

and the Senate to reauthorize the cotton trust fund as soon as possible. Despite this omission, though, the Omnibus Trade Act of 2010 is a good, job-creating bill that will keep American workers competitive in this tough economy we find ourselves in.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is about jobs: good jobs in American manufacturing, good jobs for workers in export industries, and job training for those negatively impacted by trade. It adjusts tariffs to ensure our manufacturing businesses can compete in the world markets, and supports fair trade for American companies. At a time when the unemployment rate remains unacceptably high, this bill creates jobs and retrains workers for new careers.

Manufacturing is a leading sector of the economy in my State of North Carolina and will be important to the Nation's economy as a whole as we continue the recovery. Throughout this Congress I have been proud to support measures that strengthen our manufacturing industry. In order to grow our economy, we must have manufacturing jobs that allow many Americans the chance to earn good wages. By suspending or reducing duties on over 290 products that are used as inputs or components in domestically manufactured goods, this bill lowers production costs for our manufacturers and helps to level the playing field with our international competitors.

I am pleased that this bill provides assistance and training to workers adversely affected by trade. Trade Adjustment Assistance provides training and associated income support to individuals in need of new skills, modernizing our work force and helping workers find a place in today's economy. Recognizing the critical role that community colleges play, the 2009 TAA reforms provided grants to educational institutions to develop, offer and improve education and career training for workers eligible for TAA. H.R. 6517 expands this critical initiative and makes more workers eligible to participate. I have always believed education is the key to economic prosperity. My home State of North Carolina has seen many economic challenges over the years, but it is our solid commitment to education that has allowed our economy to adapt and attract new industries. As the former Superintendent of Public Schools, I've always said that education is the key to the future. There is no better way to create jobs than education.

While I strongly support this bill, I am disappointed that it reauthorizes the Wool Trust Fund, but not the Cotton Trust Fund. A reauthorization of the Cotton Trust Fund is important to hundreds of workers in North Carolina, and would have enhanced the positive jobs impact of the bill. I hope that Congress will continue to work to make this important grant and tariff relief program to strengthen the U.S. cotton industry.

Despite this omission, the Omnibus Trade Act of 2010 is a good, job-creating bill that extends expiring trade provisions, helps displaced workers acquire new skills in order to compete in our global economy, and supports U.S. manufacturing. I would like to thank Chairman LEVIN for all of his hard work to bring this bill to the floor. This legislation puts Americans to work, and I hope that my colleagues from both sides of the aisle will join me in supporting it.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today with renewed hope that our Nation's trade agenda may soon move forward. This legislation includes an extension of trade preference programs, which is important, but is no substitute for passing our pending market-opening agreements with Colombia, Panama, and Korea. Mr. Speaker, if we hope to remain the key player in the global marketplace, we must do all we can to strengthen our ties to important democratic allies. Passage of these agreements will boost economic growth and create U.S. jobs by tearing down trade barriers and significantly increasing our exports into these markets, while at the same time enhancing our national security by bringing greater stability to Asia and South America.

Take the U.S.-Colombia agreement, for example. Colombia is the largest market for U.S. agricultural exports in South America, which makes it an important market for my agriculturally rich northern California district. Yet, we have seen our agriculture exports to Colombia decline by 65 percent over the last 2 years because our products still face tariffs and other barriers, while agriculture products from Argentina and Brazil, two major competitors for America's farmers and ranchers, received duty-free access to the Colombian market. The reason for the disparity is simple: Argentina and Brazil have implemented a trade agreement with Colombia, while our Nation has not. This trend, of U.S. producers losing out to foreign competitors, will only get worse as the European Union and Canada are moving towards implementing their own agreements with Colombia.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for Congress to recognize that continued inaction is suppressing job creation for Americans out of work and denying our producers new opportunities to export. Congress should pass our pending trade agreements without further delays.

I urge the Congress and my colleagues to support this legislation.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6517, the Omnibus Trade Act of 2010. This bill includes provisions that are critical to our manufacturing base: specifically decreasing the cost of raw materials, extending Trade Adjustment Assistance to workers who have seen their jobs shipped overseas, and making an important technical fix to the Wool Trust Fund program.

