

Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia Awareness Day. The day was celebrated with events, receptions and our colleagues in the Senate Chamber passed an identical resolution honoring and recognizing the importance of National Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia Awareness Day.

I think it is important that we in this body help to expand research awareness of Glanzmann's thrombasthenia, which is why I rise in support of H. Res. 994. Passage of this measure will help to raise the profile and the general public's understanding of this illness and the corresponding National Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia Awareness Day. I urge passage of the resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution urging the designation of a National Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia Awareness Day. Discovered in Switzerland in 1918, Glanzmann's thrombasthenia, otherwise known as GT, is a rare and serious blood disorder that affects men, women, and children of all ages across the globe. The disease affects the ability of blood platelets to form, or clot, around the site of a broken blood vessel due to a deficiency of a specific protein on the surface of the platelet. Since the blood is unable to clot normally, those who suffer from GT are faced with uncontrollable, potentially life-threatening blood loss and severe bruising.

A very rare and little known hereditary disease, GT has severe emotional and physical effects on those who suffer from it. Children with GT often find themselves socially isolated as they are unable to participate in normal childhood activities such as sports or physically active play.

There is no cure for this disease, and because it is so rare, there is little information on the symptoms and treatments. It is important that we support valuable organizations such as the Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia Research Foundation, founded by Helen P. Smith in 2001, in their effort to educate the public, promote awareness, and fund research of this serious disease.

□ 1430

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this resolution that seeks to raise the awareness of this serious, emotionally damaging and potentially life-threatening disease.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to my distinguished colleague from the State of Georgia (Mr. BROUN).

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago a beautiful young lady by the name of Julia Smith and her family came to my office. Julia lives in

Augusta, Georgia and is a constituent of mine.

This 9-year-old young lady, when she was first born, was covered with bruises. Her parents, of course, were, needless to say, very concerned and they asked the doctor about these bruises. The parents were told that this was just from a result of a difficult delivery.

A short time thereafter, Julia had a little scratch on her face that resulted in bleeding that covered her whole face and, of course, her mom was frantic. The blood tests were normal.

The family took Julia to the Medical College of Georgia, my alma mater. I'm a medical doctor, and so I'm proud of the Medical College of Georgia of doing the testing that was required to bring about the diagnosis of Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia in Julia.

Her mom, Helen, was, of course, very distraught and so she started researching, trying to find out about this very rare disease. The more she searched, the more she realized that there's very little information anywhere. And she started meeting other families all around the country, whose family members also suffered from GT.

With the help of a small grant from a private individual, Helen Smith founded the Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia Research Foundation. And what she's doing is trying to find, certainly, the cure of this disease, but also searching to try to find ways of informing people who have this disease about the disease and help to comfort them. And so it's a research foundation that is extremely needed to try to prevent the disease symptoms which are uncontrollable bleeding, as well as very painful bruising. It's a life-threatening disease.

But Ms. Smith talked to me about this disease. And as a physician, as a Member of Congress, I realized that we really need to bring this disease to the forefront so that she can have some help. She's seeking for recognition. She's seeking for private grants and private funding of her foundation which is very much needed. And hopefully, this young lady, Julia Smith, can live a long and fruitful life, and we can find a cure to this disease. In fact, the researchers say that there's a possibility of finding a cure within a matter of just the next few years.

But without bringing public attention to the disease, Ms. Smith's going to continue to struggle to try to get the recognition that she so richly deserves for this very rare blood disorder.

So that's what this bill is all about. It's to promote the awareness of Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia. March 1 has been chosen as the day to establish the National Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia Awareness Day. This day was chosen to coincide with the date of the fundraiser for the research foundation.

I want to thank Natalie Stroud of my office and my staff for her excellent work on this resolution.

And I urge my colleagues to vote with me on passage of H. Res. 994.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H. Res. 994, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I would urge passage of this legislation, and yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 994, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. 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.

TEXAS MILITARY VETERANS POST OFFICE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5517) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7231 FM 1960 in Humble, Texas, as the "Texas Military Veterans Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5517

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

SECTION 1. TEXAS MILITARY VETERANS POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7231 FM 1960 in Humble, Texas, shall be known and designated as the "Texas Military Veterans Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Texas Military Veterans Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Now, Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

As a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform,

I join Representative POE and his fellow colleagues from the Lone Star State of Texas in considering H.R. 5517, which renames the postal facility at 7231 FM 1960 in Humble, Texas as the Texas Military Veterans Post Office.

As stated, the measure at hand was first introduced by Congressman TED POE on February 28, 2008 and is cosponsored by all members of the Texas congressional delegation. The measure was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, where it was considered and passed by voice vote on March 13, 2008.

