

rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

VETERANS PAIN CARE ACT

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

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, today I rise because I am introducing the Veterans Pain Care Act of 2008. This bill will require the Secretary of the VA to develop and implement a comprehensive policy on pain management for veterans enrolled in the VA health care system and to carry out a program of research, training and education on acute and chronic pain.

Modern warfare leads to serious, but survivable, injuries. While advances in medical technology have saved lives, many of our wounded soldiers have been afflicted by acute and chronic pain. Pain is a leading cause of disability among veterans. As a result, providing adequate pain management is a crucial component to improving veterans' welfare.

The Department of Veteran Affairs has pain care programs, but a comprehensive plan isn't consistently enforced across the system. My legislation will give the VA the necessary tools to serve the needs of our veterans.

This bill has the support of a wide range of organizations. I would like to enter into the RECORD a letter of support from 50 organizations in the Pain Care Coalition.

The Senate companion to this bill has the support of both the chairman and the ranking member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. I am hopeful that this will garner bipartisan support for this legislation in the House and be passed to support our veterans.

PAIN CARE COALITION,
Washington, DC, May 15, 2008.

Re Veterans Pain Care Act of 2008

Hon. TIM WALZ,
House of Representatives, Longworth House Office building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN WALZ: The Pain Care Coalition applauds your leadership in championing the Veterans Pain Care Act. We enthusiastically support the measure, and pledge the assistance of our organizations as you move the bill forward in the House. As your bill mirrors bi-partisan legislation under consideration in the Senate, and complements a DoD pain care initiative included in the House FY 2009 Defense Authorization bill, we are optimistic that it will receive wide support.

Pain is a huge public health problem for veterans. Virtually every service member injured in current and past conflicts experienced acute pain at the time of injury. Many others suffered acute pain in connection with non-combat related injury or disease. For too many, the acute pain progresses to a chronic pain condition that threatens the veteran's basic quality of life. These same chronic pain conditions can be cost "drivers" in VA health and disability systems. With prompt and aggressive treatment, much

acute pain can be alleviated, and much chronic pain avoided or managed.

The Department of Veterans Affairs is doing much to provide good pain care and advance important pain research, but much, much more remains to be done. Your bill will make pain care a national priority within the VA health care programs. Millions of veterans who have served our country deserve no less.

Respectfully submitted,

RICHARD ROSENQUIST,
Chair.

CONSENSUS STATEMENT SUPPORTING THE CONGRESSIONAL MILITARY PAIN BILL AND THE VETERANS PAIN BILL

Acute and chronic pain afflicts both military personnel and veterans in proportions far exceeding the general population. Pain is the leading cause of disability among veterans. Characteristics of modern warfare produce serious, but survivable, injuries to the central and peripheral nervous systems that inflict terrible acute pain and lead to chronic pain in many cases. Providing adequate pain management is a crucial component to improving military and veteran health care. A growing number of wounded veterans are experiencing long-term problems with chronic pain; left untreated, pain can have life-long consequences.

As members of organizations dedicated to improving the lives of veterans and military personnel and organizations dedicated to improving the quality of pain management, the undersigned organizations support and urge passage of legislation to improve pain care for active duty military and veterans. In particular we support legislation which:

Requires Uniformed Service Secretaries to implement a comprehensive pain care initiative to require prompt assessment and reassessment of pain in all health setting; emphasizes assessment, diagnosis, treatment & management of pain as an integral part of military health care; and deploys acute pain services to all combat support hospitals and, where feasible, on the battlefield.

Requires Tricare plans to provide pain care services that ensure appropriate assessment, diagnosis, treatment and management of acute and chronic pain and provide comprehensive interdisciplinary services for hard to treat chronic pain patients.

Requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to implement in VA health facilities and programs a pain care initiative comparable to that required for DOD programs.

Requires the VA to increase its research effort in the areas of acute and chronic pain, including identifying priority research areas most relevant to veterans.

Requires the VA to emphasize education and training of VA personnel in pain management.

Establishes cooperative research center for acute and chronic pain, including one with a special focus on central and peripheral nervous system damage.

Directs the GAO to evaluate the consistency of military and veteran pain care services across different programs, facilities, demographic groups and geographic areas; and

Assesses the adequacy and appropriateness of pain care services based on performance measures previously adopted by the VA.

