

veterans aged 25–34 stands at 6.9 percent versus 6 percent for their civilian counterparts. More alarmingly, women veterans aged 45–54 have twice the rate of unemployment than their non-veteran counterparts—7.1 percent versus 3.3 percent.

These aren't simply numbers; these are men and women who put on our country's uniform to protect each and every one of us. We can and must do more to help them find good-paying jobs that allow them to build a career and a life in the Nation they served and protected. That process should begin with a yearly reminder to all employers to actively seek out veterans as potential employees. I have been deeply disappointed that to date the Senate has not elected to follow the House's lead and pass my "Hire a Veteran Week" legislation. Should the Senate not pass this bill before the 109th Congress adjourns sine die, it will represent yet another failure of this Congress to meet the real needs of veterans.

My colleague from California, Mr. HUNTER, is correct that Congress should take the lead and set the example when it comes to veterans' employment issues. That's why in 2005 I introduced the American Veterans Congressional Internship Program, H.R. 1242, a bipartisan bill that would allow each Member of Congress to hire a veteran as a paid intern for 1 year.

The benefits of this bill are clear. House and Senate Members would be able to take advantage of the experience and can-do work ethic of veterans, while veterans would get the chance to directly influence policy decisions and contribute to legislation that will affect them and their fellow veterans. I regret the 109th Congress failed to act on this common-sense bill, and I intend to reintroduce it and push for its speedy passage in the 110th Congress.

One thing we should all be able to agree on is that our outreach to veterans seeking jobs should be buttressed with concrete action by Congress to fund job training and placement programs, particularly for young veterans and women veterans.

That we have a long way to go in meeting the employment and training needs of our veterans was made clear by John Rowan, the current president of Vietnam Veterans of America, in testimony he gave before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee on March 30 of this year. Mr. Rowan noted that:

In fact, there is no real national strategy to assist returning veterans, including National Guard and Reservists, who are unemployed or under-employed—and some 15 percent of our newest veterans have yet to find gainful employment. Similarly, there is no effective mechanism in place for enforcing veterans' preference, and we have an Administration that appeals a case against a disabled veteran who had finally won his case before the Merit System Protection Board pursuant to The Veterans Employment Opportunities Act of 1998.

It is imperative that re-education and work skills upgrades, including self-employment, be made a priority by those agencies of government that provide these services, especially considering the battalions of seriously and permanently disabled veterans returning from Afghanistan and Iraq.

This indictment of our current federal efforts on behalf of veterans seeking employment is

a wake up call. I hope that when the 110th Congress convenes in January 2007, my colleagues will join me in helping create a national strategy to help returning veterans get the job training and employment opportunities they've earned for their service to America.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time and ask everyone to support this resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1070, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those voting have responded in the affirmative.

Mr. HUNTER. 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 question will be postponed.

HENRY J. HYDE ROOM

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1087) designating Room H-139 of the Capitol as the "Henry J. Hyde Room".

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 1087

Resolved, That—

(1) Room H-139 of the Capitol shall be known and designated as the "Henry J. Hyde Room"; and

(2) this resolution shall take effect on the day following the date on which Henry J. Hyde is no longer serving as a Member of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 1087 designates room H-139 of the United States Capitol as the HENRY J. HYDE Room. This designation will become effective January 3, 2007. It is an honor to speak today on this resolution, which is a tribute to one of the finest Members of this Chamber, Congressman HENRY HYDE.

Congressman HYDE has served this country well. In 1942, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy, serving in combat in the Philippines. When he retired, he held the rank of commander. He attended Loyola School of Law in 1949 and was a successful attorney in Illinois. He became a State legislator in 1966 and was eventually elected to be the majority

leader of the Illinois House of Representatives. In 1975, he was elected to this Chamber by the good people of the Sixth District of Illinois and has served them well over the past 32 years.

Congressman HYDE has been a true champion and hero during his time in Congress. As chairman of the Judiciary Committee and International Relations Committee, Congressman HYDE has authored ground-breaking and effective legislation and has pushed for the promotion of democracy around the world.

