

Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke
Clay
Clever
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)

Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matheson
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascarelli

Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schradler
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—9

Bass
Cárdenas
Dingell

Fox
Herrera Beutler
Jones

□ 1348

Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Messrs. BUTTERFIELD, HONDA, Ms. WILSON of Florida and Messrs. RUIZ and CARNEY changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. NUGENT, GRIFFIN of Arkansas and Mrs. NOEM changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion to table was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 515, I was unexpectedly detained and missed the rollcall vote No. 515 on the motion to table the appeal of the ruling of the chair. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

Mr. MORAN. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 265, nays 160, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 516]

YEAS—265

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Benishak
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Carney
Carter
Cassidy
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)

Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Pitts
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Joyce
Keating
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee

Wolf
Womack
Woodall

Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)

Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NAYS—160

Andrews
Beatty
Becerra
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke
Clay
Clever
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene

Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Maloney
Carolyn
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Nadler
Napolitano

Neal
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascarelli
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—6

Bass
Herrera Beutler

Jones
McCarthy (NY)
Negrete McLeod
Rush

□ 1357

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

VETERANS BENEFITS CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2014

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 370, I call up the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 72) making continuing appropriations for veterans benefits for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 370, the joint resolution is considered read.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

H.J. RES. 72

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and out of applicable corporate or other revenues, receipts, and funds, for veterans benefits for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes, namely:

SEC. 101. (a) Amounts are provided for entitlements and other mandatory payments whose budget authority was provided in the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2013 (division E of Public Law 113-6), to continue activities at the rate to maintain program levels under current law, under the authority and conditions provided in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2013, to be continued through the date specified in section 103(3).

(b) Notwithstanding section 103, obligations for mandatory payments due on or about the first day of any month that begins after October 2013 but not later than 30 days after the date specified in section 103(3) may continue to be made, and funds shall be available for such payments.

SEC. 102. Amounts are provided for "Department of Veterans Affairs—Departmental Administration—General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration" at a rate for operations of \$2,455,490,000: *Provided*, That such amount shall be made available subject to the authority and conditions as provided under the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2013 (division E of Public Law 113-6) and shall be available to the extent and in the manner that would be provided by such Act.

SEC. 103. Unless otherwise provided for in this joint resolution or in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2014, appropriations and funds made available and authority granted pursuant to this joint resolution shall be available until whichever of the following first occurs: (1) the enactment into law of an appropriation for any project or activity provided for in this joint resolution; (2) the enactment into law of the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2014 without any provision for such project or activity; or (3) December 15, 2013.

SEC. 104. It is the sense of Congress that this joint resolution may also be referred to as the "Honoring Our Promise to America's Veterans Act".

This joint resolution may be cited as the "Veterans Benefits Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2014".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The joint resolution shall be debatable for 30 minutes, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 15 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on House Joint Resolution 72, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

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

There was no objection.

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

We bring before the House today, Madam Speaker, legislation that will ensure that our veterans are given the benefits that they have earned and that there's no delay in the processing of disability claims.

Madam Speaker, the other day, President Obama gave us a list of things that are important and vital that the Nation do to make sure that there is no interruption in services. In particular, we as a Congress, as a House want to make sure that our veterans are taken care of. Everything they have earned through their service to their country, we want to make certain it is taken care of.

This legislation before us today is essential because the VA has told us that funds for these benefits will run out by the end of this month. So it's essential we pass this legislation right now.

Although the Veterans Health Administration is funded a year in advance, we have to pass this legislation today, Madam Speaker, to ensure that veterans and their survivors receive disability compensation benefits.

We have to pass this legislation today to make sure that 517,000 low-income veterans and their family members receive their pensions. We have to pass this legislation today unanimously so that three-quarters of a million students will receive their post-9/11 GI education benefits. We need to pass this legislation today, Madam Speaker, so that 54,000 unemployed veterans will be able to be eligible for training assistance through the veterans retraining assistance program.

Finally, Madam Speaker, we also have to make sure we get this legislation passed so that 67,000 veterans with service-connected disabilities receive their vocational rehabilitation and employment subsistence allowances.

