

UNITED STATES SUBMARINE  
FORCE

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 773) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the United States Submarine Force.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 773

Whereas 100 years ago, American naval officers who witnessed a submarine, the "Holland VI", submerge and surface in the Potomac River knew this was the first successful United States submarine that would inspire the powerful undersea fighting force that would contribute so much to the United States victory in World War II;

Whereas during World War II, the United States Submarine Force served with honor and valor to protect and preserve the freedoms of the United States, as well as those of the allies of the United States;

Whereas the War in the Pacific could not have been won without the efforts of the United States Submarine Force;

Whereas during World War II, the United States Submarine Force comprised less than two percent of the Navy's fleet;

Whereas during World War II, United States submariners were to suffocate Japan's military industry, cut its oil supply, starve it, and prevent mass troop movements by sea, all by sinking the Japanese merchant fleet on which it was so dependent as a nation of islands;

Whereas during World War II, United States submariners sank over 30 percent of the Japanese Navy including eight aircraft carriers, one battleship and 11 cruisers, and more importantly, the Submarine Force sank 1,300 Japanese merchant ships totaling approximately 5,000,000 tons, which was almost 60 percent of the Empire's total merchant ship losses;

Whereas losses inflicted by the United States Submarine Force contributed to the devastation of the Japanese industrial power that effectively eliminated the ability of the enemy to sustain combat forces and replace losses of ships and aircraft;

Whereas World War II diesel-electric submarines had limited underwater speed, range, and endurance and usually sailed on the surface, where they were vulnerable to enemy attack;

Whereas 52 American submarines were lost during World War II, 49 in the Pacific;

Whereas the United States Submarine Force suffered the highest percentage of losses of any branch of the Armed Services;

Whereas during World War II, approximately 3,500 submariners made the ultimate sacrifice;

Whereas United States submariners were going to war, trusting their lives to a weapon, the torpedo, that, particularly in 1942 through 1943, was unreliable, and could even turn against them by running erratically in a circular path;

Whereas submarines played both humane and special operations roles in their campaign against Japan, and in many of the hardest fought battles of the war, submarine crews rescued unlucky carrier pilots who ended up in the sea, like future United States President George H. W. Bush; and

Whereas members of the Submarine Forces, known as the "silent service", assumed the difficult task of pioneering a new way of fighting so as to protect the liberties and freedoms of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) is committed to promoting and sustaining the spirit of unity shared by members of the United States Submarine Force;

(2) is committed to paying tribute once again to the seven submariners who were awarded the Medal of Honor, including two who were awarded the medal posthumously;

(3) wishes to help keep alive the memory of the Submarine Force veterans and honor their service just as their fellow shipmates do at their gatherings by performing the ceremony known as the "Tolling of the Boats"; and

(4) is committed to keeping alive their memory so that the American people never forget their courage and sacrifice.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Just to the gentleman from Florida, your earlier inquiry, I apologize for not talking to you. The staff built in redundancies. Flying out of Minneapolis has been somewhat of a challenge recently, assuming they get to the airport in the original path, so the staff arranged to have another Member here.

Mr. STEARNS. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WALZ. Yes.

Mr. STEARNS. Let me just say how delighted I am to have the gentleman on the floor. Mr. WALZ is the highest NCO that has ever served in Congress. He was a command sergeant major, I think an E-9, so it is with a great deal of respect, for anybody who has served in the military like I have in the United States Air Force, that we look to gentlemen like Mr. WALZ.

We appreciate his participation on the Veterans' Affairs Committee. I am delighted he is here and is taking over this jurisdiction, which is important on these 13 bills.

Mr. WALZ. Well, I thank the gentleman for his kind words and, again, appreciate the tireless work he does for the veterans. It's a great testament, and the folks in Florida are lucky to have you there.

The United States Submarine Force was a vital component to winning the war in the Pacific during World War II. The war simply could not have been won without this powerful undersea fighting force.

Although the Submarine Force comprised a little less than 2 percent of the Navy's fleet during World War II, they played a crucial role in effectively eliminating up to 30 percent of the Imperial Japanese Navy, reducing Japan's ability to sustain their combat forces.

Day after day, the submariners entrusted their lives on unreliable torpedos to protect them as they fought to protect the liberties and freedom of the United States. For their courage and valor that runs deep, the United States Submarine Force should be

commended by the House of Representatives.

House Resolution 773 resolves that the House of Representatives is committed to keeping alive their memory so that the American people never forget their courage and sacrifice. We will give honor to the 52 American submariners that were lost during World War II and the 3,500 submariners who have made the ultimate sacrifice to protect the freedoms of this great Nation.

The seven brave submariners who were awarded the Medal of Honor are: John Cromwell, Samuel Dealey, Eugene Fluckey, Howard Gilmore, Richard O'Kane, Lawson Ramage and George Street. Their courageous fighting spirit going above and beyond the call of duty is recognized and highly respected. Servicemembers like them have set the example that our Armed Forces follow.

The contributions of the United States Submarine Force were momentous and critical to winning World War II. They exemplify the legacy of commitment to guard our freedom.

I support House Resolution 773 that expresses the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the United States Submarine Force. We should be committed to sustain our submariners force of spirit, unity, courage, and sacrifice they have given for this great Nation.

I also want to thank the gentleman from Arkansas for introducing this important piece of remembrance and commemoration.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I also rise in strong support of H. Res. 773, a resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the United States Submarine Force. This resolution honors these servicemembers who served their country during World War II in the most unique of circumstances.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague Mr. BOOZMAN of Arkansas, as mentioned earlier, for introducing this legislation, and I will shortly yield to him for further remarks on this resolution.

