

The absence of fathers contributes to many social problems that we, as legislators, fight to prevent daily. According to findings by the National Fatherhood Initiative, the closer adolescents feel to their fathers, regardless of the type of family structure in which they live, the less likely it is that they will engage in the use of drugs or delinquent behavior. Involved and proactive fathers help to shape confident and productive future citizens.

So as we honor fathers on Father's Day, we should also encourage men to evaluate their own participation in their children's lives, because you never can be too involved.

As a co-chair of the Congressional Task Force on Responsible Fatherhood, as a father and a concerned citizen, I ask my colleagues to join me in spreading the message of responsible fatherhood to all levels of society, and encouraging more fathers to reconnect with their children by supporting House Resolution 1243.

Mr. KUHLMAN of New York. In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would just thank and compliment the gentleman from Oklahoma for bringing this resolution to the floor, and for bringing awareness to the people who are fathers, and reminding them of the tremendous role that they have in America and the youth development of our children, and to thank them for their participation in that role.

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1243, a resolution that recognizes the immeasurable contributions of fathers in the healthy development of children, supports responsible fatherhood, and encourages greater involvement of fathers in the lives of their children, especially on Father's Day. As cochairman of the Congressional Task Force on Responsible Fatherhood, I thank my colleague, Mr. SULLIVAN, for his work on this important matter.

Six days from now, our Nation will celebrate the special place that fathers have in our country.

From helping with homework to playing ball to reading a book to offering advice, prayers and support, and to just listening, each and every day fathers of all ages contribute to the mental, moral, and spiritual development of children, teenagers, and adults.

According to the National Fatherhood Initiative, children with involved, loving fathers are significantly more likely to do well in school, have a healthy self-esteem, exhibit empathy and good behavior, and avoid high-risk activity such as drug use and criminal activity.

H. Res. 1243 recognizes the commitment of fathers, and the wonderful work that both parents do on behalf of their kids, and I encourage my colleagues to join with us as we all recommit ourselves to being the best father we can to children everywhere.

And in conclusion, I would like to publicly thank my father, Dr. Douglas McIntyre, for the great example he has been to me and for the dedication and support he has shown in my every endeavor. And I am most grateful to God both for my dad and for the absolutely wonderful opportunity I have to be the father of two amazing, accomplished sons, Joshua and Stephen.

Happy Father's Day to fathers everywhere. Mr. KUHLMAN of New York. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I think that all of us agree that this is something that transcends party, transcends geography and transcends economics. We all treasure our fathers, and I urge that this resolution be adopted by the House.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1243.

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. YARMUTH. 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.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALASKA AS THE 49TH STATE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 127) recognizing and celebrating the 50th anniversary of the entry of Alaska into the Union as the 49th State.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 127

Whereas July 7, 2008, marks the 50th anniversary of the enactment of the Alaska Statehood Act as approved by the United States Congress and signed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower;

Whereas the Alaska Statehood Act authorized the entry of Alaska into the Union on January 3, 1959;

Whereas the land once known as "Seward's Folly" is now regarded as critical to the strategic defense of the United States and important to our national and economic security;

Whereas the people of Alaska remain committed to the preservation and protection of the Union, with among the highest rates of veterans and residents in active military service of any State in the Nation;

Whereas Alaska is the northernmost, westernmost, and easternmost State of the Union, encompassing an area one-fifth the size of the United States;

Whereas the State of Alaska has an abundance of natural resources vital to the Nation;

Whereas Alaska currently provides over 16 percent of the daily crude oil production in the United States and has 44 percent of the undiscovered oil resources and 36 percent of the undiscovered conventional gas in the United States;

Whereas Alaska's 34,000 miles of shoreline form a gateway to one of the world's greatest fisheries, providing over 60 percent of the country's commercial seafood harvest;

Whereas over 230 million acres of Alaska are set aside in national parks, wildlife refuges, national forests, and other conserva-

tion units for the benefit of the entire country;

Whereas over 58 million acres are designated wilderness in Alaska, representing 55 percent of the wilderness areas in the United States;

Whereas Alaska Natives, the State's first people, are an integral part of Alaska's history, and preserving the culture and heritage of Alaska's Native people is of primary importance;

Whereas the passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act in 1971 signaled a new era of economic opportunity for Alaska Natives;

Whereas Alaska's Native people have made major contributions to the vitality and success of Alaska as a State;

Whereas the people of Alaska represent the pioneering spirit that built this great Nation and contribute to our cultural and ethnic diversity; and

Whereas the golden anniversary, on January 3, 2009, provides an occasion to honor Alaska's entry into the Union: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives recognizes and celebrates the 50th anniversary of the entry of Alaska into the Union as the 49th State.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) 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. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I'm pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H. Res. 127 which recognizes the 50th anniversary of the State of Alaska, and highlights its contributions to America's economy and heritage.

