

are actually costing us jobs in recycled paper mills which should be growing our economy.

These mills, like the Catalyst paper mill in Snowflake, Arizona, cannot compete against rivals who claim Federal subsidies. Catalyst has been forced to let go more than a quarter of its workers, and is at risk of shutting down entirely.

This Congress has a duty to restore fiscal responsibility and help keep folks at work. This bill will help save jobs and eliminate waste. I urge my colleagues to give it their support.

THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF IRAN

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the turmoil continues in Iran with the little man from the desert, President Mahmud Ahmadinejad, claiming victory in the apparent fraudulent presidential elections.

Leave it to the students of Iran to continue to protest, in spite of the government's shooting of students and others who risk their lives for the human right to peaceably assemble and freedom of speech.

Backed by the government-controlled press and the religious leaders, Ahmadinejad is trying to quell the hundreds of thousands who say his claim to the imperial throne of the presidency is a fraud.

The sons of liberty and the daughters of democracy in Iran who wish to exercise the right of free speech and freedom to assemble should resolve this drama peaceably in order to ensure their human rights. And I hope our American policy would be morally and verbally supportive, as stated by President Kennedy years ago when he said, "Let every Nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we will pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, in order to ensure the survival and the success of liberty."

And that's just the way it is.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 22, 2009.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, The Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on Monday, June 22, 2009 at 5:29 p.m., and said to contain a message from the President whereby he submits a copy of a notice filed earlier with the Federal Register continuing

the emergency with respect to the Western Balkans first declared in Executive Order 13219 of June 26, 2001.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE WESTERN BALKANS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 111-51)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the Western Balkans emergency is to continue in effect beyond June 26, 2009.

The crisis constituted by the actions of persons engaged in, or assisting, sponsoring, or supporting (i) extremist violence in the Republic of Macedonia and elsewhere in the Western Balkans region, or (ii) acts obstructing implementation of the Dayton Accords in Bosnia or United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 of June 10, 1999, in Kosovo, that led to the declaration of a national emergency on June 26, 2001, in Executive Order 13219, and to amendment of that order in Executive Order 13304 of May 28, 2003, has not been resolved. The acts of extremist violence and obstructionist activity outlined in Executive Order 13219, as amended, are hostile to U.S. interests and pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to the Western Balkans and maintain in force the sanctions to respond to this threat.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 22, 2009.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2009

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 407) to increase, effective as of December 1, 2009, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 407

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2009".

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

(a) RATE ADJUSTMENT.—Effective on December 1, 2009, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall increase, in accordance with subsection (c), the dollar amounts in effect on November 30, 2009, for the payment of disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation under the provisions specified in subsection (b).

(b) AMOUNTS TO BE INCREASED.—The dollar amounts to be increased pursuant to subsection (a) are the following:

(1) WARTIME DISABILITY COMPENSATION.—Each of the dollar amounts under section 1114 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDENTS.—Each of the dollar amounts under section 1115(1) of such title.

(3) CLOTHING ALLOWANCE.—The dollar amount under section 1162 of such title.

(4) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO SURVIVING SPOUSE.—Each of the dollar amounts under subsections (a) through (d) of section 1311 of such title.

(5) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO CHILDREN.—Each of the dollar amounts under sections 1313(a) and 1314 of such title.

(c) DETERMINATION OF INCREASE.—

(1) PERCENTAGE.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), each dollar amount described in subsection (b) shall be increased by the same percentage as the percentage by which benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) are increased effective December 1, 2009, as a result of a determination under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)).

(2) ROUNDING.—Each dollar amount increased under paragraph (1), if not a whole dollar amount, shall be rounded to the next lower whole dollar amount.

(d) SPECIAL RULE.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may adjust administratively, consistent with the increases made under subsection (a), the rates of disability compensation payable to persons under section 10 of Public Law 85-857 (72 Stat. 1263) who have not received compensation under chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code.