H.R. 5517 is intended to remember the lives, service and legacy of hundreds of military men and women from the State of Texas who have served or lost their lives in service to our great country. By renaming this particular Humble, Texas post office, H.R. 5517 will set into motion the creation of a living tribute to the sacrifices made by so many of Texas' sons and daughters, who gave their lives in service and honor abroad in order to ensure our protection here at home, an honor befitting the thousands of military men and women past and present, from every State of the Union that have unselfishly given of themselves in service and in battle for America.

H.R. 5517 will help memorialize the memory of generations of Texas' servicemen and women for years to come by designating the 7231 FM 1960 Humble, Texas postal facility as the Texas Military Veterans Post Office.

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to my distinguished colleague from the State of Texas (Mr. POE).

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

Mr. POE. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. Appreciate the comments by both sides on this very important piece of legislation.

The Post Office that we wish to name today is in my congressional district, it's in Humble, Texas, and it's a part of Southeast Texas where a great number of people continue to volunteer to be in our United States military.

Texans have always, when called upon by their country to go into service, have met that call with overwhelming numbers. And, in fact, today, serving somewhere in the world in a military uniform, one out of 10 people wearing the American uniform is from the State of Texas.

And it goes all the way back to 1836 when the first Texas veteran by the name of William Barrett Travis came to Texas from the State of South Carolina. He was a young lawyer, 27. And he was passionate about liberty and freedom. And he found himself at a beat-up old Spanish church in Central Texas that we now call the Alamo. The Alamo was over 100 years old at the time that he and 186 other brave Texans defended freedom. They were really

from all States in the United States, six foreign countries as well, many of them, Mr. Speaker, from the State of Tennessee.

And he, like those defenders of the Alamo, were determined to seek liberty for the Republic of Texas. And as we all know, all of those first veterans gave their lives in that word that we praise today, that word of freedom. He was the first veteran that I wish to mention. And I will continue to mention just a few more so we know the importance of naming buildings after these wonderful people who have gone before us.

Of course, in that same struggle, all Texas armies were led by another Tennessean by the name of Sam Houston. Sam Houston became the general of all Texas forces after the battle of the Alamo. He serves as the unique distinction of the only person in American history being governor of two different states, the governor of Tennessee and the governor of Texas.

But before he became governor of Texas he was president of the Republic of Texas. And because of the fact that on April 21, which we celebrate a week from today, in 1836, General Sam Houston, leading a ragtag army of volunteers, once again from all over the United States, several foreign countries, defeated the enemy, Santa Ana and his overwhelming army at the banks and the marshes of San Jacinto on April 21, 1836. After that battle was over with Texas became a Republic and remained a free nation for over 9 years, and we owe much of that to General Sam, another veteran of Texas.

It's interesting to note that General Sam Houston's last words before he died, he mentioned to his wife 2 words, "Texas, Texas." And then he died as a great military veteran of our State of Texas.

In World War I, there was an individual by the name of Kenneth Myers that served. In 1889 he was born. He joined the Navy in 1917, and he served on the battleship *Oklahoma* in World War I. And after the "War to End All Wars" was over with, he went ahead and became an agricultural expert in the State of Texas. He lived to be 107 before he died and became the third oldest survivor of that "War to End All Wars," World War I.

In World War II there were many great Texans who served, but probably the most notable was a young individual who was a cotton farmer from Farmersville, Texas. Audie Murphy was too little and too small, they said, to join the Marine Corps, so he got into the United States Army, and he fought in the Army in World War II and he served 27 months in combat. He is the most decorated U.S. combat soldier in United States military history. He had received the Medal of Honor, of course the highest U.S. military award, along with 32 other medals from the United States, five medals from France and one from Belgium.

Audie Murphy symbolizes the great tradition of folks who joined the mili-

tary, another wonderful veteran from the State of Texas.

A little-known veteran from Texas was an individual by the name of Doris Miller. That was his name, although he was a male, and he didn't even want his friend calling him Dorrie because his name was Doris.

He found himself, on December 7 on the USS *West Virginia*. He was a cook. Because of his race he was not allowed to be in combat, but when that battleship was attacked, he found himself behind a 50 caliber machine gun and shot down two, maybe three Japanese planes on December 7, 1941. And he was honored later as becoming the first African American to receive the Navy cross because of his heroism on that fateful day, that day of infamy, December 7, 1941.

□ 1445

Doris Miller later died in combat, and he was from the City of Waco, Texas.