It's also important to note that this legislation will provide \$223 million for cemetery headstones and burial plot allowances that our veterans by their service to our Nation have earned.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Here we are again, déjà vu all over again. The leadership of the other side of the aisle is again attempting to distract the American people from looking at their cynical shutdown efforts by trying to hold them under the torn and shredded garments of our veterans.

This is a hoax. This is a fraud.

Simply stated, this bill will not provide enough funding to pay for all the programs, where every Member of this House understands that veterans benefits are vital and crucial pieces of our ongoing obligation and commitment to our veterans.

However, we should all be clear and we should understand that in accepting this piecemeal proposal, we are in fact

cutting \$6.2 billion in funding that this body voted in June, in the bill that we approved 421-4.

This proposed CR does not address, touch, or do anything for the remaining VA discretionary accounts, which are equally important to our veterans and our families:

The Information Technology account, which includes \$155 million for the Veterans Benefits Management System and is vital in speeding up the claims process, is not included;

The Office of the Secretary account, which includes the Board of Veterans Appeals which provides decisions on claims appeals, is not included;

The National Cemetery Administration is not included, which means that burials, Madam Speaker, at the national cemeteries will be conducted on a reduced schedule;

The Office of Inspector General account is not included, which means that audits and evaluations, administrative investigations, health care inspections, and the Inspector General hotline will be suspended;

The medical research account is not included;

The construction accounts are not included;

Grants to State veterans home and State cemeteries are not included.

On June 4 we passed a full bill, a complete bill, a bipartisan bill. We provided more resources for veterans in the bipartisan bill we passed in June than are provided in this anemic attempt to hide the cynical Republican efforts to justify a government shutdown underneath the veil of the service and sacrifice of generation after generation of veterans.

This is shameful. Veterans can see through this hypocrisy. The American people can see through this hypocrisy.

We need to end this lifeboat strategy offered by the Senator from Texas, where the only visible functions of government he approves or sanctions will be opened.

Open the entire government. Serve the American people by passing a clean resolution discharging our constitutional responsibilities and voting down this phantom of a funding bill that does a disservice to our Nation's heroes—our veterans.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege at this time to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS), the distinguished chairman of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for yielding this time and thank you for bringing up this bill.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this bill.

This bill continues to provide our Nation's veterans with access to important benefits that they have earned in service to their country. To let these important health benefits slow or stop would be to renege on our promise to

our soldiers that, in exchange for taking care of this country, the Nation will take care of you.

This legislation continues funding for the processing and delivering of disability claims and other health benefits at the current annual rate of approximately \$82 billion until December 15, or until we enact full-year appropriations.

Yesterday, when we considered this bill on the floor under suspension, Republicans and Democrats alike united behind the duty of this Congress to provide for our veterans. Frankly, I'm surprised it didn't pass with the vote of every single Member, but some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle chose not to support the care of our former servicemen and -women.

But I believe that, given this second chance, where a majority will do, my colleagues will come together to pass this important bill. Not only is it important for the well-being of our veterans, but it's important for the well-being of the Nation as a whole. Every step we take to fund one section of the government is a step we can take toward reopening the entire government.

Even if we do not agree on much, we can agree, Madam Speaker, that we can't allow this government shutdown to persist much longer and continue to inflict harm on the United States. The clearest path forward is coming together on a bipartisan and bicameral basis to work out our differences, find a solution, and end this shutdown. And the way to do this is laying right in front of us.

The House passed the other night a motion to go to conference with the Senate on the differences that we have between us. It is the old, time-honored tradition of the House and Senate having a conference together to work out differences that is the way this place should be working; and yet the Senate refuses to sit down with us.

Madam Speaker, our conferees are waiting at the table downstairs, even as I speak. And if the Senate would just send over their conferees, we can work out the differences and the shutdown and solve the rest of the Nation's problems.

I urge my colleagues to provide for our veterans and help us get out of this shutdown disaster. Vote "aye" on this bill.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, at this time I yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), ranking member of the full Appropriations Committee.

