

ANNIVERSARY OF PASSAGE OF TITLE IX

(Ms. GABBARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, 41 years ago, President Nixon signed the landmark Title IX legislation into law, giving girls and boys equal opportunities in sports. But what many people don't know is that there was a 5-foot, 2-inch Japanese American woman from Hawaii who was behind this law. While she may not have been a contender for the WNBA, she laid the groundwork for women to participate in sports at every level. She was a fierce fighter for equal treatment and rights for women and held the seat in Congress which I'm privileged to hold today.

Congresswoman Patsy Mink led the way to create equal opportunities for women and girls with her landmark Title IX bill. She grew up wanting to be a doctor and was rejected from over a dozen medical schools in the 1940s simply for being a woman. She went on to attend law school and dedicated her life to battling the status quo.

Title IX is a mere 37 words, but over the last 40 years it has made an incredible impact in the lives of young women around the country. Today girls can play basketball, volleyball, golf, tennis, or even football. Patsy opened the door for these opportunities. Many young women have walked through this door, paving the way for great athletes everywhere.

GET OUR ECONOMY GOING AGAIN

(Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, as many have heard me say on the floor of this Chamber many times before, we have a tremendous opportunity to revitalize America's economy through domestic energy production. We can create jobs, lower energy costs, and become energy independent. We simply need to seize that opportunity. And to do that, we need this administration and its Federal agencies to be partners in progress rather than roadblocks to prosperity. Job creation does not mean hiring more bureaucrats, and "no" should be the answer of last resort after all other avenues have failed.

Two weeks ago, the Department of Energy approved one of many requested permits to export liquefied natural gas. Given that a recent study showed that exporting liquid natural gas can lead to over 200,000 U.S. jobs, it's time for the Department of Energy to approve the rest of the applications and let the market drive our success. Cut the red tape for job creators. And if we embrace a path to energy independence, one that allows the market to pick winners and losers rather than Washington, D.C., we'll get our economy going again.

□ 1230

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I am a strong advocate for the First Amendment and for the freedom of the press. I believe that there is no question of the sanctity of that provision, even to the extent of being a strong supporter of the SHIELD Act so many years ago, and now joining my colleagues, Congressmen TED POE and JOHN CONYERS and others, on legislation to provide that armor.

But I will not stand by while malicious and unsubstantiated attacks go against a very fine and outstanding public servant, and that is the Attorney General of the United States of America, Eric Holder. I was in the Judiciary Committee when he was asked a question about whether or not he had prosecuted or intended to prosecute anyone in the press. And his words were very clear:

We have a long way to go to prosecute the press. You've got to go a long way. With regard to the potential prosecution of the press for the disclosure of material, that is not something I have been involved in or heard of or would think would be wise to do.

That is what Holder said in the hearing. Holder did not have anything to do with prosecuting anyone, and that particular affidavit or subpoena was in 2010. The Justice Department has not charged or prosecuted anybody in the press. Stop the malicious attacks on Eric Holder and the President of the United States of America. Enough is enough.

INEXCUSABLE IRS ACTIONS

(Mrs. HARTZLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the inexcusable actions taken by the IRS. Their decision to target conservative groups based on their political beliefs transcends party politics and represents an indefensible abuse of power. These actions indicate that the agency was operating with political agendas in mind—and not the best interests of the American people—and that must change.

We must refuse to tolerate this egregious behavior, and we must provide major oversight into the IRS so the American people remain protected and can trust that the Tax Code will treat them fairly.

The American people demand answers—not just an apology—from the Internal Revenue Service. That is why Congress, the House Ways and Means Committee, and the Oversight and Government Reform Committee have led, and will continue to lead, vigorous and thorough investigations into this issue, seek out those responsible, and ensure that they are held accountable for their actions.

Federal Government officials should implement the law fairly, not abuse their power for political gain.

HONORING THE LIFE AND MEM- ORY OF CAPTAIN BRANDON L. CYR

(Mr. HULTGREN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of a true American hero, Captain Brandon L. Cyr.

Yesterday morning, I was humbled to attend Brandon's interment at Arlington National Cemetery. Standing on that hallowed ground surrounded by Brandon and his fallen comrades is a sobering testament to the sacrifice of those who gave their lives in the defense of freedom.

Brandon was killed in the line of duty when the plane he was commanding was shot down over Afghanistan on April 27, 2013.

A distinguished officer, accomplished pilot and dedicated friend, Brandon received the Meritorious Service Medal, five Air Medals and the Air Force Achievement Medal. At the time of his death, Brandon had logged 1,700 flight hours—900 of those in combat. Brandon enters into the honored company of those who, in the words of Abraham Lincoln, "gave the last full measure of devotion" so "that this Nation might live."

It is with heartfelt gratitude that I recognize Brandon, his family, and American veterans and their families everywhere for their service and dedication to this Nation.

OBAMACARE

(Mr. STUTZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of 600 people in Fort Wayne, Indiana, who are earning smaller paychecks today because of ObamaCare. Just last week, the largest school district in Indiana, Fort Wayne Community Schools, announced it would cut the hours of 610 part-time cafeteria workers and teachers' aides. These are hardworking folks who play a vital role in the education of our children. Officials running schools across Indiana and the Nation are beginning to realize these unsustainable costs and are taking similar measures to comply with its mandate.

Mr. Speaker, we know now that President Obama's claim that "under ObamaCare if you like your health care you can keep it" was false. Now we know that ObamaCare is also hurting the very people it was meant to help.

Employees in school districts across the country deserve certainty and security, and they don't have it. Americans are being crushed by the cost of

the Affordable Care Act. We must repeal ObamaCare and start over for the sake of Americans and our Nation's children.

