

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, tonight the President of the United States will stand in this Chamber and discharge his constitutional obligation to address the State of the Union for the Congress. I understand that many of my colleagues will be sitting together in a bipartisan way, and I think that's a good thing. What I really hope, though, is that we get commonsensical about where we are tomorrow, that as we talk about the economy, we agree that we should cut regulations which serve no purpose but to stifle industry, but that we should not attack the rules which keep our air clean and our water drinkable.

We can and we must reduce the deficit and get our fiscal house in order, but do not try to persuade the American public that we can fail to invest in schools, in railways, in highways, and in networks that will provide economic prosperity for decades to come.

I'm glad my colleagues are going to be sitting together in this Chamber tonight. What I really hope is that tomorrow we are standing together behind commonsensical changes that will make this economy strong.

LET'S DEAL WITH JOBS

(Mr. CLEAVER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I, like all 434 other Members of this body, was elected to the 112th Congress. Shortly after arriving, I was told that the number one responsibility we had was to create jobs. So far, that has not been the case. We have given attention to health care, which I understood to have been one issue that we gave too much attention to. So my question today is, What about the jobs? When are we going to talk about jobs? I would like for somebody, anybody, to talk about jobs. When are we going to do the job of creating jobs? If we do our jobs, then we might be able to create some jobs; if we don't, nothing will happen.

Madam Speaker, I am urging the Members of this body, particularly those who are now in charge, to begin to deal with jobs.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. CAPITO) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 25, 2011.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on January 25, 2011 at 11:00 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 10.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

STAFF SERGEANT SALVATORE A. GIUNTA MEDAL OF HONOR FLAG RESOLUTION

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 49) providing Capitol-flown flags for recipients of the Medal of Honor.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 49

Resolved,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This resolution may be cited as the "Staff Sergeant Salvatore A. Giunta Medal of Honor Flag Resolution".

SEC. 2. PROVIDING CAPITOL-FLOWN FLAGS FOR RECIPIENTS OF MEDAL OF HONOR.

(a) IN GENERAL.—At the request of a recipient of the Medal of Honor or an immediate family member of a recipient of the Medal of Honor, the Representative of the recipient or the Representative of the family member (as the case may be) may provide the recipient or the family member with a Capitol-flown flag, together with the certificate described in subsection (c), except that not more than one flag may be provided under this resolution with respect to the Medal of Honor recipient involved.

(b) NO COST TO FAMILY.—A flag provided under this section shall be provided at no cost to the individual receiving the flag.

(c) CERTIFICATE DESCRIBED.—The certificate described in this subsection is a certificate which is signed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Representative providing the flag, and which reads as follows: "This flag has been flown over the United States Capitol, in honor of the service and sacrifice of recipients of the Medal of Honor, the highest honor awarded to members of the Armed Forces for valor in combat, with profound gratitude on behalf of the United States House of Representatives."

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term "Capitol-flown flag" means a United States flag flown over the United States Capitol in honor of the Medal of Honor recipient involved; and

(2) the term "Representative" includes a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress.

SEC. 3. REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the date of the adoption of this resolution, the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall issue regulations for carrying out this resolution, including regulations to establish procedures (including

any appropriate forms, guidelines, and accompanying certificates) for requesting a Capitol-flown flag.

(b) APPROVAL BY COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION.—The regulations issued by the Clerk under subsection (a) shall take effect upon approval by the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LATHAM) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRADY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I ask that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 49, providing Capitol-flown flags for recipients of the Medal of Honor.

Madam Speaker, the resolution is simple, its language is succinct, but it is so much more significant than mere symbolism. This resolution provides a family member or the Medal of Honor recipient themselves a U.S. flag flown over this Capitol, along with a certificate which reads, "This flag has been flown over the United States Capitol, in honor of the service and sacrifice of recipients of the Medal of Honor, the highest honor awarded to members of the Armed Forces for valor in combat, with profound gratitude on behalf of the United States House of Representatives."

Madam Speaker, the Medal of Honor is the highest honor awarded to members of the Armed Forces. And to these Medal of Honor recipients, we, as a country, as one Nation, and as this collective House are immeasurably thankful for their service, their sacrifice, and their bravery, which sometimes has meant giving that last full measure of devotion.

□ 1220

I am especially proud of Staff Sergeant Salvatore Giunta, a native of Clinton, Iowa, who is the first living recipient of the Medal of Honor since the Vietnam War and is here in the Capitol for the State of the Union Address this evening and a recognition ceremony tomorrow.

Sergeant Giunta's service embodies a spirit of selflessness, humility, and determination that Iowans are known for, both in the military and civilian life.

We pass this resolution as a heartfelt and profoundly sincere "thank you" to those receiving the highest of honors, the Medal of Honor. Madam Speaker, this resolution should garner overwhelming bipartisan support, and I

urge all of my colleagues to support H. Res. 49.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, this resolution recognizes the courage and sacrifices of Staff Sergeant Salvatore A. Giunta and other Medal of Honor recipients in defending their country in the line of duty. The Medal of Honor is the highest award of bravery that can be given to a member of the United States Armed Forces.

