

got a private system of insurance. We've got private hospitals, we've got private doctors. This system is a private system. What government take-over is there?

She keeps talking about a government bureaucrat getting between you and your doctor. What we have now is an insurance bureaucrat between us and our health providers. What we do is remove that. And if you want to repeal this bill, make my day. Try to repeal it.

Repeal the fact that small businesses are going to get tax credits right away. Repeal the fact that our children, who have preexisting conditions, will be able to be insured right away. Repeal the fact that we won't have any more preexisting conditions to prevent health insurance.

Make my day.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

MAJOR CHARLES R. SOLTES, JR., O.D. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS BLIND REHABILITA- TION CENTER

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4360) to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs blind rehabilitation center in Long Beach, California, as the "Major Charles R. Soltes, Jr., O.D. Department of Veterans Affairs Blind Rehabilitation Center".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4360

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

SECTION 1. NAME OF DEPARTMENT OF VET- ERANS AFFAIRS BLIND REHABILITA- TION CENTER, LONG BEACH, CALI- FORNIA.

The Department of Veterans Affairs blind rehabilitation center in Long Beach, California, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Major Charles R. Soltes, Jr., O.D. Department of Veterans Affairs Blind Rehabilitation Center". Any reference to such blind rehabilitation center in any law, regulation, map, document, record, or other paper of the United States shall be considered to be a reference to the "Major Charles R. Soltes, Jr., O.D. Department of Veterans Affairs Blind Rehabilitation Center".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FILNER. Madam 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 H.R. 4360.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. FILNER. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today to offer my support for H.R. 4360, a bill to name the VA Blind Rehabilitation Center in Long Beach, California, after the distinguished Iraq veteran Charles R. Soltes.

Mr. Soltes valiantly served his country in the United States Army as a major in the 426th Civil Affairs Battalion in Mosul, Iraq. He died on October 13, 2004, from wounds sustained in a blast conducting a combat patrol in Mosul. He was only 36 years old.

Major Soltes was a graduate of the New England College of Optometry and later completed his residency at Brooke Army Medical Center that focused on ocular trauma, acute eye conditions, medical contact lens applications, and glaucoma care. At West Point, he served as director of the optometry residency program. In 1998, Major Soltes became clinical director of the Irvin Vision Institute, a refractive surgery specialty center where he served until his voluntary deployment in Iraq. He was the first military optometrist to be killed in action while serving as a public health officer in Iraq.

He leaves behind a wife and three young children. Also an optometrist, Major Soltes' wife, Dr. Sally Houg Dang, currently treats blinded veterans as a way to honor her husband.

Naming a VA facility after this hero and a strong veterans advocate is a proper honor for an honorable soldier who made the ultimate sacrifice for his Nation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4360, a bill to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Blind Rehabilitation Center in Long Beach, California, as the Major Charles R. Soltes, Jr., O.D. Department of Veterans Affairs Blind Rehabilitation Center.

Naming the future blind rehabilitation center currently in its final stages of construction in Long Beach, California, after Major Charles R. Soltes, Jr., is an appropriate expression of our support for our blind veterans.

In 2004 while deployed in Iraq, Major Soltes was serving in the 426th Civil Affairs Battalion in the U.S. Army when the vehicle he was traveling in was struck by an improvised explosive device, costing him his life.

He was the first Army optometrist to be killed in action while on Active Duty, but the legacy Major Soltes leaves behind remains strong with the veteran community, particularly among our blinded veterans. The VA

estimates that approximately 157,000 veterans in the United States are legally blind, and over 1 million additional veterans are suffering from debilitating low vision.

Approximately 60 percent of veterans with known combat-related traumatic brain injury and 30 percent with non-combat TBI report visual symptoms. As eye injuries continue to plague our servicemembers overseas, these numbers will continue to rise. And the work of optometrists like Major Soltes will become increasingly important.

In closing, I would like to express my deepest condolences and heartfelt appreciation to Major Soltes' family for their sacrifice. It's my sincerest wish that through the facility, the service and sacrifice of Major Soltes will not be forgotten, and his dedication to country and mankind will live on in the increased health and well-being of our Nation's blinded veterans.

