

Perlmutter	Schiff	Titus
Peterson	Schrader	Tonko
Pingree (ME)	Schwartz	Tsongas
Pocan	Scott (VA)	Van Hollen
Polis	Scott, David	Vargas
Price (NC)	Serrano	Veasey
Quigley	Sewell (AL)	Vela
Rahall	Shea-Porter	Velázquez
Rangel	Sherman	Visclosky
Richmond	Sires	Walz
Roybal-Allard	Slaughter	Wasserman
Ruppersberger	Smith (WA)	Schultz
Ryan (OH)	Speier	Waters
Sánchez, Linda	Swalwell (CA)	Watt
T.	Takano	Waxman
Sanchez, Loretta	Thompson (CA)	Welch
Sarbanes	Thompson (MS)	Wilson (FL)
Schakowsky	Tierney	Yarmuth

## NOT VOTING—7

Grimm	Higgins	Young (FL)
Hastings (FL)	McCarthy (NY)	
Herrera Beutler	Rush	

□ 1418

So the joint resolution was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## REMEMBERING ROD GRAMS

(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, I come to the podium today in recognition of the passing of my predecessor and one of the Members of this body. Joining me at the podium are two members of the Minnesota delegation. Representative ERIK PAULSEN of Minnesota's Third Congressional District was a longtime friend of former United States House of Representatives Member and Senator, Rod Grams. Also joining me at the podium is United States Representative RICK NOLAN of Minnesota's Seventh Congressional District, which was also part of the territory represented by former Representative Rod Grams.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a former Member of both this House and the United States Senate from the State of Minnesota, Representative and Senator Rod Grams. Rod peacefully passed away late Tuesday evening after a lengthy battle with cancer. He was only 65 years old.

Rod Grams was a very humble man of principle. He grew up on a family farm in Crown, in eastern Minnesota, where he received his "eternal crown." It was the same farm that his father grew up on. It is the farm where Rod acquired his diligent, hardworking, Minnesota-grown work ethic.

Rod Grams worked in broadcasting for nearly 25 years in Minnesota. He earned a reputation as a positive communicator who understood how to speak with his fellow Minnesotans. He then built his own business and realized the happiness and challenges of creating jobs and making a go of his American Dream.

Rod lived life to the fullest, and he showed others how to do the same. He successfully navigated the real world, which shaped his views before serving

as Minnesota's Sixth Congressional District Representative and then the entire State of Minnesota in the United States Senate.

Rod Grams was dedicated to maintaining personal liberty and doing everything within his power to protect Americans against the constantly growing size and scope of the Federal Government's intrusion into the lives of real Americans that he represented at this great Capitol. With his keen eye and long-term vision, Minnesotans had a dedicated advocate here in the Halls of the United States Congress.

It was an honor for me and my husband, Marcus, to know Rod Grams for decades. He was a leader, an example, but, more importantly, he was my friend. My heart goes out to his wife, Christine, to his four beautiful children, and to the light of his life, his grandchildren.

While Rod Grams will be greatly missed here in this body, we take comfort in the fact that he contributed so much by way of his service to the great State of Minnesota and to our country. We all benefit from Rod Grams's monumental legacy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask now that the House of Representatives observe a moment of silence to honor the incredible life of former United States Senator Rod Grams.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RADEL). Will all Members please rise.

## REMEMBERING ROD GRAMS

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from Minnesota for organizing this delegation, along with Congressman KLINE, who has joined us as well, and acknowledge the passing and remember a wonderful servant from Minnesota, Congressman and U.S. Senator Rod Grams, who lost a very courageous battle to cancer recently. He passed away peacefully with his wife, Christine, by his side.

I actually got to know Rod Grams first. Our families went to church together. I was just a young student, but I always remembered Rod Grams not only as a successful small businessman, but someone who was a famous anchorman on Channel 9 KMSP. That is where he got his start in politics. He left the news and actually ran for Congress back in 1992 and then the United States Senate in 1994.

The one thing I will always remember about Rod Grams is that he always maintained his small-town, rural Minnesota values. He embodied those values. He shared those values. He always lived them to the fullest, and we remember his service to our State.

## REMEMBERING ROD GRAMS

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

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for being down here to remember somebody who was, in many ways, bigger than life: big, tall Rod Grams.

He wanted to do something for his State and his country, and he did. He came to the House of Representatives to serve one term. While he was here in his freshman term, he ran for the United States Senate and won.

