

them with commensurate benefits. I support removing the additional and unjustified funding fee imposed on the Selected Reserve, as provided by H.R. 2095, for three years and hope that funding will enable us to make this reduction permanent in the future.

Mr. Speaker, no one has a stronger claim on the public fisc, than those veterans who have been severely disabled as a result of their military service. The provisions in H.R. 4085, drawn from Mr. FILNER'S bill, H.R. 2222, will provide veterans who qualify for the Vet-

erans' Mortgage Life Insurance (VMLI) programs, closer toward the goal of meeting the needs of these veterans in the 21st century. By increasing the amount of the mortgage insurance to \$150,000, and by eliminating the current requirement that the insurance be terminated at age 70, our severely disabled veterans will be assured that in the event of their death, their home mortgage can be paid off. If we can not afford to help our Nation's most severely disabled veterans, who can we afford to help?

As an original cosponsor with our Subcommittee Chairman, MIKE SIMPSON, our Full Committee Chairman CHRIS SMITH, and our Ranking Democratic Member, LANE EVANS, I fully support additional funding for the State Approving Agencies. When we ask that agencies assume additional responsibilities, Congress must provide the resources to see that those responsibilities can be met.

I urge all Members of the House to support our Nation's veterans and this bipartisan bill.

COMPARISON OF FISCAL YEAR LIQUIDATION RATES RESERVISTS VERSUS ALL OTHERS AS OF END OF MONTH, MARCH 2002

Fiscal year*	Total guaranteed	Total fore-closed	%	All others				Reservists				Reservist rate compared to All Others Rate	
				Total No.	% of total	Frcl		Total No.	% of total	Frcl			
						No.	%			No.	%		
2001	265,306	83	0.03	256,858	96.8	82	0.03	8,448	3.2	1	0.01	62.9%	Lower
2000	184,494	1,227	0.67	177,645	96.3	1,196	0.67	6,849	3.7	31	0.45	32.8%	Lower
1999	403,936	5,508	1.36	391,069	96.8	5,385	1.38	12,867	3.2	123	0.96	30.6%	Lower
1998	408,930	9,946	2.43	395,332	96.7	9,707	2.46	13,598	3.3	239	1.76	28.4%	Lower
1997	260,326	10,946	4.20	250,310	96.2	10,668	4.26	10,016	3.8	278	2.78	34.9%	Lower
1996	314,825	19,427	6.17	303,878	96.5	18,939	6.23	10,947	3.5	488	4.46	28.5%	Lower
1995	249,670	17,110	6.85	240,345	96.3	16,645	6.93	9,325	3.7	465	4.99	28.0%	Lower
1994	493,441	29,018	5.88	483,474	98.0	28,534	5.90	9,967	2.0	484	4.86	17.7%	Lower
1993	475,038	27,593	5.81	469,346	98.8	27,327	5.82	5,692	1.2	266	4.67	19.7%	Lower
	3,055,966	120,858	3.95	2,968,257	97.1	118,483	3.99	87,709	2.9	2,375	2.71	32.2%	Lower

*Based on Date of Loan. (AMH-26A2B) 5/02/2002.
Source: SAS GILFYLIQ. File: H:\gy-26\265\26A2B\excel\reservist and service frcl rates.xls

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4085, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. 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.

ROBERT J. DOLE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4608) to name the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in Wichita, Kansas, as the "Robert J. Dole Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center," as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4608

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

SECTION 1. NAME OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL AND REGIONAL OFFICE CENTER, WICHITA, KANSAS.

The Department of Veterans Affairs Medical and Regional Office Center in Wichita, Kansas, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Robert J. Dole Department of Veterans Affairs Medical and Re-

gional Office Center". Any reference to such medical center in any law, regulation, map, document, record, or other paper of the United States shall be considered to be a reference to the Robert J. Dole Department of Veterans Affairs Medical and Regional Office Center.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the chief sponsor of this legislation and chairman of the Subcommittee on Health of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to sponsor H.R. 4608 to name the Department of Medical Affairs Medical and Regional Office Center in Wichita, Kansas the Robert J. Dole Department of Veterans Affairs Medical and Regional Office Center.

