

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.

Mr. Speaker, I introduced H.R. 1663, the National Medal of Honor Memorial Act of 1999, to honor the sacrifice and bravery of 3,417 Medal of Honor recipients. The Medal of Honor is the highest honor given by Congress for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life beyond the call of duty.

H.R. 1663 would designate three sites as National Medal of Honor Memorials, the Riverside National Cemetery memorial in Riverside, California; the White River State Park memorial in Indianapolis, Indiana; and the U.S.S. Yorktown memorial in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

My bipartisan bill has the Medal of Honor Society's endorsement and does not use taxpayer money for the construction of the three memorial sites. I am also happy to report that the companion legislation to H.R. 1663 has been introduced in the Senate.

I know that the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SANFORD) will speak about the sites within their districts; therefore, I want to speak about my own Riverside National memorial site in Riverside, California.

Riverside National Cemetery is presently the final resting place for two Medal of Honor recipients: Staff Sergeant Ysmael Villegas, United States Army, awarded posthumously for actions in the Philippines; and Commander John Henry Balch, United States Navy, awarded for action in France.

The memorial will name 3,417 Medal of Honor recipients. For each Medal of Honor recipient, an Italian Cyprus tree will be planted. These trees live in excess of 100 years, grow well in southern California, and require minimal maintenance. The monument itself will include a walled area which will surround a pool and a miniature waterfall.

The Riverside memorial site will bring honor to our Medal of Honor recipients in a solemn manner appropriate to its place in a national cemetery. The memorial site will be dedicated in November as the Medal of Honor Society convenes their 1999 convention.

In closing, I wish to encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 1663 and the Medal of Honor Society's mission to serve our country in peace as we did in war, to inspire and stimulate our youth to become worthy citizens of our country, to foster and perpetuate Americanism.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON).

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) and others for being so generous in terms of incorporating all of the Medal of Honor memorials into H.R. 1663.

I would encourage the enthusiastic support of the Congress given the old

adage that says given honor unto whom honor is due.

Earlier this year in my district on May 28, thanks to the civic virtue of John Hodowal, and the civic enterprise of the Indianapolis Power and Light Company Enterprises Foundation, a new memorial was unveiled in Indianapolis in honor of those special American heroes who, for military service above and beyond the call of duty, were rewarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

We were fortunate to have one of the attendees included there when the presentation was made, Mr. Melvin Biddle of Anderson, Indiana, who was awarded the Medal of Honor following his displayed conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy near Soy, Belgium, on December 23 and 24, 1944.

We not only, Mr. Speaker, do our respective districts proud, we do America proud by passing H.R. 1663 in honor of the 3,400 persons that those memorials honor.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support today for this legislation that would recognize as National Medal of Honor sites the memorial at the White River State Park in Indianapolis, Indiana, dedicated on May 28, 1999; the memorial under construction at the Riverside National Cemetery in Riverside, California, to be dedicated on November 5, 1999; and the Congressional Medal of Honor Museum at Patriots Point in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, currently situated on the ex-U.S.S. Yorktown. I am pleased that my colleagues on the Veterans Committee supported my substitute amendment to Representative CALVERT'S original bill.

This legislation is supported by the Congressional Medal of Honor Society. I would like to recognize and thank Paul Bucha, President of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, for his continued support of the Indianapolis memorial, this legislation, and the extraordinary work he does on behalf of the Medal of Honor recipients. This bill has received the support of several other veterans organizations—AMVETS, the Non Commissioned Officers Association, the Disabled American Veterans, the Paralyzed Veterans of America, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The Medal of Honor is only bestowed on those who have performed an act of gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty. Acts of bravery and courage are not unusual among those in uniform, and engaging in direct battle with an enemy or carrying out one's duties under enemy attack is an act of bravery and courage performed by many members of our Armed Forces. The level of heroism cited among those who receive the Medal of Honor is uncommonly high and of a far greater magnitude. The individuals who have received this medal for acts of valor have been signaled out not to glorify war, but to recognize that, for all of its destructiveness, war often is the backdrop for extraordinary acts of bravery.

As a symbol of heroism, this medal has no equal in American life. As of now, 2,363 Medals have been awarded to the Army, 745 to

the Navy, 295 to the Marines, 16 to the Air Force, 1 to the Coast Guard, and 9 Unknowns. There have been a 3,410 total recipients and 3,429 total Medals awarded. Of those, nineteen (19) have received the Medal of Honor twice.

Earlier this year in my district on May 28th, thanks to the civic virtue of John Hodowal, and the civic enterprise of the corporation he leads, IPALCO Enterprises and the IPALCO Enterprises Foundation, a new memorial was unveiled in Indianapolis in honor of those special American heroes who, for military service above and beyond the call of duty, were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. The dedication ceremony, with ninety-six of the 155 living recipients of the Medal of Honor, was attended by one of the largest ever gatherings of these reputable men and women. One of these attendees included Mr. Melvin E. Biddle, of Anderson, Indiana, who was awarded the Medal of Honor following his displayed conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy near Soy, Belgium, on December 23 and 24, 1944.

This magnificent memorial, compose of 27 curved walls of glass, each between seven and ten-feet high and representing specific conflicts in which the medal was awarded, features the names of the 3,410 people who have received the medal since it was first awarded during the Civil War. The location of this memorial, on the north bank of the Central Canal in White River State Park is particularly significant, since it is adjacent to Military Park, which served as a training facility during the Civil War. Nearly half of the Medals of Honor issued, 1,520, were bestowed upon soldiers who fought in the Civil War. This memorial joins the many memorials that line downtown Indianapolis paying homage to the men and women in uniform who served our nation at war and at peace down through the years. Nearby, a memorial to the men of the USS Indianapolis marks their service, and on Monument Circle, at the very heart of downtown Indianapolis, stands the Soldier's and Sailors' Monument, standing nearly as tall as the Statue of Liberty, a multifaceted recognition of the contributions of Indiana's Soldiers, Sailors and Marines from the Civil War through the Spanish American War, the Boxer Rebellion and our other foreign military engagements up to World War I.

