American War. He will join 109 other soldiers, sailors and Marines who were awarded the Medal of Honor for their actions during that conflict.

However, it troubles me that for some inexplicable reason that President Clinton has delayed acting upon Secretary Cohen’s recommendation. I urge President Clinton to announce the award now.

AWARDING MEDAL OF HONOR TO PRESIDENT THEODORE ROOSEVELT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. BUYER. Moreover, it is my sincerest hope that the award ceremony will be conducted here in Washington as befits a celebration that honors a truly larger than life American. Last year, I spoke of Tweed Roosevelt today, a direct descendant of Teddy Roosevelt, and I endorse the Roosevelt family’s desire that President Roosevelt’s Medal of Honor permanently reside next to his Nobel Peace Prize in the Roosevelt Room of the White House. That is the working room of the West Wing just off the Oval Office. I can think of no better tribute to the greatness of President Roosevelt than to bring together in one room the accolades that he received as both a warrior and as a statesman. What finer example could we offer the leader of our Nation, what better inspiration for our future Presidents to strive for excellence in their quest of the greater understanding.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend Congress for its work to secure the Medal of Honor for Teddy Roosevelt. We have attempted to right a historical wrong and we have come to learn more about why Theodore Roosevelt was one of our greatest historical figures. He displayed the qualities of a great leader: courage, cunning, intellect, boldness and charisma all founded on deep moral purpose. His courage and the enthusiasm that his courage generated motivated his Rough Riders on the battlefield at San Juan Heights and inspired a generation of Americans as they emerged from the chaos of the late 19th century.

Mr. Clinton, we urge you to avoid further delay and expeditiously award the Medal of Honor to Colonel Theodore Roosevelt.

Mr. LAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Indiana, and I want to begin by acknowledging his terrific work in terms of bringing this issue to the forefront of this Congress and all of his partnership with me in these last 3 years as we have been fighting for this sense of justice. People say why do we care about giving Theodore Roosevelt the Congressional Medal of Honor 102 years after he earned it. I think it comes down to simple justice. The fact is that Theodore Roosevelt is one of our greatest Americans. His face appears on Mount Rushmore. He has been known as one of America’s greatest Presidents. Before that, he was a Governor of the State of New York. He was a great conservationist and a reformer.

He was the architect of the modern Navy, and in many ways help shape American foreign policy as we entered the global age. But it is for none of those reasons that Theodore Roosevelt deserves the Congressional Medal of Honor. It is for the facts that the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER) has laid out.

On that day, on July 1 of 1898, when a volunteer Lieutenant Colonel Theodore Roosevelt led his men up a hill, a strategic hill on the high ground that saved many American lives that day, and contrary to public belief, a popular belief the Rough Riders, who Lieutenant Colonel led, went forward that day without their horses as dismounted infantry and they faced an enemy much better positioned than the Spaniards in securing the high ground. They faced an enemy with machine guns, which were only a few years later in World War I create such mass destruction; but even at that point in 1898, these guns were trained down on them.

Alongside Roosevelt and his Rough Riders advanced the 9th and 10th colored Cavalry Regiments, the famed Buffalo Soldiers of the Indian Wars. And I will say to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER), to all of those in the Chamber, the Spanish bullets reflected neither national rank. In the end the blood was American.

Up the steep hill, the Rough Riders climbed facing a withering fire from the trenches blow up the steep hill, climbed with men from the rear ranks taken the place of the fallen, up that steep hill they climbed led by their be-mustached, mustached leader, Colonel Roosevelt.

In the finest military tradition, Teddy Roosevelt led the way. Rather than pushing his men forward from behind, he pulled them forward from in front. By his own conspicuous courage, Roosevelt inspired his men to conquer their fear, to climb those heights against the odds of enemy lead.

In placing themselves in dire danger, Roosevelt animated his men to move towards the trenches that belched the venomous fire. By his leadership, by dint of his personal example, Roosevelt propelled his troops to capture the Spanish defenses. Of the 490 men who started to climb that hill that day, 89 were killed or wounded. One of those wounded was Colonel Roosevelt.

