

Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and agreed to in the Senate, with amendment, by unanimous consent. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on November 15, 2010.

This bill, which was originally known as the Formerly Owned Resources for Veterans to Express Thanks for Service Act of 2010, adds veterans groups to the list of entities already eligible to receive the transfer of surplus Federal property from State agencies through donation. Under this measure, eligible groups will include education or public health organizations whose membership is substantially comprised of veterans and whose representatives are recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Mr. Speaker, S. 3794 provides unneeded and unutilized Federal property to assist our veterans in their daily lives. This is a small token of our gratitude for their sacrifices on behalf of our country, but one that can make a great difference to those proud men and women who have given so much for us. I would like to thank Senator LEAHY, Chairman TOWNS, and Ranking Member ISSA for their hard work on this bill; and I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this commonsense legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today in support of S. 3794, the FOR VETS Act of 2010. Mr. Speaker, this is a simple bill that is long overdue. The FOR VETS Act, known as the Formerly Owned Resources for Veterans to Express Thanks for Service Act—that's a great acronym right there—makes organizations whose membership is comprised primarily of veterans eligible to receive excess personal Federal property. I think it's appropriate that we draw a distinction between personal property and real property. There are major differences, and the value is certainly one of them.

Every day, Mr. Speaker, the General Services Administration, through State agencies, donates surplus goods, such as computers and home appliances, to a wide variety of organizations such as hospitals, schools, and public libraries. The FOR VETS Act simply adds veterans organizations to this list of eligible recipients who can receive the excess Federal personal property. The property being donated under the FOR VETS Act will be items that the Federal Government is no longer using. I can't imagine a more deserving segment of the population to which we should be donating this excess property.

□ 1510

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

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I again urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3794.

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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 372. An act to amend chapter 23 of title 5, United States Code, to clarify the disclosures of information protected from prohibited personnel practices, require a statement in nondisclosure policies, forms, and agreements that such policies, forms, and agreements conform with certain disclosure protections, provide certain authority for the Special Counsel, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has agreed to a concurrent resolution of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 77. Concurrent resolution to provide for the approval of final regulations issued by the Office of Compliance to implement the Veterans Employment Opportunities Act of 1998 that apply to certain legislative branch employing offices and their covered employees.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 3817) "An Act to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment and Adoption Reform Act of 1978, and the Abandoned Infants Assistance Act of 1988 to reauthorize the Acts, and for other purposes."

CONGRATULATING GERDA WEISSMANN KLEIN ON PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1743) congratulating Gerda Weissmann Klein on being selected to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1743

Whereas Gerda Weissmann was born in Bielsko, Poland in 1924;

Whereas within months of the German invasion of Poland in 1939, Ms. Weissmann's brother Arthur was taken away by the Germans and the remainder of her family was forced to live in a ghetto;

Whereas Ms. Weissmann was soon separated from her parents, who were sent to Auschwitz;

Whereas Ms. Weissmann was forced to spend the next 3 years in a succession of slave-labor and concentration camps;

Whereas in 1945, Ms. Weissmann was forced to walk in a 350-mile death march during which 2,000 women, including Ms. Weissmann, were subjected to starvation, exposure, and arbitrary execution;

Whereas the death march ended in Volary, Czechoslovakia, when the survivors were liberated by the United States Army;

Whereas Ms. Weissmann was one of less than 120 women to survive the death march;

Whereas one of the American Army officers who helped liberate the survivors was German-born Lieutenant Kurt Klein, whose parents had been murdered in Auschwitz;

Whereas Ms. Weissmann and Lieutenant Klein fell in love, got married, and moved to the United States to start a family;

Whereas upon moving to the United States, Mrs. Weissmann Klein worked vigilantly to promote Holocaust education and remembrance, teach tolerance, and combat hunger;

Whereas Mrs. Weissmann Klein's first book, *All But My Life*, was published in 1957, and chronicles her courageous struggle for survival during the Holocaust;

Whereas *One Survivor Remembers*, a documentary about Mrs. Weissmann Klein's experiences during the Holocaust, won an Academy Award in 1996;

Whereas Mrs. Weissmann Klein's lifelong work has been to repay this country for her freedom and the boundless opportunities given to her, she founded Citizenship Counts, a nonprofit organization that teaches today's youth to appreciate and celebrate the majesty of their American citizenship;

Whereas Mrs. Weissmann Klein's life and work have inspired generations of Americans and countless individuals from around the world; and

Whereas, on November 17, 2010, President Barack Obama announced that Gerda Weissmann Klein would be awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives congratulates Gerda Weissmann Klein on being selected to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 1743, a measure congratulating Gerda Weissmann Klein on being selected to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom. House Resolution 1743 was introduced by our colleague, the gentleman from Arizona, Representative HARRY MITCHELL, on December 1, 2010. The measure enjoys the support of over 90 Members of the House.

Mr. Speaker, in 1939, Mrs. Weissmann Klein was living in Poland at the age of 15. Within months of the German invasion of Poland that year, she began to