

cemetery administered by the American Battle Monuments Commission. Clark continues to accept burials, including those from the Iraq war; and to ensure a smooth transition, it is critical that an agreement is reached between the two governments before it can become a permanent cemetery. I am confident that the ABMC will bring this cemetery up to its impeccable standards and that Congress will provide it the resources to do so.

Title II of the bill contains a vital provision requiring the Department of Veterans Affairs, with help from the Department of Defense, to establish a burn pit registry. This registry would be for our men and women who may have been exposed to toxic airborne chemicals and fumes caused by open burn pits. Every time we send our men and women into combat, we need to do all that we can to properly assess their risks of exposure to toxins. It has been decades, and we still do not fully understand the risks associated with one's exposure to agent orange, an exposure causing many veterans to suffer without compensation. We should learn from this history, and this bill puts us on track to avoid repeating it again.

Title II would also enhance VA transportation services to help more veterans access VA health care, and it contains a very timely measure that would extend the reporting requirement for posttraumatic stress disorder through 2016. The rate of PTSD remains high in the veteran population, and we must continue to keep this issue at the top of our radar as well as before Congress and the public so that we can continue to provide the funding that's needed.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, title III of this bill contains an important section that would direct the Department of Labor to provide the Transition Assistance Program, TAP, at locations other than at military installations. This 2-year pilot program will benefit our service-members and their spouses by providing additional opportunity to attend TAP and to learn about their earned benefits. Too many returning service-members are unable to take advantage of TAP. This is especially true for members of the National Guard and Reserve who often return from war to find that they lack the support military communities provide them. The TAP program is critical to a service-member's successful transition back into civilian life, and I am glad to see it expanded.

Again, I want to thank the members and Chairman MILLER for their leadership on this bill, and I urge all of my colleagues to support its passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, might I inquire of the time remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida has 14½ minutes remaining.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the vice chairman of the full com-

mittee, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS).

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 3202, the Dignified Burial of Veterans Act.

I appreciate my colleagues' diligence in moving this language through the Senate, and I am grateful for the work they have done on behalf of our veterans. I would also like to thank my good friend and fellow Floridian, Chairman JEFF MILLER, and Ranking Member BOB FILNER for the work they have done this Congress to improve the quality of services for our veterans—our true American heroes.

This truly bipartisan piece of legislation incorporates language similar to H.R. 6073, which is legislation that I introduced in the House after learning that Private Lawrence Davis, Jr., a World War II veteran, had been buried in a cardboard box in a veterans cemetery not far from my district. This legislation ensures that veterans with no next of kin and insufficient funds for proper and dignified burials will receive assistance from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Our Nation's heroes deserve to be buried in the same way they served our great Nation—with dignity, honor, and respect. Private Davis deserved better. While we cannot go back and rewrite what has already happened, we can ensure that it doesn't happen again. This legislation is the right thing to do; and in the final hours of this Congress, I am very pleased that this Chamber is taking action on this important piece of legislation. Again, I urge the passage of S. 3202.

□ 1700

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, once again I encourage all Members to support this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3202, the Dignified Burial of Veterans Act and particularly section 303 of this bill, which designates the Department of Veterans Affairs facility in Carrollton, Georgia as the "Trinka Davis Veterans Village."

Katherine "Trinka" Davis was a businesswoman from Carroll County who founded the Trinka Davis Foundation in 2004 after realizing the struggles many service men and women faced upon return from Iraq and Afghanistan. Though not a veteran herself, through her generosity, Ms. Davis performed an outstanding service for the veterans of Northwest Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, Trinka made note of the reports of difficulties that many returning veterans and their respective families were facing: loss of limbs, traumatic brain injuries, PTSD, unemployment, and loss of their homes.

Although she is no longer with us, her memory lives on. Trinka left almost her entire estate—over \$18 million—to the Foundation,

which has used it to construct a first class health facility to aid our wounded warriors in their recovery and treatment.

Mr. Speaker, with a war in Afghanistan, a recent one in Iraq, and unrest around the globe, the United States has more than 196,000 active duty service men and women that put their lives on the line—night and day—to protect our families and our freedoms. These men and women accepted the call of duty, leaving behind their loved ones and life as they know it to protect the lives of others.

When our soldiers return from battle, sometimes they do not get the support and assistance that they deserve. Simply put, we owe them more. Just as they have answered the call to serve our country, we must answer the call to serve them. This is what Trinka Davis did.