Trade Adjustment Assistance is one of the most important lifelines for American workers who have lost their jobs due to international trade. The program helps train workers in new fields, and helps bridge the gap in health insurance benefits for workers and their families. In 2009, Congress made significant improvements by expanding eligibility for service sector workers, manufacturing and secondary workers, and by increasing training funding. The expansion also increased the Workers Health Coverage Tax Credit subsidy to minimize gaps in health insurance coverage for workers and their families. Since the overhaul

more than 10,000 workers in New York alone have been certified to receive TAA benefits, and over 5,000 of these workers would not have received benefits had the extension not been in place. Across the country, TAA has helped more than 155,000 otherwise misplaced workers with the expansion since 2009.

Our vote today will extend the improvements made until June, 2012.

If we in Congress don't take action and instead let these improvements expire, we abandon workers who have already suffered from our tilted trade policies. It is imperative that we pass this legislation to ensure that America's workforce is able to adjust to changing economic environment and America can remain competitive in the global marketplace. H.R. 6517 also includes a technical fix to ensure that the Wool Trust Fund is funded at the level authorized in 2004 and 2008. This program provides payments to U.S. suit makers who have been left at a competitive disadvantage due to an inverted tariff—where the duty on the finished product is lower than the duty on the materials used to make the finished product. Without this fix, we are actually disincentivizing suit makers to operate in the U.S. and that would be tragic for my district, which is home to Hickey-Freeman and 500 of the best suit makers in the world.

The workers at Hickey-Freeman know from experience that over the past 2 years, revenue for this program shrank considerably, resulting in cuts of up to 66 percent to payments made to U.S. companies. H.R. 6517 closes the funding shortfall ensuring that our domestic suit makers continue to manufacture in the U.S. and that they are able to compete on a level playing field.

I strongly support this legislation because it protects many of the manufacturing jobs we have now and provides funding to retrain American manufacturing workers for the jobs of tomorrow.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 6517.

Mr. HERGER. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. McDERMOTT. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6517, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REQUIRING REPORTS ON MANAGEMENT OF ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3860) to require reports on the management of Arlington National Cemetery.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3860

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

SECTION 1. REPORTS ON MANAGEMENT OF ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY.

(a) **REPORT ON GRAVESITE DISCREPANCIES.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Army shall submit to the committees of Congress specified in subsection (c) a report setting forth an accounting of the gravesites at Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia. The accounting shall—

(1) specify whether gravesite locations at Arlington National Cemetery are correctly identified, labeled, and occupied; and

(2) set forth a plan of action, including the resources required and a proposed schedule, to implement remedial actions to address deficiencies identified pursuant to the accounting.

(b) **GAO REVIEW OF MANAGEMENT AND OVERSIGHT OF CONTRACTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the committees of Congress specified in subsection (c) a report on the management and oversight of contracts at Arlington National Cemetery.

(2) **ELEMENTS.**—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) The number, dollar amount, and duration of current contracts at Arlington National Cemetery over the simplified acquisition threshold.

(B) The number, dollar amount, and duration of current contracts for automation of burial operations at Arlington National Cemetery, including contracts relating to the Total Cemetery Management System (TCMS), the Geographic Information System (GIS), the Interment Scheduling System (ISS), the Interment Management System (IMS), and new or modified versions of the Burial Operations Support System (BOSS) of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(C) An assessment of the management and oversight by the Executive Director of the Army National Cemeteries Program of the contracts covered by subparagraphs (A) and (B), including the use of and actions taken for that purpose by the Corps of Engineers and the National Capital Region Contracting Center of the Army Contracting Command.

(D) An assessment of the actions taken by the Executive Director of the Army National Cemeteries Program in response to the findings and recommendations of the Inspector General of the Army in the report entitled “Report of Investigation and Special Inspection of Arlington National Cemetery Final Report (Case 10-04)”, dated June 9, 2010.

(E) An assessment of the implementation of the following:

(i) Army Directive 2010-04 on Enhancing the Operations and Oversight of the Army National Cemeteries Program, dated June 10, 2010, including, without limitation, an evaluation of the sufficiency of all contract management and oversight procedures, current and planned information and technology systems, applications, and contracts, current organizational structure and manpower, and compliance with and execution of all plans, reviews, studies, evaluations, and requirements specified in the Army Directive.

(ii) The recommendations and actions proposed by the Army National Cemeteries Advisory Commission with respect to Arlington National Cemetery.

(F) An assessment of the adequacy of current practices at Arlington National Cemetery to provide information, outreach, and support to families of individuals buried at Arlington National Cemetery regarding procedures to detect and correct current errors in burials at Arlington National Cemetery.

