

Overall, 19,168 African-Americans served in the Marine Corps in World War II and helped pave the way for the future of African-Americans in the Marine Corps. Although we have come a long way, we cannot be satisfied and neither is the Marine Commandant. Today, of the 22,155 African American who currently serve in the Marine Corps, there are only about 1,326 officers. The Marine Corps has 88 generals today, but only six are black.

I applaud the efforts of advocates who have committed to increasing the number of African-American officers in the Marine Corps and am a staunch supporter of this legislation. African-Americans continue a legacy of service in the Marine Corps and increasing the number of black officers is long overdue.

But today, we honor those African-Americans who were the first to serve and all who have served and are currently serving. Most of the 19,000 Montford Point Marines have died, but today we join the movement to honor their legacy by bestowing them with the highest military decoration awarded by the U.S. government. This is long overdue and I urge passage of this historical legislation.

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support for H.R. 2447, to grant the Congressional Gold Medal to the Montford Point Marines.

I want to thank my colleague from Florida, Ms. BROWN, for sponsoring this bill and recognizing the efforts of true heroes who were willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for this great nation.

In 1942, President Franklin Roosevelt established a presidential directive allowing African Americans to be recruited by the Marine Corps.

These men were not trained at Parris Island or San Diego, but instead were segregated to Montford Point, near Camp Lejeune, NC.

Between 1942 and 1949, approximately 20,000 men received their basic training at Montford Point.

The original intent of the directive was to discharge all of these men after the conclusion of World War II. But after being able to display their commitment and courage, it became obvious that these African American Marines were just as capable as all other Marines regardless of race, color, and creed.

And to this day, hundreds of thousands of minorities make these same commitment and sacrifices for our country in our military's efforts across the world.

At a time when African Americans suffered countless instances of prejudice and injustice—not only by their peers, but by the laws they abided by—these men were willing to put their commitment to country above all else and become trailblazers for all those who followed their lead.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 2447 which will award the Congressional Gold Medal in appreciation for these Marines' sacrifice and dedication to our country.

It will, moreover, reassert the fundamental principle that our country was founded on—that all men are created equal.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, today we gather to honor the sacrifice and patriotism of the Montford Point Marines with Congress's highest civilian award, the Congressional Gold Medal.

The Montford Point Marines were this Nation's first class of African-American Marine recruits. As was often the case during the Jim

Crow Era, being the first African-Americans to break the color barriers resulted in a whole new set of hardships. Montford Point Marines suffered from the start. Not only were they not allowed to train at Camp Lejeune with their white colleagues, the Commandant, the Marine's highest ranking officer said publicly that if he had to choose between 250,000 African-American Marines and 5,000 whites, he would rather have the whites.

Training along the North Carolina coast, they endured inferior conditions and trained with inferior equipment dodging snakes and malaria-infected mosquitoes in summer and risking exposure from the bitter cold in winter as they passed the nights in huts made of cardboard.

Fueled by a fierce determination to answer the call to arms in their Nation's hour of need, the Montford Point Marines endured these hardships and joined the fight in Okinawa, where their courage and bravery were celebrated. When the war ended, they returned home to silence, abuse and indifference and were soon forgotten. That is, until today.

As a cosponsor of this bill, I am proud to stand with my colleagues to recognize the Montford Point Marines for their courage and sacrifice with the Congressional Gold Medal.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise in support of H.R. 2447, introduced by the gentle lady from Florida, CORRINE BROWN, to award a collective Congressional Gold Medal to the Montford Point Marines for their patriotic service during World War II and their important role in promoting the cause of equal rights in our country.

Like the Tuskegee Airmen from my native Alabama, the Montford Point Marines fought for the principles of our democracy overseas at a time when prejudice and segregation prevented them from enjoying all of our country's freedoms here at home.

Recently, our nation has paused to remember two giants in the civil rights movement. Here in Washington, the new memorial to Dr. Martin Luther King was dedicated on the National Mall. Over the past few days in Birmingham, thousands of people from all races have united to pay tribute to the Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth, who passed away on October 5th at the age of 89.

In the face of prejudice, hostility, and physical attack, individuals like Dr. King, Reverend Shuttlesworth, and our own cherished colleague JOHN LEWIS always held to the highest ideals and did not allow the hate they experienced to diminish their love for their country.

Behind the prominent leaders of the civil rights movement, as they themselves would tell you, have been many courageous foot soldiers with the same ideals. The phrase "foot soldiers" is literally true when it comes to the Montford Point Marines.

