

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.

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 distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. GRUCCI), the prime sponsor of this resolution.

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

Throughout history, young men and women in uniform have fought to protect America's freedoms and liberties. They have served our Nation during war and peace and have consistently illustrated their dedication to the United States of America. Today, we look at these brave men and women as heroes and appreciate their past service as soldiers, sailors and airmen. However, the great service of these heroes has never stopped after their days in uniform. As veterans, these same men and women continue to serve their communities and their fellow veterans.

On July 23, 1947, President Harry S. Truman chartered AMVETS, a veterans' organization that seeks to serve veterans and their communities.

Today, with more than 1,300 posts throughout the country, AMVETS members help their fellow veterans in many ways, including helping veterans with housing and employment problems, providing services to hospitalized veterans, and assisting their fellow veterans in obtaining their entitlement benefits.

From raising funds for VA facilities, to marching in local parades, members of AMVETS dedicate countless hours of service to America and to American vets. Their motto, "We fought together. Now let's build together," could not be more appropriate when observing the American pride and dedication behind every member of AMVETS. The same heroes that saved the lives of fellow soldiers in battles ended long ago, now work to help their fellow veterans and those veterans that are sure to follow after the battles of today come to an end.

One of my constituents, Ron Fox, is one such American that typifies the members of AMVETS. Mr. Fox, a former corporal in the Army during the Korean War, is a member of AMVETS Post 111 in Patchogue, New York. Mr. Fox volunteers at local hospitals, serves as the chaplain of his post, and proudly participated as a member of the colorguard. We owe him and his fellow members a great amount of gratitude for their commitment to our communities.

H. Con. Res. 314 highlights the importance of AMVETS throughout America and supports the goals of a national charter day. July 23 will mark the 55th anniversary of AMVETS. The invaluable service provided by these American heroes for the last 55 years cannot be matched in appreciation or gratitude; but it is my hope that we will continue to honor AMVETS and its members for their services to this country beyond their years in uniform.

As we continue to keep the soldiers pursuing the war on terrorism in our

thoughts and our prayers, let us also remember the fathers and grandfathers of those soldiers who fought similar battles years ago that now serve our communities, help their fellow veterans, and advocate for those in the military today.

I would like to thank Ron Fox and all the AMVETS members whose pride for America and continued service to our veterans serves as the inspiration for this resolution. I would also like to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) for helping to bring this legislation to the floor.

I ask my colleagues to join me in voting in favor of this resolution and supporting AMVETS and the goals of AMVETS National Charter Day.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 314. This measure recognizes the members of AMVETS for their service to our Nation, provides important support for AMVETS National Charter Day.

AMVETS has designated July 23 as AMVETS National Charter Day to encourage greater public awareness of their commitment and service to veterans, the families of veterans, and the Nation as a whole.

I commend and applaud the members of AMVETS for their past, present, and future service to our country. As a life-long member of that organization, I strongly support this concurrent resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve 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 support of H. Con. Res. 314, legislation recognizing the members of the AMVETS for their service to the Nation, and supporting the goals of AMVETS National Charter Day. I want to especially recognize and thank the prime sponsor of the legislation, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GRUCCI), for his fine work on this legislation, and for his very strong support of the many veterans bills that we have moved in this Congress.

From its origin in the middle of the World War II, Mr. Speaker, AMVETS has had a long and distinguished history of service to our Nation. They held their first national convention in Chicago in October of 1945; and just 2 years later, on July 23, 1947, President Harry Truman signed the AMVETS charter.

Originally organized for World War II veterans, AMVETS had their charter amended in 1966 to include veterans who served honorably during the Korean conflict and the Vietnam War and, again, in 1984 to include those who served honorably during peacetime as well.

From its humble origins, AMVETS has grown into a national organization with over 250,000 members, in addition to another 60,000 members of their la-

dies' auxiliary. As chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I can attest to the important role that AMVETS plays in Washington in advocating stronger Federal policies for supporting veterans, their surviving spouses and dependents as well. Their legislative staff is among the finest, and they have played a key role in many important public policy debates. I know I can count on AMVETS for advice, counsel, and support as we continue developing national policies to benefit our veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize and commend their national commander, Joseph Lipowski. He should be proud of the success AMVETS has achieved and continues to achieve, not just in Washington but also in communities across America. In addition to providing benefits and services to their fellow veterans, they also play an important role in the civic life of their communities.

Mr. Speaker, again, I urge strong support for passage of this resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize with gratitude the contributions made to the work of our committee by Kathleen Greve. Kathleen has been a pinch-hitter with our Democratic staff and has earned the respect and help of the Republicans as well. I am grateful for her assistance to the veterans of this country.

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 such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) for yielding me time and commend him as the distinguished chairman of our Committee on Veterans' Affairs; along with the ranking minority member, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS); and the gentleman from New York (Mr. GRUCCI) for their support for this very important measure.

