

□ 1905

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CORPORAL STEPHEN R. BIXLER POST OFFICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3325, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3325.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 379, nays 0, not voting 53, as follows:

[Roll No. 926]

YEAS—379

Abercrombie	Carnahan	Forbes
Ackerman	Carney	Fortenberry
Aderholt	Carter	Fossella
Akin	Castle	Fox
Alexander	Castor	Franks (AZ)
Altmire	Chabot	Frelinghuysen
Andrews	Chandler	Garrett (NJ)
Arcuri	Clarke	Gerlach
Baca	Clay	Giffords
Bachmann	Cleaver	Gilchrest
Bachus	Clyburn	Gillibrand
Baird	Coble	Gingrey
Baker	Cohen	Gohmert
Baldwin	Cole (OK)	Gonzalez
Barrow	Conaway	Goode
Bartlett (MD)	Cooper	Goodlatte
Barton (TX)	Costa	Gordon
Bean	Courtney	Granger
Becerra	Cramer	Graves
Berkley	Crenshaw	Green, Al
Berry	Crowley	Green, Gene
Biggert	Cuellar	Hall (TX)
Blibray	Culberson	Hare
Bilirakis	Cummings	Hastings (WA)
Bishop (GA)	Davis (AL)	Hayes
Bishop (NY)	Davis (CA)	Heller
Bishop (UT)	Davis (IL)	Hensarling
Blackburn	Davis (KY)	Herger
Blumenauer	Davis, David	Herseth Sandlin
Blunt	Davis, Lincoln	Hill
Boehner	Davis, Tom	Hinche
Bonner	Deal (GA)	Hinojosa
Bono	DeFazio	Hirono
Boozman	DeGette	Hobson
Boren	Delahunt	Hodes
Boswell	DeLauro	Hoekstra
Boustany	Dent	Holden
Boyd (FL)	Diaz-Balart, L.	Holt
Boyd (KS)	Diaz-Balart, M.	Honda
Brady (PA)	Dingell	Hooley
Brady (TX)	Doggett	Hoyer
Braley (IA)	Donnelly	Hulshof
Broun (GA)	Doolittle	Hunter
Brown (SC)	Doyle	Inglis (SC)
Brown, Corrine	Drake	Inslee
Brown-Waite,	Dreier	Israel
Ginny	Duncan	Issa
Buchanan	Edwards	Jackson (IL)
Burgess	Ehlers	Jackson-Lee
Burton (IN)	Ellison	(TX)
Butterfield	Ellsworth	Johnson (GA)
Buyer	Emerson	Johnson, E. B.
Calvert	Engel	Jones (NC)
Camp (MI)	English (PA)	Jones (OH)
Campbell (CA)	Eshoo	Jordan
Cannon	Etheridge	Kagen
Cantor	Fallin	Kanjorski
Capito	Farr	Kaptur
Capps	Fattah	Keller
Capuano	Feeney	Kennedy
Cardoza	Filner	Kildee

Kilpatrick	Murphy (CT)	Shea-Porter
King (IA)	Murphy, Tim	Sherman
King (NY)	Musgrave	Shuler
Kirk	Myrick	Shuster
Klein (FL)	Nadler	Skelton
Kline (MN)	Napolitano	Slaughter
Knollenberg	Neugebauer	Smith (NE)
Kucinich	Nunes	Smith (NJ)
Kuhl (NY)	Oberstar	Smith (TX)
Lamborn	Oliver	Snyder
Lampson	Ortiz	Solis
Langevin	Pallone	Souder
Lantos	Pascrell	Space
Larsen (WA)	Pastor	Spratt
Larson (CT)	Paul	Stark
Latham	Payne	Stearns
LaTourette	Pearce	Stupak
Levin	Pence	Sullivan
Lewis (CA)	Peterson (MN)	Sutton
Lewis (KY)	Petri	Tancredo
Linder	Pitts	Tanner
Lipinski	Platts	Tauscher
LoBiondo	Poe	Taylor
Loebuck	Pomeroy	Terry
Lofgren, Zoe	Porter	Thompson (CA)
Lowey	Price (GA)	Thompson (MS)
Lucas	Price (NC)	Thornberry
Lungren, Daniel	Putnam	Tiahrt
E.	Rahall	Tiberi
Lynch	Ramstad	Tierney
Mack	Rangel	Turner
Mahoney (FL)	Regula	Udall (CO)
Maloney (NY)	Rehberg	Udall (NM)
Manzullo	Reichert	Upton
Markey	Renzi	Van Hollen
Marshall	Reyes	Velázquez
Matheson	Reynolds	Visclosky
Matsui	Richardson	Walberg
McCarthy (CA)	Rodriguez	Walden (OR)
McCarthy (NY)	Rogers (AL)	Walsh (NY)
McCaul (TX)	Rogers (MI)	Walz (MN)
McCollum (MN)	Rohrabacher	Wamp
McCotter	Roskam	Wasserman
McCrery	Ross	Schultz
McDermott	Rothman	Waters
McGovern	Roybal-Allard	Watson
McHenry	Royce	Watt
McHugh	Ruppersberger	Waxman
McIntyre	Ryan (OH)	Weiner
McKeon	Ryan (WI)	Welch (VT)
McMorris	Salazar	Weldon (FL)
Rodgers	Sali	Weller
McNerney	Sánchez, Linda	Westmoreland
McNulty	T.	Wexler
Meek (FL)	Sarbanes	Whitfield
Melancon	Saxton	Wicker
Mica	Schakowsky	Wilson (NM)
Michaud	Schiff	Wilson (OH)
Miller (FL)	Schmidt	Wilson (SC)
Miller (MI)	Schwartz	Wolf
Miller (NC)	Scott (GA)	Woolsey
Miller, Gary	Scott (VA)	Wu
Miller, George	Sensenbrenner	Wynn
Mitchell	Serrano	Yarmuth
Mollohan	Sessions	Young (AK)
Moore (KS)	Sestak	Young (FL)
Moore (WI)	Shadegg	
Moran (KS)	Shays	

