

you a little bit about the facility. When the Air Force was going to close the base and the hospital, a lot of people said that should not happen, because we still have a large veterans population, we still have a lot of military retirees and their dependents who need medical service, and we still had, at the Rome Air Development Center, a research laboratory where there were military families and their dependents.

Where were they to be served? I was able to convince the Department of Air Force, working in conjunction with the Veterans' Administration, to transfer that facility that was destined to be closed to the Veterans' Administration, who are operating it today as a full-service Veterans' Administration outpatient clinic, serving an average of 135 patients with quality medical care that they desire, but, more importantly, that they deserve, every single day.

That is a little bit about the facility; that is a lot of bit about the man.

So I want to commend the gentleman from Arizona (Chairman STUMP) for recognizing the importance of honoring a very distinguished American, and I would like to thank all of my colleagues in the House, Republicans and Democrats alike. Every single member of the New York Congressional delegation has cosponsored my bill to honor Mr. Mitchell.

So, collectively today, in the people's House, our House, we stand in the well and we salute a distinguished American.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS) for his work on this, and I would like to especially thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT) for bringing this to our attention.

Having served with Mr. Mitchell many, many years ago on the Committee on Armed Services, it is truly a pleasure to honor a great American hero in this fashion.

Madam Speaker, 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 Arizona (Mr. STUMP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1982, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title was amended so as to read: A bill to name the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Rome, New York, as the "Donald J. Mitchell Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic".

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1100

RECOGNIZING HEROES PLAZA IN CITY OF PUEBLO, COLORADO, AS HONORING RECIPIENTS OF MEDAL OF HONOR

Mr. STUMP. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 351) recognizing Heroes Plaza in the City of Pueblo, Colorado, as honoring recipients of the Medal of Honor.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 351

Whereas the Medal of Honor was established by Congress in 1862 and is the highest military declaration bestowed by the Nation;

Whereas the criteria for receiving the Medal of Honor are extraordinarily stringent, requiring that an individual, while a member of the Armed Forces, have "distinguish[ed] himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty" while engaged in combat and that there have been at least two eyewitnesses to the act;

Whereas fewer than 155 of the approximately 3,500 Americans who have been awarded the Medal of Honor are alive, including two who are natives of the City of Pueblo, Colorado;

Whereas the City of Pueblo, Colorado, will be the site for the September 2000 reunion of living recipients of the Medal of Honor; and

Whereas during that reunion, a Medal of Honor memorial, to be known as "Heroes Plaza", will be dedicated: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Heroes Plaza in the City of Pueblo, Colorado, is recognized, effective as of the September 2000 reunion of living Medal of Honor recipients in that city, as honoring the recipients of the Medal of Honor and honoring their commitment to the United States and to serving in the Armed Forces with courage, valor, and patriotism.

The SPEAKER pro tempore Mrs. EMERSON). 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. Madam 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 therein on H. Con. Res 351.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, H. Con. Res. 351, recognizes Heroes Plaza in the City of Pueblo, Colorado, as honoring recipients of the Medal of Honor. The city will host the annual convention of the Medal of Honor Society later this year.

I urge my colleagues to support passage of H. Con. Res. 351.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 351. This resolution recognizes Heroes Plaza in the City of Pueblo, Colorado, as honoring the recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor. During September of this year, the City of Pueblo will be host to a reunion of the living recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor. In conjunction with this gathering, it is indeed fitting and appropriate to recognize Heroes Plaza in Pueblo as honoring the recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

I want to thank all Members who have worked on this resolution. The gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS) is a leader in this effort, and sometime I will have to get down to Pueblo and see the program with the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS); and I salute him again for his work on this issue.

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

Mr. STUMP. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS), the sponsor of this resolution.

Mr. MCINNIS. Madam Speaker, first of all, I would like to thank the chairman, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP), for yielding me this time. I appreciate the fact that he expedited this resolution. Without his assistance, we would not have been able to move forward.

Madam Speaker, I also wish to acknowledge the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS) and appreciate very much his cooperation, and I would wholeheartedly invite the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS) to Pueblo, Colorado, but only based on a commitment from him that he give me an extra day or two to take him up into the mountains and do a little skiing or see a little of that snow, show him the third district.

Anyway, I appreciate the assistance of both of these gentlemen. Clearly, the resolution is very simple in its writing, but it is very deep in its thought. Pueblo, Colorado, has a population of 100,000 people; and of that population four of them have received the Medal of Honor, probably the highest number of Medal of Honor winners proportionate to population of any city in the country.

The City of Pueblo takes deep pride in the military. Their schools incorporate, within their schools, what the real definition of the word "hero" means.

