United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 159 WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2013 No. 72

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WEBSTER).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 21, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DANIEL WEBSTER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

CONGRESSIONAL FOSTER YOUTH SHADOW DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BASS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BASS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

First and foremost, let me say that my heart goes out to all of those in Oklahoma who experienced a terrible tragedy yesterday, and I know I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that they get everything that they need to recover.

On another note, I rise today to celebrate the second annual Congressional Foster Youth Shadow Day. Today, we are joined in the Halls of the U.S. Capitol by over 50 foster youth and alumni from across the country. They've been paired with Members of Congress as job shadows to get a behind-the-scenes look at the inner workings of the House of Representatives. The young leaders will attend hearings, join meetings, and participate in media interviews.

As we welcome these young leaders and recognize National Foster Care Month throughout the month of May, we are reminded that foster youth far too often experience traumatic incidences of abuse and neglect and are separated from their homes and siblings. Yet, even in the face of these challenges, the resiliency of foster youth remains strong.

The young foster youth here today are no different. They were selected to participate in Congressional Foster Youth Shadow Day based on their leadership and commitment to improving the lives of foster youth and families across the Nation.

Today, I'm honored to recognize and celebrate an incredible young woman with whom I have the privilege of sharing my morning. Marcelina Valenzuela is 24 years old and grew up in Los Angeles. She spent 7 years in the California foster care system. She entered foster care at birth due to drug addiction of her mother. She left foster care at age 4 only to return at age 15 because of ongoing neglect and abuse. Like far too many foster youth, she struggled with her education, sibling separation, and mental health because of the constant moving and upheaval while in foster care. Yet she was able to overcome these obstacles.

Now Marcelina actively works with organizations such as FosterClub, the National Foster Youth Action Network, and Foster Care Alumni of America to improve and reform the foster care system so that younger generations may not have to repeat the struggles and challenges that she faced.

Today, Marcelina has custody of her two younger sisters, ages 14 and 16. She's only 24. Her ultimate goal is to finish school and then build a career around improving the foster care system. In fact, she hopes to open up her own nonprofit that focuses on helping youth coming out of the juvenile justice system.

In honor of Marcelina's courage and tenacity, let us commit to doing what we can to ensure that 400,000-plus foster youth across the country have the opportunities, love, and families they deserve. As a first step, I invite my colleagues to join the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth and to cosponsor the bipartisan resolution in recognition of May as National Foster Care Month.

AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, thank you very much. I am back on the floor again to talk about the failed policy in Afghanistan.

This poster beside me, Mr. Speaker, is a cartoon that I got from the paper, and it says, ''CIA ATM.'' Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago, The New York Times broke an article, a story that the CIA, over the last 10 years, has been giving hundreds of millions of dollars to Karzai, and I want to quote what Karzai said in that article. Karzai said he was assured that the CIA would continue delivering bags of cash—bags of cash—going to Karzai, the corrupt leader, in Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, what really makes this cartoon sad is in the background is an American soldier, and what he is thinking as Karzai is taking his cash money away from the CIA ATM machine, the solder is thinking, ''I'd like

Printed on recycled paper.

to make a quick withdrawal from here.''

I hope that during the debate in July on the appropriations bill dealing with the Defense Department that we will start passing amendments that say we need to stop this out-of-control spending in Afghanistan with very little accountability.

I am one that agrees with my party and some of the Democrats that we need to hold hearings on Benghazi and the Internal Revenue Service. But I have written to the leadership of the Armed Services Committee and the subcommittee chairmen asking for a hearing on this out-of-control waste in Afghanistan. Not only did the CIA acknowledge that they have been giving tens of millions of dollars in cash to Karzai for 10 years, but, Mr. Speaker, we are also authorizing $8 billion a month to go to Afghanistan. We are holding no hearings on the waste, fraud, and abuse in Afghanistan.

I hope that after we get through the appropriations process that we will start holding hearings. It's not fair to the American people that we borrow money from China to send to Karzai in Afghanistan. And, Mr. Speaker, we all know that Karzai is not going to survive. The Taliban, whom we are fighting, who are killing Americans today, will be the future leaders of Afghanistan. Every expert that I've spoken to, military and nonmilitary, has said that the Taliban, which primarily is made up of Pashtuns—that's the largest tribe of Afghanistan—in time, they will be the leaders of Afghanistan.

It is time for this Congress to wake up and join the American people. Seventy-five percent of the American people say, We want out of Afghanistan. We want to bring our troops home. We want to stop wasting money.

So, Mr. Speaker, before I close, I would also like to reiterate this cartoon. It's Karzai standing at a CIA ATM machine. He's got bags of cash down at his feet, and the little guy has a credit card that he's going to put into the machine, like we all do here in America to get money from our own accounts. But he's not getting it from his own account; he's getting it from the CIA account. And then I see this poor soldier standing behind him who's saying, ''I'd like to make a quick withdrawal from here.''

Mr. Speaker, I ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform. I ask God to hold in His arms those families who've given a child dying for freedom in Iraq and Afghanistan. I ask God to please bless the House and Senate, that we will do what is right in the eyes of God. I ask God to please bless the President, that he will do what is right in the eyes of God. And three times I will ask, God, please, God, please, God, please continue to bless America.

REMEMBERING THE WORDS OF HARVEY MILK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I, too, along with my colleague from California, Congresswoman BASS, express my sorrow for the victims of the terrible tragedy in Oklahoma, and I stand ready to work with my friends across the aisle to do all we can to alleviate the tragedy.

Mr. Speaker:

> Somewhere in Des Moines or San Antonio there is a young gay person who all of a sudden realizes that he or she is gay; knows that if their parents find out they will be tossed out of the house, their classmates will taunt the child, and the Anita Bryants and John Briggs are doing their part on TV. And that child has several options: staying in the closet and suicide.
>
> And then one day that child might open the paper that says, ''Homosexual elected in San Francisco,'' and there are two new options: the option is to go to California, or stay in San Antonio and fight. Two days after I was elected, I got a phone call and the voice was quite young. It was from Altoona, Pennsylvania. And the person said, ''Thanks.''
>
> And you've got to elect gay people, so that thousands upon thousands like that child know that there is hope for a better world; there is hope for a better tomorrow.
>
> Without hope, not only gays, but those who are Blacks, the Asians, the disabled, the seniors, the us's: without hope, the us's give up. I know that you can't live on hope alone, but without it, life is not worth living. And you, and you, and you, and you have got to give them hope.

□ 1010

Those words, Mr. Speaker, were spoken by Harvey Milk. It is with tremendous honor and gratitude that I enter them into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on his behalf and all of the ''us's'' in our Nation.

YUCCA MOUNTAIN AND SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, there's good news in our pursuit of a repository to hold our Nation's spent nuclear fuel and nuclear waste, although it went largely unreported.

Officials from both the Department of Energy and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission have publicly admitted that neither agency has identified any technical issues that would prevent us from being able to develop a safe repository at Yucca Mountain in Nevada. This admission came during a recent hearing before the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee in response to a question from my friend and colleague, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, the subcommittee chairman.

To stakeholders in the nuclear waste debate, this fact should come as no surprise. Why else would Greg Jaczko, Senator REID's former staffer, abuse his authority as NRC chairman and deceive his Commission colleagues to scuttle publication of the agency's safety review?

If Yucca Mountain were as scientifically flawed as Senator REID says it is, then he would have benefited by having the agency's conclusions released publicly. Instead, Senator REID got a promise from President Obama to shut down the program.

President Obama obliged, with no basis other than the cryptic statements about Yucca Mountain being ''unworkable.'' Meanwhile, Senator REID's protege, Mr. Jaczko, made sure the NRC's independent technical conclusions never saw the light of day.

These actions have been challenged in court. The State attorneys general for both Washington and South Carolina, together with the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, Aiken County, South Carolina, and Nye County, Nevada, have all alleged that the NRC has violated the Nuclear Waste Policy Act by ceasing its review of the Yucca Mountain license application, which is mandated under the law. The case is currently before the District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals.

When President Obama took office, he said that this administration would ''restore scientific integrity in government decisionmaking.''

Shortly after taking office, he issued a Presidential Memorandum stating:

> Political officials should not suppress or alter scientific or technological findings and conclusions. If scientific and technological information is developed and used by the Federal Government, it should ordinarily be made available to the public.
>
> Except for information that is properly restricted from disclosure, each agency should make available to the public the scientific and technical findings or conclusions considered or relied upon in policy decisions.
>
> The public must be confident that public officials will not conceal or distort the scientific findings that are relevant to policy choices.

He reaffirmed these statements recently when addressing the National Academies of Science:

> In all the sciences, we've got to make sure that we are supporting the idea that they're not subject to politics, that they're not skewed by an agenda, that, as I said before, we make sure that we go where the evidence leads us.

Mr. Speaker, I find it very difficult to reconcile these pronouncements with the Yucca Mountain situation as it stands today. Electricity consumers and taxpayers have invested $15 billion to find a safe disposal site for our Nation's civilian spent fuel and the nuclear waste left over from the Cold War. After investing 30 years and $15 billion in Yucca Mountain, they deserve, at a minimum, for the independent nuclear safety regulator, the NRC, to release its conclusions on whether the site is safe or not.

Given the admissions from these DOE and NRC officials, it appears we have found a safe solution to our Nation's nuclear waste problem: Yucca Mountain. The bad news is that this administration would rather play politics

than solve the problem. Transparency and scientific integrity should not be debased into political buzz words easily cast aside for the sake of political favors.

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve better. They deserve to know the truth about Yucca Mountain. It's outrageous that they must go to court to get it.

PUT ASIDE POLITICS FOR DISASTER RELIEF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, our hearts go out to the people of Oklahoma and our colleague, Representative TOM COLE, whose district has been devastated by the latest catastrophe that has befallen our country.

I recall the great courage of TOM COLE on this floor and in his conference, putting aside politics and ideology and voting for relief after Hurricane Sandy. As the death toll rises and the search and rescue valiantly continues, let us not just offer our prayers, as much as they are needed and welcomed, but let us act as united citizens and send, with all due speed, relief for the people of Oklahoma.

Disasters and tragedies should never be about ideology or politics or geographic locale. When Americans are in need of help, this Congress needs to respond. That is who we are as a people. That's what leads us to become a more perfect union.

Any American befallen by tragedy or national disaster needs the assistance of their Nation and their fellow Americans. Let us act in this Congress before we leave. Before we go on an extended break, let us take action on behalf of the citizens of Oklahoma.

Let us put aside and let us damn politics and ideology and act on behalf of the American people and these people of Oklahoma who are enduring so much through this natural disaster.

God bless America.

HONORING THE 200TH-PLUS ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEATACK COMMUNITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. RIGELL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, this morning I consider it a joy and really a special privilege to rise today to honor the 200th-plus anniversary of the Seatack community, the oldest African American community in the United States.

The community, named for the sea attack of the coast by the British Navy, is a stalwart in Hampton Roads, steadfastly protecting civil rights and promoting the African American community. Throughout its proud history, the Seatack community has stood for doing what is right in the face of adversity.

Going back to the early 1800s, Seatack fishermen braved the rough waters of the Atlantic to save the passengers of a ship that had wrecked off the coast. The men of Seatack have fought in every major American war, including serving as air raid wardens in World War II to protect the citizens of Virginia Beach from potential airstrikes.

And when the Seatack community needed a fire department, the Seatack veterans from World War II came together to build the first fire department owned and operated by African Americans.

Even in its early days, Mr. Speaker, Seatack has shown a commitment to educating its youth. In 1908, Seatack parents formed their first school at Mount Olive Baptist Church, and a few years later formed the Seatack Public School League. Later, the community provided the land for the Seatack Elementary School. And today, Seatack continues its commitment to education by providing funding for college students.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly honored to represent this amazing community within my district. Their continuous hard work to promote education, civil rights, and a safe Hampton Roads community is nothing short of admirable.

□ 1020

In October 2011 and October 2012, the community celebrated 200-plus years of being a vibrant, active, engaged, and historical community. Thanks to the contributions of the community historian, whom I have gotten to know and greatly respect, Sadie Shaw, a preeminent holder of all the history of the wonderful community, because of her and so many others, the legacy of the historical community of Seatack will continue to be perpetuated for generations to come.

I congratulate them as the legacy continues. We ask that God continue to bless that wonderful community and this wonderful country that we're privileged to live in.

EXTENDING SYMPATHY TO THE PEOPLE OF OKLAHOMA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI).

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, it's with great sadness that I rise today to extend sympathy to the people of Oklahoma, and especially to our colleague, Congressman COLE, and his constituents who have been affected by the tornado. We just heard our President talk about how our prayers and our deeds are with the people of the community. We also just heard Mr. LARSON talk about our acting immediately to provide the assistance to the people there; and to the extent that Congress can act quickly upon that, we should.

We've seen natural disasters come and go. They're all terrible. The loss of life is tragic, as well as the loss of homes and belongings. It's very hard to see how people can be made whole, but we are always hopeful that they will be. People say, Where do you find hope in a situation like that? It sits there comfortably between faith—we believe, and therefore we have hope—and the charity of others, that we can work together to come through this.

Whether it's earthquakes in California, storms in the Northeast, or hurricanes in the South, like Katrina, it's always tragic. There's something especially deeply saddening about what happened in Oklahoma City. It reminded me immediately of something that I carry in my heart.

I went to Italy as a representative of President Carter in 1980. It was a congressional delegation to deliver U.S. assistance following an earthquake in southern Italy. In one small town in the mountains that we visited, the roof of the church collapsed. And what was tragic about it that resembles what happened in Oklahoma is that in that church that day was the first grade. They were practicing for First Holy Communion. So every 7-year-old child in that village was a casualty. Every one died.

And so when there's loss of life, of course, it's always tragic. Everyone is a valuable life. But when every 7-year-old in the village dies, it just does something to your psyche. It's so sad. You grieve so deeply. It's so hard to console people. And it's sad to see what happened to the school in Oklahoma City. Twenty little children lost their lives, each one of them precious, all of them the future of the community. How deep the grief must be there. We must try to help wipe the tears away from that community. So many little children.

It was a beautiful sight to see the first responders trying to dig people out—and successfully. There was a picture today of a little boy pulled out from the rubble. Teachers made a valiant effort to cover children so that falling debris did not harm those who were still alive. And so whether it was first responders or teachers or families, it was a community coming together. This community has suffered a great loss of lives, a horrible loss of homes. What was a home became debris in a matter of minutes.

And so I hope that we all know what our responsibility is, because these children are America's children. Those that died have such an impact on the community. We must all appreciate the depth of the grief, the depth of the tragedy that has befallen. I'll never, ever forget the desperate look in the eyes of the people in the village of the mountains of Italy. As I said, we're always hopeful through prayer, which gives us strength; faith, which gives us hope; and the charity of others, which helps us to go forward.

So I hope it is a comfort to the people of the region that their loss is one

that is shared and mourned by our entire country, definitely in this Congress of the United States, and across the world. Whatever is in our power to be helpful to them, we will do—and we will do it quickly. Most importantly, they will always and ever be in our prayers.

GIVE US THEIR NAMES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, one of the most disturbing aspects of the unfolding scandal involving the misuse of the IRS is what can only be described as an insatiable appetite for names, names, and more names.

Conservative groups—and only conservative groups—seeking to organize under section 501 were subjected to pages of intrusive and irrelevant questions but with a common theme: give us their names. Give us the names of your volunteers. Give us the names of your donors and your family members and your business associates. Give us the names of speakers and audience participants in your meetings.

One man applying to form a group to educate teenagers in constitutional principles was told to turn over the names of his students. As he told a reporter, Can you imagine my responsibility to parents if I disclosed the names of their children to the IRS?

This tactic was not limited to new applications. The venerable Leadership Institute, which has been schooling young people in constitutional principles for 40 years, was put through a year-long audit. The IRS wasn't only interested in financial information, they wanted the names of the students and their college interns and the names of anyone who had subsequently hired these young people. And when the IRS wasn't demanding the names of ordinary Americans or asking what they were reading or thinking or saying, in some cases applicants were given names and told to reveal what they knew about these people.

Mr. Speaker, these are facts that are undisputed by the administration and its apologists. For a period of more than 2 years, these questions were put to Americans whose political opinions had been singled out by one of the most powerful and feared agencies of the Federal Government.

What I would like to know is why? Why did the IRS demand lists of names of thousands of Americans whose only common characteristic is that they disagreed with this administration? Where are these lists now? With whom were they shared? Who wanted to know these names? What possible use would the IRS have to track the names of high school students who simply wanted to learn about their Constitution? But most importantly, what were these names used for and what are they being used for?

I don't have an answer to these questions, but I find their implications deeply disturbing; and they must be answered during the course of the investigations now underway, and they must be answered in full and with certainty.

□ 1030

I cannot conceive of the reasons why the Federal Government would be so interested in compiling such lists; but we know for a fact that they were, and that fact is undisputed. What we don't know is why; and knowing the answer to that question and the other questions raised by this undisputed fact is absolutely essential to a society that values its freedom of speech, its freedom of assembly, its freedom of press, and its freedom of conscience.

We know the ancillary effect of these illegal demands. They dried up donations to these conservative groups. They heavily suppressed volunteer activities. We know some lists were leaked to liberal publications like The Huffington Post and ProPublica. What we don't know is what was the direct purpose of gathering these names.

The administration's spokesman this weekend said the law is irrelevant and called it a distraction. Well, on the contrary, this strikes at the very foundation of a free society, the rule of law, and the right of the people to question the policies of their government without fear of retribution or intimidation.

Seventy-five years ago, Winston Churchill warned of a ''state of society where men may not speak their minds, where children denounced their parents to the police, where a businessman or small shopkeeper ruins his competitor by telling tales about his private opinions.''

If it is possible that we have taken even a single step down the road that leads to such places, then that situation should occupy our full and undistracted attention until it is fully and completely rectified, new safeguards are erected against its recurrence, and those responsible are held fully accountable.

MAXIMIZING OPTIMAL MATERNITY SERVICES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to challenge my colleagues to make optimal maternity outcomes a priority in our country.

Tragically, childbirth in this wealthiest of nations has significantly greater risks for mothers and babies when compared to almost all other developed nations.

In the U.S., more than two women die every day from pregnancy-related causes, and more than one-third of all women who give birth experience some type of complication with an adverse effect on their health. These tragedies are most often found in communities of color.

Regrettably, mothers aren't the only victims of our maternity care system. Sadly, out of every 1,000 babies born in the United States, nearly seven babies die. Particularly disturbing is that since 1991, premature birth—the leading cause of low birth rate and infant mortality—has actually increased in our country by more than 30 percent. Adding to this concern is that the U.S. spends more than double of any country in the world on maternity care and still ranks far behind most developed countries in maternal and infant outcomes. Clearly, something must be done to protect mothers and babies.

While it is important to continue studying the causes, we already know many factors that contribute to poor birth outcomes and to high costs. One well-established factor is that current U.S. medical practice does not follow the vast body of research that exists on the best evidence-based maternity care. This includes the research of credible studies showing that multiple noninvasive maternity practices can produce considerable improvement in birth outcomes without detrimental side effects to mother or baby.

Two examples of these noninvasive and relatively simple practices significantly underused during pregnancy are group models of prenatal care and smoking cessation programs. Unfortunately, the U.S. also has a widespread overuse of Cesarean sections and scheduled inductions. The overuse of these practices, which are beneficial only in limited situations, has been associated with complications that jeopardize the health of mother and baby and with longer hospital stays and multiple costly procedures.

These tragically poor childbirth outcomes and high costs must no longer be tolerated in our country. Therefore, this week I am introducing the Maximizing Optimal Maternity Services for the 21st Century Act, better known as the MOMS Act. This bill will create a coordinating committee to ensure that Federal agencies are on the same page in promoting the best evidence-based maternity practices in their programs. And it will facilitate across maternity professions collaboration in the education of a diverse maternity care workforce. In addition, the MOMS Act authorizes grant programs for professional organizations to recruit and retain minority maternity care providers.

The MOMS Act also establishes an online database to make available the best evidence-based maternity care information to women and families, and it authorizes a consumer education campaign focused on how to achieve the healthiest maternity outcomes.

The MOMS for the 21st Century Act further expands research on the best maternity practices and on the identification of the geographic areas that lack adequate maternity health care providers.

Mr. Speaker, we can and must do better for our mothers and newborns. As a country, we must reach beyond our self-imposed boundaries and embrace a cost-effective, evidence-based model of maternity care that reflects our values and saves the lives of mothers and babies.

I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort by cosponsoring and helping to pass the MOMS for the 21st Century Act.

HEALTH CARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TIPTON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, there are probably very few issues that touch Americans, families, our States, and small businesses more personally than health care.

This House has dealt numerous times with addressing the Affordable Care Act. But when we talk about it on that very personal level—of a mom taking a sick child down to visit the doctor, to a senior citizen who's counting on that hospital being able to be there, to be able to deliver the care that they need—we need to recognize that the overarching view that Washington typically performs when passing a bill and delivering it to the American people, that it has very real consequences, very real impacts.

In my district in rural Colorado—and in fact throughout rural America—there is a looming health care crisis that is just on the horizon. That ability to be able to go to the doctor, to be able to have a hospital that's going to be there to be able to provide the service that's necessary—they're feeling that real impact right now at home.

We've had a lot of discussion about that big, overarching bill: the IPAB boards that are going to be making the medical choices for our senior citizens—indeed for all Americans—rather than that choice being made between the doctor and the patient; about the State mandates that are coming through; the Medicare payment cuts; higher health costs; the budget that is now going to be estimated at $1.76 trillion in costs over a 10-year period, and rising, on a struggling American economy, on struggling families and small businesses; the 150 new boards that are being established; the better than 12,000 pages of new regulations that our hospitals, our doctors, and our families are going to have to be dealing with; and the short form, to simply be able to fill out and be able to apply for the Affordable Care Act, 21 pages just to be able to get insurance.

We need, Mr. Speaker, to be talking about those real impacts, not from the 30,000-foot view, but on the ground at home.

I recently went to Delta Memorial Hospital in my district, a small community hospital that's proud of their service. In fact, they've had multiple surveys that went through and rated their service among the best. They are now being challenged by the Affordable Care Act in terms of that health care delivery.

They have a program called the Recovery Audit Contracts conducted by individual companies that don't even have to have health care background, but they're going back in and reassessing costs. And they're having to pay back money now, money that they simply do not have.

We're seeing reimbursements to doctors drop at Delta Memorial Hospital, making it harder for the physicians to be able to deliver that service.

These are small hospitals. They don't have big HR departments; they're there for the health of the community. But they are seeing real challenges in being able to continue. In fact, in many of our rural hospitals, they're beginning to wonder if they're going to be able to continue to deliver that service.

