

limit on the retroactive period. I have introduced legislation to allow family members to continue the claims of veterans who die while a claim is pending. This provision is a good first step. The government should not be allowed to deny retroactive payments when the government's inaction is responsible for delayed adjudication of a claim.

Again, I thank my colleagues on the Veterans' Affairs Committee for their hard work and I urge my colleagues to vote to pass this legislation.

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as an original sponsor of H.R. 1460, as amended, the "Veterans Entrepreneurship and Benefits Improvement Act of 2003. I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation. I commend representative RENZI, Chairman SMITH and Ranking Member EVANS of the Committee on Veterans Affairs, and Chairman MANZULLO and Ranking Member VELÁZQUEZ of the Small Business Committee for bringing this important legislation to the floor for consideration.

I especially want to comment on sections two and three of the bill.

Section two would allow veterans, disabled veterans, dependents of totally disabled or deceased veterans, and active-duty members of the Selected Reserve to use their VA benefits to pursue pre-entrepreneurship and entrepreneurship courses offered under the auspices of Small Business Development Centers and the National Veterans Business Development Corporation. Small businesses in the last decade accounted for about 70 percent of the new jobs created in our economy.

The men and women who have served in our military indeed are engaging and resourceful individuals. Indeed, the 1999 report of the bipartisan Congressional Commission on Servicemembers and Veterans Transition Assistance found the following: "a 5-year profile survey of veteran-owned businesses in Massachusetts conducted in the late 1980's and early 1990's showed that a pool of approximately 2,000 veterans engaged in micro businesses generated \$74 million in taxable income for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts." And that is just in one state. With the availability of training under this bill, more veterans will be able to obtain the skills they need to start and grow their own small businesses. As Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Dr. Leo S. Mackay, Jr. testified at our April 30th hearing, "the potential for positive effects on the economy, with enhanced competition and creativity within the marketplace, is significant."

Section three of the bill would place disabled veteran-owned and controlled small businesses on a par with socially and economically disadvantaged veterans in the 8(a) contracting program for procurement contracts offered by the Department of Veterans Affairs for the next four years. This authority would apply to "setaside" and restricted competition contracts to be applied by contracting officers on a discretionary basis. For all Federal agencies, disabled veteran-owned and controlled small businesses would rank ahead of HUBZone and women-owned businesses in procurement preferences, but behind the 8(a) program. I find these types of preference as a needed 'first step' because of two additional findings of the Transition Commission: first, "Disabled-veteran entrepreneurs require additional assistance because these business

owners encounter costs and impediments that are not factors for their non-disabled competitors. Second, as a matter of fundamental fairness, Congress should accord veterans a full opportunity to participate in the economic system that their service sustains."

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I would note for the RECORD that the current independent Task Force for Veterans Entrepreneurship, the aforementioned Transition Commission, the 1981 expert report of the SBA Veterans Project, and the 1980 White House Conference on Small Business all recommended some type of federal "setaside" authority for disabled-veteran owned and controlled small businesses in the purchase of goods and services.

I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1460. The provisions of this legislation remove barriers to small business ownership for veterans. H.R. 1460 allows veterans to use their education benefits to pay for non-degree or non-credit courses of entrepreneurship, enabling them to learn the skills that they will need when starting and running their own businesses. The bill additionally amends the Small Business Act to give small businesses owned by service disabled veterans the opportunity to secure sole source contracts from the Federal Government. By giving those participating in a veteran's rehabilitation program the chance to name self-employment as their vocational goal, H.R. 1460 makes entrepreneurship a viable career option for many for whom it was not before.

The passage of this legislation would mean a lot for those veterans who, like so many other Americans, dream of working for themselves. The opportunities that H.R. 1460 provides for self-employment are especially meaningful when salaried jobs can be so difficult to find. Large numbers of veterans live in my home district of El Paso, Texas where we unfortunately also have a high unemployment rate. A community like mine is a prime example of why we must provide veterans with the tools they need to become successful entrepreneurs. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bipartisan legislation.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ADERHOLT). 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. 1460, 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.

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.R. 1460, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on four motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

- H. Res. 264, by the yeas and nays;
- H. Res. 177, by the yeas and nays;
- H. Con. Res. 209, by the yeas and nays; and
- H.R. 2465, by the yeas and nays.

Proceedings on H.R. 1460 will resume tomorrow.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR VICTIMS OF ALGERIAN EARTHQUAKE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 264.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GREEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 264, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 382, nays 1, not voting 51, as follows:

[Roll No. 297]

YEAS—382

Abercrombie	Baca	Barrett (SC)
Ackerman	Bachus	Bartlett (MD)
Aderholt	Baird	Barton (TX)
Akin	Baker	Bass
Alexander	Baldwin	Beauprez
Allen	Ballance	Becerra
Andrews	Ballenger	Bell

Bereuter	Ford	Manzullo	Schrock	Stenholm	Visclosky	[Roll No. 298]		
Berkley	Frank (MA)	Markey	Scott (GA)	Strickland	Vitter			
Berry	Franks (AZ)	Marshall	Scott (VA)	Stupak	Walden (OR)			
Biggett	Frelinghuysen	Matheson	Sensenbrenner	Sweeney	Walsh	Abercrombie	Doggett	King (NY)
Bilirakis	Frost	Matsui	Serrano	Tancredo	Wamp	Ackerman	Dooley (CA)	Kingston
Bishop (GA)	Galleghy	McCarthy (MO)	Sessions	Tanner	Waters	Aderholt	Doyle	Kleccka
Bishop (NY)	Garrett (NJ)	McCarthy (NY)	Shadegg	Tauscher	Watson	Akin	Dreier	Kline
Bishop (UT)	Gerlach	McCollum	Shaw	Tauzin	Watt	Alexander	Duncan	Knollenberg
Blackburn	Gibbons	McCotter	Sherman	Taylor (MS)	Waxman	Allen	Dunn	Kucinich
Blumenauer	Gilchrest	McCrary	Sherwood	Terry	Weldon (PA)	Andrews	Edwards	LaHood
Blunt	Gillmor	McDermott	Shuster	Thomas	Weller	Baca	Ehlers	Lampson
Boehrlert	Gingrey	McGovern	Simmons	Thompson (CA)	Wexler	Bachus	Emanuel	Lantos
Boehner	Gonzalez	McHugh	Skelton	Thompson (MS)	Whitfield	Baird	Emerson	Larsen (WA)
Bonilla	Goode	McInnis	Slaughter	Thornberry	Wicker	Baker	Engel	Larsen (CT)
Bonner	Goodlatte	McIntyre	Smith (MI)	Tiberi	Wilson (NM)	Baldwin	English	Latham
Bono	Gordon	McKeon	Smith (NJ)	Tierney	Wilson (SC)	Ballance	Eshoo	LaTourette
Boozman	Goss	McNulty	Smith (TX)	Towns	Wolf	Ballenger	Etheridge	Leach
Boswell	Granger	Meehan	Snyder	Turner (OH)	Woolsey	Barrett (SC)	Evans	Lee
Boucher	Graves	Meek (FL)	Solis	Turner (TX)	Wu	Bartlett (MD)	Everett	Levin
Boyd	Green (TX)	Meeks (NY)	Souder	Udall (CO)	Wynn	Barton (TX)	Farr	Lewis (CA)
Bradley (NH)	Green (WI)	Mica	Spratt	Udall (NM)	Young (AK)	Bass	Fattah	Lewis (GA)
Brady (PA)	Greenwood	Michaud	Stark	Upton	Young (FL)	Beauprez	Ferguson	Lewis (KY)
Brady (TX)	Grijalva	Millender-	Stearns	Van Hollen		Becerra	Filner	Linder