Over the past 32 years, Congressman HYDE has served in this building with honor, respect, and prestige. It is only fitting that we name H-139 in his honor as a lasting tribute to his accomplishments and his steadfast dedication to his constituents and the American people.

I support this legislation and encourage all my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER).

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I was just walking out when I heard the gentleman mention the great HENRY HYDE of Illinois, and I just wanted to add my words as a guy who watched him in monumental debates that affected this Nation and the world over the last 26 years.

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HENRY HYDE has been a giant in the House of Representatives and in America, and I want to thank the gentleman.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

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

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

I rise in support of H. Res. 1087 to designate room H-139 in the Capitol as the Henry J. Hyde Room. Congressman HYDE is widely respected and regarded on both sides of the aisle as an effective leader and able legislator. He has served with distinction for more than three decades, working to improve the lives of senior citizens, veterans and families of all sizes. He has focused on job creation and better education for all, better housing for senior citizens, and the needs of special education students.

During his tenure as the chairman of the House International Relations Committee, he focused his work on terrorism and, in particular, biological and chemical weapons threats. Congressman HYDE also served as chairman of the House Judiciary Committee from 1995 to 2001.

It is fitting and proper to honor the distinguished career of HENRY HYDE with this designation. I support the resolution and urge my colleagues to also support this resolution today.

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

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would also like to add to my first statement a little bit of litany of Mr. HYDE. He was my neighbor right next door to 2111 in the Rayburn Building. He was always good for a conversation but, most of all, good advice. He also has been one that has protected, or at least protected the unborn, and he has been to my State numerous times and has spoken eloquently and with forcefulness about their need to be protected.

He has been a friend of this body because he brought dignity, as I mentioned before, and the prestige of a gentleman but, more than that, a very intellectual individual that understood the issues.

So I am extremely proud today to support this legislation. I hope all my colleagues understand that we are losing a good colleague. Some of my colleagues that have left prior to this were not recognized by naming a room. It is just a small token of appreciation to someone who brought the needed, I think, gentlemanness to this body.

So it is with great honor that I support this legislation again.

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO).

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise also to support H. Res. 1087.

I join my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, in recognizing the distinguished service of our retiring colleague, Mr. HYDE of Illinois. It has been a privilege to serve with him in this body. He has established himself as an effective and dedicated public servant over the course of nearly 40 years in public service and 16 terms in Congress.

He is a gifted public speaker and one of the House's skilled orators. His leadership as chairman of the House Judiciary Committee and the House International Relations Committee has evidenced his skills as a legislator and his commitment to strengthen the principles of our great country, the United States of America. We will miss him, but we will recall the ideals and the principles for which he stands and his graciousness.

So, Mr. Speaker, I find it very fitting that we designate a room in the Capitol in his honor. This room will remind us of his work and his service in this institution.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield whatever time he may consume to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE).

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding and rise in strong support of H. Res. 1087.

As this Congress draws to a close, this legislation that I had the privilege

of authoring is a source of great personal satisfaction to me, and I cannot help but feel a sense of privilege about being able to have played a part in bringing this important honor to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, as this session of Congress draws to a close, so draws to a close the storied career of a lion of the House of Representatives, Congressman HENRY HYDE of Illinois.

As the chairman of several major committees at the center of repeated national controversies, HENRY HYDE, as Members on both sides of the aisle have already said today and know, has been a paragon of dignity, civility, and commitment to principle, and I would add that he has been a lion of the right to life, and this Chamber will miss his roar.

I offer this legislation before us today to name H-139 in the United States Capitol after this storied legislator. It is an act we sometimes do in this body to honor a figure whose public service indicates a significant benchmark or milestone in the history of the House of Representatives, and the career of HENRY HYDE certainly speaks for itself.

He is the holder of no fewer than eight honorary degrees from eight separate colleges and universities, in addition to his B.S. from Georgetown and J.D. from the Loyola University School of Law in Chicago.

His service in the Navy took him to Lingayen Gulf, an extension of the South China Sea. Upon returning home, he was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives in 1966 and then to this body, the United States House of Representatives, in 1974 where he has served with great distinction.

