

resolution which fall within its Rule X jurisdiction.

Please place this letter and a copy of your response into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our respective committees.

Very truly yours,

IKE SKELTON,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 28, 2010.

Hon. IKE SKELTON,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SKELTON: Thank you for your letter regarding House Resolution 1228, "Honoring the veterans of Helicopter Attack Light Squadron Three and their families." The measure was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and sequentially referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

I agree that the Committee on Armed Services has certain valid jurisdictional claims to this resolution, and I appreciate your decision to waive further consideration of H. Res. 1228 in the interest of expediting consideration of this important measure. I agree that by agreeing to waive further consideration, the Committee on Armed Services is not waiving its jurisdictional claims over similar measures in the future.

During consideration of this measure on the House floor, I will ask that this exchange of letters be included in the Congressional Record.

Sincerely,

BOB FILNER,
Chairman.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, at this point I would like to yield such time as he may consume to the author of this legislation, H.R. 1228, Dr. BOOZMAN of Arkansas. He was former chairman and now ranking member of the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. BOOZMAN. I want to thank Ranking Member BUYER for yielding, and then also I want to thank the chairman, Mr. FILNER, and Ranking Member BUYER for allowing us to bring this resolution forward.

Madam Speaker, I was proud to introduce House Resolution 1228, honoring the veterans of Helicopter Attack Light Squadron Three and their families to recognize the veterans' sacrifices and service to America during the Vietnam War.

Despite the controversy surrounding the Vietnam War, most of the officers and enlisted men who served in the HAL-3 were volunteers. Most of the pilots were fresh out of flight training in Pensacola and most of the junior enlisted were recent graduates of Navy boot camp and technical training schools. Their leaders were also new to combat, coming mostly from shipped-based helicopter squadrons normally assigned to track submarines and haul supplies.

HAL-3 fought from 1967 to 1972. In that time, they earned the respect of Army and Navy units throughout the Mekong Delta for their courage under

fire and their dedication to supporting their comrades on the ground and in small boats patrolling the canals and rivers. They supported Army troop insertions and extractions. Navy SEALs counted on their support in tight situations. Wounded sailors and soldiers benefited from battlefield medivacs. In short, the Seawolves mastered every form of combat helicopter operations.

Here are some of the statistics from the resolution: the nine detachments and home guard of HAL-3 flew 130,000 flight hours in 5 years. They performed 1,530 medical evacuations, inflicted thousands of casualties on enemy forces, transported 37,000 passengers, and hauled a million pounds of cargo. In accomplishing those milestones with a fleet of castoff gun ships and a few slicks, the veterans of HAL-3 were awarded 156 Purple Hearts, five Navy Crosses, 31 Silver Stars, 219 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 101 Bronze Stars, 142 Vietnam Gallantry Crosses, 16,000 Air Medals, and numerous other awards, including six Presidential Unit Citations, the highest recognition given to military units.

Like any combat operation, there was a cost; 44 Seawolves lost their lives and are among the 58,000 immortalized on the Vietnam Memorial. Today, the children and grandchildren of those brave souls can be justifiably proud of the heritage of courage and sacrifice of their fathers and grandfathers.

Madam Speaker, I would especially like to mention citizens of Arkansas who served with HAL-3: George Blackwell, Frank W. Butler, Wayne Campbell, Johnny P. Cruse, James L. Keyes, Terry A. McMellon, William J. Mulcahy, Charles Osborne, James N. Prater, and Mack Thomas. It's been an honor to bring this resolution honoring the HAL-3 Seawolves to the House, and I strongly urge my colleagues to add their names to the roster of those recognizing these American sailors.

□ 1230

Mr. BUYER. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

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

Mr. BUYER. I thank the gentleman for bringing this.

I also want to recognize Hoosiers who also shared danger of combat above the rice paddies and the forests of the Mekong Delta; those who served with HAL-3 from Indiana: J. Howard Cook, Rick Hodge, Melvin Howell, Thomas H. Jackson, Robert L. Redman, and Jay Wakeland.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 1228, Honoring the Veterans of Helicopter Attack Light Squadron Three and Their Families and want to express my appreciation to Dr. BOOZMAN for introducing this resolution.

This weekend, we celebrate the 234th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Over the years, our freedoms and the interests of the United States have been defended by over 40 million men and

women and of those, over 1 million have died and 1.6 million have been wounded. I find it ironic that something as beautiful as freedom must be maintained by something as horrible as war.

Within those millions, there is a small group of Navy veterans who hold a unique place in the Navy's history. Those are the veterans of Helicopter Attack Squadron Three, better known as the HAL-3 Seawolves, the only active duty attack helicopter squadron in the Navy's history.

