

years. As the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) explained, that simply does not meet the requirements of Arizona law, which requires a 100-year assured water supply.

This legislation has the support of Governor Hull of Arizona, it has the support of the Arizona Department of Water Resources, and most importantly it is sought and has the active support of the Ak-Chin Indian Community. It will enable them to lease this water, or enter into a renewal or option to extend the lease of the water, for an additional period of up to 100 years. That is critically important to making the water valuable. It is also critically important to the development of the water supply for Arizona and for the community affected by this existing lease.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleagues for their support of the legislation on the committee, again, and I call for its passage.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I urge support of the legislation, and yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. DOOLITTLE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2647.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PLAQUE TO HONOR VIETNAM VETERANS WHO DIED AS A RESULT OF SERVICE IN THE VIETNAM WAR

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3293) to amend the law that authorized the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to authorize the placement within the site of the memorial of a plaque to honor those Vietnam veterans who died after their service in the Vietnam war, but as a direct result of that service, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3293

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

SECTION 1. ADDITION OF COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE, VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL.

Public Law 96-297 (94 Stat. 827; 16 U.S.C. 431 note), which authorized the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in the District of Columbia,

is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 5. PLAQUE TO HONOR OTHER VIETNAM VETERANS WHO DIED AS A RESULT OF SERVICE IN THE VIETNAM WAR.

"(a) PLAQUE AUTHORIZED.—Notwithstanding section 3(c) of the Commemorative Works Act (40 U.S.C. 1003(c)), the American Battle Monuments Commission is authorized to place within the Vietnam Veterans Memorial a suitable plaque containing an inscription intended to honor those Vietnam veterans who died after their service in the Vietnam war, but as a direct result of that service, and whose names are not otherwise eligible for placement on the memorial wall.

"(b) SPECIFICATIONS.—The plaque shall be at least 6 square feet in size and not larger than 18 square feet in size, and of whatever shape as the American Battle Monuments Commission determines to be appropriate for the site. The plaque shall bear an inscription prepared by the American Battle Monuments Commission.

"(c) RELATION TO COMMEMORATIVE WORKS ACT.—Except as provided in subsection (a), the Commemorative Works Act (40 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) shall apply to the design and placement of the plaque within the site of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

"(d) CONSULTATION.—In designing the plaque, preparing the inscription, and selecting the specific location for the plaque within the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the American Battle Monuments Commission shall consult with the architects of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc., and the Vietnam Women's Memorial, Inc.

"(e) FUNDS FOR PLAQUE.—

"(1) PROHIBITION ON USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS.—Federal funds may not be used to design, procure, or install the plaque. However, the preceding sentence does not apply to the payment of the salaries, expenses, and other benefits otherwise authorized by law for members of the American Battle Monuments Commission or other personnel (including detailees) of the American Battle Monuments Commission who carry out this section.

"(2) PRIVATE FUNDRAISING AUTHORITY.—The American Battle Monuments Commission shall solicit and accept private contributions for the design, procurement, and installation of the plaque. The American Battle Monuments Commission shall establish an account into which the contributions will be deposited and shall maintain documentation of the contributions. Contributions in excess of the amounts necessary for the design, procurement, and installation of the plaque shall be deposited in the United States Treasury.

"(f) VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'Vietnam Veterans Memorial' means the structures and adjacent areas extending to and bounded by the south curb of Constitution Avenue on the north, the east curb of Henry Bacon Drive on the west, the north side of the north Reflecting Pool walkway on the south and a line drawn perpendicular to Constitution Avenue 200 feet from the east tip of the memorial wall on the east (this is also a line extended from the east side of the western concrete border of the steps to the west of the center steps to the Federal Reserve Building extending to the Reflecting pool walkway). This is the same definition used by the National Park Service as of the date of the enactment of this section, as contained in section 7.96(g)(1)(x) of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. GALLEGLY) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. GALLEGLY).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 3 minutes and 15 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the leadership for scheduling this bill between Memorial Day and the 25th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. This timing reminds us that there are many who fought in Vietnam and died because of their service there, but whose sacrifices have still gone unrecognized.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3293 will remedy this situation. It will create a plaque honoring those Vietnam veterans who died as a result of the war, but who are not eligible to have their names placed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall. The wall is opened to some veterans who died after the conflict, but the criteria for eligibility does not include all veterans whose post-war deaths were a direct result of the war, including those who died from such factors as Agent Orange and post traumatic stress syndrome.

