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BAILEY BILLS FOR VIETNAM MEMORIAL PASS HOUSE IN FINAL HOURS

Congressman Don Bailey (D-PA) announced this evening that two resolutions which he introduced have passed the House of Representatives without any opposition. These resolutions, House Concurrent Resolution 437 and House Joint Resolution 636, direct the completion of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial as follows:

"Whereas many Vietnam veterans and veterans' organizations have expressed great concern that the design of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial...honor and recognize appropriately the service and sacrifice of the men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam war... Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives...that the Secretary of the Interior, the Commission of Fine Arts, the National Capital Planning Commission...shall follow the clear wishes of the Vietnam veterans...and approve the Vietnam Veterans Memorial...to include the flag and inscription and the statue as agreed upon...by these organizations...."

A number of veterans' organizations and individual veterans have been concerned about the design of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Last year they came to Congressman Bailey as their spokesman because of his distinguished service in Vietnam and his leadership in the Congress on issues concerning veterans. Congressman Bailey led a coalition of veterans and veterans' groups working with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and other concerned groups to develop a plan for the memorial which would suitably commemorate the service of the men and women who fought in Vietnam.

This coalition reached a consensus in October of this year, agreeing that the memorial could include, besides the wall with the names of those who died or are missing, the flag of the United States, an inscription and a statue depicting the servicemen in the field. Based on this agreement, the Secretary of the Interior approved the construction of the first part of the memorial, the wall, for dedication this past Veterans Day. Meanwhile, the Fine Arts Commission, against the agreement of the concerned parties, changed the placement of the Flag, statue and inscription at the last moment.

The two resolutions state that the Flag, the inscription and statue must be placed originally intended, as an integral part of the memorial rather than off to the side as the memorial as the Commission dictated. The House states, in Mr. Bailey's resolutions, that this is the intended agreement of all veterans groups concerned and will be done to honor and commemorate the sacrifice of the veterans in an appropriate manner.
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

December 20, 1982

H. J. Res. 836

WHEREAS many Vietnam veterans and veterans’ organizations have expressed area concern that the design of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in West Potomac Park in the District of Columbia was dedicated on November 13, 1982, honor and personalize specifically the service and sacrifice of the members of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War:

WHEREAS many individual veterans and veterans’ organizations expressing such concern met with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc. (the organization authorized by Public Law 98-297 to carry out the design and construction of the memorial) and reached an agreement in October 1982 concerning the memorial’s final design:

WHEREAS the final design agreed upon and recommended by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc. and the various veterans’ organizations and other interested parties would provide for the placement of an American flag on an inscription at the point that is pointed at by the V-shape of the two intersecting walls of the memorial and is 40 feet from the apex of the walls on a line seeking the apex and equidistant from the end of each wall and for the placement of a statue by Frederick Hart of three American servicemen of the Vietnam War on the same line and 170 feet from the apex of the walls of the memorial and facing into the V-shaped form by the walls:

WHEREAS these elements of the design complete the memorial as a fitting commemoration to the men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Interior, the Commission of Fine Arts, the National Capital Planning Commission, and other pertinent parties shall follow the wishes of Vietnam-era veterans of the United States, veterans’ service organizations, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc., and other interested persons and parties as expressed by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in West Potomac Park in the District of Columbia to include the flag and inscription and the statue as agreed upon, submitted, and recommended in October 1982 by these organizations and interested persons and parties.

The Joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was passed the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DIRECTING COMPLETION OF VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL IN WEST POTOMAC PARK IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mr. UDALL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table the joint resolution (H. J. Res. 836) directing the completion of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in West Potomac Park in the District of Columbia, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the joint resolution, as follows:

EXpressing the sense of Congress concerning the completion of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in West Potomac Park in the District of Columbia

Mr. UDALL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 437) expressing the sense of Congress concerning the completion of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in West Potomac Park in the District of Columbia, and ask for its immediate consideration.
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

December 20, 1982

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the Committee on Government Operations be further considered on consideration of the joint resolution (S. J. Res. 258) to designate the month of February as "National Close-Captioned Television Month," and ask for its immediate consideration.