Brown (OH)	Gutierrez	McDonald				Bell	Flake	LoBiondo
Brown (SC)	Gutknecht	Miller (FL)				Bereuter	Foley	Lucas (KY)
Brown-Waite,	Hall	Miller (MI)				Berkley	Forbes	Lynch
Ginny	Harman	Miller (NC)				Berry	Ford	Majette
Burgess	Harris	Miller, Gary				Biggett	Franks (AZ)	Maloney
Burns	Hart	Miller, George				Bilirakis	Frelinghuysen	Manzullo
Burr	Hastings (FL)	Moore				Bishop (GA)	Frost	Marky
Buyer	Hastings (WA)	Moran (KS)				Bishop (NY)	Galleghy	Marshall
Calvert	Hayes	Moran (VA)				Bishop (UT)	Garrett (NJ)	Matheson
Camp	Hayworth	Murphy				Blackburn	Gerlach	Matsui
Cannon	Hefley	Murtha				Blumenauer	Gibbons	McCarthy (MO)
Cantor	Hensarling	Musgrave				Blunt	Gilchrest	McCarthy (NY)
Capito	Herger	Myrick				Boehrlert	Gillmor	McCollum
Capps	Hill	Napolitano				Boehner	Gingrey	McCotter
Cardin	Hinches	Neal (MA)				Bonilla	Gonzalez	McCrary
Cardoza	Hinojosa	Neugebauer				Bonner	Goode	McDermott
Carson (IN)	Hobson	Ney				Bono	Goodlatte	McGovern
Carson (OK)	Hoeffel	Norwood				Boozman	Gordon	McHugh
Carter	Hoekstra	Nunes				Boswell	Goss	McInnis
Case	Holden	Nussle				Boucher	Granger	McIntyre
Castle	Holt	Oberstar				Boyd	Graves	McKeon
Chabot	Honda	Obey				Bradley (NH)	Green (TX)	McNulty
Chocola	Hooley (OR)	Olver				Brady (PA)	Green (WI)	Meehan
Clay	Hostettler	Ortiz				Brady (TX)	Greenwood	Meek (FL)
Clyburn	Hoyer	Osborne				Brown (OH)	Grijalva	Mica
Coble	Hunter	Ose				Brown (SC)	Gutierrez	Michaud
Cole	Hyde	Otter				Brown-Waite,	Gutknecht	Millender-
Collins	Insee	Owens				Ginny	Hall	McDonald
Cooper	Isakson	Oxley				Burgess	Harman	Miller (FL)
Costello	Israel	Pascrell				Burns	Harris	Miller (MI)
Cox	Issa	Pastor				Burr	Hart	Miller (NC)
Crane	Jackson (IL)	Pearce				Buyer	Hastings (FL)	Miller, Gary
Crenshaw	Jackson-Lee	Pelosi				Calvert	Hastings (WA)	Miller, George
Cubin	(TX)	Pence				Camp	Hayes	Moore
Culberson	Janklow	Peterson (MN)				Cannon	Hayworth	Moran (KS)
Cummings	Jenkins	Peterson (PA)				Cantor	Hefley	Moran (VA)
Cunningham	John	Petri				Capito	Hensarling	Murphy
Davis (FL)	Johnson (CT)	Pickering				Capps	Herger	Murtha
Davis (IL)	Johnson (IL)	Pitts				Cardin	Hill	Musgrave
Davis (TN)	Johnson, E. B.	Platts				Cardoza	Hinches	Myrick
Davis, Jo Ann	Johnson, Sam	Pombo				Carson (IN)	Hinojosa	Napolitano
Davis, Tom	Jones (NC)	Porter				Carson (OK)	Hobson	Neal (MA)
DeFazio	Jones (OH)	Portman				Carter	Hoeffel	Neugebauer
DeGette	Kanjorski	Price (NC)				Case	Hoekstra	Ney
Delahunt	Kaptur	Putnam				Castle	Holden	Norwood
DeLauro	Keller	Quinn				Chabot	Holt	Nunes
DeLay	Kelly	Radanovich				Chocola	Hooley (OR)	Nussle
Deutsch	Kennedy (MN)	Rahall				Clay	Hostettler	Oberstar
Diaz-Balart, L.	Kennedy (RI)	Ramstad				Clyburn	Hoyer	Obey