Families of these veterans deserve a place to mourn the loss of loved ones who served honorably and who died years later as a result of that service.

Mr. Speaker, we had a hearing on this bill in the subcommittee on March 22. The often emotional testimony by Ed Croucher, the Director of Vietnam Veterans of America, Captain Mike Fluke, board member of In Memory, and Lieutenant Colonel Jim Zumwalt demonstrated the strong feelings of veterans and their families on this issue.

Among the groups who have endorsed the plaque are the Vietnam Veterans of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars, AMVETS, Vietnam Women's Memorial, Inc., Rolling Thunder, the Korean War Veterans Association, the National Congress of American Indians, the National Conference of Vietnam Veteran Ministers, In Memory Inc., the American Gold Star Mothers, the Agent Orange Widows Awareness Coalition, and the Society of 173rd Airborne Brigade. In addition, the bill has 290 bipartisan cosponsors.

H.R. 3293 is simple and straightforward, Mr. Speaker. This bill will honor the sacrifices of these veterans by creating a small plaque that will be placed in a suitable location within the 13-acre Vietnam Veterans Memorial. On the plaque will be a short, fitting inscription that honors these fallen heroes.

The plaque will not be placed on the "Wall" or directly in front of the "Wall." This will ensure the plaque

does not impact the integrity and solemn nature of the Vietnam Memorial.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3293 was passed by voice vote in both the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands and the full Committee on Resources. No amendments were offered by anyone who may have opposed the bill. However, in response to some concerns raised by H.R. 3293, we have modified it in two ways.

First, the bill now clarifies the mechanism in which the ABMC can receive funds. Second, the bill now adds the Vietnam Women's Memorial, Inc., as a consultant to the design and placement of the plaque.

Mr. Speaker, it is vital to us as a Nation to have hallowed ground to honor these men and women, and I would ask that the Members would support this legislation.

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3293 is the most recent in a series of legislative proposals to add memorials to the National Mall. This particular measure would authorize a plaque to be placed within sight of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial intended to honor soldiers who died as a result of their service in Vietnam, but who were ineligible for inclusion in the Wall because their deaths occurred after the war ended.

While I am a cosponsor of H.R. 3293, it has been my hope all along that one particular aspect of this legislation might be improved upon. The legislation identifies a governmental agency, the American Battle Monuments Commission, as the organization which will oversee the placement of the plaque. Selection of the Battle Monuments Commission for this task is inappropriate for several important reasons.

First, this project is inconsistent with the Battle Monument Commission's mission. The Battle Monument Commission is an independent, executive branch agency which operates 24 cemeteries and 27 monuments, the vast majority of which are located on foreign soil. The ABMC has had no involvement in the creation and administration of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, as most of its responsibilities lie overseas. The major exception of this overseas focus, responsibility for the proposed World War II Memorial, is likely to occupy most of their domestic efforts.

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What is more, the ABMC does not want the job. In testimony before the National Capitol Monument Commission, the Battle Monuments Commission stated that the responsibility for the design, procurement and installation of the plaque should rest with either the proponent or the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund.

In addition, the Commission has had no mechanism to pay for this proposed

plaque. The legislation specifies that no Federal funds are to be used to design, procure, and install the plaque. Since the Battle Monuments Commission is a federally-funded agency, the bill had to be amended to exempt salaries, expenses and other benefits for ABMC personnel. Now the bill is being amended further to create a fund-raising program for the monument. While we realize that we are talking about a fairly small amount of money, it is troubling to think that any amount of time or attention might be diverted from the ABMC's efforts on behalf of the World War II Memorial.