□ 1040

I've talked to doctors in Delta, Montrose, Grand Junction, Pueblo, throughout my entire district, who are frustrated that they are now seeing their reimbursements—money that they need to have to be able to conduct their business—being cut by the Federal Government, the Federal Government determining what the value of that service is going to be and saying you can afford it. That's not real life.

What we are seeing now are senior citizens who just became senior citizens by the virtue of a birthday over the last few months, they cannot find a doctor who is willing to take Medicare, simply because they can no longer afford it.

We have a system, Mr. Speaker, that completely forgot the original premise that every American, I believe, can agree on. We need to have real reform, but we need to go back to that initial premise of affordability and accessibility. The Affordable Care Act fails on both levels.

We are seeing right now, in my home State of Colorado, estimates for individual insurance policies this year are going to go up an estimated 23 percent or more. Small businesses, who are trying to provide group insurance, are seeing their costs going up this year estimated better than 17 percent.

Have we achieved more affordability, as was promised? We have not.

When we are talking about that accessibility issue, when that senior citizen in Delta, Colorado, walks into a doctor's office and is told that they aren't accepting any new patients, are we achieving that accessibility? We are not.

Mr. Speaker, we need to go back to that original premise, because so many small businesses right now that would like to be able to deliver that service are feeling the impact. I have a friend who owns several small Pizza Huts throughout the West, and she is dealing with those additional costs that are hurting her business and her ability to be able to deliver that real service for her employees.

We have a challenge in this country, Mr. Speaker, and it can and will be addressed if we will go back to that original premise of affordability and accessibility. The Affordable Care Act fails on both points.

Let's roll up our sleeves and get the job done for the American people.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 42 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Pastor Mark Turner, South Valley Community Church, Gilroy, California, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, what an incredible honor it must be for these men and women gathered in this Chamber today to represent the entire population of this country. I pray that they would not only feel the magnitude of this responsibility, but that You would give them the strength of character to carry out that responsibility in an honorable and Christ-like way.

I pray, too, for the guardians of freedom on duty today all around the globe, the men and women of our Armed Forces. May You sustain them and keep them safe. May we as a Nation never forget the tremendous sacrifice they have made on our behalf to ensure our freedom and democracy.

May it be upon these Members of this House that the lantern of hope and the light of liberty continue to burn bright in this land we call America.

Finally, Lord, it is with heavy hearts that we stand here today, each one of us assembled in this Chamber pray for the families in Oklahoma who have been affected by the devastating tornado that struck yesterday. Comfort those who have lost loved ones, strengthen rescue workers and emergency personnel, and may neighbor reach out to neighbor to assist in the healing and rebuilding process.

As the eyes of the world are upon the residents of Oklahoma, let them demonstrate dependence upon You and help them to display the resilience, the resolve, and the American spirit that made their State and this Nation so great.

We pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARTWRIGHT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING PASTOR MARK TURNER

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to introduce Pastor Mark Turner of South Valley Community Church in Gilroy, California, as our guest who delivered this morning's opening prayer.

Over a decade ago, Pastor Turner left his career to answer a higher calling to serve his fellow persons in the ministry. In serving others, Pastor Turner has become a respected leader in our community, making a difference in people's everyday lives.

Working with local partners and businesses, Pastor Turner and hundreds of volunteers serve our community through outreach projects that feed children, seniors, and underprivileged residents. They help local children through programs that encourage them to be active and strive for success, and they bring compassion and services to people in need.

Answering a call to serve something larger than one's self is a trait we deeply admire and value as Americans. So it is a pleasure to welcome Pastor Turner to our Nation's Capitol today and to thank him for his service to our community and our country.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MEADOWS). The Chair will entertain 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HOLDING GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABLE

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, our hearts go out today to those in Oklahoma who are suffering as a result of this storm. I've asked that the flags here in the Capitol complex be lowered to half staff in honor of the victims of this terrible tragedy.

Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, this House is going to continue to be focused on the issue of jobs. It's the number one issue of concern to our fellow citizens. We're going to continue to be focused on the things that get in the way of job creation in our country.

Most notably, this week we will work on trying to get the Keystone pipeline approved that will create some 20,000 direct jobs and over 100,000 indirect jobs, and trying to make sure that those who have student loans won't see their interest rates double. That will be the work of the House this week.

But in addition to that, we have a responsibility to the American people to provide oversight of the executive branch. I think Americans understand and my colleagues understand that the American people deserve the truth. Whether it's Benghazi, whether it's the IRS, whether it's the Justice Department investigating journalists, the Congress of the United States and the American people need to know what the truth is—to hold this administration accountable.

Those of us in public office understand that our job is to serve the American people, and not the other way around.

SEQUESTRATION EFFECTS IN PENNSYLVANIA

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

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, over the past few weeks, newspapers in my district in Pennsylvania have reported that local housing authorities are facing a ''nightmare'' due to sequestration cuts in HUD, the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Mr. Speaker, fewer people are going to be able to access housing as a result of this Congress' nightmare policies.

In Northampton County, Pennsylvania, alone, 85 people are going to have to leave the section 8 voucher program through turnover or there will be evictions. In Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, 900 people will be removed from the program's waiting list.

Our social safety net is disappearing. And what happens if these people fall into homelessness? According to HUD, the annual cost of a shelter bed funded by the Emergency Shelter Grants program is approximately $8,067 more than the average annual cost of a section 8 voucher. This Congress is being penny-wise and pound-foolish.

HONORING SERGEANT FIRST CLASS JEFFREY BAKER

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

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, last week, the EOD community lost one of its best and brightest. Sergeant First Class Jeffrey Baker was killed 1 week ago today in an IED explosion that killed four of his fellow soldiers and injured multiple others. Sergeant First Class Baker was assigned to the 766th EOD Company out of Fort Stewart, Georgia, and was serving in Sanjaray, Afghanistan, at the time of his death.

EOD soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines are the preeminent explosive experts in our Armed Forces. Our joint EOD forces lead the fight against the use of IEDs and protect their fellow servicemembers and our interests both at home and abroad.

Too often, the lives of these brave men and women are claimed by the very devices they are trained to neutralize. Sergeant First Class Baker gave his life along with four of his fellow soldiers in defense of our freedoms. It's important that we honor their sacrifice and the sacrifices of those who came before them.

Next week, as the Nation honors the veterans who have given their lives for this country, it's important that we take time to recognize the risks our troops take on our behalf every day and the need to support our veterans and their families.

Jeffrey Baker was from Hesperia, California, and was just 29 years old. He is survived by his wife and his young daughter. My thoughts and prayers are with Jeffrey's entire family, the families of his fellow soldiers who were killed, and the soldiers recovering from the blast.

God bless our Armed Forces, and God bless America.

WELCOMING LONGABERGER POTTERY BACK TO U.S.

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Democrats' Make It In America Working Group, I was pleased to attend a ceremony yesterday welcoming Longaberger Pottery to Niagara Ceramics Corporation in Buffalo.

In 2005, Longaberger moved its production line to China. Its return will create 22 American jobs. Under CEO Tammy Longaberger, this fifth-generation family business manufactures in the true American artisan tradition.

This story is further evidence that we are approaching what the writer Charles Fishman calls ''the insourcing boom.'' American companies are reconsidering their decisions to move operations overseas. The issues of rising transportation costs, quality control, and the productivity of American workers is driving this trend. Congress should be working to ensure the new trend becomes a sustainable, large-scale movement.

And austerity is exactly the wrong response. We should be investing in our infrastructure, in education, and in science. We should adopt the House

Democrats' Make It In America agenda, including legislation that replaces tax breaks for moving jobs overseas with incentives for bringing them home.

□ 1210

LANCE CORPORAL JOSHUA C. TAYLOR MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce legislation I introduced that will designate the post office in Marietta, Ohio, as the Lance Corporal Joshua C. Taylor Memorial Post Office Building.

Lance Corporal Joshua Taylor is a true American hero who lost his life on March 18 in an explosion during a training exercise at the Hawthorne Army Depot in Nevada.

From an early age, Josh had dreamed of serving his country and becoming a marine. He entered the Marine Corps upon graduating from Marietta High School in 2010. After basic training, Josh was stationed in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and specialized in mortar weaponry. He honorably served tours of duty in Afghanistan and Kuwait.

In addition to being a dedicated marine, Josh was an exceptional individual. He will be remembered for his gentle spirit, unfailing love, and his love for his family.

Dedicating the Marietta Post Office for Josh Taylor serves as a small tribute to honor and remember the life of a remarkable young man and the sacrifice he made for America.

BUDGET AND SEQUESTER

(Ms. FUDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, our economy is improving, the national debt is going down faster than expected, and yet sequestration is still in effect and causing real and long-reaching harm in our communities. Republicans appear prepared to sacrifice our country's economic growth, sacrifice job creation, in favor of sequester cuts.

What happened to the Members on the other side all the last term asking, ''Where are the jobs?'' Now I'm asking, Where are the jobs?

Mr. Speaker, the sequester is slashing jobs, cutting education, and starving research. All this happens while my counterparts feel comfortable to stand idly by instead of appointing conferees to work out the differences between the House and Senate budget proposals and coming up with a plan that grows the economy and responsibly reduces the deficit.

The American people need Congress to act in a big way, and we need to act now.

IRS SCANDAL

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, to my colleague who just spoke, I say she's going to have an opportunity with voting on the Keystone XL bill to address the jobs issue this week.

But let me talk about this most recent IRS scandal. I have a local, well-respected attorney named Tad Armstrong in my district, who founded the Constitution study group called Earn It, Learn It or Lose It.

He applied for a tax-exempt status in August of 2010. In October of 2010, Cincinnati headquarters called with a lot of questions. It wasn't until October of 2011 that he received an 11-page rejection letter.

He hired an accountant to try to appeal. He told the accountant that his appeal was probably denied because he was teaching about the Constitution. She laughed at that. But after this most recent IRS story broke, she called back and said, ''My goodness, you are right.''

I quote Tad in saying: ''Here you have Jay Carney saying the President is a staunch defender of the First Amendment. I can't help but be reminded several times the President saying the Constitution is outdated and gets in his way.''

PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY

(Mr. O'ROURKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, in 1962, President Kennedy established Peace Officers Memorial Day to honor the sacrifices made by officers who died in the line of duty.

Last week, during this year's Peace Officers Memorial Day, I was privileged to meet Elisa and Miguel Garcia, who recently lost their first-born son, El Paso Police Officer Angel David Garcia. It was Officer Garcia's lifelong dream to serve our Nation in the city of El Paso, a dream he pursued with enthusiasm and dedication. Tragically, only 9 months after he joined the force, Officer Garcia was killed while on patrol this last December.

Officer Garcia dedicated his life to making El Paso and our Nation a better and safer place. He was both a Marine reservist and a patrol officer with the El Paso Police Department, and he was a loving older brother to his sister, Allyson, and to his brother, Mickey.

Angel Garcia's selfless service serves as an example to all of us. On behalf of all El Pasoans, I thank Officer Garcia and all those who serve our communities in law enforcement. Our community is proud to remember him as one of our finest.

MORE AMERICAN ENERGY MEANS MORE AMERICAN JOBS

(Ms. JENKINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, the President seems to be getting a lot of information from the news rather than from his own administration lately. He says he was unaware of the IRS targeting conservatives, unaware of the Department of Justice seizing reporters' phone records, and unaware of the HHS Secretary fundraising for ObamaCare until he saw it on the news.

The next story the President should read will be about our bipartisan solution to create jobs and greater energy security for America—the Keystone XL pipeline. It really is incomprehensible that the President, after 1,700 days, would continue to stand in the way of the largest shovel-ready project in this country.

It's really this simple: more American energy means more American jobs. With millions of hardworking Americans out of work, gas prices skyrocketing, and China outcompeting the United States for access to Canada's oil supply, we need the Keystone XL pipeline.

It is time to put hardworking American families ahead of politics and focus on real solutions.

OKLAHOMA TORNADO

(Ms. GABBARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my constituents in the State of Hawaii as we all express our deepest condolences to those who have been impacted by the horrific tornado that hit Oklahoma yesterday. The destruction has been absolutely heartbreaking, and there really are no words that can adequately provide comfort during a time like this.

However, it is important for all of us to send a message of solidarity to those who have lost their loved ones, who have lost their children, lost their homes, and those who are still searching for their children, family, and friends in the rubble. Know that your country stands with you, your country grieves with you, and we are committed to doing what it takes to make sure that you have the support to rebuild.

The strength of our Nation lies in our unity, especially in these times of great need. Now is the time, as we go about our business here in the people's House, where we must stand as one, united to help our brothers and sisters in Oklahoma, provide them with assistance, prayers, and support as their recovery and rebuilding process begins.

□ 1220

GETTING AMERICANS BACK TO WORK

(Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS. I rise today because I want to get Americans back to work.

When I was a little girl on the farm in Kettle Falls, Washington, my parents used to tell me, ''Cathy, life isn't always fair.''

But, you see, the difference was the things that weren't fair were outside of my control. Years later, we have a President who likes to talk a lot about fairness, but what he fails to mention is what isn't fair.

It isn't fair that this administration continues to make life harder for Americans all across this country—whether it's paying the bills at the end of the month, higher health care costs, higher gas prices, or an economy that's struggling with the smallest workforce participation rate since 1979. It is unfair for Washington to continue down a path that isn't working.

This week, we are voting to clear the way for the Keystone pipeline. It will create at least 20,000 new jobs from construction alone. It's just one piece of a true all-of-the-above energy plan. Keystone will put people back to work immediately while reducing our dependence on foreign oil and adding billions of dollars to our economy.

It is time for the President to stop talking about fairness and to actually start supporting it, and he can start by signing the Keystone project into law and get Americans to work all across this country.

CLIMATE CHANGE

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the growing threats that climate change poses to public health.

Increasingly, severe and frequent weather events and heat waves not only threaten people's health and safety but also jeopardize our food crop production and the availability of clean drinking water. Foodborne illnesses, asthma, and cardiovascular disease are expected to worsen in a changing climate.

Despite these anticipated impacts, however, most American health professionals do not have the tools they need to prepare for the changing needs of their patients, and climate change's threats to human health will only escalate with every day that we fail to take action.

That's why last week I reintroduced the Climate Change Health Protection and Promotion Act, which will help health professionals prepare for and respond to the public health impacts of climate change.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot continue to turn a blind eye to the impacts of climate change, especially when it comes to the health of our friends, our neighbors, and our families. I hope we can work together to pass this and other commonsense measures to address the critical issue of changes to our climate.

GETTING RICH OFF MEDICARE

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

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, some people and companies are getting rich off Medicare.

Washington Post columnist Charles Lane wrote about power wheelchair suppliers who are reimbursed as much as $5,000 for a basic chair that costs them $700 and sells at ordinary retail for $2,500.

In addition, hospitals are charging wildly varying prices for the same procedures. George Washington University Hospital averages $115,000 for a patient on a ventilator while Providence Hospital in the same city averages $53,000 for the same service. In St. Augustine, Florida, one hospital typically billed $40,000 to remove a gallbladder, using minimally invasive surgery, and another hospital in Orange Park, Florida, charged $91,000. In one hospital in Dallas, the average bill for treating ordinary pneumonia was $14,610 while another charged $48,000.

I do not want to see one poor person denied any necessary medical treatment. However, we should not treat Medicare and Medicaid as holy and untouchable and allow many hospitals, medical providers, and suppliers to get filthy rich off government medicine.

LET'S PUT AMERICA TO WORK

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

Mr. TONKO. I rise today to once again urge House leadership and the majority party in the House to refocus on what should be our top priority—jobs and the long-term economic stability of our Nation.

Each day, we report to our constituents that economic growth and putting Americans back to work is job one in Congress; yet very rarely does our agenda reflect that priority in this House. In fact, the request to name conferees to complete the budget process to grow jobs and grow the economy doesn't get heeded over and over again.

We are putting more and more people to work each month, but I have no doubt that we can do better. As I talk to neighbors and friends back home, unemployment remains their top concern. Instead, many in this Chamber are plotting to take the debt ceiling hostage. We already know the dire consequences from that act.

The bottom line is this: jobs and economic growth are our constituents' top concerns, and they should be ours as well. We can and must do better. Let's put America to work.

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

(Mrs. BACHMANN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great joy that I have shadowing me today a girl named Desirae, and she is with me as a foster child. It was one of the greatest honors of my life to serve as a foster mother to 23 great kids. May is Foster Care Month. There are 400,000 children in the United States who need a foster parent. We need more foster parents.

She and I have been talking about the news of the day so far. We talked about the tragedy in Oklahoma and how our former colleague, now-Governor Mary Fallin, is working so beautifully, together with the staff in Oklahoma, to meet the needs of the tragedy that is occurring. We talked about gas prices being $4.30 a gallon and how building the Keystone pipeline will provide new jobs.

Foster children need love. They need stability. They need to be a part of the fabric of this Nation. Let's make them a priority in this country.

THE DISTURBING SILENCE TO THE SEQUESTER

(Ms. MENG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MENG. To me, what has been more shocking than the sequester, itself, has been the response to it, or lack thereof, on the part of House leadership.

Are they listening to those on our streets and in our neighborhoods? Maybe the country is simply numbed by its repugnance of this Congress and the last.

The sequester harms the American people, particularly the middle class and our children. My district in Queens, New York, is decidedly and truly middle class; and every day constituents tell me how the sequester is hurting their families and their futures. It will cost America over 750,000 jobs this year, including police, firefighters, public defenders, and border agents.

We need to come to a compromise on a real spending plan that will increase revenue rather than slashing critical programs. The American people need us to speak up for our priorities and our values. The silence is disturbing. The sequester is not okay.

THE IRS SCANDAL

(Mr. HOLDING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOLDING. The deliberate targeting of conservative groups by the IRS is inexcusable, and it raises serious red flags about the agency's abuse of power.

Mr. Speaker, what we see here is an institutional arrogance within the IRS. The American people should be able to trust that the agency responsible for collecting their hard-earned tax dollars will not discriminate against them based on their values or political views. While the Obama administration would have us believe that the IRS' targeting of conservative groups was the result of an increase in the number of nonprofit applications, the data clearly reveal this to be simply untrue.

As if the targeting of conservative groups weren't bad enough, the IRS will also soon become the enforcer of ObamaCare—with the very same person previously in charge of the tax-exempt division at the IRS now in charge of the ObamaCare enforcement division.

Mr. Speaker, we need accountability from this agency and this administration. The American people demand it.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, for the first time in recent history, Congress has a real opportunity to pass comprehensive legislation to fix our broken immigration system.

Legislation being backed by a bipartisan group of Senators has done what many previous proposals have failed to do, and that is to gain broad support and to balance the needs of all of the interests of our country. I have been working closely with Members on both sides of the aisle in the House and in the Senate and with agricultural organizations and farm workers to make sure that the concerns of California's agricultural communities are met. The Senate's plan provides a legal and stable workforce for agricultural and critical protections for those who work very hard every day to put safe, healthy food on our Nation's dinner tables. Without these provisions, it would have been a deal-breaker for our valley.

Naysayers might say it's time to wait, but that's motivated simply by political interests, not reality. It's time for immigration reform now. It's time for the House to act and to come together. It's time to pass this bipartisan effort to fix America's broken immigration system.

□ 1230

THE KEYSTONE PIPELINE

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, it's been almost 5 years since the application to build the Keystone XL pipeline was filed. It's also been almost 5 years that Americans have been waiting for the jobs and energy security Keystone would provide. How much longer will President Obama make us wait?

American families expect our government to pursue the least expensive, most reliable domestic energy. Jobless Americans expect that their President won't stand in the way of economic relief. But on both fronts, President Obama's choice to cede to environmental special interests and block the Keystone pipeline in 2011 did the opposite. It denied thousands of jobless Americans the chance at high-paying work and blocked a direct connection between refineries in Texas and affordable energy in Canada.

But what's more audacious about the President's economically indefensible action is the fact that it is groundless. The President's own State Department concluded ''no significant'' environmental damage would be caused by Keystone's completion.

The Keystone pipeline has jobs to offer. Why is the President turning those jobs away?

JOBS, JOBS, JOBS

(Ms. WILSON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it's now been 870 days since I arrived in Congress, and the Republican leadership has still not allowed a single vote on serious legislation to address our unemployment crisis.

Mr. Speaker, this is not an exaggeration to say that unemployment is a matter of life and death. In a new study, researchers at Oxford and Stanford found that approximately 4,750 suicides in the United States between 2007 and 2010 were attributed to unemployment.

Now here in America, the sequester is slated to cut billions in nutrition subsidies, medical research, cancer clinics, low-income heating, and other lifesaving services. If we continue to cut jobs because of the sequester, Mr. Speaker, the facts are clear: the sequester kills.

Mr. Speaker, it's time to bring H.R. 900, the Cancel the Sequester Act, to the floor for a vote. It is time to turn our attention back to jobs with the President's American Jobs Act.

Our mantra, Mr. Speaker, should be: job, jobs, jobs.

AMERICAN ENERGY PRODUCTION

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

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, our economy continues to struggle, with nearly 12 million of our fellow Americans remaining out of work. Why, then, does the President still insist on standing in the way of creating new jobs by expanding America's energy sector by using all of our valuable resources—water, wind, solar, gas, and oil?

More American energy production would create jobs and grow our economy, in addition to lowering energy costs for hardworking Americans and strengthening our national security. These are the kind of goals that all Americans, Republican and Democrat, should be able to get behind.

But this President is clearly not serious about creating new jobs. He still has refused to approve the Keystone pipeline which would create 20,000 new jobs in America right away. It's been over 1,700 days. We've waited long enough. It's time to build the pipeline. It's time to create jobs.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

MAY 21, 2013.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, The Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in clause 2(h) of rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 21, 2013 at 9:45 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 309.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk.

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.

IMPROVING JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR VETERANS ACT OF 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1412) to improve and increase the availability of on-job training and apprenticeship programs carried out by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1412

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 ''Improving Job Opportunities for Veterans Act of 2013''.

SEC. 2. AUTHORITY TO INCREASE AVAILABILITY OF PRIVATE SECTOR ON-JOB TRAINING PROGRAMS.

During the four-year period beginning on the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out section 3677(b)(1)(A) of title 38, United States Code, by substituting ''75 per centum'' for ''85 per centum''.

SEC. 3. ON-JOB TRAINING AT FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.

Beginning on the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall enter into agreements with the heads of other Federal departments and agencies to operate programs of training on the job under section 3677 of title 38, United States Code, to train eligible veterans or persons to perform skills necessary for employment by the department or agency operating the program.

SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF REDUCED PENSION FOR CERTAIN VETERANS COVERED BY MEDICAID PLANS FOR SERVICES FURNISHED BY NURSING FACILITIES.

Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking ''November 30, 2016'' and inserting ''December 31, 2016''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) and the gentleman from Maine (Mr. MICHAUD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

H.R. 1412, as amended, is another product of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs' work to improve the effectiveness of GI Bill benefits for veterans.

I want to express my appreciation to the Subcommittee Chairman BILL FLORES, Ranking Member MARK TAKANO, and our new full committee Ranking Member MIKE MICHAUD for working with us to bring this amended bill to the full House.

In general, H.R. 1412, as amended, responds to concerns about how to ensure that veterans make the best use of their hard-earned GI Bill benefits. Specifically, H.R. 1412 improves the GI Bill's on-the-job training option that offers veterans the opportunity to gain work experience and at the same time offers employers a lower cost while the veteran undergoes their training.

The bill, as amended, has two major sections. Section 2 would reduce the final required training salary of a veteran engaged with an employer's on-the-job training apprenticeship program from the current 85 percent of the fully trained wage for the job to 75 percent. This new requirement would be put in place for a period of 4 years, following the effective date of this section. The temporary decrease in the wage requirement will provide more employers the flexibility to offer OJT programs when they otherwise would not have been able to do so.

Section 3 would direct the Department of Veterans Affairs to conclude agreements with other Federal agencies to have them further participate in the OJT program. If we're going to ask private employers to offer more opportunities to our veterans, the Federal Government ought to lead by example.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is another step in reducing the unemployment rate among our veterans and is fully paid for. I greatly appreciate the bipartisan manner in which our colleagues have worked to reach an accord on the final provisions of this bill, and I encourage all Members to support the bill.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First of all, I want to thank the chairman of the full committee for all his hard work and for working in a bipartisan manner not only on this piece of legislation but all of the bills that we've been dealing with in the committee this Congress.

I rise today in support of H.R. 1412, as amended, the Improving Job Opportunities for Veterans Act of 2013. I want to thank Mr. COFFMAN for introducing this legislation. I also want to thank committee Chairman MILLER and subcommittee Chairman Mr. FLORES and Ranking Member TAKANO for their leadership in assisting and bringing this bill before us today.

In these challenging employment markets, we need to use all available means to assist our veterans in obtaining the training that they need to find a good paying job. H.R. 1412 assists veterans by improving and increasing the VA's on-the-job training and apprenticeship programs.

In these programs, a veteran employee's salary is paid in part by the employer and in part by the VA, with not less than 50 percent being paid by the program. As a veteran completes the apprenticeship and becomes a fully qualified employee, the employer pays an increasing percentage of the salary, eventually assuming all of it.

H.R. 1412 reduces slightly the percentage of the salary the employer pays near the end of the training program. This eases the burden on the employers and is an incentive to employers to increase the number of veterans in the program. The Veterans' Affairs Committee will be closely monitoring this program to ensure that more veterans are being offered training opportunities as a result.

□ 1240

Mr. Speaker, we know that on-the-job training and apprenticeship is a highly efficient and cost-effective means of connecting veterans with meaningful, long-term employment. This is good for both veterans and employers. H.R. 1412 enhances the opportunities for both, making it easier for companies to employ veterans and for veterans to find new jobs and careers.

Unfortunately, however, too few employers know about this program and how to connect to it. As we pass this legislation, I encourage the VA to do more to inform employers and veterans about the benefits of this program.

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

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, at this time I'm pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. COFFMAN), the author of the bill and a stalwart supporter of America's veterans.

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman MILLER and Ranking Member MICHAUD for their leadership on the committee. Their efforts to advance this important bill will help veterans who are returning from Iraq and Afghanistan find jobs.

As a member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs and as a Marine Corps combat veteran myself, it is important to me and to our country that we take care of those who have served this Nation after they come home from war.

Our veterans have great skills when it comes to working as a member of a team and getting the job done; but, unfortunately, in many instances, their technical skills aren't readily transferable to civilian occupations. The Bureau of Labor Statistics stated that the unemployment rate for Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans between the ages of 20 and 24 was 19 percent in April. This is why I am happy to have my legislation, H.R. 1412, the Improving Job Opportunities for Veterans Act of 2013, on the floor today for a vote.

This legislation seeks to increase the availability of on-the-job training and apprenticeship programs to help veterans make the transition into the civilian workforce. This legislation will build on an existing, yet little known and underutilized, on-the-job training program that allows veterans to use their educational benefits they earned through their military service to learn a trade or skill by participating in an approved apprenticeship or on-the-job training program.

There are two pillars of this legislation. The first is it will decrease the final percentage of the veteran's salary paid by the employer from 85 to 75 percent as a means to further incentivize employers to participate. Secondly, the legislation will expand this training program by requiring the VA to enter into agreements with other Federal agencies to expand on-the-job training opportunities throughout the Federal Government.

This legislation will be a great tool for both private sector and Federal employers to hire our veterans who are struggling to make that transition from the military to the civilian workforce. Employers in Colorado have already explained to me how beneficial this legislation can be for their operations because they know that hiring veterans is a proven bonus. They know that veterans are hardworking, team-oriented, and quick learners who are capable of gaining highly technical skills that are prevalent in many industries today.

For example, the CEO of Tri-State Generation in Colorado, based in my

home district, told me that the Improving Job Opportunities for Veterans Act will add to his company's existing outreach to our veterans. Currently, they employ 150 veterans. Now they will do even more. I applaud their efforts and of other companies who want to hire vets.

I hope this bill helps employers connect to the great pool of talent of those returning from military service.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO).

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maine for yielding.

I rise today to support the increased job opportunities embodied in H.R. 1412 and the changes it makes to the on-the-job training and apprenticeship programs at the Department of Veterans Affairs. I want to thank the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. COFFMAN) for introducing this bill and the Veterans' Affairs Committee leadership, Chairman MILLER, Ranking Member MICHAUD, and subcommittee Chairman FLORES for moving this bill through committee.

This legislation will expand access for veterans to on-the-job training and apprenticeships, and assist employers in hiring veterans who have shown time and again that their real-world experience, leadership, and countless other skills are great resources for American companies. By reducing the percentage of salary paid to a veteran participating in one of these programs, this bill would make it more attractive for companies to hire veterans doing on-the-job training and apprenticeships.

It is our hope that these opportunities will help bridge the employment gaps veterans are currently experiencing. Unfortunately, it is also clear from our subcommittee work that the Department of Veterans Affairs could be doing a better job advertising this great benefit. The more veterans and employers know about these benefits, the more opportunities veterans can have in the job market.

I am proud to support this legislation and urge my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to support it as well.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of the bipartisan spirit of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, we have no more speakers at this time, and so if Mr. MICHAUD is ready to close, we are prepared to close.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I, too, have no further Members who wish to speak, but I do want to, in closing, emphasize that veterans are an asset to any organization, whether it is in the private or public sector. They make the organization better, and they improve the bottom line. This bill is very timely and is very important for our veterans.

I also want to thank, once again, Mr. TAKANO for his leadership on this issue. In his life before he became a Member of Congress, he was in the community college system, and he knows about training and how important apprenticeship programs are. So I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, once again I encourage all Members to support H.R. 1412, as amended.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of H.R. 1412, The Improving Job Opportunities for Veterans Act.

This bipartisan bill helps our Nation's veterans get the training they need to build a stronger future.

It improves and increases the awareness and availability of on-the-job training and apprenticeship programs.

After all they have sacrificed for our country, we should do our part to ensure veterans have good training and good job opportunities.

I thank my colleagues from both sides of the aisle—Mr. COFFMAN and Mr. TAKANO—for introducing this bill.

Helping our veterans isn't a partisan issue—it's a national responsibility.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1412, as amended.

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. MILLER of Florida. Mr. 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, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

AMERICAN HEROES COLA ACT

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 570) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for annual cost-of-living adjustments to be made automatically by law each year in the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 570

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 ''American Heroes COLA Act''.

SEC. 2. AUTOMATIC ANNUAL INCREASE IN RATES OF DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.

(a) INDEXING TO SOCIAL SECURITY INCREASES.—Section 5312 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(d)(1) Whenever there is an increase in benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) as a result of a determination made under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)), the Secretary shall, effective on the date of such increase in benefit amounts, increase the dollar amounts in effect for the payment of disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation by the Secretary, as specified in paragraph (2), as such amounts were in effect immediately before the date of such increase in benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act, by the same percentage as the percentage by which such benefit amounts are increased, but only if such percentage increase is calculated using the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers.

''(2) The dollar amounts to be increased pursuant to paragraph (1) are the following:

''(A) WARTIME DISABILITY COMPENSATION.—Each of the dollar amounts in effect under section 1114 of this title.

''(B) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDENTS.—Each of the dollar amounts in effect under section 1115(1) of this title.

''(C) CLOTHING ALLOWANCE.—The dollar amount in effect under section 1162 of this title.

''(D) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO SURVIVING SPOUSE.—Each of the dollar amounts in effect under subsections (a) through (d) of section 1311 of such title.

''(E) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO CHILDREN.—Each of the dollar amounts in effect under sections 1313(a) and 1314 of such title.

''(3) Whenever there is an increase under paragraph (1) in amounts in effect for the payment of disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation, the Secretary shall publish such amounts, as increased pursuant to such paragraph, in the Federal Register at the same time as the material required by section 215(i)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)(2)(D)) is published by reason of a determination under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)).

''(4) During the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this subsection and ending on September 30, 2018, each dollar amount increased under paragraph (1), if not a whole dollar amount, shall be rounded to the next lower whole dollar amount.

''(5) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may adjust administratively, consistent with the increases made under subsection (a), the rates of disability compensation payable to persons under section 10 of Public Law 85–857 (72 Stat. 1263) who have not received compensation under chapter 11 of this title.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (d) of section 5312 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a) of this section, shall take effect on December 1, 2014.

SEC. 3. INCREASE IN RATE OF SPECIAL MONTHLY COMPENSATION FOR SEVERELY INJURED VETERANS.

(a) INCREASE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1114(r) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''$2,002'' and inserting ''$3,163''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''$2,983'' and inserting ''$4,713''.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by paragraph (1) shall take effect on December 1, 2014.

(b) TEMPORARY RATES.—During the period beginning on December 1, 2014, and ending on September 30, 2018, section 1114(r) of title 38, United States Code, as amended by subsection (a), shall be applied—

(1) in paragraph (1), by substituting ''$2,742'' for ''$3,163''; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by substituting ''$4085'' for ''$4,713''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) and the gentleman from Maine (Mr. MICHAUD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

□ 1250

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and add any extraneous material that they may have on H.R. 570, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

The author of the underlying bill, Mr. RUNYAN of New Jersey, has put forward a bipartisan proposal to make permanent the veterans cost-of-living adjustment. Currently, Congress must adopt annual COLA bills to ensure that payments to disabled veterans and survivors do not erode due to inflation.

Mr. RUNYAN's bill, which my amendment incorporates, would make this annual, and sometimes dangerously delayed, practice a thing of the past. A coalition of veterans groups expressed strong concern with some other elements of the underlying bill, which my amendment now seeks to address.

First, the concern was expressed that the bill would permanently extend the 20-year practice of rounding veterans COLA increases down to the next lower whole dollar. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that extending the round-down authority saves, relative to the baseline, over $1.3 billion over a 10-year period.

The veterans coalition was concerned about the cumulative effect that the permanent round-down would have, as well as the moral principle associated with logging savings on the backs of our disabled veterans.

To meet that concern, I worked with our ranking member to, first, sunset the round-down authority after 5 years, and second, we agreed with the committee's markup to find a way to reinvest savings associated with the round-down by improving benefits for other disabled veterans.

I am pleased to announce that my amendment contains such an improvement that it is now enthusiastically supported by the veterans groups.

Our bipartisan work would significantly increase the special monthly compensation payments made to our most severely disabled veterans by 30 percent through the year 2018, then 50 percent thereafter. This is a payment that goes to support catastrophically disabled veterans who are in need of aid and attendance. These are veterans who are missing limbs, totally blind, deaf, or who are so disabled that they require the need of special care in the home, all as a result of their military service.

Clearly, it's our duty to ensure that these most deserving service-disabled veterans are well-cared for, and my amendment to H.R. 570 will be a significant step in that direction.

And finally, the service organizations were concerned about the potential application of the so-called chained CPI at some point in the future that could potentially affect veterans COLAs. To allay that concern, my amendment specifies that the permanent veterans COLA only would be continued to the extent that the current inflationary index that is used now, the CPI for urban wage earners and clerical workers, continues in force.

I'm very pleased to say that, with the changes in my amendment, we now have a bill that can be supported by the veterans it is intended to benefit.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 570, as amended, the American Heroes COLA Act.

I wish to thank Mr. RUNYAN, the sponsor of H.R. 570, and the chairman of the Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee, as well as Ms. TITUS, our subcommittee ranking member, for their hard work on this measure.

I'd also like to thank Chairman MILLER for working closely with me, and with the veterans groups, to make the key improvements in this particular bill.

H.R. 570 would permanently index the annual veterans cost-of-living adjustment, or COLA, to the increase provided to Social Security beneficiaries, but only if the Social Security COLA continues to be determined using the current methodologies.

This guards against automatically passing on any decrease to veterans that result from any future actions to implement a chained CPI regime.

Second, H.R. 570 extends a COLA round-down provision set to expire this year for 5 years, instead of making it permanent. This round-down provision was implemented many years ago as a means of budget savings, and many veterans groups voiced opposition to making such a decrease permanent.

Third, the savings generated from the round-down extension will be reinvested in veterans programs, namely, increasing the monthly amount provided to some of our veterans most in need of assistance and care.

H.R. 570 would increase the amount of what is called a ''special monthly compensation'' paid to catastrophically disabled veterans in need of aid and attendance. This monthly amount would be increased from $2,002 to $3,163, and for those most in need of care from $2,983 to $4,713. These final payments would be phased in to comply with PAYGO requirements.

H.R. 570, as amended, is a good bill, and I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

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

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, at this time I'm happy to yield such time as he might consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. RUNYAN), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.

Mr. RUNYAN. Chairman MILLER, thank you and Ranking Member Mr. MICHAUD for bringing this bill to the floor.

H.R. 570 is the American Heroes COLA Act. This bill, which I introduced at the beginning of the 113th Congress, seeks to make permanent the annual increase to veterans disability compensation rates and other benefits by tying these increases to the cost-of-living adjustments for Social Security benefits.

With the passage of this act, veterans will no longer again have to depend on congressional action to receive an increase to the cost-of-living adjustment they have more than earned through their service. Instead, these increases will become automatic from year to year.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, I am honored again to sponsor this legislation. I'm proud to have our subcommittee ranking member, Ms. TITUS, as the lead cosponsor of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I also support the amendment offered by Chairman MILLER of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs to use the savings generated by H.R. 570 to increase the rate of special monthly compensation paid to our most tragically wounded veterans, and I encourage all Members to support H.R. 570.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, at this time I'd like to yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS).

Ms. TITUS. Thank you, Ranking Member MICHAUD, for yielding and for your work and leadership on this critical issue that affects our Nation's heroes.

I support the American Heroes COLA Act, H.R. 570, which I introduced, along with my colleague and subcommittee chairman, JOHN RUNYAN. This is important legislation that will protect our disabled veterans and their families' financial security.

Unlike with Social Security COLA increases, which are calculated automatically, Congress must act each year to provide veterans with their COLA increases they need and deserve. Our Nation's heroes should receive their full compensation payment each year as well in a timely fashion, removed from the occasional logjam here on Capitol Hill. Their livelihood should not be held hostage by political forces.

Nevada's veterans have struggled during this tough economic climate. Their rates of unemployment and homelessness are disproportionately

high, and as the cost of living has increased, so have their problems. And I know this is true of veterans around the country.

By permanently adjusting benefits to include automatic cost-of-living increases we are providing critical peace of mind to those who have bravely served our country. They will have the knowledge of knowing that assistance will be there.

Chairman RUNYAN and I have worked closely to improve this legislation since we first introduced the bill in February, and I fully support the amended version we are considering today. Changes concerning the roundown practice and the chained CPI are changes that will strengthen the bill.

I appreciate also the input we received from a number of veterans service organizations and believe that this improved version of the legislation clearly addresses their concerns.

In effect, H.R. 570 will direct the VA to increase rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities, as well as the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of veterans with specific service-connected claims.

The bill will protect veterans benefits from deteriorating over time as the costs of housing, medicine, food and clothing and utilities all increase.

□ 1300

I want to echo Ranking Member MICHAUD's sentiments regarding the importance of having these adjustments occur annually, regularly, and dependably. It's essential that Congress provide for the needs of our heroes, the brave men and women who answered the call to serve in our armed services, and for their families as well.

I thank Chairman MILLER and Chairman RUNYAN for their work on this important issue, and I urge my colleagues to support the American Heroes COLA Act.

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

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. O'ROURKE).

Mr. O'ROURKE. I would also like to thank the chair of the subcommittee and the ranking member for sponsoring this legislation and the chairman and ranking member of the full committee for bringing it forward. I'm pleased to be a cosponsor of the American Heroes COLA Act.

Yesterday, I had the opportunity to visit Arlington National Cemetery with other Members of Congress and had the opportunity to place a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. This incredibly moving and grounding experience reminded me of the ultimate sacrifice given by so many of our veterans.

For those who return from service wounded or develop disabilities as they age, veterans benefits are what allow them and their families to live in some level of comfort. These modest benefits are often the difference between paying the mortgage and putting food on the table or going without. The legislation before us offers veterans security and guarantees that cost-of-living adjustments will happen automatically and not depend on yearly congressional approval.

In addition, H.R. 570 will substantially increase benefits for the most severely disabled veterans receiving special monthly compensation. The bill also protects veterans from benefits cuts should a chained CPI be adopted for Social Security. While I oppose adoption of the chained CPI for Social Security, I think it is important we act now to take the issue off the table for veterans benefits.

I represent thousands of El Paso veterans who have served our country and rely on VA benefits to make ends meet. They deserve the security of knowing those benefits will be adjusted when their cost of living rises.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, we have no further requests for time. We're prepared to close, if the ranking member is as well.

Mr. MICHAUD. In closing, Mr. Speaker, H.R. 570, as amended, is a solid piece of legislation that the veterans service organizations support, that the committee supports, and I would urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I once again urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 570, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of H.R. 570, the American Heroes Cola Act.

I am proud to cosponsor this bipartisan bill because it helps our Nation's veterans.

More specifically, it helps veterans with service-related disabilities.

H.R. 570 would make their annual cost-of-living adjustments automatic for their disability compensation.

Making this process automatic would finally allow veterans to count on their cost of living adjustment every year instead of waiting around on Congress.

I thank my colleagues from both sides of the aisle—Mr. RUNYON and Ms. TITUS—for introducing this bill.

Helping our veterans isn't a partisan issue—it's a national responsibility.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 570, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title was amended so as to read: ''A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for annual cost-of-living adjustments to be made automatically by law each year in the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans, and for other purposes.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AWARDING CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO FIRST SPECIAL SERVICE FORCE

Mr. COTTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 324) to grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the First Special Service Force, in recognition of its superior service during World War II, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 324

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

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The First Special Service Force (the ''Force''), a military unit composed of volunteers from the United States and Canada, was activated in July 1942 at Fort Harrison near Helena, Montana.

(2) The Force was initially intended to target military and industrial installations that were supporting the German war effort, including important hydroelectric plants, which would severely limit the production of strategic materials used by the Axis powers.

(3) From July 1942 through June 1943, volunteers of the Force trained in hazardous, arctic conditions in the mountains of western Montana, and in the waterways of Camp Bradford, Virginia.

(4) The combat echelon of the Force totaled 1,800 soldiers, half from the United States and half from Canada.

(5) The Force also contained a service battalion, composed of 800 members from the United States, that provided important support for the combat troops.

(6) A special bond developed between the Canadian and United States soldiers, who were not segregated by country, although the commander of the Force was a United States colonel.

(7) The Force was the only unit formed during World War II that consisted of troops from Canada and the United States.

(8) In October 1943, the Force went to Italy, where it fought in battles south of Cassino, including Monte La Difensa and Monte Majo, two mountain peaks that were a critical anchor of the German defense line.

(9) During the night of December 3, 1943, the Force ascended to the top of the precipitous face of Monte La Difensa, where the Force suffered heavy casualties and overcame fierce resistance to overtake the German line.

(10) After the battle for La Difensa, the Force continued to fight tough battles at high altitudes, in rugged terrain, and in severe weather.

(11) After battles on the strongly defended Italian peaks of Sammucro, Vischiataro, and Remetanea, the size of the Force had been reduced from 1,800 soldiers to fewer than 500.

(12) For 4 months in 1944, the Force engaged in raids and aggressive patrols at the Anzio Beachhead.

(13) On June 4, 1944, members of the Force were among the first Allied troops to liberate Rome.

(14) After liberating Rome, the Force moved to southern Italy and prepared to assist in the liberation of France.

(15) During the early morning of August 15, 1944, members of the Force made silent landings on Les Iles D'Hyeres, small islands in the Mediterranean Sea along the southern coast of France.

(16) The Force faced a sustained and withering assault from the German garrisons as the Force progressed from the islands to the Franco-Italian border.

(17) After the Allied forces secured the Franco-Italian border, the United States Army ordered the disbandment of the Force on December 5, 1944, in Nice, France.

(18) During 251 days of combat, the Force suffered 2,314 casualties, or 134 percent of its authorized strength, captured thousands of prisoners, won 5 United States campaign stars and 8 Canadian battle honors, and never failed a mission.

(19) The United States is forever indebted to the acts of bravery and selflessness of the troops of the Force, who risked their lives for the cause of freedom.

(20) The efforts of the Force along the seas and skies of Europe were critical in repelling the advance of Nazi Germany and liberating numerous communities in France and Italy.

(21) The bond between the members of the Force from the United States and those from Canada has endured over the decades, as the members meet every year for a reunion, alternating between the United States and Canada.

(22) The traditions and honors exhibited by the Force are carried on by 2 outstanding active units of 2 great democracies, the Special Forces of the United States and the Canadian Special Operations Regiment.

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the award, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold medal of appropriate design to the First Special Service Force, collectively, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (in this Act referred to as the ''Secretary'') shall strike the gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

(c) AWARD OF MEDAL.—Following the award of the gold medal in honor of the First Special Service Force under subsection (a), the medal shall be given to the First Special Service Force Association in Helena, Montana, where it shall be available for display or temporary loan to be displayed elsewhere, particularly at other appropriate locations associated with the First Special Service Force, including Fort William Henry Harrison in Helena, Montana.

SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under section 2, at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the medal, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses, and amounts received from the sale of such duplicates shall be deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

SEC. 4. NATIONAL MEDALS.

