The Navajo radiomen served from 1942 to 1945, and often the code talkers were in the forefront of battles of the Pacific. The Japanese never broke the Navajo code or captured a Navajo Code Talker. The code talkers are credited with saving thousands of American lives.

The Navajo Code Talker's work remained classified until 1968 because the Pentagon was unsure whether the Navajo Language might be needed again.

The Navajo Code talkers played an important role in winning the war in the Pacific. They deserve our thanks and support.

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support H. Con. Res. 174 today to authorize the use of the rotunda to honor and celebrate the heroic work of the Navajo Code Talkers. I thank my colleague from New Mexico, Mr. Tom Udall, for sponsoring this resolution.

During World War II, about 400 Navajo tribe members served as code talkers for the United States Marines. They transmitted messages by telephone and radio in their native language—a code that the Japanese never broke. Navajo is an unwritten language of extreme complexity and one estimate indicated that fewer than 30 non-Navajos could understand the language at the outbreak of World War II. Navajos demonstrated that they could encode, transmit and decode a three-line message in English in just 20 seconds. Machines of the time required 30 minutes to do the same job.

This resolution does great justice by recognizing the contributions of these great people to our nation's collective security and history.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, in May 1942 twenty-nine Navajos entered boot camp and later went to Camp Pendleton to develop a code that used the Navajo language as its basis. They worked at finding new words or meaning for military terms, which had no actual Navajo translation as well as an alphabetical word of spelling for other words. So began the career of the Navajo Code Talkers who were the secret weapon of the Marine Corps against Japan. Their unbreakable code would play a vital part in the United States ability to win World War II.

The man credited for the idea of a code based on Navajo language goes to Philip Johnston, an engineer in Los Angeles. His father had been a Protestant missionary; therefore, as a child he moved to a Navajo reservation where he grew up and learned the culture and the language. Knowing that the Navajo language had been orally handed down through the centuries was Johnston's main argument for this code. He argued that it was a system that would not have to be changed on a regular basis, and because it had never been written down it could not result in falling into the hands of the enemy.

Ironically, Navajos were subjected to alienation in their own homeland and discouraged from speaking their language yet they still came willingly forward and used their language to defend their country and help develop the most successful military code of the time.

The code was such a success that the Department of Defense kept the Code secret for 23 years after World War II. It was finally declassified in 1968. The Code Talkers had been sworn to secrecy, an oath they kept and honored. Imagine these unsung heroes returned home with no special recognition for what they had accomplished and sadly over the years some have died never receiving the honor and accolades that they so deserved.

The time has come for us to recognize the Navajo Code Talkers with a Congressional Gold Medal—the most distinguished honor a civilian can receive. It is for that reason I support House Concurrent Resolution 174, authorizing use of the rotunda to present Congressional Gold Medals to the original 29 Navajo Code Talkers. This honor has been a long time in coming.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 391, nays 17, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 211]

YEAS—391

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akina
Andrews
Armey
Baca
Bachus
Baker
Balbuzi
Baran
Barbe
Barrett
Bartlett
Barton
Bass
Beca
Beggs
Bentsen
Bereuter
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop
Biggs
Biaggi
Biemer
Binkley
Bircher
Boehner
Bonilla
Bono
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Bradley (PA)
Bradley (TX)
Brody
Brown (OH)
Brown (SC)

Del. Sharon K. Dobson, for sponsoring this resolution.

ENCOURAGING CORPORATIONS TO CONTRIBUTE TO FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 170.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

Mr. NEY rise in your place and be heard. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. Whitlefield) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 170, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 391, nays 17, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 211]
ANSWERED "PRESENT"—3

Allen
Snyder
Tierney

NOT VOTING—22

Cannon
Kennedy (MN)
Taylor (MS)
Toomey
Waters

Coyle
Millender
Morr

Epel
Evans
Miller, George
Young (AK)

Hulshof
Jackson-Lee
Riley (TX)
Scarborough

Messrs. DINGELL, JACKSON of Illinois, and CONYERS changed their vote from "yea" to "nay." Mr. GIBBONS changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

Mr. TIERNEY changed his vote from "yea" to "present."

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WAXMAN) pursuant to clause 8 of Rule XX for the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for voting on any additional motion to suspend the rules on which the Chair has postpone further proceedings.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS IN SUPPORT OF VICTIMS OF TORTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending question is the suspension of the rules and agreement to the concurrent resolution. H. Con. Res. 168.

The House read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution. H. Con. Res. 168, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 409, nays 0, not voting 24, as follows:

YEAR—409

[Roll No. 232]