Though he is often remembered today for his service to our country as a congressman, a U.S. Senator, and a Presidential contender, Bob Dole's courage and determination on the field of battle in World War II as a second lieutenant is what we are here today to recognize. His bravery in battle truly reflects the character of this Kansan.

Dole is a native of Russell, Kansas, population 4,500, just 25 miles from my hometown. As an energetic young man, Dole gained popularity with the young and old in that Russell community while working at the local soda fountain. A good student and a good athlete in high school, Dole had little trouble enrolling at the University of Kansas to pursue his lifelong dream of becoming a physician.

But Dole's life, like the lives of millions of other men and women of his generation, was changed when the U.S.

entered World War II. Never before had there been such an assault on our country's way of life, and America was calling on its young men and women to fight to defend our freedoms.

In 1942, while a sophomore at the University of Kansas, Dole enlisted in the U.S. Army. After attending basic training in Texas, he was eager to defend his country, and transferred to the Army Specialized Training Program in New York City. It did not take long for Dole to establish himself as a leader. He was accepted into Officer Candidate School, and traveled to Georgia for his training. He entered as a corporal and graduated 2 years later in 1944 as Second Lieutenant Robert J. Dole. He was then sent to Italy in the midst of some of the fiercest fighting toward the end of World War II.

That next spring, Dole was assigned to head a platoon in the Tenth Mountain Division after the previous lieutenant in charge had been killed. On an April morning that spring, Dole led his troops into battle in northern Italy. In his own words, Dole describes that day, a day that would forever change his life. I quote Bob Dole:

"On the morning of April 14, we were part of a major assault. Pinned down by sniper and small-arms fire, I chose a small squad to help me find a safer route up the slope. We ran into a hail of German machine gunfire. I tossed a grenade at a farmhouse from which the bullets were spraying, and then pulled the lifeless form of my platoon's radio-man into a foxhole. Scrambling back out again, I felt a sharp sting in my back. Most likely it was an exploding shell that smashed my right shoulder, scattering metal fragments along its path.

"I lay down in the dirt, paralyzed from the neck down, until Technical Sergeant Frank Carafa dragged me to safety. My second in command, Sergeant Stan Kuschik, gave me a shot of

morphine. With my own blood Stan made a cross on my forehead, a precaution to warn medics who might happen by against administering a second and fatal dose of that powerful drug. Nine hours later, I was at the Fifteenth Evacuation Hospital. My war ended there, or so I thought. Actually, my war . . . was only beginning."

Dole continues: "Don't believe that wars are concluded by treaties signed by diplomats between gilded chandeliers. Each veteran has his own war, which lives on not just in scrapbooks or at reunions where old stories get retold, but in midnight memories and sudden flashbacks. For me, it all comes back each morning getting dressed, tying a knot, or even looking in the mirror."

For his service and bravery in World War II, Senator Dole was honored with two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star medal. This week is a fitting time for us in the House of Representatives to consider this legislation, the week of Memorial Day.

Bob Dole is one of the millions of brave men and women who have defended our country during war. A tireless advocate for veterans and veterans' rights, Dole's story is one we should memorialize. Despite the fact that his injuries in World War II left him partially paralyzed, he became one of the most influential American political figures in the latter half of the 20th century. Part of that greatest generation, Dole is an example of an ordinary American who was called upon to meet extraordinary challenges.

Throughout his time as a congressman and senator, his appreciation for the doctors and nurses who assisted him in recovery was never forgotten. Dole authored and had passed legislation to improve the conditions and services offered to veterans, as well as the disabled.

Each year, in April, on the anniversary of his World War II injuries, Dole would make special recognition of the disabled by discussing the status of the disabled in America. His understanding of those less fortunate led Senator Dole to become a leader in efforts to pass the Americans with Disabilities Act, a landmark piece of legislation.

Dole's work to recognize and honor veterans continues today. Most recently, Dole chaired the committee that raised \$160 million to construct a memorial on the National Mall honoring the hundreds of thousands of men and women who fought in World War II.

This legislation is sponsored by many Members of Congress, has the full support of the Kansas delegation, the gentlemen from Kansas, Mr. MOORE, Mr. TIAHRT, and Mr. RYUN, and has been endorsed by the major veterans' service organizations in Kansas.

