

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, what the big government liberals in Washington want to do to the working men and women is reach their hand in their pocket, grab the wallet, pull out all of their hard-earned cash, year after year, so that the working people now are paying about 40 percent of their household income in taxes.

What the Bush tax plan is saying is, hey, look, we do not need all of that money we have been grabbing out of your wallet. Let us put it back in there. Then, when the working people can control their own money, they get to save it. How, how about an education account for one of your children? How about a new dryer? How about a long, hard-earned vacation? Better still, if you want to, you go out and buy something on the economy, treat yourself. When you do that, businesses respond by increasing their inventory. They have to hire more people because of the new demand, and when they do, there are more jobs in the economy, more people are working, less people are laid off, less people are on welfare and unemployment, and we have more tax revenues coming in. It is a win-win.

Why do the Washington liberals not get it, Mr. Speaker? People know how to spend their money far better than Washington does. Let us let them keep more of their own money. Support the Bush plan.

SOLUTIONS TO ENERGY CRISIS

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a minute to talk about the President's energy plan. I am very supportive of it.

As a member of the Subcommittee on Energy and Policy, what we have found out is that we need to have a diversified energy portfolio, just like anyone would have a good diversified investment portfolio. We need to make sure that we have baseload generating capacities using coal, nuclear, hydroelectric power. We cannot continue to rely solely on natural gas as the market, the supply and demand, will just say, the higher the demand, the more limited the market, and the higher the price is.

□ 1015

Energy is an important concern to many Americans. The best way to address the national energy crisis is to increase supply of the generating fuels, and also do some energy conservation to increase the demand.

EXPEDITING CONSTRUCTION OF WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL IN DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the

Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 1696) to expedite the construction of the World War II memorial in the District of Columbia.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. APPROVAL OF WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL SITE AND DESIGN.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the World War II memorial described in plans approved by the Commission of Fine Arts on July 20, 2000 and November 16, 2000, and selected by the National Capital Planning Commission on September 21, 2000 and December 14, 2000, and in accordance with the special use permit issued by the Secretary of the Interior on January 23, 2001, and numbered NCR-NACC-5700-0103, shall be constructed expeditiously at the dedicated Rainbow Pool site in the District of Columbia in a manner consistent with such plans and permits, subject to design modifications, if any, approved in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

SEC. 2. APPLICATION OF COMMEMORATIVE WORKS ACT.

Elements of the memorial design and construction not approved as of the date of enactment of this Act shall be considered and approved in accordance with the requirements of the Commemorative Works Act (40 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.).

SEC. 3. JUDICIAL REVIEW.

The decision to locate the memorial at the Rainbow Pool site in the District of Columbia and the actions by the Commission of Fine Arts on July 20, 2000 and November 16, 2000, the actions by the National Capital Planning Commission on September 21, 2000 and December 14, 2000, and the issuance of the special use permit identified in section 1 shall not be subject to judicial review.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the legislation under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

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

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, last week the House passed legislation to expedite construction of the World War II memorial by a vote of 400-15.

With the bipartisan help of the Senate leadership and the Committee on Energy, the Committee on Resources, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Government Affairs, we achieved that goal and now bring back H.R. 1696 to the House with a Senate amendment.

The compromise language accomplishes our objectives of declaring the major design elements to be approved

by Congress and finalized, thus bringing the bureaucratic delay to an end, and rendering moot the current litigation brought by the memorial's opponents.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that this is the last legislative action Congress will have to take before the dedication of the World War II memorial in 2004. However, let me say that no one should question our resolve to see this through. I believe Congress will do whatever it takes, because it is time to build the World War II memorial.

Mr. Speaker, the action Congress takes today is an extraordinary step, based in large part on frustration over the slow progress being achieved by the relevant commissions under the Commemorative Works Act.

I hope everyone involved in the remaining administrative process will become true advocates of getting this memorial back on track.

No one should question our desire to see this memorial begun and finished expeditiously, nor should they question our resolve to overcome any further bureaucratic delay and legal wrangling by the memorial's opponents.

A lengthy democratic process, in the best traditions of our Nation, has been conducted and all sides have been given more than ample opportunity to have their voices heard.