All of these complications could have been avoided by replacing the Battle Monument Commission with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund as the organization responsible for placing this plaque at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. This organization conceived the idea for the Memorial, raised more than \$8 million needed for its construction, conducted the design contest, oversaw the construction, organized the dedicated ceremonies and continues to raise funds for educational programs and maintenance. No memorial in Washington is more closely associated with one organization. We continue to believe that they should be involved.

As it stands, we support the intent of H.R. 3293, but continue to feel that it has an obvious flaw. Fortunately, an obvious solution exists, and we hope that working with the bill's sponsor, our colleagues in the other body, the administration, this change will be adopted.

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

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY).

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3293, a bill to honor our Nation's Vietnam veterans. In my home State of Nevada, we have over 65,000 Vietnam veterans. In my district alone, there are 41,000.

These courageous men and women sacrificed their lives to defend our country during a time that their efforts were not always appreciated by their fellow countrymen. They deserved our praise and admiration then, and they deserve our praise and admiration now.

Today, the Vietnam Memorial Wall stands as a vivid reminder of those who gave their lives to fight in the Vietnam War. I recently had the opportunity to take my 14-year-old son to see the Vietnam Memorial. It was a moving experience for us both. However, there are many veterans whose lives were also cut tragically short by the war in Vietnam who are not listed on the wall.

My colleague has introduced legislation which will honor this special group of Vietnam veterans. These fallen heroes deserve recognition for their sacrifice, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. Join with me

and my colleague who introduced it, and I thank him very much for doing so.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from San Diego, California (Mr. FILNER).

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) for yielding me the time, and the gentlemen from California (Mr. GALLEGLY) for bringing this bill to the floor.

I, too, rise in support of H.R. 3293, which creates a plaque to honor Vietnam veterans who died as a result of the Vietnam War, but who are just not eligible under the rules to have their names placed directly on the Vietnam War Memorial.

Like my own bill, H. Con. Res. 134, this will honor the many individuals who served in the armed forces in Vietnam and who later died as a result of illnesses and conditions associated with service in that war. Many Vietnam veterans, for example, have died from exposure to Agent Orange or from posttraumatic stress syndrome.

A small plaque will be placed on the 13-acre parcel that surrounds the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, but not on the Wall or in front of the Wall. In this way, the plaque will not interfere with the integrity of the Memorial, but will add a place for families to mourn and remember their loved ones who served honorably and who died years after the war because of their service.

This bill has been endorsed by many veterans groups, including but not limited to the Vietnam Veterans of America, the VFW, AMVETS, Vietnam Women's Memorial, the Korean War Veterans Association, American Gold Star Mothers, and the Agent Orange Widows Awareness Coalition.

I join the 290 cosponsors of this bill from a bipartisan call for passage of this bill, and I thank, again, the gentleman from California (Mr. GALLEGLY) for his leadership.

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON), a member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3293, and I want to commend the gentleman from California (Mr. GALLEGLY) for his leadership in bringing this bill to the floor. This important legislation recognizes a group of veterans that are all too often forgotten, but are nonetheless heroes. The American Vietnam veteran faced adversity that few can ever imagine in order to keep this Nation free.

Unfortunately, these veterans are the victims of a technicality that keeps them from being honored with their fallen soldiers. The Vietnam Wall, while open to some veterans who died following the war, is not open to veterans who passed away due to complications from Agent Orange or posttraumatic stress syndrome. These veterans died as a result of their service for this Nation. The least that our

Nation can do is honor them near their fellow servicemen and women.

This important legislation would allow us to do so without diminishing, in any way, the service of these men and women who died in the field of battle in Vietnam. Instead, this measure would provide a plaque for those fallen heroes to be placed in the vicinity of the current Vietnam Memorial.

So I ask my colleagues to join me and the many veteran service organizations in supporting H.R. 3293.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL).

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding me the time. I also want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. GALLEGLY) for his leadership on this, the gentleman from Alaska (Chairman YOUNG), and also the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER), our very able ranking member.

This bill honors those who have died after their service in the Vietnam War but as a direct result of that service.