Signed:

Air Compassion for Veterans.
Alliance of State Pain Initiatives.
Alpharma Pharmaceuticals LLC.
American Academy of Pain Medicine.
American Association of Diabetes Educators.
American Cancer Society.
American RSDHope.
Ava Mina Pain Clinic.

The American Chronic Pain Association.
American Headache Society.
American Pain Foundation.
American Pain Society.
American Pharmacists Association.
American Society of Anesthesiologists.
American Society for Pain Management Nursing.

Amputee Coalition of America.

AVANCEN LLC.

Boston Scientific.

Brave New Foundation.

Cause.

Cephalon, Inc.

Comfort Care Unlimited.

Coming Home Project.

Endo Pharmaceuticals.

Florida Pain Initiative.

HealthSouth Valley of the Sun Rehabilitation Hospital.

Homes for Our Troops.

Jacob's Light Foundation, Inc.

Indiana Hospice and Palliative Care Organization.

Indiana Pain Initiative.

Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America.

Medtronic, Inc.

Michigan Cancer Pain Initiative.

Missouri Pain Initiative.

Montana Cancer Control Coalition.

National Fibromyalgia Research Association.

National Pain Foundation.

National Veterans Legal Services Program.

National Vulvodynia Association.

One Freedom, Inc.

Operation Helmet.

Operation Home Front.

Pain Care Coalition.

Pain Connection.

Pain Treatment Topics.

P.A.N.D.O.R.A.

Project Return to Work, Inc.

Purdue Pharma L.P.

Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome Association.

South Dakota Injured Workers Coalition.

St. Jude Medical's Neuromodulation Division Advanced Neuromodulation Systems.

Swords to Plowshares.

The Pathway Home (Veterans Home of California).

There is Hope . . . for Chronic Pain.

Veterans for America.

Washington—Alaska Pain Initiative.

MONEY WOULD BE BETTER SPENT TO FIND CURES AND TREATMENT FOR DISEASES, NOT FOR MORE WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, in the next day or two, this House will consider funding the war in Iraq and also we will be thinking and have been thinking about our colleague in the Senate and the father of one of our Members, Senator TED KENNEDY. We will think about Hamilton Jordan, who passed away also.

Senator KENNEDY suffers from a brain tumor. Hamilton Jordan suffered from cancer. When you think about how many dollars we have spent on that war effort and what those dollars could do to cure diseases of people here on Earth, I would submit, Mr. Speaker, we need to put more money into curing disease, finding treatments and cures,

rather than funding weapons of mass destruction.

The Bible says something about beating your swords into plowshares. I would submit that if we have the ability to seek finite spots on the Earth from the air to find targets for our weapons, we should turn those scientists' efforts toward finding ways to look inside our bodies and find cures for diseases.

Mr. Speaker, I am submitting a letter to the Speaker and to the chairman of the Finance Committee to do just that.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC May 15, 2008.

Speaker NANCY PELOSI,
U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.
Chairman DAVID OBEY,
Committee on Appropriations, U.S. Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI AND CHAIRMAN OBEY: I am writing to request that NIH funding in the President's FY09 budget for the research of cancer, diabetes, heart disease, AIDS, Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's disease be doubled in the final FY09 budget set forth by Congress.

The following are the estimates included in the President's FY09 Budget request for research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH):

Cancer: \$5.654B.

Diabetes: \$1.033B.

Heart Disease: \$2.111B.

Global Fund to fight HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and Tuberculosis under National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases: \$300M.

Alzheimer's Disease: \$644M.

Parkinson's Disease: \$186M.

These debilitating diseases affect millions of people each year across the globe. Families are torn apart, emotionally and financially, by the effects of their contraction. Congress has a serious responsibility to provide adequate funding for research that could not only find promising treatments, but permanent cures.

I cannot imagine a more pressing issue than ensuring the healthy future of those we are here to represent. The disparity between the amounts of funding requested for the war in Iraq and that requested to treat deadly diseases is incomprehensible. The successful findings of research programs made possible through increased funding will not only aid people in the United States, but the rest of the world, as well. It is my hope that, by taking full advantage of the scientific resources we have here at home, we can better our relationships with research teams across the globe to reach our common goals: finding a cure and establishing peace.

