

thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS), the authors of this bill. I have no additional speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALDEN of Oregon). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2346.

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.

MAKING TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO TITLE X OF ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 1992

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2641) to make technical corrections to title X of the Energy Policy Act of 1992, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2641

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

SECTION 1. DATE EXTENSIONS.

Section 1001 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 2296a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1)(B)(i), by striking “2002” and inserting “2007”;

(2) in subsection (b)(1)(B)(ii), by striking “placed in escrow not later than December 31, 2002,” and inserting “incurred by a licensee after December 31, 2007.”; and

(3) in subsection (b)(2)(E)(i) by striking “July 31, 2005” and inserting “December 31, 2008”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Mrs. CUBIN) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BOUCHER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Mrs. CUBIN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Wyoming?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2641 will make date extensions to title X of the Energy Policy Act of 1992, which specifies how and when the Federal Government reimburses the private sector licensees for the Federal Government's share of the cost of cleaning up uranium and thorium milling sites. We have learned that it costs a lot more and takes a lot longer to clean up these mill sites than we originally anticipated back in 1992, due in large part to the difficulties of dealing with groundwater contamination.

Therefore, H.R. 2641 makes some adjustments to the time line of the current reimbursement scheme to recognize these realities and to make sure that the government continues to pay its fair share of the cleanup costs.

The current scheme of reimbursement on an annual basis is due to end in 2002, with DOE required to place into escrow sufficient funds to cover the estimated post-2002 costs. Both industry and the Department of Energy want to continue the current arrangement of reimbursement of actual costs on an annual basis for several more years until all or almost all of this cleanup work is completed.

This bill was changed significantly as it moved through the committee process. I commend the Members and staff on both sides of the aisle, particularly the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LARGENT), for working to improve this bill. What is before the House today was reported out of the Committee on Commerce with unanimous bipartisan support.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2641 represents an effective compromise measure that has the full support of the Department of Energy and the industry. I urge Members on both sides of the aisle to vote for this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2641, which makes constructive and noncontroversial changes to title X of the Energy Policy Act of 1992.

I want to thank the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Mrs. CUBIN), the gentleman from Texas (Chairman BARTON) of our Subcommittee on Energy and Power, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LARGENT), and their respective staffs for working with us at the subcommittee level and at the level of the full House Committee on Commerce to address a range of concerns that the minority originally had concerning these provisions.

As the gentlewoman from Wyoming indicated, the bill reported by the Committee on Commerce makes a number of useful administrative changes to the uranium and thorium mill tailings cleanup program. First, it extends for 5 additional years the period during which licensees may apply to the Department of Energy for reimbursement of their share of the costs of approved cleanup projects.

Secondly, the bill eliminates the requirement that certain funds be placed in escrow which will benefit all licensees by providing more flexibility to provide reimbursements for completed projects.

And third, the bill extends the date by which the Secretary of Energy must determine that there are excess funds for cleaning up the gaseous diffusion plants. These changes reflect the reality that while the title X cleanup program has been largely successful, the work has taken longer than ex-

pected. I would stress, however, that the bill does not alter the formula for Federal reimbursement or in any way increase the program's previously authorized spending ceiling.

The bill reported by the Committee on Commerce is supported by both the administration and industry. It has bipartisan support, and I am pleased to join with the gentlewoman in urging the approval by the House of this measure. I want to thank her, the gentleman from Texas (Chairman BARTON) of our Subcommittee on Energy and Power, and the leadership of the full Committee on Commerce for their cooperation in addressing the concerns we originally had.

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

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LARGENT).

Mr. LARGENT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Mrs. CUBIN) for yielding me just a moment of time to talk about H.R. 2641.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2641 to make technical corrections to title X of the Energy Policy Act of 1992. This legislation is a clean reauthorization that extends the program of annual reimbursements for 5 more years to clean up uranium and thorium mill tailings sites by extending these reimbursements for 5 more years. It eliminates the requirement for DOE to place into escrow sufficient funds to cover estimated post-2002 cleanup costs, and it changes the date when the Secretary must determine whether any excess funds remain from 2005 until 2008.

H.R. 2641 is a bipartisan bill reported out unanimously by the Committee on Commerce. The bill is supported by the Department of Energy, by industry, and by the PACE union which represents workers at the gaseous diffusion plants.

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H.R. 2641 will keep the industry licensees focused on completing their cleanup work and will keep DOE focused on reimbursing its fair share of the cleanup costs.

Finally, I want to thank Kevin Cook from the Committee on Commerce for all of his fine work; Sue Sheridan from the staff of the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) for her efforts and cooperation and from the staff of the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Mrs. CUBIN), Bryan Jacobs for all of his work and time on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, finally, I would just add that this bill is environmentally sound and responsible and economically sound, fiscally sound and responsible as well.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, once again I want to thank the staffs on both sides of the

aisle. I want to thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BOUCHER), his co-operation and good temperament is always a joy to work with and I thank him very much.

