

by its Majority Leader or his designee, the House shall again stand adjourned pursuant to the first section of this concurrent resolution.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

VETERANS DAY

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

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, after Mary Louise Roberts' father died during the Depression, she worked in a laundry, then she trained as a nurse. After Pearl Harbor, she joined the Army.

Two years later, she waded ashore at Anzio, Italy, to set up a field hospital on the battlefield. The hospital tent was bombed, killing three nurses. Three days later, German artillery killed two more nurses. As shrapnel tore through the burning tent, Mary Roberts calmly supervised surgeries on wounded soldiers.

Mary was called "the Angel of Anzio," and was the first woman to win the Silver Star.

Today, Mr. Speaker, all you have to do is open the newspaper to see the cruelest kind of barbarism has been reborn in the world—ISIS burns people alive and sells women in slave markets in Syria and Iraq.

On Veterans Day, let us remember Mary Roberts and all our veterans, and, by the grace of God, offer a prayer of thanks for the soldiers whose courage keeps us safe at home, every day.

□ 1215

WILLIAM C. WAGGONER

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my friend William C. Waggoner, a legendary union leader and a tireless advocate for the hardworking men and women who have built this country.

Mr. Waggoner first joined the Operating Engineers in 1951, and he rose through the ranks to occupy the highest office in the local union, business manager, which is the position he held for 40 years. While there, he established the cutting-edge Crane Operators Training program, which became the model nationwide.

Mr. Waggoner is known as a fighter for workers and their families. He believes in fairness above all and has consistently pushed for safety in the workplace, for fair wages and benefits, and for the right to collectively bargain.

Away from the union hall, he remains devoted to his wife, Patty, and his family, and he is committed to his community of Long Beach, California. Many Little League Baseball players

and children with special needs have greatly benefited from his generosity.

I humbly thank him for his tireless service, congratulate him on a career well spent, and wish him the best in retirement.

Now, don't be a stranger, Wag. You are welcome anytime in Las Vegas—a proud union town.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House for one minute, and to revise and extend my remarks.

I rise to honor my friend, William C. Waggoner, a legendary union leader and tireless advocate for the hard working men and women who built this country.

Bill first joined the International Union of Operating Engineers in 1951 and immediately rose through the ranks, starting as a bulldozer operator before becoming a Foreman, Steward, Advisory Board Member, Business Representative, and District Representative for Southern Nevada and Orange County. In 1970 he was elected as President of IUOE Local 12, and in 1976 he was named to the highest office in the local union, Business Manager, a position he held for 40 years.

As Business Manager, Mr. Waggoner served as Trustee for Local 12's Pension, Health & Welfare, Vacation-Holiday, and Apprenticeship Trusts, and established state-of-the-art training centers, including the cutting-edge Crane Operators Training Program, which has become the model for all crane training in the nation.

In addition to his work with IUOP Local 12, Bill served as a Vice President of the California Federation of Labor, General Vice President of the International Operating Engineers, and President of the Western Conference of Operating Engineers.

Bill is known far and wide as a fighter for workers and their families. He believes in fairness above all. As his adversaries will tell you, he is an outstanding negotiator, always keeping the concerns and rights of his members at the forefront. He has consistently pushed for safety in the workplace, fair wages and benefits, and the right to collectively bargain.

Away from the union hall, Bill remains devoted to his wife Patty and his family and committed to his local community of Long Beach, California. Many Little League Baseball players and children with special needs have greatly benefited from his generosity. His awards are too numerous to mention but I know he is especially proud of being named "Man of the Year" by the Kern-Inyo Mono Counties Building Trades Council.

Jack Henning, retired Secretary Treasurer of the California Labor Federation, said Bill "represents the finest traditions of the American Labor Movement." I could not agree more. He has been there for me throughout my political career and for the working families I proudly represent.

I humbly thank him for his tireless service; congratulate him on a career well spent; and wish him the best in his retirement. Don't be a stranger, Wag. You're always welcome in Las Vegas, a strong union town.

ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY AT THE VA

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, on November 11, Veterans Day, we will honor and remember the efforts of those who serve our country. We owe it to our veterans to keep the promises made to them when they first joined the military.

Despite bipartisan action in Congress to increase efficiency and care at the VA, we are still suffering from a lack of transparency that makes it very difficult to determine what actions still need to be taken to ensure quality, timely care for our veterans. Now we have learned that there are over 140 investigations by the inspector general that were hidden. These investigations were shelved; they were not made available to the public or to Congress.

That is why I am supporting bipartisan legislation, the Veterans Care and Reporting Enforcement Act, which will require reports from the investigations by the inspector general to be made public, to be made available to Congress.

I want to thank my Minnesota colleagues, Congressmen TOM EMMER and TIM WALZ, for bringing this legislation forward. It will go a long way toward making the VA more accountable so that our veterans get the care that they deserve.

FAIR RATES ACT

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, last year, when an energy capacity auction increased certain rates in my region from \$1 billion to \$3 billion, I asked the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to take a close look at those prices and determine whether they were set fairly for consumers.

During the review, FERC had only four sitting Commissioners and deadlocked at 2-2. That meant that rates went into effect "by operation of law," and consumers were left with no avenue to appeal.

To me, that is unacceptable; so I introduced the Fair RATES Act to ensure that ratepayers are guaranteed an opportunity to have their voices heard.