H. Res. 127 was introduced by our colleague, Congressman DON YOUNG of Alaska, on February 5, 2007. On April 16, 2008, H. Res. 127 was considered by and reported from the Oversight Committee by voice vote. This measure has the support and cosponsorship of over 50 Members of Congress, including all of the delegation from the State of Alaska.

On October 18, 1867, the Alaskan peninsula was purchased from Russia and, in 1912, after major development during the Gold Rush era, Alaska was granted territorial status.

Enshrined as the 49th State of the Union on January 3, 1959, Alaska is commonly referred to as the last frontier. And the word Alaska, which is derived from the indigenous Aleut language, means mainland or, literally, the object towards which the action of the sea is directed.

Today, Alaska's economy is strong, with the third highest gross state production out of any State of the Union. And since the issue of gas was such a major point last week for my colleagues, I should also mention that Alaska currently provides over 16 percent of the daily crude oil production in the United States.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) for sponsoring this measure. And given the 50th anniversary of Alaska statehood, and the enormous contributions Alaska has given to our Nation, and to the world, I urge passage of this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to yield such time as he may consume to the sponsor of the bill, my good friend, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG).

(Mr. YOUNG of Alaska asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. I do thank the ranking member, and I do thank my chairman for cosponsoring this legislation and being supportive of it.

On July 7, that marks the 50th anniversary of the enactment of the Alaska Statehood Act, as approved by the United States Congress and signed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

□ 1715

Alaska would officially be admitted as a State January 3, 1959.

I introduce H.R. 127 which commemorates this occasion to recognize all of the people of Alaska who represent the pioneering spirit which built this great Nation and contributes to our culture and ethnic diversity.

Alaska is the most northern, most western, and most eastern State in the Union and composing an area one-fifth the size of the United States. And for all those trivia buffs out there, Alaska is roughly 2½ times the size of Texas.

Purchased from Russia in 1867 for \$7.2 million, or 2 cents an acre, after Congress had concluded its resources would be vitally important to the Nation's future growth. At the time, the purchase was nicknamed "Seward's folly" because it was believed foolhardy to spend so much money on a remote region. Secretary of State William Seward would have the last laugh, though.

Alaska is the source of 16 percent of the daily crude oil in the United States, has 44 percent of the country's undiscovered resources. Alaska's 34,000 miles of shoreline form a gateway to one of the greatest fisheries in the world, providing for 60 percent of the country's commercial seafood harvest.

Alaska has 230 million acres set aside in national parks, wildlife refuges, and national forests which are visited each year by more than a million tourists. To give you some idea, Mr. Speaker, the State of California has 103 million acres. We put aside 230 million acres for parks and national wildlife refuges. Forests add to Alaska's beauty and

provide a renewable economic resource with 28 million acres of commercial forests.

Alaska contains half of the Nation's coal reserves and its largest silver and zinc mines. Glittering gold in Alaska's streams and mountains still lures miners to work private claims. About 50 million acres of soil in Alaska are suitable for farming. About 1 million acres currently are in production.

I know that the people of Alaska will continue their commitment to the preservation and protection of this great State, but they also want to develop the resources. Alaskans are proud, strong, and independent Americans who are not afraid to stand up for what they believe in, and I'm honored and humbled to stand here today on their behalf as we again recognize this great important date in U.S. history.

Mr. Speaker, may I suggest, right above you there is a plaque, placed there in 1949; it says, Let us develop the resources of our land, call forth its powers and build up its institutions, promote all its great interests, and see whether we also in our day and generation may not perform something worthy of being remembered. Daniel Webster. Let us develop our resources.