(e) PUBLICATION OF ADJUSTED RATES.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall publish in the Federal Register the amounts specified in subsection (b), as increased under subsection (a), not later than the date on which the matters specified in section 215(i)(2)(D) of

the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)(2)(D)) are required to be published by reason of a determination made under section 215(i) of such Act during fiscal year 2010.

SEC. 3. CODIFICATION OF 2008 COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT IN RATES OF DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.

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

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “\$117” and inserting “\$123”;

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “\$230” and inserting “\$243”;

(3) in subsection (c), by striking “\$356” and inserting “\$376”;

(4) in subsection (d), by striking “\$512” and inserting “\$541”;

(5) in subsection (e), by striking “\$728” and inserting “\$770”;

(6) in subsection (f), by striking “\$921” and inserting “\$974”;

(7) in subsection (g), by striking “\$1,161” and inserting “\$1,228”;

(8) in subsection (h), by striking “\$1,349” and inserting “\$1,427”;

(9) in subsection (i), by striking “\$1,517” and inserting “\$1,604”;

(10) in subsection (j), by striking “\$2,527” and inserting “\$2,673”;

(11) in subsection (k)—

(A) by striking “\$91” both places it appears and inserting “\$96”; and

(B) by striking “\$3,145” and “\$4,412” and inserting “\$3,327” and “\$4,667”, respectively;

(12) in subsection (l), by striking “\$3,145” and inserting “\$3,327”;

(13) in subsection (m), by striking “\$3,470” and inserting “\$3,671”;

(14) in subsection (n), by striking “\$3,948” and inserting “\$4,176”;

(15) in subsections (o) and (p), by striking “\$4,412” each place it appears and inserting “\$4,667”;

(16) in subsection (r), by striking “\$1,893” and “\$2,820” and inserting “\$2,002” and “\$2,983”, respectively; and

(17) in subsection (s), by striking “\$2,829” and inserting “\$2,993”.

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

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “\$142” and inserting “\$150”;

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “\$245” and “\$71” and inserting “\$259” and “\$75”, respectively;

(3) in subparagraph (C), by striking “\$96” and “\$71” and inserting “\$101” and “\$75”, respectively;

(4) in subparagraph (D), by striking “\$114” and inserting “\$120”;

(5) in subparagraph (E), by striking “\$271” and inserting “\$286”;

(6) in subparagraph (F), by striking “\$227” and inserting “\$240”.

(c) CLOTHING ALLOWANCE FOR CERTAIN DISABLED VETERANS.—Section 1162 of such title is amended by striking “\$677” and inserting “\$716”.

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

(1) NEW LAW DIC.—Section 1311(a) of such title is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$1,091” and inserting “\$1,154”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “\$233” and inserting “\$246”.

(2) OLD LAW DIC.—The table in paragraph (3) of such section is amended to read as follows:

“Pay grade	Month-ly rate	Pay grade	Month-ly rate
E-1	\$1,154	W-4	\$1,380
E-2	\$1,154	O-1	\$1,219
E-3	\$1,154	O-2	\$1,260
E-4	\$1,154	O-3	\$1,347
E-5	\$1,154	O-4	\$1,427
E-6	\$1,154	O-5	\$1,571
E-7	\$1,194	O-6	\$1,771
E-8	\$1,260	O-7	\$1,912
E-9	\$1,314	O-8	\$2,100
W-1	\$1,219	O-9	\$2,246
W-2	\$1,267	O-10	\$2,463
W-3	\$1,305		

¹If the veteran served as sergeant major of the Army, senior enlisted advisor of the Navy, chief master sergeant of the Air Force, sergeant major of the Marine Corps, or master chief petty officer of the Coast Guard, at the applicable time designated by section 1302 of this title, the surviving spouse's rate shall be \$1,419.

²If the veteran served as Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Chief of Staff of the Army, Chief of Naval Operations, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Commandant of the Marine Corps, or Commandant of the Coast Guard, at the applicable time designated by section 1302 of this title, the surviving spouse's rate shall be \$2,643.”