Unfortunately, last week, Commissioner Philip Moeller stepped down—again, leaving FERC with just four Commissioners. Without a confirmation or even a nomination for a fifth Commissioner in sight, we find ourselves in the same situation. FERC is, once again, reviewing rising rates in my region and, once again, is at risk of a deadlock that would leave consumers holding the bag.

That is why we must pass Fair RATES today. Since last year's auction, our rates have jumped another billion dollars, and \$3 billion is too steep an increase for my constituents to pay just because Congress will not act.

PASSING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE
AUTHORIZATION ACT

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to commend my colleagues in the House for passing a second National Defense Authorization Act, or the NDAA.

The President's decision to veto Congress' first NDAA was nothing more than a cheap, political ploy, and it marked the first time a President vetoed the NDAA for nonpolicy reasons.

Today's NDAA authorizes funding to expand Fort Gordon to accommodate future growth, and it authorizes defense projects at the Savannah River Site, including the MOX program.

Cybersecurity is critical to the future of international warfare, and its future home in the Army is in Augusta, Georgia, at Fort Gordon. This legislation responsibly prepares Fort Gordon to house the Army Cyber Command and to protect our Nation from cyber threats in the coming years. I was happy to work with many members of the Armed Services Committee to maintain the authorization for these important programs.

Despite the President's unwarranted veto, we again fulfilled our duty to support our troops and their families, who sacrifice so much to protect our Nation.

CONGRESS MUST ACT TO STOP
GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, this House will be leaving today. Members will be going back to their districts. We leave after some dramatic changes have taken place in the House.

We elected a new Speaker within the past couple of weeks. There is a new, open process we have heard about. We saw much more debate this week. These are changes that affect this institution; but there is one thing that has not changed: Members of this House will be going home this weekend without this House or our committees having had any opportunity to debate ways to stop the spread of gun violence.

We are going to return home to environments where gun violence continues to plague every corner of this country; yet we cannot even have the debate here. Not only can't we have the debate, but, since 1996, there has been a prohibition on even having a study about the effects of gun violence in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for us to stop putting our heads in the sand. Congress must act. We must take our responsibilities seriously to address head-on the scourge of gun violence. We can do something about it, and it is time that we do.

HONORING OUR NATION'S
VETERANS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, next Wednesday, we will observe Veterans Day, which is dedicated to the brave men and women who have served in our Armed Forces.

I believe one of the most important things we can do is to instill respect and honor among our Nation's young people for our servicemen and -women. As a part of the Veterans Day activities, the elementary school students in my hometown of Howard will learn about the contributions made by our veterans both in harm's way and here at home.

While educating our young people is important, it is also essential to make sure our veterans have the services and the support that they need. This weekend, I will be speaking with a group that is actively involved in caring for our wounded vets: the Disabled American Veterans chapter, or DAV, in Warren, Pennsylvania. The DAV provides a wide range of services, from transporting the veterans to doctors' appointments to emphasizing the need for better care, both medically and for behavior health services.

November 11 is Veterans Day, but we need to strive to make sure we remember the contributions that these men and women make every day of the year.

VETERANS RECORD
RECONSTRUCTION ACT

(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 address an issue that touches veterans in hundreds of congressional districts across this Nation.

In 1973, a fire at a U.S. Government archives facility destroyed as many as 18 million official military records. This loss has made it incredibly difficult for many veterans to prove the details of their service, and it has even prevented some from getting the benefits that they deserve. In the year since the fire, some affected files have been painstakingly reconstructed by using unofficial pieces of information, including postmarked letters and photographs, but this process can be confusing, time consuming, and costly to the veteran.

Somehow, in 42 years, no system has been established to assist these veterans—whose files were lost by no fault of their own—in reassembling their records. We simply must do better. That is why I have introduced the Veterans Record Reconstruction Act: to establish a clear set of guidelines for reconstructing a veteran's service record when it has been damaged or destroyed.

As we commemorate Veterans Day this next week, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense, straightforward bill so that every veteran has the opportunity to receive the benefits he or she has earned.

WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE ON EDUCATION EXCELLENCE FOR HISPANICS

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

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the White House Initiative on Education Excellence for Hispanics and to recognize the bright spots that have been identified in Florida's 26th Congressional District.

The initiative was established in 1990 to address educational disparities faced by Hispanic students. As part of the 25th anniversary celebration, the initiative released the Bright Spots in Hispanic Education catalog to highlight the ongoing efforts in promoting educational achievement. Recognizing these bright spots will encourage collaboration between stakeholders to promote best practices and to develop effective partnerships.

I am proud to recognize two bright spots in the district I represent. Congratulations to Florida International University's Mastery Math Lab and the STEM Transformation Institute.

The Mastery Math Lab is a high-tech, individualized approach to improving student performance in mathematics. The STEM Transformation Institute is a multidisciplinary collaboration to research and develops effective approaches to STEM education. Both of these programs have made a substantial impact to the Hispanic community in south Florida.

I am also very happy to announce other programs in the 26th District that have made commitments as part of the initiative to support educational outcomes for Latinos. These include Achieving Community Collaboration in Education and Student Success, Teach: STEM: Miami, and Experience: STEM: Miami.

PASSING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE
AUTHORIZATION ACT

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, thank you to President Obama for working with us to get a real defense authorization bill and for us to be able to fix the broken defense bill that was passed previously in this House. I was prepared to sustain the veto, but through a very instructive and positive budget resolution that we passed just last week, we have been able to plus up the defense, and we have been able to plus up nondiscretionary defense spending.