

Manzullo
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinney
McMorris
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Menendez
Mica
Michaud
Millender-
McDonald
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Osborne
Otter
Owens
Oxley
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne

Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Velázquez
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sabo
Salazar
Sanchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz (PA)
Schwarz (MI)
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster

Simmons
Simpson
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Sodrel
Solis
Souder
Spratt
Stearns
Strickland
Stupak
Sullivan
Sweeney
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bass
Bean
Beauprez
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggart
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (FL)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boren
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Bradley (NH)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brown (OH)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite,
Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza
Carmahan
Carson
Carter
Case
Castle
Chabot
Chandler
Choccola
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers

agreeing to the concurrent resolution,
H. Con. Res. 268.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H.R. 268, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.
The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 423, nays 0, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 594]
YEAS—423

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bass
Bean
Beauprez
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggart
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (FL)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boren
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Bradley (NH)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brown (OH)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite,
Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza
Carmahan
Carson
Carter
Case
Castle
Chabot
Chandler
Choccola
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers

Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel
E.
Lynch
Mack
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinney
McMorris
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Menendez
Mica
Michaud
Millender-
McDonald
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Osborne
Otter

Owens
Oxley
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Murphy
Salazar
Sanchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz (PA)
Schwarz (MI)
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shadegg
Shays

Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Sodrel
Solis
Souder
Spratt
Stearns
Strickland
Stupak
Sullivan
Sweeney
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Vislosky
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—2

Jones (NC) Paul

NOT VOTING—10

Boswell
Culberson
Cunningham
Davis (FL)

Edwards
Jenkins
Lantos
Reichert

□ 1735

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS REGARDING OVERSIGHT OF THE INTERNET CORPORATION FOR ASSIGNED NAMES AND NUMBERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and

NOT VOTING—10

Boswell
Cunningham
Davis (FL)
Jenkins

NOT VOTING—10

Kolbe
Lantos
Reichert
Shaw

□ 1743

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate bill (S. 1234) to increase, effective as of December 1, 2005, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and

indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

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

□ 1745

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I do not plan to object, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana for an explanation of the bill.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Nevada for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, S. 1234 is the Veterans' Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2005. It is one of the more important pieces of legislation that the Veterans Committee brings to the floor each year. Similar language was included in H.R. 1220, which passed the House on July 13, 2005, by voice vote.

Briefly, S. 1234 would authorize a 4.1 percent cost-of-living increase effective December 1, 2005, for veterans with service-connected disabilities and their survivors. The Committee on Veterans' Affairs concurs with the language in S. 1234, and I ask my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank Ranking Member EVANS for his work and cooperation on this legislation. I would also commend the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) and the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY), the chairman and ranking member of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, for their work to ensure that disabled veterans and their survivors receive a cost-of-living increase, as well as the subcommittee staff on both sides of the aisle: Paige McManus, Chris McNamee, and Mary Ellen McCarthy. I also want to thank my colleagues in the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that all Members will support this bill.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 1234.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I would like to thank Chairman BUYER, Ranking Member EVANS and Subcommittee Chairman MILLER, as well as Senator CRAIG and Senator AKAKA for moving forward on this bill.

As a result of their cooperation, the men and women currently receiving benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs will receive a well-deserved increase in benefits as of January 1, 2006.

We must not allow the compensation received by veterans, disabled in serv-

ice to our Nation, to erode in value as the cost of living rises. S. 1234, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2005, will help our service-disabled veterans and their survivors maintain the purchasing power of their benefits in 2006 by providing a 4.1 percent increase in benefits.

Single veterans rated at 100 percent disabled will see their benefits rise from \$2,299 a month to \$2,393 a month. Veterans who are married or have other dependents will see their benefits increased proportionately. This bill will help VA beneficiaries maintain the value of their benefits.

No amount of money can adequately compensate our veterans for the deterioration of their health or families for the loss of a loved one. It is important that the benefits, which our Nation provides to partially compensate for such losses, do not lose their value over time.

In 2004, over 28,000 veterans in Nevada received disability compensation or pension payments from the VA, and thousands of Nevada families and survivors receive VA cash benefits. The action we are taking here today will help the Nevada veterans and families who depend on these VA benefits.

I am very disappointed that the bill does not contain a provision approved by the House earlier this year to include the transitional DIC benefit in the COLA. As a result, the value of the \$250 transitional benefit paid to surviving spouses with minor children for their first 2 years of eligibility will unfortunately erode in value in 2006.