This resolution will acknowledge members of our Armed Forces that receive the Medal of Honor by providing them with a flag flown over the Capitol along with a certificate signed by the Speaker of the House. The flag would be provided at no cost to the recipient or family of the recipient.

May this small gesture serve as a constant reminder of our Medal of Honor recipients who act selflessly and heroically in defense of the freedoms that we, the American people, enjoy. I am pleased to support this resolution and urge all of my colleagues to vote "aye."

Madam Speaker, I now yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LOEBSACK).

Mr. LOEBSACK. I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I am particularly honored today to join my friend and colleague, Congressman LATHAM, in offering this resolution.

Tomorrow, the Iowa delegation will join the Chief of Staff of the Army, General George Casey, and Senator INOUE to honor and recognize Staff Sergeant Salvatore Giunta, the first living Medal of Honor recipient since the Vietnam War.

Staff Sergeant Giunta is from Hiawatha, Iowa, at the moment—although he was born and raised in Clinton. Hiawatha is a town I am proud to represent in the Second District. I first had the honor of meeting Sergeant Giunta—or Sal—while visiting our troops stationed overseas during the 2009 Thanksgiving holiday, and I was able to have Thanksgiving dinner with him at Vicenza.

What immediately struck me about Sergeant Giunta was his humility. He made sergeant in just 4 years. He was a veteran of two tours in Afghanistan by the time he was 22 years old. And while surrounded by Taliban fighters in the Korengal Valley in 2007 and having been hit twice himself, he ran directly into gunfire in order to save his wounded comrades and prevent a U.S. soldier from being captured.

Yet since being awarded the Medal of Honor, Sergeant Giunta has insisted that what he did to save his fellow paratroopers was nothing any other soldier wouldn't have done. He has insisted time and again, whether at the White House, the Pentagon, or at the State house in Des Moines, that he holds the Medal of Honor on behalf of his fellow servicemembers.

After being inducted into the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes, Sergeant Giunta refused to let the spotlight rest on him alone. Instead, he saluted those who had come before him and those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our freedom.

He said, "To all the ones that can't be here—not just one or two, but all of them—not just from the 173rd, not just from Battle Company, but from all services, from the Army, the Air Force, the Navy, the Marines, the Coast Guard, the National Guard, the Reserves: Everyone who has ever given so much more than I ever know, I want to say thank you, right now, to those men and those women because without them, I'm nothing. I haven't given anything compared to those who have given everything."

So I think it is especially appropriate that we have come together to pay tribute not just to Sergeant Giunta, and not just to his fellow Medal of Honor recipients of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, but to each of the 3,448 men and one woman who have received the highest military honor since President Lincoln signed into law legislation offered by a fellow Iowan to create the medal in 1861.

The Medal of Honor is reserved for those who are distinguished "conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty." It seems only appropriate that we, the people's House, honor their bravery, their service, and their sacrifice today by directing that the United States flag be flown over the Capitol in their honor.

For nearly a decade, the men and women of our All-Volunteer Force, as well as their families, have answered the call of duty and have served our Nation on two fronts often making great sacrifices and carrying out acts of unimaginable bravery that those of us here at home never read about here on the front page.

So even as we come together to honor the bravest of the brave, let us also honor every man and every woman who wears our Nation's uniform and who has deployed time and again, in many instances, to defend our Nation, missing moments large and small with their families in order to ensure that our freedom endures.

While he may not think of himself as such, to me, Sergeant Giunta is a true American hero. He is who I want my grandkids to grow up looking up to. And that is a sentiment shared by thousands of Iowans who are so tremendously proud of the soldier we've come to think of as our hometown hero.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation as a small token of our appreciation for the incredible bravery demonstrated by Medal of Honor recipients of today and those of past times and past conflicts.

Mr. LATHAM. I want to thank my colleague, Mr. LOEBSACK from Iowa, for joining me in this resolution and his lead cosponsorship on this.

The Medal of Honor, like the gentleman just referred to, has quite a history with Iowa in that back on December 9, 1861, Iowa Senator James W. Grimes first introduced the concept of a medal of honor to promote the efficiency of the Navy at that time. And later on, there was another bill to also recognize people in the Army for their outstanding service and heroic actions.

I was very pleased back in 2002 to introduce a bill; I don't know how many people were aware at the time, but there was never a Medal of Honor flag. We had in Jefferson, Iowa, a memorial for Captain Darrell Lindsey, who was a Medal of Honor winner from World War II; and a man named Bill Kendall, an Army veteran from Jefferson, felt that it was inappropriate that we didn't have a flag there. So I introduced legislation. Bill Kendall from Jefferson, Iowa, actually designed what is the Medal of Honor flag today, and I am still so appreciative of what he did.

And now at the ceremony down at the White House when the Medal of Honor was given to this next great Iowan to see that flag there, it made me feel very, very proud of the contributions that so many people, Iowans, people all across this country have made and sacrificed for a country for the kind of honor they deserve. So I'm just very proud of the history we have, and I think this is a very appropriate way of recognizing those contributions.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. BOSWELL).

