

There was no objection.

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to unanimously support H.R. 1168.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1168, 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. WALZ. 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 and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### LOUISIANA HONORAIR DAY

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 828) to recognize October 24, 2009, the 20th chartered flight of World War II veterans through Louisiana HonorAir, as "Louisiana HonorAir Day," and to honor the invaluable service and dedication of the World War II veterans to our Nation.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 828

Whereas in late 2006, T.D. Smith of Louisiana founded Louisiana HonorAir, a non-profit organization, which charters flights for World War II veterans on an all-expenses-paid, day-long trip from Louisiana to Washington, DC, to see the World War II Memorial, the Marine Corps Memorial, and to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier;

Whereas since its first flight out of Lafayette, Louisiana in early 2007, Louisiana HonorAir has flown close to 2,000 World War II veterans to Washington, DC, to be honored for their invaluable service, sacrifice, and dedication to our Nation;

Whereas approximately 100 to 130 World War II veterans are selected by Louisiana HonorAir for each flight on a first-come-first-served basis;

Whereas Louisiana HonorAir is run by volunteers and sustained by donations and State grants;

Whereas before Louisiana HonorAir culminates in Lafayette, Louisiana, on April 10, 2010, its last three flights will be chartered from New Orleans, Louisiana, on September 26, October 10, and October 24, 2009;

Whereas the 100th chartered flight of World War II veterans aboard U.S. Airways occurs during Louisiana HonorAir's October 10, 2009, flight out of New Orleans, Louisiana, home to the National World War II Museum;

Whereas, October 24, 2009, marks the 20th chartered flight of World War II veterans through Louisiana HonorAir;

Whereas with the average World War II veteran being 86 years old and becoming too ill to visit the World War II Memorial in Washington, DC, there are not many opportunities left to honor them for their service: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives recognizes Louisiana HonorAir for its 20 chartered flights of World War II veterans to Washington, DC, to visit the National World War II Memorial, honors the invaluable service and dedication of the World War II veterans to our Nation, and supports the designation of a "Louisiana HonorAir Day".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from New Orleans for putting this piece of legislation forward. This is an incredibly important program, and it is one that any of us who have had the incredible honor of being in the presence of our World War II veterans as they get a chance to return back to their memorial would say is really moving.

The Louisiana HonorAir's mission is to provide that every single Louisiana World War II veteran have the opportunity to view the World War II Memorial for the first time. As the home of the National World War II Museum, Louisiana holds deep roots in celebrating our World War II veterans community.

Louisiana HonorAir provides the veterans a chance to stand in the presence of the landmark that memorializes their service to this country. They also visit Arlington National Cemetery and lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

The World War II Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery mark our country's gratitude for the heroic service our veterans have provided to the country. They are also a symbolic tie these veterans have to our country's history. This experience only lasts one day, but it hopefully stays in the hearts of our veterans and their loved ones forever.

This service provided by Louisiana HonorAir is an act of love for our World War II veterans. Operating solely on the efforts of volunteers and financial support from donors, Louisiana HonorAir is able to make these dreams possible at no cost to the veterans.

Because the youngest World War II veteran is 70 years old, and the average age of our veterans is 86, time is of the essence. Many of our last World War II veterans are becoming too ill to travel, and there are not many opportunities left to honor them for their service.

House Resolution 828 will recognize and celebrate Louisiana HonorAir's 20th chartered flight on October 24, 2009, Louisiana HonorAir Day.

□ 1445

We act on the limited chance to support our last surviving World War II veterans. Let's not forget them, and let's take advantage of every opportunity to celebrate their service to their country. With that, again, I

thank the gentleman for such an important resolution.

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

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

I also rise in support of House Resolution 828, a resolution recognizing October 24, 2009, the 20th chartered flight of World War II veterans through the Louisiana HonorAir, as Louisiana HonorAir Day, and to honor the invaluable service and dedication of World War II veterans nationwide.

Founded in late 2006 by T.D. Smith of Louisiana, Louisiana HonorAir provides World War II veterans an all-expense-paid, day-long trip from Louisiana to Washington, D.C., to see the World War II Memorial, the Marine Corps Memorial, and to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. I want to congratulate them for their continued service to our Nation. Their flight on October 24, 2009, was the 20th Honor Flight organized by this organization, and I am sure it won't be the last.

I have also had the experience and privilege of honoring these Honor Flights in my congressional district. We've had four of these. Last week, in fact, we have just had one, and I will recognize that Senator Dole and Senator Libby Dole also were participants at the site to meet and greet these veterans as a tribute to them.

I know that I have been inspired by the veterans who have participated in honor flights from my district in Florida, and all Honor Flight Networks around our country deserve our support. Also on October 10, 2009, the 100th chartered flight of World War II veterans aboard U.S. Airways occurred during a Louisiana HonorAir Flight out of New Orleans, Louisiana, the home to the National World War II Museum. It is estimated by the National Honor Flight Network that over 42,000 veterans will have participated in honor flights by the end of this year. So I think it's a tribute to recognize this resolution, but it's also a tribute to my colleague Mr. CAO of Louisiana for introducing this resolution and honoring this worthy organization. I would like to thank both the chairman and the ranking member for moving this resolution so quickly, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALZ. I have no further speakers, and reserve the balance of my time, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker I yield such time as he may consume to the author, Mr. CAO of Louisiana.

Mr. CAO. Thank you very much for allowing me to speak on behalf of my resolution.