Medals struck pursuant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DAVID SCOTT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COTTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous materials for the RECORD on H.R. 324, as amended, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today to seek swift approval of H.R. 324, a bill to grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the First Special Service Force in recognition of its superior service during World War II. The bill, introduced by my colleague from Florida (Mr. MILLER), has 324 cosponsors, befitting the storied history of this unit.

Mr. Speaker, the bravery and valor of the Army Special Forces, more commonly known as the Green Berets, are well known to most Americans. But many don't realize that this unit was born out of the First Special Service Force and the courageous soldiers that fought with it during World War II. The award of the Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of their heroic service will help ensure that this unit attains the historical recognition it deserves.

Formed in 1942 to take on the hardest jobs in the most adverse conditions, the First Special Service Force was composed of American and Canadian soldiers. The unit fought bravely in the Italian Apennine Mountains against elite German units—the 104th Panzer Grenadiers and the Hermann Goering Paratroops—who were defending Hitler's Gustav Line south of Rome. They defeated German forces at Monte La Difensa after fighting south of the center of the line at Monte Cassino and participated in the successful assault of Monte La Remetanea and several nearby mountains. Sadly, of the 1,800 of the First Special Service Forces fighting soldiers and their 800 support troops, there were 2,300 casualties suffered in the 250 combat days before the unit was disbanded in December of 1944.

Mr. Speaker, the men of the Special Forces fought with their faces blackened by their own boot polish. They were so feared that the Nazi defenders called them the Black Devils and the unit took that name as its own, calling itself the Devil's Brigade. Proud of their strength and bravery, Special Forces soldiers left cards with their patch insignia and the phrase ''The Worst is Yet to Come'' on corpses in enemy territory.

Following World War II, a permanent elite unit was formed based on the experiences of the Special Forces and OSS operatives during the war. Today, that unit has evolved into the Army's Green Berets and a similar unit in Canada, the Special Operations Regiment.

Today, we hear stories of brave men and women in uniform defending freedom around the world. I've seen some of this awe-inspiring bravery firsthand in both Iraq and Afghanistan as a soldier myself. But as we hail our soldiers of today, let us remember the heroism and bravery of the Greatest Generation during World War II. This legislation authorizes the striking and award of a single gold medal that will go to the First Special Service Force Association in Helena, Montana, the original training site of the First Special Force, and the sale of bronze duplicates of that medal.

I ask for immediate passage of this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

COMMITTEE ON
HOUSE ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, DC, May 20, 2013.

Hon. JEB HENSARLING,
Chairman, Committee on Financial Services, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HENSARLING: I write to you concerning the jurisdictional interest of the Committee on House Administration in H.R. 324, to grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the First Special Service Force in recognition of its superior service during World War II. The bill, as introduced in the House on January 18, 2013, contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on House Administration.

I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring this legislation before the House in an expeditious manner, and accordingly, I will waive Committee consideration of provisions that fall within the Committee's jurisdiction. However, agreeing to waive jurisdiction over these amendments should not be construed as waiving, reducing, or affecting the jurisdiction of the Committee on House Administration.

Additionally, the Committee on House Administration expressly reserves its authority to seek conferees on any provision within its jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference that may be convened on this, or any similar legislation. I ask for your commitment to support any request by the Committee for conferees on H.R. 324 for provisions within the Committee's jurisdiction.

I ask that a copy of this letter and your response be placed in the Congressional Record during any floor consideration of H.R. 324.

I look forward to working with you on matters of mutual concern.

Sincerely,

CANDICE S. MILLER,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,
Washington, DC, May 21, 2013.

Hon. CANDICE S. MILLER,
Chairman, Committee on House Administration, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you for your May 20 letter regarding H.R. 324, a bill to grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the First Special Service Force, in recognition of its superior service during World War II.

I am most appreciative of your decision to forego consideration of H.R. 324 so that it may move expeditiously to the House floor. I acknowledge that although you are waiving formal consideration of the bill, the Committee on House Administration is in no way waiving its jurisdiction over any subject

matter contained in the bill that falls within its jurisdiction. In addition, if a conference is necessary on this legislation, I will support any request that your committee be represented therein.

Finally, I shall be pleased to include your letter and this letter in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 324.

Sincerely,

JEB HENSARLING,
Chairman.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. I rise today to give great support for H.R. 324.

Let me say, Mr. Speaker, at the outset that the Congressional Gold Medal is our highest honor; and there is no greater recipient that we can give this honor to than the First Special Service Forces, known as the Devil's Brigade. They were courageous. They risked their lives. As a matter of fact, they were the unit that led the liberation of France and Italy from the Nazis with daring, with courage, with skill. So it is very important for us to stand here today and to give great recognition to this unit.

There is a special bond between Canada and the United States, and that special bond started in World War II. For it was the first unit—and the only unit—where two nations, Canada and the United States, formed a force that accomplished what many felt was impossible.

□ 1310

You know, the Lord Jesus Christ said that there is no greater love—no greater love—that you can show than one who would give his life for another.

What a great honor this is, Mr. Speaker. I am just proud to join with my colleague, Mr. MILLER from Florida—my good friend—and Mr. COTTON from Arkansas to give this recognition, this high nobility of purpose to the first unit.

Today, Mr. Speaker, we are proud to have our Navy SEALs, our Green Berets, our Special Ops, those special soldiers who go where many times few others would go. But the foundation of that was the Devil's Brigade.

I can just imagine that Nazi soldier who wrote that note, scared out of his wits when he called them the ''Black Devils,'' when they would go and put shoe polish on their faces so that they could be expertly disguised to go in and to help to liberate Europe from Nazi Germany.

So it is with great pleasure that I stand here to join my colleagues in urging unanimous passage of this extraordinary legislation to honor this extraordinary group of soldiers.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COTTON. I appreciate that reference to John 15:13, ''Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friend.'' Certainly, many members of the Devil's Brigade did that, as they do today in our Special Forces.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER), the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I also thank my friend, Mr. SCOTT, for his kind words. I also want to thank Chairman HENSARLING and Ranking Member WATERS and Subcommittee Chairman CAMPBELL, with his Ranking Member CLAY, all the members of the Financial Services Committee and the House leadership for their support in bringing to the floor here today H.R. 324. It is a bill that grants the Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the First Special Service Force.

I also want to thank the members of the First Special Service Force Association, specifically Mr. Bill Woon for his advocacy, and for the association's efforts in continuing to spread the inspirational story of a truly heroic group of American and Canadian servicemen.

I would be remiss not to thank Congressman AL GREEN of Texas and Congresswoman DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ of Florida for encouraging support from their caucus members for this broad bipartisan piece of legislation, and the 324 Members of this body who have cosponsored the bill.

I join my colleagues today in support of a bill that bestows upon the First Special Service Force the Congressional Gold Medal. It's Congress' highest expression of national appreciation for distinguished achievement and contributions for their superior service during World War II.

The First Special Service Force was a covert World War II military unit born through the efforts of President Franklin Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston Churchill. The Force conducted ultrahigh-risk military missions in Italy and in France. Once sent into action, the First Special Service Force never failed a combat mission.

The First Special Service Force achieved remarkable success in battle and contributed prominently in the liberation of Italy and France. Most notably, the Force conducted battles south of Cassino, including Monte La Difensa and Monte Majo, two mountain peaks critical to the German defensive line.

During the night of December 3, 1943, the Force ascended to the top of the precipitous face of Monte La Difensa, where the Force suffered heavy casualties and overcame fierce resistance to overtake the German line.

The First Special Service Force lost a total of 2,314 men, which was 134 percent of the original combat force. These heroic servicemen represent the breadth of intrepidity and courage, and they have earned our country's deepest gratitude and highest praise.

Though many of the brave troops of the First Special Service Force have been lost to us, this gold medal is an important step in immortalizing their service and honoring the forefathers of today's Special Forces.

With just 6 days remaining until Memorial Day, I cannot think of a more appropriate way to honor the heroism and sacrifice of the warriors of the First Special Service Force, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

To all of the men and women who have guarded our great Nation in the name of protecting and defending liberty that we hold so dear, we say thank you. And to all of those who have given the ultimate sacrifice, may you forever remain in our hearts and in our prayers.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I'll just take this opportunity to join all of us in the Congress of the United States to salute the First Special Service Force for the outstanding work that they have done.

I urge unanimous passage on this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COTTON. I yield myself the balance of my time.

I join my colleagues, the gentleman from Georgia and the gentleman from Florida, in urging unanimous passage of this very important legislation the week before Memorial Day to honor the Devil's Brigade.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 324, as amended.

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. COTTON. Mr. 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, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

HELPING HEROES FLY ACT

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1344) to amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to provide expedited air passenger screening to severely injured or disabled members of the Armed Forces and severely injured or disabled veterans, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1344

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 ''Helping Heroes Fly Act''.

SEC. 2. OPERATIONS CENTER PROGRAM FOR SEVERELY INJURED OR DISABLED MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND SEVERELY INJURED OR DISABLED VETERANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 449 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"§ 44927. Expedited screening for severely injured or disabled members of the Armed Forces and severely injured or disabled veterans

''(a) PASSENGER SCREENING.—The Assistant Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and organizations that advocate on behalf of members of the Armed Forces and veterans, including organizations that advocate on behalf of severely injured or disabled members of the Armed Forces and severely injured or disabled veterans, shall develop and implement a process to facilitate the ease of travel and to the extent possible provide expedited passenger screening services for severely injured or disabled members of the Armed Forces, severely injured or disabled veterans, and their accompanying family members or nonmedical attendants. Such process shall be designed to protect the privacy of the individual being screened to the maximum extent practicable.

''(b) OPERATIONS CENTER.—As part of the process required under subsection (a), the Assistant Secretary shall maintain an operations center to provide support and facilitate the movement of severely injured or disabled members of the Armed Forces and severely injured or disabled veterans through screening prior to boarding a passenger aircraft operated by an air carrier or foreign air carrier in air transportation or intrastate air transportation. Such operations center shall be operational at all times.

''(c) PROTOCOLS.—The Assistant Secretary shall—

''(1) establish and publish protocols, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and organizations that advocate on behalf of members of the Armed Forces and veterans, including organizations that advocate on behalf of severely injured or disabled members of the Armed Forces and severely injured or disabled veterans, under which a severely injured or disabled member of the Armed Forces or severely injured or disabled veteran, or the family member or other representative of such a member or veteran, may contact the operations center maintained under subsection (b) and request expedited screening services described in subsection (a) for the member or veteran; and

''(2) upon receipt of such a request, require such operations center to notify the appropriate Federal security director of the request to facilitate the expedited passenger screening services described in subsection (a) for the member or veteran.

''(d) TRAINING.—The Assistant Secretary shall integrate training on the protocols established under subsection (c) into the training provided to all employees who will provide the screening services described in subsection (a).

''(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section affects the authority of the Assistant Secretary to require additional screening of a severely injured or disabled member of the Armed Forces, a severely injured or disabled veteran, or their accompanying family members or nonmedical attendants, if intelligence, law enforcement, or other information indicates that additional screening is necessary.

''(f) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this section, and annually thereafter, the Assistant Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the implementation of this section. Each such report shall include each of the following:

''(1) Information on the training provided under subsection (d).

''(2) Information on the consultations between the Assistant Secretary and organizations that advocate on behalf of members of the Armed Forces and veterans as described in subsection (a).

''(3) The number of people who accessed the operations center during the period covered by the report.

''(4) Such other information as the Assistant Secretary determines is appropriate.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 44926 the following new item:

''44927. Expedited screening for severely injured or disabled members of the Armed Forces and severely injured or disabled veterans.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) and the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. GABBARD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Indiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As a member of the Committee on Homeland Security's Transportation Security Subcommittee, I am proud to be a cosponsor of this commonsense piece of legislation that will increase accessibility and privacy for our wounded warriors at airport checkpoints.

□ 1320

This legislation directs TSA to develop and implement a process to facilitate the ease of travel and, to the extent possible, provide expedited screening through our Nation's airports for severely injured or disabled members of our Armed Forces and veterans. The last thing our heroes need is to face unnecessary scrutiny or hassle, or be forced to answer endless questions about their conditions, when all they want to do is board a plane to fly home to their loved ones or maybe to a job interview.

This bill would ensure that our wounded warriors—those dedicated men and women who have been severely injured while fighting to protect our Nation—are treated with the highest dignity and respect when traveling through our Nation's airports.

I was pleased to find out that shortly after Administrator Pistole testified before the Transportation Security Subcommittee on TSA's efforts to advance risk-based security, TSA began to offer expedited screening services to severely injured members of the Armed Forces and veterans, provided they contact the TSA in advance of traveling. While I support TSA's newly adopted protocols, I feel this bill is necessary because it codifies current TSA policy and ensures that it will remain intact during future administrations.

Mr. Speaker, this bill not only benefits severely injured and disabled members of the United States Armed Forces, veterans, and their accompanying families, but it also supports the TSA administrator's intent to develop a more risk-based method of screening for all passengers.

Expedited travel for our military heroes is an important step toward reasonable transportation security reforms that will allow us to focus precious taxpayer dollars on the unknown travelers and the real threats.

As we look forward to this upcoming Memorial Day, let us honor the all-too-often painful sacrifices our wounded warriors have made for our Nation by adopting this important and commonsense piece of legislation.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of 1344, the Helping Heroes Fly Act, and yield myself such time as I may consume.

In response to documented grievances my fellow servicemembers made because of various challenges and trying experiences that they went through at airport checkpoints across the country, I introduced the Helping Heroes Fly Act to ensure that the Transportation Security Administration—working alongside veterans advocacy organizations—develop sensible screening policies that honor and respect the service and sacrifice of our Nation's injured and disabled heroes.

On March 27 of this year, just a few days after this legislation was introduced, the Transportation Security Administration made an announcement of some improvements that they have made in this area as they took steps to expedite airport screening for severely injured members of our Armed Forces. With these changes, individuals can presently request assistance ahead of time and move through security checkpoints without having to remove their shoes, light outerwear, jackets, or hats. Taking off a jacket—while maybe a simple inconvenience for you and I—can be a very physically challenging task for someone who, for example, has lost the use of an arm.

While this announcement was a good step, it didn't go nearly far enough, as there are still more improvements that need to be made. As I've spoken with wounded warriors and listened to their experiences, I've heard stories that have been varied and included things like having to take off a prosthetic leg, putting the leg through the X-ray machine, and then having to balance on one leg going through the full body scan without help from anyone.

This is unacceptable. Severely injured and disabled Active Duty and veterans both experience widely varied screening protocols among different

airports, and even among screeners in the same airport. This makes it very hard for a wounded warrior to anticipate and prepare what will be required of them, to make sure that they are ready physically and mentally. Again, this may not seem like much to us, but to someone—a trained and hardened warrior—learning to adjust to these severe injuries, it can sometimes be difficult and can be the difference between a smooth and dignified screening experience or one that is filled with frustration, shame, and pain for the injured servicemember and delays for all people waiting in that screening line.

Another issue that frequently has come up has been privacy. Veterans have shared with me their own experiences of having to take off prosthetics, despite TSA guidance that it's not necessary. And in the instances where extra screening of these prosthetics is necessary, it has been done in public view, even when clothing needs to be removed.

No one—no one—should be required to remove their shirt or pants in public, nor should scans of sensitive or private areas be viewed by other airline passengers. Again, this has been already a humiliating, shameful experience for some veterans when there's absolutely no requirement or necessity for it.

The Disabled American Veterans have spoken in strong support of this legislation stating:

> At some airports, our amputee members receive relaxed screening, while at others these screenings are horrific. Perhaps it is TSA's purpose to make screenings unpredictable. Some screenings have required these amputees to expose their prostheses when they lack the ability to reposition their clothing, and TSA agents are not allowed to help them, nor do they allow spouses or traveling companions to enter search areas to assist the amputees.

Our objective with this legislation is to ensure consistent treatment by screeners, greater attention to privacy concerns, and consulting with these advocacy organizations who speak for our wounded warriors to ensure they have a voice in the process.

This bill before us today, the Helping Heroes Fly Act, achieves these improvements by requiring TSA to take into account the privacy of the individual being screened. It also mandates training of screening officers on the expedited protocols to make sure that no matter where you travel, no matter what city you are in, you will have consistent screening procedures so you know what to expect. TSA is also required to consult with these advocacy organizations to make sure that as these changes are implemented, that the unique needs of our wounded warriors are implemented to the best of its ability.

To ensure these changes over the long term, this legislation requires regular reporting to Congress, as well as maintenance of the TSA's operations center that these wounded warriors and veterans can contact for assistance as they prepare to travel.

Mr. Speaker, as you well know, members of our U.S. Armed Forces are entrusted to protect the security of our country with their lives. By definition, these individuals pose very little risk to aviation security and should be consistently screened in a manner befitting and honoring their service and sacrifice.

I urge my colleagues to ensure our Nation's wounded warriors are treated respectfully, and urge them to vote ''yes'' in support of H.R. 1344.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS).

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. I appreciate you yielding on this. And I appreciate not only the gentlewoman from Indiana, but the gentlewoman from Hawaii for bringing this legislation.

I bring a little bit different perspective to this. As a chaplain in the military and working with our heroes who have been wounded and coming from bodies that were strong and healthy and vibrant to a situation in which now they're put in a position that they've never been in, in some ways a dependency, and counseling in those roles and seeing them having to go through this process, which is inconsistent and frankly unfair, I think this is the reason I strongly support this legislation.

But I also support it from a different perspective. Having a daughter who has been in a wheelchair since she was able to walk—as we call it, ''roll''—she's never known anything different. And so we've had to adjust over time, and she's adjusted in ways of going through screenings and going through processes like that.

But when you balance what our wounded warriors have done, heroes who came home who had healthy bodies and now have bodies that are not healthy, this is something that will provide them a measure of dignity—and it is an honor to stand here and support this legislation—because I believe that an inconsistency in this area is an inconsistency in what we believe as Americans in what those men and women have done for us.

We have to remember that in times of war now it is not like it used to be where these men and women would actually have died on the battlefield. Now they're coming home. They're coming home to lead productive lives, great lives, because of the sacrifices that they have made. It is time that we—and this legislation proves this—stand for them in the fairness that they deserve for what they have given to us.

I congratulate the gentlewoman from Hawaii and also the gentlewoman from Indiana for sponsoring this. I look forward to voting for it, and encourage my colleagues to do so.

□ 1330

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security of the Committee on Homeland Security, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I am so pleased to be able to come to the floor today as we approach the week that we memorialize those fallen heroes and as well, at the same time, acknowledge those who yet live who have served and who are wounded. Even today, as we stand on the floor in the backdrop of enormous tragedies among our civilian population in Oklahoma over the last couple of days and in Texas and elsewhere, this is a very important legislative initiative.

As the former ranking member and chair of the Subcommittee on Transportation Security and as a cosponsor, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1344, the Helping Heroes Fly Act of 2013.

I congratulate my new colleague for this outstanding legislation, Ms. GABBARD from Hawaii; and to the manager, thank you very much. It is important, and I am glad we are standing here together in a bipartisan manner.

I support this legislation because it eases and facilitates the expedited passenger screening at airports for servicemembers who are severely injured or disabled, along with their families. Of course, the thoughtfulness in introducing this legislation is appreciated because it is necessary legislation. I thank you for indicating that, even as the TSA, of which we have oversight, is formulating policies, it's good to codify it, to make it law, because these heroes deserve their law.

The Helping Heroes Fly Act requires the Transportation Security Administration to maintain an operations center to provide support and to facilitate the movement of these disabled servicemembers and veterans, and it requires the TSA to publish protocol so disabled servicemembers and veterans and their families will be able to contact the operations center and request expedited screening. The bill also requires that these protocols be integrated into the training of TSA agents.

Now, I know that there are many home ports, if you will, for our returning heroes. I happen to know that Texas has had a very large number of our men and women go to Iraq and Afghanistan and to places beyond. I've been to Hawaii and know the transition there of many who are on R&R, coming from places around the world, and I know that it is a place where many come home because it was their home, and, yes, they come home disabled, with prostheses and other wounds, that require their privacy. I am glad that this bill acknowledges, not only that they are heroes, but that they are desirous and deserving of the respect—why don't I say an admiration and commendation and respect again—of those who would expedite their going into a secured area.

Mr. Speaker, more than 2.2 million veterans—one in 10—have been disabled or seriously wounded in the service of our Nation; and disabled veterans typically find it much harder, by some estimates twice as hard, to readjust to civilian life. The least we can do for these heroes is to make it a little less burdensome and difficult to navigate the obstacles, barriers, and checkpoints that have been erected in the aftermath of 9/11 to enhance the security of air travel—and rightly so.

Most of these inconveniences are necessary but are no less burdensome to those who have suffered physical disabilities in defending the Nation from those who would make air travel dangerous and deadly. Let's give them respect for what they have done to secure the homeland and to make us safer. The legislation before us strikes an appropriate balance between these competing interests.

I have seen the operation of TSA and TSO officers and some of what they call these ''specialty officers.'' Allow me to thank you publicly for the work you have already done and for the sensitivity you've had.

I've seen these soldiers, these heroes, coming home at DCA and at Dulles. I've certainly seen them in the airports in Texas. I've seen them in their uniforms. I've seen them, as I said, disabled, and I've seen them with families. I saw one young man who was wandering in my airport. He was, obviously, in uniform, but had not a good day. I don't know what might have been impacting him, but we stopped, and I hailed an officer in uniform, a TSO officer, and said, You won't be alone now. We're going to find out where you need to go.

One of the factors of this particular legislative initiative that is good is that, wherever you land, sometimes it may not be your home airport—every airport is different—and I think they work themselves up to make sure that they make it exciting and confusing.

Thank you for the Helping Heroes Fly Act to help improve airport security screening processes for wounded and severely disabled servicemembers, but also thank you for giving them a helping hand. You are helping the veterans as well. This authorizes a Wounded Warrior Screening program and requires the TSA to maintain an operations center. These improvements will facilitate and expedite air travel for our disabled veterans and servicemembers. More importantly, they will help our Nation's heroes to be shown the respect, as I said earlier, and the appreciation of a Nation that is so grateful.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this legislation, and I urge all of my colleagues to join me in voting for the Helping Heroes Fly Act of 2013. I am glad to be back in the well again in this week of honoring our soldiers and those who have fallen, and I am delighted for the leadership of my colleague on the Homeland Security Committee and of the manager on this great bill, and I hope that we have a very strong vote.

Mr. Speaker, as a member and former chair of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Transportation Security, and a cosponsor, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1344, the "Helping Heroes Fly Act of 2013." I support this legislation because it eases and facilitates expedited passenger screening at airports for service members who are severely injured or disabled, along with their families. I thank my colleague, Congresswoman GABBARD of Hawaii, for introducing this thoughtful and necessary legislation.