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

(A) in subsection (b), by striking “\$271” and inserting “\$286”;

(B) in subsection (c), by striking “\$271” and inserting “\$286”;

(C) in subsection (d), by striking “\$128” and inserting “\$135”.

(e) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION FOR CHILDREN.—

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

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$462” and inserting “\$488”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “\$663” and inserting “\$701”;

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking “\$865” and inserting “\$915”;

(D) in paragraph (4), by striking “\$865” and “\$165” and inserting “\$915” and “\$174”, respectively.

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

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “\$271” and inserting “\$286”;

(B) in subsection (b), by striking “\$462” and inserting “\$488”;

(C) in subsection (c), by striking “\$230” and inserting “\$243”.

(f) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION PAYABLE TO PARENTS.—Section 1315 is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$163” and inserting “\$569”;

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking “\$4,038” and inserting “\$13,456”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$115” and inserting “\$412”;

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking “\$4,038” and inserting “\$13,456”;

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$109” and inserting “\$387”;

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking “\$5,430” and inserting “\$18,087”;

(4) in subsection (g), by striking “\$85” and inserting “\$308”.

(g) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on December 1, 2008.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, this is the last week before the July 4 break, and we have a series of bills to suitably commemorate July 4 with bills that will really aid our veterans who have made July 4 possible.

I rise in support of the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2009, S. 407, which is a companion to the House bill, H.R. 1533, which was introduced by one of our new members on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and sure to be one of our body's most productive members, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona. I thank the gentlelady for her leadership on this important bill.

The House leadership demonstrated its commitment to our Nation's veterans, their families, and their survivors by getting this bill to the floor, after reporting from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and by getting this companion bill, sponsored by Senator AKAKA, to the floor shortly after receipt in the House.

As it has done every year since 1976, Congress, with the passage of this measure, directs the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs to increase the rates of basic compensation for disabled veterans and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation, DIC, to their survivors and dependents along with other benefits in order to keep pace with the rising cost of living.

This disability COLA would become effective on December 1 of this year and will be equal to that provided on an annual basis to Social Security recipients. Last year, the COLA was set at 5.8 percent, an increase we all agree was direly needed, as the financial crush of the recession closed in on many of our disabled veterans' households.

While it is likely to be a lesser percentage of an increase this year, the measure will now move to the President's desk for his signature. Enactment ensures that veterans get a matching increase to the Social Security COLA on that date.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will benefit each of the nearly 3 million disabled veterans and their survivors, whether they are from the World War I era through the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

We would be derelict in our duty if we failed to guarantee that those who sacrificed so much for this country receive benefits and services that keep pace with their needs. We fund the war; let's make sure that we fund the warrior and his or her families and their survivors.

I urge my colleagues to support passage of the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act, S. 407, without delay.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I agree with the chairman in the sense that this is the perfect time of the year to bring these bills forward. These are excellent bills that will help our veterans, and I rise in strong support of S. 407, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Act of 2009.

I would like to thank my House colleagues, Mr. HALL of New York, chairman of the Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee, and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN), the ranking Republican on the subcommittee, as well as the House bill's sponsor, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona, for their leadership on H.R. 1533 which passed on March 30, 2009.

Mr. Speaker, S. 407 would increase effective as of December 1, 2009, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans. The COLA adjustment includes veterans' disability compensation, additional compensation for dependents, clothing allowance dependency, and indemnity compensation to surviving spouses and children.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important annual authorization which provides much-needed assistance to our Nation's veterans, and I encourage all of my colleagues to support the bill.

□ 1215

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Chairman John Hall and Ranking Member Doug Lamborn on these issues. I would also like to thank Committee Chairman Bob Filner and Ranking Member Steve Buyer for moving this bill forward for consideration.