These men, our first African American Marines, willingly stepped forward during World War II to risk their lives to preserve freedoms that they themselves were being denied. All too often, they encountered vicious racial discrimination that was as painful in its own way as any bulletfire. This could have ripped the morale of our service apart and helped the enemy.

Instead, the soldiers who endured the harsh conditions at Montford Point and racial indignities in the field of battle—more than 20,000 in all from 1942–1949—served with the highest level of honor and loyalty. They fought

fiercely in Okinawa and Iwo Jima. They cleaned up ash after the atomic bombing of Nagasaki.

The Montford Point Marines were never properly recognized for their bravery and heroism—not during the war and certainly not at the end, when they were essentially dismissed and officially all but forgotten.

But their colorblind service raised a profound contradiction: after fighting for freedom abroad, how could any American be denied full rights here at home? We all know the answer, you could not continue to deny those rights.

In the beginning, the Montford Point Marines set out only to serve their country during a time of war. With their valor, they helped to change military history. They wound up changing the social history of America as well.

Today, we are belatedly telling these heroes, "Thank You." Marine Commandant James F. Amos should be commended for his determination to make sure that these veterans are properly remembered not just by the Corps but by a grateful nation as well.

As the proud father of a son who served in the Marines, it is a personal honor for me to be able to speak in support of a Congressional Gold Medal for the Montford Point Marines, and I urge the immediate passage of this long-overdue legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2447.

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. JONES. Mr. 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, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2527) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition and celebration of the National Baseball Hall of Fame, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2527

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Baseball Hall of Fame Commemorative Coin Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) On June 12, 1939, the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum opened in Cooperstown, New York. Ty Cobb, Walter Johnson, Christy Mathewson, Babe Ruth, and Honus Wagner comprised the inaugural class of inductees. This class set the standard for all future inductees. Since 1939, just one percent of all Major League Baseball players have earned induction into the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

(2) The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum is dedicated to preserving history, honoring excellence, and connecting generations through the rich history of our national pastime. Baseball has mirrored our Nation's history since the Civil War, and is now an integral part of our Nation's heritage.

(3) The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum chronicles the history of our national pastime and houses the world's largest collection of baseball artifacts, including more than 38,000 three dimensional artifacts, 3,000,000 documents, 500,000 photographs, and 12,000 hours of recorded media. This collection ensures that baseball history and its unique connection to American history will be preserved and recounted for future generations.

(4) Since its opening in 1939, more than 14,000,000 baseball fans have visited the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum to learn about the history of our national pastime and the game's connection to the American experience.

(5) The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum is an educational institution, reaching 10,000,000 Americans annually. Utilizing video conference technology, students and teachers participate in interactive lessons led by educators from the National Baseball Hall of Fame Museum. These award-winning educational programs draw upon the wonders of baseball to reach students in classrooms nationwide. Each educational program uses baseball as a lens for teaching young Americans important lessons on an array of topics, including mathematics, geography, civil rights, women's history, economics, industrial technology, arts, and communication.

SEC. 3. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.

(a) DENOMINATIONS.—In recognition and celebration of the National Baseball Hall of Fame, the Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") shall mint and issue the following coins:

(1) \$5 GOLD COINS.—Not more than 50,000 \$5 coins, which shall—

(A) weigh 8.359 grams;

(B) have diameter of 0.850 inches; and

(C) contain 90 percent gold and 10 percent alloy.

(2) \$1 SILVER COINS.—Not more than 400,000 \$1 coins, which shall—

(A) weigh 26.73 grams;

(B) have a diameter of 1.500 inches; and

(C) contain 90 percent silver and 10 percent copper.

(3) HALF-DOLLAR CLAD COINS.—Not more than 750,000 half-dollar coins which shall—

(A) weigh 11.34 grams;

(B) have a diameter of 1.205 inches; and

(C) be minted to the specifications for half-dollar coins contained in section 5112(b) of title 31, United States Code.

(b) LEGAL TENDER.—The coins minted under this Act shall be legal tender, as provided in section 5103 of title 31, United States Code.

(c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all coins minted under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

(d) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that, to the extent possible without significantly adding to the purchase price of the coins, the \$1 coins and \$5 coins minted under this Act should be produced in a fashion similar to the 2009 International Year of Astronomy coins issued by Monnaie de Paris, the French Mint, so that the reverse of the coin is convex to more closely resemble a baseball and the obverse concave, providing a more dramatic display of the obverse design chosen pursuant to section 4(c).