RECREATIONAL FISHING AND HUNTING

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

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, Americans are struggling to find jobs in our economy, so we must take advantage of the opportunities for job growth where and whenever they arise. And today I want to highlight the positive economic impact of recreational fishing and hunting.

Mr. Speaker, nationwide, sportsmen contribute over \$3 billion of State and Federal revenue annually through hunting and fishing licenses, fees, and excise taxes.

In my home State of North Carolina, hunters and anglers produced over 35,000 jobs in 2011—more than the combined employment of the two largest private employers in the State. Sportsmen and -women generated \$249 million in State and local taxes in 2011—enough to support the salaries of over 6,000 police and sheriff's patrol officers.

I rise today to support this important industry and what it is doing for my home State. Hunting, fishing, boating, and other recreational sports foster growth in our economy and create jobs.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

JUNE 4, 2013.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, The Capitol, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on June 4, 2013 at 11:00 a.m.:

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 588.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on the motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on the postponed question will be taken later.

RUTH MOORE ACT OF 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass

the bill (H.R. 671) to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the disability compensation evaluation procedure of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for veterans with mental health conditions related to military sexual trauma, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 671

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 "Ruth Moore Act of 2013".

SEC. 2. REPORTS ON CLAIMS FOR DISABILITIES INCURRED OR AGGRAVATED BY MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA.

(a) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—Subchapter VI of chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"§1164. Reports on claims for disabilities incurred or aggravated by military sexual trauma"

"(a) REPORTS.—Not later than December 1, 2014, and each year thereafter through 2018, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on covered claims submitted during the previous fiscal year.

"(b) ELEMENTS.—Each report under subsection (a) shall include the following:

"(1) The number of covered claims submitted to or considered by the Secretary during the fiscal year covered by the report.

"(2) Of the covered claims listed under paragraph (1), the number and percentage of such claims—

"(A) submitted by each sex;

"(B) that were approved, including the number and percentage of such approved claims submitted by each sex; and

"(C) that were denied, including the number and percentage of such denied claims submitted by each sex.

"(3) Of the covered claims listed under paragraph (1) that were approved, the number and percentage, listed by each sex, of claims assigned to each rating percentage.

"(4) Of the covered claims listed under paragraph (1) that were denied—

"(A) the three most common reasons given by the Secretary under section 5104(b)(1) of this title for such denials; and

"(B) the number of denials that were based on the failure of a veteran to report for a medical examination.

"(5) The number of covered claims that, as of the end of the fiscal year covered by the report, are pending and, separately, the number of such claims on appeal.

"(6) For the fiscal year covered by the report, the average number of days that covered claims take to complete beginning on the date on which the claim is submitted.

"(7) A description of the training that the Secretary provides to employees of the Veterans Benefits Administration specifically with respect to covered claims, including the frequency, length, and content of such training.

"(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) The term 'covered claims' means claims for disability compensation submitted to the Secretary based on a covered mental health condition alleged to have been incurred or aggravated by military sexual trauma.

"(2) The term 'covered mental health condition' means post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression, or other mental health diagnosis described in the current version of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders published by the American Psychiatric Association that the Secretary determines to be related to military sexual trauma.

"(3) The term 'military sexual trauma' means, with respect to a veteran, psychological trauma, which in the judgment of a mental health professional, resulted from a physical assault of a sexual nature, battery of a sexual nature, or sexual harassment which occurred during active military, naval, or air service."

(2) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.*—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

"1164. Reports on claims for disabilities incurred or aggravated by military sexual trauma."

(3) *INITIAL REPORT.*—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress an initial report described in section 1164 of title 38, United States Code, as added by paragraph (1), by not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act. Such initial report shall be in addition to the annual reports required under such section beginning in December 2014.

(b) *SENSE OF CONGRESS.*—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs should update and improve the regulations of the Department of Veterans Affairs with respect to military sexual trauma by—

(1) ensuring that military sexual trauma is specified as an in-service stressor in determining the service-connection of post-traumatic stress disorder by including military sexual trauma as a stressor described in section 3.304(f)(3) of title 38, Code of Federal Regulations; and

(2) recognizing the full range of physical and mental disabilities (including depression, anxiety, and other disabilities as indicated in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders published by the American Psychiatric Association) that can result from military sexual trauma.

(c) *PROVISION OF INFORMATION.*—During the period beginning on the date that is 15 months after the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on the date on which the Secretary updates and improves regulations as described in subsection (b), the Secretary shall—

(1) provide to each veteran who has submitted a covered claim or been treated for military sexual trauma at a medical facility of the Department with a copy of the report under subsection (a)(3) or section 1164 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a)(1), that has most recently been submitted to Congress;

(2) provide on a monthly basis to each veteran who has submitted any claim for disability compensation or been treated at a medical facility of the Department information that includes—

(A) the date that the Secretary plans to complete such updates and improvements to such regulations;

(B) the number of covered claims that have been granted or denied during the month covered by such information;

(C) a comparison to such rate of grants and denials with the rate for other claims regarding post-traumatic stress disorder;

(D) the three most common reasons for such denials;

(E) the average time for completion of covered claims;

(F) the average time for processing covered claims at each regional office; and

(G) any information the Secretary determines relevant with respect to submitting a covered claim;

(3) in addition to providing to veterans the information described in paragraph (2), the Secretary shall make available on a monthly basis such information on a conspicuous location of the Internet website of the Department; and

(4) submit to Congress on a monthly basis a report that includes—

(A) a list of all adjudicated covered claims, including ancillary claims, during the month covered by the report;

(B) the outcome with respect to each medical condition included in the claim; and

(C) the reason given for any denial of such a claim.