(G) An assessment of the feasibility and advisability of transferring jurisdiction of Arlington National Cemetery and the United

States Soldiers’ and Airmen’s Home National Cemetery to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and an assessment of the feasibility and advisability of the sharing of jurisdiction of such facilities between the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(3) **SIMPLIFIED ACQUISITION THRESHOLD DEFINED.**—In this subsection, the term “simplified acquisition threshold” has the meaning provided that term in section 4 of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 403).

(c) **SPECIFIED COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.**—The committees of Congress specified in this subsection are—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(d) **REPORTS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF ARMY DIRECTIVE ON ARMY NATIONAL CEMETERIES PROGRAM.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of the Army shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress reports on execution of and compliance with Army Directive 2010-04 on Enhancing the Operations and Oversight of the Army National Cemeteries Program, dated June 10, 2010. Each such report shall include, for the preceding 270 days or year (as applicable), a description and assessment of the following:

(A) Execution of and compliance with every section of the Army Directive for Arlington National Cemetery, including, without limitation, an evaluation of the sufficiency of all contract management and oversight procedures, current and planned information and technology systems, applications, and contracts, current organizational structure and manpower, and compliance with and execution of all plans, reviews, studies, evaluations, and requirements specified in the Army Directive.

(B) The adequacy of current practices at Arlington National Cemetery to provide information, outreach, and support to families of those individuals buried at Arlington National Cemetery regarding procedures to detect and correct current errors in burials at Arlington National Cemetery.

(2) **PERIOD AND FREQUENCY OF SUBMITTAL.**—A report required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every year thereafter for the next 2 years.

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. 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 this legislation.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the systemic and longstanding problems at Arlington National Cemetery have become well-

known and are a national tragedy. Arlington National Cemetery is our most hallowed ground, the final resting place of many of our heroes. Every year, nearly 4 million people visit this cemetery. Because of the importance of Arlington to our national memory, the American people expect Arlington to be run reverently and meticulously, but as we all know now, this has not been the case.

Following a yearlong series of investigative reports published on Salon.com, the Army prompted an investigation regarding reports of unmarked, misidentified, or misplaced graves. The Army investigation identified a culture of inaction and inactivity, a failure to act and a failure to come to grips with the problems at Arlington. Unfortunately, these problems have been going on for years.

Recently, the Army opened a criminal investigation after eight urns of cremated remains were found in a grave marked “unknown.” Army Secretary John McHugh has taken many steps to correct the many failures at Arlington, and we applaud his efforts. The Committee on Veterans’ Affairs has worked closely with our colleagues on the Armed Services Committee to get answers and find a way forward.

I agree with our esteemed chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, **IKE SKELTON**, who stated in a June hearing that, “We must be prepared that a 100 percent survey of the cemetery and all of its operations, which I believe must now be undertaken, will yield a larger number of problems that must be addressed.”

A comprehensive survey may find that the burial errors at Arlington may number in the thousands, but in order to provide a concrete solution to this problem, we must first fully understand the scope.

The Senate has acted, passing S. 3860 on December 4 of this year. This measure requires reports to Congress on the management of Arlington National Cemetery, including grave site discrepancies, the management and oversight of contracts, and the implementation of recent Army directives. Passing S. 3860 is a first step but not the final answer.

In the waning days of this Congress, we have the opportunity to send to the President this important measure. We will continue to work closely with our colleagues in Armed Services, with the administration, and with our Senate colleagues in the months ahead to fix what is wrong at Arlington and to ensure that the operation of this national shrine honors the men and women who lie at rest there.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in reluctant support of Senate bill 3860, as amended, which would require reports on the management of Arlington National Cemetery. The reason I say reluctant support is the Veterans’ Affairs Committee itself, really

we didn't take up the issues on Arlington, and we allowed the Senate and the House Armed Services Committee to do their work, but the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, we did not do ours. And so this is very unfortunate that we're proceeding with this bill in a lame duck session when we have not even held hearings ourselves on this issue. So I cannot speak from firsthand, other than my conversations with the Secretary of the Army myself, but the committee did not hold hearings on this piece of legislation at all.

Since the founding of Arlington in June of 1864, the cemetery has been revered as the "crown jewel" of the national cemetery system. It is the final resting place of several American Presidents, Supreme Court justices, and over 300,000 veterans and their families. Like most Americans, I was deeply disturbed and appalled by revelations by the Department of Army Inspector General's report regarding the mismanagement and possible criminal behavior at Arlington.

