

that sometimes gets overlooked. Homeownership is an important part of our policy, but it is not the entire housing policy of the Federal Government; nor is it the entire housing need of the Nation. Some people will never own. There will be people who choose not to own; there will be people who for their economic circumstances will not be able to own. And there is no conflict between promoting homeownership and recognizing that decent, affordable rental housing will also be very important indefinitely for tens and tens of millions of Americans.

I welcome the initiative that the gentleman from Ohio talked about with regard to improving our public policies so that we are able to expand the stock of affordable rental housing and do it in a way that protects both the renters themselves and the taxpayers.

I just want to add, as I bring these remarks to a close, Mr. Speaker, and I enjoyed working with the gentleman from California (Mr. GARY G. MILLER), that I want to pay tribute to a couple of organizations that have done a good deal to help us with this. I found the National Association of Home Builders has been a very constructive participant in our efforts to promote homeownership. The National Association of Realtors has also played a very useful role in helping us shape public policies that expand homeownership.

There are also a variety of advocacy groups that work with us so that we can make homeownership available to people who might not on their own in a market situation be able to afford it, while those groups, of course, at the same time, work with us on the need for affordable housing.

So as an example of what we are trying to do for an overall comprehensive housing policy, I very much support this. And let us be clear: if a family is inadequately housed, if they either have housing that is not adequate or are paying far too much of their income to get adequate housing, then a degree of social disorganization can result which causes problems elsewhere.

So maintaining a comprehensive set of policies that expand housing opportunities for people at various levels of the income scale is a very important part of our responsibility, and I welcome the chance to support this resolution as an example of one important piece of that.

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

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume in closing to once again thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) and also reiterate that the gentleman from California (Mr. GARY G. MILLER) has been very active and has been a great member on the Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity. Along with a lot of our other colleagues, he has done a wonderful job on the committee, and it has been a pleasure having him on the committee. We also appreciate this resolution.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate homeownership in America.

Recently, President Bush designated June as National Homeownership Month as he has done for the past three years. To complement this designation, H. Res. 312, provides congressional recognition of National Homeownership Month and the importance of homeownership in the United States.

This resolution expresses the sense of Congress that the House of Representatives: (1) Fully supports the goals and ideals of National Homeownership Month; and (2) recognizes the importance of homeownership in building strong communities and families.

IMPORTANCE OF HOMEOWNERSHIP IN AMERICA

For generations, the goal of owning a home has been the bedrock of our economy and a fundamental part of the American Dream.

Over the last three years, as we have faced the challenges of war and economic uncertainty, the housing markets have helped to keep our economy strong. Nationally, housing generates more than 22 percent of the Gross Domestic Product and accounts for nearly 40 cents of every dollar spent.

America's housing markets are the envy of the world. We enjoy the lowest interest rates and the highest homeownership rates of any developed nation. In fact, the national homeownership rate in the United States has reached a record high of 69.1 percent and more than half of all minority families are homeowners. Over 73.4 million Americans are now homeowners, with many more achieving this goal every day.

Homeownership is the single largest creator of wealth for Americans. It is the largest investment most families will ever make and a key to promoting long-term economic stability. For these reasons, we must continue to promote policies that ensure more Americans may achieve the goal of homeownership.

HOMEOWNERSHIP BUILDS STRONGER COMMUNITIES

Aside from helping millions of Americans achieve their dreams, homeownership also helps to build neighborhoods and strengthen communities.

For families across this Nation, a home is not just four walls and a roof. It is a refuge from the perils of the outside world, a break after a hard day's work, and a foundation on which to raise a family. A home is a place for children to learn, play, and grow, as well as a place where the elderly may retire with a lifetime of memories.

Owning a home also provides homeowners a tangible stake in their cities and towns. Families who own homes have a vital stake in their communities, a stronger interest in the safekeeping of their neighborhoods, and a deeper commitment to the quality of their schools and libraries. Each home is a critical piece in a successful neighborhood, allowing families to enjoy community events together and share in the lives of their neighbors and friends.

As millions of American families have demonstrated, increased homeownership helps to build better communities, and better communities help to build a better America.

CONGRESS'S ROLE IN PROMOTING HOMEOWNERSHIP

As responsible legislators, we need to ensure that government helps, rather than impedes, homeownership in America. When I came to Congress, I made it my top priority to highlight Federal policies that have hindered

the availability of housing in this country and to find ways for government to positively impact homeownership in America.

