

feel comfortable attacking those institutions which continue to uphold our ancient moral standards. The reaction of His Eminence to this misplaced hostility has earned him the respect and awe of all of us.

Mr. Speaker, this medal will be funded by the sale of authentic bronze duplicates of the medal which will be placed on sale by the U.S. Mint. I am honored to associate myself with this legislation initiative, and to congratulate Cardinal O'Connor and to wish him good health and happiness upon his anticipated retirement.

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a bill to award a Congressional gold medal to Cardinal John O'Connor. We are gathering here today to honor a man who has been described as being the spine of the Catholic community throughout the United States. Cardinal John O'Connor has held the most influential post in the U.S. Catholic Church and has led the congregation of St. Patrick's Cathedral since 1984 with unwavering faith and a sense of leading a good Catholic life devoted to service.

His life of service formally began when he was ordained as a Roman Catholic priest in 1945. His service continued to not only include the Church and to God but also to his country as he served in the Chaplain Corps of the U.S. Navy, including assignments in Okinawa and Vietnam.

Cardinal O'Connor was able to revitalize the bishops' sense of urgency about the premier civil right issues of our time. He has indeed left an imprint on New York City and Catholics nationwide as a "prophetic voice" which has constantly challenged people's views—regardless of how upsetting they might be, even to politicians.

The Cardinal has been an icon for and has diligently served the American Catholic community particularly due to his strong bond with Pope John Paul II. He consistently served to participate in and better the Catholic school system and gave children the opportunity to be taught in the traditional Catholic system.

The Cardinal also sought to strengthen the ties between Catholics and Jews. Once, in Jerusalem he went so far as to apologize for the Church's history of anti-Semitism and was a chief advocate in persuading the Vatican to recognize Israel.

Today, we as a nation gather to celebrate the work Cardinal O'Connor has devoted his life to: charity, service to our community, acceptance of others and living a good life in the eyes of God. We would be lucky to be able to follow his example as selflessly as he has led his life. Cardinal O'Connor has left a deep impression on America and he will continue to inspire to follow in his footsteps.

Mr. LAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to help celebrate His Eminence John Cardinal O'Connor. For all of his accomplishments as a priest, a chaplain, and a humanitarian, there can be no way to fully honor him. The Congressional Medal of Honor—the highest honor Congress can bestow—is simply a beginning. While we will do our best in Congress to honor him, it is clear that the true honor is ours for having the privilege of learning from him.

As New York's archbishop since 1984, Cardinal O'Connor has seen the Catholic population of the archdiocese rise from 1.8 million when he arrived to the 2.3 million it is today. In a time where many sense a loss of spirituality across America, this is a testament to the wonder and grace of Cardinal O'Connor. That he was able to reach out and touch the souls of so many people, help them, guide them—it is inspiring.

We would all do well to follow the examples of what he has done for the people of New York and the American people. Cardinal O'Connor is an outspoken critic of racism. In the face of severe budget challenges, Cardinal O'Connor has protected and preserved inner-city Catholic schools. The Catholic High School's graduation rate is 99 percent. And his commitment to helping the sick and people with disabilities has been unwavering.

It is our responsibility to honor him outside of this House, and beyond just today. We can do that by learning from his grace and practicing what he has taught us.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HANSEN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3557.

The question was taken.

Mr. BACHUS. 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.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3557, the bill just considered.

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

There was no objection.

#### PRESENTING CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO CHARLES M. SCHULZ

Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3642) to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to Charles M. Schulz in recognition of his lasting artistic contributions to the Nation and the world.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3642

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

#### SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) Charles M. Schulz was born on November 26, 1922, in St. Paul, Minnesota, the son of Carl and Dena Schulz.

(2) Charles M. Schulz served his country in World War II, working his way up from infantryman to staff sergeant and eventually leading a machine gun squad. He kept morale high by decorating fellow soldiers' letters home with cartoons of barracks life.

(3) After returning from the war, Charles M. Schulz returned to his love for illustration and took a job with "Timeless Topix". He also took a second job as an art instructor. Eventually his hard work paid off when the *Saturday Evening Post* began purchasing a number of his single comic panels.

(4) It was in his first weekly comic strip, "L'il Folks", that Charlie Brown was born. That comic strip, which was eventually renamed "Peanuts", became the sole focus of Charles M. Schulz's career.

(5) Charles M. Schulz has drawn every frame of his strip, which runs seven days a week, since it was created in October 1950. This is rare dedication in the field of comic illustration.

(6) The "Peanuts" comic strip appears in 2,600 newspapers around the world and reaches approximately 335 million readers every day in 20 different languages. Because of this, Charles M. Schulz is the most successful comic illustrator in the world.

(7) Charles M. Schulz's television special, "A Charlie Brown Christmas", has run for 34 consecutive years. In all, more than 60 animated specials have been created based on "Peanuts" characters. Four feature films, 1,400 books, and a hit Broadway musical about the "Peanuts" characters have also been produced.

(8) Charles M. Schulz is a leader in the field of comic illustration and in his community. He has paved the way for other artists in this field over the last 50 years and continues to be praised for his outstanding achievements.

(9) Charles M. Schulz has given back to his community in many ways, including owning and operating Redwood Empire Ice Arena in Santa Rosa, California. The arena has become a favorite gathering spot for people of all ages. Charles M. Schulz finances a yearly ice show that draws crowds from all over the San Francisco Bay Area.

(10) Charles M. Schulz has given the Nation a unique sense of optimism, purpose, and pride. Whether through the Great Pumpkin Patch, the Kite Eating Tree, Lucy's Psychiatric Help Stand, or Snoopy's adventures with the Red Baron, "Peanuts" has embodied human vulnerabilities, emotions, and potential.

(11) Charles M. Schulz's lifetime of work has linked generations of Americans and has become a part of the fabric of our national culture.

#### SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The President is authorized to present, on behalf of the Congress, a gold medal of appropriate design to Charles M. Schulz in recognition of his lasting artistic contributions to the Nation and the world.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose of the presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

#### SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

Under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, the Secretary may strike and