I do want to praise Secretary of the Army John McHugh for his swift action in response to this report, also for his following up on the recommendations of Secretary Geren's request for the investigation. So, once again, I extend my compliments to my good friend, the Secretary of the Army, John McHugh.

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Secretary McHugh has installed a new management team that is reaching out to the National Cemetery Administration at the VA for their help in implementing the needed changes to defend Arlington's reputation and ensure that the cemetery operations are conducted in a way that honors our warriors who have given so much in the defense of our Nation.

No family should ever have to wonder if their loved one is accounted for or buried in a proper location. They should assume that all has been done correctly. Our heroes and their families deserve the highest possible standards with regard to burial honors, and this bill seeks to prove this assurance.

This bill, as amended, requires several reports on the new management team's progress to improve Arlington's IT systems, the contracting practices, organizational structure, and report on the feasibility of transferring the operation of Arlington from the Department of the Army to the VA's National Cemetery Administration. While additional reports will be beneficial, I believe it is important to first allow the Army to complete its ongoing investigations of these same issues. Different studies on overlapping issues can provide unique insights; however, providing these simultaneous investigations, performed by different agencies, might also create unnecessary hindrances to the ongoing studies.

Also, with regard to the final provisions on the feasibility of transferring the operation of Arlington National

Cemetery to the VA National Cemetery Administration, I want to offer my recommendation that Arlington National Cemetery remain under the jurisdiction of the United States Army. It is hasty to assume that we should immediately just transfer the jurisdiction. It is very important for us to define what, in fact, are the challenges and what are the problems. It is so much like an American: We hear a problem, and we want to run out and create a solution before we totally understand the scope of our challenge. So before we get the cart before the horse, let's not run out there and talk about, Let's immediately transfer.

Now I can assure you that when the Department of Interior was not doing their job, what I believe, correctly, I made a suggestion that we should transfer those cemeteries from the Department of Interior to the VA. I don't have a problem. You can make that a holder out there. You get people to do what they believe are the right things to do, and maybe that is what Senator McCASKILL was attempting to do here. So I have to respect her in setting a benchmark to do that, and maybe that is, in fact, what her goal here is, to make sure that everybody does what they are supposed to do.

The VA does an excellent job of administering the National Cemetery Administration. However, ANC imposes a comprehensive array of issues and logistical arrangements that are completely unique and separate from those at the VA that they, in fact, handle. For example, in addition to coordinating approximately 25 military funerals per day, the Army's duties at Arlington, including the responsibility for the horse teams, for the caissons, and guarding the Tomb of the Unknowns, is truly unique. Certainly Arlington National Cemetery can benefit by emulating VA practices that are applicable, and such information sharing is, in fact, underway. But ultimately, Arlington National Cemetery, under the jurisdiction of the United States Army is where it should remain until we can achieve some answers.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

We had thought that the distinguished gentleman from Missouri, the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, Mr. IKE SKELTON, would be here this evening. He is not. But I would like to say that this House, of course, honors his extraordinary service to his district, his State, the men and women of our armed services, and most importantly, of course, our Nation for 34 years. It has been a great experience to work with IKE SKELTON closely, as chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and to work with him for those who serve in active duty and those who have served and are now veterans.

President Truman, who is a hero to all of us and especially to IKE, stated that, "It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets

the credit." IKE SKELTON has personified this wonderful saying, working tirelessly for the good of our country. He has done more than he will ever get credit for, and this House will be a poorer place without his presence.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, yielding myself such time as I may consume, I do associate myself with the gentleman's comments regarding Chairman SKELTON IKE not only being a very dear friend, but I really appreciate him stepping forward with these hearings.

With that, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia, Representative BOB GOODLATTE.

Mr. GOODLATTE. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I thank the gentleman from California for bringing this legislation forward, and I want to take the opportunity to commend the gentleman from Indiana for his leadership on the Veterans' Affairs Committee for a number of years now and for his service in the Congress. He came here at the same time I did, and I very much appreciate the great contributions he has made in those years.

I rise in support of this legislation which requires a detailed report to Congress on the gravesite discrepancies at Arlington National Cemetery, including information concerning burial operations and errors in burials. It is sad that we are even having to consider such legislation today, but unfortunately, it has become very apparent that it is absolutely necessary.