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALDEN of Oregon). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Mrs. CUBIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2641, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LANCE CORPORAL HAROLD GOMEZ POST OFFICE

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1295) to designate the United States Post Office located at 3813 Main Street in East Chicago, Indiana, as the "Lance Corporal Harold Gomez Post Office."

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 1295

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF LANCE CORPORAL HAROLD GOMEZ POST OFFICE.

The United States Post Office located at 3813 Main Street in East Chicago, Indiana, shall be known and designated as the "Lance Corporal Harold Gomez Post Office".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the post office referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Lance Corporal Harold Gomez Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 1295.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, we have before us S. 1295 introduced by the distinguished senator from Indiana, Senator LUGAR, on June 6, 1999. The legislation passed the Senate on November 19, 1999 and was received in the House soon thereafter.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKEY) introduced identical legislation, H.R. 2358, on June 24 of 1999 and, pursuant to the policy on

the Committee on Government Reform, the entire House delegation of the State of Indiana cosponsored H.R. 2358, and the committee passed the bill.

Both of these bills has been noted to designate the United States Post Office located at 3813 Main Street in East Chicago, Indiana as the Lance Corporal Harold Gomez Post Office.

Mr. Speaker, we have had the opportunity and, indeed, the honor to do a number of these bills in this session as in previous years, and it is always truly a pleasure. I want to begin by extending my compliments both to Senator LUGAR and to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKEY) for their efforts in bringing this worthy nominee to our attention.

One of the true joys of having the opportunity to handle these kinds of proposals, Mr. Speaker, is that it provides us with the opportunity to honor the widest possible range of United States citizens and to, in that fashion, recognize their achievements, and they are the kinds of achievements that really do span the entire horizon of contributions to country, contributions to community, and all worthy points in between.

Mr. Speaker, today, we have in Corporal Gomez just such an example. The corporal was a fire team leader in a rifle company of the Third Marine Division when in 1967, he was killed by a land mine explosion in South Vietnam. He was the first citizen from Northwest Indiana to die of casualties in that war.

Corporal Gomez received numerous awards, including the Purple Heart, the Combat Action Ribbon, the Presidential Unit Citation, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, RVN, Military Merit Medal, RVN Gallantry Cross Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal and the Rifle Sharp Shooters Badge.

Corporal Gomez was posthumously awarded the Silver Star Medal for his courageous leadership and heroism. As these medals so eloquently attest, Mr. Speaker, Corporal Gomez was truly a hero.

He was a man who put the needs and the safety of his troops, of his fellow servicepeople before himself; and through him, we have again underscored the history of this Nation, a Nation founded upon the principle that in the pursuit of life and liberty and happiness, there is no cost too great, no price too high, that citizens like Corporal Gomez are willingly to extend it, even when that means the loss of their life. That kind of lesson can never be restated too often, I would suggest respectfully, Mr. Speaker.

Certainly, his heroism, his example was felt far and wide. And in his hometown, I think it is important to note that after his death, Central High School in East Chicago, the place from which Corporal Gomez had graduated, named and dedicated the library to him and the American GI Forum of the United States chartered the Harold Gomez Chapters in East Chicago.

I am proud, Mr. Speaker, to join with Senator LUGAR, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKEY), with the entire House delegation from that great State, and in working with, as always, the minority on the Subcommittee on Postal Service, particularly the gentleman from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH), the ranking member, in ensuring that these kinds of worthy initiatives are brought quickly to this floor.

Mr. Speaker, just one final word of urging that all of our colleagues join us in supporting of this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH), the chairman of our Subcommittee on Postal Service, for his efforts in helping us bring to the floor this very important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I want to make a note, even though we act today on a Senate bill, it was the House bill of the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKEY) that was introduced, as the gentleman from New York (Chairman MCHUGH) has indicated, first and in cooperation with obviously the entire congressional delegation, we now move this Senate bill. I want to commend the gentleman from Indiana for introducing this bill decades after the death of this young man in service to his country.

The gentleman, my good friend, took it upon himself to introduce this legislation to acknowledge the sacrifice of Mr. Gomez and his family on behalf of a grateful Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKEY), my good friend.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) for yielding the time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I do rise today to urge my colleagues to support S. 1295, a bill that was sponsored in the United States Senate by Senator LUGAR, a bill to rename the Harbor Branch Post Office at 3813 Main Street in East Chicago in honor of a true hero, Lance Corporal Harold Gomez.

I did have the privilege of introducing the House version of this measure, as the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) mentioned, H.R. 2358 and would like to thank each of my colleagues from the State of Indiana, Republican and Democrat alike, for their complete bipartisan support of the measure.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to give special thanks to the gentleman from Indiana (Chairman BURTON), chairman of the Committee on Government Reform, for all of his assistance in bringing this bill to the floor and would like to thank the gentleman from New York (Chairman MCHUGH) and the ranking member, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH), for all of