Using hand-me-down Army UH-1B gunships, Seawolf pilots and gunners provided air cover for Navy and Army brown water units in the Mekong Delta of Vietnam. From the squadron's commissioning in 1967 to its decommissioning in 1972, nearly 3,000 sailors wore the black beret of HAL-3, and 44 of those courageous combat veterans are listed among the dead on the Vietnam War Memorial here in Washington. Another 156 were awarded the Purple Heart for their wounds.

These veterans came from every state and every socio-economic background. Most were in their late teens and twenties. Among the officers, most wore the silver bars of a lieutenant junior grade. Most of the enlisted men were airmen and junior petty officers. They were lead by a core of officers and Chief Petty Officers who cared for them, trained them, and shared the dangers of combat above the rice paddies and forests of the Mekong Delta. The sailors who provided maintenance and administrative support to the flight crews were essential to keeping the helicopters flying and are equally worthy of our recognition.

I would especially like to recognize several Hoosiers who served in HAL-3: J. Howard Cook, Rick Hodge, Melvin Howell, Thomas H. Jackson, Robert L. Redman, Jay Wakeland.

Madam Speaker, House Resolution honors the service of all the veterans of HAL-3 and the families of these veterans for their support. We also express our condolences to the families of those 44 who gave the full measure of devotion and finally recognize the Seawolves' unique place in Naval Aviation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, 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 agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1228, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. FILNER. Madam 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.

ALEJANDRO RENTERIA RUIZ DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CLINIC

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4307) to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based

outpatient clinic in Artesia, New Mexico, as the "Alejandro Renteria Ruiz Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4307

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

SECTION 1. NAME OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMUNITY-BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC, ARTESIA, NEW MEXICO.

The Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Artesia, New Mexico, shall, after the date that is 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, be known and designated as the "Alejandro Renteria Ruiz Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic". Any reference to such clinic in any law, regulation, map, document, record, or other paper of the United States shall be considered to be a reference to the Alejandro Renteria Ruiz Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FILNER. 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 the bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, sponsored by Mr. TEAGUE of New Mexico, that names the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Artesia, New Mexico, as the Alejandro Renteria Ruiz Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic.

Alejandro Ruiz of Loving, New Mexico, enlisted as an infantryman in the United States Army in 1944. He went on to serve with the 27th Infantry Division in the Pacific theatre of operations during the Second World War.

While advancing with his unit on the island of Okinawa, Private First Class Ruiz and his fellow soldiers came under intense automatic weapons fire from an enemy fighting position on the slopes of a narrow ravine.

In response, Ruiz exposed himself to the hail of bullets on his own initiative and stormed the enemy position. After being repulsed once, he returned to gather more ammunition and made a second assault on the pillbox, singlehandedly neutralizing the enemy position and saving the lives of his fellow soldiers.

For his actions on Okinawa, Private First Class Alejandro Renteria Ruiz was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, which was presented to him by President Truman on June 26, 1946, at the White House in Washington, DC.

Mr. Ruiz went on to serve in the Korean War and eventually retired from the Army as a Master Sergeant in the 1960s.

I'm sad to say that Mr. Ruiz passed away shortly before this bill was formally introduced, but I am very proud to honor his legacy of courage and patriotism by supporting H.R. 4307.

I urge the House to join Mr. TEAGUE in support of this bill and help to commemorate the valor of this great American.

I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. TEAGUE) to explain the bill.

Mr. TEAGUE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of my bill, H.R. 4307, which would name the VA veterans health clinic in Artesia, New Mexico, in honor of Alejandro Renteria Ruiz, a southern New Mexican who was awarded the Medal of Honor during World War II.

Alejandro Ruiz was ultimately a sergeant in the United States Army. He was born and raised in Loving, New Mexico, down in southern Eddy County. When war broke out, he traveled north to Carlsbad and enlisted in the Army. After basic training, he was assigned to the 27th Infantry Division.

The 27th Infantry Division was part of the largest amphibious operation in the Pacific theater, the Allied invasion of Okinawa, code name Operation Iceberg. It was during this invasion that, on April 28, 1945, Private Ruiz' unit was pinned down by machine gun fire from a camouflaged Japanese pillbox. They were unable to advance until Ruiz grabbed an automatic rifle and charged the pillbox, right in the face of machine gun fire and grenades. Unfortunately, his rifle jammed, and one of the enemies attacked Ruiz. Without hesitation, he used the rifle as a club and beat back his enemy. Ruiz then returned to his original position, all the while under fire from machine guns and grenades from the pillbox. On his second attempt to free his unit, Ruiz was able to overtake the enemy pillbox and save the lives of fellow soldiers.