While we have done much to help Americans become homeowners, we must do more. We must remove the hurdles and needless regulations that keep homeownership out of the reach of some American families. We must also promote fair lending and fair housing regulations to increase housing opportunities for all Americans. With June designated as National Homeownership Month, there is no better time to address these issues.

Now more than ever, Congress must cultivate an environment in which more Americans may turn the dream of homeownership into reality.

SUPPORT NATIONAL HOMEOWNERSHIP MONTH AND H.

RES. 312

I am very pleased to see the President has made it a priority to promote affordable housing and homeownership.

His Administration has taken a leading role in finding new and innovative ways to expand homeownership, particularly among minorities and families in low-income areas. I commend the hard work of Secretary Jackson and his team at HUD for their work in developing programs to increase affordable housing and encourage homeownership.

As a vital part of this goal, National Homeownership Month is a reminder of the importance of housing issues in America. This bipartisan resolution, H. Res. 312, recognizes the need for National Homeownership Month and the overall importance of homeownership in America. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 312 to reinforce our commitment to housing opportunities and to help guarantee the dream of homeownership for more American families.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RADANOVICH). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 312.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation, House Resolution 312, and to insert extraneous material into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

LITTLE ROCK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DESEGREGATION 50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and

pass the bill (H.R. 358) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the desegregation of the Little Rock Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 358

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 "Little Rock Central High School Desegregation 50th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) September 2007, marks the 50th anniversary of the desegregation of Little Rock Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas.

(2) In 1957, Little Rock Central High was the site of the first major national test for the implementation of the historic decision of the United States Supreme Court in *Brown, et al. v. Board of Education of Topeka, et al.*, 347 U.S. 483 (1954).

(3) The courage of the "Little Rock Nine" (Ernest Green, Elizabeth Eckford, Melba Pattillo, Jefferson Thomas, Carlotta Walls, Terrence Roberts, Gloria Ray, Thelma Mothershed, and Minnijean Brown) who stood in the face of violence, was influential to the Civil Rights movement and changed American history by providing an example on which to build greater equality.

(4) The desegregation of Little Rock Central High by the 9 African American students was recognized by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as such a significant event in the struggle for civil rights that in May 1958, he attended the graduation of the first African American from Little Rock Central High School.

(5) A commemorative coin will bring national and international attention to the lasting legacy of this important event.

SEC. 3. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.

(a) DENOMINATIONS.—The Secretary of the Treasury (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") shall mint and issue not more than 500,000 \$1 coins each of which shall—

(1) weigh 26.73 grams;

(2) have a diameter of 1.500 inches; and

(3) contain 90 percent silver and 10 percent copper.

(b) LEGAL TENDER.—The coins minted under this Act shall be legal tender, as provided in section 5103 of title 31, United States Code.

(c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all coins minted under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SEC. 4. DESIGN OF COINS.

(a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—The design of the coins minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the desegregation of the Little Rock Central High School and its contribution to civil rights in America.

(b) DESIGNATION AND INSCRIPTIONS.—On each coin minted under this Act there shall be—

(1) a designation of the value of the coin;

(2) an inscription of the year "2007"; and

(3) inscriptions of the words "Liberty", "In God We Trust", "United States of America", and "E Pluribus Unum".

(c) SELECTION.—The design for the coins minted under this Act shall be—

(1) selected by the Secretary after consultation with the Commission of Fine Arts; and

(2) reviewed by the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee established under section 5135 of title 31, United States Code.

SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.

(a) QUALITY OF COINS.—Coins minted under this Act shall be issued in uncirculated and proof qualities.

(b) COMMENCEMENT OF ISSUANCE.—The Secretary may issue coins minted under this Act beginning January 1, 2007, except that the Secretary may initiate sales of such coins, without issuance, before such date.

(c) TERMINATION OF MINTING AUTHORITY.—No coins shall be minted under this Act after December 31, 2007.

SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.

(a) SALE PRICE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the coins issued under this Act shall be sold by the Secretary at a price equal to the sum of the face value of the coins, the surcharge required under section 7(a) for the coins, and the cost of designing and issuing such coins (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses, and marketing).

(b) BULK SALES.—The Secretary shall make bulk sales of the coins issued under this Act at a reasonable discount.

(c) PREPAID ORDERS AT A DISCOUNT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall accept prepaid orders for the coins minted under this Act before the issuance of such coins.

(2) DISCOUNT.—Sale prices with respect to prepaid orders under paragraph (1) shall be at a reasonable discount.

SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.

(a) SURCHARGE REQUIRED.—All sales shall include a surcharge of \$10 per coin.