Just as WWII veterans fought 60 years ago for the right of the memorial's opponents to be part of the process, those opponents of the memorial should now respect that democratic process and the final decisions that have been made.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to honor the sacrifices of the World War II generation. Eight years after Congress authorized the construction of this memorial, and six years from the first of 22 public hearings on its site and design, the memorial's construction remains delayed by a procedural issue involving the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC), one of the agencies required by law to approve the memorial, and a lawsuit filed by a small group of opponents. This legislation would remove those obstacles and require the construction process to promptly go forward.

The legislation accomplishes that goal as follows:

Through sections one and three, the site and design for the World War II Memorial are finalized, expeditious construction is directed, and the prospect of further delay through judicial challenges or other re-considerations of the selected site and design are eliminated. Section one also includes a provision regarding design modifications which is solely intended to address the highly unlikely event that a technical impossibility could occur in the course of construction that might require a limited deviation from the selected design. In light of the careful review the existing plans have already been subject to by the memorial's design, engineering, and construction management professionals, the General Services Administration (GSA), the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC), the National Park Service (NPS), the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) and the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC), no exercise of this authority is expected. Moreover, as a result of these provisions, funds donated for the Memorial would not be diverted to preparation of the additional mock-up of the Memorial or further presentations on the selected design that have

been requested of the NPS by NCPC to administratively redress that agency's procedural issue resolved by this legislation.

The second section directs that the procedural steps of the Commemorative Works Act shall be used for the approval of those few aspects of the Memorial not already finalized. These items are essentially the color of the granite, the flag poles, sculptural elements, the wording of the inscriptions to be placed on the memorial, and final adjustments to the level of lighting. These matters will be presented in due course by the NPS, representing the Secretary of the Interior and acting on behalf of the ABMC, to the two approving commissions designated by the Commemorative Works Act: the CFA and the NCPC.

To further place this legislation in context it is important to briefly describe the extensive, democratic deliberative process through which the site and design were selected.

After receiving Congressional approval in October 1994 to locate the Memorial within the National Monumental Core, many public hearings regarding site selection were conducted including meetings of the National Capital Memorial Commission (NCMC), (May 9 and June 20, 1995), the CFA (July 27 and September 19, 1995), and the NCPC (July 27 and October 5, 1995). In the course of these meetings, the CFA and NCPC, in consultation with the ABMC and NCMC, reviewed eight proposed sites for the Memorial. Through review of these proposals, the possibility of including the Rainbow Pool in the site for the Memorial arose at the June 20, 1995, NCMC public meeting. As the deliberations continued pursuant to the Commemorative Works Act, the appropriateness and potential of the Rainbow Pool as a site for the Memorial became readily apparent. The Rainbow Pool site was approved at an open, public meeting of the CFA on September 19, 1995, and the NCPC on October 5, 1995. President Clinton formally dedicated the Rainbow Pool site on Veterans' Day 1995.

In 1996, a national two-stage competition to select the designer for the Memorial was conducted in accordance with the GSA's Design Excellence program. Over four hundred entries were reviewed by a distinguished Evaluation Board that selected six competition finalists. From these six finalists, a design jury composed of outstanding architects, landscape architects, architectural critics and WWII veterans, independently and unanimously recommended a design team headed by Friedrich St. Florian of the Rhode Island School of Design. The Evaluation Board concurred and ABMC approved the recommendation on November 20, 1996. On January 17, 1997, President Clinton announced the Friedrich St. Florian team as the winning design team, with Leo A. Daly, a pre-eminent national firm, serving as architect-engineer.

Through the Commemorative Works Act process, the World War II Memorial design underwent three general phases of public review and approval: design concept, preliminary design and final design. The Memorial design has evolved through input and participation by the reviewing commissions and the public. In particular, at public hearings held in July of 1997, both the CFA and the NCPC considered Friedrich St. Florian's initial design concept and reconsidered the approvals of the Rainbow Pool Site. Both commissions reaffirmed selection of the Rainbow Pool site on more

than one occasion; however, both also requested the consideration of substantial changes to the design concept. The design team subsequently undertook extensive efforts to address all concerns raised by the reviewing commissions and the public. Over the course of three years and nine more public meetings, the Memorial design continued to evolve to its finally approved form. As a result of the extensive public participation and careful review by the respective commissions and other governmental agencies, the final design is one which enhances the site, preserves its historic vistas, and preserves the Rainbow Pool by restoring it and making it a part of a national commemorative work.