And I would say to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER), who has served our Nation in uniform and I have great respect and admiration for him because of that, there is no greater service than I think an American can render to put his life on the line and cause freedom in America’s interests.

This is what Colonel Roosevelt did as a volunteer. He displayed extraordinary courage, and that was documented at the time by his superiors and his contemporaries. So this is not something where Congress is reaching back and recreating history. We have a strong historical record. There was a voluminous brief that was submitted by me 3 years ago with the assistance of the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER). The fact is that there is plenty of evidence, plenty of evidence that suggests that Roosevelt was denied for political reason.

Now is a time to correct that record to see that justice is done and for President Clinton to give him due, the Congressional Medal of Honor. We can upon the President to do that.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to include in the RECORD a part of that brief, if I can, which documents the historical record.

Congressman Rick Lazio submitted the following argument for the recognition of Theodore Roosevelt.

Theodore Roosevelt Deserves the Medal of Honor

INTRODUCTION

The 100th Anniversary of the Spanish-American War has raised public interest in this important segment of American History. The Spanish American War is for many a symbol of America’s emergence as a world power. Inextricably entwined in this coming of age on the world stage is the history and efforts of President Theodore Roosevelt, as the leader of the First Volunteer Cavalry Regiment known more commonly as the Rough Riders, played a significant and heroic role in Cuba. This victory catapulted both Roosevelt and the United States onto the world stage and the eventual position of leadership we enjoy today.

The focus here is not on Theodore Roosevelt, leader of the Rough Riders and his gallant charges to secure the San Juan Heights. Theodore Roosevelt was unjustly overlooked for the Congressional Medal of Honor. His application, when taken in the context for awarding America’s highest military honor at that time, was granted more serious consideration than it was given. Many attribute this oversight to political squabbles of the times as well as prejudice in favor of the regular army regiments. The Centennial of this historic effort is an appropriate time to correct this injustice.

NARRATIVE

Theodore Roosevelt’s service in the Spanish American War began with an offer of a commission from Secretary of War Russell Alger as Lieutenant Colonel in a regiment commanded by Colonel Leonard Wood in April of 1898 after the United States declared war on Spain retroactive to April 21, 1898. The Regiment was designated the 1st United States
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE
10605

Volunteer Calvary. However, they quickly became officially known as the "Rough Riders." The regiment was made of volunteers from all walks of life and all classes of Americans. The outfit was considered to be unpolished and undisciplined. Much effort was made to bring the Rough Riders into a quality fighting unit. The Rough Riders were later sent to Tampa and on June 3, 1898 arrived to be joined with other Cavalry regiments to form a division under the command of Major General Joseph Wheeler. The division belonged to the 5th Corps with Major General William R. Shafter, a Medal of Honor recipient and veteran of the Civil War.

On June 22, 1898, the Rough Riders landed in Cuba on the outskirts of Santiago after little resistance but a difficult voyage. The unit soon moved out in the campaign to capture Santiago. Soon after beginning the campaign, the regiment encountered resistance from the Spanish Army. The regiment suffered several casualties including eight killed in a battle to secure a blockhouse. By June 25, the assault on the army on Santiago began in earnest.

The battle was to begin with an assault on El Caney, a village on the outskirts of the San Juan Heights. The Rough Riders were close enough to the Camino Real, the principal route to Santiago. The assault would be made by the regular infantry under the command of Brigadier General Lawton and supported by an artillery barrage from a battery under the command of Captain Allyn K. Capron Sr. The rest of the army would take up positions in the jungle in front of the San Juan Heights.

The plan was to capture El Caney and then directly assault the San Juan Heights. It was at this time that Roosevelt was promoted to field rank and given command of the Rough Riders. Several Officers had come down with fever. Colonel Wood was promoted to Brigadier General and given command of General Young's brigade leading to Roosevelt's promotion. By the end of the day, the Rough Riders were positioned near El Pozo, a hill flanking the Camino Real and about six miles to Santiago.