On July 23, 1947, AMVETS was officially chartered by our Nation as a not-for-profit corporation, and that organization has been open to veterans who have honorably served or are serving in the armed services, including Coast Guard, National Guard, and the Reserves during or since World War II.

The members of AMVETS are committed to providing important services to their communities and to their fellow veterans. Their motto is: "We fought together. Now let's build together."

The members of AMVETS have honored their motto through countless hours of patriotic service, including providing services to hospitalized veterans, assisting veterans with their

concerns regarding housing and employment, participating colorguards, burial details, and educating our Nation's youth about the sacrifices made to our veterans.

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The events of the past year that coincide with our ongoing war on terrorism have underscored the important role played by our veterans in the defense of freedom. Many Americans now recognize veterans in a new light, one of greater respect than ever before. This resolution expands this improved view, declaring July 23 to be AMVETS National Charter Day. There is no finer tribute to our Nation's esteemed veterans' service organizations than by honoring them in this manner.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support this timely and appropriate measure.

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

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 agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 314.

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. GRUCCI. 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.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. 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 H. Con. Res. 314.

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

There was no objection.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT CONTINUAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION INTO CAUSE AND CURE FOR FIBROID CANCER BE ADDRESSED

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 165) expressing the sense of the Congress that continual research and education into the cause and cure for fibroid cancer be addressed.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 165

Whereas the vast majority of fibroids occur in women of reproductive age, and between 20 and 40 percent of women are diagnosed;

Whereas African American women are twice as likely to be diagnosed with fibroids than Caucasian women;

Whereas fibroids are the most frequently diagnosed tumor of the female pelvis and range in size from 1mm to more than 20cm (8 inches) in diameter;

Whereas they are not associated with cancer and almost never develop into cancer (less than one percent becoming malignant);

Whereas the symptoms of fibroids can include excessive bleeding during menstrual periods, spotting or bleeding between periods, frequent urination, and/or lower back pain;

Whereas the preferred method of treatment for fibroids is a hysterectomy, which is the complete removal of the uterus, leaving the woman unable to bear children for the rest of her life;

Whereas diets rich in fatty foods have been a contributing factor to an increased risk in fibroid tumors;

Whereas there are alternative methods to a hysterectomy available, but they are less permanent, and have menopausal symptoms;

Whereas, in cases of hormonal treatment, the fibroids will regrow should the treatment cease; and

Whereas research conducted by the National Institute of Environmental Health indicated that while estrogen and progesterone are contributing factors, fibroids can be targeted by environmental chemicals whose effects are mediated through the estrogen and/or progesterone receptors: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That—

(1) the Congress recognizes the health and educational needs of women in the United States who may be suffering from fibroids;

(2) it is the sense of the Congress that the medical community should explore alternatives to hysterectomies in greater detail, so that women who choose to bear children in their lives may do so, while eliminating recurring fibroids; and

(3) the Congress—

(A) encourages women to pay greater attention to their reproductive health by making regular visits to their OB/GYNs; and

(B) encourages women and their physicians to know all safe options available for the prevention and cure of fibroids.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) and the gentleman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BILIRAKIS. 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 concurrent resolution.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 165, which expresses the sense of the Congress that research and education on fibroid tumors be increased. This resolution was unanimously approved by the full Committee on Energy and Commerce on April 24. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution, which will help place a much-needed focus on fibroid tumors and their prevention.

As a firm believer in prevention, I am pleased that this resolution places such an emphasis on providing women with the information they need to make smart decisions about their health. For example, fibroid tumors are linked to diets rich in fatty foods. Women need this important information so they can modify their eating habits to reduce their risks of developing fibroid tumors.

The vast majority of fibroid tumors occur in women of reproductive age. Today, a hysterectomy is the most common treatment for women with fibroid tumors. This procedure has devastating consequences for women as they are unable to have children, as we know, after a hysterectomy.

The resolution calls on the medical community to explore alternatives to hysterectomies for the treatment of fibroid tumors. We must focus research efforts on the development of alternative therapies that will increase the treatment options for women. Therapeutic advances are the surest way to enable women to receive care and preserve their ability to bear children.

I would like to thank the gentleman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) for her good work on this issue, and I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 165.

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

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that today the House is considering my bill, H. Con. Res. 165, which deals with uterine fibroid tumors. I want to express my gratitude to the House leadership and to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) of the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Subcommittee on Health.

My thanks also to the ranking members, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and my dear friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), for their efforts to bring this measure to the floor for consideration.

I also want to recognize the respective majority and minority committee professional staff for their work.

This resolution, Mr. Speaker, expresses a sense of Congress that continual research and education must be directed to the causes and cures for noncancerous uterine fibroid tumors. These tumors afflict women of reproductive age and affect African-American women 2 to 3 times more frequently than other women. Although the tumors are usually benign, they are quite painful, troublesome and dangerous, depending upon their size and their location.

It has been estimated that 20 to 30 percent of women experience fibroid tumors, even though many of the cases