parent for their children, there are children on Father's Day who will have no one to celeb-
rate with;
(3) urges fathers to participate in their children's lives both financially and emo-
tionally;
(4) encourages fathers to devote time, en-
ergy, and resources to their children;
(5) urges fathers to understand the level of responsibility required when fathering a child and to fulfill that responsibility;
(6) is committed to assist absent fathers be-
come more responsible and engaged in their children's lives;
(7) designates June 18, 2000, as "National Responsible Father's Day";
(c) calls upon fathers around the country to use the day to reconnect and recommit-
themselves to their children's lives, to spend "National Responsible Father's Day" with their children, and to express their love and support for their children; and
(9) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe "National Responsible Father's Day" with appropriate cere-
monies and activities.

AWARD OF MEDAL OF HONOR TO ED W. FREEMAN, JAMES K.
OKUBO, AND ANDREW J. SMITH.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unani-
mous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 2722, introduced earlier today by Sen-
ator AKAKA.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2722) to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to Ed W. Freeman, James K. Okubo, and Andrew J. Smith.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I am proud to introduce legislation which would award the Medal of Honor to James K. Okubo, Ed W. Freeman, and Andrew J. Smith. There is no doubt that these three individuals are deserving of this award based on their brave and selfless service in defense of our great nation. The passage of this measure makes it possible for these men to receive a long overdue and well-deserve honor.

This legislation marks the culmina-
tion of my efforts to recognize James K. Okubo for his acts of gallantry during World War II. James K. Okubo was born in Anacortes, Washington, raised in Bellingham, Washington, and in-
terned at Tule Lake, California. Mr. Okubo entered military service in Alturas, California on May 22, 1943 and was discharged from the Army in De-
cember 1945. Following his military service, Mr. Okubo was a professor at the University of Detroit Dental School. Mr. Okubo passed away follow-
ing a car accident in 1967.

Mr. Okubo (Tec 5) served as a medic, member of the Medical Detachment, 42nd Regimental Combat Team. For his heroism displayed over a period of several days (October 26, 29 and Novem-
ber 4, 1944) in rescuing and delivering medical aid to fellow soldiers during the rescue of the "Lost Battalion" from Texas, he was recommended to re-
ceive the Medal of Honor. The medal, however, was downgraded to a Silver Star. The explanation provided at the time was that as a medic, James S. Okubo was not eligible for any award higher than the Silver Star.

Due to my concern that Mr. Okubo did not receive full recognition for his acts of heroism and bravery, I re-
quested reconsideration of Mr. Okubo's case under section 1130, Title 10 of the United States Code. The Senior Army Decorations Board reviewed the case and submitted it to Secretary Caldera recommending an upgrade to the Medal of Honor. Secretary Caldera approved the recommendation which resulted in this important measure.

The legislation provides that especially signifi-
cant as fellow members of Mr. Okubo's unit will be awarded the Medal of Honor next week. It is my hope that this legislation will be enacted shortly, thereby allowing the Okubo family to participate in this auspicious event with the other families of members from the 100th Battalion, 422nd Regi-
mental Combat Team.

Mr. Okubo's heroism on the battle-
field is an inspiration to all who be-
lieve in duty, honor, and service to one's country. Mr. Okubo takes his rightful place among America's great war heroes. He is a shining example of the sacrifices made by so many other Asian Pacific Americans during World War II, who served our country so ably in spite of the difficulties they faced as members of a suspect minority.

Mr. ENZI. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read the third time and passed, the motion to recon-
sider be laid upon the table, and any statements be printed in the Record.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 2722) was considered read the third time and passed, as follows: S. 2722

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Rep-
resentatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY TO AWARD MEDAL OF HONOR TO ED W. FREEMAN, JAMES K.
OKUBO, AND ANDREW J. SMITH.

(a) INAPPLICABILITY TO AWARD MEDAL OF HONOR TO ED W. FREEMAN, JAMES K.
OKUBO, AND ANDREW J. SMITH. Notwithstanding the time limitations in section 3744(b) of title 10, United States Code, or any other time limitation, the President may award the Medal of Honor under section 3741 of said title to the persons specified in subsection (b) for the acts specified in that subsection.

(b) P RIOR AWARD.—The persons referred to in subsection (a) are the following:

(1) Ed W. Freeman, for conspicuous acts of gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life and beyond the call of duty on October 28 and 29, and November 4, 1944, at Foret Domaniale de Champ, near Biffontaine, France, during World War II, while serving as an Army medic in the grade of Technician Fifth Grade in the medical detachment, 422d Regimental Combat Team.

(2) James K. Okubo, for conspicuous acts of gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life and beyond the call of duty on October 28, 29, and November 4, 1944, during the Vietnam War, while serving in the grade of Captain in Alpha Company, 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion, 101st Airborne Division (Air-
mobile).

(3) Andrew J. Smith, for conspicuous acts of gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life and beyond the call of duty on November 30, 1864, in the Battle of Honey Hill, South Carolina, during the Civil War, while serving as a corporal in the 5th Massachusetts Vol-
untary Infantry Regiment.

(4) PRIOR AWARD.—The Medal of Honor may be awarded under this section for service for which a Silver Star, or other award, has been awarded.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2000

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unani-
mous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, June 14. I further ask unanimous consent that on Wednesday, immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then resume consideration of S. 2549, the Depart-
ment of Defense authorization bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. ENZI. For the information of all Senators, the Senate will convene at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow, and will imme-
diately resume debate on the Defense authorization legislation. As a re-

ORDER OF BUSINESS


S E N A T E

10491

June 13, 2000

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE