

This section, which is but a ghost of the proposal submitted by President Obama, is a small but important step in expanding the population eligible for full concurrent receipt. I'm glad some progress is being made.

What troubles and disappoints me most, however, is that this bill, which will be attached to the National Defense Authorization Act for 2010, could have done so much more had the Democratic leadership of the House made elimination of concurrent receipt and elimination of the widow's tax a priority from the beginning of this Congress.

Instead, we were unable to even debate my amendment at the full committee markup of the Defense Authorization dealing with concurrent receipt, the elimination of the Survivor Benefit Plan and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation offset is a widow's tax, the extension of health care to early retiring Reserve component members, and the use of the misnamed Reserve Fund in the budget resolution.

I would note that since the introduction of the amendment, the Democratic leadership has found a way to fund H.R. 2990, using resources and dollars outside the House Armed Services Committee jurisdiction to provide for just 9 months of very limited concurrent receipt for disabled military retirees.

While that is a step forward to eliminating some of the injustice inflicted on disabled retirees, it does nothing to cure the injustice still being suffered by most persons losing their rightly earned benefits because of the remaining concurrent receipt prohibitions.

Had the House leadership seen eliminating these injustices as a priority, they could have allocated a small percentage—less than 1 percent—necessary in the \$15 trillion they provided for government spending in 2010 to 2014. Or, they could have used the Reserve Fund authority as proposed in my amendment.

□ 1115

Instead we must settle for a small pittance for a small group of retirees. I hope that since the authority for this limited concurrent receipt is for only 9 months, that the Democratic leadership makes resolving all the concurrent receipt and SBP-DIC offset injustices a real, not a symbolic, priority next year. As a Nation, we owe more than our gratitude to the brave men and women in uniform and their families, past and present, for the sacrifices they make to protect our freedoms. I know firsthand of the courage of our troops. My late father-in-law Julian Dusenbury, a dedicated Marine, was awarded the Navy Cross for leading the capture of the Japanese headquarters of Shuri Castle in Okinawa. He was shot by a sniper, resulting in his being in a wheelchair for the rest of his life. He was grateful to have served America.

With that, Madam Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia, Dr. BROUN.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to adjourn.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 73, nays 316, not voting 44, as follows:

[Roll No. 425]

YEAS—73

Aderholt  
Akin  
Alexander  
Austria  
Barrett (SC)  
Bartlett  
Barton (TX)  
Blackburn  
Boehner  
Broun (GA)  
Burton (IN)  
Calvert  
Camp  
Capito  
Carter  
Chaffetz  
Childers  
Clay  
Coffman (CO)  
Cole  
Deal (GA)  
Fallin  
Flake  
Fleming  
Gallegly  
Garrett (NJ)  
Goodlatte  
Granger  
Harper  
Hastings (WA)  
Hensarling  
Inglis  
Issa  
Jenkins  
Johnson, Sam  
King (IA)  
Kingston  
Kline (MN)  
Lamborn  
Lewis (CA)  
McKeon  
McMorris  
Rodgers  
Miller, Gary  
Neugebauer  
Nunes  
Olson  
Paul  
Pence  
Petri

Pitts  
Radanovich  
Roe (TN)  
Rogers (AL)  
Ryan (WI)  
Schmidt  
Schock  
Sensenbrenner  
Sessions  
Shadegg  
Shimkus  
Shuster  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (TX)  
Souder  
Stearns  
Teague  
Thompson (PA)  
Thornberry  
Tiahrt  
Turner  
Wamp  
Young (AK)  
Young (FL)

