II. Mr. Okubo, a Japanese-American, received Medals of Honor in a White House ceremony. Permit Mr. Okubo's family to receive his medal along with other deserving of this award for their conspicuous bravery under fire in the deserts of the conflicts in which they engaged in three very different the tactical or technological aspects of the conflicts in which they found themselves, they each reflected the best character of the American soldier.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to note that this legislation would, if adopted by the House, permit Mr. Okubo's family to receive his medal along with other Medals of Honor recommended for him by the Department of the Army under the law for the award of the Medal of Honor. However, the award was downgraded with the explanation that since he was a medic, Technician Okubo was not eligible for any award higher than the Silver Star. Sadly, Mr. Okubo passed away in 1967 without ever receiving the proper recognition he rightly deserves. However, we now have the opportunity to correct this injustice. Mr. Okubo's case has recently been reviewed, as the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY) indicated, by the Department of the Army under Section 8701 of Title 10. After a thorough review of the facts of the case, the Army determined that Mr. Okubo in fact deserves to be awarded the Medal of Honor recommended for him for his valor during World War II.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE).

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY) for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2722, which is before the House today authorizing the award of the Medal of Honor for James K. Okubo, Ed. W. Freeman, and Andrew J. Smith for their heroic actions as outlined by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY).

These three individuals are highly deserving of this award for their conspicuous bravery under fire in the defense of our great nation. I am particularly pleased that this legislation is the culmination of an exhaustive effort to recognize James K. Okubo for his valor during World War II. Mr. Okubo, a Japanese-American, originally from Washington State, like hundreds of others was sent to an internment camp during World War II at the outset of World War II. Despite being subjected to this shameful treatment, he never wavered in his patriotism and dedication to this country.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business considered on the House floor for not only his interest, but his dedication, and thank in particular Mike Higgins and Phil Grone, Ashley Godwin and Deborah Watta for making it possible for the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY) and myself to appear on the floor in such an expeditious manner. They have done a terrific job with this, Mr. Speaker, and I am very grateful. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday next, for morning hour debates.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business considered on the House floor for not only his interest, but his dedication, and thank in particular Mike Higgins and Phil Grone, Ashley Godwin and Deborah Watta for making it possible for the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY) and myself to appear on the floor in such an expeditious manner. They have done a terrific job with this, Mr. Speaker, and I am very grateful. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE).

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY) again personally on this floor for not only his interest, but his dedication, and thank in particular Mike Higgins and Phil Grone, Ashley Godwin and Deborah Watta for making it possible for the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY) and myself to appear on the floor in such an expeditious manner. They have done a terrific job with this, Mr. Speaker, and I am very grateful. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

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

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado? There was no objection.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, JUNE 19, 2000

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday next, for morning hour debates.

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business considered on the House floor for not only his interest, but his dedication, and thank in particular Mike Higgins and Phil Grone, Ashley Godwin and Deborah Watta for making it possible for the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY) and myself to appear on the floor in such an expeditious manner. They have done a terrific job with this, Mr. Speaker, and I am very grateful. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

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The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado? There was no objection.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, June 9, I was unable to vote due to a family emergency, and on Rollcall Vote 251, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted yea.

On Rollcall Vote Number 252, had I been present, I would have voted yea.

I make the same requests on Rollcall Vote Number 253, I would have voted yea.

I make the same requests on Rollcall Vote Number 254, I would have voted no.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BECERRA (at the request of Mr. GEPhardt) for today on account of business in the district.