On the morning of July 1, 1898, the army began its attack on El Caney. The barricage was ineffectual and inspired return fire from the Spanish, even the riflemen and many others wounded, including a mild wound to Colonel Roosevelt. General Shafter, who was also ill, issued orders through his adjutant, Colonel McClelland for the army to get into position to attack the San Juan Heights as planned without waiting for El Caney to be captured. The force deployed as directed and quickly came under fire from the Spanish forces entrenched on the sloping hills overlooking them. The Rough Riders positioned themselves near the San Juan River at the foot of a hill that later became known as Kettle Hill because of the blockhouse and sugar refining kettle found there. The regiment and the other units it had moved to support quickly faced severe enemy artillery fire causing many to panic. Roosevelt walked up and down the line of Rough Riders to ensure that they were and remained in as much protection as possible. The Rough Riders were taking heavy casualties as they waited for orders to engage the Spanish. After waiting and taking heavy casualties, Roosevelt finally received the order to advance on Kettle Hill in support of the Regular Cavalry. The Rough Riders soon fought to clear Kettle Hill of Spanish forces.

The Ninth’s senior officers were reluctant to advance so Roosevelt and the Rough Riders passed them. Many junior officers and en- listed men of the Ninth then followed Roosevelt and the Rough Riders up the hill. Roosevelt was at the front of the charge up the hill and through a barbed wire fence to the crest of the hill all while under constant enemy fire. Once over the Kettle Hill, Roosevelt turned his attention to San Juan Hill to the left. After viewing the ap- proach in the area of Kettle Hill, Roosevelt issued the order to San Juan Hill from Kettle Hill. Initially, Roosevelt's Rough Riders did not hear the order, but further urging from Roosevelt. In the charge, Roosevelt personally dispatched a Spaniard with a shot from his revolver. The Regiment then dug in and prepared for the siege of Santiago.

ARGUMENT FOR PRESENTING THE MEDAL OF HONOR TO THEODORE ROOSEVELT BASED ON THE FIRST-HAND ACCOUNTS OF HIS FEARS

I. The case of Lieutenant Colonel Roosevelt warrants reconsideration by the Secretary

Under the Department of Defense Manual of Military Decorations and Awards, the case of Theodore Roosevelt clearly fits under either section 3a or 3b of the regulations regarding the medal of honor.

3a. The remaining bases for reconsideration are instances in which a Service Secretary or the President determines that there is evidence of material error or impropriety in the original processing of or decision on a recommendation for award of the Medal of Honor.

3b. All other instances of reconsideration shall be limited to those in which the formal recommendation was submitted within statutory time limitations, was lost or inadvertently not acted upon, and when these facts are conclusively established by the respective Service Secretary or other official delegated appropriate authority.

The situation regarding Roosevelt is unclear. It is clear that the first application lacked specific details. Roosevelt was then made to reapply in more detail. Several letters previously cited attest to his acts on the field on July 1, 1898.

a. The Secretary of War's personal bias against Roosevelt contributed to Roosevelt from receiving the medal.

It is clear that Roosevelt was not awarded the medal. Most sources attribute the failure to award the medal to a political rift between Roosevelt and Secretary of War Russell Alger. The rift developed after Roosevelt's initiative in the Cuban War and his attempt to bring the soldiers into Cuba. Nearly 160 members of Congress to sponsor a bill specific to this time. Many documents attesting to Roosevelt's merit have been recovered. Diligent efforts on the part of many, including the Congressional resolution service, have failed to produce records of Roosevelt's consideration. The absence of such records and any explanation other than some bias against Roosevelt's merit have been recovered. Diligent efforts on the part of many, including the Congressional resolution service, have failed to produce records of Roosevelt's consideration.

