

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

I want to thank my colleague from Massachusetts for his tribute to Army Specialist Jeremiah Paul McCleery and to urge support of H.R. 3319 that names the United States Post Office in Portola in his memory. Miah McCleery grew up in that town, and to that town he returned as a fallen hero at the age of 24.

Let me tell you a little bit more about him. His best friend was his father, Joe. A high school friend, Josh Rogers, was asked when Jeremiah was the happiest. Josh replied, He was happiest whenever he was doing anything with his dad.

As my friend from Massachusetts said, when Jeremiah was 4 years old, his dad took him out to see the returning American soldiers from the first Gulf War; as Shakespeare said, "This story shall the good man teach his son." It was from that moment in 1991 that Jeremiah wanted, more than anything, to serve his country.

Joe and Collette moved their family to the little town of Portola in 1996, where they built their home themselves as a family. It was in Portola where Miah McCleery grew up.

If you want a sense of the character of this young man, just spend a few minutes with those who knew him. His older sister, Lynette Flanagan, tells of how Miah would take on much older boys at school—not in his own defense, but in the defense of others. She said, "He once got sent to the principal's office for getting into a fight. When my mother arrived at school, Jeremiah was not sorry for his actions. He explained with pride that he had stood up to a bully who had slapped a little girl. Jeremiah was never afraid to stand up for what he believed in, even if that would get him into trouble. It didn't matter if the bully was twice his size, he wouldn't back down."

Jeremiah was a Boy Scout, he joined the Civil Air Patrol, and he planned to enlist in the Army as soon as he graduated from Portola High School in 2004, but that year his mother, Collette, was diagnosed with cancer and he stayed there with his family until she died. In 2007, he finally enlisted. When his sister, Chastity, begged him not to go, he said that he felt that by going into the military he was protecting his family.

By all accounts, he was an exemplary soldier who commanded the friendship and respect of his colleagues. While at Fort Hood, he became close friends with another Californian, Jake Velloza, and they shipped out to Iraq together. Before that, he had fallen in love with Amanda Harazin while stationed at Fort Hood. Amanda is known as "A-J" to her friends, but Jeremiah called her the "love of his life." They were to have been married on May 30, but on May 2, outside of Mosul, Iraq, at a combat outpost in Hammam Alil, American soldiers were attacked by two gunmen wearing Iraqi police uniforms.

Two U.S. soldiers—Jeremiah McCleery and his best friend, Jake Velloza—were killed in that attack and three others were wounded. So on May 14, the day before he was supposed to return to a happy homecoming and an impending marriage, Jeremiah McCleery returned to his hometown to be buried beside his mother in Portola.

The local paper described his return with these words, which speak volumes about the community which helped to mold this American hero. They reported, "Across the Sierra Valley people lined the highway, some with their hands over their hearts as a mark of respect. In Portola, streets were lined with flag-waving citizens. Shopowners left their stores to join in, temporarily suspending business as usual."

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to share a little of what I have learned about Jeremiah McCleery because it helps to answer the question that James Michener first asked, "Where do we get such men?" Well, we get them from the heart and soul of America. We get them from good and decent families like the McCleerys. We get them from little towns like Portola, California.

Over the summer, I had the honor to visit the men and women who guard the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. The painstaking care and the meticulous precision with which these young men and women discharge their duties in withering heat and in freezing cold 24 hours a day, 365 days a year is legendary. I asked them why they did it, and one of them told me, "We do it to tell our country that we will never forget."

For that reason, I bring this bill to the House today with the unanimous support of the Portola City Council, the entire California congressional delegation, and the entire community that watched Jeremiah McCleery grow from a boy to a man and, ultimately, to return as a hero. We ask that the Congress name the local post office in honor of Army Specialist Jeremiah Paul McCleery to tell our countrymen that we will never forget, and also to express our awe and our gratitude that humanity has, within itself, a small band of brothers like Jeremiah McCleery who step forward not for treasure or profit or even to defend their own freedom, but, rather, to win the freedom of a people half a world away. And they do it because their country asks them to and because it is virtuous and noble.