As always, I remain,

Most Sincerely,

STEVE COHEN,
Member of Congress.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

AN AMERICAN GI

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, standing on the beaches of Normandy, he found himself silent. Like a scene ripped from the movie Saving Private Ryan, this American GI was overwhelmed with memories. Memories so vivid, so real that in an instant he was a soldier again in the 7th Army, surviving the Battle of the Bulge, fighting through the Cities of Aachen, Stuttgart, Cologne, and Bonn. The graves before him transcended time, taking him back in history to a time when freedom was on the line.

He was born in the 1920s. He grew up in the Depression of the thirties, and he grew up poor like most rural American children. Fresh vegetables were grown in the family garden behind the small frame house. His mother made sandwiches for school out of homemade bread. Store-bought bread was for the rich. He grew up belonging to the Boy Scouts, playing the trumpet in the high school band and going to church almost every Sunday.

In 1944, this 18-year-old country boy that had never been more than 50 miles from home finally found himself going through basic training in the United States Army at Camp Walters in Texas. After that, he rode the train with hundreds of other young teenagers to New York City for the hazardous ocean trip on a cramped liberty ship to fight in the great World War II.

No amount of training could have prepared him for what he was about to experience. As a teenager, he and thousands like him put life on the line for freedom. He saw the concentration camps at Dachau and the victims of the Nazis. This horror gave him a clear understanding of why America was at war. He saw incredible numbers of other teenage Americans buried in graves throughout France, but like so many of his generation, he really never discussed the details, only saying that the real heroes were the ones that never came home from Europe.

Some 64 years after the war, my hero stood before the monument at Normandy with the thousands of white crosses and Stars of David and paid tribute to his heroes. The price of freedom was enormous, the memories of the sacrifices made were overwhelming. Amidst the whirlwind of imagery flashing before his eyes, my dad began to recall life before the war and what victory in Europe meant for Americans—and what freedom means today.

After Germany surrendered, he went back to Fort Hood, Texas, expecting to be re-equipped for the land invasion of Japan. It was there he met Mom at a

Wednesday night prayer meeting church service, but before he could be shipped out to Japan, the Japanese surrendered and the war was over. Not too long after that, he opened a DX service station where he pumped gas, sold tires, fixed cars, and began a family.

Deciding that he needed to go to college, he moved to West Texas and enrolled in a small Christian college called Abilene Christian College. He and his wife and two small children lived in an old converted Army barracks with other such families. He supported us by working nights at KRBC radio and climbing telephone poles for "Ma Bell."

He finished college, became an engineer, and worked 40-plus years for Southwestern Bell Telephone Company in Houston, Texas. He turned down a promotion and a transfer to New York City because it wasn't Texas, and as he said it was "no place to raise a family." Mom and Dad still live in Houston not far from where I grew up.

After his recent trip to Normandy, he opened up a little more about the war, still humble about his contributions, but looking back on the significance of victory through the eyes of an 82-year-old man. Don't get me wrong, Mr. Speaker, he hasn't mellowed at all in these years. He still rants and raves about the east coast media, and he has a strong opinion on politics and today's fight for freedom in Iraq and Afghanistan. He gives plenty of advice to everybody, including me.

He has two computers in his home office and e-mails with his buddies all around the world. He still flies the flag on holidays. He mows his own grass, and he can fix anything. He goes to church on Sunday, and he takes Mom out to eat almost every Friday night.

On Memorial Day, we honor those who fought and died in America's wars. We don't have to look far for courage or stories of inspiration. They are all around us from the men and women who proudly wear the uniform of a U.S. warrior.

Across the Potomac River in Arlington National Cemetery are the graves of the silent warriors who, in their youth, gave their lives for our future. Down the street from the Capitol are the World War I, the World War II, the Korean, and Vietnam Memorials. Standing in front of the World War II Memorial are the pillars from each of our States and Territories. On the back wall, there appears to be a large bronze plate. Mr. Speaker, it is not a bronze plate at all but it's 4,000 bronze stars. Each star represents 100 Americans, mostly teenagers, killed in the great World War II. Four hundred thousand Americans, many still buried in the fields of Europe where they gave their lives for the rest of us.

Without the sacrifices of the Greatest Generation, America would not be the amazing country of liberty it is today. My hero, my dad, is one of the charter members of the Greatest Generation.