The Helping Heroes Fly Act requires Transportation Security Administration to maintain an operations center to provide support and facilitate the movement of these disabled service members and veterans, and it requires TSA to publish protocols so disabled service members and veterans, and their families, will be able to contact the operations center and request expedited screening. The bill also requires that these protocols be integrated into the training of TSA agents.

Mr. Speaker, more than 2.2 million Veterans, one in ten, have been disabled or seriously wounded in the service of our nation. And disabled veterans typically find it much harder, by some estimates twice as hard, to readjust to civilian life. The least we can do for these heroes is to make it a little less burdensome and difficult to navigate the obstacles, barriers, and checkpoints that have been erected in the aftermath of 9/11 to enhance the security of air travel. Most of these inconveniences are necessary but no less burdensome to those who suffered physical disabilities defending the nation from those who would make air travel dangerous and deadly. The legislation before us strikes an appropriate balance between these competing interests.

The Helping Heroes Fly Act improves airport security screening processes for wounded and severely disabled service members and veterans; authorizes a Wounded Warrior Screening Program and requires TSA to maintain an Operations Center. These improvements will facilitate and expedite air travel for our disabled veterans and service members. More importantly, they help that our nation's heroes are shown the respect and appreciation of a grateful nation.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 1344, and urge all my colleagues to join me in voting for the Helping Heroes Fly Act of 2013.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 2 minutes to a distinguished gentleman who has also served his country admirably in the military and is someone who serves on the Homeland Security Committee with Congresswoman GABBARD and me, the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

Mr. PERRY. I would like to start out by thanking the gentleladies from Indiana and, of course, from Hawaii for this very significant and impactful legislation. It is particularly a privilege to speak in favor of this knowing that Ms. GABBARD is from Hawaii and, today, currently serves as a comrade in arms just like me.

The TSA started an expedited free screening program in 2011 called PreCheck, but just recently expanded the program to include Active Duty members of the military and most recently, just this March, to severely injured members of the military.

As a matter of fact, there is a Member of this House who was severely injured, and I served right along with her soldiers. I flew with those soldiers in Iraq myself. Many of these injured soldiers and servicemembers want to continue to serve. They want to—that's their calling in life—but they cannot for their own good and for the good of the mission, but their hearts are in the right place. So while it's great that the TSA has recognized severely injured members of the military in that regard, what about these veterans who want to serve but cannot continue to serve? This bill rightfully extends similar benefits to severely injured or disabled veterans and members of the Armed Forces.

Increased and more stringent security is understandable in the wake of 9/11, and it's kind of a bitter irony that many of these members who have been severely injured joined just because of those events. Now how ironic is it that they are caught up in this web of security for the injuries they received because they answered the call of their country?

Servicemembers I know don't ask for special recognition or any recognition for being soldiers or servicemembers and certainly not for the injuries they have received as a result of their service. So I stand in very strong support of this legislation, and I urge all of my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on this bill.

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SWALWELL).

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 1344, the Helping Heroes Fly Act.

I am a proud sponsor of this bipartisan legislation introduced by my friend Congresswoman GABBARD. Congresswoman GABBARD is a person who knows a thing or two about what it's like to be a combat veteran who comes back from the battlefield and who has to use our airports. Fortunately, she is back in one piece, but we know all too well that many of our veterans are not, and this bill eases their ability to move through our airports.

It would extend benefits through TSA screenings at airports, benefits similar to the expedited PreCheck program, to severely injured or disabled veterans and to members of the armed services who fly. As it stands now, many of our Nation's wounded warriors report that screening protocols aren't properly standardized at airports around the Nation. Consistent treatment by screeners would help create certainty for the newly injured and give greater attention to addressing their privacy concerns. Despite TSA guidance to the contrary, some veterans report having been required to take off prosthetics in public view during screenings. This is a difficult process that our injured and veterans should not have to endure.

□ 1340

In January, I met with Staff Sergeant Jason Ross from Livermore, California, in my district. Sergeant Ross was severely injured by an IED while honorably serving in Afghanistan and lost both of his legs. This bill would help ease the transition back home for wounded warriors and heroes like Sergeant Ross.

The continued sacrifice and selfless service of our Nation's heroes, a group Sergeant Ross exemplifies with distinction, is immeasurable. That's why we as a Nation must live up to our responsibilities to properly support the men and women of our Armed Forces when they return home. We must leave no soldier behind, and we owe our troops more than just ''thank you for your service.''

Today, it is too easy to spend money, and we've spent over a billion dollars a year recruiting people into our armed services while we're not doing enough to take care of them and keep the promises we make, whether it's providing GI funding or making sure that disability claims are taken care of. Currently, the average wait time for a disability claim ranges between 316 and 327 days. This is far too long.

The Oakland VA, which serves the veterans of my district, has one of the worst backlogs in the Nation. At a time when our wounded warriors are left waiting so long to receive the care that they have rightly earned, helping to ensure our Nation's heroes are able to travel seamlessly and without hindrance when they return home is a step we must take.

I want to thank again my colleague, Congresswoman GABBARD from Hawaii, for sponsoring this bill. I'll always support legislation that helps our returning servicemembers and their families receive the care and thanks they were promised and have earned.

I urge my colleagues to vote for the Helping Heroes Fly Act.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. If the gentlewoman from Hawaii has no further speakers, I'm prepared to close once the gentlewoman does.

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It's been an honor to stand here on the floor today in a bipartisan manner with my colleagues.

I want to thank the gentlewoman from Indiana for managing this and her strong support and advocacy for this issue, which is symbolic of us taking action to honor our heroes, especially as we head into Memorial Day.

You've heard from many Members why this is a good bill and why it should pass. It's been subject to scrutiny by all the stakeholders, and it has resulted in a bill that will be efficient and effective.

One example of steps we have taken to make sure that this is an efficient bill is making sure that, as we provide training as a central requirement to make sure that consistency in all airports exists, the provision requiring employee training was modified to make it clear that only screening personnel who participate in these expedited services will be mandatory—required to be trained under this bill—as opposed to requiring every single employee of the TSA to be trained, even when their job has nothing to do with passenger screening responsibilities. This modification ensures that the department's limited resources are spent in the most efficient manner, while also ensuring the consistent policies and treatment that are our objectives of this legislation.

I'd like to take a moment to highlight the support that this bill has gotten from veteran organizations. In addition to the Disabled American Veterans, I also have letters of support from the Wounded Warrior Project, the American Legion, and the Paralyzed Veterans of America. The Wounded Warrior Project sums it up perfectly, as they say:

> Wounded warriors should not have to sacrifice their privacy, encounter conflicting screening policies and procedures, or be subject to significant travel delays. We welcome the steps proposed in H.R. 1344 to foster expedited screening and to protect the privacy of our wounded warriors going through this process. We also commend the proposal to require the TSA to continue to consult with veterans' service organizations as they develop these improved screening processes.

Mr. Speaker, before yielding back, I just want to take a moment to thank the chairman of the committee, Mr. MCCAUL, and the ranking member, BENNIE THOMPSON, whose strong support for this bill allowed it to move very quickly and to be considered here on the floor here today. Subcommittee Chairman Mr. HUDSON and Ranking Member RICHMOND, as well as SHEILA JACKSON LEE, along with my colleague, Mrs. BROOKS from Indiana, have also been incredible champions and supporters. Last but not least, I would like to take a moment to recognize senior professional staff Brian Turbyfill, who has been invaluable in providing his assistance in guiding this bill through the process.

Mr. Speaker, this is a commonsense measure that aligns with the intelligence-driven, risked-based approach to security that TSA is striving for. It addresses a clearly identified problem and provides a solution that will serve and honor the sacrifices of our Nation's selfless heroes and great servant leaders.

I ask my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT,
Washington, DC, April 8, 2013.

Hon. TULSI GABBARD,
Cannon House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN GABBARD: As an organization whose mission is to honor and empower wounded warriors, Wounded Warrior Project (WWP) is committed to assisting service members and veterans thrive within the community. For wounded veterans living with prosthetics or other service-connected conditions, airport screening is often a frustrating, degrading, and lengthy process. With that concern, we welcome the introduction of the Helping Heroes Fly Act, H.R. 1344, and the improvements it proposes to screen these men and women in a manner befitting their service.

Wounded warriors should not have to sacrifice their privacy, encounter conflicting screening policies and procedures, or be subject to significant travel delays. We welcome the steps proposed in H.R. 1344 to foster expedited screening and to protect the privacy of warriors going through the screening process. We also commend the proposal to require the Transportation Security Administration to consult with veterans' service organizations in the development of improved screening.

We look forward to working with you to advance this legislation and toward improving the airport screening process for those who have served.

Sincerely,

CHARLIE ABELL,
EVP for Government Affairs.

THE AMERICAN LEGION,
Washington, DC, April 24, 2013.

Hon. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman, Homeland Security Committee, Ford House Office Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Ranking Member, Homeland Security Committee, House of Representatives, Ford House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL AND RANKING MEMBER THOMPSON: On behalf of the 2.4 million members of The American Legion I express our support for H.R. 1344, the Helping Heroes Fly Act. This bill will ensure our nation's wounded warriors and veterans are consistently screened in a manner befitting their service and sacrifice. This bill is supported by The American Legion's National Resolution No. 14 which encourages airport courtesy to military personnel.

Although the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has announced it will offer expedited screening to severely injured servicemembers, there are still issues that need to be addressed which will be resolved with this legislation. The legislation makes the following improvements:

Requires TSA to provide privacy for the individual being screened;

Requires TSA to consult with advocacy groups;

Mandates TSA training on expedited screening protocols;

Requires TSA to maintain an operations center that wounded warriors and veterans can contact for assistance in advance of flying; and

Requires TSA to report to Congress on its progress implementing the screening process.

Thank you for your support of our nation's servicemembers, veterans, and their families.

Respectfully,

JAMES E. ''JIM'' KOUTZ,
National Commander.

PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA,
Washington, DC, April 18, 2013.

Hon. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman, House Committee on Homeland Security, Ford House Office Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Ranking Member, House Committee on Homeland Security, Ford House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL AND RANKING MEMBER THOMPSON: On behalf of Paralyzed

Veterans of America (PVA), I write to support H.R. 1344, the bipartisan ''Helping Heroes Fly Act'', which was introduced by Representatives Tulsi Gabbard (D–HI), David P. Joyce (R–OH), and Cedric L. Richmond (D–LA) and referred to the Subcommittee on Transportation Security on April 1, 2013.

H.R. 1344 authorizes the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) Wounded Warrior Screening Program, which facilitates and expedites the screening of severely injured or disabled members of the Armed Forces and veterans at our nation's airports. TSA recently announced efforts to ease the security screening process for people with disabilities, but the program may still have inconsistencies in how its protocols are implemented and leaves privacy concerns and stakeholder input lacking. The ''Helping Heroes Fly Act'' addresses these shortcomings by, among other things, requiring consultation between TSA and advocacy groups like PVA, which will allow us to share our veterans' screening experiences and guarantee that their concerns are heard. Further, the bill mandates that TSA make every effort to protect the privacy of wounded warriors and ensure that our nation's heroes are shown their due respect and appreciation.

While some paralyzed veterans may not need the assistance provided by the program, we have had reports from our members that greatly appreciate the service offered. One member recently reported that a TSA officer unexpectedly met him at the gate on arrival in Milwaukee, managed his luggage and even helped him jump the battery in his car—greatly reducing the time and anxiety he would have otherwise encountered.

Every one of our veterans appreciates TSA's and the Committee on Homeland Security's attention to this matter. We encourage your support of this legislation and urge you to see that it receives consideration in the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

BILL LAWSON,
National President,
Paralyzed Veterans of America.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS,
Washington, DC, April 9, 2013.

Hon. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman, House Committee on Homeland Security, Ford House Office Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Ranking Member, House Committee on Homeland Security, Ford House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL AND RANKING MEMBER THOMPSON: I am writing on behalf of the DAV, a congressionally chartered national veterans service organization with 1.2 million members, all of whom were wounded or injured as a result of active duty in the United States Armed Forces. The DAV is dedicated to a single purpose: empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. We accomplish this by ensuring that veterans and their families can access the full range of benefits available to them; fighting for the interests of America's injured heroes on Capitol Hill; and educating the public about the great sacrifices and needs of veterans transitioning back to civilian life.

H.R. 1344, the Helping Heroes Fly Act, would direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security, Transportation Security Administration (TSA), to provide expedited air passenger screening to severely injured or disabled members of the Armed Forces and severely injured or disabled veterans.

With many of the members of DAV suffering from the loss of limbs due to their wartime service in defense of our nation, we are finding it increasingly difficult to understand the screening policies of the TSA affecting those with prosthetic limbs, wheelchairs and scooters boarding aircraft.

While TSA offers a variety of outstanding services, such as Notification Cards, TSA Cares, pat-down screening, multiple types of imaging and metal detection screening, and the compassionate TSA Military Severely Injured Program, amputees are not exempt from additional screening when necessary. In fact, screenings experienced by our members lack uniformity, understanding and compassion.

At some airports, our amputee members receive relaxed screening, while at others these screenings are horrific. Perhaps it is TSA's purpose to make screenings unpredictable. Some screenings have required these amputees to expose their prostheses when they lack the ability to reposition their clothing, and TSA agents are not allowed to help them, nor do they allow spouses or traveling companions to enter search areas to assist the amputees.

We applaud Representatives Gabbard, Richmond, and Joyce for introducing this legislation and for their continued support of America's wounded and injured veterans. While the DAV does not have a specific resolution from our members on this subject, it would be beneficial to many of our members. Accordingly, we support the passage of this legislation. I look forward to working with you and your staff to continue the DAV mission of empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives.

Sincerely,

BARRY A. JESINOSKI,
Executive Director,
Washington Headquarters.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

On behalf of myself, as well as Congressman MCCAUL, the chair of the Homeland Security Committee, we would like to commend Congresswoman GABBARD of Hawaii not only for her service in moving this issue, but for her military service. I'm very proud to be serving with her, and we are so pleased that this is being done in such a bipartisan manner. The Congresswoman from Hawaii and I have enjoyed a new strong friendship, and I hope there are many more bills to come that we can work on together.

I must say that we know that there are so many brave men and women throughout this country who have been severely injured while fighting. In fact, according to the Employment and Disability Institute at Cornell University, there are 6,800 working-age civilian veterans in Indiana, alone, who have had the most severe service-connected disability rating.

And this past weekend when I was out at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in honor of Armed Forces Day on Sunday and as we swore in the young men and women who have agreed to step up and serve in the National Guard and they were reporting to basic training that day, I knew that this bill was on the House floor this week. It was quite emotional to see these young men and women who we know between them and their families are providing the most incredible sacrifice. I am just very pleased that we are working on this bill in this manner.

To sit by while one of these heroes—and to me, all of these young 18-year-olds to 22-year-olds that I saw in front of me are heroes. We pray that they will not be injured. But those who are injured and who provide that incredible sacrifice cannot be treated like potential enemies here at home, and particularly at our airports. It should put us all to shame. Our wounded warriors are a special group of citizens in this country. They are a trusted group of citizens, and we can and must do more to treat them as such and to recognize their commitment to our Nation. With the Memorial Day holiday fast approaching, this bill is a timely tribute to their sacrifice.

I must also say that this weekend at the Indianapolis 500, before the race, it is the most moving ceremony when our armed services march down Pit Lane, and the quarter of a million people that will be there say it is probably the most moving ceremony they have ever witnessed. So we look not only for safety this weekend at our race, but it is a wonderful reminder of the incredible sacrifice all of the men and women in the military give day in and day out.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 1344, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi: Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1344, the "Helping Heroes Fly Act."

Mr. Speaker, at the outset, I would like to commend the gentlewoman from Hawaii, Representative GABBARD, for introducing this thoughtful, bipartisan legislation.

I also commend the Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security, the gentleman from Texas, Mr. MCCAUL, for working diligently to have this bill receive timely consideration by the House.

We owe a great debt to the women and men who have served to defend our freedom.

Those who were injured or rendered disabled because of their service, in particular, deserve our deepest gratitude and respect.

They deserve to be treated with the upmost respect and dignity upon their return home.

Unfortunately, when it comes to flying domestically, all too often, the security screening experience for injured and disabled veterans is anything but respectful and dignified.

H.R. 1344, the "Helping Heroes Fly Act," seeks to improve the screening experience for these brave men and women by requiring the Transportation Security Administration to develop and implement a process to facilitate the ease of travel and provide expedited screening to these members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

It specifically requires consultation with organizations like the Wounded Warrior Project, American Legion, and Paralyzed Veterans of America that advocate on behalf of service members and veterans.

Importantly, to help ensure consistency across the aviation security system, it also requires training for screeners on the protocols for screening injured and disabled service members and veterans.

Passage of this legislation is the right thing to do to for those who sacrificed and were injured while serving our nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1344, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. 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, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

FREEDOM TO FISH ACT

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 982) to prohibit the Corps of Engineers from taking certain actions to establish a restricted area prohibiting public access to waters downstream of a dam, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 982

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 ''Freedom to Fish Act''.

SEC. 2. RESTRICTED AREAS AT CORPS OF ENGINEERS DAMS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

(1) RESTRICTED AREA.—The term ''restricted area'' means a restricted area for hazardous waters at dams and other civil works structures in the Cumberland River basin established in accordance with chapter 10 of the regulation entitled ''Project Operations: Navigation and Dredging Operations and Maintenance Policies'', published by the Corps of Engineers on November 29, 1996, and any related regulations or guidance.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers.

(b) EXISTING RESTRICTED AREA.—If the Secretary has established a restricted area or modified an existing restricted area during the period beginning on August 1, 2012, and ending on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(1) cease implementing and enforcing the restricted area until the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) remove any permanent physical barriers constructed in connection with the restricted area.

(c) ESTABLISHING NEW RESTRICTED AREA.—If, on or after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary establishes any restricted area, the Secretary shall—

(1) ensure that any restrictions are based on operational conditions that create hazardous waters;

(2) publish a draft describing the restricted area and seek and consider public comment on that draft prior to establishing the restricted area;

(3) not implement or enforce the restricted area until the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(4) not take any action to establish a permanent physical barrier in connection with the restricted area.

(d) EXCLUSIONS.—For purposes of this section, the installation and maintenance of measures for alerting the public of hazardous water conditions and restricted areas, including sirens, strobe lights, and signage, shall not be considered to be a permanent physical barrier.

(e) ENFORCEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Enforcement of a restricted area shall be the sole responsibility of the State in which the restricted area is located.

(2) EXISTING AUTHORITIES.—The Secretary shall not assess any penalty for entrance into a restricted area under section 4 of the Act entitled ''An Act authorizing the construction of certain public works on rivers and harbors for flood control, and for other purposes'', approved December 22, 1944 (16 U.S.C. 460d).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) and the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

□ 1350

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend and include extraneous materials on S. 982.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

S. 982, the Freedom to Fish Act, would prohibit the Corps of Engineers from restricting public access in the vicinity of the 10 dams on the Cumberland River in Kentucky and Tennessee. This bill, this legislation, was introduced in the Senate by the leader, Senator MCCONNELL, and also by Senator RAND PAUL of Kentucky, and our own in-House version authored by our colleague, ED WHITFIELD from Kentucky.

The bill provides for a 2-year moratorium to give the public, the two States, and the Corps of Engineers more time to carefully review conditions at these facilities, and to deal with the immediate threat to fishing, tourism, and the economy.

I applaud our leadership for bringing this legislation to the floor today. This is an excellent example of Congress exercising our constitutional authority to oversee Federal agencies. Far too often, the executive branch and the Federal bureaucracy operate without input and guidance from Congress. My colleagues on the floor of this House every day criticize rules, regulations, and actions by unelected bureaucrats that hurt our districts, our constituents, and our economy. Congress has the right, the constitutional duty, to oversee Federal agencies and provide them with clear guidance and direction.

As chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, problems with the Army Corps of Engineers are frequently brought to my attention by my colleagues from both sides of the aisle, Republicans and Democrats. I am pleased to work whenever possible to address these issues with clear guidance from Congress.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The pending measure was introduced in the Senate on May 16 of this year, 2013, and passed the very same day. While the bill is apparently a Senate-revised version of the legislation introduced in February of 2013, no committee hearings or markups were held on either bill.

Since 1996, the Army Corps of Engineers has been required to establish restricted areas for hazardous waters upstream and downstream of all Corps dams. As written, S. 982 would revise the current agency policy and would also prohibit the Army Corps of Engineers from establishing any restricted areas in hazardous waters at dams and other structures in the Cumberland River basin for a period of 2 years, and also require them to remove any physical barriers that already exist to prevent access to the hazardous areas. If after the 2-year moratorium, the Corps decided to implement new restricted areas around these dams and other structures, it would continue to be prohibited from erecting any physical barriers to prevent people from entering hazardous areas.

Mr. Speaker, I have serious concerns over this legislation because it does pose risks for public safety and national security. Currently, the Corps restricts access to certain areas above and below the dams of the Cumberland River basin in order to keep people from being sucked into the spill waste or from having their boats swamped or sunk by unplanned releases from the hydropower units, which are very much un-timed. The reason they do this is very simple: to prevent people from drowning and to restrict access to Federal dams that would be targets for terrorism or destruction. Without full-time law enforcement patrols, areas above and below dams are not constantly monitored, and the Corps has not been able to alert and rescue people who get into trouble. They have to base it on people who are in boats nearby to help effect a rescue. Fourteen people drowned in the last few years, and there have been 20 near misses where there is no Corps staff to help.

In fact, according to a report by WRCB–TV in Chattanooga, Tennessee, there have been three fatalities in the hazardous waters immediately downstream of those dams on the Cumberland River. The waters are so hazardous at these locations that wearing a life jacket is ineffective. And I repeat: ineffective.

To legislatively preclude a Federal agency from protecting public health and national security seems a very unwise course of action, and I have significant concerns about the precedent that would be set by this legislation.

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

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. WHITFIELD), the author of the House version of this bill.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Chairman SHUSTER, I want to thank you and Ranking Member NAPOLITANO for agreeing to bring this important legislation to the floor. I will tell you, last September the Army Corps of Engineers made a decision that at the 10 dams located on the Cumberland River, they would put up a barrier of fishing near these dams in the tailwaters.

Despite opposition from the Governors of Tennessee and Kentucky, the Fish and Wildlife Services of Kentucky and Tennessee, Senator ALEXANDER, Senator CORKER, Congressman JIM COOPER, MARSHA BLACKBURN of Tennessee, STEVE FINCHER, myself, RAND PAUL, MITCH MCCONNELL and others—we wrote letters to the Corps. We had public meetings with the Corps. We sent petitions to the Corps. We had phone calls with the Corps, and asked them to delay the implementation, primarily because of the sequestration and the amount of money that it would take to put these barriers up, which would be almost $3 million.