The inability to recover records of the actual consideration of Roosevelt for the Medal of Honor is a major reason for this time. It is self-evident and uncontestable that the absence of such records and any explanation other than some bias against Roosevelt's merit have been recovered. Diligent efforts on the part of many, including the Congressional resolution service, have failed to produce records of Roosevelt's consideration.

b. A bias against the volunteer regiments may have prevented Roosevelt from receiving the Medal of Honor.

The lack of a report on Roosevelt's denial or other documents relating to the denial constitutes "material error" or "an inadvertent loss or failure to act warranting reconsideration by the Secretary.

The Secretary would clearly have the authority to reconsider Roosevelt for the Medal of Honor.

c. The lack of a report on Roosevelt's denial or other documents relating to the denial constitutes "material error" or "an inadvertent loss or failure to act warranting reconsideration by the Secretary." The inability to recover records of the actual consideration of Roosevelt for the Medal of Honor is a major reason for this time. It is self-evident and uncontestable that the absence of such records and any explanation other than some bias against Roosevelt's merit have been recovered. Diligent efforts on the part of many, including the Congressional resolution service, have failed to produce records of Roosevelt's consideration.

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The number of letters exceed the two required.

Included among the exhibits are letters from Maxwell Keyes, 1st Lieutenant and Adjutant U.S. Volunteers (Exhibit 1), Robert Howe, 1st Lieutenant, 9th U.S. Cavalry (Exhibit 2), M.J. Jenkins, Major, 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry (Exhibit 3), Trooper W.J. McCann, Troop B, 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry (Exhibit 4), Captain C.J. Stevens, 2nd U.S. Volunteer Cavalry (Exhibit 9), Colonel Leonard Wood, Major General Joseph Wheeler, and Major General William Shafer, U.S. Volunteers (Exhibit 11) and Colonel A.L. Mills, Brigade Adjutant General and later Superintendent of the United States Military Academy at West Point (Exhibit 12).

These documents should provide an adequate basis for awarding the Medal of Honor to Theodore Roosevelt.

b. Lieutenant Colonel Roosevelt's deeds were both gallant and beyond the call of duty

Captain C.J. Stevens, then a 1st Lieutenant in the 9th Cavalry, concisely describes Roosevelt's actions: "I witnessed Colonel Roosevelt, 1st Volunteer Cavalry, U.S.A., mounted, leading his regiment in the charge on San Juan. His gallantry and strong personality he contributed most materially to the success of the charge of the Cavalry Division up San Juan Hill. Colonel Roosevelt was among the very first to reach the crest of the hill and his charging example, his absolute fearless and gallant leading rendered his conduct conspicuous and distinguished him from other men." His actions are further elaborated on by then Colonel Leonard Wood, "Colonel Roosevelt, accompanied by only four or five men, less as very desperate and extremely gallant charge on San Juan Hill, thereby setting a splendid example to the troops and encouraging them to pass over open country between the front line and the trenches of the enemy." Wood continues, "the example set a most inspiring one to the troops in that part of the line, and while it was not the direct one, that eventually fully went up the hill in good style, yet there is no doubt that the magnificent example set by Colonel Roosevelt had a very encouraging effect and had great weight in bringing up the troops behind him. During the assault, Colonel Roosevelt was the first to reach the trenches and killed one of the enemy with his own hand.

Clearly, the act of gallantry in this case is founded upon Roosevelt's leadership. What makes Roosevelt's actions so deserving of consideration is the context in which they occurred. The letter of Lawrence Keyes points out that on the initial assault on Kettle Hill, Roosevelt and the Rough Riders passed through a regular army regiment that appeared to be awaiting orders. This action is confirmed by Major M.J. Jenkins, "Held in support, he brought his regiment, at exactly the right time, in the very nick of time, at the head of the Regulars, but went through them and headed on horseback, the charge on Kettle Hill; this being done on his own initiative. The Regulars met the charge, but did not resist it. It is clear that many soldiers were in fact reluctant to make the charge despite the fact that they were already under heavy fire and taking several casualties. In the face of this hesitation and quite possibly saved many lives. Though men died in the assault, it appears that even more would have been killed had not Roosevelt's actions been wholly responsible.

