the law for the award of the Medal of Honor. The three cases involve extraor-
dinary valor in combat and represent well the high standard for bravery that
is the hallmark of our Nation's most cherished decoration, the Medal of
Honor.

Corporal Andrew J. Smith, 55th Mas-
sachusetts Volunteer Infantry, saved the regimental colors from capture on
November 30, 1864, during the Battle of
Honey Hill, South Carolina, when an
assault left one-half of the regiment's
officers and a third of the enlisted men
killed or wounded.

Technician Fifth grade, James K.
Okubo, Medical Detachment 442nd Regi-
mental Combat Team, rescued several
badly wounded members of his unit
while under heavy enemy fire on Octo-
ber 28, 29, and November 4, 1944, near
Biffontaine, France.

Captain Ed. W. Freeman, 229 Assault
Helicopter Battalion, 1st Cavalry Divi-
sion, repeatedly flew into one of the
hottest and most embattled landing
zones of the Vietnam War to provide
essential supplies and evacuate wound-
ed on November 14, 1963, at landing
zone X-ray during the battle of the
LaDrang Valley, Republic of Vietnam.

The legislation would provide the
appropriate honors posthumously to
three valiant Americans of very dif-
ferent backgrounds, engaged in three
very different battles. No matter how
different the men, no matter how dif-
ferent the tactical or technological as-
pects of the conflicts in which they
found themselves, they each reflected
the best character of the American sol-
dier.

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
Asian-American veterans who will re-

cieve Medals of Honor in a White House
Ceremony on June 21.

I urge my colleagues to join me in
support of S. 2722.

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 the heroic actions as
outlined by the gentleman from Col-
orado (Mr. HEFLEY).

The three individuals are highly
deserving of this award for their con-
spicuous bravery under fire in the de-
fense of our great nation.

I am particularly pleased that this
legislation is the culmination of an ex-
haustive 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 in-
tenement camp in California 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.

James Okubo entered the Army and
was assigned as a medic in the leg-
edinary 422nd Regimental Combat
Team. In October of 1944, Technician
Okubo and his unit were tasked with the
rescue of the “Lost Battalion”
from Texas. The “Lost Battalion”
was surrounded by German forces
and threatened with annihilation.

During a 2 day period of heavy ma-
chine gun fire, mortar and artillery
fire, Technician Okubo provided first-

aid to 25 fellow soldiers wounded in the
battle. On two occasions he crawled
within yards of enemy lines to evac-
uate wounded comrades. Later during
the battle he ran 75 yards through
withering machine gun fire directed at
him and evacuated a seriously wounded
crewman from a burning tank.

For his heroism displayed during
these intense combat situations, Tech-
nician Okubo was recommended for the
Medal of Honor. I think it is important
to note that, Mr. Speaker, he was rec-

commended at that time for 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 re-
cently been reviewed, as the gentleman
from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY) indicated,
by the Department of the Army under
Section 1130 of Title X. After a thor-
ough review of the facts of the case,
the Army determined that Mr. Okubo
in fact deserves to be awarded the Med-
al of Honor for his valor during World War II.

On June 21, the President will be rec-
ognizing 12 members of Mr. Okubo's
former unit, the 442nd Regimental
Combat Team. These individuals have
each also earned the Nation's highest award,
the Medal of Honor.

I strongly urge the House to join our
colleagues in the Senate and pass S.
2722, so that James K. Okubo can be
honored with his comrades on this mo-
mentous occasion.

Mr. Speaker, I conclude and 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 Col-
orado (Mr. HEFLEY) and myself to ap-
ppear on the floor in such an expedi-
tious manner. They have done a terrific job
with this, Mr. Speaker, and I am very

grateful. I thank the gentleman
for yielding.

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank
my friend from Hawaii.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further re-
quests 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 re-
consider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask
unanimous consent that all Members
may have 5 legislative days within
which to revise and extend their
remarks on S. 2722.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr.
PEASE). Is there objection to the re-
quest 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.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there
objection to the request of the gen-
tleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR
WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON
WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask
unanimous consent that the business
in order under the Calendar Wednesday
rule be dispensed with on Wednesday
next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there
objection to the request of the gen-
tleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, on Fri-
day, 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
ayes.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of ab-
sence was granted to:
Mr. BECERRA (at the request of Mr.
GEHRhardt) for today on account of
business in the district.

20