Recent news reports have revealed multiple instances of misplaced human remains at Arlington National Cemetery. These sickening stories are a national disgrace. Our Nation's veterans, in life and in death, deserve our utmost respect. They have engaged in one of the noblest forms of public service, defending this Nation. It is their tireless work that has made our country great, strong, and most importantly, free. These men and women have helped to liberate victims of oppression, spread democracy across the world, and preserve the freedoms our Nation was built upon. Our fallen heroes deserve our honor, our respect, and our appreciation. This critical legislation will go a long way in ensuring that it is always the case. It is a final "thank you" on behalf of a grateful Nation.

Mr. Speaker, it is very important that we get to the bottom of this matter, we correct this problem as quickly as possible and restore the respect that people need to have in such an important facility which carries such historic significance and the sacred remains of great men and women who have served our country.

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

I thank the gentleman, Mr. BOB GOODLATTE of Virginia, a classmate of mine, and I respect all he has been able to do on the Ag Committee.

I will yield now 3 minutes to another Virginian, Congressman ROBERT J. WITTMAN.

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 3860, a bill that would ensure greater accountability for the operations at Arlington National Cemetery.

I would first like to thank the gentleman from California, Chairman FILLNER, for his leadership on this issue and bringing this bill to the floor to make sure that this issue is put out there in the forefront, and to the gentleman from Indiana, Ranking Member BUYER, who has done the same, who is passionate about making sure that we are doing the right thing and making the right decisions. I think the ranking member points out some great things we ought to remember, and that is, let's make sure we do a proper examination. Let's not be hasty in reaching judgments. Let's make sure that we are thoughtful about this and make sure we are holding people accountable and not too quickly getting to a point of transference but really getting at the root of the problem. So I appreciate the ranking member for his thoughtfulness on that.

Mr. Speaker, these are our Nation's heroes who have fought and have died to protect our country, and they deserve absolute dignity and honor. The mishandling of remains and gravesites at Arlington has demonstrated that there was a clear lack of accountability. After allegations of mismanagement surfaced in June, Army Secretary John McHugh rightly came forward to accept responsibility and immediately made changes to correct the system. And I want to applaud the Secretary for doing that. He has done great work in making sure that this issue gets addressed. I do believe that this legislation is necessary, though, as the next step to ensure accountability and to avoid these issues in the future.

□ 1840

S. 3860 would require the Secretary of the Army to submit a report to Congress accounting for all the gravesites at Arlington Cemetery within 1 year. And folks, this is a significant effort. There are 320,000 of our heroes buried at Arlington. There may be up to 6,600 gravesites in question. We owe it to the families, we owe it to those service-members to make sure that this issue is addressed.

This bill would require the Army to submit plans to remedy any errors found and make sure that those don't happen again in the future.

Under the bill, the Comptroller General would be required to report to Congress on efforts to change the management and oversight structure at Arlington National Cemetery, including contract management.

I am pleased that the legislation requires an assessment of the adequacy of current practices at Arlington, to provide information, outreach and support to the families of individuals buried at the cemetery as errors are detected and corrected. And we've seen some of those things happen here recently.

I just heard the other day of a family who was told that the remains of their loved one were, indeed, known and that they were confirmed. Unfortunately, a week later they were called and told that that was not the case. We need to make sure we get this right, and we need to make sure we keep in mind the effects on families who have loved ones and our Nation's heroes that are buried there.

The families deserve timely and accurate information about the location of their loved ones, and I want to make sure that that happens and happens in every case without ambiguity.

Arlington is the last resting place of so many of our Nation's heroes, those service men and women who are called upon and gave the ultimate sacrifice to this country and, folks, they deserve nothing less.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

What I would like to comment on now, Mr. Speaker, really deals with a problem in the House rules that I think needs to be corrected as we go into the next session of Congress. So with regard to jurisdiction, lines of jurisdiction with regard to committees and how bills are assigned through the Parliamentarian, at the direction of the Speaker, I sent a letter to the Speaker dated December 9, 2010.

This Senate bill that came to us, it appears that it invokes the jurisdiction also of the House Armed Services Committee. The Army personnel manage and operate Arlington National Cemetery, and the cemetery is under the jurisdiction of the United States Army. So Chairman SKELTON properly moved out and held his hearings in the House Armed Services Committee relative to Arlington. So I can begin to understand why the chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee then allowed the House Armed Services Committee to proceed.

Then when the Senate conducts their hearings, and they did so, the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee passed their bill, and immediately they sent it to us in a lame duck session.