Then Captain A.L. Mills was in a perfect position to witness Roosevelt's actions during the battle. He writes, "During this time, (the assault on Kettle Hill) while under the enemy artillery fire at El Peso and while the enemy from the San Juan ford to the point from which his regiment moved to the assault—about two miles, the greatest part of the way—Colonel Roosevelt was conspicuous above any others I observed in his regiment in the zealous performance of duty, in total disregard of his personal danger and in his eagerness to meet the enemy." Mills goes on to describe how Roosevelt, despite being grazed by shrapnel, continued his zealous leadership to the ultimate conclusion of the battle with total disregard to his own safety.

Captain Howe's account only augments that of Mills. "(The Colonel's life was placed in extreme jeopardy, owing to the conspicuous position he took in leading the line, and being the first to reach the crest of that hill, while under heavy fire of the enemy at close range.)

Major Jenkins also recounts the danger involved and the conspicuousness of Roosevelt's actions on San Juan Hill. The two trench lines on the hill were facing each other with many men stationed on both sides. The fire was intense, with both sides suffering heavy casualties. It is clear that many soldiers were in fact reluctant to make the charge despite the fact that they were already under heavy fire and taking several casualties. In the face of this hesitation and quite possibly saved many lives. Though men died in the assault, it appears that even more would have been killed had not Roosevelt's actions been wholly responsible.

Regarding the Colonel's action in the battle, Colonel (now General) Leonard Wood gives him a good-natured scolding on the next day for his disregard for his own safety; and in a letter to Theodore Roosevelt, a newspaper correspondent who wrote in substance, as I recollect it, "I expect to see Roosevelt fall in the next battle if he takes the lead."
June 13, 2000

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE 10607

Both men, realizing the danger of holding a position on the low ground under heavy fire, maintained gallant charge and single-handedly inspired their men despite an extreme risk to their own lives. The only thing that separates these two men is the technology of the time. Both acted with extreme bravery in the true spirit of United States Army. Both men took action at great risk to their own lives displayed gallantry above all else on the field. One man received the Medal of Honor and the other has yet to. It is time for Theodore Roosevelt to join Sergeant McCleary at the top of that hill.

ILLEGAL NARCOTICS AND DRUG ABUSE IN THE WAR ON DRUGS

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, I come to the floor tonight with just a few minutes remaining before the time of midnight when the House adjourns. I know the hour is late and my colleagues are tired and staff is tired, but I always try on Tuesday nights to address the House on the subject of illegal narcotics and drug abuse and the ravages that has placed upon our Nation.

We heard earlier a resolution relating to music; and as I sat and heard the speakers talk about music and the importance of music in people’s lives, I translated that also into the thought that there are 15,973 Americans who died as a direct result of illegal narcotics in the latest statistical year, 1998. None of those individuals will ever hear music again.

The drug czar has told us that over 52,000 people died as a result of direct and indirect causes of illegal narcotics, and none of those people will hear music in their lives. In fact, the only lives that the parents, mothers and fathers and sisters and brothers will hear are funeral dirges and, unfortunately, that music for funerals over the victims of drug abuse and misuse. That music is much too loud across our land and repeated over and over.

It is equivalent for our young people to three Columbines every day across this country. And the latest statistics, and I would like to cite them, each week I come before the House to confirm that this situation is getting worse, rather than better. The latest report that we have on drug use being up is from USA Today, June 8, 2000, and just a few days ago. This is an Associated Press story, and it is from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report from the Center in Atlanta. They just released this report. The story says cocaine, marijuana, and cigarette use among high school students consistently increased during the 1990s according to a government survey.

