

the aggregate, as well as totaled by agency; and

(2) a list of the 100 most eligible surplus government properties for sale and how much they are worth.

(b) DATA SHARING AMONG FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall—

(1) develop and implement procedures requiring Federal agencies to share data on surplus and excess Federal real property under the jurisdiction of each agency; and

(2) report to Congress on the development and implementation of such procedures.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment in lieu of the amendments reported by the Committees on Government Reform, Energy and Commerce, and Transportation and Infrastructure be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

The amendment in lieu of the amendments reported by the Committees on Government Reform, Energy and Commerce, and Transportation and Infrastructure was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### CORRECTING ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 6233, SAFETEA-LU AMENDMENTS ACT

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent for the immediate consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 491) providing for a correction to the enrollment of H.R. 6233.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 491

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring).* That, in the enrollment of the bill H.R. 6233, the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall make the following correction: Strike section 201(m)(3)(D).

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2006

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate bill (S. 2562) to increase, effective as of December 1, 2006, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabili-

ties and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate bill, as follows:

S. 2562

*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 "Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2006".

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

(a) RATE ADJUSTMENT.—Effective on December 1, 2006, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall increase, in accordance with subsection (c), the dollar amounts in effect on November 30, 2006, for the payment of disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation under the provisions specified in subsection (b).

(b) AMOUNTS TO BE INCREASED.—The dollar amounts to be increased pursuant to subsection (a) are the following:

(1) WARTIME DISABILITY COMPENSATION.—Each of the dollar amounts under section 1114 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDENTS.—Each of the dollar amounts under sections 1115(1) of such title.

(3) CLOTHING ALLOWANCE.—The dollar amount under section 1162 of such title.

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

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

(c) DETERMINATION OF INCREASE.—

(1) PERCENTAGE.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), each dollar amount described in subsection (b) shall be increased by the same percentage as the percentage by which benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) are increased effective December 1, 2006, as a result of a determination under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)).

(2) ROUNDING.—Each dollar amount increased under paragraph (1), if not a whole dollar amount, shall be rounded to the next lower whole dollar amount.

(d) SPECIAL RULE.—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 title 38, United States Code.

##### SEC. 3. PUBLICATION OF ADJUSTED RATES.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall publish in the Federal Register the amounts specified in section 2(b), as increased under that section, not later than the date on which the matters specified in section 215(i)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)(2)(D)) are required to be published by reason of a determination made

under section 215(i) of such Act during fiscal year 2007.

##### SEC. 4. TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.

Section 1311 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by redesignating the second subsection (e) (as added by section 301(a) of the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-454; 118 Stat. 3610)) as subsection (f).

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (S. 2562) the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2006, and move for its immediate consideration in the House.

Mr. Speaker, the annual cost-of-living adjustment, S. 2562, as amended, is one of the more important bills the Congress considers each year since it was first provided in 1976. Briefly, S. 2562, as amended, would authorize a cost-of-living adjustment—COLA—to VA's disability compensation effective December 1, 2006, as well as publication of the rates.

The Congressional Budget Office currently projects the COLA will be 2.2 percent. However, it may be higher or lower depending on changes in the Consumer Price Index. The exact percentage will be calculated in the next few weeks and the COLA will go into effect on December 1, 2006.

The cost of providing a COLA is assumed in the Administration's budget baseline. Likewise, H.R. 5385, the Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, 2007, fully funds this year's veterans COLA.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Ranking Member LANE EVANS for all his hard work and cooperation this Congress in his advocacy for veterans on this and other legislation. It has been truly a pleasure to work with him as Ranking Member this Congress. I do not think he ever forgot the core values shared by his family, and taught by his parents where he grew up. These same core values were polished by the United States Marine Corps. He embraced them and they were enduring and they helped guide him here in his service to country. Mr. EVANS will be missed on this Committee and in the House.

Mr. Speaker, I hope all Members will support this bill and I ask unanimous consent to revise and extend my remarks and that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks, and include extraneous material on S. 2562, as amended.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 2562, as amended, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2006. The House passed a similar measure, H.R. 4843, on July 26, 2006 by a vote of 408-0.

Each year since 1976, Congress has provided a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) to the benefits provided to our Nation's disabled veterans and their survivors.

The purpose of the annual COLA is to ensure that Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) cash benefits retain their purchasing power and are not eroded by inflation.

The House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees are following their longstanding practice of setting the COLA by reference to the yet-to-be-determined Social Security increase.

In February 2006, the Administration projected a 2.6 percent increase; as of May 2006, the Congressional Budget Office is projecting the COLA to be 2.2 percent. However, it may be higher or lower depending on changes in the Consumer Price Index. The exact percentage will be calculated in the next few weeks and the COLA will go into effect on December 1, 2006.

As Chairman BUYER indicated, this is one of the more important pieces of legislation the Veterans' Committee brings to the floor each year, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman BUYER, Ranking Member EVANS, and our Subcommittee Chairman MILLER, as well as Senator CRAIG and Senator AKAKA on the Senate side, for moving forward on this bill. Passage of this legislation will assure most of the men and women currently receiving benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) receive a well-deserved increase in benefits as of January 1, 2007.

