

consume to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCINTYRE).

Mr. MCINTYRE. Madam Speaker, General Shelton is a man of concern, commitment, and courage. His concern for freedom and family and faith led him in his desire to join the ROTC when he was a young man at North Carolina State University. His commitment to God and to his country and to his fellow man led to his staying in the U.S. Army not only after college but, as we all know, for quite a long and distinguished career. His courage to withstand the assaults upon liberty and freedom as a general throughout serving all the ranks in the Army as well as ultimately serving as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff led him to serve the United States of America with character and integrity, a testimony both to his Christian faith and to his unselfish sense of public service.

We in the United States Congress should be pleased to have this opportunity to stand with a man who has stood for what America is all about through his concern, his commitment, and his courage.

May God bless us with more leaders like Hugh Shelton, and may we honor General Shelton here tonight with this legislation that is pending before us.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2751, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN EN-GROSSMENT OF H.R. 2751, GENERAL SHELTON CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

Mr. KING. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that in the engrossment of the bill (H.R. 2751) the Clerk be authorized to correct section numbers, punctuation, and make such other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the actions of the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

#### AMENDING PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT WITH RESPECT TO ORGAN PROCUREMENT ORGANIZATIONS

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3504) to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to qualified organ procurement organizations.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3504

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That section 371(b)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 273(b)(1)) is amended by striking subparagraph (D) and all that follows and inserting the following:

“(D) notwithstanding any other provision of law, has met the other requirements of this section and has been certified or recertified by the Secretary as meeting the performance standards to be a qualified organ procurement organization through a process that granted certification or recertification with such certification or recertification in effect as of January 1, 2000, and remaining in effect through the completion of certification or recertification, no earlier than July 31, 2004, as is defined through regulations that are promulgated by the Secretary that—

“(i) require recertifications of qualified organ procurement organizations not more frequently than once every 4 years,

“(ii) rely on outcome and process performance measures that are based on empirical evidence, obtained through reasonable efforts, of organ donor potential and other related factors in each service area of qualified organ procurement organizations,

“(iii) use multiple outcome measures as part of the certification process, and

“(iv) provide for a qualified organ procurement organization to appeal a decertification to the Secretary on substantive and procedural grounds,

“(E) has procedures to obtain payment for non-renal organs provided to transplant centers,

“(F) has a defined service area that is of sufficient size to assure maximum effectiveness in the procurement and equitable distribution of organs, and that either includes an entire metropolitan statistical area (as specified by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget) or does not include any part of the area,

“(G) has a director and such other staff, including the organ donation coordinators and organ procurement specialists necessary to effectively obtain organs from donors in its service area, and

“(H) has a board of directors or an advisory board which—

“(i) is composed of—

“(I) members who represent hospital administrators, intensive care or emergency room personnel, tissue banks, and voluntary health associations in its service area,

“(II) members who represent the public residing in such area,

“(III) a physician with knowledge, experience, or skill in the field of histocompatibility or an individual with a doctorate degree in a biological science with knowledge, experience, or skill in the field of histocompatibility,

“(IV) a physician with knowledge or skill in the field of neurology, and

“(V) from each transplant center in its service area which has arrangements de-

scribed in paragraph (3)(G) with the organization, a member who is a surgeon who has practicing privileges in such center and who performs organ transplant surgery,

“(ii) has the authority to recommend policies for the procurement of organs and the other functions described in paragraph (3), and

“(iii) has no authority over any other activity of the organization.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 3504, a bill to clarify certification requirements for organ procurement organizations, OPOs as we refer to them. Last Congress, the House of Representatives approved a bill to address concerns regarding our national organ transplant system. As we all know, we do not have enough organs in this country to satisfy the needs of those awaiting a transplant. This legislation recognized the importance of the vital network of organ procurement organizations which are responsible for developing, establishing, and maintaining medical criteria and standards for organ procurement and transplantation.

Today the House will consider legislation to clarify that important measure. Last year's legislation changed the 2-year organ procurement organization certification cycle to a 4-year cycle. Switching to a 4-year cycle allows the OPOs to focus on recovering donated organs. Today's legislation will make a technical change to define the start date for the 4-year OPO certification cycle adopted last year by Congress.

This legislation, Madam Speaker, is important for guaranteeing that the 4-year cycle is implemented as quickly as possible to allow for organ procurement organizations to concentrate on organ donation and on serving those Americans in need of organ transplants. Madam Speaker, this is a technical correction to a very important organ donation bill. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3504.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.