NAYS—316

Abercrombie  
Ackerman  
Adler (NJ)  
Altmire  
Andrews  
Arcuri  
Baca  
Bachmann  
Baird  
Baldwin  
Barrow  
Bean  
Becerra  
Berkley  
Berry  
Biggert  
Bilbray  
Bilirakis  
Bishop (GA)  
Bishop (NY)  
Bishop (UT)  
Blumenauer  
Blunt  
Bocchieri  
Bonner  
Bono Mack  
Boozman  
Boren  
Boswell  
Boustany  
Boyd  
Brady (PA)  
Bralley (IA)  
Bright  
Brown (SC)  
Brown, Corrine  
Brown-Waite,  
Ginny  
Buchanan  
Butterfield  
Buyer  
Cantor  
Cao  
Capps  
Capuano  
Carnahan  
Carney  
Carson (IN)  
Cassidy  
Castle  
Castor (FL)  
Chandler  
Cleave  
Clyburn  
Coble  
Cohen  
Conaway  
Connolly (VA)  
Cooper  
Costello  
Courtney  
Crenshaw  
Crowley  
Cuellar  
Culberson  
Cummings  
Dahlkemper  
Davis (AL)  
Davis (CA)  
Davis (IL)  
Davis (KY)  
Davis (TN)  
DeFazio  
DeGette  
DeLauro  
Dent  
Diaz-Balart, L.  
Diaz-Balart, M.  
Dicks  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Donnelly (IN)  
Dreier  
Driehaus  
Duncan  
Edwards (MD)  
Ehlers  
Ellison  
Ellsworth  
Emerson  
Engel  
Eshoo  
Etheridge  
Farr  
Fattah  
Filner  
Forbes  
Fortenberry  
Foster  
Fox  
Franks (AZ)  
Frelinghuysen  
Fudge  
Gerlach  
Giffords  
Gonzalez  
Gordon (TN)  
Graves  
Grayson  
Green, Al  
Green, Gene  
Griffith  
Guthrie  
Gutierrez  
Hall (NY)  
Hall (TX)  
Halvorson  
Hare  
Hastings (FL)  
Heinrich  
Heller  
Heger  
Herseth Sandlin  
Hill  
Himes  
Hinchev  
Hinojosa  
Hirono  
Hodes  
Hoekstra  
Holden  
Holt  
Honda  
Hunter  
Inslie  
Israel  
Jackson (IL)  
Jackson-Lee  
(TX)  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson, E. B.  
Jones  
Jordan (OH)  
Kagen

Kanjorski  
Kaptur  
Kildee  
Kilpatrick (MI)  
Kilroy  
Kind  
King (NY)  
Kirk  
Kirkpatrick (AZ)  
Kissell  
Klein (FL)  
Kosmas  
Kratovich  
Kucinich  
Lance  
Langevin  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Latham  
LaTourette  
Latta  
Lee (CA)  
Lee (NY)  
Levin  
Linder  
Lipinski  
LoBiondo  
Loebach  
Lofgren, Zoe  
Lowey  
Luetkemeyer  
Lujan  
Lummis  
Lungren, Daniel  
E.  
Lynch  
Mack  
Maffei  
Manzullo  
Markey (CO)  
Markey (MA)  
Marshall  
Massa  
Matheson  
McCarthy (CA)  
McCarthy (NY)  
McClintock  
McCollum  
McCotter  
McDermott  
McGovern  
McHugh  
McIntyre  
McMahon  
McNerney  
Meek (FL)  
Meeke (NY)  
Melancon  
Mica  
Michaud  
Miller (FL)  
Miller (MI)  
Miller, George  
Minnick  
Mitchell  
Mollohan  
Moore (KS)  
Moran (KS)  
Murphy (NY)  
Murphy, Patrick  
Murphy, Tim  
Murtha  
Myrick  
Nadler (NY)  
Napolitano  
Neal (MA)  
Nye  
Oberstar  
Obey  
Ortiz  
Pallone  
Pastor (AZ)  
Paulsen  
Payne  
Perlmutter  
Perriello  
Peters  
Peterson  
Pingree (ME)  
Platts  
Poe (TX)  
Polis (CO)  
Pomeroy  
Posey  
Price (GA)  
Price (NC)  
Putnam  
Quigley  
Rahall  
Rangel  
Rehberg  
Reichert  
Reyes  
Richardson  
Rodriguez  
Rogers (KY)  
Rogers (MI)  
Rohrabacher  
Rooney  
Ros-Lehtinen  
Roskam  
Ross  
Rothman (NJ)  
Roybal-Allard  
Royce  
Ruppersberger  
Rush  
Ryan (OH)  
Wu