Finally, in the course of authorizing this Memorial, Congress asked the American people to support the project through voluntary donations. They certainly responded. The memorial fund-raising campaign, under the leadership of Senator Bob Dole and Frederick W. Smith, Chairman and CEO of FedEx Corporation, received financial support from half a million individual Americans, hundreds of corporations and foundations, dozens of civic, fraternal and professional organizations, 48 state legislatures, 1,100 schools, and more than 450 veterans groups representing 11 million veterans providing the funds necessary to construct the Memorial. With this legislation, we will ensure that the Memorial is created within the lifetimes of a significant number of those we honor.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, last week this body overwhelmingly approved H.R. 1696 by a vote of 400-15. The Members of this body clearly want the construction of a World War II memorial in the District of Columbia to be expedited.

I am pleased that Members of the other body have taken the action to expedite the memorial construction. H.R. 1696, as approved by the Senate, will expedite construction of the World War II memorial at the dedicated Rainbow Pool site on the Mall.

Mr. Speaker, let us approve this measure now and send it back to the President, and move forward with the construction of the World War II memorial in the District of Columbia.

The National World War II Memorial will honor all Americans who served in the Armed Forces during World War II, as well as the millions of other Americans who contributed in so many different ways.

Mr. Speaker, the time to construct this memorial is now. More than 50 years after the end of World War II, there still is no fitting memorial for the service and sacrifices of millions of Americans who preserved democracy and defeated totalitarianism in World War II. Mr. Speaker, the time to construct this memorial is now.

I again commend my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP), for his effective leadership on this issue. I urge every Member of the House to support this resolution. The gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP) is one of the heroes of World

War II. To the gentleman and the others of his generation, we thank them for their service and sacrifice. It is time to build a memorial to honor their actions. We appreciate them very much.

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

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON).

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me, and for bringing this back so quickly to the House floor after a Senate amendment.

Mr. Speaker, as we approach Memorial Day, I think there are two things that we can keep in mind. Actually, there are countless things we should keep in mind, but there are two things that I always try to emphasize when I am talking to schoolkids.

One is, we should remember in our memorial to our war dead that they were kids themselves. As I look at a group of high school students, and say, "Think about the graveyards of all the war heroes that we see, and remember, they were closer to your age than the white-haired man in the bleacher who is back here alive today. The people who fought so hard for our freedom and sacrificed their lives, they were yet kids themselves, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 years old; very, very young people."

We should also remember that they were hometown. There is not a county or city in America that we cannot go to that did not have people who died in World War II. In most towns, they had somebody who died in Vietnam, North Korea, World War I, or any one of other conflicts that have been fought in the name of freedom around our country. As we do this, keep in mind that they were young, and that they were our neighbors and friends.

What we need to do in honoring them is to get this monument built. We have had all kinds of hearings. It has met the approval of the National Environmental Policy Act and the Commemorative Works Act. It has the approval of all the appropriate commissions. It has gone through countless hearings, site and design work has been approved, and the construction permit has already been issued. It is time to move forward.

If we think about it in these terms, 16 million people were involved in World War II. Today, only about 5 million are left alive, and we lose about 1,000 a day. It is time to move forward for the honor of these very brave, very historically significant men and women of such worth to our country.

The fact that we have not already built a monument, to me, is atrocious. I am glad that Democrats, Republicans, and Independents are united on this. Let us pass this bill and let us break ground by Memorial Day.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 8 minutes to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, the gentleman from Illinois, for yielding time to me.

May I begin by thanking the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP) for his work on this bill, and for his work with the Senate in getting a bill that I think is one that we all appreciate for what it will mean for the memorial that has been under discussion.

I honor the gentleman from Arizona for his service, and understand and appreciate his anxiety to get on with the memorial. Let me say, as a child of World War II who grew up during the war here in the city, I understand why this memorial means so much to the men who fought this war.