Now, you say, why wouldn't this bill also have either a joint referral or to the Armed Services Committee, or why did it only go to the House Veterans' Affairs Committee?

Well, you go to the House rules. So even though I sent the letter to Madam Speaker PELOSI saying, please invoke jurisdiction of the House Armed Services Committee, the response obviously was "no" because here we now are on the House floor doing this bill by a committee who had never done hearings on the bill.

The problem is in the House rules itself. When you turn to the House rules, I think this has got to be an error in the drafting of these rules. Rule X, 2 cites that cemeteries under the United States in which veterans of any war or conflict are or may be bur-

ied, whether in the United States, abroad, except cemeteries administered by the Secretary of the VA, it goes to the Veterans' Affairs Committee. This has to be corrected. So, hopefully, when you go into the next Congress, this rule gets corrected so that the cemeteries that are under the jurisdiction of the United States Army, such as the two, Old Soldiers Home and Arlington National Cemetery, that that legislation regarding that jurisdiction rests with the Armed Services Committee. The VA Committee, we have oversight; but with regard to this, it's a jurisdictional question, and it needs to be corrected.

And that's why you have two individuals here managing a bill on the floor that really the House Armed Services Committee, Mr. Speaker, should also be here. But I want all the Members to know that's why this is happening.

I suppose, yes, we can all be very upset with regard to the management and the markings of some of these graves; but those of us who have had the opportunity to go to Arlington and see the job in which the Old Guard perform, it is pretty extraordinary. I was last there on Monday of Thanksgiving week. I joined Lieutenant General John Kelly, his family and hundreds of his friends at the chapel at Fort Myer. We all left the chapel. We proceeded down the windy road, down the hill, led by the Army Band, a platoon of soldiers, horse-drawn caisson that carried the body of John's youngest son, Lieutenant Robert Kelly, killed in Afghanistan.

The wind was crisp. The sky was blue. The oak and maple trees were clutching onto their red, yellow, gold and light-green leaves. Others were slowly drifting to the ground. The sun shined brightly upon them all.

Each grave marker properly and perfectly aligned in columns, in rows and angles, each was offset by rich green grass signifying the etchings in our national book of remembrance. That's my firsthand account of having attended the funeral of Lieutenant Robert Kelly at his burial on Thanksgiving week. That has been replicated since that Monday of Thanksgiving week, and it has been no different than how the Old Guard pays their honor and respect to so many, and it goes back so far in time.

That rich heritage is what causes each one of us to rise when we get so concerned with regard to mismanagement of such a sacred ground.

With that, I'm going to ask all Members to support the legislation.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 9, 2010.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,
H232, The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER, in reviewing S. 3860, as amended, a bill to require reports on the management of Arlington National Cemetery, it appears that the bill invokes authority under the jurisdiction of the House Committee on Armed Services.

Army personnel manage and operate Arlington National Cemetery and the cemetery is under the jurisdiction of the United States Army. Accordingly, as the Ranking Member of the Committee of jurisdiction, I request that an additional referral be made to House Committee on Armed Services to provide for its full consideration of this bill.

It is important that the Committee on Armed Services be permitted to weigh in on this legislation prior to further consideration, as that Committee has legislative and oversight jurisdiction over the Department of the Army, and held a hearing on management issues at Arlington National Cemetery on June 30, 2010.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

STEVE BUYER,
Ranking Republican Member.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3860, A bill to require reports on the management of Arlington National Cemetery. This bill requires reports from the Department of the Army and the Government Accountability Office that will help restore the American people's faith in Arlington National Cemetery and, from this point forward, ensures that this sacred space continues to maintain the high level of service that is rightfully expected by the families of our servicemembers, both living and fallen.

Mr. Speaker, I have personally seen the pain and sorrow caused by cemetery errors.

As many of my colleagues are aware, Burr Oak cemetery, in my district, faced a similar situation like that which took place at Arlington.

I understand the sorrow created by this confusion. I have seen the anguish that family members suffered. It is something that I think no family should have to endure—especially the family members and loved ones of those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice to our country.

It is for this reason, Mr. Speaker, that I strongly support this legislation and encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I close with a reminder to my colleagues: the families of our fallen heroes have given so much. At the very least, we owe them the certainty that the gravesites they visit at Arlington National Cemetery are, indeed, the final resting place of their loved ones.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, I urge unanimous support, and 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. 3860.

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. 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.