The report went on to say the increases in smoking and drug use came despite years of government-funded media campaigns urging young people to stay clean and sober. The record, again, from CDC went on to say that in 1991, 14.7 percent of the students surveyed said that they used marijuana. This was a survey involving 15,348 students in grades 9 through 12. That number steadily increased to some 26.7 percent in 1999, and students reporting that they tried marijuana at least once increased from 31.3 percent in 1991 to 47.2 percent in 1999; and in 1991, 1.7 percent of the students surveyed said they had used cocaine at least once in the prior month.

By 1999, that number rose to 4 percent. Those who had tried cocaine, who at least tried cocaine, increased from 1.5 percent in 1992 to 9.5 percent in 1999. The latest survey on drug use and abuse by the Centers for Disease Control, again, confirms the problem that we are facing across the land, and this is with cocaine, marijuana, and cigarettes.

Of course, some of you may have seen this headline in the Washington papers, Suburban Teen Heroin Use On The Increase, and suburban teen heroin use and youth use of heroin and deadly, more purer heroin than we have seen back in the 1980s when we had single digit purity levels are now reaching somewhere, somewhere some 70 percent and 80 percent deadlier purity are affecting our young people; that deadly highly pure heroin is affecting our young people across the land. The number of heroin users in the United States has increased from 500,000 in 1996 to 980,000 in 1999.

The rate of use by children age 12 to 17 is extremely alarming. It increased from less than 1 to 1,000 in the 1980s to 2.7 per 1,000 in 1996. First-time heroin users are getting younger. They averaged some 26 years of age in 1991, now down to 17 years of age by 1997. Some of the latest statistics on drug use and abuse of heroin.

I also have the latest DAWN inter-agency domestic heroin threat assessment, which was produced in February of this year, and it shows the emergence of department heroin related incidents involving 12 to 17-year-olds. From 1991 it was around 182, 1992, 232, and that soared in 1997 to 1,397 mentions, again, dramatic increases. We see from CDC, we see from the DAWN heroin report, drugs across the board.

That does not take into account our most recent epidemic, which is the problem of Ecstasy. I recently conducted a hearing in Central Florida on the problem of club drugs and designer drugs, and 980,000 figure is serious. Now we have another raging epidemic of drug use featured in Time Magazine, which is this past week’s edition. “The lure of Ecstasy,” one of the designer drugs of choice for our young people, which we barely had mention of a year or two ago, and now we have incredible increases in, decreases in Ecstasy and abuse of Ecstasy and other designer drugs among our young people.

The problems created by these illegal narcotics are pretty dramatic to our society. I cited the 15,973 deaths, and that in itself is serious, but the cost to our society is a quarter of a trillion dollars a year, plus incarceration of tens of thousands of individuals who commit felonies under the influence of illegal narcotics. How did we get ourselves into this situation? How did we get the flood of illegal narcotics coming in, in unprecedented amounts, heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine, designer drugs, in a torrent which we have never seen before?

Someone mentioned to me, a visiting female constituent from Florida, “You know, I haven’t heard the President talk much about a war on drugs, and many people lately have said the war on drugs is a failure.” In this discussion, I said, “You know, I think you are right. I don’t think we have really heard the President speak either to the Congress or to the American people about the war on drugs.”

In this little search that I had conducted by our staff, we went through all of the times that President Clinton has publicly mentioned the war on drugs since taking office. We did a search of all of his public speeches and statements. We find eight mentions in July 1993, two in 1992, 1993, April 28, 1993, and that during the appointment primarily of his new Drug Czar, who turned out to be a disaster, or as the President was gutting the drug czar’s office from some 130 positions to some less than 30 positions.

We hear other mentions, just casual mentions, about once per year of a war on drugs. That is basically because this administration has closed down the war on drugs.

The last time we can find a mention of the President, once last year, February 15, 1999, mentioning the war on drugs in casual passing.

In fact, the war on drugs was closed down by the Clinton Administration with the appointment of the chief health officer of the United States, the Surgeon General, Jocelyn Elders, who adopted the “Just Say Maybe,” which, again, we can look at the statistics of drug abuse and misuse by our young people in different proportions. They understand a message or lack of a message from the highest office of our land to the highest health office of our land.