I would like to share one example of a Vietnam war veteran who many of my colleagues may have heard of and who exemplifies why we are acting today. His name is Lewis B. Puller, Jr. who took his own life as a result of posttraumatic stress disorder. Lew, as he was called, was a seriously wounded Vietnam War Veteran, Pulitzer Prize winning author of "Fortunate Son", and son of the most decorated U.S. Marine in history, "Chesty" Puller.

Although Lew's book was an inspiration to many, he ultimately took his own life because of his inability to deal with his wounds, his dependence on drugs and alcohol, and because of posttraumatic stress disorder.

While Lew Puller's case has been a higher profile than others have, there have been thousands of Vietnam War veterans who have suffered the same casualty.

This bill sends a clear message that our Nation has not, nor will it ever, forget the Vietnam veterans who have fallen as a result of these unfortunate and often invisible traumas.

I urge my colleagues to support this very worthy bill.

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. QUINN), who serves on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. GALLEGLY) for yielding me this time.

I also want to associate myself with the remarks of the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER), my ranking member on our Subcommittee on Benefits of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

As I rise in support of H.R. 3293, as we have said, a bill that will create a place honoring those Vietnam veterans who died as a result of the war but, through some technicality, are ineligible to be

placed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial here in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very straightforward bill. In no way will it affect the current Memorial, which has become a place for Americans to solemnly remember those veterans who gave their lives in Vietnam. It requires a small plaque to be honored and placed somewhere on the 13 acres.

I want to add my support to the bill and urge all our colleagues to do the same.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Ms. SANCHEZ).

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3293, authorizing the placement of a plaque to memorialize those who died as a direct result from service in the Vietnam War, but who perished after war's end.

Thousands of individuals put their life on the line to protect the freedoms that we hold dear and to save a Nation desperately trying to hold on to those freedoms.

We have recognized the sacrifice of those who died on the battlefield, but we have yet to realize those who perished afterwards.

This bill would honor those who died after the war as a direct result of serving in the war by placing a small plaque somewhere near the Vietnam Memorial. The plaque, funded by private donations, would recognize the entire group of courageous individuals for their service to our country.

After 25 years since the fall of Saigon, is it not time that we finally recognize everyone who has made the ultimate sacrifice by serving our country in Southeast Asia?

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS).

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, the casualty list states that over 58,000 Americans lost their lives in the conflict we know as the Vietnam War. The lists contain the names of another 300,000 Americans sailors, soldiers, and airmen who were wounded. Half of these wounds were very serious. Many of our soldiers recovered fully while others were permanently wounded.

But there is a third class of wounded soldiers whose wounds did not kill immediately but ultimately caused death. In some cases, posttraumatic stress syndrome or exposure to Agent Orange may have led to the death years, perhaps decades, after the wound was first suffered.

Despite the delay, the veteran's death is linked with his or her service to this Nation by participating in the Vietnam War.

H.R. 3293 seeks to honor these veterans with a plaque located within the

13 acres set aside for the Vietnam War Veterans Memorial. The plaque will be located near the Wall to preserve the memory of those veterans whose service on behalf of their fellow citizens, in the end, cost them their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I urge our colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES).

(Mrs. JONES of Ohio asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 3293, the establishment of a Vietnam Veterans Plaque at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. I support this measure because we have a responsibility to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

We can never forget the travesties of war. We can never get our fighting forces who marched on battlefields, roamed the oceans, and flew the skies. We can never forget the family shattered by the loss of fallen children. My own family, my sister's brother-in-law, John H. Walker's name, appears on that Wall along with the names of many of my childhood friends. With the Vietnam Veterans Plaque, we will never forget the names of those who lost their lives in service of their Nation.

The effects of Vietnam live with many Americans today. We must include the heroes whose post-war deaths were a direct result of conditions such as Agent Orange. We must forever etch in the annals of time the names of those fallen heroes so that future generations may see the names and celebrate their fellow countrymen who believed in duty, honor, and service. What a small token to be established relative to the loss due to war.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise and be a cosponsor of H.R. 3293 and urge the passage of the Vietnam Veterans Plaque.