Alaska has the key to the solution of many problems of this great Nation, especially the energy crisis, and I ask this body as you recognize the 50th anniversary of the great State of Alaska, recognize what we can and what we have contributed to the Nation as a whole. As the 50th State, we are proud and we are extremely excited with the possibility to contribute more in the future. And I do urge my colleagues to pass this resolution.

I thank the gentleman, the chairman, and the ranking member.

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in 1860, at the Wigwam Convention Center in Chicago, Illinois, a man named William Seward marched around with his crowd of supporters, and he got to the convention center too late because the gallery was stacked with supporters for a guy named Abraham Lincoln. As a result of his getting there a little bit too late on the third ballot, Abraham Lincoln was nominated for President of the United States, and Mr. Seward lost, and he was the favorite. He was the odds-on favorite to be the Republican nominee for President and to be the next President of the United States. Well, he lost, and it was a crushing blow for him.

Yet, later on, Abraham Lincoln saw the qualities of William Seward, and he appointed him his Secretary of State, and Secretary of State Seward did an outstanding job in that capacity. The thing he did best, in my opinion, was in making sure that the United States purchased Alaska. He purchased Alaska for \$7.2 million, and it was the best buy, by far, of anything that this country has ever done. The resources that are up there are just unbelievable.

A couple of years ago, I had the pleasure to go up to Alaska with Representative DON YOUNG, and I had a chance to see the vastness of it and to realize the resources that are available to us up there. You just couldn't believe it. We had a chance to see ANWR. We had a chance to look at the Alaska Pipeline, and we could see what great potential there is out of Alaska if we would just use our heads and go after those resources.

One of the things that I don't understand and that, I think, the American people don't understand is why the Democrats and the Republicans in this body can't get together to start using our resources to reduce the cost of fuel, gasoline and energy in this country. As the gentleman from Alaska just said a few minutes ago, they have the resources up there. We could get up to 2 million barrels of oil a day out of the ANWR, and there may be more up there, and we could do it in an environmentally safe way. It's two to three times the size of Texas. If there were a spill up there—and of course I don't think that would happen—it still wouldn't hurt the ecology as much as we are suffering now under the energy pressure that the American people are feeling at \$4-plus a gallon of gas. We should drill in Alaska. We should drill in the ANWR.

The Alaskan Senators and Congressmen want that done. They want those resources brought to the surface. Yet, the opposition party—my good friends over there like DANNY DAVIS—won't let us drill in the ANWR. I do not understand it. I just simply do not understand it. We are drilling in Texas. We are drilling in Oklahoma. We are drilling in the Gulf of Mexico. Yet, way up north in the ANWR we cannot drill. I just do not understand it.

I wish my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who are influenced so much by the environmental lobby would go out on the street tomorrow morning at the gas stations and say, "Hey, you're paying \$4.10 a gallon for gasoline. Would you mind if we drilled in the ANWR?"

The first thing they'd say is probably, "Where is the ANWR?" Secondly, they'd say, "Drill any place in the United States to get my gas prices down."

Now, the Democrats took over this place 2 years ago, and I have an awful lot of friends on the other side of the aisle, and I love all you guys, but since you took power, the price of gasoline has gone up \$1.50 per gallon. Now, why don't we do something about that. Why don't we get together, the Democrats and Republicans, and say, "Okay. We are going to drill in the ANWR in an environmentally safe way. We are going to drill offshore on the Outer Continental Shelf in an environmentally safe way. We are going to bring 4 million barrels of oil a day into this country to reduce our dependency on Saudi Arabia and on Venezuela and on Mexico and on other parts of the

world so we can do what we should have done 30 years ago, become energy-independent."

Not only do we have the oil resources at our fingertips, but we have about a 400- or 500-year supply of natural gas, and we're not exploring that either. I will submit to you that there is probably a lot of natural gas up in Alaska as well.

So I would just like to say to my colleagues that I'm here to support Representative YOUNG's resolution to congratulate Alaska on its 50th anniversary of its being a State. It's a great acquisition for the United States. It has a great Congressman and two great Senators.

As I close, I would just say to my colleagues: Let's get on with it. The American people are tired of \$4.50 and \$4.10 a gallon for gasoline. We have it in our country with coal shale, with oil and with natural gas to become energy-independent. Yet, we're blocked every day, every month, every year. I do not understand it.