Throughout his career, whether it was closed-door White House briefings or high-level meetings with diplomats, HENRY HYDE has played a vital role in our Nation's security and in defining America's place in the world, and as chairman of the Judiciary Committee, he has held fair hearings and respected the constitutional rule of law ordained by our Founding Fathers.

But Mr. Speaker, it is the Hyde amendment itself for which the gentleman of Illinois will perhaps be best remembered. He eloquently remarked on this floor on one occasion, "I look for the common thread in slavery, the Holocaust and abortion. To me, the common thread is dehumanizing people."

The first Hyde amendment passed in 1976 banning abortions financed by Medicaid and has remained in force ever since. An argument can be made that it is the most important piece of legislation this Congress has considered in the past 50 years, and that would be an argument that I endorse.

HENRY HYDE's respect for life extends to his support of other legislation, including sponsorship of legislation to

expand the number of women eligible for pregnancy benefits.

Mr. Speaker, quite simply, when I think of HENRY HYDE's career and the classic speeches he has given in this Chamber, I cannot help but think of the poem "Ulysses" by his favorite poet, Alfred Lord Tennyson. Mr. HYDE once quoted this poem to me verbatim as we sat in this Chamber between votes, and I think it applies to his service and his retirement and his dedication today.

Tennyson wrote:

"Tho' much is taken, much abides; and tho'

We are not now that strength which in the old days

Moved earth and heaven; that which we are, we are

One equal-temper of heroic hearts,

Made weak by time and fate, but strong in will

To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield."

Such was the career of this rare leader and the gentleman from Illinois. May God bless his golden years and may God bless all the deliberations that will take place in the Henry Hyde Room in the United States Capitol for generations to come.

Mr. FALEOMAVEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1087, designating Room H-139 of the Capitol as the "Henry J. Hyde Room." I believe that this high honor is a fitting tribute to my friend and colleague for his 32 years of distinguished service in Congress.

Mr. HYDE is truly an institution in the Halls of Congress. His character, his wisdom, and his eloquence will long serve as an inspiration to those who will grace the Halls of Congress in the future. Through his leadership on the House Committee on International Relations, his guidance on the House Committee on the Judiciary, and his selfless dedication to the people of the 6th District of Illinois, Mr. HYDE has proven to be a true statesman, easily worthy of the honor this legislation would bestow on him.

In my experience working with Chairman HYDE on the International Relations Committee, he has proven himself time and again to be a strong leader. On many of the most pressing international issues of our time, such as the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, North Korea's nuclear ambitions, the humanitarian crisis in Darfur, our Nation's ongoing relations with China, and the pending nuclear agreement with India, Chairman HYDE has been the voice and the conscience of the American people.

Throughout his tenure in Congress, Mr. HYDE has focused on improving the lives of children, working families, seniors, and military veterans. Examples of his service in his home district include public works projects to provide flood control and clean drinking water, new housing developments for senior citizens and children with special needs, and grants to provide new equipment for the local fire and police departments.

A military veteran himself, Mr. HYDE has long championed the cause of today's military

veterans. Mr. HYDE served in the U.S. Navy in the South Pacific, New Guinea and the Philippines during World War II and continued to serve in the U.S. Naval Reserve until 1968, retiring at the rank of commander. Earlier this year I was privileged to travel to American Samoa with Chairman HYDE where he recognized and acknowledged the military service and sacrifices of our Samoan soldiers in the global war on terror.

Chairman HYDE is my dear friend and a cherished colleague. He is highly regarded by members from both sides of the aisle for his leadership and integrity. I support H. Res. 1087 and I encourage my fellow members in Congress to support this resolution recognizing the invaluable contribution of Mr. HYDE to this great Nation.

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

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I have no other requests for time, and I yield back my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1087.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXTENSION OF FUNDING TO PROCESS PERMITS

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6316) to extend through December 31, 2008, the authority of the Secretary of the Army to accept and expend funds contributed by non-Federal public entities to expedite the processing of permits.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 6316

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

SECTION 1. FUNDING TO PROCESS PERMITS.