We owe these men and their grieving families a debt that we can never repay, except to honor their memory and to keep their sacrifice always in mind, those who gave up everything to proclaim liberty throughout all the land and unto all the inhabitants thereof.

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

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, again, I encourage our friends on both sides of the aisle to join with Mr. McCLINTOCK in

honoring Army Specialist Jeremiah McCleery through the passage of H.R. 3319.

Mr. HELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my heartfelt support for H.R. 3319 which will designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 440 South Gulling Street in Portola, California, as the "Army Specialist Jeremiah Paul McCleery Post Office Building."

Jeremiah McCleery was born in Glendora, California, to parents Colette and Joe McCleery on April 5, 1985. Jeremiah grew up in a very close family and was well known for telling jokes and seeing the humor in life. He enjoyed the outdoors and spent a great deal of time fishing, camping, working on his truck, and sport shooting.

Jeremiah wanted to join the Army since he was 4 years old when his father took him to watch the triumphant return of U.S. soldiers from the 1991 Persian Gulf War. The outpouring that greeted American forces during that homecoming made a lasting impression on the young Jeremiah and set him on a path to serve his country. Since that day, he was a Boy Scout and joined the Civil Air Patrol. Later Jeremiah enlisted in the Army on June 2007. Jeremiah was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division at Ft. Hood, Texas, and was deployed to Iraq. Tragically, on May 2, 2009, Jeremiah was shot and killed at a combat outpost in Hammam Alil, Iraq, north of Baghdad. Spc. Jeremiah McCleery gave his life while defending his country in Iraq.

My family and I extended our heartfelt sympathy and condolences to Jeremiah's father who lives in Sparks, Nevada, who has suffered this deep loss. We are committed to providing full support for their needs. I also remain dedicated to fulfilling all of America's promises to those who faithfully serve our nation and to their families. Therefore, I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 3319, which will honor Specialist Jeremiah Paul McCleery for his sacrifice.

Mr. LYNCH. 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 Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3319.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. LYNCH. 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.

EXTENSION OF COMMERCIAL SPACE TRANSPORTATION LIABILITY REGIME

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3819) to extend the commercial space transportation liability regime.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3819

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

SECTION 1. COMMERCIAL SPACE TRANSPORTATION LIABILITY REGIME EXTENSION.

Section 70113(f) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking “December 31, 2009.” and inserting “December 31, 2012.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 3819, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in strong support of H.R. 3819, a bill to extend the current commercial space transportation liability regime.

First established by Congress as part of the Commercial Space Launch Act Amendments of 1988, the commercial space transportation risk-sharing liability and insurance regime has been extended four times since its original enactment. The current extension expires on December 31 of this year, and it is therefore important for Congress to act now so that there is sufficient time for this legislation to make its way to the President before the current authority expires.

The liability and insurance regime that would be extended by this legislation is three-tiered and was originally modeled on the Price-Anderson Act that governs liability risk-sharing under the nuclear power industry. Under the regime, commercial space launch providers licensed by the U.S. Government are required to provide third-party liability insurance to compensate for maximum probable losses from third-party claims up to a level of \$500 million. For claims above those maximum probable losses, the U.S. Government may pay successful liability claims up to \$1.5 billion in 1989 dollars above the insurance level, subject to funds being appropriated by Congress for that purpose.

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Finally, for successful claims above those amounts, the licensee assumes responsibility for payment.

To date, not a single dollar has had to be appropriated by the U.S. Government to pay third-party claims, but the existence of the liability risk-sharing

regime has enabled the development and sustainment of a commercial space launch industry in the U.S., including the emergence of several new companies in recent years.

In addition, the regime has allowed U.S. companies to remain competitive with their international counterparts, almost all of whose governments provide similar or more generous risk-sharing liability regimes to that of the U.S.

I should note that, in the Commercial Space Launch Amendments Act of 2004, we directed that there be an independent review of the current risk-sharing regime to see whether or not it was working and whether it needed to be continued or passed, and that review was completed in 2006. I think a number of the review's findings bear mentioning; and, therefore, I will quote a couple of those.

First of all: “Private liability insurance capacity remains fragile and far below what would be needed to compensate for government indemnification if it were eliminated.”