Today, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Bob Dole for his military service and for his bravery and dedication to his country in time of battle in this legislation

that will further recognize Bob Dole by naming the Wichita VA hospital the Robert J. Dole Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center and Regional Office Center.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in strong support of this legislation that renames the Medical and Regional Office Center in Wichita, Kansas, in honor of Robert J. Dole, a tireless advocate for our Nation's veterans.

This honor is certainly well-deserved. During his sophomore year in college, Bob Dole set aside his studies to enlist in the Army. Like many others of his generation, Bob Dole set aside personal plans to fight in World War II.

Though severely injured in action in Europe, after 3 long years of convalescence in 1948 Senator Dole was separated from the service and returned to Kansas. In 1950 he was elected to the State legislature. The rest, as they say, is history.

I thank and want to commend the chairman of the Subcommittee on Health of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), for his leadership on this legislation. I urge all my colleagues to support this measure.

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. RYUN), former world record-holder in the mile.

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, the gentleman from New Jersey, for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this legislation renaming the Wichita Veterans Medical and Regional Office Center for Senator Bob Dole. As we wage war against terrorism, it is particularly appropriate that we in Congress recognize the service and sacrifice of Senator Dole. Senator Dole's service in combat during World War II, his leadership in the Senate, and his commitment to America serve as examples for each of us to emulate.

Senator Dole joined the Army's Enlisted Reserve Corps in 1942 to fight in World War II. After graduating from Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Lieutenant Dole was sent to Italy to join the Tenth Mountain Division.

As a result of his service in World War II, Senator Dole has sacrificed in many ways, in ways that all of us can imagine. In April, 1945, while Dole crawled from a foxhole to rescue a wounded radioman, German machine gunfire tore through Dole's back and right arm.

His injuries were so severe that he was not expected to live. However, Senator Dole never gave up. Through his faith in God, his determination, the support of his family, and the people of his hometown of Russell, Kansas, Senator Dole fought back to recover from his wounds.

Through adversity, Senator Dole has exhibited an overcoming spirit that should inspire all of us. Perhaps the successes of his political career were gained through the tenacity that can only come through hardship.

Senator Dole was twice decorated for his action in combat, receiving two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star. Senator Dole first entered politics in 1951, when he was elected to the Kansas legislature in 1960. Dole sought and won election to the House of Representatives, where he served four terms before entering the Senate. For the next 27 years, Senator Dole served the Nation and Kansas in the Senate. Through his service there, he became the longest-serving Republican leader in that Chamber's history.

In a speech he gave in 2000 as part of the Senate Leadership Lecture Series, Senator Dole remarked that those in politics have a unique opportunity to use their personal experiences to make a difference in the lives of others.

Throughout his career, Senator Dole did just that. Senator Dole's first Senate floor speech highlighted the challenges faced by disabled Americans. Never forgetting the people of Russell and his Kansas roots, he tirelessly championed for farmers in rural America. Understanding the importance of America's leadership, he worked to ensure that the Nation remained strong, able to protect freedom and peace. And knowing of the sacrifices of those who served in our military, he worked to ensure that America kept its promise to its veterans.

President Reagan once said of Senator Dole, "The title of leadership is not just a job title, it is the description of the man."

Throughout his service to our country, Senator Dole has exemplified commitment, courage, and integrity, and it is only fitting that we honor him in this way. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

□ 1515

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today in strong support of H.R. 4608, the Robert Dole Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center Designation Act; and I commend the distinguished gentleman from our Committee on Veterans' Affairs, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), and the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) for their support of this important legislation.

This measure names a VA medical and regional office center in Wichita, Kansas, the Robert J. Dole Department of Affairs Medical and Regional Office

Center. Our distinguished former colleague in the Senate served in World War II as a second lieutenant in the Army's Tenth Mountain Division. His unit was sent to Italy where as a platoon leader on April 14, 1945, his platoon was attacked by German force, and while aiding a wounded soldier in his platoon, Lt. Dole was seriously injured by mortar fire. He recovered during a period of 3 years of hospitalization in Army and VA hospitals, surviving numerous surgeries and undergoing rehabilitation.

