

This Act may be cited as the “Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012”.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise and report the bill back to the House with sundry amendments, with the recommendation that the amendments be agreed to and that the bill, as amended, do pass.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BASS of New Hampshire) having assumed the chair, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2055) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes, reported the bill back to the House with sundry amendments adopted in the Committee of the Whole, with the recommendation that the amendments be agreed to and that the bill, as amended, do pass.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under House Resolution 288, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the Chair will put them en gros.

The amendments were agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 2(a) of House Resolution 288, the question is on retaining the title of the bill beginning on page 25, line 14 relating to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The question is, Shall that title be retained?

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

RECORDED VOTE

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 409, noes 1, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 416]

AYES—409

Ackerman	Bilirakis	Cantor
Adams	Bishop (GA)	Capito
Aderholt	Bishop (NY)	Capps
Akin	Bishop (UT)	Capuano
Alexander	Black	Carnahan
Altmire	Blackburn	Carney
Amash	Blumenauer	Carson (IN)
Andrews	Bonner	Carter
Austria	Bono Mack	Cassidy
Baca	Boren	Castor (FL)
Bachus	Boswell	Chabot
Baldwin	Boustany	Chaffetz
Barletta	Brady (PA)	Chandler
Barrow	Braley (IA)	Chu
Bartlett	Brooks	Cicilline
Barton (TX)	Brown (FL)	Clarke (MI)
Bass (CA)	Buchanan	Clarke (NY)
Bass (NH)	Bucshon	Clay
Becerra	Buerkle	Cleaver
Benishkek	Burgess	Clyburn
Berg	Burton (IN)	Coble
Berkley	Calvert	Coffman (CO)
Berman	Camp	Cohen
Biggert	Campbell	Cole
Bilbray	Canseco	Conaway

Connolly (VA)	Honda	Neal
Conyers	Hoyer	Neugebauer
Cooper	Huelskamp	Noem
Costa	Huizenga (MI)	Nugent
Costello	Hultgren	Nunes
Courtney	Hunter	Nunnelee
Cravaack	Hurt	Olson
Crawford	Inslee	Olver
Crenshaw	Israel	Owens
Critz	Issa	Palazzo
Crowley	Jackson (IL)	Pallone
Cuellar	Jackson Lee	Pascarell
Culberson	(TX)	Pastor (AZ)
Cummings	Jenkins	Paulsen
Davis (CA)	Johnson (GA)	Payne
Davis (IL)	Johnson (IL)	Pearce
Davis (KY)	Johnson (OH)	Pelosi
DeFazio	Johnson, E. B.	Pence
DeGette	Johnson, Sam	Perlmutter
DeLauro	Jones	Peters
Denham	Jordan	Peterson
Dent	Kaptur	Petri
DesJarlais	Keating	Pingree (ME)
Deutch	Kelly	Pitts
Diaz-Balart	Kildee	Platts
Dicks	Kind	Poe (TX)
Doggett	King (IA)	Polis
Dold	King (NY)	Pompeo
Donnelly (IN)	Kingston	Posey
Doyle	Kinzinger (IL)	Price (GA)
Dreier	Kissell	Price (NC)
Duffy	Kline	Quayle
Duncan (SC)	Kucinich	Quigley
Duncan (TN)	Labrador	Rahall
Edwards	Lamborn	Rangel
Ellison	Lance	Reed
Ellmers	Landry	Rehberg
Emerson	Langevin	Reichert
Farenthold	Lankford	Renacci
Farr	Larsen (WA)	Reyes
Fattah	Larson (CT)	Ribble
Filner	Latham	Richardson
Fincher	LaTourette	Richmond
Fitzpatrick	Latta	Rigell
Flake	Levin	Rivera
Fleischmann	Lewis (CA)	Roby
Fleming	Lipinski	Roe (TN)
Flores	LoBiondo	Rogers (AL)
Forbes	Loeb sack	Rogers (KY)
Fortenberry	Lofgren, Zoe	Rogers (MI)
Fox	Long	Rohrabacher
Frank (MA)	Lowe	Rooney
Franks (AZ)	Lucas	Ros-Lehtinen
Frelinghuysen	Luetkemeyer	Roskam
Fudge	Lujan	Ross (AR)
Galleghy	Lummis	Ross (FL)
Garamendi	Lungren, Daniel	Rothman (NJ)
Gardner	E.	Roybal-Allard
Garrett	Lynch	Royce
Gerlach	Mack	Runyan
Gibbs	Maloney	Ruppersberger
Gibson	Manzullo	Rush
Gingrey (GA)	Marchant	Ryan (OH)
Gohmert	Marino	Ryan (WI)
Gonzalez	Markey	Sanchez, Linda
Goodlatte	Matheson	T.
Gosar	Matsui	Sanchez, Loretta
Gowdy	McCarthy (CA)	Sarbanes
Granger	McCarthy (NY)	Scalise
Graves (GA)	McCaul	Schakowsky
Graves (MO)	McClintock	Schiff
Green, Al	McCollum	Schilling
Green, Gene	McCotter	Schmidt
Griffin (AR)	McDermott	Schock
Grijalva	McGovern	Schrader
Grimm	McHenry	Schwartz
Guinta	McIntyre	Schweikert
Guthrie	McKeon	Scott (SC)
Gutierrez	McKinley	Scott (VA)
Hanabusa	McMorris	Scott, Austin
Hanna	Rodgers	Scott, David
Harper	McNerney	Sensenbrenner
Harris	Meehan	Serrano
Hartzler	Meeks	Sessions
Hastings (FL)	Mica	Sewell
Hastings (WA)	Michaud	Sherman
Heck	Miller (FL)	Shuler
Heinrich	Miller (MI)	Shuster
Hensarling	Miller (NC)	Simpson
Herrera Beutler	Miller, Gary	Sires
Himes	Miller, George	Smith (NE)
Hinchey	Moore	Smith (NJ)
Hinojosa	Moran	Smith (TX)
Hirono	Mulvaney	Smith (WA)
Hochul	Murphy (CT)	Southerland
Holden	Murphy (PA)	Stark
Holt	Myrick	Stearns
	Nadler	Stutzman
	Napolitano	Sullivan

