

This Act may be cited as the “Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012”.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise and report the bill back to the House with sundry amendments, with the recommendation that the amendments be agreed to and that the bill, as amended, do pass.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BASS of New Hampshire) having assumed the chair, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2055) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes, reported the bill back to the House with sundry amendments adopted in the Committee of the Whole, with the recommendation that the amendments be agreed to and that the bill, as amended, do pass.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under House Resolution 288, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the Chair will put them en gros.

The amendments were agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 2(a) of House Resolution 288, the question is on retaining the title of the bill beginning on page 25, line 14 relating to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The question is, Shall that title be retained?

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 409, noes 1, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 416]

AYES—409

Ackerman Bilirakis Cantor
 Adams Bishop (GA) Capito
 Aderholt Bishop (NY) Capps
 Akin Bishop (UT) Capuano
 Alexander Black Carnahan
 Altmire Blackburn Carney
 Amash Blumenauer Carson (IN)
 Andrews Bonner Carter
 Austria Bono Mack Cassidy
 Baca Boren Castor (FL)
 Bachus Boswell Chabot
 Baldwin Boustany Chaffetz
 Barletta Brady (PA) Chandler
 Barrow Braley (IA) Chu
 Bartlett Brooks Cicilline
 Barton (TX) Brown (FL) Clarke (MI)
 Bass (CA) Buchanan Clarke (NY)
 Bass (NH) Bucshon Clay
 Becerra Buerkle Cleaver
 Benishek Burgess Clyburn
 Berg Burton (IN) Coble
 Berkley Calvert Coffman (CO)
 Berman Camp Cohen
 Biggert Campbell Cole
 Bilbray Canseco Conaway

Connolly (VA) Honda Neal
 Conyers Hoyer Neugebauer
 Cooper Huelskamp Noem
 Costa Huizenga (MI) Nugent
 Costello Hultgren Nunes
 Courtney Hunter Nunnelee
 Cravaack Hurt Olson
 Crawford Inslee Olver
 Crenshaw Israel Owens
 Critz Issa Palazzo
 Crowley Jackson (IL) Pallone
 Cuellar Jackson Lee Pascrell
 Culberson (TX) Pastor (AZ)
 Cummings Jenkins Paulsen
 Davis (CA) Johnson (GA) Payne
 Davis (IL) Johnson (IL) Pearce
 Davis (KY) Johnson (OH) Pelosi
 DeFazio Johnson, E. B. Pence
 DeGette Johnson, Sam Perlmutter
 DeLauro Jones Peters
 Denham Jordan Peterson
 Dent Kaptur Petri
 DesJarlais Keating Pingree (ME)
 Deutch Kelly Pitts
 Diaz-Balart Kildee Platts
 Dicks Kind Poe (TX)
 Doggett King (IA) Polis
 Dold King (NY) Pompeo
 Donnelly (IN) Kingston Posey
 Doyle Kinzinger (IL) Price (GA)
 Dreier Kissell Price (NC)
 Duffy Kline Quayle
 Duncan (SC) Kucinich Quigley
 Duncan (TN) Labrador Rahall
 Edwards Lamborn Rangel
 Ellison Lance Reed
 Ellmers Landry Rehberg
 Emerson Langevin Reichert
 Farenthold Lankford Renacci
 Farr Larsen (WA) Reyes
 Fattah Larson (CT) Ribble
 Finler Latham Richardson
 Fincher LaTourette Richmond
 Fitzpatrick Latta Rigell
 Flake Levin Rivera
 Fleischmann Lewis (CA) Roby
 Fleming Lipinski Roe (TN)
 Flores LoBiondo Rogers (AL)
 Forbes Loeb sack Rogers (KY)
 Fortenberry Lofgren, Zoe Rogers (MI)
 Foxx Long Rohrabacher
 Frank (MA) Lowey Rooney
 Franks (AZ) Lucas Ros-Lehtinen
 Frelinghuysen Luetkemeyer Roskam
 Fudge Luján Ross (AR)
 Gallegly Lummis Ross (FL)
 Garamendi Lungren, Daniel Rothman (NJ)
 Gardner E. Roybal-Allard
 Garrett Lynch Royce
 Gerlach Mack Runyan
 Gibbs Maloney Ruppelberger
 Gibson Manzullo Rush
 Gingrey (GA) Marchant Ryan (OH)
 Gohmert Marino Ryan (WI)
 Gonzalez Markey Sanchez, Linda
 Goodlatte Matheson T.
 Gosar Matsui Sanchez, Loretta
 Gowdy McCarthy (CA) Sarbanes
 Granger McCarthy (NY) Scalise
 Graves (GA) McCaul Schakowsky
 Graves (MO) McClintock Schiff
 Green, Al McCollum Schilling
 Green, Gene McCotter Schmidt
 Griffin (AR) McDermott Schock
 Grijalva McGovern Schrader
 Grimm McHenry Schwartz
 Guinta McIntyre Schweikert
 Guthrie McKeon Scott (SC)
 Gutierrez McKinley Scott (VA)
 Hall McMorris Scott, Austin
 Hanabusa Rodgers Scott, David
 Hanna McNehey Sensenbrenner
 Harper Meehan Serrano
 Harris Meeks Sessions
 Hartzler Mica Sewell
 Hastings (FL) Michaud Sherman
 Hastings (WA) Miller (FL) Shuler
 Hayworth Miller (MI) Shuster
 Heck Miller (NC) Simpson
 Heinrich Miller, Gary Sires
 Hensarling Miller, George Smith (NE)
 Herrera Beutler Moore Smith (NJ)
 Himes Moran Smith (TX)
 Hinochey Mulvaney Smith (WA)
 Hirono Murphy (CT) Southerland
 Hochul Murphy (PA) Stark
 Holden Myrick Stearns
 Holt Nadler Stutzman
 Napolitano Sullivan