Despite our best efforts, and we had meetings at which 400 to 500 people attended, they refused to delay the implementation. So I rise today to support this Senate bill because it delays the implementation for 2 years.

I want to thank the gentlelady for bringing up the safety issue. All of us are very much concerned about the safety issue. But I would like to point out that in the 42 years of the history of these dams on the Cumberland River in Tennessee and Kentucky, there have been 881 drownings in the collective lakes and waters not including the area immediately around the dam. There have only been 14 drownings—and any drowning is too many—but in 42 years around the dam where they are focused on, there have been 14 drownings. I might say that of those 14 drownings, five of them occurred on the banks; two of them were of unknown causes; three were because people were not even wearing life jackets; three were because they were wearing the life jackets improperly; and only one drowning occurred in 42 years where the person was wearing the life jacket properly.

So I would say to the Corps, the real safety issue relates to the collective waters not around the dams. Of course, we all are very much concerned about protecting the homeland, homeland security, and I will tell you in these very rural areas of Tennessee and Kentucky where these dams are located, many people are out there fishing.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. SHUSTER. I yield the gentleman an additional minute.

Mr. WHITFIELD. I thank the gentleman.

These are very rural areas. I will tell you that the Fish and Wildlife Service provides a great deal of protection and enforcement of broken laws in this area. Many of these people are quite familiar with each other, and I'm not going to be able to address the homeland security issue in detail, except to say that it is enforced. Many of the people who fish there through the fishing competitions and for the economic growth know each other.

But on the safety issue, I would just say 14 drownings in 42 years around the dam itself, 881 in other areas, and so we're not asking that this be a permanent restriction. We are simply asking the Corps to work with the Governors, the Fish and Wildlife Services of both States, the Senate and House, and local county judges to address it in a more permanent way.

So I would respectfully request that you approve the Senate bill, which would simply delay this for 2 years for additional study.

□ 1400

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume to say it'd be nice to know why the Army Corps has not really been effective in getting back to the parties that have asked for information and working with them; and it would be very much interesting to know whether or not it's because of sequestration or budget or whatever, but we might delve into it later.

I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee, Congressman COOPER.

Mr. COOPER. I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

This is a completely bipartisan measure, and I hope that we have an overwhelming vote in support of it.

The Freedom to Fish Act is a very responsible piece of legislation put forward in the Senate by my colleague, Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER.

In the hearing on the Senate side, Senator FEINSTEIN pointed out to the Army Corps of Engineers' witness how reasonable Senator ALEXANDER was trying to be, how reasonable this approach was. So I think we can say with some certainty that this is something that should be overwhelmingly supported by this House.

For my colleagues, the Cumberland River is perhaps unknown to you. It's a beautiful river. Every elected official that I'm aware of in our area, Democrat and Republican, supports this legislation.

Safety is an issue, but so is overreaching by our friends at the Corps. Occasionally they're a little bit tone deaf, especially if they get transferred in and out a little bit too quickly.

This is an amazing little way to fish here, below the dams. Some of you not realizing, you think fish is this big or this big. Some of these fish are 30 and 40 pounds.

This is a magnificent recreational resource that has been unfairly harmed by proposed Corps actions and by, really, an official who will be soon moving away from our area and living in another part of the country. He's a fine gentleman, but this is an opportunity for us to reclaim our local rights, our traditions, our freedom to fish.

I would urge colleagues on both sides of the aisle to have a little common sense here. Support S. 982. It's a very reasonable approach to trying to solve this problem, solving this dispute with the Corps. Support S. 982.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN).

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I do rise today to support this legislation and to support the sportsmen from Tennessee and Kentucky. And as you can see, this is an issue where there is bipartisan agreement.

One of my constituents said it so well. They're so frustrated with this situation, and we've heard from so many of them on it. And they said, you know, you can turn on the TV any night and you see government overreach, whether it's the IRS admitting that they have targeted conservative groups or DOJ wiretapping reporters. And then you get home to Tennessee and, at the local level, what you see is the Corps of Engineers coming in and saying, well, by the way, we're going to change something, and you're not going to be able to fish.

Fishing in Tennessee is a tradition. It is a favorite pastime. Sportsmen have been fishing along this beautiful Cumberland River for years. As Mr. COOPER said, it is a beautiful place to be. And since the dams were built, I have to tell you, there are now generations of Tennesseeans, you will see families out together fishing. We have about 900,000 registered anglers in our State, and I have to tell you, I think our office has heard from almost every one of them on this issue. They have been very persistent.

One thing I would want my colleagues to know is that our sportsmen in our State are wonderful stewards of conserving our natural resources and the great outdoors, and they exercise personal responsibility and great care in protecting their favorite place to go fishing.

It is really to the disbelief of the Army Corps of Engineers that we already know when it is safe or not to go fish in these tailwaters. So what we're saying is let's right this wrong, and let's allow individuals to get back and enjoy the Freedom to Fish Act. Pass it today.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of the time.

I really appreciate the information from my colleagues on the other side. It is only for 2 years, which is time enough to be able to have the Corps and the individual participants be able to come to some agreement.

The fact that there is, according to my colleague, no fishing, I think it's only in certain areas, which would be at the lip of the dam and below the

dam where the spill is where there is danger of boats getting swamped, and so it is something that we need to look forward and see what happens.

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

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR).

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, spring is upon us, a season that is important to several of Kentucky's signature industries. Not only does spring signify horse racing and the Kentucky Derby, but it also marks the beginning of the adventure and outdoor tourism season as well.

Tourism is an $11.7 billion signature industry in my State, employing over 166,000 Kentuckians and accounting for 1 in 10 jobs across the Commonwealth. A major part of Kentucky tourism stems from one of America's favorite pastimes—fishing.

In my district, the Kentucky River is enjoyed by many, many, as it stretches from the Daniel Boone National Forest and meanders through horse farms in the central Bluegrass, specifically in Woodford and Franklin Counties.

Fishermen especially enjoy fishing in the Kentucky River's tailwaters surrounding locks and dams, areas notorious for having an abundance of fish. Unfortunately, the Army Corps of Engineers has decided to prohibit tailwater fishing in a sister river just south of my district, the Cumberland River, where many of my constituents travel to engage in their favorite pastime.

This is yet another example of government overreach, where this time the government is telling us how to fish in water systems that have been safely utilized for generations. We must not allow the Corps to set a precedent for regulating how Kentuckians and Americans alike spend their time outdoors.

As our fragile economy continues to recover, my constituents tell me that they plan on sticking closer to home to recreate this spring and summer. Overregulation of fishing is a deterrent to family time and harms our local businesses that depend on the revenue from seasonal recreation and tourism.

I ask my colleagues to join me in support of the Freedom to Fish Act, which places a 2-year moratorium on the Corps' plan to restrict access to tailwaters in the Cumberland River.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. SHUSTER. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. BARR. This will allow us time to implement a permanent plan to halt Army Corps from setting a precedent of restricting access to any tailwaters going forward.

I'm an original cosponsor of this legislation—and I applaud the leadership of Mr. WHITFIELD, my colleague from Kentucky—and that does exactly this: protect fishermen in rural economies and Americans' right to choose how they recreate.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, it's now a great pleasure for me to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Frog Jump, Tennessee (Mr. FINCHER).

Mr. FINCHER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for yielding.

I have had the privilege of fishing actually on the Cumberland River at Barkley Dam. My grandfather took me many times to fish there. And how this would work, and why it's such a good fishing spot is, when they would release the water from the top of the dam and when it would come under and come in the back of the dam, the waters would roll up, and the big fish that we talk about would roll up off the bottom, and that's why the fishing is so good.

And it's like we don't have enough things to do in Washington that we're dealing with this issue today. I want to thank Mr. WHITFIELD for bringing this up, but commonsense solutions to problems are what we should be talking about. And the Corps, in many respects, they do good work, but bringing this up, stopping the fishing from occurring at the dams and on the rivers, the Cumberland River in specific, is ridiculous.

We need to get down to the business of America—let's let people fish where they've always fished, like my grandfather took me to Barkley Dam over and over and over, time and time again—and get to the real issues.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation today, and let's give the power back to the people—commonsense solutions for real problems.

□ 1410

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, in closing, once again, I just want to applaud our leadership for bringing this legislation to the floor today. As I said earlier, this is an excellent opportunity, excellent example for Congress to exercise our constitutional authority over these Federal agencies.

With that, I would urge all my colleagues to join in supporting this important legislation, S. 982, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 982.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR UNVEILING OF STATUE OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 16) authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for the unveiling of a statue of Frederick Douglass.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 16

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That

SECTION 1. USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR THE UNVEILING OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS STATUE.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center is authorized to be used for an event on June 19, 2013, to unveil a statue of Frederick Douglass.

(b) PREPARATIONS.—Physical preparations for the conduct of the event described in subsection (a) shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as may be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 16, authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for the unveiling of a statue of Frederick Douglass, a great abolitionist. Frederick Douglass is a pivotal figure in American history who had an unyielding dedication to equal rights, the abolition of slavery, and the enhancement of women's suffrage. His brave actions and compelling writings inspired and forever changed this grateful Nation.

Born into slavery, Frederick Douglass escaped to New York in 1838 disguised as a free uniformed sailor. Upon achieving his own freedom, he quickly and unwaveringly turned his life's mission to seeking freedom, justice, and equality for all. Frederick Douglass inspired in African Americans the fundamental that one's achievement cannot be limited by one's color and that the American Dream is within reach for all Americans, regardless of race.

Over a century has passed since his death, and yet his contribution to American society is very much alive today. His tireless dedication, brilliant words, and inclusive vision of humanity continue to inspire people of all races. In considering the remarkable achievements of Frederick Douglass and his contributions to our rich history, his presence within the United States Capitol will honor this institution and serve as endearing testimony to this Nation's struggle for freedom and for equality.

I want to thank the Senator from the State of New York, Mr. SCHUMER, for

introducing this concurrent resolution, as well as my colleague, Ms. NORTON from the District of Columbia, for her work on this, and I would certainly urge my colleagues to support it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. I rise in strong support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 16.

I would like to begin by thanking Chairman MILLER for her help in bringing this resolution to the floor. I also thank Ranking Member BRADY for his longstanding commitment to placing a District of Columbia statue in the United States Capitol. When he chaired the committee, it approved my bill that would have given the District two statues in the Capitol, the usual practice. But, we are pleased to have our first statue and are grateful to the House leadership for permitting this bill on the floor today. We especially thank Senators SCHUMER and DURBIN for their help in getting this resolution, as well as the bill authorizing the placement of the Douglass statue in the Capitol, passed in the Senate. The District of Columbia has no Senators so we're fortunate we have distinguished allies like Senators SCHUMER and DURBIN.

Like the residents of the 50 States, the residents of the District of Columbia have fought and died in all our Nation's wars and have always paid Federal income taxes. Unlike the residents of the 50 States, however, District of Columbia residents are still fighting for their equal rights as American citizens. Since 2002, one component of that fight has been to have statues representing the District of Columbia placed in the Capitol, like the States, which fulfill every obligation of citizenship, as the District does.

D.C. residents chose Douglass to represent them in the Capitol not only because he is one of the great international icons of human and civil rights; but for us, Douglass is especially important because he was not content to rest on his historic national achievements alone. He knew where he lived and was deeply involved in the civic and political affairs of the District of Columbia.

Douglass, a strong Republican, served as Recorder of Deeds of the District of Columbia, as United States Marshal here, as a member of the D.C. Council—its upper chamber then—appointed by the Republican president at the time, Ulysses S. Grant. Douglass was also a member of the Board of Trustees of Howard University for 24 years. Douglass made his home in the Anacostia neighborhood of southeast Washington, which is now the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site, administered by the National Park Service.

In choosing Douglass, it was important to our residents that Douglass also dedicated himself to securing self-government and voting rights for the residents of the District of Columbia. Many Americans may not know that D.C. residents have only rarely had even nonvoting representation in the Congress, or a local government, and even today have no vote on the floor of the House and no Senators, although our residents pay Federal income taxes like everybody else and fight in all the Nation's wars like everybody else. The city had both home rule and a delegate for a brief period during Reconstruction and then was without any home rule government or any representation in the Congress for over 100 years, until the 1970s.

In his autobiography, ''The Life and Times of Frederick Douglass,'' Douglass commented on the unequal political status of his hometown, the District of Columbia, and of its residents. Most of what Douglass wrote in the 19th century holds true today.

I am quoting Douglass from his autobiography:

> These people are outside of the United States. They occupy neutral ground and have no political existence. They have neither voice nor vote in all the practical politics of the United States. They are hardly to be called citizens of the United States. Practically, they are aliens, not citizens but subjects. The District of Columbia is the one spot where there is no government for the people, of the people, and by the people. Its citizens submit to rulers whom they have had no choice in selecting. They obey laws which they had no voice in making. They have plenty of taxation but no representation.

□ 1420

In the great questions of politics in the country they can march with neither army, but are relegated to the position of neuters. I have nothing to say in favor of this anomalous condition of the people of the District of Columbia, and hardly think that it ought to be or will be much longer. Mr. Douglass did not mince his words.

The Douglass statue in our Capitol will recognize the universality of his dedication to human rights and democratic rights. His statue in the Capitol will remind District of Columbia residents that they, too, will partake of these values one day. His statue will offer the same pride that other citizens of our country experience when they come to the Capitol and see memorials that commemorate the efforts of their residents and their significant contributions. And the Douglass statue offers other Americans the opportunity to see the residents of their Nation's Capital honored as well in their Capitol.

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, again I want to thank my colleague from the District of Columbia for her very eloquent words. We are all looking forward to the unveiling of the statue of this remarkable American that is such a critical component of our proud history.

With that, I would urge all of my colleagues to support this Senate concurrent resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the concurrent resolution, S. Con. Res. 16.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of the privileges of the House and offer the resolution previously noticed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

> *Resolved,* That the House of Representatives shall not consider H.R. 3, the 'Northern Route Approval Act' because: (1) it violates Rule XXI of the House, and (2) it affects the dignity and integrity of the proceedings of the House since it is unconstitutional.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman from Florida wish to present argument on the parliamentary question whether the resolution presents a question of the privileges of the House?

Mr. GRAYSON. Yes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for that purpose.

Mr. GRAYSON. I rise today to address H.R. 3, the Northern Route Approval Act, and my resolution raising a question of privilege regarding the matter.

Please note that this is a privileged motion and therefore outside the scope of the Rules Committee's jurisdiction regarding ''the order of business of the House'' under rule X. Rather, this is a question of privilege ''affecting the rights of the House collectively, its safety, dignity, and the integrity of its proceedings'' pursuant to rule IX. It is not invoked to ''effect a change in the rules or their interpretation'' as prescribed by House Rules and Manual at page 420.

Consideration of this bill exceeds ''the rights of the House collectively'' and brings into question the ''dignity and the integrity of the proceedings'' of the House of Representatives under House rule IX because, first, it is unconstitutional, and second, it is an earmark.

I presented this matter to the full House in H. Res. 225 as a question of privilege last night, and I noticed the question immediately following the only vote series of the day.

Mr. Speaker, pursuant to rule IX of the House you must now make your determination as to whether or not this is an appropriate ''question of privilege'' and hold a vote on the resolution offered before the House. Before that happens, I would like to address the two claims I have made against the bill

offered by the gentleman from Nebraska, and then I will outline the reasons why I feel you should find in favor of my question of privilege.

H.R. 3 is unconstitutional. ''The Constitution does not permit Congress to execute the laws.''

The above is taken from the Supreme Court's ruling in Bowsher v. Synar. The bill before us violates this principle. Congress creates the laws, and it's up to the Executive to execute the laws.

Under section 3 of this bill, however, ''the final environmental impact statement issued by the Secretary of State on August 26, 2011'' and ''the Presidential permit required for the pipeline described in the application filed on May 4, 2012''——

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman must confine his remarks to whether the resolution qualifies as a question of privilege.

Mr. GRAYSON. I believe I have. May I continue?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman may not debate the underlying bill but must confine himself to the matter of privilege.

Mr. GRAYSON. Respectfully, Mr. Chairman, I think they are inextricably entwined. I don't see how I can do one without the other.

May I continue?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman may proceed in order.

Mr. GRAYSON. ''by TransCanada Keystone Pipeline, L.P. to the Department of State as supplemented to include the Nebraska reroute evaluated in the Final Evaluation Report issued by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality in January 2013 and approved by the Nebraska Governor'' shall ''be considered or deemed to satisfy all requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the National Historic Preservation Act.'' This is a clear attempt by this body to execute the law of the land, and that is proscribed by the Constitution.

Again, Mr. Speaker, the Executive must execute the laws. H.R. 3 runs afoul of this requirement. The Supreme Court held in Bowsher v. Synar that interpreting a law enacted by Congress to implement the legislative mandate is the very essence of ''execution of the law,'' and that's exactly what is being proposed here and forbidden by the Constitution.

The exercise of judgment in the bill before us concerning facts that affect application of statute——

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's remarks should be confined to the question of privileges of the House. The gentleman's remarks address the underlying bill, which is not before the House currently. If the gentleman is unwilling to confine his remarks to the question of privilege, the Chair is prepared to rule.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, it's not a question of whether I'm willing to. As I indicated before, the two are inextricably linked.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind the gentleman that there are two different questions. One is the merits of the measure that the gentleman keeps trying to propose in his remarks; the other is the question of privilege. The debate is on the question of privilege, whether this resolution constitutes a question of privilege.

Mr. GRAYSON. I understand that. But I don't think that the Chair can properly be informed of that question without the material that I'm providing to the Chair right now.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman may proceed in order.

Mr. GRAYSON. Thank you.

The Supreme Court held in Bowsher v. Synar that ''interpreting a law enacted by Congress to implement the legislative mandate is the very essence of 'execution' of the law,'' and that's exactly what is being proposed here.

The exercise of judgment in the bill before us concerning facts that affect application of statute constitutes execution of the law. It is an unconstitutional act that this body should not entertain. It violates separation of powers and violates the principle underlying the prohibition of bills of attainder.

Statements are deemed by this bill to be in compliance with laws the Executive has been tasked with executing—the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, known as NEPA, and the National Historic Preservation Act. If you see section 3 of H.R. 3, it's referenced there. This is an impermissible execution of the law.

Congress, through this bill, is attempting to apply the facts of the Keystone XL pipeline environmental impact statement to the body of law and deciding that they comply. This is unconstitutional and brings into question the ''dignity and the integrity of proceedings'' of the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will give the gentleman one more opportunity. The question of constitutionality is not the same as a question of privileges of the House. The gentleman should confine himself to the question of privileges of the House. And if the gentleman is unprepared to do so, the Chair is prepared to rule.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, the last words that I just said were that this offends the ''dignity and the integrity of the proceedings'' of the House. This relates directly to the matter before the Chair.

May I proceed?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman may proceed on the question of privilege, and the Chair believes the gentleman knows the difference.

□ 1430

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I stand by what I just said.

May I proceed?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman may proceed, but the Chair is prepared to rule if the gentleman strays off the course of the question of privilege.

Mr. GRAYSON. Again, Mr. Speaker, I don't believe you can properly do that without being fully informed as to the facts here.

May I proceed?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman may proceed in order.

Mr. GRAYSON. Apparently, we are no longer satisfied with writing the laws. We have now taken it upon ourselves to execute them as well. This discredits the institution, not only within the Federal Government—complicating our constitutional relationship with both the executive and the judicial branches—but also in the eyes of the American people. We must not allow the House to be degraded this way.

Even when the facts of the bill are examined, this measure fails. The bill states that the environmental impact statement satisfies NEPA. That environmental impact statement, however, was for a different project—the Keystone XL Pipeline as proposed in 2009, a pipeline that would have terminated in the Gulf Coast.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has heard sufficient argument. The argument that the gentleman is making is proper for the merits of the proposed legislation but not on the question of privilege. The Chair will rule.

The gentleman from Florida seeks to offer this resolution as a question of the privileges of the House under rule IX. The resolution proposes a special order of business with regard to a specified legislative measure. Specifically, it mandates that a measure not be considered by the House because it is unconstitutional and violates a rule of the House.

To qualify as a question of privilege, a resolution must affect the rights of the House collectively, its safety, dignity, or integrity of its proceedings. In evaluating the resolution under the standards of rule IX, the Chair is guided by a fundamental principle illuminated by annotations of precedent in section 706 of the House Rules and Manual, to wit: that a question of the privileges of the House may not be invoked to effect a change in the rules or standing orders of the House or their interpretation, nor to prescribe a special order of business for the House.

The averment that this resolution presents a question of the privileges of the House under rule IX embodies precisely the contrary principle, under which each individual Member of the House would constituent a virtual Rules Committee, able to place before the House at any time whatever proposed order of business he or she might deem advisable based on allegations of unconstitutionality or violations of the rules. In such an environment, anything could be privileged; so nothing would enjoy true privilege.

Accordingly, under the long and well-settled line of precedent, as elucidated

most recently by the ruling of August 10, 2010, the Chair finds that such a resolution does not affect the rights of the House collectively, its safety, dignity, or the integrity of its proceedings within the meaning of clause 1 of rule IX and, therefore, does not qualify as a question of the privileges of the House.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 1412, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 324, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 1344, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

IMPROVING JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR VETERANS ACT OF 2013

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1412) to improve and increase the availability of on-job training and apprenticeship programs carried out by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 416, nays 0, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 164]

YEAS—416

Aderholt
Alexander
Amash
Amodei
Andrews
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bonner
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Radel
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—17

Brady (PA)
Bridenstine
Clyburn
Cole
Diaz-Balart
Engel
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Herrera Beutler
Hudson
Lankford
Lucas
Markey
Mullin
Peters (CA)
Sarbanes
Young (AK)

□ 1458

Messrs. DUNCAN of South Carolina and CONYERS changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. PETERS of California. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 164, I inserted card and voted—light turned green but did not register. On this vote, I would have voted "yea."