It is the case, however, that anyone who loves the city and admires the uniqueness of Washington and the Mall could not possibly want the particular memorial that will go up. The memorial, of course, as I said in my own remarks on the House floor on last Tuesday, was pretty much a done deal, in any case. At least we will not be adding to the injury that many Americans feel about having any man-made object in the midst of one of Washington's great vistas, especially a very controversial design that does not begin to do justice to the men and women of World War II, who brought justice to the world.

At least now we have understood that no memorial can rise without administrative review and oversight. The bill assures us that there will be experts from the National Capital Planning Commission to wrestle with the many problems that remain when we are putting a football field-sized memorial where no object was ever meant to be. This poses unprecedented challenges that I hope the NCPCC will meet.

What we are doing is putting a huge memorial below the water table, and we have to have somebody there, for example, to figure out how to pump water, which will need to be pumped out continuously, and how to make sure that it is treated and does not go into the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay.

Let me put everybody on notice now, they had better not put a contraption on the Mall that looks like some kind of machinery in order to do that. We have to find a way to do that.

We were very concerned about the wooden foundations on which the Washington Monument is built. In those days, that is how one built a monument. Disturbing the subsoil when the water is pumped out presents a real challenge to the NCPCC. Nobody has ever figured out how to do that. They had better figure out how to do that.

What do we do to deal with the old growth trees that are a proxy for the beauty of the Mall itself? We had certainly better not knock them down. If the NCPCC had not already been there, the National Park Service, in preparation for the memorial, would already have concrete helicopter pads on the Mall. The NCPCC, I thank them very

much, stopped that. That is but one indication of why we do need administrative oversight.

For those who come in from Maryland and Virginia, for the millions of tourists who come every day, the NCPCC still has to figure out how this memorial, with its tour buses, with its traffic, can go up without closing 17th Street to traffic. That is a challenge I would not want to have.

Many of the elements of the Mall now, such as the lighting and sculptural elements, will be in the hands of the NCPCC, so not just anything the builders choose will go up.

I struggled very hard to have this wonderful memorial put in a unique spot. I want Members to go to Constitutional Gardens. Constitutional Gardens is a huge space hidden right off from the Mall. The reason nobody knows about it is because there is a line of trees as one marches toward the Lincoln Memorial, and we have to go up over a hill to see it, but then we come upon a huge space with a wonderful pool and we say, why is there nothing here?

There is nothing there, and that was the first site that everybody wanted for the World War II memorial. I am very, very sorry that that was not the site chosen. Then it would not have been in competition with anything else. It would have been the first memorial to rise there. It is a huge and wonderfully undiscovered space.

Mr. Speaker, I worry about what we are doing to our Mall, quite apart from the World War II memorial, because everybody knew that the World War II memorial, if any memorial deserved to be on the Mall, the World War II memorial did.

I just want to use my 3 minutes left to warn the Congress away from fooling with the Mall. We who live in the District have, in essence, been left by the Framers to be guardians of our city. The Framers always wanted people to live here, people who did not come and go, like Members of Congress or tourists.

I am a fourth-generation Washingtonian for whom this city and its history, not just the city as it is today, means everything. The Mall, Mr. Speaker, is the urban equivalent of the Grand Canyon. There should never be anything in the middle of the Grand Canyon. There should never be anything planted straight in the middle of the Mall.

That is done now. What we have to remember, though, is that the Mall is a very small, centrally-located spot. There is a huge competition to continue to put things on the Mall. It is already crowded. We are grateful that President Reagan signed the Commemorative Works Act, which keeps us from willy-nilly putting anything that comes to mind on the Mall to any person whom we happen to admire.

There was opposition to this memorial, and that opposition has done an important service. Without that oppo-

sition, the memorial design would not have been scaled down. There was opposition in the Senate, there was opposition throughout the country. What we would have had was a gargantuan embarrassment to all Americans, and especially to our veterans.

In a democracy, opposition of this kind matters, and often can and in this case has resulted in improvement. Here, unfortunately, we have had a redesign which, like so many redesigns, is pedestrian and will be, unfortunately, invidiously compared with the evocative simplicity of the Vietnam Memorial.

Let this memorial be the last of its kind on the Mall. The NCPCC has thoughtfully suggested many other locations in and around the Mall for future memorials.

Finally, let me ask Members to take a walk before the construction begins. Go up to the Washington monument site and look at that unobstructed vista for the last time. I ask Members to see it while they can still contemplate our two great Presidents whose monuments lie at either end of that axis.