So I'd like to say to my Democrat colleagues, who are good friends of mine, since you took power, gasoline has gone up \$1.50 per gallon. Let's end that. Let's become energy-independent. We can look at the other sources of energy while we're doing that. Other sources are very important, too, and new technologies, but right now, we need oil and we need gas. You guys need to help us.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution seeks to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Alaska becoming a State. Our Nation's relationship with this beautiful and resource rich land began on March 30th 1867.

On that date, Secretary of State, William Seward, entered into a purchase agreement with the Russian Minister to the United States, for \$7.2 million dollars. In August of 1868, Secretary Seward said he did not doubt "that the political society to be constituted here, first as a Territory, and ultimately as a State or many States, will prove a worthy constituency of the Republic."

These words could not have been more true. Alaska has indeed contributed and more than proved its worth as part of our Nation; first as a territory in 1912 and ultimately as our Nation's 49th state when the official proclamation was signed by President Eisenhower on January 3rd 1959.

However, the road to statehood for Alaska was not one without challenges.

Originally, a bill for statehood passed the House early in 1950, however the bill died in the Senate. It wasn't until January of 1958, that a statehood bill ultimately passed both chambers and was signed by President Eisenhower.

It is well known that Alaska is home to some of our country's most beautiful landmarks and landscapes including Mount McKinley and almost 34,000 miles of shoreline.

From the beginning, it was a land rich in many commodities useful at those times—including minerals, timber, fur, and fish. Alaska was home to the Klondike Gold Rush of 1897–98. Today, oil and natural gas serve as the major exports of Alaska. The fishery is the second leading source of export, and also

serves as a significant source of livelihood for Alaskans.

Today, another source of income that continues to grow is Alaska's tourist industry. Any number of large cruise liners can be seen off the coast of Alaska. And the Klondike Highway outside Skagway has beautiful descents for avid mountain bikers. Visitors are drawn to the beautiful views, wilderness, and the exciting adventures Alaska has to offer.

Of course, we couldn't talk about Alaska without mentioning one of the most unique sporting events in the world—the annual Iditarod race. Each year, individuals with a team of sled dogs cover a grueling 1,161 miles over a week to two week period from Willow to Nome, Alaska.

So to conclude, the State of Alaska is one that is rich in nature, resources and most importantly in people and heritage.

For this reason, I ask my colleagues to support H. Res. 127 recognizing the State of Alaska's 50th Anniversary.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. If the gentleman is not yielding back, I will reserve the balance of my time as well, Mr. Speaker.

Let me yield, then, to my colleague once again, my good buddy from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I want to stress the importance of understanding the supply side of energy. And we may not be able to lower the price, ladies and gentleman, at the gas pump, but we can at least stabilize it because if you think this is going to go down if we don't have a supply side, you're badly mistaken.

We just saw something last week which shocked many people. We had a jump of \$11 a barrel in one night because of some action in the Middle East. And that could affect us down the road where it's \$137 a barrel, \$137 a barrel today. We predict it's going to go \$200 a barrel if we don't get the supply side moving.

I will tell you if we have one action on the floor of the House to take and address the supply side, the price of a barrel of oil will drop automatically \$10 to \$15 a barrel. It might go back up later on. But it eliminates the speculation. It would show those that say we're not doing anything as we have not done for 35 years after the pipeline itself was built.

The Saudis, the Middle East, the OPEC countries will not increase production when they can get \$137 a barrel. Why would they? Ask yourselves if you own something, why would you produce more to lower the price?

The only way we can do this is to increase our domestic supply, not only just oil, but all forms of fossil fuel and alternate forms of energy. And as the gentleman from Indiana mentioned, if we do not do that, we are not serving our constituents as we should.

It is the future of this Nation to allow the productions. Remember the

quote I had right above the seat of the Speaker: Let's develop our resources.

As we celebrate this day, the 50th anniversary of the Alaska Statehood by an action of Congress, that's all we ask. Let us develop our resources. That's all I ask you now. Let us develop our resources for the good of this Nation. That is our responsibility. This is not politics. This is reality.