Unfortunately, our widows and orphans are going to have to survive on a stagnant benefit. Our Gold Star Wives, the spouses of veterans who have perished in our current conflict, and their children certainly deserve better than this.

I understand the urgency of passing this COLA so that veterans and their dependents will receive a timely increase in VA benefits. I hope that before this Congress recesses for the year, the increase in DIC benefits and other provisions passed by the House and Senate can be enacted into law. Those who have served this Nation deserve no less.

S. 1234 will receive my full support, and it deserves the support of all Members of this House.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. BERKLEY. I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank Chairman BUYER, chairman of the full committee; the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER), the Benefits Subcommittee chairman; and the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY), the ranking member; as well as Senator CRAIG and Ranking Member AKAKA for their work on this bill.

S. 1234, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2005, will help our service-disabled veterans and their survivors to maintain the

value of their compensation benefits despite any increase in the cost of living. Our Nation's veterans and survivors have earned these benefits. We must not allow them to erode by the simple passage of time.

This is a bill which deserves the full support of all Members of the House, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER), the chairman of the full committee.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to take a moment and thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS) and thank him for working with me and his staff.

I also failed to mention the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUSSLE), the chairman of the Budget Committee, and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT), who worked cooperatively together to make sure that the budget had a place holder so we could have this. This came in a little higher than what we anticipated, and I want to thank the chairman of the Budget Committee. He has got a tough job in laying out the budget and sending the numbers to everyone, and he did yeoman's work. I am really proud of Chairman NUSSLE and Mr. SPRATT.

I would also like to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH), the chairman of the appropriations subcommittee and also the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS).

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentlewoman from South Dakota (Ms. HERSETH), ranking member of the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee.

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Nevada for yielding.

I rise today in support of S. 1234, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act, which authorizes the annual cost-of-living adjustment for disabled veterans and their survivors.

I, too, would like to commend Chairman BUYER and Ranking Member EVANS, as well as their staff, for their hard work and support of this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill which will improve the quality of life for our disabled veterans and their families. It is very important that we provide for the basic needs of our veterans, particularly our disabled veterans.

Our Nation's disabled veterans rely on this annual cost-of-living increase and rightly expect us to provide it to them. I am proud to support this legislation, confident it will benefit the more than 3,000 veterans of my home State of South Dakota who received disability compensation last year, as well as disabled veterans throughout the country.

As wounded young service men and women return home from the battlefields in Iraq and Afghanistan, it is imperative that we work to provide this newest generation of veterans and

their families with the financial support they have earned and deserve. Providing adequate disability benefits is an issue that will impact these brave men and women for the rest of their lives as they struggle to cope with the scars of their sacrifice and should be considered an ongoing cost of war.

Again, I am proud to support the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this bill.

It is imperative that we get a cost of living adjustment to those who have put their lives on the line to protect the freedom of this country. The 4.1 percent cost of living increase is very important to our veterans.

I am pleased that Congress is passing a clean bill. There are no riders that would dilute the effectiveness of our commitment to our Nation's veterans.

However, it is important to continue this bipartisanism into the heavier lifting that will occur in the next days and weeks.

It is imperative we keep the reconciliation bill free from cuts in veterans healthcare. It is imperative we do not subject veterans healthcare to an across the board cut. It is imperative we fully fund veterans healthcare next February, when the President submits his Fiscal Year 2007 budget.

We do not need another emergency supplemental appropriations bill to cover shortfalls in operations and maintenance.

Let us do right by our veterans and not pay for tax cuts for the wealthy and recovery efforts from Katrina with cuts in veterans healthcare.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 1234, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2005.

This bill would provide a 4.1 percent cost-of-living adjustment to disabled veterans, surviving spouses, and other VA beneficiaries in receipt of monetary VA benefits. This is the same COLA increase provided to Social Security recipients and will apply to benefits beginning on December 1 of this year. Congress has provided these increases every fiscal year since 1976.

More than 2.6 million veterans are receiving service-connected disability compensation. These benefits are paid monthly, and range

from \$108 for a 10-percent disability to \$2,299 for a 100-percent disability. Additional monetary benefits are available for our most severely disabled veterans, as well as those with dependents.

Spouses of veterans who died on active duty or as the result of a service-connected disability likewise are entitled to monetary compensation. Additional amounts are paid to survivors who are housebound or in need of aid and attendance, or have minor children. Currently more than 336,000 surviving spouses and children are receiving survivors' benefits.