Rod had a lot of things he worked on, but one of them was the child tax credit. It was a long, tough slog that he brought all the way across the finish line, and that is just who Rod was. He didn't quit. He knew what he was about. He was an independent thinker. He was unafraid to take a stand and speak up for his State and his country.

We will miss him.

□ 1430

## REMEMBERING ROD GRAMS

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

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker and Members of the House, I am proud to say that Rod was a constituent of mine in the last years of his life, running a small town radio station at which he did just a wonderfully good job.

He was always so thoughtful and so dedicated to public service and so highly regarded by all who knew him. He was a wonderful public servant. He contributed much to the well-being of Minnesota and to this Nation and to the civility of this Chamber, itself. His contributions are enormous, and his presence will be forever apparent here, and we will miss him greatly.

We extend our deepest, heartfelt sympathies to the family and to all of those who had the good fortune to know and work with Rod Grams.

## REMEMBERING ROD GRAMS

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

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues here to simply pay great tribute and honor to a dedicated public servant—a person who loved his country, who put it all on the line for the betterment of his neighbors and fellow Americans. Rod Grams is a proud son of Minnesota, and he will be deeply missed.

## YERTLE THE TURTLE

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

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as we enter day 10 of this reckless and irresponsible government shut-down, I once again turn to Dr. Seuss, the well-known author, best known for being able to communicate well to children.

Some wisdom from “Yertle the Turtle”:

I am Yertle the Turtle. Oh, marvelous me, for I am the ruler of all that I see.

Your majesty, please. I don't like to complain, but down here below, we are feeling great pain.

#### THE REPUBLICAN SELF-IMPOSED GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to discuss how the Republican self-imposed government shutdown is affecting our Nation's veterans. Just yesterday, VA Secretary Shinseki testified in the Veterans Affairs' Committee, and he put several points straight ahead.

If the shutdown continues, there will be over 3.8 million veterans who will not receive disability compensation payments. That means they will not get their checks in the mail by November 1.

315,000 veterans and over 200,000 surviving spouses or dependents will not see their pension payments.

Education payments to more than half a million veterans using the GI Bill will end.

It is really very shameful that the Republicans are doing this to our veterans—over \$6 billion in benefits. Nearly 5 million veterans and their families will not receive their pension payments.

Shame on the Republican House of Representatives.

THE INDEPENDENT BUDGET,  
A BUDGET FOR VETERANS BY VETERANS,  
October 3, 2013.

House Speaker JOHN BOEHNER,  
Longworth House Office Building,  
Washington, DC.

Senate Majority Leader HARRY REID,  
Hart Senate Office Building,  
Washington, DC.

House Minority Leader NANCY PELOSI,  
Cannon House Office Building,  
Washington, DC.

Senate Minority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL,  
Russell Senate Office Building,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER, LEADER REID, LEADER PELOSI AND LEADER MCCONNELL: On behalf of The Independent Budget—co-authored by AMVETS, Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and Veterans of Foreign Wars—we would like to express our tremendous disappointment that Congress' inability to pass a full annual budget has led to a government shutdown. Your failure is already causing real harm to the brave men and women who have served and sacrificed for this nation.

The current government shutdown has stopped work on the more than 250,000 Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability claims that are awaiting adjudication; compensation, pension and education benefits are in jeopardy of not being paid; Vocational Rehabilitation offices are working with reduced staffs; and the Department of Labor's VETS programs and federal employment OneStops are closed. These are real impacts on veterans, many of whom are struggling to transition back into civilian life.

Furthermore, funding the operations of the VA through short-term continuing resolutions (CRs) or other stop-gap measures are not acceptable solutions. Typically, short term CRs don't take into account the effects of inflation or increased demand for VA benefits and services. CRs also prevent VA from starting or expanding critical programs and disrupt or delay vital new research and construction projects.

As the leaders of Congress, we call on you to immediately take all actions necessary to give final approval to legislation providing the full year's FY 2014 appropriation for all veterans programs. Our organizations and the millions of veterans we represent will no longer tolerate Congress leveraging veterans' health and wellbeing to achieve unrelated political ends.

In order to prevent future disruptions to veterans' programs, we also urge you to approve legislation that would extend advance appropriations to all VA discretionary and mandatory appropriations accounts. Advance appropriations have shielded VA health care from most of the harmful effects of the current government shutdown as well as prior continuing resolutions. Now Congress must provide the same protections to all remaining discretionary and mandatorily funded veterans programs, including disability compensation processing and payments. There are currently bills pending in both the House (H.R. 813) and the Senate (S. 932) that could be quickly amended and approved to achieve this goal.