The Medal of Honor winners, when they come to Pueblo for these annual dinners, take extra time and go around

to these schools. Many of these schools are poor schools. They go around and speak to these students, and I will say it is really refreshing and relieves or brings back up a deep sense of patriotism, for those of us who feel that it is very important.

So this year, the City of Pueblo is recognizing Heroes Plaza and have actually commissioned, and it is a very expensive undertaking, but they have commissioned four statues representing each of the four Medal of Honor winners of the City of Pueblo.

Unfortunately, two of those four have passed away in the past year and will not be present, obviously, for the occasion in September; but, nonetheless, we expect a very large gathering, and we think that this resolution adds to the patriotism of that particular gathering. So I do appreciate the expedited schedule, again thanks to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP), thanks to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS), and thanks to the Speaker pro tempore.

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

Madam Speaker, I would like at this time to thank once again the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS) for all his cooperation in bringing these bills to the floor today, and also thank the chairman of the Committee on Armed Services, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPENCE), and the ranking member, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON), for allowing us to expedite this measure today.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 351.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 4654

Mr. McNULTY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 4654.

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

There was no objection.

INNOCENT CHILD PROTECTION ACT OF 2000

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4888) to protect innocent children.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4888

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 "Innocent Child Protection Act of 2000".

SEC. 2. PROTECTION OF INNOCENT CHILDREN.

It shall be unlawful for any authority, military or civil, of the United States, a State, or any district, possession, commonwealth or other territory under the authority of the United States to carry out a sentence of death on a woman while she carries a child in utero. In this section, the term "child in utero" means a member of the species homo sapiens, at any stage of development, who is carried in the womb.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Madam 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 therein on H.R. 4888, the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 4888 is the Innocent Child Protection Act of 2000, which would make it unlawful for the Federal Government or any State government to execute a woman while she is pregnant. This legislation was introduced by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. Ros-Lehtinen) on July 19 and would fulfill the obligations of the United States under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

That covenant, which was ratified by the United States in 1992 and has been signed by 143 other countries, guarantees certain civil and political rights to all individuals within the jurisdiction of the various nations, including the right to be free from torture or cruel and inhumane and degrading treatment or punishment, the right to be free from slavery, and the right to liberty and security of person.

The covenant also guarantees the right to freedom of expression, thought, conscience and religion; but of significance to today's legislation, article 6 of that covenant provides that a sentence of death shall not be carried out on a pregnant woman.

The United States agreed to this prohibition and promised to respect and ensure the rights recognized in the covenant to all individuals subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

In addition, where not already provided for by existing legislation or by

other measures, the United States agreed to take necessary steps to adopt such legislative or other measures as may be necessary to give effect to the rights recognized in that covenant; and so Congress, pursuant to that treaty, enacted legislation in 1994 that prohibited Federal executions of pregnant women.

That statute codified the common-law rule which had been recognized by the United States Supreme Court in *Union Pacific Railway v. Botsford*. In that case, the Supreme Court explained the common law barred execution of a pregnant woman in order to guard against the taking of the life of an unborn child for the crime of the mother.

The majority of executions are carried out by the States; and, therefore, it appears that some States have no statutory prohibition on executing pregnant women; and for that reason it is necessary to implement the treaty for us to move forward with this legislation. It is important that the position of the United States be clear and unambiguous.

Now let me address the constitutional authority for this legislation. It is well settled that Congress has the authority to enact legislation implementing treaties under the necessary and proper clause of article I of the Constitution, even if that legislation interferes with matters that would otherwise be left to the States. The Supreme Court addressed this issue in *Missouri v. Holland*. In that case, the United States entered into a treaty with Great Britain in which both countries agreed to take certain steps to protect migratory birds. After ratification of the treaty, Congress enacted a Federal statute prohibiting the killing, capturing or selling of certain migratory birds, except as permitted by regulation of the Department of Agriculture. And so even though Missouri challenged this new statute and asserted the statute interfered with the powers reserved to the States by the 10th amendment, the Court upheld implementation of that treaty by statute.

In a similar way, the courts have followed similar reasoning in upholding of the Hostage-Taking Act, which was again implemented pursuant to a treaty; and so this is very appropriate that we enter into this legislation today.

The situation, we might say, contemplated by this legislation may occur very rarely, but enactment of the law is clearly worthwhile even if it has the potential to save only one innocent life. In recent years there have been 40 to 50 women at a time under state-imposed death sentences. As of January 1, there were 51 women on death row in the various States and 82 percent of those women were age 45 or younger.

While it may seem unlikely that any of these women would become pregnant, the fact is that incarcerated women do become pregnant even in