Thanks to Trinka's generosity and the tireless dedication of her foundation, the new clinic was donated to the Department of Veterans Affairs in August. The doors were opened for veterans to receive outpatient treatment on September 24, and in the coming months the clinic will also include a 42 bed community living center.

While providing a variety of services including primary care, physical therapy, and outpatient mental health services, the facility will serve 3,000 veterans and will allow them to receive treatment closer to home.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that like our veterans, Ms. Davis is a hero. She recognized the needs of our veterans and worked tirelessly to meet them. The Trinka Davis Foundation ensured that Ms. Davis's commitment to the veterans and their families in the Carrollton community and beyond would be preserved through construction of the health facility.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Trinka's selfless actions and those who have bravely served our Nation by supporting S. 3202.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3202.

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. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

CLOTHE A HOMELESS HERO ACT

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 6328) to amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to transfer unclaimed clothing recovered at airport security checkpoints to local veterans organizations and other local charitable organizations, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

On page 2, line 20, after “clothing to” insert “the local airport authority or other local authorities for donation to charity, including”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. HOCHUL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on this bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, as vice chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee and a senior member of the Committee on Homeland Security, I rise in favor of H.R. 6328, the Clothe a Homeless Hero Act, which passed the House by voice vote last month and was approved by the Senate with an amendment.

According to estimates from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, in 2011 approximately 14 percent of all homeless adults were veterans, and with more than 67,000 veterans homeless on any given night. I know that you agree we must do all that we can to ensure that the veterans who have so courageously served our country are not forgotten and are receiving the care and services they deserve. VA Secretary Eric Shinseki has set a laudable goal of ending veterans' homelessness by 2015 and has established partnerships with other Federal agencies, such as HUD, to accomplish it.

The bill before us today will forge another important partnership in our efforts to serve homeless veterans, one with the Transportation Security Administration.

Each day as Americans travel through screening checkpoints, Mr. Speaker, operated by TSA at our Nation's airports, many articles of clothing are left behind. In fact, TSA reports that they collect between 500 and 1,000 garments per day. H.R. 6328 directs the TSA administrator to make every reasonable effort to donate this unclaimed clothing to local organizations that serve homeless or needy veterans.

I commend the House sponsor, Ms. HOCHUL, the gentlelady from New York, for this fine piece of legislation. I once again urge Members to support this legislation and in turn support homeless veterans.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HOCHUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Senate amendment to

H.R. 6328, Clothe a Homeless Hero Act, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Yesterday my hometown paper, The Buffalo News, ran an editorial that says, “Homeless vets need our help: The reward for serving our country shouldn't be a life on the streets.”

Mr. Speaker, I couldn't agree more.

We are here today to aid and honor America's veterans, especially those who've fallen on hard times, are most in need, and all too forgotten.

As the American people rush through lines at airports with their shoes, gloves, hats, scarves, and coats, it's easy to forget that so many Americans go without these basic comforts during the cold winter months. I know this personally. I just flew in from Buffalo, New York, where we have about a foot and a half of snow on the ground, and it calls to mind the sense that there are a lot of people in need, particularly our veterans. As we rush through airports, it's easy to leave behind these kinds of garments. That's what happened to me when I left a scarf at the Buffalo airport while coming to Washington.

As you've heard, TSA has reported that as many as 1,000 articles of clothing, like mine, are left behind at airport checkpoints every day. This adds up to thousands of pounds of abandoned, unclaimed clothing. At the same time, tens of thousands of veterans are homeless on any given night.

This is unconscionable, Mr. Speaker. Veteran homelessness is nothing less than a national tragedy. We must fully embrace the President's call to end veteran homelessness by 2015. We must work to end homelessness for all Americans—especially those heroes who risked their lives for our freedom. But until we end veteran homelessness, we must do everything we can to aid these American heroes.

I am sure you'll agree there is no better purpose for unclaimed warm clothing than to help America's homeless veterans. That's why I was so proud to introduce the Clothe a Homeless Hero Act, and to work with my colleagues in the Homeland Security Committee and Senator GILLIBRAND and Senator TOOMEY to improve and advance this bipartisan legislation.

This simple bill directs unclaimed clothing left at checkpoints like this to go to charitable organizations for distribution to homeless veterans and others in need.