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO).

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, we have been there either in person or witnessed it on television, people silently and slowly walking by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in contemplation of the sacrifices made for this Nation, some tracing on paper names embedded in stone, some leaving flowers or little gifts at the foot of that Wall.

But there is something missing, men and women whose deaths are related to the war and caused by the war who died after that conflict and whose names are not otherwise eligible to be inscribed on the wall.

Today we fill in that which is missing. Today, by passing H.R. 3293, as to which I am a cosponsor, we authorize a plaque, demonstrating the love of this Nation for the men and women who gave the supreme sacrifice and whose names are not on the Wall.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the

gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY).

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Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding me this time. I rise in strong support of H.R. 3293, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Authorization, and I congratulate the gentleman from California (Mr. GALLEGLY), the sponsor of this important legislation to commemorate those brave men and women who fought in Vietnam.

I signed onto this legislation because I believe the time has come to commemorate those brave veterans of the Vietnam War who gave up their lives for their country but have yet to receive any public tribute. But this legislation should only be a starting point here in Congress. We should all work together to advance the priorities of all of our Nation's veterans', including providing a fair distribution of health care resources to veterans regardless of where they reside in our Nation.

We should make the term "homeless veteran" an oxymoron. We must keep letting our Nation's veterans know that the people who fought to allow us to come to this floor every day and debate issues both large and small that we do and did value their services. Our veterans have provided so much while requesting so little.

In my opinion, this memorial should be constructed in the honor of these brave men and women, and I am pleased the House of Representatives is debating this legislation today. Again, I would like to thank my colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. GALLEGLY), for bringing this legislation to the floor. This is a good bill. It is long overdue. I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation today.

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST).

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

Andy Rooney, a number of years ago, wrote a book about war, and he revealed in that book a little known phenomenon that is very rarely, if ever, discussed about war. That phenomenon is in essence this: The combat soldier in combat is dependent and dependable. He is loved and he loves others. He deals with those who are dying. He deals with those who are sick. He deals with those who are afraid. He deals with those who cannot rise up to the difficult challenge, emotional challenge, of viewing the slaughter on a daily basis.

Many of those men who were afraid, or who may not have been wounded in the body, their spirit was wounded. Their mind was wounded. Some of them picked up disease. Those young men deserve some recognition along this magnificent wall that represents that conflict so that their families may come and have some resolution.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY).

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. GALLEGLY) for this very important legislation. This is an important gesture on the part of the United States Congress because I think it is going to go a long way towards closing one of the festering wounds from our national history.

I worked very closely with a family, the Fitzgibbon family, over a 2-year period, to deal with an inequity that had affected their family. Sergeant Richard Fitzgibbon died in Vietnam in 1956. But because the United States Government did not in fact admit that we controlled the war in Vietnam after the French pulled out earlier that year, no one who had died in Vietnam from 1956 through 1961 was eligible for inscription on the Vietnam Wall. He was the first casualty of the war in Vietnam, and yet he received no recognition and his family received no recognition.

In fact, so strongly did his family believe that he had died in the war in Vietnam that his own son went to Vietnam, and his son was killed in 1965, Richard, Junior, the only father and son in the Vietnam War. But the son was allowed to have his name inscribed on the Wall, but the father not. And it took a long battle to finally change the rules and regulations of the Defense Department 2 years ago to have the father join the son.

The son obviously believed he was on the same mission, the mission to bring freedom to the people in Vietnam, a mission that had been engaged in by the United States Government. So that inequity has been dealt with.

What the gentleman from California is doing here today is trying to deal with another inequity. It is one that will ensure that those Vietnam veterans who died after service in the Vietnam War, but as a direct result of such service, and whose names are not otherwise eligible for placement on the memorial wall, will continue the healing of their pain as well.

I think that this is a very important gesture to every single family in America who has suffered this most horrible of all fates that can befall a family, and I think that this is one of the most fitting things that we can do as a Nation in order to continue to heal the wounds of every family that made the sacrifice. I congratulate the gentleman and I hope it passes unanimously here today.

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SCARBOROUGH).

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding me this time, and I too would like to join other Members who thanked him for stepping forward and bringing forth this very important resolution.

I could not help but hear the previous gentleman from Massachusetts. A cou-

ple of words he said really rang true in my mind, where he talked about these gentlemen, these men and women that went over to Vietnam because they believed they were fighting for freedom. They fought, unfortunately, under a cloud throughout most of the 1960s and the early 1970s, with people protesting on college campuses and protesting in the streets. But they really went over there and so many of them really did believe they were fighting for freedom.

Thirty years later, looking back after all the divisiveness of the Vietnam War and all the debates about whether it was a noble cause or not, all we have to do is look at the repression that people in Vietnam still live under to recognize that they were fighting a noble cause.

I think this is an absolutely fantastic thing to do for those men and women that were willing to go over there and risk their lives to fight for freedom.

One other final closing thought, though unrelated to this matter. I think we should go the next step forward this year and we should give those men and women that were willing to give their all in World War II and in the Korean War the health care that they were promised. We made them a promise and we have broken that promise. And just as the resolution of the gentleman from California helps to recognize the service of those Vietnam veterans today, we need to go another step forward. I thank the gentleman for this fantastic resolution.

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, how much time remains on our side?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LaTourette). The gentleman from California (Mr. Gallegly) has 7½ minutes remaining.

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to recognize the years of hard work and dedication by Vietnam veterans and their families in turning this idea of building a simple plaque to honor those who died after their service due to war-related causes into a reality.

I would like to particularly recognize and mention the efforts of Ruth Coder Fitzgerald, who began working on this memorial within weeks of the death of her brother John in 1992. John Coder died from non-Hodgkins lymphoma, a cancer linked to exposure to Agent Orange in Vietnam. It is Ms. Fitzgerald's dedication to our Vietnam veterans and their families that is the reason we are here today in the House of Representatives considering this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, a creation of this plaque will not in any way diminish the impact of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial area. On the contrary, it will fill a void by honoring those whose names were not found on the Wall. As Ed Croucher of the Vietnam Veterans of America testified before the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands of the Committee on Resources: "It meets a clear need. It is a

very significant and appropriate project. It adds to the collective history of the Vietnam War."

Mr. Speaker, the building of this small but powerful plaque is the right thing to do to honor those who died for our country because of their service to Vietnam, and I ask for the support of the Members of the House in passing this legislation.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 3293, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Authorization.

I congratulate Congressman ELTON GALLEGLY, the sponsor of this important legislation to commemorate those brave men and women who fought in Vietnam.

I signed on to this legislation because I believe the time has come to commemorate those brave veterans of the Vietnam War who gave up their lives for their country but have yet to receive any public tribute.

But this legislation should only be a starting point in this Congress.

We should all work together to advance the priorities of all our nation's veterans, including providing a fair distribution of health care resources to veterans regardless of where they reside in our nation.

We should make the term "homeless veteran" an oxymoron.

And we must keep letting our nation's veterans know—the people who fought to allow us to come to the floor every day and debate issues both large and small—that we do value their service.

Our veterans have provided so much while requesting so little.

In my opinion, a memorial should be constructed in honor of these brave men and women.

I am pleased the House of Representatives is debating this legislation today and would again like to thank my friend and colleague Representative ELTON GALLEGLY for bringing this legislation to the floor today.

This is a good bill.

It is long overdue and I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation today.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor of H.R. 3293, I am in strong support of its passage today.

This legislation, introduced by Representative GALLEGLY of California, authorizes placement of a plaque near the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to honor those Vietnam veterans who died as a direct result of their service after leaving Vietnam, including those who died of post traumatic stress disorder and of the effects of Agent Orange.

The men and women who serve our country to defend freedom deserve to be treated with nothing less than the highest level of dignity and respect. All of those who died following their service in the Vietnam War—including those who died of post traumatic stress disorder and of the effects of Agent Orange—should be honored alongside those who died in combat.