Diaz-Balart, M.	Kildee	Rangel				Coble	Hunter	Olver
Dicks	Kind	Regula				Cole	Hyde	Ortiz
Dingell	King (IA)	Rehberg				Collins	Insee	Osborne
Doggett	King (NY)	Renzi				Cooper	Isakson	Ose
Dooley (CA)	Kingston	Reyes				Costello	Israel	Otter
Doolittle	Kleccka	Reynolds				Cox	Issa	Owens
Doyle	Kline	Rodriguez				Crane	Jackson (IL)	Oxley
Dreier	Knollenberg	Rogers (AL)				Crenshaw	Jackson-Lee	Pascrell
Duncan	Kucinich	Rogers (MI)				Cubin	(TX)	Pastor
Dunn	LaHood	Rohrabacher				Culberson	Janklow	Paul
Edwards	Lampson	Ross				Cummings	Jenkins	Pearce
Ehlers	Lantos	Rothman				Cunningham	John	Pelosi
Emanuel	Larsen (WA)	Roybal-Allard				Davis (FL)	Johnson (CT)	Pence
Emerson	Latham	Royce				Davis (IL)	Johnson (IL)	Peterson (MN)
Engel	LaTourette	Ruppersberger				Davis (TN)	Johnson, E. B.	Peterson (PA)
English	Leach	Rush				Davis, Jo Ann	Johnson, Sam	Petri
Eshoo	Lee	Ryan (OH)				Davis, Tom	Jones (NC)	Pickering
Etheridge	Levin	Ryan (WI)				DeFazio	Jones (OH)	Pitts
Evans	Lewis (CA)	Ryun (KS)				DeGette	Kanjorski	Platts
Everett	Lewis (GA)	Sabo				Delahunt	Kaptur	Pombo
Farr	Lewis (KY)	Sanchez, Linda				DeLauro	Keller	Porter
Fattah	Linder	T.				DeLay	Kelly	Portman
Ferguson	LoBiondo	Sanchez, Loretta				Deutsch	Kennedy (MN)	Price (NC)
Filner	Lucas (KY)	Sandlin				Diaz-Balart, L.	Kennedy (RI)	Putnam
Flake	Lynch	Saxton				Diaz-Balart, M.	Kildee	Quinn
Foley	Majette	Schakowsky				Dicks	Kind	Radanovich
Forbes	Maloney	Schiff				Dingell	King (IA)	Rahall

NAYS—1

Paul

NOT VOTING—51

Berman Istook Payne
Brown, Corrine Jefferson Pomeroy
Burton (IN) Kilpatrick Pryce (OH)
Capuano Kirk Rogers (KY)
Conyers Kolbe Ros-Lehtinen
Cramer Langevin Sanders
Crowley Larson (CT) Shays
Davis (AL) Lipinski Shimkus
Davis (CA) Lofgren Simpson
Deal (GA) Lowey Smith (WA)
DeMint Lucas (OK) Sullivan
Feeney Menendez Taylor (NC)
Fletcher Mollohan Tiahrt
Fossella Nadler Toomey
Gephardt Nethercutt Velazquez
Houghton Northup Weiner
Hulshof Pallone Weldon (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON) (during the vote). The Chair would advise Members they have 2 minutes in which to record their vote.

□ 1853

Mr. MCINNIS and Mr. MOORE changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMENDING PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA FOR CONDUCTING FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS AND PEACEFUL AND ORDERLY TRANSFER OF POWER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 177, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GREEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 177, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 380, nays 0, not voting 54, as follows: