CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

INTRODUCTION OF CESAR ESTRADA CHAVEZ STUDY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SOLIS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, in the wake of the most horrific attack in the United States history, we have seen many modern American heroes among us.

Today's heroes are firefighters, police officers, chaplains, paramedics, steelworkers and those who have fought to prevent further destruction, and the families of the victims who display the strength of going on and living.

Their heroism is in the spirit of those who have gone before them such as Martin Luther King, Jr., John F. Kennedy, Robert F. Kennedy, and Cesar Chavez, former president of the United Farm Workers. Today, Mr. Speaker, I proudly introduce this bill that will honor one of our past presidents, Chavez, founder of the United Farm Workers and passionate champion of human and civil rights. These values and beliefs and dedication to all working men and women, regardless of socioeconomic background, make him truly an American hero.

This bill will highlight his contributions by studying the ways to honor him within the National Park Service. It is a first step in honoring his tremendous accomplishments and the local communities where he placed his footprints.

Cesar Chavez was a humble man. Little did anyone know of the greatness he would bestow upon future generations. In his early childhood, Chavez was raised as a farm worker in Yuma, Arizona. Raised during the Great Depression, his family lost everything and were forced to join thousands of farm workers that wandered the southwest just to find work.

During his youth, the Chavez family migrated throughout the southwest working on various farms that fed our country. The young Cesar Chavez experienced firsthand the hardships and injustices of thousands of farm workers at that time. His home was barely livable and his school hardly fit to be called a schoolhouse.

Unfair labor practices, harassment, abuse, long hours, low pay, hazardous working conditions and limited educational opportunities kept many farm workers living in ignorant and difficult lives. Chavez helped powered the fight for the rights and privileges that protect all farm workers in the fields of the United States.

In the past, we have honored other heroes like Martin Luther King, Jr., and the civil rights movement, through the national parks and land. The life of Cesar Chavez and his family provides an outstanding opportunity to interpret the history of agricultural labor in the United States through honoring him through this particular National Park Service.

Most importantly, this bill that I introduced today provides an excellent opportunity for us to honor a true American hero.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 18 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m. today.

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. Sweeney) at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Reverend Walter L. Solomon, Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church of North Pratt, Birmingham, Alabama, offered the following prayer:

Our Father, whose presence brings joy to every condition, and whose favor brings strength to every endeavor in life, we thank You for the blessings of this day. Thank You for life and for freedom. God, we acknowledge You as the ruler of our Nation.

Father, bless these representatives that You have given the task of leading this Nation in times like these. Father, lead them to do Your will. Allow them to uphold the traditions that have made our Nation great. We pray that they will be led with vision, integrity, structure, and accountability.

Father, bless those of this Nation who are hurting, those who are weak, those who are weary. Bless our President and his cabinet with wisdom, that together they may lead our Nation during this period of restoration.

Bless our Nation with favor, that we might do great things in Your name.