Salazar  
Sanchez, Linda  
T.  
Sanchez, Loretta  
Scalise  
Schakowsky  
Schauer  
Schiff  
Schradler  
Schwartz  
Scott (GA)  
Scott (VA)  
Serrano  
Sestak  
Sherman  
Shuler  
Simpson  
Sires  
Skelton  
Slaughter  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (WA)  
Snyder  
Space  
Speier  
Spratt  
Stark  
Sutton  
Tanner  
Tauscher  
Taylor  
Terry  
Thompson (CA)  
Tiberi  
Titus  
Tonko  
Townes  
Tsongas  
Upton  
Van Hollen  
Velázquez  
Visclosky  
Walden  
Walz  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters  
Watt  
Weiner  
Welch  
Westmoreland  
Wexler  
Whitfield  
Wilson (OH)  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Wolf  
Woolsey  
Wu

NOT VOTING—44

Bachus  
Berman  
Boucher  
Brady (TX)  
Burgess  
Campbell  
Cardoza  
Clarke  
Conyers  
Costa  
Delahunt  
Doyle  
Edwards (TX)  
Frank (MA)  
Gingrey (GA)  
Gohmert  
Grijalva  
Harman  
Higgins  
Hoyer  
Johnson (IL)  
Kennedy  
Lewis (GA)  
Lucas  
Maloney  
Marchant  
Matsui  
McCaul  
McHenry  
Miller (NC)  
Moore (WI)  
Moran (VA)  
Murphy (CT)  
Oliver  
Pascrell  
Sarbanes  
Shea-Porter  
Stupak  
Sullivan  
Thompson (MS)  
Tierney  
Watson  
Waxman  
Yarmuth

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE  
The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Florida) (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1140

Messrs. BUYER, BONNER, BOYD, POMEROY, Mrs. BIGGERT, Messrs. PETERSON, CANTOR, DICKS, WEST-MORELAND, and Ms. HIRONO changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

So the motion to adjourn was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 425, I was attending a classified briefing. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

**DISABLED MILITARY RETIREE  
RELIEF ACT OF 2009**

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. TAUSCHER). The gentleman from Missouri has 16 minutes remaining; the gentleman from South Carolina has 16¼ minutes remaining.

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

This is a very, very important bill, particularly important to disabled American veterans. I notice we have had two adjournment motions already. I hope we can take this bill up because those young and young women deserve it.

Special thanks to the Speaker, Leader HOYER, Chairman TOWNS, Chairman SPRATT, Chairman RAHALL, Chairman GORDON, Chairman WAXMAN, Chairman MARKEY, Mr. LYNCH, SUSAN DAVIS, and Mr. EDWARDS for all the help that they have given us on this very complicated, very important matter for our disabled veterans.

At this time, Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to my friend and colleague, the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS).

Mr. TOWNS. I thank the gentleman from Missouri for yielding.

Madam Speaker, as Chair of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, I rise in support of H.R. 2990. I am pleased the legislation we are considering today will assist the men and women of our Armed Forces by permitting disabled military retirees to receive both their disability compensation and their retired pay concurrently.

Let me pause and thank Chairman SKELTON for working closely with the Oversight Committee on title II of this legislation. Title II makes several positive changes to the retirement system for Federal employees. These changes will enhance the system's efficiency and effectiveness as a recruiting and management tool when we need to be attracting the best and the brightest to the Federal workforce.

Most of title II's provisions were included in H.R. 1804, a bill I sponsored that passed the House by a unanimous voice vote on April 1. After passing the House, the retirement provisions were added to the landmark tobacco legislation that President Obama signed into law this week. Unfortunately, they were removed for procedural reasons in the Senate version of the tobacco bill that President Obama signed.

I am delighted we have the opportunity to consider these measures again today. Title II includes provisions to eliminate inconsistency in the way part-time service, breaks in service, and unused sick leave are considered in calculating retirement benefits.

These provisions will help employees and managers plan for a wave of upcoming retirements and encourage highly talented individuals to return to government service.