Bob Dole was awarded the Bronze Star for his heroism and selfless effort to aid a fellow soldier and two Purple Hearts for injuries he sustained. He was further awarded the European-African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with two Bronze Stars for participation in the Po Valley and Northern Apennines campaigns. Additionally Bob Dole is the recipient of the American Campaign Medal and World War II Victory Medal.

Following the war, Senator Dole entered a life of public service, culminating in his tenure as Senate majority leader. He has been a lifelong advocate for the disabled and was a leader in the passage of the Americans With Disabilities Act, a landmark piece of legislation that significantly expanded the rights of disabled individuals in all walks of life. Moreover, he has been a tireless champion of our Nation's veterans and has been instrumental in fostering the right to build a national World War II memorial on the Mall in Washington.

Given his commitment to the interest and causes of all veterans, it is entirely appropriate that the VA Medical and Regional Office Center in Wichita be named after former Senator Bob Dole. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to join in fully supporting this measure.

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in very strong support of H.R. 4068, as amended, the Robert J. Dole Department of Veterans Affairs Medical and Regional Office Center.

Mr. Speaker, American history is filled with men and women who have made great sacrifices and performed great services on behalf of our Nation. It is one of the privileges that we in the House and Senate, the Congress, have to be able to recognize these individuals before our fellow countrymen and for all future generations. One such American worthy of honor is former soldier and Senator Bob Dole of Kansas.

Bob Dole was probably one of the best known World War II veterans. As a young officer in the famed Tenth Mountain Division, he was severely wounded during fighting in Italy and spent 3 years in Army and Veterans

Administration Hospitals recovering. He was permanently disabled with a shattered shoulder; yet by his personal courage and persistence, he overcame a boatload of crushing obstacles. He went on to become a national leader as a United States Senator, he was a presidential candidate, and a tireless advocate for veterans and the disabled.

So it is extremely fitting that in his home State of Kansas, the VA facility in Wichita be named the Robert J. Dole Department of Veterans Affairs Medical and Regional Office Center.

I would especially commend the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), who is the author of the bill, to honor Bob Dole. The gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is chairman, as we know, of the Subcommittee on Health of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs; and I am very proud to be a co-sponsor of this bill, which he has spoken about with great eloquence earlier.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4608, 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.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to name the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical and Regional Office Center in Wichita, Kansas, as the 'Robert J. Dole Department of Veterans Affairs Medical and Regional Office Center'."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 4608, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND BIO-TERRORISM PREVENTION ACT OF 2002

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the ordering of the yeas and nays on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3253, as amended, be vacated to the end that question be put de novo.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection the gentleman's request to vacate the yeas and nays on H.R. 3253 is granted and the Chair will put the question de novo.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3253, 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.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the establishment within the Department of Veterans Affairs of improved emergency medical preparedness, research, and education programs to combat terrorism, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AMVETS NATIONAL CHARTER DAY

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 314) recognizing the members of AMVETS for their service to the Nation and supporting the goals of AMVETS National Charter Day.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 314

Whereas on July 23, 1947, AMVETS (American Veterans of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam) was chartered by the United States as a not-for-profit corporation;

Whereas membership in AMVETS is open to veterans who have honorably served, or are serving, in the Armed Forces, including the Coast Guard, National Guard, and Reserves, during or since World War II;

Whereas the veterans of the Armed Forces have made great sacrifices to ensure the peace and security of the United States;

Whereas the members of AMVETS are dedicated to providing important services to their local communities and to their fellow veterans;

Whereas the motto of AMVETS is "We fought together, now let's build together";

Whereas the members of AMVETS consistently honor that motto through countless hours of patriotic service, including providing services to hospitalized veterans, assisting veterans with their problems regarding housing and employment, marching in parades, participating in color guards and burial details, and educating the Nation's youth;

Whereas the war on terrorism has emphasized the sacrifices that veterans have made, and continue to make, for the benefit of the Nation;

Whereas AMVETS has designated July 23 as AMVETS National Charter Day; and

Whereas the goal of AMVETS National Charter Day is to raise public awareness regarding AMVETS's commitment and service to veterans, the families of veterans, and the Nation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress recognizes the members of AMVETS (American Veterans of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam) for their service to the Nation and supports the goal of AMVETS National Charter Day.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS) each will control 20 minutes.