In the years since Vietnam, we've learned a great deal about the lingering effects of modern combat. Unfortunately, too many of those we thought were survivors had already been afflicted with conditions or exposed to chemical agents that would tragically cut short their lives.

Passage of H.R. 3293 will go a long way toward honoring the men and women who lost

their lives as a direct result of service to our great nation, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this important piece of legislation.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I am in strong support of this bill.

With over 60,000 military retirees and veterans in my district including thousands of Vietnam veterans, I am proud to be a cosponsor of this bill and support its passage today on the House floor.

The 25th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War is a time for all Americans to reflect on the incredible sacrifices made by our men and women in preserving liberty in Southeast Asia.

All of our Vietnam veterans are heroes for their incredible courage and bravery.

They fought for freedom in a far away land, inserting themselves in the name of liberty in a conflict which had already raged for decades. They withstood the ravages of jungle warfare, and endured the onslaught of extremely deadly and indiscriminate weaponry.

Furthermore, those who returned back home faced a nation which was divided over our involvement in Vietnam, and for too many, the injuries they sustained and the sacrifices they made were taken for granted.

While we have an extremely meaningful and powerful memorial to our nation's veterans who perished in Vietnam here in Washington, D.C. with the Vietnam Wall, there has been a significant absence of a symbol of recognition of those Vietnam veterans who died after the war as a direct result of their service.

These men and women deserve to be recognized for their service, and I am proud that this bill authorizes the placement of a plaque within the site of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall to honor those veterans who died after their service in the Vietnam War as a direct result of that service.

These American soldiers left their families, friends, and lives to defend another people in another land and their service should never be forgotten.

As someone who serves on the House Veterans Affairs Committee, I salute all of our Vietnam Veterans and am proud to cosponsor this legislation.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am in strong support of H.R. 3293, a bill to make an important modification to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. I urge my colleagues to support this worthy measure.

H.R. 3293 amends the law that established the Vietnam Veterans Memorial by authorizing the placement within the grounds of the memorial of a plaque honoring those Vietnam veterans who died after the war from a direct result of injuries sustained in the conflict. These veterans were not eligible for placement on the memorial wall at the time of its construction.

This legislation directs the American Battle Monuments Commission to consult with the Veterans of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund in deciding where to locate the plaque and further requires that the design, acquiring and placement of the plaque will be completed with private funds.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3293 makes a worthy addition to one of the most visited monuments in our Nation's Capital. It is also a fitting tribute to those veterans who served in Vietnam, but due to the timing of their deaths, were not eligible for inclusion in the original memorial.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to give their support to this worthwhile piece of legislation.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I am in strong support of H.R. 3293, which authorizes the placement within the site of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial of a plaque to honor those Vietnam veterans who died after their service in the Vietnam War, but as a direct result of that service. Establishing a plaque to recognize the efforts of this group of Vietnam veterans is a fitting tribute to the men and women who have sacrificed for their country.

Each year, the Department of Defense adds some names to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. However, the Department does not recognize many conditions as being service-related, such as Agent Orange exposure and post traumatic stress syndrome. The plaque authorized by H.R. 3293 would honor those whose deaths are not otherwise recognized by the monument.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. A plaque honoring those who continued to suffer and die years after the war ended—and their families—is a proper way to mark this anniversary.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of H.R. 3293 and I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the families of California's 41st district which continue to grieve over the loss of a loved one who died as a result of serving our Nation in Vietnam.

While the Vietnam Memorial is a commanding monument which demands its observers' attention in a compelling and somber way, it does not recognize the ultimate sacrifice made by many of our soldiers. Although numerous men and women returned home, for some, the battle did not end. Many lives were destroyed by cancer as a result of exposure to Agent Orange. For others, the battles raged on nightly in the form of terrible, extremely stressful dreams that were inescapable.

These service men and women should be remembered alongside their colleagues on the mall. With Memorial Day quickly approaching, I urge you to support this measure. While it is simple in nature—just a plaque—it speaks volumes about our respect for these soldiers.

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. GALLEGLY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3293, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. GALLEGLY. 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.

LONG-TERM CARE SECURITY ACT

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the