POST-9/11 VETERANS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2010

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3447) to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve educational assistance for veterans who served in the Armed Forces after September 11, 2001, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3447

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Improvements Act of 2010”.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Reference to title 38, United States Code.

Sec. 3. Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act compliance.

TITLE I—POST-9/11 VETERANS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE

Sec. 101. Modification of entitlement to educational assistance.

Sec. 102. Amounts of assistance for programs of education leading to a degree pursued at public, non-public, and foreign institutions of higher learning.

Sec. 103. Amounts of assistance for programs of education leading to a degree pursued on active duty.

Sec. 104. Educational assistance for programs of education pursued on half-time basis or less.

Sec. 105. Educational assistance for programs of education other than programs of education leading to a degree.

Sec. 106. Determination of monthly housing stipend payments for academic years.

Sec. 107. Availability of assistance for licensure and certification tests.

Sec. 108. National tests.

Sec. 109. Continuation of entitlement to additional educational assistance for critical skills or specialty.

Sec. 110. Transfer of unused education benefits.

Sec. 111. Bar to duplication of certain educational assistance benefits.

Sec. 112. Technical amendments.

TITLE II—OTHER EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE MATTERS

Sec. 201. Extension of delimiting dates for use of educational assistance by primary caregivers of seriously injured veterans and members of the Armed Forces.

Sec. 202. Limitations on receipt of educational assistance under National Call to Service and other programs of educational assistance.

Sec. 203. Approval of courses.

Sec. 204. Reporting fees.

Sec. 205. Election for receipt of alternate subsistence allowance for certain veterans with service-connected disabilities undergoing training and rehabilitation.

Sec. 206. Modification of authority to make certain interval payments.

SEC. 2. REFERENCE TO TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE.

Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or re-

peal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 3. STATUTORY PAY-AS-YOU-GO ACT COMPLIANCE.

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 Senate Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

TITLE I—POST-9/11 VETERANS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE

SEC. 101. MODIFICATION OF ENTITLEMENT TO EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) MODIFICATION OF DEFINITIONS ON ELIGIBILITY FOR EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.—

(1) EXPANSION OF DEFINITION OF ACTIVE DUTY TO INCLUDE SERVICE IN NATIONAL GUARD FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES.—Paragraph (1) of section 3301 is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) In the case of a member of the Army National Guard of the United States or Air National Guard of the United States, in addition to service described in subparagraph (B), full-time service—

“(i) in the National Guard of a State for the purpose of organizing, administering, recruiting, instructing, or training the National Guard; or

“(ii) in the National Guard under section 502(f) of title 32 when authorized by the President or the Secretary of Defense for the purpose of responding to a national emergency declared by the President and supported by Federal funds.”.

(2) EXPANSION OF DEFINITION OF ARMY ENTRY LEVEL AND SKILL TRAINING TO INCLUDE ONE STATION UNIT TRAINING.—Paragraph (2)(A) of such section is amended by inserting “or One Station Unit Training” before the period at the end.

(3) CLARIFICATION OF DEFINITION OF ENTRY LEVEL AND SKILL TRAINING FOR THE COAST GUARD.—Paragraph (2)(E) of such section is amended by inserting “and Skill Training (or so-called ‘A’ School)” before the period at the end.

(b) CLARIFICATION OF APPLICABILITY OF HONORABLE SERVICE REQUIREMENT FOR CERTAIN DISCHARGES AND RELEASES FROM THE ARMED FORCES AS BASIS FOR ENTITLEMENT TO EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.—Section 3311(c)(4) is amended in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by striking “A discharge or release from active duty in the Armed Forces” and inserting “A discharge or release from active duty in the Armed Forces after service on active duty in the Armed Forces characterized by the Secretary concerned as honorable service”.

(c) EXCLUSION FROM PERIOD OF SERVICE ON ACTIVE DUTY OF PERIODS OF SERVICE IN CONNECTION WITH ATTENDANCE AT COAST GUARD ACADEMY.—Section 3311(d)(2) is amended by inserting “or section 182 of title 14” before the period at the end.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(1) SERVICE IN NATIONAL GUARD AS ACTIVE DUTY.—The amendment made by subsection (a)(1) shall take effect on August 1, 2009, as if included in the enactment of chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code, pursuant to the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 (title V of Public Law 110-252). However, no benefits otherwise payable by reason of such amendment for the period beginning on August 1, 2009, and ending on September 30, 2011, may be paid before October 1, 2011.