I want to thank the subcommittee's ranking member, Ms. BERKLEY, as well as all the members of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, for their work this year.

I also commend Chairman BUYER and Ranking Member EVANS for their leadership in bringing the bill to the floor today, as well as committee staff on both sides of the aisle for their hard work.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support S. 1234.

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate bill, as follows:

S. 1234

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2005".

SEC. 2. INCREASE IN RATES OF DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.

(a) VETERANS' DISABILITY COMPENSATION.—Section 1114 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

- (1) in subsection (a), by striking "\$106" and inserting "\$112";
(2) in subsection (b), by striking "\$205" and inserting "\$218";
(3) in subsection (c), by striking "\$316" and inserting "\$337";
(4) in subsection (d), by striking "\$454" and inserting "\$485";
(5) in subsection (e), by striking "\$646" and inserting "\$690";

- (6) in subsection (f), by striking "\$817" and inserting "\$873";
(7) in subsection (g), by striking "\$1,029" and inserting "\$1,099";
(8) in subsection (h), by striking "\$1,195" and inserting "\$1,277";
(9) in subsection (i), by striking "\$1,344" and inserting "\$1,436";
(10) in subsection (j), by striking "\$2,239" and inserting "\$2,393";
(11) in subsection (k)—
(A) by striking "\$82" both places it appears and inserting "\$87"; and
(B) by striking "\$2,785" and "\$3,907" and inserting "\$2,977" and "\$4,176", respectively;
(12) in subsection (l), by striking "\$2,785" and inserting "\$2,977";
(13) in subsection (m), by striking "\$3,073" and inserting "\$3,284";
(14) in subsection (n), by striking "\$3,496" and inserting "\$3,737";
(15) in subsections (o) and (p), by striking "\$3,907" each place it appears and inserting "\$4,176";
(16) in subsection (r), by striking "\$1,677" and "\$2,497" and inserting "\$1,792" and "\$2,669", respectively; and
(17) in subsection (s), by striking "\$2,506" and inserting "\$2,678".

(b) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDENTS.—Section 1115(1) of such title is amended—

- (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking "\$127" and inserting "\$135";
(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking "\$219" and "\$65" and inserting "\$233" and "\$68", respectively;
(3) in subparagraph (C), by striking "\$86" and "\$65" and inserting "\$91" and "\$68", respectively;
(4) in subparagraph (D), by striking "\$103" and inserting "\$109";
(5) in subparagraph (E), by striking "\$241" and inserting "\$257"; and
(6) in subparagraph (F), by striking "\$202" and inserting "\$215".

(c) CLOTHING ALLOWANCE FOR CERTAIN DISABLED VETERANS.—Section 1162 of such title is amended by striking "\$600" and inserting "\$641".

(d) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES.—

- (1) NEW LAW DIC.—Section 1311(a) of such title is amended—
(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "\$967" and inserting "\$1,033"; and
(B) in paragraph (2), by striking "\$208" and inserting "\$221".
(2) OLD LAW DIC.—The table in paragraph (3) of such section is amended to read as follows:

Table with 4 columns: Pay grade, Monthly rate, Pay grade, Monthly rate. Rows include E-1 to E-9, W-1 to W-3, W-4, O-1 to O-10 with corresponding monthly rates.

1 If the veteran served as sergeant major of the Army, senior enlisted advisor of the Navy, chief master sergeant of the Air Force, sergeant major of the Marine Corps, or master chief petty officer of the Coast Guard, at the applicable time designated by section 1302 of this title, the surviving spouse's rate shall be \$1,271.

2 If the veteran served as Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Chief of Staff of the Army, Chief of Naval Operations, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Commandant of the Marine Corps, or Commandant of the Coast Guard, at the applicable time designated by section 1302 of this title, the surviving spouse's rate shall be \$2,365."

(3) ADDITIONAL DIC FOR CHILDREN OR DISABILITY.—Section 1311 of such title is amended—

- (A) in subsection (b), by striking "\$241" and inserting "\$257";
(B) in subsection (c), by striking "\$241" and inserting "\$257"; and

(C) in subsection (d), by striking "\$115" and inserting "\$122".

(e) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION FOR CHILDREN.—

(1) DIC WHEN NO SURVIVING SPOUSE.—Section 1313(a) of such title is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$410” and inserting “\$438”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “\$590” and inserting “\$629”;

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking “\$767” and inserting “\$819”; and

(D) in paragraph (4), by striking “\$767” and “\$148” and inserting “\$819” and “\$157”, respectively.

