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