I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER) as much time as he might consume.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Madam Speaker, today I rise in honor of an American patriot for his service and his sacrifice to our country, Major Charles Robert Soltes of Irvine, California, the son of Colonel Soltes, who is now retired. Major Soltes had a distinguished career in the United States Army as well as in the city of Irvine, I might add, where he practiced medicine. It was in Irvine where he entered into private practice as an optometrist and set down his roots to raise a family.

Dr. Soltes subsequently joined the Army Reserve and was deployed to Iraq in 2004. He worked tirelessly as a public health officer in the 426th Civil Affairs Battalion building and upgrading hospitals for the Iraqi people.

On his way back from a hospital visit, his convoy was attacked by an improvised explosive device, and Major Soltes was killed on October 13, 2004. He was the first Army optometrist to be killed in action while on Active Duty. As such, it seems fitting that we honor him and his family by naming a soon-to-be-completed Veterans Affairs blind rehabilitation center in Long Beach, California, at the veterans hospital there, which is in my congressional district.

Once this facility is completed, the blind rehabilitation center, it will work to deliver the same compassion and care that Dr. Soltes dedicated his entire career and gave his life for. This new 24-bed inpatient-outpatient facility, which is expected to be completed this year, will be the first purpose-built blind rehabilitation center in the national Veterans Administration, and as I say, it's located in my district, for which I have great pride.

Dr. Soltes was a graduate of New England College of Optometry. He entered the U.S. Army Medical Service Corps in 1994 and treated members of the military here in the United States as well as abroad. He was well liked and respected by his colleagues. One of

his superiors, Colonel Adams, whom he met while he was going through officer basic training at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, said of him, "He was a tremendous young man. He volunteered to go into Civil Affairs, and every email he sent was upbeat and positive, and he felt he was making a real difference in the lives of the Iraqi people."

Today, by naming this new facility after him, we are ensuring that Major Soltes' spirit lives on. Every time a patient's quality of life improves, Major Soltes, his dedication to service, will be continued.

To Major Soltes and his family, we salute you. And with this act of Congress, we forever remember the sacrifice Major Soltes gave. Whether giving their most vibrant and youthful years of service to their country or laying down their lives so that we and our children can sleep safely at night, we must remember all who gave some, and some, like Major Soltes, who gave all.

I appreciate my colleagues' understanding in this issue in bringing it up today. Thank you.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Again, Madam Chair, in closing, this is a special honor for me as an optometrist who practiced for many, many years, to be celebrating a colleague who paid so dearly, he and his family. We're so proud of him—myself, as a member of the Veterans Affairs Committee, but also as an optometrist. And I know that the profession of optometry is very, very proud of his efforts. And we will be thinking of his family, but I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I think it was most appropriate that the manager on the Republican side was our House optometrist, Mr. BOOZMAN. So thank you for your expertise that you always give us on the committee.

I urge my colleagues to unanimously support H.R. 4360.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, as an original cosponsor, I rise today in support of H.R. 4360, which designates the Department of Veterans Affairs Blind Rehabilitation Center in Long Beach, California, the "Major Charles R. Soltes, Jr., O.D. Department of Veterans Affairs Blind Rehabilitation Center." The naming of the Veterans Affairs Long Beach Blind Rehabilitation Center in honor of Major Soltes is a fitting tribute to the dual service Major Soltes rendered the Nation as a soldier and a doctor of optometry.

I thank Chairman FILNER for his leadership in bringing this bill to the floor. I would also like to thank Congressman CAMPBELL for sponsoring this bill.

Madam Speaker, growing up in a military family, Charles Robert "Rob" Soltes, Jr., always possessed a love of country and an appreciation of the importance of service and sacrifice. Major Soltes also had a gift for medicine and a passion for helping others. It was that sense of duty and passion that enabled him to excel at Norwich University, from which he graduated and was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Major Soltes went on to attend optometry school in Boston, where he met his wife.