I am pleased to support this measure to honor these three sites as National Medal of Honor Sites, allowing us the opportunity to say "thank you" to these men and women who have showed us what heroism is all about.

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SANFORD).

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

I think it interesting that, over 100 years ago, an Army officer leaned down in the ground and scratched in the Pennsylvania soil and said this was sacred ground. As it turns out, his comments were prophetic, because that happened to be near a little place called Gettysburg.

What I think is prophetic about this bill and so important about this bill is

that, basically, it reaches out and it consecrates three national shrines to the theme of patriotism, to the theme of persistence.

I think that it is particularly fitting that one of those shrines be the U.S. *Yorktown*. The *Yorktown*, as has already been mentioned, is tied up off Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, there along the coast of South Carolina, and it is named "The Fighting Lady."

The reason it got that name is that it earned 11 battle stars in World War II. It earned five battle stars off the coast of Vietnam prior to its retirement in 1970. In fact, it took a direct hit back in 1945. Yet, despite the fact that The Fighting Lady had been hit, she continued air operations. She continued to fight. Several men were killed, others were wounded, but they kept on fighting.

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The sailors on board the *Yorktown*, those Navy officers and enlisted folks, just would not give up.

I think that that is what is so important about the Medal of Honor; it embraces this theme of patriotism, combined with the idea of persistence, and that is a theme I think we could all learn about, whether in wartime or in peacetime.

So I would just applaud the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) and applaud the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP) for their leadership with this bill and how it again consecrates these three national shrines to the theme of patriotism and persistence.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER).

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I, too, rise in strong support of H.R. 1663, the National Medal of Honor Memorial Act.

As a Californian and original cosponsor of the bill, I am very pleased that H.R. 1663 recognizes the Riverside National Cemetery in Riverside, California, as a national Medal of Honor site, and I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) for his efforts in that regard.

I was also cosponsor of an amendment offered in full committee by the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON) to recognize two additional national Medal of Honor sites, one at the White River State Park in Indianapolis, Indiana, and the other at the Congressional Medal of Honor Museum in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, which we just heard about.

As many people know, the Medal of Honor is the first military decoration formally authorized by the American Government to be worn as a badge of honor, and it was created by this Congress in 1861. Senator James Grimes of Iowa, chairman of the Senate Naval

Committee, proposed legislation to require that a medal of honor, similar to the Victoria Cross of England, be given to naval personnel for actions of bravery in action. His legislation, which was signed into law by President Lincoln on December 21, 1861, established a Medal of Honor for enlisted men of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps. Subsequently, legislation was enacted extending eligibility for the medal to Army-enlisted personnel as well as officers of the Armed Services.

Senator Robert F. Kennedy once said, "It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time a man stands up for an ideal or acts to improve the lot of others or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope."

Those extraordinary Americans who have won the Medal of Honor have, through their acts of remarkable courage, certainly shaped the history of our country and our world. We are doing the right thing today by honoring these courageous citizens.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of H.R. 1663 and urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES).

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1663, the National Medal of Honor Memorial Act. This is a good bill because it honors the incredible courage and valor of our most distinguished veterans. Moreover, it ensures that future generations of Americans will know of the great sacrifices made by these men and women who answered the call to national service for their country. Medal of Honor winners have shown that they were willing to defend our liberty no matter what the price. Their heroism in battle has become legendary.

Since the Civil War, our country has recognized their outstanding acts of courage and bravery through the Congressional Medal of Honor. As there have been only 3,429 award winners in the history of our Nation, these veterans truly occupy a very special place in the hearts of all Americans. Therefore, I think that it is important that we designate sites around the country as national memorials for our Medal of Honor winners.

With this bill, we recognize memorials in Riverside, California; Indianapolis, Indiana; and Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, to honor the contributions to our freedom and to our country of these brave, fine Americans. I therefore strongly endorse this legislation, and I urge all my colleagues to join in unanimously approving this bill.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member of the committee, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS), for all his help in bringing this to the floor; and also the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT), the chief sponsor, for bringing this bill to us and for working so closely with the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1663, the National Medal of Honor Memorial Act.

As the 20th Century draws to a close, many veterans wonder if the nation has lost sight of the sacrifices which have been made to preserve freedom. This bill, loudly states that we the Congress, who represent the people of this great nation, have not lost sight of the heroic sacrifices made in the name of freedom. We appreciate the great contributions of these brave individuals who knowingly placed themselves in harm's way, ready to sacrifice life and limb so that their comrades may live and this nation's values remain strong.

Over this last Memorial Day weekend, I had the distinct pleasure to assemble with nearly 100 Medal of Honor recipients to dedicate the Congressional Medal of Honor Memorial site at the White River State Park in Indianapolis, Indiana. It was truly an inspiring gathering, and at the same time, proved a very humbling experience. These individuals epitomize the true meaning of selfless sacrifice and personal commitment.

While many have answered the call to duty, they have answered a higher calling. A calling that is spiritual in nature and bigger than one's self. For love of God, country, family and friends. Their significant contributions have helped secure a more democratic and peaceful world over the last century. More importantly, their actions serve as a testament to all Americans about serving and caring for others.

Recognizing these Congressional Medal of Honor memorials sites in California, Indiana, and South Carolina as National Medal of Honor memorials continues our commitment to these gallant and heroic men and women and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1663.

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SUNUNU). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1663, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. CALVERT. 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