SEC. 4. DESIGN OF COINS.

(a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The design of the coins minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the game of baseball.

(2) DESIGNATIONS AND INSCRIPTIONS.—On each coin minted under this Act there shall be—

(A) a designation of the value of the coin;

(B) an inscription of the year "2015"; and

(C) inscriptions of the words "Liberty", "In God We Trust", "United States of America", and "E Pluribus Unum".

(b) SELECTION.—The design for the coins minted under this Act shall be—

(1) selected by the Secretary after consultation with the National Baseball Hall of Fame and the Commission of Fine Arts and in accordance with subparagraph (c); and

(2) reviewed by the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee.

(c) OBTUSE DESIGN COMPETITION.—The Secretary shall hold a competition and provide compensation for its winner to design the common obverse of the coins minted under this Act, with such design being emblematic of the game of baseball. The competition shall be held in the following manner:

(1) The competition shall be judged by an expert jury chaired by the Secretary and consisting of 3 members from the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee who shall be elected by such Committee and 3 members from the Commission of Fine Arts who shall be elected by such Commission.

(2) The Secretary shall determine compensation for the winning design, which shall be not less than \$5,000.

(3) The Secretary may not accept a design for the competition unless a plaster model accompanies the design.

(d) REVERSE DESIGN.—The design on the common reverse of the coins minted under this Act shall depict a baseball similar to those used by Major League Baseball.

SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.

(a) QUALITY OF COINS.—Coins minted under this Act shall be issued in uncirculated and proof qualities.

(b) PERIOD FOR ISSUANCE.—The Secretary may issue coins minted under this Act only during the 1-year period beginning on January 1, 2015.

SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.

(a) SALE PRICE.—The coins issued under this Act shall be sold by the Secretary at a price equal to the sum of—

(1) the face value of the coins;

(2) the surcharge provided in section 7(a) with respect to such coins; and

(3) the cost of designing and issuing the coins (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses, marketing, and shipping).

(b) BULK SALES.—The Secretary shall make bulk sales of the coins issued under this Act at a reasonable discount.

(c) PREPAID ORDERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall accept prepaid orders for the coins minted under this Act before the issuance of such coins.

(2) DISCOUNT.—Sale prices with respect to prepaid orders under paragraph (1) shall be at a reasonable discount.

SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—All sales of coins minted under this Act shall include a surcharge as follows:

(1) A surcharge of \$35 per coin for the \$5 coin.

(2) A surcharge of \$10 per coin for the \$1 coin.

(3) A surcharge of \$5 per coin for the half-dollar coin.

(b) DISTRIBUTION.—Subject to section 5134(f) of title 31, United States Code, all surcharges received by the Secretary from the

sale of coins issued under this Act shall be promptly paid by the Secretary to the National Baseball Hall of Fame to help finance its operations.

(c) AUDITS.—The National Baseball Hall of Fame shall be subject to the audit requirements of section 5134(f)(2) of title 31, United States Code, with regard to the amounts received under subsection (b).

(d) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), no surcharge may be included with respect to the issuance under this Act of any coin during a calendar year if, as of the time of such issuance, the issuance of such coin would result in the number of commemorative coin programs issued during such year to exceed the annual commemorative coin program issuance limitation under section 5112(m)(1) of title 31, United States Code (as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act). The Secretary of the Treasury may issue guidance to carry out this subsection.

SEC. 8. BUDGET COMPLIANCE.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled "Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation" for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to add extraneous material on this bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. PEARCE. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, baseball truly is the American sport. From the earliest age, we begin enrolling our children in pee-wee baseball leagues. We take our children to games where we enjoy a day at the ballpark eating hot dogs and Cracker Jacks. That is because baseball is America's national pastime, and that's why I'm proud to ask for consideration of the bill before us.

H.R. 2527 was introduced in July, on the same day as the 50th Congressional Baseball Game, by Mr. HANNA for himself and 296 others, including myself. This bill was also introduced for Mr. BARTON and Mr. DOYLE, who managed the Republican and Democrat teams in the 50th Congressional Baseball Game.

H.R. 2527 gives special recognition to a place that honors baseball, a game which, since the time of the Civil War, has occupied our leisure hours. The bill calls for the minting and issuing in 2015 of a limited number of gold, silver, and so-called "clad" coins commemorating the 75th anniversary of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, New York.