And please remember this, that the only eternal cities in the world are not located abroad. They are not only Rome and Paris. Washington is meant to be an eternal city because it is the home of our eternal democratic values.

□ 1030

One of those eternal places in this eternal city is our Mall. It is one of our last remaining spaces left to us by the framers. Let us remember what it was really meant to be.

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS).

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS), who is the ranking member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. I know that for Members one of the most special times we have is when we get a chance to help World War II veterans receive the medals.

Most of them decided not to wait around for them. They decided to get home. They received their couple dollars and change and got their train pass and skedaddled home so they could be with their loved ones and get back with everyday living.

Now, in the waning years of their lives, they ask us for help to recover the medals that should have been handed over to them once they left the service.

Many times I ask or they are asked by the media during these presentations "why?" They do not do it for themselves; that is the most striking thing. They ask for the medals so that they have something that can be held so they can give it to their children and then their children can give it to their grandchildren so that there is a memory of service before self, of people sacrificing their lives, of friends and loved ones in some very harsh and

cruel memories, of a very terrible time in this world's history.

Mr. Speaker, I have been able to do these presentations in many locations. My most favorite ones are when we do the medal presentations in schools. I have done them in grade schools, and I have done them in high schools. The students really get involved. They ask pretty tough questions, and some of these stories are just historic in proportion, as far as what these individual men and women have done in service to their country.

I have two uncles who served in World War II. My father served in the Korean War and hardly talked about the war his whole life until the memorial was built here in Washington, D.C., until the memorial was built in Springfield, Illinois, until he joined the Korean War Veterans Association and wears his little light blue hat.

So building the World War II Memorial now rather than later is critical. It is critical for those remaining veterans who want to have a tribute to their fallen colleagues and friends. It is also important, as this is an eternal city, it is an eternal city that young men and young women, kids of all ages come to learn at the heart of democracy and freedom.

Should they not also learn about the sacrifices made to preserve freedom in this great land? That is why it is so important to move expeditiously now in approving the memorial.

I really applaud the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP), Chairman of the Committee on Armed Services, and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS), the ranking member; and I ask all of my colleagues to join in support of this resolution.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON), the ranking member of the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS) so much for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to congratulate the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP) for his leadership on this bill and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS), the ranking member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for doing this important legislation.

It appears to me that after some 60 years, the veterans of what we now call the Second World War should be rightfully honored here in the District of Columbia. We have a memorial to the Vietnam veterans. We have a memorial to those who fought in Korea.

It is the generation that Tom Brokaw, the NBC author and anchorman, calls the greatest generation, yet there is no memorial to them. This bill puts an end to the discussion, the disagreements.

After 22 public hearings on its site and design, it is something that needs to be done. Growing up in the era of

the Second World War, my heroes were those who fought, who came home, such as my best friend's older brother, Walter Savio, when he came over to the grade school with his uniform on and his gas mask attached to his side; others like Hector Polla, who did not come back; others like Raymond Howard, who was captured at Corregidor; George Steir, who was shot down while flying his B-17 over Europe. He was a prisoner of war.

So many of them should be honored, and this will be an honor that will pass on to later generations. They will know them as the members of the greatest generation. It is time we put an end to the disagreement and the discussion and do something about it.

Mr. Speaker, I wholeheartedly agree with the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS); and I thank them for their efforts.

I know there are many, many World War II veterans that will be pleased to know that finally the discussion is over. There will be a memorial to them, and I know they will be very grateful.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3½ minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I want to say it is nice to have the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) precede me, because this is at a higher level than it normally is. I appreciate the gentleman's comments.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to comment on a couple of points: the process and the policy.

First, in terms of the process, it is important to bear in mind that the location and the design have already been decided. There have been three votes by the National Capital Planning Commission; all of them approved this design, and this site. They did scale it back from its original design.

They did compromise, but they came to a conclusion three times. They had 22 public hearings that resulted in that conclusion. The only reason it is not being constructed is, in fact, a technicality. They are arguing that the Harvey Gantz membership, his tenure as chairman should have been expired, but he was not reappointed.

In so many commissions all over the metropolitan area and, in fact, all over the country, people continue to serve until they are replaced. It is really a pure technicality on which this has been stopped.

I think that contributed to the determination of the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP) to go forward with this legislation. That decision has been made by the appropriate bodies.

Now, let me go to the second issue. Is it appropriate to put this large a memorial to World War II veterans on the Mall? I think the answer is yes, because we are not just talking about American history. We are talking about a turning point in world history. It was the veterans of World War II

who did, in fact, save our world for democracy, for the freedoms that we today take for granted.

Many of them lost their lives. Many are dying today at a rate of a thousand a day. My father has already passed away, but there are going to be very few left. This is important to them. This is important to the country. It is important to the world that it be in a visible place to show the importance that we attach to what they contributed to world history.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to pay some respect to the views of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and those who are concerned about what we are doing to the Mall, because while I recognize that we need a memorial that is obvious, that makes a definitive statement with regard to how we feel about World War II veterans, we have to start thinking twice about what we decide should be on that Mall.

This is a sacred national place. The fact is, it is arrogant for this generation to feel that everything that happened in our experience is all that matters.

Mr. Speaker, I want to conclude by saying we see too many proposals to put too many things on the Mall. This is going to last for thousands of years, as it should. But there are other generations who also will have things that need to be memorialized on this sacred place, and I would urge some caution to those who have a dozen other memorials they want to put on the Mall.

Let us pay some cognizance and respect to future generations. Let us go ahead with this memorial. The Senate compromise is a good one. It gives more latitude, but I think the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) makes some good points that we ought to bear in mind, not just now, but in the future as well.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I will also yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin). The gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 6 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP), Chairman of the Committee on Armed Services, who is my good friend, and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS), the ranking member of the full committee, a member from my own class for whom I have the highest regard, for yielding the time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in very strong support of the Senate resolution that has come back to us in support of constructing the World War II Memorial on our avenue of democracy where it belongs.

I think it is especially historic in that this is the first year of the new century and the new millennium which allows us some perspective in looking

back and recognizing that the victory of liberty over tyranny was the fulfillment of the 20th century.

As we look at that Mall and we think about the history of this Nation, we have the Washington Monument; yes, a monument to a person, but, more importantly, a monument to the founding of our republic.

Then not so far from it on the Mall, the Lincoln Memorial; yes, a memorial to a person, a great person, but also a memorial to the preservation of our union.

Now, for the 20th century, we add to this expression of the history of the United States a memorial to the victory of liberty over tyranny.

The 18th, 19th, and 20th century come together at one moment, in fact, in the revised design of this new memorial. There will be a light fixture in the central sculpture within the Rainbow Falls that will cast itself on the Reflecting Pool from the Lincoln Memorial at the exact place where the Washington Monument's shadow is cast in the reflecting pool in a way that the 18th, 19th, and 20th century all come together in celebration of freedom.

This is exactly the place where this memorial belongs. In fact, if you walk the Mall today, the disrepair of the Rainbow Fountains is a disgrace. And so, the improvements that will be made with the refined design will elevate us all as a people and the expression of our own history.

I believe, along with all the others who have spoken, that the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and those who have expressed some concerns about the design have been involved in the refinement and improvement of this expression of a free people. Thank goodness we have had over 22 public hearings, various approvals of the Fine Arts Commission and the National Capital Planning Commission, because with every step, it has become better, as it should.

On this Memorial Day that we will celebrate next week, we honor all veterans, all freedom lovers, certainly the 16 million World War II veterans who made our freedom and our ability to stand on this floor today as a free people possible.

□ 1045

We also remember the 5 million who still are living today and whom we hope will see our seriousness in celebrating and commemorating what they have done for the world. Whoever would have thought that we would live at a time or we would have witnessed the fall of the Berlin Wall, and brand new nations emerge with a chance, just a chance, for independence as Eastern and Central Europe come online. Imagine we are able to even e-mail people that we could not even talk to 20 years ago or 40 years ago. What an incredible new moment this is in the history of humankind.

I want to thank all of the Presidents, and there have now been three: Presi-

dent George Bush back in the 1980s, who signed the original authorizing legislation for the memorial; President Bill Clinton, who signed the memorial coins that were minted to pay the costs for the beginning of the memorial's planning; and now, our new President George W. Bush, who has endorsed the construction of this memorial.