WHEREAS the innovative service, provided through the nonprofit and tax-exempted national organization, represents the culmination of almost ten years of technological research and development, market exploration, and cooperation between government, industry, and community;

WHEREAS the nationwide service began in March 1980, and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has already brought new users and equal opportunity to the severely handicapped population, particularly the young and the elderly;

WHEREAS hearing-impaired citizens who have made a significant personal investment of over $17,000,000 for closed-captions television service, and

WHEREAS many members of Congress have been actively supporting development, implementation, and expansion of the closed-captioning service, the first of its kind anywhere in the world;

WHEREAS President Reagan, referring to the closed-captioning of his inaugural monologues and television addresses to Nation, has stated: "I feel very proud that the first President to be directly spoken to before and experienced this historic tradition, is the President of the United States."

NOW, THEREFORE,

RECOMMENDED by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President of the United States is authorized and directed to issue a proclamation designating the month of December 1982 as "National Close-Captioned Television Month."
The B-1 is going to enter into the defense of our Nation's borders much later then it could have or should have. It will nevertheless play a vital role in our defense until the year 2000, and perhaps beyond. First as a penetrating bomber, later as a bomber capable of standing off the coast of adversary nations, and launching cruise missiles. Its manufacture sends a strong signal to the Soviets that we are as serious about our defense as we are about pursuing arms agreements.

I thank the Speaker and wish him a holy and a merry Christmas. It was an honor to serve under the leadership of the gentleman from Massachusetts and I consider him one of the finest figures of history serving his country today.

I wish all of my distinguished colleagues a holy holiday season and a merry Christmas and wish them God's protection and guidance in the performance of their duties in the turbulent years before us.

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL COMPLETION

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

Mr. BAILEY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House passed House Joint Resolution 636 and House Concurrent Resolution 437 without any dissenting votes. The support was unanimous—a very rare occurrence—for the placement of an American flag with inscription and a statue of three American servicemen as part of the integral and basic design of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

This Member cannot adequately express, from a personal point of view, his heartfelt gratitude for the help my colleagues gave on this issue. Virtually all veterans groups and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund had agreed on the placement of the flag and statue as described in the resolutions. But a small group in the Fine Arts Commission were holding up final placement. This very strong and unanimous expression by our colleagues here in the House will obviously make it very clear what the Congress wants.

Most importantly the vote took place during a time when the floor of the House was full, and with the support of the House Majority Leader Jim Wright, and the House Minority Leader Bob Michel, I particularly want to thank the gentleman from Arizona, Mr. Usual, chairman of the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee.

Without his bipartisan support we would not have been able to call up the bills. I also want to express my thanks to the gentlemen from Ohio, Mr. John Sebesta, whose enthusiastic support along with the strong support of the gentlemen from Alaska, Don Young, also made the passage of these important bills possible.

To the veterans of the Vietnam war, who gave so much, then faced further opposition at home, the passage of these bills which will insure that the memorial carry a message not only of honor and respect, but also concern for the very proper reasons we fought in that war.

This action in many ways helps ease the hurt of our original unwise homecoming. More importantly, it clearly indicates that the memorial is to carry a political message, a good and strong and positive political message that the fundamental values of the United States are sound, and do offer help for mankind; and that in fighting the Vietnam war, regardless of one's opinion of how it was fought, the men and women who sacrificed there did so for the freedom and liberty of their fellow men, in the finest tradition of what the United States of America has stood for, stands for now, and we pray to God will continue to stand for, on behalf of the human rights of all individuals everywhere.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WALKER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WALKER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Explanations of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. McCloskey) is recognized for 60 minutes.

(Mr. McCloskey addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Explanations of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. Phillip Burton) is recognized for 60 minutes.

(Mr. Phillip Burton addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Explanations of Remarks.)

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. Nelson) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. Nelson. Mr. Speaker, due to unavoidable circumstances, I was not present on rollcall votes No. 467, No. 476, No. 480, No. 481, and No. 482.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on passage of H.R. 3191 relating to the taxation of cruise ships (rollcall 467); "yes" on passage of House Resolution 621 creating an office of the Bicentennial of the House of Representatives, (rollcall 476); and "yes" on resolving into the Committee of the Whole (rollcall 480); and "no" on the Education and Labor Committee amendment to the immigration bill (rollcall 482).