I want to thank the chairman, Mr. FILNER, and also Ranking Member BUYER for moving the bill so promptly to the floor for consideration.

I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 773.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALZ. I continue to reserve my time, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the author of the bill, Mr. BOOZMAN of Arkansas, for such time as he may consume.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 773, a resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the valiant service of the United States Submarine Force during World War II.

As we approach Veterans Day, it is fitting that the House honor Americans who serve their country under the most unique of circumstances.

Earlier this year, we honored those servicemembers who participated in the D-day operations. Yet there is another group who faced incredible challenges and danger to ensure that victory would be possible for the United States and our allies during World War II, the United States Submarine Force.

Mr. Speaker, it is a special individual who will climb into a tightly confined space and willingly go deep underwater to serve the Nation. Today's nuclear submarines are a high-tech marvel, able to submerge for months at a time, cruise beneath the polarized caps, and carry strategic and tactical weapons of unbelievable power. But that was not always the case.

The first submarine used for military purposes was built in 1776 by David Bushnell. His Turtle was a one-man wooden submarine powered by hand-turned propellers and was used during the American Revolution against British warships.

During the Civil War, the use of submarines came into play again when the Union fielded the French-designed Alligator, which was the first U.S. Navy submarine to feature compressed air for air supply. The Confederacy also fielded several human-powered submarines, including the Hunley in Charleston Harbor.

Submarines saw much greater use during World War I, but it wasn't until World War II that the technological development of submarines enabled them to become a capable and feared weapons system.

During the Second World War, 314 submarines served in the United States Navy, including many built at the end of World War I. This force comprised less than 2 percent of the U.S. Navy ships, but they sank over 30 percent of Japan's navy, including eight aircraft carriers. More important, American submarines virtually strangled the Japanese economy by sinking almost 5 billion tons of shipping, over 60 percent of the Japanese merchant marine. Serving in many of the hardest fought battles of the war as part of the "silent service," the submarine crews rescued unlucky carrier pilots who ended up in the sea, like the future President of the United States, George H.W. Bush.

But victory at sea did not come cheaply. The Submarine Force lost 52 boats and 3,506 men during World War II. Just a few weeks ago, I had the good fortune of meeting a number of our World War II veterans from northwest Arkansas as they left the airport to visit Washington, DC, as part of the Honor Flight program. These brave men, many of whom were just boys at the time, answered the call of duty and changed the course of history through their selfless action and love for their country.

It was also a great honor to be able to attend the decommissioning cere-

mony for World War II Submarine Veterans, Diamond Chapter, hosted by the USS Snook Base of the United States Submarine Veterans in Rogers, Arkansas, last month. There, I had the privilege to recognize many of Arkansas' surviving submarine veterans and thank them for their efforts firsthand.

□ 1430

A special thanks goes to former submariner Pete Rathmell for making the event happen.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman FILNER and Ranking Member BUYER for the opportunity to honor the "silent service" of World War II. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. SESTAK for his leadership in working with me on this legislation, and express my appreciation for the support of all the other co-sponsors of the resolution.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H. Res. 773.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, so I yield back the balance of my time.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on House Resolution 773.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Mr. BOOZMAN and Mr. SESTAK again, continuously on the forefront of making sure the respect shown to our veterans and the benefits that they have earned are there, and I urge my colleagues to unanimously support H. Res. 773.

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 Minnesota (Mr. WALZ) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 773.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### VETERANS RETRAINING ACT OF 2009

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1168) to amend chapter 42 of title 38, United States Code, to provide certain veterans with employment training assistance, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1168

*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 "Veterans Retraining Act of 2009".*

#### SEC. 2. EMPLOYMENT TRAINING ASSISTANCE.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Chapter 42 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

#### "§ 4216. Employment Training Assistance for Unemployed Veterans.

"(a) *MONTHLY TRAINING ASSISTANCE ALLOWANCE.*—Subject to the availability of appropriations for such purpose, the Secretary of Labor may pay to each covered veteran a monthly training assistance allowance under this section for each month that a covered veteran is enrolled in an employment and training program that teaches a skill in demand, as determined by the Secretary.

"(b) *AMOUNT.*—The amount of the training assistance allowance under this section is the amount equal to the monthly amount of the basic allowance for housing payable under section 403 of title 37 for a member of the Armed Forces with dependents in pay grade E-5 residing in the military housing area that encompasses all or the majority portion of the ZIP code area in which the veteran resides.

"(c) *DURATION.*—A covered veteran may receive training assistance under this section for not more than six months during each 10-year period beginning on the date in which the covered veteran first receives training allowance under this section.

"(d) *MOVING STIPEND.*—Subject to the availability of appropriations for such purpose, in addition to the training assistance allowance payable under subsection (a), the Secretary may reimburse each covered veteran, in an amount not to exceed \$5,000, for moving expenses related to the veteran's receipt of training for which an allowance is paid under this section.

"(e) *COVERED VETERAN DEFINED.*—In this section, the term 'covered veteran' means a veteran who is—

"(1) unemployed for a period of not less than four consecutive months at the time of applying for training assistance under this section;

"(2) able to successfully complete the employment and training program described in subsection (a), as determined by the Secretary; and

"(3) except as provided under this section, ineligible for education or training assistance under this title.

"(f) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$100,000,000 for each fiscal year."

(b) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.*—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 42 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

"4216. Employment training assistance for unemployed veterans."

(c) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—Section 4216 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall apply with respect to months beginning on or after the first day of fiscal year 2011.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

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

Again, I thank my colleagues from Florida and Arkansas for introducing an incredibly important piece of legislation.

H.R. 1168 is a much-needed piece of legislation to address the job retraining needs of America's veterans. Just this month, the Department of Labor reported that more than 30,000 recently