Sutton Velázquez Wilson (FL)
 Terry Visclosky Wilson (SC)
 Thompson (CA) Walberg Wittman
 Thompson (MS) Walden Wolf
 Thompson (PA) Walsh (IL) Womack
 Thornberry Walz (MN) Woodall
 Tiberi Waters Woolsey
 Tierney Watt Wu
 Tipton Waxman Yarmuth
 Tonko Webster Yoder
 Towns Welch Young (AK)
 Turner West Young (FL)
 Upton Westmoreland Young (IN)
 Van Hollen Whitfield

NOES—1

Griffith (VA)

NOT VOTING—22

Bachmann Giffords Slaughter
 Brady (TX) Herger Speier
 Broun (GA) Higgins Stivers
 Butterfield Lee (CA) Tsongas
 Cardoza Lewis (GA) Wasserman
 Dingell Paul Schultz
 Engel Rokita Weiner
 Eshoo Shimkus

□ 1926

So the question was decided in the affirmative, and title II of the bill was retained.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my votes this evening. Had I been present to cast my votes, I would have voted “yes” on the amendment offered by Mr. LATOURETTE and “yes” on the amendment offered by Mr. SHERMAN. I would have voted “no” on the amendment offered by Mr. AMASH, and finally I would have voted “yes” on retaining title II, the Department of Veterans Affairs.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on official business and missed rollcall vote Nos. 413, 414, 415 and 416. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye” on rollcall vote No. 413, “nay” on rollcall No. 414, “aye” on rollcall vote No. 415 and “aye” on rollcall vote No. 416. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my statement appear in the permanent RECORD immediately following this vote.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of H.R. 2055 is postponed.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1380

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor to H.R. 1380.

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

There was no objection.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2112, AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 112-103) on the resolution (H.

Res. 300) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2112) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER
AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1380

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed from H.R. 1380.

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

There was no objection.

POLITICAL IED IN IRAQ

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, having just returned from Iraq with other Members to see our military, we further met with Prime Minister Maliki. We discussed the killing of the 35 freedom-seeking Iranian dissidents at Camp Ashraf by Iraqi authorities. The United States has turned over the protection of these people who oppose Iranian dictator Ahmadinejad to Iraq. The Prime Minister's candid position was that the dissidents were responsible for their own deaths and the Iraqi Government was not to be blamed for their recent demise.

Upon requesting that we wished to visit the camp to hear from the people who actually saw what happened, you would have thought a political IED had gone off. The Prime Minister curtly rejected that request. In an effort to fairly get at the truth, the statements from the ones actually present at the homicides was important. It is disturbing that the Prime Minister refused us access to the Iranian dissidents he promised the United States he would protect.