Secondly: “Foreign competition has increased, and all credible international competitors have risk-sharing schemes rivaling or surpassing that of the U.S.”

Finally: “The current regime has become the industry standard. Its elimination could send the wrong signal to international customers and competitors and would be a negative factor in the competition for global launch business.”

In sum, the commercial space transportation liability and insurance regime has worked. It has not cost the American taxpayers a single dollar in claims payments to date. It has strengthened U.S. competitiveness in commercial space launch, and it is not a blank check, since any potential claims payments must be subject to prior congressional appropriation. The bill before us today extends the liability risk-sharing regime for a period of 3 years.

As Members may know, there currently is debate on the potential role to be played by would-be commercial providers of crew transportation to the international space station. At present, no such commercial crew transportation systems exist. Before a meaningful decision can be made on the potential role of commercially provided crew transportation in meeting governmental needs, important policy and safety issues will have to be addressed.

The most optimistic projections of the would-be commercial providers are that it will be at least 3 years before such crew transportation systems could be developed, and many independent observers argue it will be longer than that. Therefore, the duration of the extension contained in this bill is limited so as not to prejudice the outcome of the deliberations on those policy and safety issues or to take a position on the role to be played by commercial crew transportation systems.

So, Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank Ranking Member RALPH HALL, Space and Aeronautics Chairwoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, and subcommittee Ranking Member PETE OLSON for cosponsoring this important legislation. I want to extend my thanks to Dick Obermann, who is the staff director for our subcommittee, and his very good team.

This is a good bipartisan bill, and I urge Members to support it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. EHLERS. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3819, extending the current commercial space transportation liability regime through the end of 2012.

The economic competitiveness of the U.S. commercial launch industry is vital to our national interests. Domestic commercial launch services are an integral part of our Nation's infrastructure and high-technology economy. Commercial launch services are used to launch a variety of U.S. civil and national security payloads, including communications, weather, remote sensing, GPS, and other systems. We can scarcely imagine a society today which does not need to have those particular devices available.

The current commercial space launch indemnification regime has been in place since 1988 and has been renewed four times. It has helped protect U.S. commercial launch providers against catastrophic third-party liability when conducting FAA-licensed launch activities. Since its inception, there has never been a loss that would trigger this regime, and Congress has never had to appropriate any funds.

By ensuring adequate liability coverage, this system has strengthened U.S. competitiveness in a global space launch market, and it has enabled private-sector investment to develop new entries into the market. In other words, this regime has worked well by not being used. It has cost nothing, and it has given our space enterprises a big boost.

Over the last 20 years, competition from foreign launch providers, including China, France, India, and Russia, has grown significantly. At the same time, the overall number of launch opportunities has decreased. The commercial space transportation liability regime enables U.S. launch providers to operate without “betting the company” with every launch. In a competitive market with narrow returns, this has been a vital link in strengthening this vital industry.

I join with the Chair of the Science Committee in urging my colleagues to support the U.S. commercial launch industry and to vote for H.R. 3819.

Mr. EHLERS. I have no other speakers, so I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. 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 Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3819.

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.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL CHEMISTRY WEEK

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 793) supporting the goals and ideals of National Chemistry Week.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 793

Whereas chemistry is a vitally important field of science and technology that has transformed the world and improved the quality of life around the globe;

Whereas the chemical sciences have created an infrastructure that delivers the foods, fuels, medicines, and materials that are the hallmarks of modern life;

Whereas the contributions of chemical scientists and engineers are central to technological progress and to the health of many industries, including the chemical, pharmaceutical, electronics, agricultural, automotive, and aerospace industries, and these contributions boost economic growth, create new jobs, and improve health and standards of living;

Whereas, in order to foster the innovation that will ensure the Nation's global competitiveness, schools must cultivate the finest scientists, engineers, and technicians from every background and neighborhood, with a particular focus on increasing access to science, technology, engineering, and math education for Latinos, African-Americans, women, and other underrepresented students in these fields;

Whereas National Chemistry Week was established in 1987 by the American Chemical Society, the world's largest scientific society, to enhance public appreciation of the chemical sciences and to educate the public, particularly school-age children, about the important role of chemistry in everyday life;