The Hall of Fame and Museum opened and admitted the inaugural class of ballplayers in June 1939 as war clouds gathered over the world. In the 72 years since its opening, the Baseball Hall of Fame has served as a home base, detailing the rich history of our national pastime. More than 14 million people have visited the Hall of Fame.

This commemorative coin program, which will be conducted at no cost to the taxpayer, will also operate in accordance with all the statutes covering these types of coin programs at the U.S. Mint. Further, the program has the potential to raise several million dollars to help finance the operation of the Hall of Fame through surcharges on the sales of these coins. Notably, to claim the surcharges, the Hall of Fame must raise matching funds from non-government sources.

The bill ensures that all three coins will have common designs. For example, the bill requires that the reverse side—sometimes referred to as the “back side”—of each coin is to be in the image of a baseball. The bill further requests that the U.S. Mint try to produce the coins in such a way that it makes the reverse side rounded, like a baseball.

The passage of this bill, the commemorative coin bill, is one of those exceptional pieces of legislation that brings the House together in bipartisan fashion. Particularly at this time, a bill that can garner nearly 300 signatures of support from House Members on both sides of the aisle is a good thing.

I am pleased to be a cosponsor of this bill, and I urge all the Members to support this coin act today.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, October 24, 2011.

Hon. SPENCER BACHUS,
Chairman, Committee on Financial Services,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BACHUS: I am writing concerning H.R. 2527, the “National Baseball Hall of Fame Commemorative Coin Act,” which is scheduled for Floor action on Tuesday, October 25, 2011.

As you know, the Committee on Ways and Means maintains jurisdiction over matters that concern raising revenue. H.R. 2527 contains a provision that establishes a surcharge for the sale of commemorative coins that are minted under the bill, and this falls within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means.

However, as part of our ongoing understanding regarding commemorative coin bills and in order to expedite this bill for floor consideration, the Committee will forgo action. This is being done with the understanding that it does not in any way prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation in the future.

I would appreciate your response to this letter, confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 2527, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration.

Sincerely,

DAVE CAMP,
Chairman.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,
Washington, DC, October 24, 2011.

Hon. DAVE CAMP,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN CAMP: I am writing in response to your letter regarding H.R. 2527, the Baseball Hall of Fame Commemorative Coin Act, which is scheduled under for Floor consideration under suspension of the rules on Tuesday, October 25, 2011.

I wish to confirm our mutual understanding on this bill. As you know, section 7 of the bill establishes a surcharge for the sale of commemorative coins that are minted under the bill. I acknowledge your committee’s jurisdictional interest in such surcharges as revenue matters and appreciate your willingness to forego action by the Committee on Ways & Means on H.R. 2527 in order to allow the bill to come to the Floor expeditiously. Also, I agree that your decision to forego further action on this bill will not prejudice the Committee on Ways and Means with respect to its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation. Therefore, I would support your request for conferees on those provisions within your jurisdiction should this bill be the subject of a House-Senate conference.

I will include this exchange of letters in the Congressional Record when this bill is considered by the House. Thank you again for your assistance and if you should need anything further, please do not hesitate to contact Natalie McGarray of my staff at 5-7502.

Sincerely,

SPENCER BACHUS,
Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 2527, the National Baseball Hall of Fame Commemorative Coin Act. This legislation would honor the 75th anniversary of the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame.

H.R. 2527 calls for the Treasury Secretary to issue, in 2015, no more than 50,000 five-dollar gold coins, 400,000 one-dollar silver coins, and 750,000 half-dollar “clad” coins in recognition of the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York. The program would be operated at no cost to the taxpayer and would be budget neutral. Currently, H.R. 2527 has 296 cosponsors.

I urge all of my colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. HANNA).

Mr. HANNA. I thank the gentleman from New Mexico for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in proud support of H.R. 2527, the National Baseball Hall of Fame Commemorative Coin Act.

First, I need to thank several of my colleagues for their help in bringing this bill to the floor: Congressman JOE BARTON and MIKE DOYLE, respectively, the Republican and Democratic managers of the congressional baseball teams and the original cosponsors of this bill; Financial Services Committee Chair SPENCER BACHUS and Ranking

Member BARNEY FRANK for their support on this bill, and each of the 296 cosponsors who together joined to commemorate our national pastime.