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, of course we support funding for our veterans. The House already passed a full-year funding bill in June by a vote of 421-4, which was \$6 billion more than the cheap ploy now being considered.

It is essential that the VA can continue offering services, but we must also ensure that veterans receive job training, children receive immunizations, and that our food supply is safe.

Radical Republicans have shut down the government because they refuse to

allow a vote on a spending bill that they wrote, the Senate passed, and the White House would sign.

Three days into the shut down, the majority can't even tell us what they want to reopen the government. Just yesterday, one of their Members said:

We have to get something out of this. And I don't even know what that is.

The House majority has shut down the government, but not to reduce spending or for some other policy reason. It is for pure petulance, and they don't even know what they're trying to accomplish.

□ 1415

Ending the shutdown couldn't be more simple. Stop playing games. Allow a vote on the bill—with your number—to end the shutdown that the Senate passed and the President will sign.

This could end in 30 minutes. Just take the bill with your number, let it pass here, send it to the White House, and that's the end; and we can get on with business to serve the people that we were elected to help.

My constituents want us to work on these serious issues, as do you.

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, the only question before the House tonight is: Will we unite to support our veterans?

I am pleased, at this time, to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER), the chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise for the second time this week to talk about this particular piece of legislation. Why the second time? Well, because the Democrats banded together to kill this veterans funding bill once before. And as I mentioned before the Democrats moved to kill this veterans funding bill, we worked to ensure that disabled veterans, low-income veterans going to school on the GI Bill, and survivors of those killed in the line of duty continue to receive their benefits that they are due, the benefits that they in fact have earned.

Madam Speaker, the House Democrats must not know that BERNIE SANDERS, the chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, introduced a bill on Monday night that related to veterans funding, and I'd like to share with everyone a bit about that effort. And I quote from press reports:

Veterans Affairs' Chairman Bernard Sanders introduced the legislation (S. 1564) Monday night and quickly got the backing from four other Democrats on the panel, as well as Richard M. Burr of North Carolina, the top Republican on the committee . . . Specifically, the bill would protect mandatory compensation and pension benefits for veterans and families, including survivor benefits. It would also, among other things, continue money flowing to educational programs for veterans . . . The bill, he predicted, would be passed in enough time to ensure veterans benefits are not disrupted. Burr said he expects the Senate to adopt the legislation by unanimous consent.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. CULBERSON. I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Does this sound familiar? It should. Because this is the very piece of legislation that we're talking about on the floor today. And I have a suspicion why the Democrats keep stalling this veteran funding bill—they are playing politics.

I ask the Senate majority leader and my friends in the Democratic leadership to unite. Take up the bill that the ranking member has already said that fully funds veterans on June 4.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) for a unanimous consent request.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, before I state my unanimous consent request—

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized for a unanimous consent request only.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. TAKANO. Parliamentary inquiry, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, what do the House Republicans want to end this shutdown, because—

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has been recognized only for a unanimous consent request.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up the Senate amendment to H.J. Res. 59, the clean CR, and go to conference on a budget so that we can end this Republican government shutdown that is slowing our economic growth by .3 percent.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will suspend.

Under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VEASEY) for a unanimous consent request.

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up the Senate amendment to H.J. Res. 59, the clean CR, and go to conference on a budget so that we end this Republican government shutdown that is undermining our national security by leaving more than 70 percent of the CIA furloughed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will suspend.

As the Chair previously advised, the request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BARBER) for a unanimous consent request.

Mr. BARBER. Madam Speaker, our servicemembers and our veterans have done their duty and they have stood steadfast in defense of our Nation. They deserve more than our thanks—

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will suspend. The gentleman is not recognized. The gentleman will suspend.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) for a unanimous consent request.

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up the Senate amendment to H.J. Res. 59, the clean CR, and go to conference on a budget so that we can end this Republican government shutdown that is undermining public health by preventing the CDC from working on its annual flu vaccine or detecting disease outbreaks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman will suspend. The gentleman is not recognized.

As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, at this time, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE).