Again, for Mr. and Mrs. American, the price of oil and gasoline may not drop dramatically, but it will drop and it will stabilize if we address the supply side. If we do not, it will rise more, more, and more. Not good for the nation. Not good for the future generations.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, let me ask, did the gentleman from Indiana yield back all of his time?

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers, and if you would like, I would be happy to yield back.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, in closing, let me thank both the gentleman from Alaska and the gentleman from Indiana not only for their support of the resolution to honor the State of Alaska, but I was also pleased to hear them talk about the tremendous gas crisis that we have in the country. I was pleased to note that the State of Illinois played a role in the purchase of Alaska.

In terms of Secretary of State Seward, after he did not get the Presidency, did in fact become Secretary of State and did in fact make sure that we purchased Alaska. And, of course, that's a lesson for all of us to know that you don't necessarily have to win the nomination for President in order to do significant things afterwards. There is certainly much work to be done.

But let me just mention that recently, Congress overwhelmingly passed bipartisan legislation to temporarily suspend the oil purchases for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. As a result, the President was forced to suspend shipments and sign the deal which he previously opposed. Continuing to fill the SPR would take 70,000 barrels of oil off the market each day even though the reserve is 97 percent full with enough to meet our national security needs. We passed the farm bill that contains in it biofuels, new methods of creating energy, new sources from which energy can come.

And so there is movement, and I'm confident. Yes, we did become the majority in both the House and the Senate in the last 2 years, and when we get the other office, I have no doubt in my mind that we're going to see great relief from the oil crisis.

I urge passage of this resolution.

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 agree to the resolution, H. Res. 127.

The question was taken.

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

□ 1730

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE ACT OF 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5683) to make certain reforms with respect to the Government Accountability Office, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5683

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; REFERENCES; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Government Accountability Office Act of 2008”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment is expressed in terms of an amendment to a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of title 31, United States Code.

(c) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; references; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Provisions relating to future annual pay adjustments.
- Sec. 3. Pay adjustment relating to certain previous years.
- Sec. 4. Lump-sum payment for certain performance-based compensation.
- Sec. 5. Inspector General.
- Sec. 6. Reimbursement of audit costs.
- Sec. 7. Financial disclosure requirements.
- Sec. 8. Highest basic pay rate.
- Sec. 9. Additional authorities.

SEC. 2. PROVISIONS RELATING TO FUTURE ANNUAL PAY ADJUSTMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 732 is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(j)(1) For purposes of this subsection—

“(A) the term ‘pay increase’, as used with respect to an officer or employee in connection with a year, means the total increase in the rate of basic pay (expressed as a percentage) of such officer or employee, taking effect under section 731(b) and subsection (c)(3) in such year;

“(B) the term ‘required minimum percentage’, as used with respect to an officer or employee in connection with a year, means the percentage equal to the total increase in rates of basic pay (expressed as a percentage) taking effect under sections 5303 and 5304–5304a of title 5 in such year with respect to General Schedule positions within the pay locality (as defined by section 5302(5) of title 5) in which the position of such officer or employee is located;

“(C) the term ‘covered officer or employee’, as used with respect to a pay increase, means any individual—

“(i) who is an officer or employee of the Government Accountability Office, other

than an officer or employee described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of section 4(c)(1) of the Government Accountability Office Act of 2008, determined as of the effective date of such pay increase; and

“(ii) whose performance is at least at a satisfactory level, as determined by the Comptroller General under the provisions of subsection (c)(3) for purposes of the adjustment taking effect under such provisions in such year; and

“(D) the term ‘nonpermanent merit pay’ means any amount payable under section 731(b) which does not constitute basic pay.

“(2)(A) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, if (disregarding this subsection) the pay increase that would otherwise take effect with respect to a covered officer or employee in a year would be less than the required minimum percentage for such officer or employee in such year, the Comptroller General shall provide for a further increase in the rate of basic pay of such officer or employee.

“(B) The further increase under this subsection—

“(i) shall be equal to the amount necessary to make up for the shortfall described in subparagraph (A); and

“(ii) shall take effect as of the same date as the pay increase otherwise taking effect in such year.

“(C) Nothing in this paragraph shall be considered to permit or require that a rate of basic pay be increased to an amount inconsistent with the limitation set forth in subsection (c)(2).