I am privileged to represent Cooperstown, a picturesque village in upstate New York and home of the National Hall of Fame. As a 10-year resident of Cooperstown, sponsoring this bill is especially meaningful to me.

I urge all citizens of the world, baseball fans or not, to visit Cooperstown at least once. Cooperstown is a fine example of the beauty and grace of small town America.

Mr. Speaker, the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum has spent the last seven decades celebrating and honoring the history of our national pastime. This bill will celebrate and honor the 75th anniversary of the Hall of Fame. The U.S. Treasury will produce an official United States Mint commemorative coin featuring the Baseball Hall of Fame. Importantly, there will be no cost to the American taxpayer associated with this bill.

The coins are legal tender but will be produced in a limited quantity. They will become available in 2015 to mark the 75th anniversary of the opening of the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown.

□ 1330

Mr. Speaker, the story of baseball is the story of America. Baseball is a game of skill, from the most precise pitchers to the heaviest hitters. In the late 1800s, men of all ethnic backgrounds joined together on the diamond to play the game that would become America’s sport. Germans, Poles, and Italians, Irishmen, Jews, Native Americans and more formed teams, a hodgepodge of Americans, immigrants, all of whom found acceptance on the field.

This game broke barriers long before the civil rights movement began. While much of America was segregated in the forties, the great Jackie Robinson in 1945 was signed to play Major League Baseball. Integration began on the baseball field.

The examples go on. From the storied tales of Babe Ruth and Joe DiMaggio to the modern-day legacies of Derek Jeter and Mariano Rivera, baseball touches the lives of everyday Americans and fans around the world. I cannot imagine a more timely occasion than now, during the 2011 World Series, to honor baseball and its wonderful Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. I urge all my colleagues to support me in joining this cost-free, bipartisan legislation.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, being from St. Louis, Missouri, and going through this time with the Fall Classic, the St. Louis Cardinals happen to be in the World Series, and hopefully, we can bring home a victory.

Speaking of victories, I would like to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania, my good friend and the manager of the Democratic baseball team, MIKE DOYLE.

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support of this

bill. I'm happy to support legislation that would designate a commemorative coin for the Baseball Hall of Fame. I want to thank my friend and colleague, RICHARD HANNA, for introducing this legislation and for working to get strong bipartisan support in the House of Representatives. I also want to thank my good friend, JOE BARTON, for his work not only in the congressional baseball game itself but for working with me to help bring legislation to the floor.

The Baseball Hall of Fame is more than just a shrine to the Nation's pastime. The Baseball Hall of Fame is proof of shared American values, that baseball is not merely a part of American history but has tracked the peaks of the American experience. Baseball is a game with roots in both England and the United States, which signifies the dual roots that define the birth of this country.

Major League Baseball players like Joe DiMaggio and Ted Williams gave up years in their prime to fight against fascism and for the future of democracy in World War II. Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in 1947, 7 years before the Supreme Court desegregated schools in *Brown v. Board of Education* and nearly 20 years before the Civil Rights Act.

And the entire world, even Arizonans, rooted for the Yankees as they played in the World Series just weeks after the country was attacked on September 11.

I'm also a supporter of the bill because baseball is an essential part of the experience of my district, more specifically, the city of Pittsburgh. The Pirates are one of the original Major League Baseball teams founded in 1887 and played in the first ever World Series. As someone who's lived in Pittsburgh my entire life, I have experienced the thrill of victory and more recently the agony of defeat as I've watched my beloved Pirates.

As a young fan, I had the honor of watching my most favorite person ever to wear a baseball uniform, Roberto Clemente, a 12-time All-Star, a 12-time Golden Glove winner, MVP, with an impressive .317 lifetime batting average. He was not only a great baseball player but a great humanitarian. After Roberto singlehandedly helped the Pirates win the World Series in 1971 over the heavily favored Baltimore Orioles, Roberto was tragically killed in a plane crash just a few months later bringing relief supplies to victims of the Nicaraguan earthquake in 1972. He will forever be remembered and beloved, not only by his native homeland of Puerto Rico and his adopted home of Pittsburgh, but by baseball fans across the world.

You know, other sports may have more followers or more revenues or more popularity, but no other sport is so tied to the core of American experience as baseball. And now, because of this bill, Americans, as well as international visitors, can be assured that

they can visit the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown.

Commemorative coins celebrate and honor American traditions. As well as commemorating important aspects of American history and culture, these coins help raise money for important causes. This coin will raise funds to ensure that Cooperstown will not only be open to the Nation and the world now, but also for generations and generations beyond us, and will cost the government and the American taxpayer absolutely nothing.