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will suspend.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(b) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 22 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1530

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) at 3 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

VETERANS BENEFITS CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2014

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will advise Members of the remaining time in debate. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON) has 9 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP) has 10 minutes remaining.

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

I want to first say that today we've had a reminder again of how much we owe our men and women in uniform. And I want to express the gratitude of the Members of the House, the people of America to our men and women in uniform who keep our streets safe every day, and say that our hearts and our prayers are with those injured officers today, and to express our immense

gratitude to each and every one of them all over the country and to our men and women in uniform around the world who make it possible for us to be here today in the greatest deliberative democracy ever created in the history of humanity. We owe it all to our men and women in uniform.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR OFFICERS INJURED TODAY

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, I ask for a moment of silent prayer for those officers who have been injured today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will all Members rise for a moment of silent prayer.

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, we are here today to work arm-in-arm in support of our men and women in uniform. I'm pleased at this time to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE).

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. I thank the chairman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, as a former mayor, I associate my remarks with the chairman.

I rise in strong support of the legislation on the floor today. What we have before us today is an opportunity to keep the faith with America's veterans, of which I am one, and ensuring the funding for disability payments, for the GI bill, which I used, education training, and VA home loans.

No matter what your thoughts on the current impasse, we owe our veterans this much. This should not be, must not become a partisan issue. There are real and serious debates to be had about how we're able to deal with ObamaCare and our Nation's debt crisis, but that's not what we're discussing now.

Northeast Tennessee, which I'm honored to represent in this body, has a long history of military service and hosts Mountain Home VA Medical Center, one of the largest and finest such facilities in the country. When I visit them, I don't see Republicans or Democrats; I see patriots who answered the call, did their duty, and then came home to make a life.

Let's make sure they all get the support they need. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, at this time I am delighted to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE), the ranking member of the Homeland Security Subcommittee.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I have the privilege of representing one of the most military-friendly and veteran-friendly areas of the country, North Carolina. So I'm glad our Republican colleagues are concerned with maintaining funding for our Nation's veterans.

But it's too bad they didn't think a little more about the VA before forcing this government shutdown on us Monday night. And now it's too bad they're not showing equal concern for the more than half a million veterans who now

serve their country as Federal employees, many of whom have been sent home on furlough and now have bills piling up, or the veteran small business owners whose SBA loans are on hold, or the veteran parents whose kids have been turned away from Head Start, or the veterans earning their graduate degrees whose research labs have been closed.

Madam Speaker, of course we need to restore full funding for the VA so it can resume its full array of services to our Nation's veterans, to whom we owe a special debt of gratitude and support.

But veterans want the same thing all Americans want: for us to reopen the entire government so they can get on with their lives as parents and workers and members of their communities.

You don't have to take my word for it. In a letter sent this morning to the bipartisan congressional leadership, the heads of several major Veterans Service Organizations write, and I quote:

Our organizations and the veterans we represent will no longer tolerate Congress leveraging veterans' health and well-being to achieve unrelated political ends.

Or, in the succinct words of the spokesman for the Veterans of Foreign Wars, "The VA needs to be fully funded, not piecemealed and not used as leverage."

So let's dispense with this political theater and this piecemeal approach that fails to end the shutdown. The Senate has approved a clean funding bill that will pass this House easily this very afternoon if the Speaker will simply let it be voted on.

It's time to get on with this business that the American people elected us to do.

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, at this time I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN).

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the emerging pattern of poor decisionmaking coming from the Obama administration on national security.

Under sequestration, this White House mandated that civilian defense workers be furloughed, even when agencies had the money to pay these employees, many of whom are veterans. And today, under this partial government shutdown, the White House has again chosen to furlough the vast majority of these same workers, against the express will and intent of Congress.

Earlier this week, all of us here in Congress passed a bipartisan bill, which the President signed, to expressly protect the pay of Active Duty military, civilian defense employees, and designated defense contractors. The Pentagon can put these workers back on the job today, but the White House is choosing to furlough our critical civilian defense workers.

The Obama administration is also eroding our national security by choosing to furlough 70 percent of the civilian employees at our intelligence agencies. This is unnecessary.