NOT VOTING—53

Allen	Hall (NY)	Murtha
Barrett (SC)	Harman	Neal (MA)
Berman	Hastert	Obey
Boucher	Hastings (FL)	Perlmutter
Carson	Higgins	Peterson (PA)
Conyers	Jefferson	Pickering
Costello	Jindal	Pryce (OH)
Cubin	Johnson (IL)	Radanovich
Davis, Jo Ann	Johnson, Sam	Rogers (KY)
Dicks	Kind	Ros-Lehtinen
Emanuel	Kingston	Rush
Everett	LaHood	Sanchez, Loretta
Ferguson	Lee	Shimkus
Flake	Lewis (GA)	Simpson
Frank (MA)	Marchant	Sires
Galleghy	Meeks (NY)	Smith (WA)
Grijalva	Moran (VA)	Towns
Gutierrez	Murphy, Patrick	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised 2 minutes remain in this vote.

□ 1912

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, due to a family emergency I missed the following votes on Monday, October 1, 2007. I would have voted as follows:

H. Con. Res. 185—Commending the 1st Brigade Combat Team/34th Infantry Division of the Minnesota National Guard upon its completion of the longest continuous deployment of any United States military unit during Operation Iraqi Freedom—“yea.”

H.R. 2276—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 203 North Main Street in Vassar, Michigan, as the “Corporal Christopher E. Esckelson Post Office Building”—“yea.”

H.R. 3325—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 235 Mountain Road in Suffield, Connecticut, as the “Corporal Stephen R. Bixler Post Office”—“yea.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I took a leave of absence on October 1, 2007, as I was attending to personal business. The following list describes how I would have voted had I been in attendance today.

“Yea.” H. Con. Res. 185—Commending the 1st Brigade Combat Team/34th Infantry Division of the Minnesota National Guard upon its completion of the longest continuous deployment of any United States military unit during Operation Iraqi Freedom (Rep. WALZ—Armed Services)

“Yea.” H.R. 2276—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 203 North Main Street in Vassar, Michigan, as the “Corporal Christopher E. Esckelson Post Office Building” (Rep. KILDEE—Oversight and Government Reform)

“Yea.” H.R. 3325—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 235 Mountain Road in Suffield, Connecticut, as the “Corporal Stephen R. Bixler Post Office” (Rep. COURTNEY—Oversight and Government Reform)

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber today. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall votes 924, 925 and 926.

SUPPORT VETERANS: PASS THE VA APPROPRIATIONS BILL

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise this evening to highlight one of the most important pieces of legislation yet to pass this Congress: the Veterans Affairs-Military Construction appropriations bill. Each year from 1995 to 2006 the Republican-led Congress passed record increase

after increase for our Nation's veterans. More importantly, the Republican-led Congress made it a priority to pass the VA appropriations bill so that our veterans could continue to receive the care that they deserve.

That, Madam Speaker, cannot be said of this year's VA funding bill. Reports in today's Congressional Quarterly are that the majority is considering holding the vital VA bill hostage as a means of passing a giant omnibus bill to fund government operations. The health and welfare of our veterans is more important to my constituents than it is to score cheap political points here in Washington, D.C.

Madam Speaker, I hope that you can find it in your heart to appoint conferees to the VA-Military Construction appropriations bill and send the President a bill that he can sign. Our veterans deserve nothing less.

MARINES NOT WELCOME HERE

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

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, Oakland Airport officials might as well put a sign: "Welcome to Oakland, but no U.S. military allowed here."