A friend of mine who recently died was a Pearl Harbor survivor by the name of Luke Trahan from Beaumont, Texas, served in the United States Navy, a wonderful person and was a symbol of everything that is good and right about the veterans from our great State.

And, of course, having been the son of one of those individuals of the Greatest Generation, my father, Virgil Poe, served in Europe during World War II. He didn't say anything about his service in the United States Army because he went when he was a teenager, and after 50 years, he finally started talking about his service there after he and my mother went to that place in France that we call Normandy, where over 9,000 Americans are buried. He, along with both of my uncles, James Hamilton and Charles Willis, all three teenagers, served in that great war, World War II.

Also serving in World War II was Oveta Culp Hobby. She was a lawyer, and although she was a lawyer, she found herself in Washington, D.C., and when the war broke out, she became the director of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps which was later called and referred to as the Women's Army Corps. She has the distinction of being the highest ranking woman to serve in World War II and was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for her contributions in the war effort, becoming the first woman in American history to receive such award.

We're proud of the fact that Admiral Chester Nimitz is from Fredericksburg, Texas. Fredericksburg, Mr. Speaker, is a landlocked place. It's a long way from water. It is in the central part of the Hill Country of Texas; but Admiral Nimitz ended up being in the United States Navy, and during World War II, he was the Commander in Chief of all Pacific naval forces for the United States and Allied forces where he served with distinction. Even a high school is named for him in my congressional district.

Sometimes we forget the fact that Dwight David Eisenhower was born in Denison, Texas, in 1890; although he later moved to Kansas, and he served in World War II as a 5-star general in the Army, also being the first Allied commander in all of Europe, a great distinction for him.

In 1943, a young man was commissioned as a teenager in the United States Naval Reserves, and he was assigned to the United States Ship *San Jacinto*; and on this ship he was assigned to become a pilot for the TMB Avengers. And while piloting one such mission in Chi Chi Jima off the Japanese coast, this individual was shot down and rescued later by a submarine in the area. This individual flew 58 combat missions. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross, three Air Medals and the USS *San Jacinto* was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation. That individual, of course, was former President of the United States, George H.W. Bush.

Mr. Speaker, there were many others who have served in the history of the State of Texas, but 12 individuals were remarkable in that these individuals, 12 brothers, these Band of Brothers, from a little town of Dayton, Texas, named the Ripkowsky brothers, all served in World War II and Korea. They served in all branches of the service. They served all over the United States and in foreign countries in combat, and after the wars were over, all 12 of them had the unique history of returning home to Dayton, Texas, where all of them lived except one who moved six miles away to the small town of Liberty. A great family that has served our country and veterans in their own right.

During the Korean War, Joseph Rodriguez from El Paso was drafted into the United States Army, although he later made the Army his career. Colonel Rodriguez, during the Korean War, received the Medal of Honor from President Truman because he attacked a Communist foxhole and then went on to attack four more Communist foxholes destroying all five emplacements and saving the lives of several of his comrades.

We have the unique distinction in this House of having a lot of great people who have served in our military in all branches of the service, both on this side and the other side, in this House and in the Senate. But one of those individuals grew up in Dallas, Texas, and he served in the United States Air Force for 29 years. He was the director of the Air Force Fighter Weapons School and flew with the Air Force Thunderbirds. He was a highly decorated fighter pilot who flew combat missions both in the Korean War and Vietnam, and in Korea he flew F-86s in 62 combat missions. In Vietnam, he flew F-4s.

And in 1966 while flying his 25th combat mission, our own SAM JOHNSON was shot down over North Vietnam. He was a prisoner of war in the Hanoi Hilton

for 7 years, including 42 months in solitary confinement. During that time, he was repeatedly tortured.

He is a decorated war hero. He was awarded two Silver Stars, two Legions of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star with Valor, two Purple Hearts, four Air Medals, and three Outstanding Unit Awards as well. We are honored to have him not only from the State of Texas but to serve in this House of Representatives as many other veterans do as well.

WORLD WAR II—DR. MICHAEL DEBAKEY

Born September 7, 1908 in Louisiana.

With the outbreak of World War II, he volunteered for service, eventually becoming the Director of the Surgical Consultants' Division in the United States Army Surgeon General's Office.

His experience on the Surgeon General's staff taught him that more needed to be done for our veterans.

He recommended changes in staged management of war wounds.

He also created mobile army surgical hospitals or "MASH" units, which saved a countless number of American lives.

He also recommended medical follow-ups for veterans, and the Veterans Affairs Medical Center System.

He's received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the National Medal of Science, and will soon receive the Congressional Medal of Freedom.