Major Soltes took his passion for medicine to the military when he joined the Army Reserve in 1990. He served on active duty as an optometrist from 1994–1999. In 2004, he was called to duty in Iraq, where he was a member of the 7214th Medical Support Unit, which was charged with helping to rebuild the public health infrastructure in Iraq. On October 13, 2004, Major Soltes was tragically killed when an explosive device hit his convoy as it traveled back from a local Army hospital.

It is entirely fitting that we take this opportunity to honor this fallen soldier who left us too soon. Major Soltes embodied all that Americans can ask for in heroes—courage, love of country, selflessness. Major Soltes touched many lives, but he will be missed most by his family. He was a devoted father and a loving husband. No matter how much time his military service and professional obligations demanded, he always put family first. They will miss him, as we all do. However, by passing this bill today, we can ensure that he will not be forgotten.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 4360.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4360, to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Blind Rehabilitation Center in Long Beach, California, as the "Major Charles R. Soltes, Jr., O.D. Department of Veterans Affairs Blind Rehabilitation Center." I was honored to introduce this legislation to recognize a true American Hero who was a constituent of mine from Irvine, CA.

Major Soltes, 36, was the first military optometrist to be killed in action while on active duty. He was serving as a Public Health Officer with the 426th Civil Affairs Battalion, U.S. Army Reserve in Mosul, Iraq, assisting in the restoration of the medical infrastructure. On October 13, 2004, he was killed while returning from a hospital visit when his convoy was attacked with an improvised explosive device.

The son of an Army officer and Vietnam veteran, Major Soltes was a graduate of Norwich University, a military school in Vermont, and the New England College of Optometry. He entered the U.S. Army Medical Service Corps in 1994 as an Army optometrist and provided eye care services to service men and women at home and abroad. Major Soltes served in Texas, the Republic of Korea, and at the United States Military Academy at West Point.

During his military service, Major Soltes completed a residency at the prestigious Brooke Army Medical Center. He earned adjunct faculty appointments at the University of Houston College of Optometry, the State University of New York State College of Optometry, and the Northeastern State University College of Optometry. At the United States Military Academy at West Point, Major Soltes served as director of the Optometry Residency Program. In 1998, he earned his fellowship in the American Academy of Optometry. After completing his military duties in 1999, he moved to Irvine, CA, where he started a private practice, joined the Army Reserve and became the clinical director at Irvine Vision Institute, a refractive surgery specialty center in Irvine, CA.

Major Soltes leaves behind his wife, Sally Huong Dang, O.D., and three sons, Ryan, Brandan, and Robert Harrison. Major Soltes is also survived by his father, COL (retired) Charles R. Soltes, Sr., his mother, Nancy

Soltes, and two siblings, Carolyn Soltes Matthies, and Jeffrey Soltes.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased this legislation has received wide bipartisan support with 73 cosponsors including Speaker NANCY PELOSI and Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, BOB FILNER. It also has broad support outside of Congress from groups such as the American Optometric Association to the following Veteran Service Organizations: Blind Veterans Association, Vietnam Veterans of America, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Paralyzed Veterans of America, AMVETS, POW/MIA, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Disabled American Veterans, and Jewish War Veterans.

I have had the opportunity to meet with Major Soltes's widow, Dr. Sally Dang and their three outstanding sons. This is a family of such immense strength, but also of pride for their husband and father, his life, his accomplishments, his service and his sacrifice. Dr. Dang recounted that if her husband had the opportunity to come back and serve again, he would do it without hesitation. When we name this center for Major Soltes today, we honor his family, his memory, and his military service, but also his service as a doctor who helped people see more clearly. Fittingly, Dr. Dang is also a practicing optometrist.

May this honor today help us all to see—to see better with our eyes, of course, and to help those veterans suffering with blindness. But also, to see the selfless and wonderful people upon whom our freedoms as a people rest. Major Soltes lies amongst them. May God bless his family and his memory.

Mr. FILNER. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4360.

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. FILNER. Madam 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.

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2010

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4915) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4915

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 "Federal Aviation Administration Extension Act of 2010".