What does the Iraqi Government have to hide? Maybe the truth. Meanwhile, 35 innocent people are dead and hundreds of others are wounded by this new "free" democracy in Iraq.

And that's just the way it is.

CONGRATULATING DALLAS MAVERICKS ON WINNING 2011 NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIP

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Dallas Mavericks on winning the 2011 National Basketball Association Championship. This is the organization's first NBA world championship title, and I congratulate the team owner, Mark Cuban, Coach Rick Car-

lisle, his staff, and the entire Mavericks organization on this great accomplishment. I also congratulate the team's captain, Dirk Nowitzki, on being named the recipient of the NBA Finals Most Valuable Player Award, so much deserved.

The Mavericks also display a strong commitment to the Dallas community through its foundation. The Dallas Mavericks Foundation is dedicated to inspiring and motivating our youth to take their education seriously and to strive for healthy bodies and minds.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating each member of the 2011 NBA Championship Dallas Mavericks for their very many victories, but their very first championship, the champions of our community.

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CREATING JOBS IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FLORES). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. GRIFFIN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield to some of my friends here. We are going to spend some time talking tonight about the difficulty this country is having in terms of unemployment and job creation. We have got a big challenge ahead of us, and the Republicans here in the House have a lot of good ideas about how we can get this economy going, how we can take the regulatory burden off of small businesses, how we can reform the Tax Code for individuals and for businesses so we can be competitive.

I would like to yield to my friend from Illinois, ADAM KINZINGER.

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. I thank the gentleman from Arkansas for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, we are facing some pretty tough times in our country. I remember the days when we had very low unemployment, and if you wanted a job you had multiple offers when you got out of college, and everybody needed you and the economy was thriving. And now we are creeping back up in the unemployment.

I remember when we passed an \$800 billion spending package out of the House of Representatives—\$800 billion—and we were told that if we pass this spending package, unemployment will not exceed 8 percent, and we approached 10 percent. Thankfully, unemployment began to go down, but now it is stalled out, and it is beginning to go up again.

What we have is this idea of we need to spend, we need to borrow, and we need to tax our way to prosperity. And what does that do? Well, I will tell you what it does. It raises our taxes, and it just piles burdens on our children and grandchildren—and us. Yes, we all care about our children and grandchildren,

but even this generation now is swimming in debt.

Think about this: If you combine the cost of the war in Iraq and the cost of the war in Afghanistan, you combine them this year, do you realize that is less expensive than what we are paying just in interest on our national debt? Just in interest. And that is going to continue to grow. As we add more and more debt, that interest is going to continue to get bigger and bigger. And do you know what? We have another year of deficits, so the interest is bigger, and we have another year, so the interest is bigger.

Meanwhile, the job creators, the people who really get this economy rolling, the people who we are going to rely on to take individuals who are unemployed and take them from recipients of tax dollars—where they don't want to be—to taxpayers, the small business owners and these factory owners that we want to get manufacturing back, they are the ones that have to say, look, I have to invest for 10 and 15 and 20 years in the future, and all I see is a future of debt, doubt, and despair.

I think my colleagues will agree with me when I say that we live in the greatest country in the world, and I think they will agree with me when I say there is absolutely no reason, there is no reason that Americans should begin to accept the fact that we are in decline.

America doesn't have to be a nation in decline. America is a world leader, and we can retain our position as the world leader, but it is not going to be through what is done in government. It is not going to be by passing more regulations. It is not going to be by passing more taxation. It is not going to be by more and more rules and redtape. No. It is going to be done by restoring that entrepreneurial spirit that made our country so great in the first place.

I remember as a kid watching cowboy movies and seeing the old West and how America built the country that we have today, and learning about the Industrial Revolution and learning about those folks that worked long hours to make what we have, and being very proud of what I saw, every moment. But we began to accept that is no longer in our DNA. Ladies and gentleman, that is not true. That is in our DNA. That is who we are.

We can recover from this massive debt we are seeing, and we can do it easily. Well, we have got to cut spending, but we have got to get people back to work.

My home State of Illinois, the President's home State of Illinois, is a shining example of what not to do to create jobs. In Illinois, we just increased the individual tax rate. Well, that was probably not overly brilliant, because now people are leaving Illinois at an even faster rate than they were prior.

But then we did something especially crazy—we increased the corporate tax rate in Illinois. So now you have our neighbors in Indiana that are really