VIETNAM—PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH

Accepted into Texas Air National Guard in May 1968 at the height of ongoing Vietnam war.

After training, assigned to duty in Houston, flying Convair F-102s out of Ellington Air Force Base.

IRAQ

This post office will also honor those brave Texans who fought and who are fighting in Iraq.

Like Captain David Fraser, a native of Spring, Texas, and West Point graduate.

Captain Fraser was killed in Baghdad on November 26, 2006 by an improvised explosive device, an IED.

For his valor in combat, Captain Fraser was awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart, among many other awards and honors.

One of the most remarkable stories in American military history is the story of an orphan by the name of Roy Benavidez born in Cuero, Texas. Roy Benavidez was a migrant farmer, and he decided in 1955 to join the United States Army. He later became a Green Beret after being trained at Special Forces Ft. Bragg.

On May 2, 1962, his 12-man Special Forces team was in Cambodia to observe a large-scale North Vietnamese troop movement, but the enemy had discovered them and they were all ambushed. Roy Benavidez was behind those lines and he jumped on a helicopter to help rescue his men. He was in such a hurry the only thing that he armed himself with to go rescue his fellow comrades was a Bowie knife. And after he arrived at the scene, he started moving his fellow warriors to those helicopters so that they could be rescued and taken back to safety.

Roy Benavidez, Master Sergeant Roy Benavidez, was wounded 37 times: seven gunshot wounds and mortar shrapnel in his back along with two bayonet wounds. He was left for dead. In fact, he was put in a body bag, and the person that was putting him in the body bag zipped the body bag up. Roy Benavidez found it within his demeanor to be able to spit in the face of that soldier letting him know he was still alive.

And even though he was wounded 37 times, he recovered. He received the Medal of Honor. President Reagan said at the ceremony, "if this (story) would have been written as fiction, no one would have ever believed it." A great American hero, and we are proud to have him from the State of Texas.

Just recently, Monica Brown served in Afghanistan. She was 19 years old from Lake Jackson and received the Silver Star for her heroism in saving her fellow comrades.

And there are many others that I would like to mention, but I'm not going to do so, and I have just a couple of other comments.

There's a university in Texas called Texas A&M. Texas A&M has produced more officers in the United States military than even West Point. It has the distinction, other than West Point, of having more Medal of Honor winners than any other university in the United States. And they volunteer and continue to volunteer to serve.

When George Patton was in Europe going to combat in the Third Army, he made a comment about the Texas Aggies and the soldiers that he had in his division serving with him. He made the comment that, "Give me an army of West Point graduates and I will win a battle. You give me a handful of Texas Aggies, and I will win the war." And that's the sentiment that he had and the sentiment that we all have about folks from the State of Texas that are veterans, that have served all the way back from 1836 to the war in Iraq and Afghanistan.

And that's just the way it is.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I reserve my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to our distinguished colleague and hero from the State of Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON).

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to voice my support for combat veterans from the Lone Star State. You have heard a lot of stories from TED POE.

As a 29-year Air Force veteran and Texas native, I think it's great that Humble, Texas, will have a post office dedicated to those selfless men and women in the Armed Forces; and I commend my friend, TED POE, for spearheading this effort.

You know, many war heroes from Iraq and Afghanistan call the Lone Star State home. He mentioned one of

them, but as an example, you may know the name Marcus Luttrell. He was a Petty Officer First Class born in Huntsville, Texas, a former Navy SEAL, awarded the Navy Cross and wrote the New York Times best-selling book "Lone Survivor." The book details his remarkable story of surviving one of the war's deadliest battles for U.S. Special Forces. I had the honor of meeting him last week, and he's a remarkable individual.

TED mentioned Monica Lin Brown, the 19-year-old medic from Texas who became the first woman in Afghanistan and only the second woman since World War II to receive the Silver Star, the Nation's third highest medal for valor. Army Specialist Monica Lin Brown saved the lives of fellow soldiers after a roadside bomb tore through a convoy of Humvees last spring in Afghanistan. After the explosion which wounded five soldiers in her unit, Brown ran through insurgent gunfire and used her body to shield wounded comrades as mortars fell less than 100 yards away.

While today I have only mentioned Iraq and Afghanistan, I could go on for hours, as TED POE did, highlighting noticeable Texans who have gone above and beyond their service to this great Nation.

I want to thank Mr. POE and Humble, Texas, for recognizing those men and women who proudly wear the uniform for the United States of America. They help keep America the land of the free and the home of the brave. I salute all of our veterans.