Sutton	Velázquez	Wilson (FL)
Terry	Visclosky	Wilson (SC)
Thompson (CA)	Walberg	Wittman
Thompson (MS)	Walden	Wolf
Thompson (PA)	Walsh (IL)	Womack
Thornberry	Walz (MN)	Woodall
Tiberi	Waters	Woolsey
Tierney	Watt	Wu
Tipton	Waxman	Yarmuth
Tonko	Webster	Yoder
Towns	Welch	Young (AK)
Turner	West	Young (FL)
Upton	Westmoreland	Young (IN)
Van Hollen	Whitfield	

NOES—1

Griffith (VA)

NOT VOTING—22

Bachmann	Giffords	Slaughter
Brady (TX)	Herger	Speier
Broun (GA)	Higgins	Stivers
Butterfield	Lee (CA)	Tsongas
Cardoza	Lewis (GA)	Wasserman
Dingell	Paul	Schultz
Engel	Rokita	Weiner
Eshoo	Shimkus	

□ 1926

So the question was decided in the affirmative, and title II of the bill was retained.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my votes this evening. Had I been present to cast my votes, I would have voted “yes” on the amendment offered by Mr. LATOURETTE and “yes” on the amendment offered by Mr. SHERMAN. I would have voted “no” on the amendment offered by Mr. AMASH, and finally I would have voted “yes” on retaining title II, the Department of Veterans Affairs.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on official business and missed rollcall vote Nos. 413, 414, 415 and 416. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye” on rollcall vote No. 413, “nay” on rollcall No. 414, “aye” on rollcall vote No. 415 and “aye” on rollcall vote No. 416. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my statement appear in the permanent RECORD immediately following this vote.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of H.R. 2055 is postponed.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1380

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor to H.R. 1380.

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

There was no objection.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2112, AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 112-103) on the resolution (H.

Res. 300) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2112) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1380

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed from H.R. 1380.

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

There was no objection.

POLITICAL IED IN IRAQ

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, having just returned from Iraq with other Members to see our military, we further met with Prime Minister Maliki. We discussed the killing of the 35 freedom-seeking Iranian dissidents at Camp Ashraf by Iraqi authorities. The United States has turned over the protection of these people who oppose Iranian dictator Ahmadinejad to Iraq. The Prime Minister's candid position was that the dissidents were responsible for their own deaths and the Iraqi Government was not to be blamed for their recent demise.

Upon requesting that we wished to visit the camp to hear from the people who actually saw what happened, you would have thought a political IED had gone off. The Prime Minister curtly rejected that request. In an effort to fairly get at the truth, the statements from the ones actually present at the homicides was important. It is disturbing that the Prime Minister refused us access to the Iranian dissidents he promised the United States he would protect.