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 164, (H.R. 1412—Improving Job Opportunities for Veterans) had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

AWARDING CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO FIRST SPECIAL SERVICE FORCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MEADOWS). The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 324) to grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the First Special Service Force, in recognition of its superior service during World War II, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 415, nays 0, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 165]

YEAS—415

Aderholt
Alexander
Amash
Amodei
Andrews
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bonner
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly

Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Radel
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—18

Brady (PA)
Bridenstine
Clyburn
Cole
Diaz-Balart
Engel
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Herrera Beutler
Hudson
King (IA)
Lankford
Lucas
Markey
Mullin
Sarbanes
Stockman
Young (AK)

□ 1506

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 165, (H.R. 324—To grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the First Special Service Force, in recognition of its superior service during World War II, as amended) had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HELPING HEROES FLY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1344) to amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to provide expedited air passenger screening to severely injured or disabled members of the Armed Forces and severely injured or disabled veterans, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 413, nays 0, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 166]

YEAS—413

Aderholt
Alexander
Amash
Amodei
Andrews
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bonner
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Radel
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta

Sanford
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—20

Brady (PA)
Bridenstine
Clyburn
Cole
Diaz-Balart
Engel
Graves (GA)
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Herrera Beutler
Hudson
Lankford
Lucas
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Markey
Mullin
Sarbanes
Shuster
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

□ 1513

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 166, (H.R. 1344—Helping Heroes Fly Act, as amended) had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. 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. 1412, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

THE GOVERNMENT MAY BE READING THE PEOPLE'S EMAILS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, big, snoopy government agencies can read emails that are over 180 days old without a person's knowledge or consent. That is just wrong. It takes a warrant to eavesdrop phone conversations, but no warrant required to peruse a person's email?

If Peeping Tom-crats can't listen to phones without a warrant, they shouldn't be able to read emails. That's why Congresswoman LOFGREN, Congresswoman DELBENE, and I introduced the Online Communications and Geolocation Protection Act. It would require a search warrant to seize a person's email.

When a person mails a letter, the government cannot open the mail from the time it is placed in the mailbox, travels throughout the fruited plain, and ends up in another mailbox. The law protects the privacy of this snail mail.

When a person sends an email through cyberspace, the government should not be allowed to seize the content without a search warrant. At a time when we see more and more government invasion of privacy, Congress should ensure that government does not press the delete button and eliminate the Constitution.

And that's just the way it is.

ONLINE SALES TAX

(Ms. KUSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, innovative small businesses all across New Hampshire are using the Internet to reach new markets, create good jobs, and grow our economy.

Congress should be working to create an environment that helps these companies expand and hire, not adding new bureaucratic barriers and red tape that will impede growth. But that's exactly what the so-called Marketplace Fairness Act would do.

This legislation would force online retailers to collect sales taxes on behalf of over 9,000 taxing jurisdictions nationwide, creating a web of bureaucracy that would stifle small businesses.

Later this week, I will return home to New Hampshire to hear how this tax would impact Granite State entrepreneurs. I urge my colleagues to do the same in their States and to stand up for small businesses by opposing this misguided legislation.

□ 1520

IN MEMORY OF CHRISTOPHER LOREK AND STEPHEN SHAW

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

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor two brave Federal law enforcement officers who lost their lives during a training accident last Friday.

Christopher Lorek and Stephen Shaw were both members of the FBI's Hostage Rescue Team. This elite unit has taken part in more than 800 hostage situations over the last two decades. Members of the Hostage Rescue Team dedicate their lives to training for critical terrorist, hostage, and criminal situations. Most recently, the team successfully rescued a 5-year-old boy held hostage by a 65-year-old man in Alabama.

Both Christopher Lorek and Stephen Shaw spent many years serving their Nation by putting themselves at risk for others who were in danger. Tragically, they died during a maritime counterterrorism exercise their team was performing off the coast of Virginia Beach.

Both these men leave behind young families, and our thoughts and prayers are with their loved ones during this difficult time.

CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF CARROLLTON, TEXAS

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

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the centennial of the city of Carrollton, Texas.

The city of Carrollton was incorporated 100 years ago, on June 14, 1913. Carrollton has truly blossomed into a prosperous and exemplary city. From a population of 1,610 in 1950, it has grown now to over 130,000 residents and is home to thousands of successful businesses.

I'm proud to say that my family has been able to be part of this great history. It was my privilege to serve as mayor of Carrollton from 1984 to 1986. My brother Ronnie served for years as a city council member. Currently, my son Matthew has the honor of being the city's mayor.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of the city of Carrollton, Texas.

HONORING OUR VETERANS

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

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, Memorial Day is a day our grateful Nation devotes to observing the extraordinary sacrifices paid by so many brave military men and women. Those who served so honorably died to protect the values and ideals on which our country was built, and we will never forget them.

Mr. Speaker, while we continue to work on behalf of the American people here in Washington, let us remember we work for people outside the beltway, many of whom are still searching for employment. With the unemployment rate for post-9/11 veterans at 9.2 percent, I'm heartbroken when reminded of veterans who come back from deployments abroad and cannot find work back home.

This Memorial Day weekend, let us remember to always honor those so devoted to their country that they gave their lives; and let us honor those veterans who defend us on the front lines

abroad by putting these brave men and women first in line at home to find a job, provide for their families, and to realize the American Dream.

CLEARING THE NAMES OF JOHN BROW AND BROOKS GRUBER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, 13 years ago, on April 8, 2000, 19 marines lost their lives in a tragic plane crash at Marana Regional Airport in Arizona. The Marine Corps attributed partial blame for the crash to error on the part of the pilot, Lieutenant Colonel John Brow, and the copilot, Major Brooks Gruber. The Corps' decision to assign blame to the pilots has been a point of controversy ever since the year 2000.

Mr. Speaker, 2 years after the accident, I received a letter from Major Gruber's wife, Connie, who actually lives in the district that I represent, the home of Camp Lejeune Marine Base and New River Air Station. I will quote from her letter to me that I received in 2000:

> I contacted you in hopes that leaders of integrity, free of bias, would have both the intelligence and the courage it takes to decide the facts for themselves. If you do that, you will agree the ''human factor/pilot error'' findings should not stand as it is in military history. Again, I respectfully ask you for your support. Please do not simply pass this matter along to General Jones without offering the support my husband and his comrades deserve. Please remember, these 19 marines can no longer speak for themselves. I certainly am not afraid to speak for them, and I believe someone has to. Even though it is easier put to rest and forgotten, please join me in doing the right thing by taking the time to address this important issue.

Mr. Speaker, she further stated:

> With so many wrongs in the world we cannot make right, I ask that you prayerfully consider an injustice that you can help make right. I realize you alone may not be able to amend the report, but you can certainly support my efforts to permanently remove this black mark from my husband's honorable military service record. Military leaders continue to refuse to amend this report, but I am certain that there must be other means of making this change. Given the controversy of this aircraft and the Marine Corps' vested interest, surely there is an unbiased, ethical way to rightfully absolve these pilots. Please help me by not only forwarding my request but also by supporting it.

Mr. Speaker, I hold up now a photograph of the V–22 Osprey. The Osprey is a very unique plane. At the time of this accident in the year 2000, it was an experimental plane. These two pilots, John Brow and Brooks Gruber, were not experimental pilots. They had no training in flying an experimental plane. This plane itself should never have been asked to do what was done that night. In fact, Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney was trying to eliminate the V–22 program. I was in Congress at the time, and I remember vividly that it was a major fight here in Congress as to whether we were going to fund the V–22 program or not fund the program.

Again, Secretary of Defense Cheney wanted to scrap the program. The Marine Corps wanted the V–22. They were convinced this was a plane that they needed desperately. There were two pilots, one of Nighthawk 71, which was the lead plane that actually landed without too much trouble, even though it did have a hard landing, and in the second plane behind them was Nighthawk 72. That was the plane that crashed and killed 19 marines.

Since receiving Connie Gruber's letter, I have done everything in my power over the last 12 years to clear the names of Lieutenant Colonel John Brow and Major Brooks Gruber. What has frustrated me was the Marine Corps will not acknowledge that these pilots could not be and should not be held at fault because they had no training in the V–22.

There was an issue known as vortex ring state. Mr. Speaker, anyone that flies, particularly helicopters, would understand that term, ''vortex ring state.'' But at the time of this accident, Bell-Boeing, who produced this V–22, and the Marine Corps had no idea of how pilots would react to vortex ring state with the V–22.

Mr. Speaker, I have brought a little model to the floor, with the approval of the House, that will show that the plane can go from a helicopter mode to a plane mode, where it flies just like a regular plane. But at this point, again, Bell-Boeing and also the Marine Corps did not understand vortex ring state and how it could impact this plane. When this plane is coming down, following behind, Nighthawk 72, what happened was that the vortex ring state really made this plane just flip over, and the plane crashed and 19 marines were burned to death.

□ 1530

Mr. Speaker, the wives of these two pilots, John Brow and Brooks Gruber, all they're asking—the lawsuits are over. Bell-Boeing has been sued for millions and millions of dollars—it hasn't been disclosed, so no one knows the exact figure. But I can tell you, after talking to the attorney for Connie Gruber and Trish Brow, that the lawsuits are over. I've spoken to Brian Alexander, who handled the lawsuits for 17 of the 19 families in New York. He said the lawsuits are over.

So basically all we're asking the Marine Corps to do is to please just issue a letter to Connie and Trish that clearly states that: Your husband, flying this V–22, was not prepared on how to handle vortex ring state because Bell-Boeing and we, the Marine Corps, did not understand it either, so how can we train pilots if we don't understand what we're trying to train them in.

So, therefore, it's been a very frustrating 10 or 12 years of trying to get the Marine Corps to bring peace to John Brow and Brooks Gruber.

Mr. Speaker, Rich Whittle, with whom I've had many conversations, wrote the book called ''The Dream Machine.'' It's the history of the V–22 and all the problems it's had along the way and all the fights that we've had in Congress and outside of Congress to make this plane a reality for the Marine Corps. But something I want to read from his book, ''The Dream Machine.'' We're talking about vortex ring state, Mr. Speaker:

> Where the actual line existed for the Osprey was something the program's developmental test pilots had not determined, though hundreds of test flights to explore that part of the Osprey's envelope had been planned.

They had planned, Mr. Speaker, to have hundreds of tests, but it further states:

> Nolan Schmidt, the Osprey program manager and a Marine Corps colonel at the time, told me years later that those tests were scrapped in 1998 to save time and money. The Navy Department was going to cut the Osprey program's budget for the coming fiscal year by $100 million, Schmidt said. After consulting with the Boeing engineer in charge of flight-testing, Philip Dunford, Schmidt said, the program managers decided they could save about $50 million and a lot of time if they didn't do all the tests planned for the Osprey at high rates of descent.

Mr. Speaker, again, these pilots in Nighthawk 72, following behind Nighthawk 71, were descending, and yet no one knew what the parameters were—the pilots did not know the parameters, the Marine Corps did not know the parameters, and neither did Bell-Boeing. So how in the world could these pilots be held responsible? It is absolutely unfair.

I can honestly tell you at the time I knew General McCorkle. He was the general that oversaw marine aviation. His assistant at the time was Brigadier General Amos, who now is the Commandant of the Marine Corps. They knew at the time that the V–22 was under tremendous pressure by Secretary of Defense Cheney to scrap the program.

Sadly I say this—because I know both these gentlemen, they're very fine fellows, but I will say this: that dead men can't talk. These two pilots had no one to speak for them but their wives—Connie Gruber down in Jacksonville, North Carolina, and Trish Brow over in Maryland. And they have children. Trish has two young boys and Connie has a beautiful little girl named Brook.

Mr. Speaker, that's why this has become an obsession with me, quite frankly. I'm not an expert in flying, I know nothing about how to keep a plane in the air to be honest with you. But Mr. Speaker, I have had so many people to join me in this effort, and one of those people is an expert named Rex Rivolo. In fact, he was working with the V–22 program when he was in the Department of Defense, and I want to read his comments, Mr. Speaker, for the RECORD:

The failure of the manufacturer, Bell-Boeing, and the Navy to characterize the slow-speed, high rate of descent handling qualities of the V–22 through flight testing, the failure to describe them for the air crew and the failure to provide an adequate warning system in the aircraft were the causes of the mishap—not air crew error.

Following the mishap and my discovery of the facts, I became very vocal within the V–22 community in my attempt to clear the air crew of blame. However, it quickly became clear that the community well-understood the causes but was committed to placing the blame on the air crew, as blaming the aircraft at this time would have jeopardized the MV–22 Program, which was, and remains, the highest priority of the U.S. Marine Corps.

Mr. Speaker, that in itself is so sad, that this expert, an engineering expert in aerodynamics, would make this kind of statement, but I just read it for the RECORD, Mr. Speaker. He knew and he knows that at that time these two men, who had no one to defend them, had to take the blame to save the program.

Mr. Speaker, America's greatness is because we are a country of integrity and honesty. I've done research on this and found out that people that knew these men, that flew with them—their fellow marines—would tell you today that John Brow and Brooks Gruber were not prepared for what happened—and no other one who flew a V–22 at the time understood vortex ring state and how to react to it.

Mr. Speaker, now that the program has been saved, there is no reason that the Marine Corps cannot give a letter to Connie Gruber and Trish Brow clearly stating that at the time, April 8, 2000, that we, the Marine Corps, and Bell-Boeing, the manufacturer, we did not understand vortex ring state because no one had done the testing because they cut the programs, they cut the testing.

Mr. Speaker, truthfully, what is so ironic, shortly after this crash on April 8, Bell-Boeing paid Tom MacDonald, an experimental pilot who spent over 700 hours flying the V–22 time after time, time after time and getting it into the vortex ring state and then figuring out how the pilot should react to it. Mr. Speaker, because of that work by Tom MacDonald, we now have warning systems in the V–22 that pilots, when they get into vortex ring state, the warning system starts lighting up on the panel. They hear a sound in the headphones that says ''sink, sink, sink.'' So they know exactly how to handle vortex ring state. But John Brow and Brooks Gruber did not know how to handle vortex ring state.

I continue to call on the Marine Corps to do what is right. The Corps has one of the greatest respects of the American people because of integrity and courage. Well, Mr. Commandant, the right thing to do is to prove integrity and courage by giving the two wives one paragraph.

Mr. Speaker, further, I've had so many people to help with this effort. The Assistant Secretary of Defense and the director of operational test and evaluation at the time of the crash in 2000 was Philip Coyle. He has joined in this effort with Rex Rivolo. And I read what Philip Coyle said:

There is a rush to blame pilots, and to cite factors that relate to pilot performance, rather than cite the true root causes of accidents. The design and detailed engineering in an aircraft or vehicle often is at the root cause of an accident. If a particular make or model of automobile was crashing too often, say Toyota or Chevy, people wouldn't blame the drivers; they would say that something is wrong with the automobile. The Marine Corps has always seems to blame the pilots.

Mr. Speaker, this is why this has become a passion for me personally. And I could not be where I am today without so many experts—I mentioned two today, Phil Coyle and Rex Rivolo—who have joined me. I want to mention Jim Schafer. Jim's call name was ''Trigger.'' He was actually in the air at the time of this plane crash. He saw his friends go down and burn.

Mr. Speaker, this is not right for these two wives to carry the pain now almost 13 years—April 8 of 2000, and we've already passed April 8 of 2013. All they're asking the Marine Corps for is a simple letter to just state: At the time, we did not understand, Bell-Boeing didn't understand, so, therefore, we couldn't train your husbands. So, therefore, your husbands could not have known how to react.

Now they have all these warning systems that I just mentioned a moment ago.

Mr. Speaker, I am not going to let this go. In fact, I have a meeting with the Secretary of Defense, Chuck Hagel, on the 10th of July—he has already confirmed the date. I have accumulated so much information on this issue that I probably could have a small library that people could come in and research this accident. But I have great respect for Chuck Hagel. I remember him as a Senator when I came out against the Iraq war and I was getting beaten up down in my own district down in eastern North Carolina. I did not know Senator Hagel at the time, but he called me up and left word. I returned his call. He said, ''Congressman, you're right, Iraq was an unnecessary war, I want to meet with you.'' So I went over and met with him, Mr. Speaker. He had his staff spend weeks to show me maps on Iraq and the fact that there were never weapons of mass destruction.

□ 1540

For that I'm of the firm belief that I will meet with him for 30 minutes—that's all he could give me—and I think he will understand that this is not about me, WALTER JONES. This is about honor, this is about respect; and the two dead pilots deserve this, Mr. Speaker.

Just a few more points, Mr. Speaker, before I close. Curt Weldon, when they were fighting this program—Secretary Cheney was fighting this program—in '98, '99, and 2000, especially after this crash, the one man in the Congress, Mr. Speaker—and I was here at the time and I can attest to this—was Curt Weldon, a Congressman from Pennsylvania, who took on the administration, that took on Dick Cheney and said, we've got to have this program, we've got to have this program for the Marine Corps, the Marine Corps wants the V–22, and this is their present and this is their future plane.

Curt Weldon now, Mr. Speaker, has joined me, and I want to share from a letter. Curt Weldon, these are his words:

I have found it outrageous that the Marine Corps has willingly failed to fully clarify the improper characterization that pilot errors may have contributed to the tragic accident of Nighthawk 72. I join with Lieutenant Colonel Ron Radich, Retired United States Marine Corps, a member of the JAG Investigation Team for the April 8, 2000, MV–22 accident in his assessment that ''it would be morally wrong'' to place the blame on the pilots of Nighthawk 72. Everyone, save the most senior leadership of the United States Marine Corps, has acknowledged that the Marine Corps must formally acknowledged the facts and summaries of the investigations and publicly and clearly restore the outstanding commitments and reputation of these two brave marines—there can be no wavering and no innuendo—facts are facts.

You have my unwavering support to appear at any public event and/or congressional hearing to set the record straight regarding the need for United States Marine Corps leadership to stop ''playing games'' and once and for all correct the public record regarding the Nighthawk 72 incident and fully clear the names of these two American heroes.

Mr. Speaker, I want to read that one more time, just to close, by Curt Weldon, a former United States Congressman, who fought and saved the V–22 program for the Marine Corps. He saved the program.

You have my unwavering support to appear at any public event and/or congressional hearing to set the record straight regarding the need for United States Marine Corps leadership to stop ''playing games'' and once and for all correct the public record regarding the Nighthawk 72 incident and fully clear the names of these two American heroes.

Mr. Speaker, there are so many people who have joined me in this effort. I'm going to name a few. The three investigators, now retired, but at the time Colonel Mike Morgan, a helicopter pilot himself; a lawyer, Phil Stackhouse; and Lieutenant Colonel Ron Radich, who I just made reference to in Curt Weldon's statement.

These three men were sent to Arizona the day after the accident. Mr. Speaker, they were sent there to investigate the wreckage, the burned wreckage that killed 19 marines. All three of these men, Mr. Speaker, have joined me in strong letters to clear the names of John Brow and Brooks Gruber.

I made reference earlier to Colonel Jim Shafer, a V–22 pilot, friends of these two pilots. He also has joined in saying that at the time we did not understand vortex ring state, at the time we did not understand how vortex ring state would impact on the V–22 Osprey. Mr. Speaker, again, I hold this up because the Osprey is a unique plane. It

goes from a helicopter mode until it goes to like a plane just flying with the propellers in front of it, and then it goes back up. But Jim Shafer has said that John Brow and Brooks Gruber do not deserve the blame for this accident.

I made reference to Dr. Rex Rivolo in my comments earlier, Mr. Speaker. He's a strong proponent of clearing the pilots' names.

Brian Alexander, I made reference that he had handled the lawsuits for 17 of the 19 families whose young sons were killed.

Jim Furman, who was the attorney for the two pilots, John Brow and Brooks Gruber, their families.

Eric Thorson, a former aircraft investigator for the United States Air Force, he's actually joined us in this as well.

And I mentioned Phil Coyle, because Phil Coyle has said he was on the inside, he saw it. These pilots could not be held at fault because they were not to blame.

Danielle Brian, executive director, Project on Government Oversight, she's joined in this effort.

And Bob Cox, a reporter for the Fort Worth Star.

Mr. Speaker, I will close in just a few minutes, because I want to thank the staff for staying on to give me this opportunity to talk about this issue.

I have made a promise to Connie Gruber in Jacksonville. Her husband, Brooks Gruber, is buried down in the cemetery, Veterans Cemetery in Jacksonville, North Carolina. I have met Trish Brow and her two boys, Mark and Matthew. I've taken them to lunch here in the Members' dining room. Both those ladies have my promise, Mr. Speaker, that if we ever get just one paragraph, that I would like to go to the cemetery at Arlington and stand there with Trish and Matthew and Mark and say: ''Colonel, rest in peace. You will never be blamed again for this accident because you were not at fault.''

Then I want to go to the cemetery in Jacksonville, North Carolina, with Connie and her little girl, Brooke. Brooke was a baby when her daddy was killed. She's a beautiful little girl of 12 now, I guess soon to be 13. She never knew her daddy. She has just seen pictures of him holding her as a little baby and smiling at her. That just made it very, very special.

These two men deserve in the eyes of God to be cleared. I am not the smartest man in Congress, and I do not profess to be one; but God gave me a big heart, and he put this on me almost 13 years ago. And what I have found out, Mr. Speaker, is we are right. We are right. The Marine Corps is wrong in this situation. The experts who helped develop the V–22 have said: We are right and the Marine Corps is wrong. Curt Weldon who fought so valiantly to save the program deserves the credit. He's joined and said these two men deserve to be cleared.

Mr. Speaker, I remember vividly a quote from Voltaire:

To the living we owe respect, to the dead we owe the truth.

That's all this is all about, the truth that these two marines were not trained, did not understand, nor did Bell-Boeing, nor did the Marine Corps. They were not trained as to how to handle the vortex ring state.

We have gotten a little bit further in the last year, but recently the Marine Corps rejected a letter that the wives had signed off on if they could change two words. And the two words are the same word, the word ''solely,'' the word ''solely.'' The pilots are not ''solely'' at fault.

Mr. Speaker, that bothers me because I know, and the Marine Corps knows, that they were not trained. Now, if they had been trained as to how to react and respond to vortex ring state in the V–22, then I might be able to accept that word ''solely.'' But how in the world can you say that pilots who were not trained because Bell-Boeing did not know how to handle vortex ring state in the V–22, the Marine Corps did not understand it, so if they didn't understand it and they didn't train the pilots, how could they be ''solely'' responsible?

□ 1550

That is absolutely unacceptable to the wives, and it is unacceptable to me. So therefore, again, Mr. Speaker, I am going to meet with Secretary Hagel on the 10th of July. I will be prepared. I only have 30 minutes, but that's fine. I know he's a busy man with all of the problems facing our military and the world; but if he'll give me 30 minutes, I will show him in 20 minutes why these pilots should not be held responsible for this accident.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you and the staff for giving me this extra time. This is one of these things that is a religion with me. I don't fly much. I've been in a few small planes, and I cannot imagine the panic of these two fellows, knowing that they've got 17 young marines, privates and corporals, sitting in the back of this plane and how they must have felt. I don't know. God knows their hearts, because He was with them when they went down, but all I can think of is the panic of something you had not been trained to handle, the panic of, What do we do now?

Brooks, John, what do we do now? We've got seconds, seconds.

And then the plane flips and burns.