I urge my colleagues to support S. 407 and yield back the balance of my time.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 407.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 407; with all good intended purpose, this bill will increase the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and rates of dependency indemnity compensation, DIC, for the survivors of certain disabled veterans. It will also increase of the Cost of Living Allowance, COLA. At this time, I would like to thank my good friend Senator DANIEL AKAKA, Chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee and majority ranking members for introducing this bill as well as the Committee Minority Member Senator RICHARD BURR who is the original cosponsor, so are Committee Members JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER IV, PATTY MURRAY, BERNARD SANDERS, SHERRON BROWN, JIM WEBB, JON TESTER, MARK BEGICH, ROLAND

BURRIS, ARLEN SPECTER, JOHNNY ISAKSON, ROGER F. WICKER, MIKE JOHANNIS, LINDSEY GRAHAM, Senators FRANK R. LAUTENBERG, BLANCHE LINCOLN, and OLYMPIA J. SNOWE.

Mr. Speaker, this very important legislation could not have come at a time then it is most critical to address the needs of service-connected disabled veterans and survivors during these challenging economic times in our country. The testimonies offered by Bradley G. Mayes, Director, Compensation and Pension Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veteran Affairs, etc., in the April 29, 2009 Committee hearing have further substantiated this measure and all voted in favor without dissent.

This measure will also mandate an increase in the Cost of Living Allowance, COLA, for our disabled veterans and survivors.

Mr. Speaker, it is very important that we take care of our veterans. According to VA, as set forth in its fiscal year 2010 budget, the department will provide disability compensation to 3,154,217 veterans with service-connected disabilities in fiscal year 2010. I am pleased with the undivided attention we give to this legislation which underscores how much we appreciate our veterans' selfless military service to protect our country and the freedom and liberty we enjoy.

Again, I thank Senator DANIEL AKAKA and his Veterans Committee for this legislation and strongly urge my colleagues for their full support.

Mr. FILNER. I urge my colleagues to unanimously support S. 407.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 407.

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. BOOZMAN. 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.

WEB SITE INCLUSION OF VA SCHOLARSHIPS

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1172) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to include on the Internet website of the Department of Veterans Affairs a list of organizations that provide scholarships to veterans and their survivors, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1172

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

SECTION 1. PAT TILLMAN VETERANS' SCHOLARSHIP INITIATIVE.

(a) AVAILABILITY OF SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION.—By not later than June 1, 2010, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall include on the Internet website of the Department of Veterans Affairs—

(1) a list of organizations that provide scholarships to veterans and their survivors and, for each such organization, a link to the Internet website of the organization;

(2) a statement that the information described in paragraph (1) is not an all-inclusive list of scholarships available to veterans and their survivors; and

(3) a statement that the Secretary has not verified the information available on the Internet websites of the organizations referred to in paragraph (1) and that the Secretary does not endorse any offer made by any sponsor of any such the website.

(b) MAINTENANCE OF SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall make reasonable efforts to notify schools and other appropriate entities of the opportunity to be included on the Internet website of the Department of Veterans Affairs pursuant to subsection (a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

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

I thank the Speaker and also I thank my distinguished colleague from Arkansas, Congressman BOOZMAN, for introducing this bill, H.R. 1172, and for his bipartisan leadership working as the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity with Chair STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN of South Dakota. That committee is, I think, a model of bipartisan cooperation and we thank the gentleman from Arkansas for his efforts in that regard.

As many veterans service organizations have testified to our committee, the lack of program awareness continues to be a major barrier preventing veterans from accessing the benefits they have earned. The same is also true for non-VA related education assistance such as grants and scholarships. This legislation provides a common-sense solution to provide useful scholarship information to our Nation's veterans and their dependents. Providing a list of all available scholarships on the VA Web site will allow veteran advocates to reach a larger population and simplify the search for veterans and their families.

I am confident our Internet savvy veterans will come to rely on this tool to obtain up-to-date information on how to supplement their education benefits administered by the VA. Again I thank Congressman BOOZMAN for introducing this bill. I urge all my colleagues to join us.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1172, as amended, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to include on the Internet Web site of the Department of Veterans Affairs a list of organizations that provide scholarships to veterans and their survivors.

Mr. Speaker, the goal of this bill, H.R. 1172, is to provide a place on the VA Web site that lists as many sources