(2) SUPPLEMENTAL DIC FOR CERTAIN CHILDREN.—Section 1314 of such title is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “\$241” and inserting “\$257”;

(B) in subsection (b), by striking “\$410” and inserting “\$438”; and

(C) in subsection (c), by striking “\$205” and inserting “\$218”.

(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on December 1, 2005.

(g) SPECIAL RULE.—The Secretary may adjust administratively, consistent with the increases made under subsection (a), the rates of disability compensation payable to persons within the purview of section 10 of Public Law 85–857 (72 Stat. 1263) who are not in receipt of compensation payable pursuant to chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code.

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MUSKINGUM WATERSHED

(Mr. REGULA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an issue of great importance to me and my constituents. In particular, I speak of a provision in the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act of 2006 regarding the Muskingum Watershed in Ohio.

The Muskingum Watershed encompasses 18 counties in Ohio and includes all of the area which drains into the Muskingum River and its tributaries where it joins with the Ohio River. Below the watershed lies an aquifer of great importance to the constituents of my district and those of surrounding areas.

The threat that landfills pose to the aquifer and the watershed are too great to ignore. Remember, we are fortunate in the United States to be well-endowed with water, and we are indebted to our forebearers for creating the infrastructure to deliver potable water to our communities, farmers and industries.

As a representative, it is my responsibility to respond to the concerns of my constituents to protect and preserve the integrity of their water supply. During my time as chairman of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, I have dealt with many issues relating to clean water and its significance. I have seen how a lack of planning, oversight and development has harmed the Everglades, and now we are tasked with spending millions of taxpayer dollars to reverse the problem.

Additionally, per my request, the United States Geological Survey published a report in 2003 titled “Plan for National Assessment of Water Availability and Use.” The report highlights the availability of water in the U.S. and how this availability relates to need, source and geographic location.

I would like to cite a statement made in a report by the Council of State Governments that sums up the need to protect our water: “Water, which used to be considered a ubiquitous resource, is now scarce in some parts of the country and not just in the West as one might assume. The water wars have spread to the Midwest, East and South as well.” I find this statement quite telling and see it as a wake up call to all those who take water for granted. Much has changed over the years; cities have grown, irrigation technology has advanced and ground water has become a much larger fraction of the nation’s water supply. All these factors contribute to the need to protect the Muskingum watershed and the aquifer below it.

Having heard from many constituents concerning the potential dangers posed by the stress of additional landfills in the Muskingum Watershed, I have made this provision one of my top priorities in Congress. I feel that the criteria set forth by the provision are fair, non-discriminatory and of utmost importance in preserving the aquifer for generations to come.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2669

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 2669.

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

There was no objection.

HONORING CINCINNATI’S MARIEMONT HIGH SCHOOL FOR BEING DESIGNATED A BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

(Mrs. SCHMIDT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mariemont High School which is located in the Second District of Ohio that I represent. Mariemont was recently named a blue ribbon school by the U.S. Department of Education.

This is the department’s highest honor, and it is a very selective program. In fact, of the thousands of schools across America, only 296 receive the blue ribbon certification, and only 16 of those schools are in Ohio. This is a tremendous honor for our part of the State.

The blue ribbon program is designed to provide national recognition to public and private schools that have done an outstanding job of educating our children. The screening process evaluates a number of criteria, including strong leadership and vision; an inno-

vative and challenging curriculum; a commitment to parental involvement; and a track record of achieving success with student from all backgrounds.

Mariemont’s receiving of this award reflects the hard work and dedication of its teachers and school administrators; the academic success of its students; and the active involvement of parents.

Congratulations, Mariemont High.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PAUL. 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. 1065.

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

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will recognize Members for Special Order speeches without prejudice to the possible resumption of legislative business.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

THE EROSION OF PRIVACY

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I claim my 5 minutes at this time.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, the privacy issue has been around for a long time. The brutal abuse of privacy and property of early Americans played a big role in our revolt against the king.

□ 1800

The first, fourth, and fifth amendments represented attempts to protect private property and privacy from an overzealous Federal Government. Today those attempts appear to have failed.

There have been serious legal debates in recent decades about whether privacy is protected by the Constitution. Some argue that since the word does not appear in the text of that document, it is not protected. Others argue that privacy protection grants the Federal Government power to dictate to all States limits or leniency in enforcing certain laws. But the essence of liberty is privacy.