This bill couldn't come at a better time. We're at a point in our history when the defining standards of American life can seem lost; the idea that hard work ensures a decent life, that the future is always better than the past, that what unites us is always stronger than what divides us. There was a time when these notions were not just truths, but reliable truths. They were promises.

We are now at a time when people feel a little less secure about the truth of American greatness. Well, I still believe in American greatness, and I think most Americans still believe in American greatness. And I believe that we need to celebrate that greatness wherever possible. This bill does just that.

The Baseball Hall of Fame has personal importance for me because it reminds me of a time when the country's game was defined by great teams and great players, not large bankrolls and corporate-named stadiums. It's a reminder of when the game was ruled by talent and love of the game. That's why we need the Hall of Fame. That's why I'm proud to support this bill, and that's why I ask all my colleagues to vote for it.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, after last night's game in the World Series, most Americans understand that "T" is for Texas.

I yield 3 minutes to the manager of the Republican team, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON).

Mr. BARTON of Texas. I want to thank the most valuable player for the Republican baseball team this year for the time.

I want to commend Mr. DOYLE, the manager of the Democratic congressional team, for his victory, and commend Mr. CLAY, Congressman CLAY, whose St. Louis Cardinals are playing my Texas Rangers in the World Series, who proudly wears the St. Louis Cardinals uniform in the congressional game; that in the next two, Wednesday and Thursday nights, at least one of those games the Rangers win so that they can get their first World Series championship in history. And once that happens, between them, the Rangers and the Cardinals will have 11 World Series championships.

I want to thank Congressman HANNA for his excellent work on this bill. I am a proud cosponsor of it. I have the Cooperstown Hall of Fame baseball cap on my head, which I am violating the

rules of the House so I have to take it off immediately.

But it is a great institution. Fourteen million Americans have visited it in person since it was established in 1939. I hope to take my son or sons—I have two sons and two grandsons—to that Hall of Fame in person in the very near future. It truly is a history of America, from Babe Ruth of yesteryear to my childhood heroes, Willie Mays, Hank Aaron, people like that, Nolan Ryan, the current general manager of the Texas Rangers, to last night's heroes, Mike Napoli, who hit the home run in the bottom of the eighth inning, or hit the double, and hit a home run earlier, or Albert Pujols, who had three home runs Saturday night, I think 14 total bases, an amazing player who will certainly be in the Hall of Fame.

This is truly a win-win for everyone. There is no cost to the taxpayer. The coin self-generates its funding. We can all celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Baseball Hall of Fame by supporting this legislation. And at the appropriate time I would encourage all the Members of the House of Representatives to do so.

And again, go Rangers. Let's win the first World Series in Texas Rangers history this week.

Mr. CLAY. Let me thank my friend from Texas (Mr. BARTON) for his encouragement for his home team, and we are certain that the better team will prevail in this Fall Classic.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY).

□ 1340

Mrs. MALONEY. As a representative from the proud city of New York, which is the home of the New York Yankees and the New York Mets, I rise with strong enthusiasm in support of the National Baseball Hall of Fame commemorative coin, which was introduced by my friend and colleague from New York (Mr. HANNA), Congressman HANNA, and also congratulate MIKE DOYLE not only for his work on this bill but his winning work on the field of baseball here in Congress.

Sales of the coin will go to the Baseball Hall of Fame to finance its operations, with matching funds raised from nongovernment sources. This program will be operated at no cost to the American taxpayer but will help the Baseball Hall of Fame to do its important work not only now but into the generations to come.

Since the Hall of Fame and Museum opened in June of 1939, 14 million people have visited the site, which houses more than 38,000 3-D artifacts, 500,000 photographs, and 12,000 hours of recorded media on our Nation's favorite pastime. Cooperstown also claims to be the home of the original baseball game here in the United States. It truly is an institution in itself and serves as an educational tool in the classroom through videoconference technology and interactive lessons across the Nation.

A coin to commemorate the Hall of Fame will ensure that it can continue to do the good work that it has been doing for over 70 years. I am so proud that it's located in my State, and we have finally found something we can all agree on, our favorite pastime in America—baseball.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. CLAY. I yield the gentlewoman 1 additional minute.

