails to keep pace with the need for transplants in the population. African-Americans, for example, represent about 13 percent of the population and 12 percent of organ donors, but comprise roughly 23 percent of individuals on national transplant waiting list for kidney transplants.

(8) Transplantation success rates are higher when organs are matched between people sharing the same racial and ethnic background.

(9) Because of the disparities in the need for organs, minorities are more likely to wait longer to find a successful match and are more likely to be sicker when an organ is found.

(10) An increase in minority organ donations would decrease the waiting time and increase the likelihood of successful transplantations for minorities.

SEC. 2. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES GIFT OF LIFE MEDAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the provisions of this section and the availability of funds under this Act, any organ donor, or the family of any organ donor, shall be eligible for a Stephanie Tubbs Jones Gift of Life Medal (hereafter in this Act referred to as a "medal").

(b) DOCUMENTATION.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall direct the entity operating the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network to—

(1) establish an application procedure requiring the relevant organ procurement organization through which an individual or family of the individual made an organ donation, to submit to such entity documentation supporting the eligibility of the individual or the family, respectively, to receive a medal;

(2) determine through the documentation provided and, if necessary, independent investigation whether the individual or family, respectively, is eligible to receive such a medal; and

(3) arrange for the presentation to the relevant organ procurement organization all medals struck pursuant to section 4 to individuals or families that are determined to be eligible to receive medals.

(c) LIMITATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), only 1 medal may be presented to a family under subsection (b). Such medal shall be presented to the donating family member, or in the case of a deceased donor, the family member who signed the consent form authorizing, or who otherwise authorized, the donation of the organ involved.