I thank the staff of both committees. I thank Chairman SKELTON for his support. And I urge all of my colleagues to vote for this very important legislation. And I hope that the other side stops calling for adjournments because this bill is very, very important and we need to move it forward.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL).

□ 1145

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I stand here to speak on this bill. I have some misgivings about it. But I intend to vote for this bill. I can't vote against this bill because it benefits people that have served this country and that have suffered for this country. And I have never, in the 28 years I have been here, voted for a bill that affected adversely any veteran or any person that stood up for this country, and I admire and respect Mr. SKELTON, the author of this bill. I disagree with the way he has funded it and want to point that out.

I would also point out that I have a letter addressed to Mr. SKELTON. He has not had the time to receive it because this bill was introduced yesterday, and it is on the floor today. That is a little hasty. But this is an important bill, and it is a bill that needs to be passed. But I'm torn today as I rise to speak on H.R. 2990. On the one hand, I support the revisions in the bill, retired pay benefits for Reserve members and compensation and benefits for servicemembers. But where I'm torn is how the chairman, my good friend, Mr. SKELTON, chose to pay for the compensation and benefits provided under the bill.

I will first point out that this is a bill for the veterans, and this is a bill for those that probably without this bill would not have the assistance that they need, that they deserve and that they are entitled to.

I would also say that as a veteran of World War II, and probably one of about four or five on this floor still here, five or six over in the Senate, there are not very many of us left, but I take no backseat to anybody in supporting veterans. I have a veterans' hospital that my predecessor, Sam Rayburn, provided and benefited. And I have had the pleasure of walking in a mass of walkathons to preserve that hospital, from Bonham, Texas, where Mr. Rayburn lived, to Dallas, to protest cuts in it, as anybody here would. Anybody on this floor has to support the purpose of this bill, which is for those that are suffering.

The major desire of those that have served in any war is that no other generation would have to fight such a war and that we remove the causes of war.

And probably the greatest duty of a Member of Congress is to prevent a war. And how do you prevent a war? You prevent a war by removing the causes of it. And energy itself, or the lack of it, has been the cause of most wars that I know anything about. Japan didn't hate this country. Japan loved this country. But our country had cut off their access to oil. They had 13 months' national existence. We had to know that Japan would break out somewhere. That was a war over energy, not the hatred of the United States of America. Twelve or fourteen years ago, George Bush, Senior, sent 450,000 of our troops over to Kuwait. That was not a battle for the emir of Kuwait. We don't care anything at all about the emir of Kuwait. That was to keep a bad guy, Saddam Hussein, from getting his foot on half the known mineral reserves and energy of that area over there. That was a war for energy.

So I have a bill that I passed. I passed it as a Democrat once, it failed, it didn't get through. I passed it as a Republican with Democratic and Republican support. It passed this body. The chairman, IKE SKELTON, voted for it at the time. And that bill is now underway. And I want to say a few words about that bill because I think you're entitled to know, and I'm very hopeful that the other body will look closely at this. And I'm going to be working toward that. I haven't had the time or the opportunity to work toward it, and neither did I have the incentive to do anything to kill this bill.

I urge everybody within the sound of my voice to vote for this bill and to commend IKE SKELTON for his leadership and his devotion to the men and women that fight for this country and care for this country.

I think unfortunately regarding this bill, he chose to redirect the funds which by law, Public Law 109-58, a law that passed the House 275-156, a law that Chairman SKELTON voted for, are reserved for the Ultra-Deepwater and Unconventional Onshore Natural Gas and Other Petroleum Research and Development Program, also known as section 999.

Now the hard, cold facts about it that brought that bill into being was that we can get energy up from the coastal waters. We can get it up to around 80 or 90, 900 feet. And this bill, without the technology, could not get it to the surface where we could benefit from it. But we knew that the energy was there. And we knew that technology was there. And the bill I introduced is not an energy bill nor a technology bill. It puts the two together. And it pays universities, and there are 26 universities in this country, and I'm going to mention some of those in a few minutes, that stepped forward, that are working within this bill and have put 3 years work into it.

I just think that we need to remember section 999. It has achieved a lot since its enactment. It passed, and it passed the bill. It was in the bill that