(b) DISTRIBUTION.—Subject to section 5134(f) of title 31, United States Code, all surcharges which are received by the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this Act shall be promptly paid by the Secretary to the Secretary of the Interior for the protection, preservation, and interpretation of resources and stories associated with Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site, including the following:

(1) Site improvements at Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site.

(2) Development of interpretive and education programs and historic preservation projects.

(3) Establishment of cooperative agreements to preserve or restore the historic character of the Park Street and Daisy L. Gatson Bates Drive corridors adjacent to the site.

(c) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), no surcharge may be included with respect to the issuance under this Act of any coin during a calendar year if, as of the time of such issuance, the issuance of such coin would result in the number of commemorative coin programs issued during such year to exceed the annual 2 commemorative coin program issuance limitation under section 5112(m)(1) of title 31, United States Code (as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act). The Secretary of the Treasury may issue guidance to carry out this subsection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. DAVIS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation, H.R. 358, and include extraneous material thereon.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise today in support of the Little Rock Central High School Desegregation 50th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act sponsored by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. SNYDER).

Mr. Speaker, it is easy in 2005 to lose sight of how far we have come in fewer than 50 years of desegregation. No one will deny, and most also will admit, that we have much work to do. But as we approach 50 years of separation from the mid- to late 1950s, when the real work of desegregation was done, it is worthwhile to pause and reflect. The bill of the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. SNYDER) gives us a perfect opportunity to do just that.

A year or so ago, Congress approved awarding a Congressional Gold Medal for the principals of the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* lawsuit that heralded the desegregation in the Nation's schools. Today, we will act on legislation to authorize a commemorative coin, noting the first major test of the Supreme Court's ruling in *Brown*.

The nine African American students who, in the face of violence, were the first to desegregate Little Rock's Central High School, themselves earlier awarded Congressional Gold Medals, took a truly courageous step, later recognized by the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. when he attended the first graduation of African American students from the school a year later.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation authorizes the striking in 2007 of as many as 500,000 silver \$1 commemorative coins, at no cost to the taxpayers, with surcharges on the sale of the coins dedicated to site improvements at the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site, to development of interpretive and educational programs at the site, to historic preservation projects there, and to the establishment of cooperative agreements to preserve or restore the historic character of the Park Street and Daisy L. Gatson Bates Drive corridors adjacent to the site.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation has 321 cosponsors, amply demonstrating its broad bipartisan appeal. I urge immediate adoption.

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

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I was a high school senior when the extraordinarily brave African American students entered Little Rock High School, and I very vividly remember the combination of emotions I felt: shame, that the Nation of which I was so proud was allowing the mistreatment of these people who simply sought to get an education equal to

that of their fellow students; admiration, beyond admiration for their courage; frustration at a Federal Government which was hesitant at first in its response; and anger at those who would betray the spirit of America by racially motivated assaults on these brave young people.

This ended happily, but not nearly soon enough. It was an extraordinarily important event in this country, and it reminds us that you cannot correct evil. And we are talking here, in my judgment, about a great social evil that plagued our country. You cannot confront it halfway. You cannot confront it with the hope that if you just close your eyes and wish, things will get better. You have to deal directly with it.

□ 1430

We are a better Nation by far for the events of these past years. And those at Little Rock, these young people, and the adults who guided them and protected them in the Little Rock community, deserve the continuing deep gratitude of this country for what they did.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. SNYDER) who represents Little Rock and has been the main advocate for this legislation.

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and thank the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY) and the committee staff on both sides of the aisle that worked on this bill.

Last week at American University in Cairo, Egypt, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice made some remarks. Part of what she said, "When we talk about democracy, though, we are referring to governments that protect certain basic rights for all their citizens. Among these, the right to speak freely, the right to associate, the right to worship as you wish, the freedom to educate your children, boys and girls, and freedom from the midnight knock of the secret police."

Secretary Rice continues, "Securing these rights is the hope of every citizen, and the duty of every government. In my own country, the progress of democracy has been long and difficult. And given our history, the United States has no cause for false pride, and we have every reason for humility. After all, America was founded by individuals who knew that all human beings and the governments they create are inherently imperfect, and the United States was born half free and half slave. It was only in my lifetime that my government guaranteed the right to vote for all its people."

"Nevertheless, the principles enshrined in our Constitution enable citizens of conviction to move America closer every day to the ideal of democracy." That was Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in Cairo last week.

Mr. Speaker, nowhere was the march toward the ideal of democracy more in

evidence than in the fall of 1957 in Little Rock, Arkansas. In 1957, Little Rock Central High School was the site of the first major national test for the implementation of the historic decision of the United States Supreme Court in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*. President Eisenhower issued an Executive order directing marshals and troops under Federal authority to aid in the compliance of Federal law in Little Rock, Arkansas.

The courage of the "Little Rock Nine," Ernest Green, Elizabeth Eckford, Melba Pattillo, Jefferson Thomas, Carlotta Walls, Terrence Roberts, Gloria Ray, Thelma Mothershed, and Minnijean Brown, who stood in the face of violence, was influential to the civil rights movement and changed American history by providing an example on which to build greater equality.

The desegregation of Little Rock by the nine African American students was recognized by Dr. Martin Luther King as such a significant event in the struggle for civil rights that in May 1958 he attended the graduation of the first African American from Little Rock Central High School, Ernest Green.

The 1957 crisis in Little Rock, brought about by the desegregation of Little Rock Central High School, was a huge part of the march towards freedom and opportunity in America. A 2007 commemorative coin issued by the U.S. Mint to honor the 50th anniversary of this important event will bring national and international attention to its lasting legacy.

As indicated by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. DAVIS) the money raised from the sale of these coins pays for the cost, there is no cost to the taxpayers, and any moneys beyond the cost may be used to support the national historic site.

We all are aware of the difficulties that some of our national parks now have in meeting their basic infrastructure needs, and the intent of this legislation is to provide supplementary funds to the care and maintenance of the Central Little Rock National Historic Site.

Mr. Speaker, I recommend an aye vote on the legislation.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) for yielding me this time.

I also want to commend the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. SNYDER) for his introduction of this legislation and the committee for moving it expeditiously to the floor so it, in fact, can be passed.

Mr. Speaker, I rise with great pride to honor the legacy of the courageous Little Rock Nine. Dr. Martin Luther King once said, "The sweltering summer of the Negro's legitimate dis-

content will not pass until there is an invigorating autumn of freedom and equality."

One September morning in 1957, on the eve of the new school year, the cool winds of change brushed across the city of Little Rock, Arkansas. Nine young men and women decided they would not settle for discontent.

After the landmark case, *Brown v. Board of Education*, which ruled in favor of integrated schools, these nine young men and women attended Little Rock Central High School. Despite the taunts, violence and venomous hatred endured by these youth during their tenure at Central High, they pressed on and pursued a dream for the millions of African Americans that cheered them on across the country.

It is a very meaningful time for me because I too lived at that time in Arkansas. I was born in a little city in the southeastern part of the State. In 1957, and I guess the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) and I are kind of in the same age group; I, too, was a college freshman on the campus of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, which was then known as Arkansas A&M College about 45 miles from Little Rock. This was our daily news, our daily activity, our daily occurrences.

I have been fortunate to know many of the individuals who were intimately involved, such as Ernie Green. Minnijean Brown and I spent part of a weekend together down at Southern Illinois University last year. Melba Pattillo's mother was a teacher at the school where I did student teaching, and I have had a chance to know them. Wallie Branton, who was the attorney intimately involved with the NAACP, I knew him and his family; and Daisy Bates, who was the leader of the NAACP in Arkansas at that time, are all people with whom I have had an opportunity to interact and to get to know. They were indeed a part of me and I am indeed a part of them. So I take great personal pride in knowing that there will be recognition of this historic struggle and the tremendous courage displayed.

Again, I want to commend the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. SNYDER) for his legislation which brings into work this commendation which puts a footnote in another chapter of the historic struggle for equality and justice in America.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First, I want to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for those remarks. He noted he was a freshman at college during this time. As a senior in high school, I certainly want to pay deference to my elders and thank the gentleman for his remarks.

I also note for reasons that be of no interest to anybody outside this Chamber, a set of decisions, procedures, and rules that we adopted earlier made it harder to bring this resolution to the

floor than Members might have thought. Had we simply been considering the merits of this resolution, the commemoration for one of the great blows for freedom and against bigotry in America, it would have been easy; but there were a lot of complicating factors. Members should know it was the diligence, the persistence, occasionally annoying, of the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. SYNDER) that got this bill to the floor. I am happy that we are passing this today commemorating this great event, and I am also happy that it is not a subject I will have to discuss with the gentleman from Arkansas for the next few months, it having occupied a great deal of my time previously. He deserves a great deal of credit for his diligence.

I would just add, as the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and I remember as contemporaries, I want to say a word about social change. The people who integrated Central High School and the people who supported them, the leaders of the NAACP and the black community in Little Rock and in Arkansas, those who pressed a somewhat hesitant administration in Washington, DC to fully support them, they were not the moderates and centrists of their day. Some thought they were pushing too hard for their rights. Some thought they were being too obtrusive. We are very grateful that they were. I hope people will study this event, and the history that will come in part from this bill, that will be financed in part from this bill, and we hope from additional appropriations, will be something people will pay attention to so they will understand both the depths of the problem that America confronted and the kind of moral and mental and physical courage that it took to dismantle it.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD an exchange of correspondence between the Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on Ways and Means.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,
Washington, DC, June 24, 2005.

Hon. WILLIAM M. THOMAS,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives, Longworth House
Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN THOMAS: I am writing concerning H.R. 358, the "Little Rock Central High School Desegregation 50th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act," which will be scheduled for floor consideration in the near future.

I acknowledge your committee's jurisdictional interest in this bill and request your cooperation in moving the bill to the House floor expeditiously. I agree that your decision to forego further action on this bill will not prejudice the Committee on Ways and Means with respect to its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation. I would support your request for conferees on those provisions within your jurisdiction

should this bill be the subject of a House-Senate conference.

I will include a copy of this letter and your response in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD when this bill is considered by the House. Thank you again for your assistance.

Yours truly,

MICHAEL G. OXLEY,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, June 24, 2005.

Hon. MICHAEL G. OXLEY,
Chairman, Committee on Financial Services,
Rayburn House Office Building, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN OXLEY: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 358, the "Little Rock Central High School Desegregation 50th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act," which was reported to the House by the Committee on Financial Services on June 17, 2005.

As you noted, the Committee on Ways and Means maintains jurisdiction over matters that concern raising revenue. H.R. 358 contains a provision that establishes a surcharge for the sale of commemorative coins that are minted under the bill, and thus falls within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means. However, in order to expedite this bill for floor consideration, the Committee will forgo action. This is being done with the understanding that it does not in any way prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation.

I appreciate and agree to your offer to include this exchange of letters on this matter in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during floor consideration.

Best regards,

BILL THOMAS,
Chairman.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, the events of the last few weeks, culminating in the conviction of an 80-year-old Klansman in the infamous killing of three civil rights workers during 1964's "Freedom Summer," serve as a good reminder that this country has come a long distance in just a few short decades.

It is hard, from today's vantage point, to remember a time—a time when some of today's Members had not yet been born—when schools were segregated, when bathrooms were separate, when "back of the bus" was a place where some had to ride whether they liked it or not.

Of course, tolerance is a job that requires constant attention and improvement, but we should not lose sight of the good progress we have made. And so today, Mr. Speaker, consideration of legislation to commemorate the desegregation of Little Rock Central High School is timely, or perhaps even overdue. Regardless, it is worthwhile for us to think for a minute of the courage of nine African-American youngsters as they stood on the steps of that school. And it is important for us to think of the courage of the idealistic youngsters, white and black, who powered the civil rights movement throughout the 1950s and early 1960s.

The legislation we consider today will go a long way to preserving an historic symbol of that desegregation fight. Surcharges on the sale of as many as half a million commemorative silver dollars will pay for preservation programs, and education programs at the site of the first important test of the Supreme Court's landmark desegregation ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education*.

Mr. Speaker, as a testament to the importance of this legislation, it is supported broadly and on a bipartisan basis by 321 Members. I urge its immediate passage.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be here today to be in support of the Little Rock Central High School Desegregation 50th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act. I would like to thank my colleague, Congressman VIC SNYDER, for introducing this important piece of legislation.

In 1957, Little Rock Central High School was the site of the first major national test for the implementation of the U.S. Supreme Court's *Brown v. Board of Education* of Topeka decision and became the international symbol of the end of racially segregated public schools.

The desegregation of Little Rock Central High by nine African American students was influential to the Civil Rights Movement, and recognized by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as such a significant event in the struggle for civil rights that in May 1958, he attended the graduation of the first African American from Little Rock Central High School. Moreover, it changed American history by providing an example on which to build greater equality, and ultimately a better America.

H.R. 358, the Little Rock Central High School Desegregation 50th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act, will bring national and international attention to the lasting legacy of this important event by creating a commemorative coin for 2007, in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the desegregation of Little Rock Central High School. I am proud to be here today to support this bill and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RADANOVICH). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 358, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MILITARY PERSONNEL FINANCIAL SERVICES PROTECTION ACT

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 458) to prevent the sale of abusive insurance and investment products to military personnel, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 458

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 "Military Personnel Financial Services Protection Act".

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—INSURANCE AND INVESTMENT PRODUCTS

Sec. 101. Congressional findings.