Mrs. MALONEY. I think it's important, given that we just passed the important and historic Gold Medal for the Montford Point Marines and recognized their fight in promoting and protecting human rights and civil rights. Literally, integration began on the baseball field. There on the mound, people come from across the country from all ethnic backgrounds, sometimes from foreign countries, to come together and support and work together in this wonderful sport that is truly an American sport.

And I would say the Nation's Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum has spent many decades celebrating and honoring baseball. This bill will be able to continue their good, hard work, and I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting this cost-free bipartisan legislation that hopefully every one of us can agree on.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, the competition between the gentleman from Texas and the gentleman from Missouri notwithstanding, the bipartisan—tentative bipartisan—effort is moving slowly forward.

I would yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GIBSON).

Mr. GIBSON. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this legislation to provide a commemorative coin for the National Baseball Hall of Fame sponsored by my friend and colleague from New York (Mr. HANNA).

Tourism is one of the most important drivers of our local economy in upstate New York. Many jobs are tied to it. And the over 350,000 visitors to the museum each year provide a much needed important boost for the economy in the greater Cooperstown area.

Baseball is America's pastime, the sport I played growing up in my hometown of Kinderhook, New York, and one that our son, Connor, plays now. On Columbus Day just past, I visited the Hall of Fame with Connor. It was a very special bonding moment for both of us and one that millions of American families have had the opportunity to do over the last 72 years.

This legislation will help promote the Hall of Fame, will help provide a boost to our local economy through tourism and do so without costing the taxpayers a single penny. It is good legislation and we should all support it. I urge my colleagues to do so.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I certainly think that the National Baseball Hall of Fame is deserving of this recogni-

tion. I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, the original sponsor of the bill, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HANNA), would like to go into extra innings. I yield the gentleman 1 additional minute.

Mr. HANNA. I thank the gentleman from New Mexico.

While every student of baseball knows, including my sister, Robin, who has told me many times that the New York Yankees are the finest team in the history of baseball, I would like to take this opportunity to wish good luck in the World Series to the Texas Rangers and the St. Louis Cardinals.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2527.

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support for H.R. 2527, the National Baseball Hall of Fame Commemorative Coin Act. I want to thank my colleague from New York, Mr. HANNA, for introducing this legislation which I am proud to co-sponsor.

The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum opened its doors on June 12, 1939, in Cooperstown, New York. Since that time, just one percent of all major league players have been enshrined there for their amazing accomplishments on the field.

But more than 14 million baseball fans have visited the Hall of Fame since its opening, to learn about the history of our national pastime and the game's connection to the American experience. As an avid baseball player and lifelong fan, I am in awe of the greats enshrined at Cooperstown like Ruth, Gehrig, Robinson, Clemente, and Koufax.

Baseball is an integral part of the American fabric, and Americans from all walks of life still have much that we can learn from the values and lessons of the game.

I urge all my colleagues to support the establishment of a National Baseball Hall of Fame commemorative coin, and vote YES on H.R. 2527.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2527, as amended.

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. CLAY. Mr. 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, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION BUSINESS TRAVEL CARDS ACT OF 2011

Mr. TURNER of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2042) to require

the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to establish a program to issue Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Cards, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2042

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Cards Act of 2011".

SEC. 2. ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION BUSINESS TRAVEL CARDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than November 11, 2011, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall establish a program called the "APEC Business Travel Program" to issue Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Cards (ABTC) to eligible United States citizen business leaders and senior United States Government officials actively engaged in Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) business.

(b) INTEGRATION WITH EXISTING TRAVEL PROGRAMS.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall integrate application procedures for and issuance of ABTC with other appropriate international registered traveler programs of the Department of Homeland Security, such as Global Entry, NEXUS, and SENTRI.

(c) COOPERATION WITH PRIVATE ENTITIES.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall work in conjunction with appropriate private sector entities to ensure that applicants for ABTC satisfy ABTC requirements. The Secretary of Homeland Security may utilize such entities to enroll and issue ABTC to qualified applicants.

(d) FEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security may impose a fee for the issuance of ABTC, and may modify such fee from time to time as the Secretary determines appropriate.

(2) LIMITATION.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure that the total amount of any fees imposed under paragraph (1) in any fiscal year does not exceed the costs associated with carrying out this section in such fiscal year.

(3) CREDITING TO APPROPRIATE ACCOUNT.—Fees collected under paragraph (1) shall be credited to the appropriate account of the Department of Homeland Security and are authorized to remain available until expended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TURNER) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ) will each control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TURNER of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.