Whereas 2009 marks the 140th anniversary of Dmitri Mendeleev's creation of the Periodic Table of the Elements;

Whereas the theme of National Chemistry Week in 2009, "Chemistry—It's Elemental", was chosen to raise public awareness about the importance of chemistry and the chemical sciences by emphasizing that the elements, forming the basis of the universe, play an integral role in daily life;

Whereas many common elements, such as copper in electrical wires, neon in lights, sodium in table salt, and aluminum in soda cans, are tangibly present in everyday life;

Whereas more than 10,000 volunteers from industry, government, and academia will observe National Chemistry Week during the week of October 18, 2009, by conducting hands-on science activities with millions of children in local schools, libraries, and museums; and

Whereas National Chemistry Week volunteers will help provide resources to science educators across the country, promote community events for recycling common elemental items such as aluminum cans, en-

courage students to explore creative representations of the elements in the Periodic Table, and generally act as "chemistry ambassadors" who emphasize the importance and contributions of chemistry to daily life: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes that the contributions of chemical scientists and engineers have created new jobs, boosted economic growth, and improved the Nation's health and standard of living;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Chemistry Week; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Chemistry Week with appropriate recognition, activities, and programs to demonstrate the importance of chemistry to everyday life.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H. Res. 793, the resolution now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 793, a resolution recognizing the importance of chemistry and honoring National Chemistry Week.

I want to commend the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES) for introducing this resolution.

The importance of chemistry and chemical engineering in our lives cannot be overstated. These disciplines contribute to public health by helping to keep our water clean and our food pure. They contribute to advances in medicine through new biomaterials, drug design and drug delivery techniques. They help make cleaner and more efficient energy technologies possible, and they help keep toxins out of our homes and out of our natural environment through the development of green chemicals and materials.

In short, chemistry and chemical engineering contribute in immeasurable ways to the economic strength, security, and well-being of our Nation and all its citizens. For this reason, it is important to get young people excited about chemistry and interested in pursuing careers in chemistry and in the sciences in general. National Chemistry Week plays a great role in this effort.

National Chemistry Week activities are carried out by local sections of the American Chemical Society located in all parts of our Nation. It is estimated that over 10,000 volunteers from industry, government, and academia will

participate in National Chemistry Week activities this year.

They will be working to design hands-on activities, to provide demonstrations and to develop exhibits. Through these activities, they will help stimulate the interest of young people in chemistry and in pursuing careers in science and technology.

So, Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the American Chemical Society for its efforts to establish and to sustain National Chemistry Week.

Once again, I thank Mr. REYES and his cosponsors for introducing this resolution, and I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the importance of chemistry in our daily lives and the positive impact of National Chemistry Week by supporting H. Res. 793.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. EHLERS. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 793, supporting the goals and ideals of National Chemistry Week.

This year marks the 21st anniversary of National Chemistry Week. It is a concept that was first introduced in 1987 by the American Chemical Society, the world's largest scientific society and one of the premier scientific societies in our Nation. Over the past 20 years, this annual event has proven to be a great success, and it will continue this week with various events, celebrating the impact chemistry has made on our society from the very beginning.

Designed to reach out to the public, especially elementary and secondary schoolchildren, the National Chemistry Week program will emphasize the importance of chemistry in everyday life with this year's theme, "Chemistry—It's Elemental," which will celebrate the Periodic Table of Elements. Created 140 years ago this year by Dmitri Mendeleev, the Periodic Table of Elements articulates the very basis of the universe, and it consists of common elements used in our everyday lives as well as some fairly exotic elements which are rarely used in our everyday lives.

Activities for the week will highlight the history of elements, the roles elements play in everyday life, the common and not-so-common uses of elements, and the history of the periodic table. This week is a wonderful opportunity for the public to engage in various events designed to increase the knowledge and awareness of chemistry's everyday effects.

More than 10,000 volunteers from local areas, businesses and schools will unite this week to educate millions of children across the country. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this resolution, and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring all those who are volunteering their time and who are promoting these various activities through National Chemistry Week.

I would just like to add a few personal observations of things that I've encountered during my lifetime as a