For his actions, he was awarded the Medal of Honor, which was presented to him by President Truman on June 26, 1946, in a ceremony at the White House.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I stand before you to honor this American hero. We should all work every day to remember individuals like Sergeant Ruiz. He and the multitudes of his fellow Americans who battled for the freedom of Europe, Asia, and the Americas left the world a legacy of liberty, security, and prosperity.

After the war, Sergeant Ruiz would tell the story of how he came to serve in the Army. As a young man working for a cattle farmer in Carlsbad, he was told to transport an animal to another farm. Now, I am as familiar with the long, lonely roads of southern New Mexico as much as anyone is, and I can tell you, your mind wanders on those long drives. That day more than a half a century ago, Mr. Ruiz' mind wandered to thoughts of a girlfriend. Well, those thoughts in mind, he drove straight to Barstow, Texas, 122 miles away, to speak with that young

woman, and he brought the cow with him. Seeing as he'd now stolen a cow, Mr. Ruiz was detained, and the judge told Mr. Ruiz he would either be sent to jail for taking the cow or he could enlist in the Army. He chose the Army.

Sergeant Ruiz died on November 20, 2009. He was survived by two children, Selia Ruiz and Alejandro Ruiz, Jr., a sister, seven grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, Sergeant Ruiz was a member of the Greatest Generation. As that generation grows older and many of them leave this Earth, it is important that their sacrifices, their acts of heroism, their accomplishments, and, of course, their names not be forgotten. It would be a great mistake for us to forget how the lives we live today, the freedoms we cherish, and the comforts we enjoy were earned by the heroism of Sergeant Ruiz, the blood of his fellow soldiers, and the sacrifice of an entire Nation.

Madam Speaker, upon enactment of this bill, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic located at 1700 West Main Street in Artesia, New Mexico, will bear the name of Alejandro Renteria Ruiz, the son, citizen, and defender of a grateful Nation.

I thank Chairman FILNER for his support, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

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

Mr. BUYER. I would like to thank Mr. TEAGUE for bringing this legislation and thank Mr. FILNER for bringing it to the floor.

Any time I get to read the history and hear the stories of such extraordinary Americans, it's only fitting that we can actually place their name on such buildings that are going to be able to care for so many people. This is a very fitting memorial to his service to country.

Today, I rise in support of H.R. 4307, a bill to rename the Artesia Community Outpatient Clinic after Alejandro Renteria Ruiz, a much decorated World War II veteran who served in the Pacific theater and is a recipient of the Medal of Honor.

Ruiz received the Medal of Honor during the World War II conquest of the Japanese island of Okinawa on April 28, 1945. Master Sgt. Ruiz summoned the courage to charge a Japanese pillbox under a hail of machine gun fire and was able to neutralize it. He singlehandedly saved the lives of his 165th infantry comrades and eliminated an obstacle that would have checked his unit's advance. When his comrades recommended him for the Medal of Honor, Ruiz did not want to hear their accolades, instead choosing to focus on daily battles in Okinawa. Such courage and humility makes for an extraordinary person and soldier.

Ruiz is a hero who continued to serve his nation in the military, serving in the Korean War and retiring as a Master Sergeant in the mid 1960s. He lived at the Veterans Home in Yountville, Calif., near Napa and recently passed away on November 20th, 2009.

Ruiz frequently attended veteran reunions once he retired from the military, as well as Veteran Commemorate Conventions to honor his comrades. At these conventions, he stressed the importance of Japanese and American cooperation and understanding. Even though he had fought the Japanese during the war, he agreed that today America and Japan are friends and allies and fervently upheld a message of peace.

Ruiz is also among forty-three men of Hispanic heritage who have been awarded the Medal of Honor. His story should inspire every American.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4307. Passage of this bill is an appropriate way to honor a great American. I thank Mr. TEAGUE for introducing this bill, and Chairman FILNER for moving this bill to the floor for consideration.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FILNER. I thank the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. TEAGUE) for bringing us this important resolution.

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, H.R. 4307.

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. FILNER. Madam 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.

□ 1240

RESTORATION OF EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION ACT OF 2010

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5618) to continue Federal unemployment programs.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5618

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 "Restoration of Emergency Unemployment Compensation Act of 2010".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PROVISIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) Section 4007 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended—

(A) by striking "June 2, 2010" each place it appears and inserting "November 30, 2010";

(B) in the heading for subsection (b)(2), by striking "JUNE 2, 2010" and inserting "NOVEMBER 30, 2010"; and

(C) in subsection (b)(3), by striking "November 6, 2010" and inserting "April 30, 2011".