I ask God to touch the hearts of the United States Marine Corps and of the commandant. The commandant now is a fine gentleman—I know him, and I have respect for him—but he was there the day and the night of this crash.

The whole reason for this mission was to show the anti-V–22s and Secretary Dick Cheney that this was a remarkable plane, this V–22 Osprey, because they could show how they could descend so quickly and recover some Americans that would be held by terrorists. That was the mission they were on in Marana, Arizona—to show the world that this plane was unique and that it could land and descend quickly and hit the ground and get these people out. Well, the problem was that no one understood the parameters of this plane and how it should descend; so, therefore, these 19 marines were killed.

Mr. Speaker, I hope to be back on the floor right after the Memorial Day break before I meet with the Secretary of Defense, Chuck Hagel, and talk about this again. I believe sincerely that we are all stronger people and better people when we admit we've made a mistake, and when an organization that the American people love so much like the Marine Corps—and I love the Marine Corps, but quite frankly, when they will not give Connie and Trish a little paragraph, like I have already said three times today, which clearly states that their husbands were not at fault, it is very disappointing to say the least.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, as I do on the floor when I think about all of our men and women overseas in Afghanistan and Iraq, I am going to ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform and to please bless the families of our men and women in uniform.

I ask God in His loving arms to hold the families who have given a child dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq.

I am going to ask at this time that God touch the hearts of the United States Marine Corps to give peace to the families of John Brow and Brooks Gruber.

I will ask God to please bless the House and Senate, that we will do what is right in the eyes of God for God's people today and God's people tomorrow.

I will ask God to please bless the President of the United States of America, that he will do what is right in the eyes of God for God's people today and God's people tomorrow.

And three times I will say, God, please, God, please, God, please, continue to bless America.

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

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1703

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BURGESS) at 5 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3, NORTHERN ROUTE APPROVAL ACT

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113–88) on the resolution (H. Res. 228) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3) to approve the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Keystone XL pipeline, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE JIM COSTA, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable JIM COSTA, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 20, 2013.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a subpoena for documents issued by the California Workers' Compensation Appeals Board, regarding a third-party workers' compensation matter.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

JIM COSTA,
Member of Congress.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DIAZ-BALART (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for May 20 through May 22 on account of a death in the family.

Mr. COLE (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today and the balance of the week on account of inspecting damage in the district from the recent tornadoes.

Mr. CLYBURN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, May 22, 2013, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the first quarter of 2013 pursuant to Public Law 95–384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2013

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Darrell Issa	1/5	1/7	Turkey		860.00						860.00
	1/7	1/8	Israel		498.00						498.00
	1/8	1/10	Cyprus		508.00						508.00
	1/10	1/11	Algeria		372.00						372.00
	1/11	1/12	Morocco		262.00						262.00
	1/12	1/13	Spain		276.00						276.00
Hon. John Mica	1/5	1/7	Turkey		860.00						860.00
	1/7	1/8	Israel		498.00						498.00
	1/8	1/10	Cyprus		508.00						508.00
	1/10	1/11	Algeria		372.00						372.00
	1/11	1/12	Morocco		262.00						262.00
	1/12	1/13	Spain		276.00						276.00
Hon. Raul Labrador	1/5	1/7	Turkey		860.00						860.00
	1/7	1/8	Israel		498.00						498.00
	1/8	1/10	Cyprus		508.00						508.00
	1/10	1/11	Algeria		372.00						372.00
	1/11	1/12	Morocco		262.00						262.00
	1/12	1/13	Spain		276.00						276.00
Hon. Scott DesJarlais	1/5	1/7	Turkey		860.00						860.00
	1/7	1/8	Israel		498.00						498.00
	1/8	1/10	Cyprus		508.00						508.00
	1/10	1/11	Algeria		372.00						372.00
	1/11	1/12	Morocco		262.00						262.00
	1/12	1/13	Spain		276.00						276.00
Hon. Blake Farenthold	1/5	1/7	Turkey		860.00						860.00
	1/7	1/8	Israel		498.00						498.00
	1/8	1/10	Cyprus		508.00						508.00
	1/10	1/11	Algeria		372.00						372.00
	1/11	1/12	Morocco		262.00						262.00
	1/12	1/13	Spain		276.00						276.00
Hon. Tim Walberg	1/5	1/7	Turkey		860.00						860.00
	1/7	1/8	Israel		498.00						498.00
	1/8	1/10	Cyprus		508.00						508.00
	1/10	1/11	Algeria		372.00						372.00
	1/11	1/12	Morocco		262.00						262.00
	1/12	1/13	Spain		276.00						276.00
Hon. Paul Gosar	1/5	1/7	Turkey		860.00						860.00
	1/7	1/8	Israel		498.00						498.00
	1/8	1/10	Cyprus		508.00						508.00
	1/10	1/11	Algeria		372.00						372.00
	1/11	1/12	Morocco		262.00						262.00
	1/12	1/13	Spain		276.00						276.00
Linda Good	1/5	1/7	Turkey		860.00						860.00
	1/7	1/8	Israel		498.00						498.00
	1/8	1/10	Cyprus		508.00						508.00
	1/10	1/11	Algeria		372.00						372.00
	1/11	1/12	Morocco		262.00						262.00
	1/12	1/13	Spain		276.00						276.00
Adam Fromm	1/5	1/7	Turkey		860.00						860.00
	1/7	1/8	Israel		498.00						498.00
	1/8	1/10	Cyprus		508.00						508.00
	1/10	1/11	Algeria		372.00						372.00
	1/11	1/12	Morocco		262.00						262.00
	1/12	1/13	Spain		276.00						276.00
Carlos Uriarte	1/5	1/7	Turkey		860.00						860.00
	1/7	1/8	Israel		498.00						498.00
	1/8	1/10	Cyprus		508.00						508.00
	1/10	1/11	Algeria		372.00						372.00
	1/11	1/12	Morocco		262.00						262.00
	1/12	1/13	Spain		276.00						276.00

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2013—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Delegation Expenses							3,498.41		19,957.66		23,456.07
Committee total					27,760.00		3,498.41		19,957.66		51,216.07

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA, Chairman, May 3, 2013.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1558. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Admiral James G. Stavridis, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1559. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's annual report on material violations or suspected material violations of regulations relating to Treasury auctions and other Treasury securities offerings during the period January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3121 nt. Public Law 103-202, section 202; to the Committee on Financial Services.

1560. A letter from the Attorney, Office of the General Counsel, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's final rule — Consumer Financial Civil Penalty Fund [Docket No.: CFPB-2013-0011] (RIN: 3170-AA38) received May 13, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

1561. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility (Oswego County, NY, et al.) [Docket ID: FEMA-2013-0002] [Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8283] received May 13, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

1562. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility (Duval County, NY, et al.); [Docket ID: FEMA-2013-0002] [Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8281] received May 3, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

1563. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility (Wayne County, PA, et al.); [Docket ID: FEMA-2013-0002] [Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8279] received May 13, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

1564. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's report entitled, ''Report to Congress on the Social and Economic Conditions of Native Americans: Fiscal Years 2007 and 2008'', pursuant to Section 811A of the Native American Programs Act of 1974; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

1565. A letter from the Assistant Legal Advisor for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting report prepared by the Department of State concerning international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1566. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report on the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Activities in countries described in Section 307(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1567. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergency Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c) pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12170 of November 14, 1979; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1568. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Belarus that was declared in Executive Order 13405 of June 16, 2006; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1569. A letter from the Acting Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1570. A letter from the Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General of the Farm Credit Administration for the period October 1, 2012 through March 31, 2013; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1571. A letter from the Senior Vice President, Controller and Chief Accounting Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston, transmitting the 2012 management report and statement of internal controls of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1572. A letter from the Division Chief, Regulatory Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Segregation of Lands—Renewable Energy [LLWO301000.L13400000] (RIN: 1004-AE19) received April 29, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1573. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Greenland Turbot in the Bering Sea Subarea of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 121018563-3148-02] (RIN: 0648-XC638) received May 14, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1574. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in the West Yakutat District of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 120918468-3111-02] (RIN: 0648-XC582) received May 2, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1575. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher/Processors Using Trawl Gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 120918468-3111-02] (RIN: 0648-XC605) received May 13, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1576. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Boards and Committees [Docket No.: NASA-2013-0001] (RIN: 2700-AD82) received May 14, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

1577. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulations, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Amendments to the Rules on Determining Hearing Appearances [Docket No.: SSA 2007-0044] (RIN: 0960-AH40) received May 13, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 228. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3) to approve the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Keystone XL pipeline, and for other purposes (Rept. 113–88). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. ISSA (for himself and Mr. CUMMINGS):

H.R. 2061. A bill to expand the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 to increase accountability and transparency in Federal spending, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio (for himself, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. TURNER, Mr. STIVERS, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. LATTA, Mrs. BEATTY, and Ms. FUDGE):

H.R. 2062. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 275 Front Street in Marietta, Ohio, as the ''Lance Corporal Joshua C. Taylor Memorial Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 2063. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the health care provided to veterans of World War II at facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (for herself, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. SCHNEIDER, and Mr. WAXMAN):

H.R. 2064. A bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to provide social service agencies with the resources to provide services to meet the urgent needs of Holocaust survivors to age in place with dignity, comfort, security, and quality of life; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself and Mrs. NAPOLITANO):

H.R. 2065. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require recipients of per diem payments from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for the provision of services for homeless veterans to comply with codes relevant to operations and level of care provided, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. DENHAM (for himself, Mr. COHEN, Mr. GRIMM, and Mr. CAMPBELL):

H.R. 2066. A bill to require Amtrak to propose a pet policy that allows passengers to transport domesticated cats and dogs on certain Amtrak trains, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. MEADOWS:

H.R. 2067. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to make permanent the authority of the Secretary of the Treasury to establish a separate compensation and performance management system with respect to persons holding critical scientific, technical, or professional positions within the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mrs. LUMMIS (for herself, Mr. DEFAZIO, and Mr. AMODEI):

H.R. 2068. A bill to reauthorize the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BENISHEK:

H.R. 2069. A bill to amend the Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities Assistance Act of 1978 to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to waive certain eligibility requirements; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. BISHOP of New York (for himself, Mr. WALZ, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. YARMUTH, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. TIERNEY, Ms. KUSTER, and Mr. CICILLINE):

H.R. 2070. A bill to protect consumers from price-gouging of gasoline and other fuels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BENISHEK:

H.R. 2071. A bill to prohibit the use of any Federal funds to finalize, implement, or enforce the proposed rule entitled ''Standards for the Growing, Harvesting, Packing, and Holding of Produce for Human Consumption''; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BENISHEK:

H.R. 2072. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the accountability of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BRADY of Texas (for himself, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. KING of New York, Ms. NORTON, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. COSTA, and Mr. BISHOP of New York):

H.R. 2073. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish an interagency coordinating committee on pulmonary hypertension to develop recommendations to advance research, increase awareness and education, and improve health and health care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. DAVIS of California (for herself, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. CAMPBELL):

H.R. 2074. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, to submit to Congress, and make available to the public on the Internet, a report on the animals killed under the Wildlife Services program of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. ENGEL:

H.R. 2075. A bill to enhance the energy security of the United States, reduce dependence on imported oil, improve the energy efficiency of the transportation sector, and reduce emissions through the expansion of grid supported transportation; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Science, Space, and Technology, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KLINE (for himself, Mr. WALZ, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. PETERSON, and Mr. ELLISON):

H.R. 2076. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to conduct a review of the Integrated Disability Evaluation System of the Armed Forces and to submit to Congress a report on such system; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. PERLMUTTER (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. KEATING, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. RUSH, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. HOLT, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. POLIS, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. ENYART, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. CLAY, Mr. COHEN, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. TONKO, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. DOYLE, and Ms. HAHN):

H.R. 2077. A bill to prohibit employers from compelling or coercing any person to authorize access to a protected computer, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. QUIGLEY:

H.R. 2078. A bill to amend title 40, United States Code, to direct the Administrator of General Services to incorporate bird-safe building materials and design features into public buildings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. RADEL (for himself and Mr. SALMON):

H.R. 2079. A bill to provide for a three-year extension of the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for the conduct of medical disability examinations by contract physicians; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER:

H.R. 2080. A bill to provide for the admission to the United States of certain Tibetans; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. THORNBERRY:

H.R. 2081. A bill to secure unrestricted reliable energy for American consumption and transmission; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HIGGINS (for himself and Mr. COLLINS of New York):

H. Con. Res. 37. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that a site in Arlington National Cemetery should be provided for a memorial marker to honor the memory of the 14 members of the Army's 24th Infantry Division who have received the Medal of Honor; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ISRAEL (for himself and Mr. COLE):

H. Res. 229. A resolution calling for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and others to be tried before the International Criminal Court for committing war crimes and crimes against humanity; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. PERLMUTTER (for himself, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, and Mr. RIGELL):

H. Res. 230. A resolution to recognize and honor our nation's veterans on the 70th anniversaries of World War II battles; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. PETRI introduced A bill (H.R. 2082) to authorize and request the President to award the Medal of Honor to James Megellas, formerly of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, and currently of Colleyville, Texas, for acts of valor on January 28, 1945, during the Battle of the Bulge in World War II; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. ISSA:

H.R. 2061.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 9, Clause 7: ''No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio:

H.R. 2062.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the authority to establish post offices and post roads, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 2063.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clause XII–XIV of the Constitution of the United States, which gives Congress the authority to:

To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;

To provide and maintain a Navy;

To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ:

H.R. 2064.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MCKINLEY:

H.R. 2065.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The bill is authorized by Congress' power to ''provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States'' pursuant to Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DENHAM:

H.R. 2066.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 1 (relating to providing for the common defense and general welfare of the United States) and Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress).

By Mr. MEADOWS:

H.R. 2067.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art. I, Sec. 8

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mrs. LUMMIS:

H.R. 2068.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2: ''The Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to prejudice any claims of the United States, or of any particular state.''

By Mr. BENISHEK:

H.R. 2069.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Sec. 8, clause 3, the Commerce Clause.

By Mr. BISHOP of New York:

H.R. 2070.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. BENISHEK:

H.R. 2071.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution—

The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

In addition, Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution—

The Congress shall have Power . . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. BENISHEK:

H.R. 2072.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BRADY of Texas:

H.R. 2073.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The Congress shall have Power * * * To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mrs. DAVIS of California:

H.R. 2074.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. ENGEL:

H.R. 2075.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. KLINE:

H.R. 2076.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This legislation directs the Secretary of Defense to conduct a comprehensive review of the backlog of cases in the Integrated Disability Evaluation System and report to the Congress on the Department of Defense's plan to improve the system and resolve all pending cases ensuring our servicemembers injured in defense of our nation are provided the care they need. Specific authority is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution (clauses 12, 13, 14, and 16), which grants Congress the power to raise and support an Army; to provide and maintain a Navy; to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces; and to provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia.

By Mr. PERLMUTTER:

H.R. 2077.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 section 8 clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. QUIGLEY:

H.R. 2078.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. RADEL:

H.R. 2079.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 12, 13, and 14, which grants Congress the power to raise and support an Army, to provide and maintain a Navy; and to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER:

H.R. 2080.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4.

By Mr. THORNBERRY:

H.R. 2081.

Article I, Section 8 and Article IV, Section 3 of the United States Constitution.

Mr. PETRI:

H.R. 2082.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 14 of Section 8 of Article I

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 7: Mr. FORBES, Mr. ROSS, Mr. TERRY, and Mr. STOCKMAN.

H.R. 43: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.

H.R. 55: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 164: Mr. KEATING, Mr. STOCKMAN, and Mr. GUTIERREZ.

H.R. 184: Mr. JOYCE.

H.R. 241: Mr. YOHO and Mr. VALADAO.

H.R. 269: Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 292: Mr. PASTOR of Arizona.

H.R. 324: Mr. KILMER and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 351: Mr. COFFMAN.

H.R. 358: Mr. OWENS and Mr. RENACCI.

H.R. 435: Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 451: Mr. ROONEY and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.

H.R. 508: Mr. VALADAO.

H.R. 530: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.

H.R. 596: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 630: Mr. MEEKS, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. HIMES, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Mrs. CAPPS, and Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 647: Mr. SCHNEIDER.

H.R. 664: Mr. COLLINS of New York.

H.R. 675: Mr. MCDERMOTT.

H.R. 676: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 679: Mrs. LUMMIS.

H.R. 685: Mr. LANCE, Mr. SALMON, Mr. WALBERG, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 686: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. TERRY, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 693: Mr. KIND and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.

H.R. 708: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 721: Mr. WHITFIELD and Mr. ROGERS of Michigan.

H.R. 736: Mr. CÁRDENAS and Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 755: Mr. RIBBLE.

H.R. 792: Mr. TURNER.

H.R. 846: Mr. LOWENTHAL and Mr. MARINO.

H.R. 850: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H.R. 851: Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 900: Mr. MARKEY.

H.R. 911: Mr. DAINES.

H.R. 958: Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 961: Mr. KEATING, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 975: Mr. KILMER and Mrs. LOWEY.

H.R. 1000: Mr. MEEKS and Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 1008: Mr. CARTWRIGHT and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.

H.R. 1015: Mr. BENTIVOLIO.

H.R. 1029: Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 1074: Mr. PETERS of Michigan, Mr. VEASEY, and Mrs. CAPITO.

H.R. 1091: Mr. NUGENT.

H.R. 1093: Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Ms. DELBENE, and Mr. DEFAZIO.

H.R. 1094: Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. DOGGETT, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, and Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 1125: Mr. YODER.

H.R. 1129: Mr. LATHAM and Mr. PASCRELL.
H.R. 1130: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 1146: Mr. MORAN, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, and Mr. KIND.
H.R. 1199: Mr. RUNYAN.
H.R. 1209: Mr. LATTA, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. TAKANO, and Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 1252: Mr. POCAN, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. BISHOP of New York, and Mr. MCINTYRE.
H.R. 1255: Mr. RIBBLE and Mr. MATHESON.
H.R. 1274: Mr. MORAN and Mr. MICHAUD.
H.R. 1286: Mr. DOYLE.
H.R. 1288: Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 1313: Mr. LANKFORD.
H.R. 1339: Ms. MOORE.
H.R. 1354: Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 1355: Mr. PEARCE and Mr. BROUN of Georgia.
H.R. 1416: Mr. LATHAM, Mr. NUNNELEE, and Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 1421: Mr. FATTAH, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. CUELLAR, and Mr. SWALWELL of California.
H.R. 1424: Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 1449: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. PALAZZO.
H.R. 1453: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 1485: Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. SIRES, and Mr. LANCE.
H.R. 1496: Mr. GUTHRIE and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.
H.R. 1506: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 1528: Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. YODER, and Mr. SALMON.
H.R. 1538: Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 1553: Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. NUGENT, Mrs. HARTZLER, and Mr. NUNNELEE.
H.R. 1566: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H.R. 1588: Ms. EDWARDS.
H.R. 1589: Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 1590: Mr. WITTMAN.
H.R. 1593: Mr. BARBER, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. PETERS of Michigan, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mr. YARMUTH.
H.R. 1620: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
H.R. 1624: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 1642: Mr. DELANEY and Mr. RENACCI.
H.R. 1643: Mr. DELANEY.
H.R. 1652: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. MCNERNEY.
H.R. 1696: Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 1701: Mr. BURGESS and Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.
H.R. 1708: Mr. MARCHANT.
H.R. 1725: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. O'ROURKE, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. KIND.
H.R. 1726: Ms. BROWN of Florida and Mr. CRENSHAW.
H.R. 1731: Mrs. NAPOLITANO and Ms. HAHN.
H.R. 1739: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. CLAY.
H.R. 1742: Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 1748: Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 1750: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. WALBERG.
H.R. 1756: Mr. BENTIVOLIO.
H.R. 1768: Mr. BENTIVOLIO.
H.R. 1771: Mr. ROSKAM.
H.R. 1781: Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois.
H.R. 1787: Mrs. CAPITO and Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 1789: Mr. HOLDING.
H.R. 1797: Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. DAINES, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. MCINTYRE, and Mrs. ELLMERS.
H.R. 1798: Mr. WITTMAN.
H.R. 1801: Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. WITTMAN, and Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 1809: Mr. BISHOP of New York and Mr. WAXMAN.
H.R. 1823: Mr. HUFFMAN and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H.R. 1825: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. LATTA, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. WITTMAN.
H.R. 1826: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 1830: Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. WITTMAN, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. MICHAUD, Ms. DELAURO, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 1833: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 1851: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California and Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 1857: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H.R. 1867: Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Mr. BISHOP of New York.
H.R. 1869: Mr. HARRIS, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. FLORES, Mr. LIPINSKI, and Mr. WILLIAMS.
H.R. 1871: Mr. AMASH.
H.R. 1875: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 1893: Mr. SABLAN and Mr. PETERS of Michigan.
H.R. 1896: Mr. PAULSEN.
H.R. 1904: Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. ENYART, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. COURTNEY, and Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 1910: Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 1915: Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 1918: Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. KING of Iowa, and Mr. LATTA.
H.R. 1919: Mr. VALADAO.
H.R. 1920: Mr. VELA.
H.R. 1922: Mr. BURGESS.
H.R. 1943: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 1950: Mr. NEUGEBAUER.
H.R. 1953: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.
H.R. 1961: Mr. ENYART.
H.R. 1962: Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. FARENTHOLD, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.
H.R. 1980: Mr. RUIZ, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. KLINE, Mr. VISCLOSKY, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. LEE of California, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 1982: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.
H.R. 1992: Mr. GRIMM and Mr. WEBER of Texas.
H.R. 2002: Mr. LARSEN of Washington and Mr. NUNNELEE.
H.R. 2004: Mr. WALDEN and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H.R. 2010: Mr. LONG, Mr. JOYCE, and Mr. STOCKMAN.
H.R. 2014: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.
H.R. 2016: Ms. KUSTER and Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 2020: Mr. CARNEY, Ms. TITUS, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. DOYLE, and Mr. ELLISON.
H.R. 2025: Mr. FARENTHOLD.
H.R. 2026: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 2027: Mr. ROKITA.
H.R. 2036: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 2053: Mr. JONES and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.
H. Con. Res. 34: Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Mr. WAXMAN, and Ms. LOFGREN.
H. Res. 36: Mr. YOHO.
H. Res. 71: Mr. LAMBORN.
H. Res. 90: Mr. VELA, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. GRAYSON, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. WATT, and Mrs. DAVIS of California.
H. Res. 104: Mr. TAKANO and Mr. CARNEY.
H. Res. 109: Ms. ESHOO.
H. Res. 174: Mrs. BUSTOS.
H. Res. 190: Mr. RANGEL, Mr. TAKANO, and Mrs. LOWEY.
H. Res. 200: Mr. ISRAEL and Mr. TAKANO.
H. Res. 221: Mr. HUFFMAN, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. RANGEL.