It seems that over 200 marines from the combat fields of Iraq flew into Oakland, California, and were not allowed to deplane into the airport. They were forced off the plane between two runways and had to sit in the grass for 3 hours while waiting to fly to Hawaii. The troops had flown from Iraq via Kuwait, Germany, and JFK Airport. They had already been completely screened by Customs and TSA at JFK, but the officials at Oakland Airport wouldn't let them into the terminal.

One marine said no explanation was ever given. Interestingly enough, reports say this not the first time Oakland banned the U.S. military from its airport.

Most airports welcome our returning troops with patriotism, cheers, flags and enthusiastic applause. But not in Oakland. They should be ashamed. They should apologize to each marine, and Congress needs to find out why the marines were treated so poorly and even consider prohibiting Federal funds from going to this airport if it is shown that the airport is antimilitary.

And that's just the way it is.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. CLARKE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

REDEPLOYMENT FROM IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentle-

woman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, the American people have been opposed to the occupation of Iraq and they have been demanding the redeployment of our troops for a very long time now, but the word obviously hasn't reached our Nation's leaders.

Last Wednesday, the Secretary of Defense asked Congress to appropriate billions of dollars more to continue the occupation of Iraq. He said that American troops will remain in Iraq for years to come with no end in sight.

The occupation has already cost nearly half a trillion dollars, and what have we gotten for that investment? Even General Petraeus couldn't say for sure that our involvement in Iraq has made us any safer when he testified before Congress last month. And the National Intelligence Estimate warned us in July that al Qaeda is using the occupation to energize extremists, raise money, and to recruit and indoctrinate operatives for attacks on the U.S. homeland.

Madam Speaker, the way to make America truly safer is to end the occupation, restore our moral leadership in the world, and use diplomacy to strengthen the structure and institutions of international cooperation and peace. That's why it is time to tell our leaders in the White House that Congress isn't going to be their friendly neighborhood ATM machine any more. Congress has the power of the purse. We can use it to force the administration to change course. We must refuse to appropriate one more dime for the occupation. Instead, we must fully fund the safe, orderly and responsible redeployment of American troops and military contractors out of Iraq.

Redeployment of our troops is the necessary first step on the road to peace. It is clear that Iraq will never stabilize while American troops and the vast unaccountable army of 180,000 American military contractors are there.

Our occupation of Iraq prevents Iraqis from finding solutions to their own problems, and it delays the regional and international diplomatic efforts needed to jump-start a true peace process.

The administration has said that it plans to redeploy some troops, but this is just a tactic, I believe, to win political favor. The arithmetic proves it. We began this year with 130,000 troops in Iraq. The escalation brought the level to 160,000. Now the administration says it will bring out 30,000 troops so by next summer we will again have 130,000 troops.

So, Madam Speaker, we end up with the same number of troops, but the administration calls it a reduction. I call it fuzzy math. President Bush has created a national mathematics panel to study ways to improve math education in America. That is a really good thing, because the President himself needs help with addition and subtraction.

Actually, Madam Speaker, the only way to make sure that our troops are out of harm's way is to proceed right now with a full redeployment and end the fantasy that there is a military solution to this quagmire.

If we fail to use our power of the purse, if we continue to spend our taxpayer dollars on this occupation instead of ending it, we will have failed politically, we will have failed economically, and we will have failed morally. And we will have failed our brave troops along with all of the American people. It is time to bring our troops home.

GOLD STAR MOTHERS

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

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, yesterday, under the bright sun and blue sky of the Texas Sunday afternoon, American flags flew in the silent breeze over thousands of quiet marble uniform tombstones in the Houston National Cemetery. This is where Texans bury their war dead, men and women who go off to war for America.

In the center of the immaculately kept cemetery, a tribute of sacrifice was being made to the living: Those mothers who lost their children in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Mothers of Texas who gave their children that died in their youth so the rest of us could live in safety were honored on this Gold Star Mothers' Day.

I was present along with Congressman GENE GREEN and Congressman NICK LAMPSON and Congressman KEVIN BRADY to honor these special ladies. We, like those present, were emotionally affected.

Gold Star Moms are what we call them, is a mother who lost a child in combat. This concept started in World War II when Grace Seibold learned on Christmas Eve 1918 that her aviator son was killed in aerial combat in France. Grace Seibold directed her grief and sorrow to helping wounded doughboys in local D.C. hospitals. She formed the Gold Star Mothers to give support for other such moms.

During World War I, if a son had gone off to war in the War to End All Wars, as it was called, a banner was hung in front of the home in the window for each son in the military. This banner had a blue star in the center of it. If the son was killed, a gold star was superimposed over the blue one.

During World War II, my Grandmother Poe hung such a banner with a blue star in the front window of her home in the country. My dad went off to war when he was just 18. When my grandmother died, it was one of the few items she had saved. That banner never had to have a gold star placed on it because my dad returned safely.

Madam Speaker, here is a banner of a Gold Star Mother. It has the name of the soldier that was killed, William