I rise today in support of House Resolution 828, to designate October 24, 2009, as Louisiana HonorAir Day in honor of the invaluable service of World War II veterans to our Nation. October 24, 2009, marked the 20th charter flight of World War II veterans from Louisiana

to D.C. through Louisiana HonorAir to visit the National World War II Memorial. Louisiana HonorAir's mission is to provide every World War II veteran who is physically able to travel the opportunity to view the World War II Memorial for the first time. World War II veterans are granted a charter flight from Louisiana to Washington, D.C., for a day-long, all-expenses-paid-trip to visit the National World War II Memorial, the Marine Corps Memorial, the Iwo Jima Memorial and other memorials and to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The World War II Memorial was dedicated in 2004 for a generation whose youngest members are in their late seventies. Therefore, many of the men and women who fought and sacrificed for our country have not had the opportunity or ability to visit. Sadly, a few of the World War II veterans scheduled to go on the October 24 flight passed away or became too ill to travel and were, therefore, unable to be properly honored for their tremendous sacrifices.

As Louisiana HonorAir prepares to fly its final flight on April 10, 2010, I am proud that these last three fall flights were out of New Orleans, Louisiana, home to the National World War II Museum. Mr. Speaker, I had the great opportunity to welcome home several members of the veterans community on their flights back from Washington, D.C., 3 weeks ago, and I have to say that from the receptions that I have received and from the faces of the many members who came back from Washington, D.C., on that HonorAir flight, they were very grateful and honored to be able to participate in the program. Under the leadership of T.D. Smith, the Louisiana HonorAir reminds our Nation's World War II veterans how indebted we are to them for their service. As the son of a war veteran, I consider it a personal honor to sponsor this legislation, and I strongly urge my colleagues to vote in favor of House Resolution 828.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support our Armed Forces and veterans and fully realize the debt of gratitude that our nation owes the men and women who defend our country. Mindful of this commitment, I thank the World War II veterans for their commitment and unselfish service to America. I would especially like to thank the Louisiana HonorAir organization for their hard work and dedication to these veterans and recognize October 24, 2009 as "Louisiana HonorAir Day."

In 2007, Louisiana HonorAir began flying WWII veterans three hours on a chartered flight from Louisiana to our nation's Capital free of charge. In Washington, D.C., the groups toured the WWII Memorial, Korean Memorial and Vietnam Memorial and attended wreath laying ceremonies at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. Then, as quickly as they came, the groups returned home to a hero's welcome in Louisiana where family and friends gathered to show their appreciation one more time. For many veterans, it was their first time to tour the WWII Memorial because of its recent con-

struction, while for others it was their only chance to see these sights dedicated to the great service they provided to our nation.

Having met many of these groups in Washington, I continue to be awestruck by the reactions of these brave men and women who stood up to tyranny in Europe and Asia. Many rarely talk about their service, instead, looking to happier times. However, in the company of others who nobly served, they are able to frankly discuss their experiences, share tearful stories and remember comrades missing or killed in action. I am grateful to have worked with Louisiana HonorAir and I salute them, as well as the courageous men and women who stood to protect America.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering the brave men and women who defended America and in commending Louisiana HonorAir by recognizing October 24, 2009 as "Louisiana HonorAir Day."

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on House Resolution 828.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from New Orleans and urge my colleagues to unanimously support this important resolution, H. Res. 828.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 828.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### VETERANS' SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE AND SERVICEMEMBERS PROTECTION ACT OF 2009

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3949) to amend title 38, United States Code, and the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, to make certain improvements in the laws relating to benefits administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3949

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Veterans' Small Business Assistance and Servicemembers Protection Act of 2009".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. References to title 38, United States Code.

#### TITLE I—SMALL BUSINESS AND EDUCATION MATTERS

Sec. 101. Clarification of responsibility of Secretary of Veterans Affairs to verify small business ownership.

Sec. 102. Reauthorization of Veterans' Advisory Committee on Education.

#### TITLE II—SERVICEMEMBERS CIVIL RELIEF ACT MATTERS

Sec. 201. Termination of service contracts.

Sec. 202. Residential and motor vehicle leases.

Sec. 203. Enforcement by the Attorney General and by private right of action.

#### TITLE III—OTHER BENEFITS MATTERS

Sec. 301. Improvement of outreach activities within Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 302. Visual impairment and orientation and mobility professionals education assistance program.

Sec. 303. Interment in national cemeteries of parents of certain deceased veterans.

#### SEC. 2. REFERENCES TO TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE.

Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of title 38, United States Code.

#### TITLE I—SMALL BUSINESS AND EDUCATION MATTERS

##### SEC. 101. CLARIFICATION OF RESPONSIBILITY OF SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO VERIFY SMALL BUSINESS OWNERSHIP.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the "Veterans Small Business Verification Act".

(b) CLARIFICATION OF RESPONSIBILITY OF SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO VERIFY SMALL BUSINESS OWNERSHIP.—

(1) CLARIFICATION.—Section 8127(f) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by inserting "(A)" before "To be eligible";

(ii) by inserting after "or the veteran." the following new sentence: "Application for inclusion in the database shall constitute permission under section 552a of title 5 (commonly referred to as the Privacy Act) for the Secretary to access such personal information maintained by the Secretary as may be necessary to verify the information contained in the application."; and

(iii) by inserting after the sentence added by subparagraph (B) the following new subparagraph:

"(B) If the Secretary receives an application for inclusion in the database from an individual whose status as a veteran cannot be verified because the Secretary does not maintain information with respect to the veteran status of the individual, the Secretary may not include the small business concern owned or controlled by the individual in the database maintained by the Secretary until the Secretary receives such information as may be necessary to verify that the individual is a veteran."; and

(B) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following new paragraph (4):

"(4) No small business concern may be listed in the database until the Secretary has verified that—