What does the Iraqi Government have to hide? Maybe the truth. Meanwhile, 35 innocent people are dead and hundreds of others are wounded by this new "free" democracy in Iraq.

And that's just the way it is.

CONGRATULATING DALLAS MAVERICKS ON WINNING 2011 NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIP

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Dallas Mavericks on winning the 2011 National Basketball Association Championship. This is the organization's first NBA world championship title, and I congratulate the team owner, Mark Cuban, Coach Rick Car-

lisle, his staff, and the entire Mavericks organization on this great accomplishment. I also congratulate the team's captain, Dirk Nowitzki, on being named the recipient of the NBA Finals Most Valuable Player Award, so much deserved.

The Mavericks also display a strong commitment to the Dallas community through its foundation. The Dallas Mavericks Foundation is dedicated to inspiring and motivating our youth to take their education seriously and to strive for healthy bodies and minds.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating each member of the 2011 NBA Championship Dallas Mavericks for their very many victories, but their very first championship, the champions of our community.

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CREATING JOBS IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FLORES). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. GRIFFIN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield to some of my friends here. We are going to spend some time talking tonight about the difficulty this country is having in terms of unemployment and job creation. We have got a big challenge ahead of us, and the Republicans here in the House have a lot of good ideas about how we can get this economy going, how we can take the regulatory burden off of small businesses, how we can reform the Tax Code for individuals and for businesses so we can be competitive.

I would like to yield to my friend from Illinois, ADAM KINZINGER.

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. I thank the gentleman from Arkansas for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, we are facing some pretty tough times in our country. I remember the days when we had very low unemployment, and if you wanted a job you had multiple offers when you got out of college, and everybody needed you and the economy was thriving. And now we are creeping back up in the unemployment.

I remember when we passed an \$800 billion spending package out of the House of Representatives—\$800 billion—and we were told that if we pass this spending package, unemployment will not exceed 8 percent, and we approached 10 percent. Thankfully, unemployment began to go down, but now it is stalled out, and it is beginning to go up again.

What we have is this idea of we need to spend, we need to borrow, and we need to tax our way to prosperity. And what does that do? Well, I will tell you what it does. It raises our taxes, and it just piles burdens on our children and grandchildren—and us. Yes, we all care about our children and grandchildren,

but even this generation now is swimming in debt.

Think about this: If you combine the cost of the war in Iraq and the cost of the war in Afghanistan, you combine them this year, do you realize that is less expensive than what we are paying just in interest on our national debt? Just in interest. And that is going to continue to grow. As we add more and more debt, that interest is going to continue to get bigger and bigger. And do you know what? We have another year of deficits, so the interest is bigger, and we have another year, so the interest is bigger.

Meanwhile, the job creators, the people who really get this economy rolling, the people who we are going to rely on to take individuals who are unemployed and take them from recipients of tax dollars—where they don't want to be—to taxpayers, the small business owners and these factory owners that we want to get manufacturing back, they are the ones that have to say, look, I have to invest for 10 and 15 and 20 years in the future, and all I see is a future of debt, doubt, and despair.

I think my colleagues will agree with me when I say that we live in the greatest country in the world, and I think they will agree with me when I say there is absolutely no reason, there is no reason that Americans should begin to accept the fact that we are in decline.

America doesn't have to be a nation in decline. America is a world leader, and we can retain our position as the world leader, but it is not going to be through what is done in government. It is not going to be by passing more regulations. It is not going to be by passing more taxation. It is not going to be by more and more rules and redtape. No. It is going to be done by restoring that entrepreneurial spirit that made our country so great in the first place.

I remember as a kid watching cowboy movies and seeing the old West and how America built the country that we have today, and learning about the Industrial Revolution and learning about those folks that worked long hours to make what we have, and being very proud of what I saw, every moment. But we began to accept that is no longer in our DNA. Ladies and gentleman, that is not true. That is in our DNA. That is who we are.

We can recover from this massive debt we are seeing, and we can do it easily. Well, we have got to cut spending, but we have got to get people back to work.

My home State of Illinois, the President's home State of Illinois, is a shining example of what not to do to create jobs. In Illinois, we just increased the individual tax rate. Well, that was probably not overly brilliant, because now people are leaving Illinois at an even faster rate than they were prior.

But then we did something especially crazy—we increased the corporate tax rate in Illinois. So now you have our neighbors in Indiana that are really