Both government shutdowns and continuing resolutions represent failures in leadership. Congress' obligation to veterans does not start in the eleventh hour of a national crisis; you have an obligation to pass a timely, sufficient budget for all veterans programs, benefits and services.

On behalf of our organizations and all of America's veterans, their families and survivors, we call on you to work together to immediately approve a full year's appropriation for all veterans programs, and subsequently to approve pending legislation to extend advance appropriations to all VA discretionary and mandatory funding. Anything less is unacceptable to the men and women who have served this nation in uniform.

Sincerely,

STEWART M. HICKEY,  
National Executive Director,  
AMVETS.

GARRY J. AUGUSTINE,  
Executive Director,  
Disabled American Veterans.

HOMER S. TOWNSEND, JR.,  
Executive Director,  
Paralyzed Veterans of America.

ROBERT E. WALLACE,  
Executive Director,  
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

[From ABC News Chicago—Associated Press,  
Oct. 9, 2013]

#### 2013 GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN COULD HIT MILLIONS OF VETS, VA CHIEF SAYS

WASHINGTON.—The government shutdown is having a big impact on the country's military. One problem—funding the death benefit of military families—has been solved. Another issue—veterans benefits—could turn into a massive headache later this month.

VA hospitals, like Jesse Brown on the West Side, are open during the government shutdown. But veterans are concerned that disability and other checks could be in jeopardy.

“I got a little money saved up, but a lot of guys here live from check to check, month

to month, that's going to be the hard part,” said Jesus Lebron, Vietnam Vet and Purple Heart recipient.

“I think very few of us are prepared for this—we just have to weather that storm,” said David Brewster, Vietnam War veteran.

Vets are worried after the VA secretary testified on Capitol Hill Wednesday, warning politicians that the shutdown has slowed the process for disability claims—and the impact could be widespread.

“It's over 5 million individuals who will be involved. This is serious. And I'm hoping the leadership of this committee will help us resolve it,” said Eric Shinseki, VA secretary.

Shinseki broke down the numbers like this: 3.8 million vets will not receive disability compensation; 315,000 vets and 202,000 surviving spouses or dependents will see pension payments stopped. And because of that, vets are disappointed with elected officials.

“We put our butts on the line. I would like to see them put their butts on the line,” said Leonard Soria, Vietnam War veteran.

In the meantime, the caskets of 4 fallen soldiers killed in Afghanistan arrived at Dover Air Force Base on Wednesday afternoon. Their families scrambled to raise money for funerals because they did not immediately get the \$100,000 death gratuity because of the government shutdown.

“She sacrificed for the country, for her family. Why wouldn't that be taken care of? There is no excuse,” said Alexandra DiBella, friend of Army 1st Lt. Jennifer Moreno.

Late this afternoon, Congress took action to fix that problem by approving the death gratuity. That impacts 26 families who have had loved ones die since the shutdown.

It's important to note, however, that all VA hospitals will remain open during the shutdown.

In all, more than \$6 billion in benefits to about 5 million veterans and their families would be halted with an extended shutdown.

In some areas, like health care, there have been few adverse effects. Health care services are funded a year in advance. In others, such as reducing the claims backlog, Shinseki noted that the backlog has increased by 2,000 since the shutdown began Oct. 1.

At the end of September, the disability claims backlog stood at 418,500, a drop of about 31 percent over the previous six months.

Shinseki drew comparisons to the last shutdown in 1996, a time of sustained peace. The current shutdown occurs as the war in Afghanistan is in its 13th year and as hundreds of thousands have returned from Iraq. They are enrolling in VA care at higher rates than previous generations of veterans.

“They, along with the veterans of every preceding generation, will be harmed if the shutdown continues,” Shinseki said.

Rep. Jeff Miller, the Republican chairman of the committee, questioned whether the Obama administration had been forthcoming enough in letting veterans know the impact of the shutdown. For example, VA's initial guidance did not mention any impact on payments to veterans or the processing of their benefits, although it was updated before the shutdown began.

Miller said a statement by President Barack Obama made it unclear about whether veterans would be able to continue getting counseling for PTSD. They can, at any VA health care facility.

“We've had some difficulty in the last couple of weeks getting good information about VA's contingency plan and the effects a lapse in appropriation would have on veterans,” Miller said.

Shinseki said the VA has confronted “unprecedented legal and programmatic questions” and would do its best to keep lawmakers informed.