We should never allow the compensation received by veterans, disabled in service to the Nation to erode in value as the cost of living rises. S. 2562, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2006, will help our service-disabled veterans and their survivors maintain the purchasing power of their benefits in 2007 by providing for an increase in benefits.

This bill will help most, but not all, VA beneficiaries maintain the value of their benefits. Once again, I am disappointed that the bill does not include funding to allow our widows, widowers and their children to receive a cost-of-living adjustment for their supplemental transitional benefits as provided in the House passed bill. As a result, the value of the \$250 transitional benefit paid to surviving spouses with minor children for their first 2 years of eligibility will erode in value in 2006.

Mr. Speaker, if we can find millions to maintain the tax cuts provided to our wealthiest citizens, surely we can find an additional five or ten dollars a month to maintain the transitional benefit paid to our surviving spouses with children at its current purchasing power. Our Gold Star Wives, husbands whose wives have perished in our current conflict and their children deserve better.

No amount of money can adequately compensate our veterans for the loss of their health, or families for the loss of a loved one. It is important that the benefits, which our Nation provides to partially compensate for such losses, do not lose their value over time.

In 2005, over 29,000 veterans in Nevada received disability compensation or pension payments from VA and thousands of Nevada family members and survivors receive VA cash benefits.

The action we are taking here today will help the Nevada veterans and families who depend on these VA benefits.

I understand the urgency of passing this COLA so that veterans and their dependents will receive a timely increase in VA benefits. I hope that before this Congress recesses for the year, the increase in DIC benefits and other provisions passed by the House and Senate can be enacted into law. Those who have served this Nation, deserve no less.

S. 2562 will receive my full support and it deserves the support of all Members of this House.

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### NORTH KOREA NONPROLIFERATION ACT OF 2006

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate bill (S. 3728) to promote nuclear nonproliferation in North Korea, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Reserving the right to object, Mr. Speaker, this bill will not bring relief to the millions of North Koreans who are suffering every day. It is estimated that 2 million people have died of starvation in North Korea. More than 13 million North Koreans suffer from malnutrition, including 60 percent of all children, the worst rate among 110 developing nations surveyed by the World Health Organization and UNICEF. North Korea had an infant mortality rate of 2 percent in 2000. South Korea's infant mortality rate for the same year by contrast was 0.5 percent. There are chronic shortages of food and fuel already. Heavy military spending, estimated at between one-quarter and one-third of gross domestic product, has constrained and skewed economic development. North Korea has a per capita GDP of \$1,000. South Korea's per capita GDP by contrast is \$18,000.

Despite significant inflows of international assistance over the past decade, harsh economic and political conditions have caused tens of thousands of persons to flee the country.

The better approach the U.S. should be supporting is the approach adhered to by the South Koreans. They have taken the approach of unification as a way to pull North Korea into the modern world. It worked for East Germany, and it can work for North Korea again. The downside of this approach is that missile defense advocates will have to create another false reason to spend in excess of \$9 billion a year on the failed system. I am confident they can conjure up some new enemy and protect defense industry profits.

Now, it is true, Mr. Speaker, that North Korea has declared that it possesses nuclear weapons, this according to a report by Dr. Hans Blix that was presented and remarked on in a congressional subcommittee the other day. He said this report says it has not provided evidence of this claim. It has violated the NPT and twice declared its withdrawal from the treaty.

It operates a nuclear fuel cycle consisting of a 5-megawatt research reactor, which uses natural uranium; a reprocessing facility which produces plutonium; and various uranium processing and fuel fabrication facilities. The United States has claimed that the country also has an enrichment capability.

In 2005 Pakistan's President Musharaff stated that the A.Q. Khan network had provided centrifuge machines and designs to North Korea, although the scale of its enrichment capability remains unknown. North Korea has not signed the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

Now, under a section called "What Must be Done" in the report that Dr. Blix delivered, the Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission makes many specific and detailed recommendations. The most important of them are summarized as, number one, to agree on general principles of action; number two, to reduce the danger of present arsenals, no use by states, no access by terrorists; number three, to prevent proliferation, no new weapons systems, no new possessors; number four, work towards outlawing all weapons of mass destruction once and for all, including preventing an arms race in space by prohibiting any stationing or use of weapons in outer space. I would recommend this to the reading by Members of this Congress who are concerned about nuclear proliferation.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I think that it is time that this Congress calls for the abolition of all nuclear weapons. That, in effect, is what the Nonproliferation Treaty is all about. It is true that the use of nuclear weapons threatens the future of mass public, cities, nations, civilization itself, and, indeed, all of life on Earth. Nuclear weapons in the arsenal of any country undermine the security of all countries, including the United States. Under the Treaty of Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the NPT, all nuclear weapon states are committed to good-faith negotiations to achieve nuclear disarmament.

On June 6, 2006, the Chair and Vice Chair of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States, commonly known as the 9/11 Commission, cited as their number one concern for the security of the United States the availability of nuclear weapons materials for attack upon the American people. The 2006 report of the Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission concludes: "So long as any state has nuclear weapons, others will want to use them. So long as any weapons remain, there is a risk that they will one day be used by design or accident. Any such use will be catastrophic. The model nuclear weapons convention circulated by the United Nations demonstrates the feasibility of achieving the global elimination of nuclear weapons."