President Clinton stood with us as we dedicated the ground. I am sure President George W. Bush will be there when the memorial is finally constructed.

I want to thank the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs, Anthony Principi, for the good words that he spoke this morning in support of this memorial.

So as we think about the importance of this place in American history, let us remember the significance of what these greatest Americans, this greatest generation of Americans, did for the freedom of humankind. Let us build this memorial in a timely way as the 21st century's way of saying thank you to the 20th century and its champions.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all the Members of the House and the Senate that supported us; but I want to single out a few for special thanks: the chairmen, my two good friends, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) of the Committee on Resources, and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and also their ranking members, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS) of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) of the Committee on Resources.

I would also like to thank the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), who began this effort some 12 years ago or more, and she still remains a steadfast champion of the World War II veterans. And I appreciate her support very much.

On behalf of the House, I would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to Senators LOTT and DASCHLE for moving this through the Senate so expeditiously, and also single out Senators HUTCHINSON, THOMPSON, STEVENS, and MURKOWSKI for their help on this bill.

I would also like to express my appreciation to the following organizations, which sent in letters of support on H.R. 1696, they are: The American Legion; Veterans of Foreign Wars of the US; Disabled American Veterans; Paralyzed Veterans of America; AMVETS; The Retired Officers Association; Non Commissioned Officers Association; Marine Corps Reserve Officers' Association; Blinded Veterans Association; Military Order of the Purple Heart; Jewish War Veterans of the USA; Association of the United States Army; Fleet Reserve Association; Veterans' Widows International Network, Inc.; National Association for Uniformed Services, and the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the US.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank members of the American Battle Monuments Commission for their professionalism and dedication to building a memorial that will do justice to our Nation's veterans and our desire to honor those who participated in World War II.

I am absolutely certain that the American Battle Monuments Commission will produce a memorial that all Americans can take pride in for generations to come.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1696, as amended, a bill that would expedite construction of the World War II Memorial in the District of Columbia. This memorial for the most significant event of the twentieth century is already long overdue, but today Congress is taking action to remove the roadblocks holding up construction of the memorial.

I commend our Senate colleagues on both sides of the aisle for expeditiously taking up H.R. 1696 after House passage on May 15, 2001, and for the thoughtful dialogue that led to the compromise language in the Senate amendment to the bill. I believe that we now have legislation that accomplishes the objectives we sought: to establish definitely that the memorial's location will remain the Rainbow Pool between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial; that the overall design already selected will be what is built; and that any pending lawsuits will be rendered moot.

Again, I salute the leadership of my distinguished colleague, BOB STUMP, in introducing H.R. 1696, managing its House passage, and negotiating with the Senate on an amendment acceptable to both bodies. I associate myself with his remarks in their substance and in recognizing the contributions of many Members to this legislation.

President Bush's expression of support on May 16, 2001 for moving quickly to begin construction of the memorial gave our legislation a real boost and was much appreciated. He has made it clear he will sign this bill. And with Memorial Day approaching, how could we do less than ensure that our World War II veterans will be honored on this prominent site on the Mall?

Mr. Speaker, the extraordinary action Congress is taking here is not the sort of thing we should do often, but I am convinced that in this instance it is appropriate and necessary. I hope it will serve as a reminder that the patience of Congress and the American people is not endless, and that the agencies and commissions of government are constitutionally accountable to Congress as well as the courts.

The bill would allow the normal and necessary administrative decisions to be made in carrying out the design as memorial construction proceeds. However, I think it is obvious that Congress will not lose its keen interest in the progress of the memorial once this legislation is enacted into law.

Mr. Speaker, the Senate having approved the compromise bill by unanimous consent, I urge every Member of the House to join in supporting our World War II veterans by giving favorable consideration to H.R. 1696, as amended.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 1696.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERMISSION TO OFFER AMENDMENT OUT OF ORDER DURING FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1, NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT OF 2001

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that, during further consideration of the bill, H.R. 1, pursuant to House Resolution 143, amendment numbered 3 in House Report 107-69 may be offered out of the specified order and immediately following amendment numbered 5.

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

There was no objection.

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT OF 2001

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 143 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 1.

