

Transportation and Infrastructure on August 5, 1999, in accordance with 40 U.S.C. §606.

With warm regards, I remain
Sincerely,

BUD SHUSTER,
Chairman.

There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIRMAN
OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, August 12, 1999.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Enclosed are copies of resolutions adopted on August 5, 1999 by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

With kind regards, I am
Sincerely,

BUD SHUSTER,
Chairman.

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX. Any rollcall vote postponed on questions will be taken later today.

NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR
MEMORIAL ACT

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1663) to designate as a national memorial the memorial being built at the Riverside National Cemetery in Riverside, California to honor recipients of the Medal of Honor, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1663

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 "National Medal of Honor Memorial Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) *The Medal of Honor is the highest military decoration which the Nation bestows.*

(2) *The Medal of Honor is the only military decoration given in the name of Congress, and therefore on behalf of the people of the United States.*

(3) *The Congressional Medal of Honor Society was established by an Act of Congress in 1958, and continues to protect, uphold, and preserve the dignity, honor, and name of the Medal of Honor and of the individual recipients of the Medal of Honor.*

(4) *The Congressional Medal of Honor Society is composed solely of recipients of the Medal of Honor.*

SEC. 3. NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR SITES.

(a) *RECOGNITION.—The following sites to honor recipients of the Medal of Honor are hereby recognized as National Medal of Honor sites:*

(1) *RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA.—The memorial under construction at the Riverside National Cemetery in Riverside, California, to be dedicated on November 5, 1999.*

(2) *INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA.—The memorial at the White River State Park in Indianapolis, Indiana, dedicated on May 28, 1999.*

(3) *MOUNT PLEASANT, SOUTH CAROLINA.—The Congressional Medal of Honor Museum at Patriots Point in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, currently situated on the ex-U.S.S. Yorktown (CV-6).*

(b) *INTERPRETATION.—This section shall not be construed to require or permit Federal funds (other than any provided for as of the date of the enactment of this Act) to be expended for any purpose related to the sites recognized in subsection (a).*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. Stump).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. STUMP. 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 H.R. 1663.

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

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 1663, the National Medal of Honor Memorial Act, is a significant bill that is supported by all veterans and their service organizations.

The Medal of Honor is this country's highest military honor, awarded for distinguished gallantry at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty.

This bill recognizes three sites dedicated to honoring the Medal of Honor recipients. They are a memorial under construction at the Riverside VA National Cemetery in California; the memorial recently dedicated at White River State Park in Indianapolis, Indiana; and the Congressional Medal of Honor Museum at Patriots Point in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, on the U.S.S. Yorktown.

H.R. 1663 is supported by the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, an exclusive group consisting of all Medal of Honor recipients. I ask my colleagues to support the bill, H.R. 1663, as amended.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, as original cosponsor of H.R. 1663, the National Medal of Honor Memorial Act, I am very pleased this legislation is being considered today.

The Medal of Honor is, of course, the highest award for valor and action against an enemy force which can be bestowed upon a member of the armed forces of the United States.

Established in the Civil War, only 3,429 Medals of Honor have been awarded since that time. Because of the extraordinary nature of this Medal and those extraordinary Americans who have earned it, it is fitting that the Medal of Honor recipients be honored at designated Medal of Honor sites.

I particularly want to particularly commend the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON) for the amendment to the nature of a substitute which she offered to H.R. 1663 during its consideration by the committee. As perfected by the Carson amendment, the Congressional Medal of Honor Society has expressed enthusiastic support for H.R. 1663, as amended.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a letter from the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, as follows:

CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF
HONOR SOCIETY,
Mt. Pleasant, SC, September 3, 1999.

Hon. LANE EVANS,
House Veterans' Affairs Committee, Wash-
ington, DC.

RE: H.R. 1663.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN EVANS: This letter is to express enthusiastic support of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society and its members for H.R. 1663 that designates three locations within the United States of America as "National Medal of Honor sites." The designation will properly acknowledge the tireless efforts of the respective communities in honoring the service of our veterans. By recognizing the recipients of the Medal of Honor each memorial in turn acknowledges the men and women with whom each recipient served.

The Society will follow the progress of H.R. 1663 and if signed into law, the Society will issue bronze plaques to be affixed to each site declaring each a National Site.

On behalf of the Society and its members, I thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

PAUL W. BUCHA,
President.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is an excellent piece of legislation. I urge all my colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT), the chief sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arizona for yielding me the time and for his decisive action in moving this important legislation through the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and to the House floor.