Section 214(c) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (33 U.S.C. 2201 note; 114 Stat. 2594; 117 Stat. 1836; 119 Stat. 2169; 120 Stat. 318) is amended by striking "December 31, 2006" and inserting "December 31, 2008".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6316, to authorize the extension of the Army Corps of Engineers' section 214 program.

Section 214 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 allows the

Army Corps of Engineers to accept and expend funds provided by non-Federal public entities to hire additional personnel to process regulatory permits.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 6316 is urgently needed since authority for this program expires on December 31 of this calendar year. If this program expires, the Corps will have to fire some regulatory personnel, reducing its ability to process permits in a timely manner.

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has heard from Members on both sides of the aisle supporting the section 214 program. H.R. 6316 is nearly identical to section 2003 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2005, which passed the House on July 14, 2005 by a vote of 406-14. Since the authority for the section 214 program is expiring, it is necessary to move this piece separately.

I thank Representative BAIRD and our colleagues from the western United States for introducing this bill. I urge all Members to vote in favor of H.R. 6316.

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

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I support the passage of H.R. 6316. This bill extends through December 31, 2008, the authority of the Secretary of the Army to accept and expend funds contributed by non-Federal public entities to process permits under the Clean Water Act and the Rivers and Harbor Act of 1899.

The current authority for this program expires on December 31 of this year. The program is popular and well-received, particularly in the northwest part of the country.

I congratulate my committee colleague Mr. BAIRD for his attention to this issue and for securing today's consideration of this bill. I can think of no other Member who has served his local or regional issues with more enthusiasm and effectiveness.

The language in H.R. 6316 is similar to the two previous extensions of this program which passed the House September 20, 2005, and March 14, 2006. Both of these votes to extend the program received strong support from the House.

The language in this legislation is modeled after the language contained in H.R. 2864, the Water Resources Development Act of 2005, which passed this House on July 14, 2005, by an overwhelming vote of 406-14.

While my preference would be to address the extension of this program through passage of the broader Water Resources Development Act, at this later hour in the session it seems increasingly unlikely that work can be completed on the larger bill.

This really is unfortunate because it only further delays the opportunity for the Corps of Engineers to provide es-

sential flood control, navigation and ecosystem restoration projects to our Nation and vital public safety and economic benefits to our constituents.

We are now just one week shy of 6 years since the last water resources bill was enacted, and this is really far too long.

I am certain that there will be questions as to why Congress was unable to enact a water resources bill in the 109th Congress, especially since this is the first time since 2000 that both the House and Senate Chambers were able to approve legislation for the other body to consider.

However, in spite of this significant achievement and roughly 5 months of staff negotiations towards a conference agreement, the fact remains that no agreement has been reached, and we are days away from the adjournment and facing one more year without a water resources bill.

Mr. Speaker, the current administration has no commitment to the Nation's premier water-related infrastructure agencies. This administration fails to understand the importance of the Corps of Engineers and the vital work that this agency does for the American people.

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The administration's lack of support for a comprehensive Water Resources Development Act has only made Congress's work more difficult.

During the consideration in both the House and Senate, the administration released two statements of administration policy that were highly critical of the Congress's efforts, especially of the administration's concern with the overall cost of two bills. However, what the administration fails to recognize is that the roughly \$10 billion project authorizations contained in this House-passed version and the \$12 billion in the Senate-passed version reflect 6 years of requests since the Water Resources Development Act of 2000. Should Congress fail to approve this Water Resources Development Act this year, we should expect that next year's bill will cost more than both the House and Senate versions, perhaps as much as \$15 billion. However, the Department of Transportation predicted it would be \$19 billion this year.

These numbers are consistent with the historical costs of past water resources bills, and further delay only results in making these vital projects more expensive over time. Yet Congress must also share the blame for its failure to deliver a comprehensive water resources bill this year. With both the House and Senate and the White House under Republican control, it would seem that passage of this legislation would have been achievable. In spite of these significant efforts of both the chairman of the conference committee and my chairman, Mr. YOUNG,