God bless you and may God continue to bless our great Nation. I salute all of you in this Chamber for your support for our veterans.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5517, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7231 FM 1960 in Humble, Texas, as the "Texas Military Veterans Post Office." I would like to thank my colleague, Mr. POE, for introducing this important bill, and Chairman WAXMAN of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee for bringing this legislation to the floor today. I strongly support honoring veterans of our armed forces, and I am proud to join my colleagues in the Texas delegation as an original cosponsor of this legislation. I hope my colleagues will join me in designating this facility as the Texas Military Veteran Post Office as a token of our appreciation.

The American men and women who serve in our armed forces are one of our Nation's most precious resources. Their service to this Nation could never be repaid, but we can ensure that our veterans who have faithfully served our country receive the recognition they are due and the services they need. Passing this resolution will send a strong message to our veterans that we appreciate their service. Our Nation has a proud legacy of appreciation and commitment to the men and women who have worn the uniform in defense of this country. We must show every soldier, sailor, airman, and marine that we honor and continue to respect their service to our Nation.

Currently, there are 25 million veterans in the United States. There are more than 1,633,000 veterans living in Texas and more than 32,000 veterans living in my Congressional district alone. I firmly believe that we should celebrate our veterans after every conflict, and I remain committed, as a Member of Congress, to both meeting the needs of veterans of previous wars, and to provide a fitting welcome home to those who are now serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Veterans have kept their promise to serve our Nation; they have willingly risked their lives to protect the country we all love. We must now ensure that we keep our promises to our veterans.

Because I feel it is time that we recognize the success of our Nation's armed forces, I have introduced H.R. 4020, the "Military Success in Iraq Commemoration Act of 2007." This legislation recognizes the extraordinary performance of the Armed Forces in achieving the military objectives of the United States in Iraq as expressed by the Congressional mandate allowing for use of force, encourages the President to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe a national day of celebration commemorating the military success of American troops in Iraq.

Most importantly, my legislation provides affirmative and tangible expressions of appreciation from a grateful nation to all veterans of the war in Iraq. It authorizes the Secretary of Defense to award grants to State and local governments "to conduct suitable activities commemorating military success in Iraq" and "to create appropriate memorials honoring those who lost their lives securing military success in Iraq." My legislation sets up grants for veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom, stating "the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall award to each veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom a grant in the amount of \$5,000. The purpose of that grant is to facilitate the veteran's transition to civilian life." I am pleased that thirteen of my colleagues have already signed onto this important legislation.

Renaming this post office facility to honor our veterans is a small but important step toward giving veterans the full accolades that they deserve. At various points in our Nation's history, we have sent our sons and daughters overseas to fight in defense of the great values and principles our Nation was founded upon. At times when the need is greatest, America's soldiers have always stepped up to protect our Nation. Let us show them our gratitude by presenting them with a postal facility that stands as a symbol of their dedication and sacrifice. Let us never forget that one of the things that makes our Nation truly great are the young men and women who have fought to defend it and our way of life.

I firmly believe that we must commend the men and women of our military for their exemplary performance and success. When World War II finally came to an end in 1945, celebrations erupted on the streets of cities and towns across our Nation. One of the most enduring images of that war is not a picture of bombs or destruction, but of a jubilant soldier kissing a woman in New York City's Times Square. The veterans we continue to honor as the "Greatest Generation" returned home not only to open arms, but also to the G.I. Bill, which offered them college or vocational education, as well as one year of unemployment compensation. It also provided loans for re-

turning veterans to buy homes and start businesses.

This Congress has begun to show our appreciation through legislation. We have already enacted significant increases in veterans' health care funding—increasing it by \$5.2 billion. The increase will go for veterans' health programs, including mental health care for returning veterans, especially for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

In the words of President John F. Kennedy, "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." It is not simply enough to sing the praises of our Nation's great veterans; I firmly believe that we must demonstrate by our actions how proud we are of our American heroes. I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 5517, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7231 FM 1960 in Humble, Texas, as the "Texas Military Veteran Post Office."

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I believe we have no more speakers, and we yield back the balance of our time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5517.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. 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.

CONTRACTING AND TAX ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2008

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4881) to prohibit the awarding of a contract or grant in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold unless the prospective contractor or grantee certifies in writing to the agency awarding the contract or grant that the contractor or grantee has no seriously delinquent tax debts, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4881

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 "Contracting and Tax Accountability Act of 2008".

SEC. 2. GOVERNMENTAL POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States Government that no Government contracts or grants should be awarded to individuals or companies with seriously delinquent Federal tax debts.

SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON AWARDING OF CONTRACTS TO DELINQUENT FEDERAL DEBTORS.

Section 3720B of title 31, United States Code, is amended—