Mr. Speaker, this is probably my last speech on the floor of Congress. I can't think of a worthier cause to champion than to make sure that our homeless veterans get the clothing they need and deserve. This measure is a simple, commonsense example of an opportunity for all of us, Democrats and Republicans alike, to work together and find common ground. Clearly we need much more of that, particularly on a day like this. I know every one of us is proud of the work our men and women in uniform do every day, and we're

proud of the veterans who come home. We need to ask ourselves: are they proud of us?

Let us make this bill be a template for the bipartisanship that our veterans, indeed our country, deserves from the people they send to Washington to represent them.

I thank Chairman BILIRAKIS and my colleagues on the Homeland Security Committee for supporting this legislation.

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. Does the gentlelady have further speakers?

Ms. HOCHUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Transportation Security and Infrastructure Protection of the Committee on Homeland Security.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlelady from New York, and I want to first of all say this will not be the last we hear of your voice, and what a stupendous voice you have. Thank you so much for making this time on the floor a time that pays tribute to veterans but also recognizes the outstanding service that you've given to this Nation, to the Committee on Homeland Security and your other committees, but more importantly the passion that you've shown as a true American. I hope that we heed the voice that you just lifted up that we owe to veterans not only this great legislation, but also the ability to come together and work on their behalf and on behalf of all Americans.

□ 1710

Thank you again for allowing me to comment on this bill as the ranking member on the Homeland Security Transportation Committee.

I thank Mr. BILIRAKIS. We have worked together on a number of legislative initiatives, and I thank him as well for his service, along with the retiring chairman, Chairman KING, and our Democratic ranking member, Mr. THOMPSON, for their leadership. It gives me great comfort to be able to come on the floor today and say thank you.

Even though no one wants to see a homeless hero, a homeless veteran, I spent, over the holidays, time visiting a number of our centers where homeless veterans are, and I can tell you that they are the most giving and charitable persons.

Many of us will be able to recount on Thanksgiving Day, or during the holiday, being able to give or to share or to be able to distribute food or to serve veterans who, unfortunately, not of their own doing, have fallen upon hard times, do not have a place to live, and are coming to the various food pantries and food kitchens. It was one of great pleasure to me, not for their condition, but to be able to humbly just provide them with a warm meal. This is a commonsense legislative initiative that

says to homeless heroes, every day we're thinking of you.

As the ranking member on the Transportation Security Committee, I can assure you that Transportation Security officers are grateful to Ms. HOCHUL and to the Senate amendment for giving them this chance to further their service to the Nation.

There are many things that are left behind, and many times in the airport you hear that PA system saying, Come back, come back to the security checkpoint; you've left your iPad, your coat, your shoes. What else could you have left? Many times, unfortunately, those individuals are already on the airplane, and so we try our best, but we leave behind quality items that could be used for our veterans.

The Senate amendment expands this to other charities as well. But as the ranking member, I want to commend to our TSA officers and our officers that are supervisors across the Nation's airports, and to our airports, yes, you have the opportunity to give to veterans, charitable institutions and others, but I encourage you, because of the extensive number of homeless veterans, that you give these items so that we can have, not only resources, but clothing for homeless veterans of whom we hope that we will provide a pathway to be able to get out of the status of homelessness, but also while they're doing so, to provide them with this quality clothing.

So again, I rise to support H.R. 6328, as amended by the Senate, to thank the author of this legislation, Ms. HOCHUL, the gentlelady from New York; again, remind her that she will not have a silent voice, and this is a very grand and wonderful way to end at least your legislative service, your bill-writing service on this floor of the House and in this Congress where you are serving the Nation's veterans. We are forever grateful, and I ask my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, what I'd like to do is I'll reserve the balance of my time, and then I'll close once the gentlelady does.

Ms. HOCHUL. Mr. Speaker, again I simply want to thank on the Senate side Senator GILLIBRAND, Senator TOOMEY, and, of course, here my colleagues on the Homeland Security Committee led by PETER KING and our Ranking Member THOMPSON, and certainly Chairman BILIRAKIS and my dear friend Ranking Member JACKSON LEE for all their support for this commonsense legislation to assist America's homeless veterans.

With that, I urge the adoption of the Senate amendment to H.R. 6328 so this measure can be sent to the President for his signature.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to support this commonsense piece of legislation and that the President promptly sign it into law.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 6328.

