

Requiring quality reviews at the Compensation and Pension Service, the Education Service, the Vocational Rehabilitation Service and other programs.

It expands to members of Reserves and National Guard who served at least six years eligible for housing loans on a permanent basis.

I look forward to these elements being included in any package which is ultimately enacted into law.

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I have no further questions for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2280, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. STUMP. 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 and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SUNDRY MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sundry messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 34) congratulating and commending the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.J. RES. 34

Whereas the organization now known as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States was founded in Columbus, Ohio, on September 29, 1899;

Whereas the VFW represents approximately 2,000,000 veterans of the Armed Forces who served overseas in World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf War, and Bosnia; and

Whereas the VFW has, for the past 100 years, provided voluntary and unselfish service to the Armed Forces and to veterans, communities, States, and the Nation and has worked toward the betterment of veterans in general and society as a whole: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Congress—

(1) recognizes the historic significance of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (the VFW);

(2) congratulates the VFW on achieving that milestone;

(3) commends the approximately 2,000,000 veterans who belong to the VFW and thanks them for their service to their fellow veterans and the Nation; and

(4) calls upon the President to issue a proclamation recognizing the anniversary of the VFW and the contributions made by the VFW to veterans and the Nation and calling upon the people of the United States to observe such anniversary with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.J. Res. 34.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.J. Res. 34 is a joint resolution congratulating and commending the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

This year marks the VFW's 100th anniversary. The VFW consists of approximately two million veterans of the Armed Services who have served overseas in World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, and Bosnia. They have been very active in community and civic affairs.

Some of their more notable accomplishments are, Mr. Speaker, hundreds of thousands of volunteer work at VA hospitals, Veterans Services officers helping other veterans with their benefits claimed each year, and the Voice of Democracy Scholarship program for high school students throughout the Nation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP), the chairman of the committee, in strong support of this resolution that salutes the Veterans of Foreign Wars on the occasion of their centennial anniversary. Throughout its century of existence, the VFW has provided 100 years of extraordinary service to our veterans and their families.

From the Buddy Poppy program to Operation Uplink, the VFW, through its century-long history, has provided support and assistance to men and women who have proudly worn the uniform of the United States.

In recognition of these and countless other good works, the two million members of the VFW are the epitome of the citizen-soldier upon whom this Nation has and continues to rely.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of H.J. Res. 34 and urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this measure.

I am pleased to join with the Chairman of the Committee, the gentleman from Arizona, in strong support of H.J. Res. 34, a resolution congratulating and commending the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States on the occasion of their centennial anniversary. Throughout its century of existence, the VFW has provided 100 years of extraordinary service to veterans and their families.

From the Buddy Poppy program, established in 1922 to raise funds for national veterans' service programs and to provide relief for local veterans and their families—to Operational Uplink, established just three years ago to enable hospitalized veterans and servicemembers stationed around the globe to "phone home"—the VFW, throughout its century-long history, has provided support and assistance to the men and women who have proudly worn the uniform of the United States.

The VFW should also be commended for the work its members have done in their communities across the country. The VFW Community Service Program, the Voice of Democracy essay competition, the VFW Safety Program, and VFW-sponsored youth activities have all contributed to the strength and stability of our great country.

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

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong support for H.J. Res. 34 commemorating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and directing the President to issue an appropriate proclamation recognizing the centennial celebration. I thank the distinguished chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP), for bringing this important resolution to the floor of the House at this time.

I take great comfort whenever drawing upon the origins of the VFW and what it has meant to the thousands of veterans throughout our Nation. As a veteran of World War II and a former VFW County Commander, I speak from experience that the VFW is a monumental pillar on which all Americans can lean. It is a true symbol of our unity, our brotherhood, and a testament to our soldiers' finest hours.

Since its founding in September of 1899, the VFW has grown to encompass more than two million veterans. It has assisted veterans in obtaining State and Federal entitlements, monitoring laws and pending legislation, and keeping our veterans up-to-speed on current, pressing foreign issues.

Despite all this, the VFW does much more. Each and every year, VFW members throughout the country are enmeshed in the activities of their communities, lending a helping hand to others, continuing to make a difference long after the wars of yesteryear.