

New Jersey Avenues and D Street, Northwest. This memorial will help us all better understand Japanese-Americans' World War II experiences. I would encourage all members to attend this important dedication ceremony. I support this measure, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 139, a resolution to authorize the use of the Capitol grounds on November 9 for the dedication of the National Japanese-American Memorial to Patriotism. The memorial is to be constructed on a prominent site located at the intersection of New Jersey Avenue and Louisiana Avenue, just a few yards from the Capitol. The event will be free of charge, open to the public, and will be arranged and conducted on the conditions prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board.

I support the resolution and urge my colleagues to also support the resolution.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution, which authorizes the use of the Capitol grounds for the dedication of the National Japanese-American Memorial to Patriotism. As with all events on the Capitol Grounds, this event will be open to the public and free of charge.

The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and its predecessor, the Public Works and Transportation Committee, has a long, proud history associated with this Memorial and the event. In 1991, our former Committee colleague, the gentleman from California, Norman Mineta, introduced House Joint Resolution 271. This Joint Resolution, which Congress adopted in October 1992, authorized the Go For Broke National Veterans Association to establish a memorial in the District of Columbia to honor Japanese American patriotism in World War II.

In November 1995, I had the honor of introducing H.R. 2636, co-sponsored by the gentleman from California, Mr. MATSUI, and the gentleman from New York, Mr. KING. The bill authorized the transfer of certain parcels of property to establish and build the memorial. In 1996, the bill was passed as part of the Omnibus Parks and Lands Management Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-333). Finally, today, nine years after then-Congressman Norman Mineta began this process, we authorize use of the Capitol grounds for the dedication ceremony and celebration to open the National Japanese-American Memorial to Patriotism on November 9, 2000.

The Memorial honors the patriotism of Japanese Americans who served the armed forces of the United States during World War II. More than 33,000 Japanese-Americans were drafted or volunteered for U.S. military service during the war. The Japanese-American 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team is one of the most highly decorated military units in American history. Its members received more than 18,000 individual decorations. Just last week, this

body considered and passed a bill to name the new courthouse in Seattle, Washington, after just one of this unit's many heroes, William Kenzo Nakamura.

Mr. Speaker, this beautiful Memorial is more than a fitting tribute to World War II veterans of Japanese ancestry. It also recognizes one of our nation's darker moments—the sacrifices of approximately 120,000 Japanese-Americans who were interned as a matter of "military necessity" for up to four years during the War. One of those interned was my friend, Norm Mineta. We came to Congress together 25 years ago and I will never forget his story. He was only 11 years old when he and his family were forced from their California home at gunpoint. Norm was wearing his Cub Scout uniform and carrying his baseball, bat, and glove. Before he boarded the evacuation train, a Military Police officer confiscated his bat because it could be used as a weapon. Norm and his family would spend the next 18 months interned in the Heart Mountain concentration camp, outside Cody, Wyoming.

Many, like our former colleague, now-Secretary of Commerce Mineta, although placed in internment camps during the war, never lost their faith in America. They lost their jobs, their homes, and their livelihoods, but they clung to their belief in the justice of the American system. At a time when so many were faced with terror and adversity, they held in their hearts a steadfast belief in the American system. It is fitting that this Memorial to Japanese-American Patriotism is within a stone's throw of the U.S. Capitol.

I support the resolution and wish to extend my thanks to Secretary Mineta, the gentleman from California, Mr. MATSUI, and the gentleman from Hawaii, Senator INOUE, for their perseverance in their long struggle to create this Memorial, and their many contributions to our country.

I urge adoption of the resolution.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate Concurrent Resolution, S. Con. Res. 139.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the Senate concurrent resolution just concurred in.

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

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

KEEPING SOCIAL SECURITY SOLVENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to address what I think is one of the important issues in this election, and I would hope everybody all over the country would ask the candidates that are running for the United States Senate, or for the U.S. House of Representatives, or for the President, do they have a plan that will keep Social Security solvent.

Social Security, which is probably one of our most important, most successful programs in the United States, now pays over 90 percent of the retirement benefits to almost one-third of our retirees. Social Security is important. The longer we put off developing a solution for Social Security, the more drastic that solution.

I first came to Congress in 1993. I introduced my first Social Security bill that year; and then in 1995, 1997 and 1999, I introduced a Social Security solvency bill that was actually scored by the Social Security Administration, scored to keep Social Security solvent for the next 75 years.

□ 1615

It is interesting that in the earlier years there were less changes, and we needed less money from the general fund to accommodate the continuation of Social Security. In other words, putting off that bill, missing our opportunity for the last 8 years has meant that the changes are going to be more dramatic. Somehow we have got to do it without reducing benefits for existing or near-term retirees and somehow we have got to do it with yet again increasing taxes on working Americans.

I am going to go through a few charts very quickly. This is, of course, a picture of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. When he created the Social Security program over 6 decades ago, he wanted it to feature a private sector component to build retirement income. Social Security was supposed to be one leg of a three-legged stool to support retirees. It was supposed to go hand in hand with personal savings and private pension plans.

A lot of people have said, well, Social Security somehow is going to solve the problem and so maybe I do not need to save. So where we have ended up in