“(D) If (disregarding this subsection) the covered officer or employee would also have received any nonpermanent merit pay in such year, such nonpermanent merit pay shall be decreased by an amount equal to the portion of such officer's or employee's basic pay for such year which is attributable to the further increase described in subparagraph (A) (as determined by the Comptroller General), but to not less than zero.

“(3) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, the effective date of any pay increase (within the meaning of paragraph (1)(A)) taking effect with respect to a covered officer or employee in any year shall be the same as the effective date of any adjustment taking effect under section 5303 of title 5 with respect to statutory pay systems (as defined by section 5302(1) of title 5) in such year.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply with respect to any pay increase (as defined by such amendment) taking effect on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. PAY ADJUSTMENT RELATING TO CERTAIN PREVIOUS YEARS.

(a) APPLICABILITY.—This section applies in the case of any individual who, as of the date of the enactment of this Act, is an officer or employee of the Government Accountability Office, excluding—

(1) an officer or employee described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of section 4(c)(1); and

(2) an officer or employee who received both a 2.6 percent pay increase in January 2006 and a 2.4 percent pay increase in February 2007.

(b) PAY INCREASE DEFINED.—For purposes of this section, the term “pay increase”, as used with respect to an officer or employee in connection with a year, means the total increase in the rate of basic pay (expressed as a percentage) of such officer or employee, taking effect under sections 731(b) and 732(c)(3) of title 31, United States Code, in such year.

(c) PROSPECTIVE EFFECT.—Effective with respect to pay for service performed in any pay period beginning after the end of the 6-

month period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act (or such earlier date as the Comptroller General may specify), the rate of basic pay for each individual to whom this section applies shall be determined as if such individual had received both a 2.6 percent pay increase for 2006 and a 2.4 percent pay increase for 2007, subject to subsection (e).

(d) LUMP-SUM PAYMENT.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall, subject to the availability of appropriations, pay to each individual to whom this section applies a lump-sum payment. Subject to subsection (e), such lump-sum payment shall be equal to—

(1) the total amount of basic pay that would have been paid to the individual, for service performed during the period beginning on the effective date of the pay increase for 2006 and ending on the day before the effective date of the pay adjustment under subsection (c) (or, if earlier, the date on which the individual retires or otherwise ceases to be employed by the Government Accountability Office), if such individual had received both a 2.6 percent pay increase for 2006 and a 2.4 percent pay increase for 2007, minus

(2) the total amount of basic pay that was in fact paid to the individual for service performed during the period described in paragraph (1).

Eligibility for a lump-sum payment under this subsection shall be determined solely on the basis of whether an individual satisfies the requirements of subsection (a) (to be considered an individual to whom this section applies), and without regard to such individual's employment status as of any date following the date of the enactment of this Act or any other factor.

(e) CONDITIONS.—Nothing in subsection (c) or (d) shall be considered to permit or require—

(1) the payment of any rate (or lump-sum amount based on a rate) for any pay period, to the extent that such rate would be (or would have been) inconsistent with the limitation that applies (or that applied) with respect to such pay period under section 732(c)(2) of title 31, United States Code; or

(2) the payment of any rate or amount based on the pay increase for 2006 or 2007 (as the case may be), if—

(A) the performance of the officer or employee involved was not at a satisfactory level, as determined by the Comptroller General under paragraph (3) of section 732(c) of such title 31 for purposes of the adjustment under such paragraph for that year; or

(B) the individual involved was not an officer or employee of the Government Accountability Office on the date as of which that increase took effect.

As used in paragraph (2)(A), the term “satisfactory” includes a rating of “meets expectations” (within the meaning of the performance appraisal system used for purposes of the adjustment under section 732(c)(3) of such title 31 for the year involved).

(f) RETIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The lump-sum payment paid under subsection (d) to an officer or employee shall, for purposes of any determination of the average pay (as defined by section 8331 or 8401 of title 5, United States Code) which is used to compute an annuity under subchapter III of chapter 83 or chapter 84 of such title—

(A) be treated as basic pay (as defined by section 8331 or 8401 of such title); and

(B) be allocated to the biweekly pay periods covered by subsection (d).

(2) CONTRIBUTIONS.—Notwithstanding section 8334, 8422, 8423, or any other provision of