(2) Section 2005 of the Assistance for Unemployed Workers and Struggling Families Act, as contained in Public Law 111-5 (26 U.S.C. 3304 note; 123 Stat. 444), is amended—

(A) by striking "June 2, 2010" each place it appears and inserting "December 1, 2010"; and

(B) in subsection (c), by striking "November 6, 2010" and inserting "May 1, 2011".

(3) Section 5 of the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-449; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended by striking "November 6, 2010" and inserting "April 30, 2011".

(b) FUNDING.—Section 4004(e)(1) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (D), by striking "and" at the end; and

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (E) the following:

"(F) the amendments made by section 2(a)(1) of the Restoration of Emergency Unemployment Compensation Act of 2010; and".

(c) CONDITIONS FOR RECEIVING EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION.—Section 4001(d)(2) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended, in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting before "shall apply" the following: "(including terms and conditions relating to availability for work, active search for work, and refusal to accept work)".

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the Continuing Extension Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-157).

SEC. 3. COORDINATION OF EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION WITH REGULAR COMPENSATION.

(a) CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS NOT INELIGIBLE BY REASON OF NEW ENTITLEMENT TO REGULAR BENEFITS.—Section 4002 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(g) COORDINATION OF EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION WITH REGULAR COMPENSATION.—

"(1) If—

"(A) an individual has been determined to be entitled to emergency unemployment compensation with respect to a benefit year,

"(B) that benefit year has expired,

"(C) that individual has remaining entitlement to emergency unemployment compensation with respect to that benefit year, and

"(D) that individual would qualify for a new benefit year in which the weekly benefit amount of regular compensation is at least either \$100 or 25 percent less than the individual's weekly benefit amount in the benefit year referred to in subparagraph (A), then the State shall determine eligibility for compensation as provided in paragraph (2).

"(2) For individuals described in paragraph (1), the State shall determine whether the individual is to be paid emergency unemployment compensation or regular compensation for a week of unemployment using one of the following methods:

"(A) The State shall, if permitted by State law, establish a new benefit year, but defer the payment of regular compensation with respect to that new benefit year until exhaustion of all emergency unemployment compensation payable with respect to the benefit year referred to in paragraph (1)(A);

"(B) The State shall, if permitted by State law, defer the establishment of a new benefit year (which uses all the wages and employment which would have been used to establish a benefit year but for the application of this paragraph), until exhaustion of all emergency unemployment compensation payable with respect to the benefit year referred to in paragraph (1)(A);

"(C) The State shall pay, if permitted by State law—

"(i) regular compensation equal to the weekly benefit amount established under the new benefit year; and

"(ii) emergency unemployment compensation equal to the difference between that weekly benefit amount and the weekly benefit amount for the expired benefit year; or

"(D) The State shall determine rights to emergency unemployment compensation without regard to any rights to regular compensation if the individual elects to not file a claim for regular compensation under the new benefit year."

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to individuals whose benefit years, as described in section 4002(g)(1)(B) the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note), as amended by this section, expire after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4. REQUIRING STATES TO NOT REDUCE REGULAR COMPENSATION IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDS UNDER THE EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION PROGRAM.

Section 4001 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(g) NONREDUCTION RULE.—An agreement under this section shall not apply (or shall cease to apply) with respect to a State upon a determination by the Secretary that the method governing the computation of regular compensation under the State law of that State has been modified in a manner such that—

"(1) the average weekly benefit amount of regular compensation which will be payable during the period of the agreement occurring on or after June 2, 2010 (determined disregarding any additional amounts attributable to the modification described in section 2002(b)(1) of the Assistance for Unemployed Workers and Struggling Families Act, as contained in Public Law 111-5 (26 U.S.C. 3304 note; 123 Stat. 438)), will be less than

"(2) the average weekly benefit amount of regular compensation which would otherwise have been payable during such period under the State law, as in effect on June 2, 2010."

SEC. 5. BUDGETARY PROVISIONS.

(a) STATUTORY PAYGO.—The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled 'Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation' for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

(b) EMERGENCY DESIGNATIONS.—Sections 2 and 3—

(1) are designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4(g) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-139; 2 U.S.C. 933(g));

(2) in the House of Representatives, are designated as an emergency for purposes of pay-as-you-go principles; and

(3) in the Senate, are designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 403(a) of S. Con. Res. 13 (111th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2010.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN).

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the