

Madam Speaker, I yield as much time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico (Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN), my friend.

□ 1615

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. KELLER for the opportunity.

I am very humbled but, at the same time, very proud to rise in support of H.R. 2325, legislation that I introduced to designate the United States Postal Service facility located at 100 Calle Alondra in San Juan, Puerto Rico, as the “65th Infantry Regiment Post Office Building.”

Shortly after Puerto Rico became a U.S. territory in 1898, Congress authorized the creation of a unit of volunteer soldiers on the island. Then, in 1920, the unit was redesignated as the 65th Infantry Regiment of the United States Army, and it served as the Nation’s last segregated unit, composed mainly of Hispanic soldiers coming from Puerto Rico.

Members of this regiment—commonly known as The Borinqueneers after the Taino word for “Puerto Rico” meaning “land of the brave lord”—represent the best of our island’s proud and rich tradition of military service.

Despite their relatively limited combat service in World War II, the regiment suffered casualties defending against enemy attacks. Individual soldiers from this unit earned one Distinguished Service Cross, two Silver Stars, two Bronze Stars, and 90 Purple Hearts.

However, it was during the Korean war that the 65th Infantry Regiment’s patriotism and courage came to be widely known and admired.

Fighting as a segregated unit from 1950 until 1952, the Borinqueneers participated in some of the fiercest and toughest battles of the war.

The Borinqueneers not only fought the enemy on the battlefield, but they also had to overcome negative stereotypes held by some of their commanders and fellow soldiers.

Brigadier General William Harris, who commanded the regiment during the early stages of the Korean war, would recall that he had been reluctant to assume command of the unit just because of the prejudice within the military, but that his experience eventually led him to regard the members of the 65th Infantry Regiment as the best soldiers he had ever seen.

General Douglas MacArthur, commander in chief of the United Nations Command in Korea, would similarly write that “The Puerto Ricans forming the ranks of the gallant 65th Infantry give daily proof on the battlefields of Korea of their courage, determination, and resolute will to victory, their invincible loyalty to the United States and their fervent devotion to those immutable principles of human relations which the Americans of the continent and Puerto Rico have in common. They are writing a brilliant record of her-

oism in battle, and I am indeed proud to have them under my command. I wish that we could count on many more like them.”

For its extraordinary service during the Korean war, the Borinqueneers received many unit-level awards, including two Presidential Unit Citations. Soldiers in the regiment earned a total of nine Distinguished Service Crosses, approximately 250 Silver Stars, over 600 Bronze Stars, and more than 2,700 Purple Hearts.

Even 60 years later the laurels continued, as Master Sergeant Juan Negron, who served in the 65th Infantry Regiment, was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, our Nation’s highest military decoration.

In 2014, actually, this same House enacted legislation to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the Borinqueneers. The 65th, consequently, became the first Hispanic unit and the sole unit from the Korean war to receive this distinction, and they were the last unit to launch a battalion-sized bayonet attack by the U.S. Army.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 2325 allows us to continue honoring the Borinqueneers’ service by designating the U.S. Post Office in San Juan as the “65th Infantry Regiment Post Office Building.”

This recognition is made even more significant when considering that this Federal building is located adjacent to one of Puerto Rico’s main avenues. Do you know the name? It is the 65th Infantry Regiment Avenue. That is how proud we feel about our Borinqueneers.

The story of these soldiers is emblematic of the courage of thousands of Puerto Rican soldiers who, for generations, have fought and bled alongside their fellow Americans to defend the United States across the world.

Madam Speaker, as Puerto Rico’s sole representative in this Congress, I urge my colleagues to join me in further recognizing their sacrifice, their legacy, by supporting this bill.

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

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, I think that Representative GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN articulately pointed out why we should all support H.R. 2325.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROUDA. Madam Speaker, I, too, encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for leading the minority discussion today, the newest Member of Congress. It is an honor to serve with him.

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 California (Mr. ROUDA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2325.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the

rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 2447, JOBS AND PREMIUM PROTECTION ACT

Mrs. WALORSKI. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Energy and Commerce be discharged from further consideration of the bipartisan bill H.R. 2447, the Jobs and Premium Protection Act, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 2207, PROTECT MEDICAL INNOVATION ACT

Mrs. WALORSKI. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Ways and Means be discharged from further consideration of the bipartisan bill H.R. 2207, the Protect Medical Innovation Act, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

CONSENSUS CALENDAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker’s designation, pursuant to clause 7(a)(1) of rule XV, of H.R. 748 as the measure on the Consensus Calendar to be considered this week.

MIDDLE CLASS HEALTH BENEFITS TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2019

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 748) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on high cost employer-sponsored health coverage, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 748

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 “Middle Class Health Benefits Tax Repeal Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. REPEAL OF EXCISE TAX ON HIGH COST EMPLOYER-SPONSORED HEALTH COVERAGE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 43 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking section 4980I.