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. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

DRYWALL SAFETY ACT OF 2012

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 4212) to prevent the introduction into commerce of unsafe drywall, to ensure the manufacturer of drywall is readily identifiable, to ensure that problematic drywall removed from homes is not reused, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Drywall Safety Act of 2012".

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Secretary of Commerce should insist that the Government of the People's Republic of China, which has ownership interests in the companies that manufactured and exported problematic drywall to the United States, facilitate a meeting between the companies and representatives of the United States Government on remedying homeowners that have problematic drywall in their homes; and

(2) the Secretary of Commerce should insist that the Government of the People's Republic of China direct the companies that manufactured and exported problematic drywall to submit to jurisdiction in United States Federal Courts and comply with any decisions issued by the Courts for homeowners with problematic drywall.

SEC. 3. DRYWALL LABELING REQUIREMENT.

(a) LABELING REQUIREMENT.—Beginning 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the gypsum board labeling provisions of standard ASTM C1264–11 of ASTM International, as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, shall be treated as a rule promulgated by the Consumer Product Safety Commission under section 14(c) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2063(c)).

(b) REVISION OF STANDARD.—If the gypsum board labeling provisions of the standard referred to in subsection (a) are revised on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, ASTM International shall notify the Commission of such revision no later than 60 days after final approval of the revision by ASTM International. The revised provisions shall be treated as a rule promulgated by the Commission under section 14(c) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 2063(c)), in lieu of the prior version, effective 180 days after

the Commission is notified of the revision (or such later date as the Commission considers appropriate), unless within 90 days after receiving that notice the Commission determines that the revised provisions do not adequately identify gypsum board by manufacturer and month and year of manufacture, in which case the Commission shall continue to enforce the prior version.

SEC. 4. SULFUR CONTENT IN DRYWALL STANDARD.

(a) RULE ON SULFUR CONTENT IN DRYWALL REQUIRED.—Except as provided in subsection (c), not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Consumer Product Safety Commission shall promulgate a final rule pertaining to drywall manufactured or imported for use in the United States that limits sulfur content to a level not associated with elevated rates of corrosion in the home.

(b) RULE MAKING; CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY STANDARD.—A rule under subsection (a)—

(1) shall be promulgated in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code; and

(2) shall be treated as a consumer product safety rule promulgated under section 9 of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2058).

(c) EXCEPTION.—

(1) VOLUNTARY STANDARD.—Subsection (a) shall not apply if the Commission determines that—

(A) a voluntary standard pertaining to drywall manufactured or imported for use in the United States limits sulfur content to a level not associated with elevated rates of corrosion in the home;

(B) such voluntary standard is or will be in effect not later than two years after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(C) such voluntary standard is developed by Subcommittee C11.01 on Specifications and Test Methods for Gypsum Products of ASTM International.

(2) FEDERAL REGISTER.—Any determination made under paragraph (1) shall be published in the Federal Register.

(d) TREATMENT OF VOLUNTARY STANDARD FOR PURPOSES OF ENFORCEMENT.—If the Commission determines that a voluntary standard meets the conditions in subsection (c)(1), the sulfur content limit in such voluntary standard shall be treated as a consumer product safety rule promulgated under section 9 of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2058) beginning on the date that is the later of—

(1) 180 days after publication of the Commission's determination under subsection (c); or

(2) the effective date contained in the voluntary standard.

(e) REVISION OF VOLUNTARY STANDARD.—If the sulfur content limit of a voluntary standard that met the conditions of subsection (c)(1) is subsequently revised, the organization responsible for the standard shall notify the Commission no later than 60 days after final approval of the revision. The sulfur content limit of the revised voluntary standard shall become enforceable as a Commission rule promulgated under section 9 of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2058), in lieu of the prior version, effective 180 days after the Commission is notified of the revision (or such later date as the Commission considers appropriate), unless within 90 days after receiving that notice the Commission determines that the sulfur content limit of the revised voluntary standard does not meet the requirements of subsection (c)(1)(A), in which case the Commission shall continue to enforce the prior version.

(f) FUTURE RULEMAKING.—The Commission, at any time subsequent to publication of the consumer product safety rule required by subsection (a) or a determination under subsection (c), may initiate a rulemaking in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code, to modify the sulfur content limit or to include any provision relating only to the composition or characteristics of drywall that the Commission determines is reasonably necessary to protect public health