(Mr. BOSWELL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

□ 1230

Mr. BOSWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a cosponsor of House Resolution 49, the Staff Sergeant Salvatore A. Giunta Medal of Honor Flag Resolution. As the first living Medal of Honor winner since the Vietnam War, Staff Sergeant Giunta richly deserves to be honored by this House.

The resolution is simple: It provides every Medal of Honor winner or their family with a flag flown over the Capitol in tribute to their service. In addition to this resolution, tomorrow we all have the opportunity to join the Chief of Staff of the Army and distinguished guests at a ceremony and reception in the Congressional Auditorium to honor this soldier of whom all Iowans and Americans are incredibly proud.

I am not surprised that, in spite of this praise, Sergeant Giunta has humbly refused to be seen as exceptional. He has at every moment sought to deflect recognition onto his fellow soldiers, men and women in uniform, who serve us bravely every day to support and defend our country and the Constitution. I know all too well that Sergeant Giunta is right and that every

day our men and women in uniform, and their families, offer courageous service that deserves to be recognized.

My hope is that as we honor Sergeant Giunta for gallantry above and beyond the call of duty, we may by extension offer to every member of our Armed Forces and their families our profound gratitude on behalf of the country, his country, our country, and the United States House of Representatives.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I would just like to say what an honor it is for me to be part of the ceremony tomorrow to honor Staff Sergeant Giunta. Really, he is a model for what people in the military today, the service that they give, the humility that he possesses in the statements that Mr. LOEBSACK made about the fact that in his acceptance he talked about this was not an award and Medal of Honor for him, but for all of his comrades in arms, and how it should be given to everyone who acted so bravely that day. But that certainly is part of what Staff Sergeant Giunta is all about.

The fact that he is such a humble person, someone who believes in the mission, someone who willingly was there to sacrifice himself to save one of his comrades, I think it is so appropriate that we have this recognition today and that we honor all the people in the service today.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LATHAM) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 49.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

ELECTING CERTAIN MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 53

Resolved, That the following named Members be and are hereby elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

(1) COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET.—Mr. Chaffetz, to rank immediately after Mr. McClintock; and Mr. Guinta.

(2) COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY.—Mr. Brooks.

Mr. HENSARLING (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAMS

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 366) to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 366

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAMS UNDER THE SMALL BUSINESS ACT AND THE SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT ACT OF 1958.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1 of the Act entitled “An Act to extend temporarily certain authorities of the Small Business Administration”, approved October 10, 2006 (Public Law 109-316; 120 Stat. 1742), as most recently amended by section 1 of Public Law 111-251 (124 Stat. 2631), is amended by striking “January 31, 2011” each place it appears and inserting “May 31, 2011”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on January 30, 2011.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) and the gentleman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, we have a big job ahead of us in the 112th Congress. Unemployment remains above 9 percent, and millions of people are out of work. Entrepreneurs are struggling to create jobs and grow their businesses amid threats of higher taxes and more unmanageable Federal mandates. Our economic recovery has been erratic at best. Hard work lies ahead to reduce

the uncertainty, to create new jobs and restore confidence in our economy.

Today, we are discussing a simple extension of programs overseen by the Small Business Administration through May 31, 2011. Enacting this legislation is a critical first step towards giving small business owners some certainty while we continue to fully examine all of SBA's programs and make necessary changes to improve SBA services. Enacting this legislation will give our new majority the opportunity to explore new and innovative ideas to improve the services offered by the SBA.

I am humbled and honored to serve our country's entrepreneurs as the chairman of the Small Business Committee, and I look forward to working with Ranking Member VELÁZQUEZ to enact a more permanent reauthorization in a timely manner. The two of us have had an excellent working relationship over the past 2 years, and I have no doubt this is going to continue in the future.

Madam Speaker, we are all eager to get the work done on restoring America's faith in government and reducing the uncertainty that prevails throughout our economic sectors. We can take this first step by approving this temporary extension and laying the groundwork for a full reauthorization that will bring these programs into the 21st century.

I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on this bill before us.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, the role of small businesses is critical to creating new jobs. With the economy continuing to face challenges on several fronts, we need small firms more than ever. Time and again, they have generated the ideas and know-how that spark job growth. However, entrepreneurs face challenging economic headwinds. Small businesses continue facing obstacles accessing capital, and sales remain flat. Given these realities, we need to make sure that small firms have the resources and tools to start up or expand.

The legislation we are considering today does this and extends the authorization of the several important Small Business Administration programs. Through these initiatives, firms can secure financing, receive training, or compete more effectively for Federal contracts.

While we must keep these programs operational, it is unfortunate that we are doing so through another temporary extension. Last Congress, the House passed 14 bills updating all of SBA's financing and entrepreneurial development programs. However, while the Senate was able to report a few measures out of committee, they were unable to actually pass any legislation affecting these programs through the Chamber. As a result, we are here