□ 1048

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 1) to close the achievement gap with accountability, flexibility, and choice, so that no child is left behind, with Mr. HASTINGS of Washington in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole House rose on Thursday, May 17, 2001, 1 hour and 46 minutes remained in general debate.

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER) has 55 minutes remaining and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) has 51 minutes remaining.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER).

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Chairman, I am happy to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. Isakson).

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Ohio for yielding me this time. I am delighted to rise today in support of the number one campaign issue of President George Bush, the number one focus of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, and a bill to which any number of Members of this House have contributed tremendous time and ef-

fort in the interest of improving the education of all America's children, but in particular our most disadvantaged.

I want to particularly thank the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman BOEHNER) for his tireless work over the last 4 months and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER), ranking member for his tireless effort as well.

The results of the working group and the House Committee on Education and the Workforce is a bipartisan bill that ensures this country has accountability in the expenditure of title I funds, I might add for the first time.

It ensures more flexibility than has ever been allowed with Federal funds to every single one of the 6,000 public school systems in the United States of America.

Most importantly of all, it informs parents and children on an individual basis of their progress, how their schools are doing, and it provides work and money to allow schools that are failing to come up in their performance and ultimately to meet the success that schools that are succeeding are in fact doing.

I want to particularly address myself to the accountability portion this morning, which in later amendments will receive a good certain amount of debate.

Since the inception of title I, there has not been a mechanism for accountability of the progress of America's most disadvantaged students. For the benefit of this Chamber, it is important to understand that title I students are America's poorest students, those on free and reduced lunch, those who most likely have come from an environment that is less than conducive to learning, and those, that after they enter the public school system, more often than other students, that will find themselves dropping out before they ever get a high school diploma.

The important part of the President's initiative is as follows: First we will have an early reading first program that ensures that children will learn to read and comprehend to the third grade level by the time they reach that level. Second, it ensures that, in reading and in arithmetic, children will be tested annually by the local system and by the State on a test approved by the State to ensure that they are progressing at normal levels.

In addition, there is a \$675 million increase to a total of \$975 million to ensure that reading instruction is the very first and most important and paramount instruction that every child gets.

There are options in this bill, options for the children for the first time and their parents. If a title I child attends a public school that is ranked as failing, then where consistent with State law, that child will have the opportunity to transfer to a public school that is succeeding. For the first time, title I funds will be used to allow transportation of that student to ensure

their biggest problem, which is mobility, is overcome; and they can attend the school that is public that is best performing to meet their needs.

In addition, this program focuses on flexibility. Historically, for years, flexibility has been something local systems have not had. As this debate goes on, we will learn local systems will now have up to 50 percent of their own flexibility, flexibility at their own volition.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) will control the time on the Democrat side.

There was no objection.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, today's consideration of H.R. 1 marks the end of many busy and work-filled nights and weekends over the past 4 months. I strongly believe that this bill enacts meaningful bipartisan education reform by striking the right balance. Clearly from the final resolution of issues in the reported bill, we all gave some, and some probably feel they gave too much. But the result is a bipartisan bill.

Several provisions in the bill are especially worthy of mention. With regard to title I, I am pleased that the amendment protects and preserves many of the core advances that the last reauthorization of ESEA in 1994 instituted, and maintains our existing requirements to develop and implement challenging standards and aligned assessments.

Preserved are title I's targeting of resources to high-poverty school districts and schools. Also maintained are vital national priorities such as the 21st Century Community Learning Centers and the Civic and International Education Programs which are key priorities of mine.

Most importantly, I believe the strong accountability requirements we have added to ESEA greatly improve the bill. These include a requirement to ensure that all children reach a proficient level of performance. Increased teacher quality requirements and a focus on turning around failing schools through the investment of additional help and resources are indeed critical.

In a time when we are in an increasingly competitive world, we can no longer tolerate low-performing schools that place the education of our children at risk. Very simply, this means providing additional resources and intervention to help students in those low-performing schools reach high standards. If schools are still failing after substantive intervention, then consequences must indeed exist.

Fortunately, this bill does not include divisive issues that would distract us from our efforts to gain a bipartisan consensus. H.R. 1, as introduced, did contain many of these provisions including private school vouchers, Straight A's, and cessation of educational services. The inclusion of these provisions could undo the careful