

your health care plan. Now tell that to the hundreds of thousands of Americans who already have received letters from health plans essentially telling them, "You're on your own."

As the failed rollout of ObamaCare continues, American families are beginning to see its disastrous impacts—and this is just the beginning. In the coming weeks, more reports will reveal their President's signature health care law will increase premium rates; force employers to cut back on workers' hours, destroying jobs; and terminate existing policies for needy families.

Congress must address this issue. The House has acted. The Senate must do the same to protect every American family from an unsustainable disaster.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

#### BROKEN PROMISES

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

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, the White House Web site claims:

If you like your plan, you can keep it, and you don't have to change a thing due to the health care law.

Well, Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Maryland said that 76,000 customers in Maryland will lose their current plans because of ObamaCare; in New Jersey, 800,000; in Florida, 300,000; and in California, at least 119,000 will see their policies terminated. It is happening everywhere.

Dana from Denton called my office to tell me she will not be able to keep her Blue Cross & Blue Shield plan because of ObamaCare. The new plan she is required to get will increase her premiums by \$350 a month.

Alex from Manchester told me his letter from Blue Cross & Blue Shield said:

The ACA requires you to pick a new plan to maintain coverage because your current plan will cease to exist at the time of your renewal.

Alex's family will have to pay \$300 more per month for the new plan.

Mr. Speaker, the President made a promise to the American people that they would be able to keep their plans. We now know that this is just not true.

#### JOURNALISTS WRONGLY CHANGE THEIR CODE OF ETHICS

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Society of Professional Journalists has given Americans some bad news about the state of the media. Their previous code of ethics specifically affirmed that:

News reports should be free of opinion or bias and represent all sides of an issue.

This line has been removed. In fact, the revised code makes no mention that news reports should be free of bias.

How can we expect journalists to cover events in a fair and objective way when their own code of ethics no longer discourages biased reporting? Maybe that explains the slanted coverage we see so often today when news stories have become editorials.

The Society of Professional Journalists should reclaim their ethics and restate their commitment to fair and balanced reporting. The media should provide the American people with the facts, not tell them what to think.

#### APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEE TO ATTEND THE FUNERAL OF THE LATE HONORABLE C.W. BILL YOUNG

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 384, and the order of the House January 3, 2013, the Speaker on October 24, 2013, appointed the following Members of the House to the committee to attend the funeral of the late Honorable C.W. Bill Young:

The gentlewoman from Florida, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN

The gentleman from Ohio, Mr. BOEHNER

The members of the Florida delegation:

Ms. CORRINE BROWN

Mr. HASTINGS

Mr. MICA

Mr. CRENSHAW

Mr. MILLER

Mr. DIAZ-BALART

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

Mr. BILIRAKIS

Mr. BUCHANAN

Ms. CASTOR

Mr. POSEY

Mr. ROONEY

Mr. DEUTCH

Mr. NUGENT

Mr. ROSS

Mr. SOUTHERLAND

Mr. WEBSTER

Ms. WILSON

Mr. GRAYSON

Mr. DESANTIS

Ms. FRANKEL

Mr. GARCIA

Mr. MURPHY

Mr. RADEL

Mr. YOHO

Other Members in attendance:

Mr. CANTOR

Ms. PELOSI

Mr. HOYER

Mr. MCCARTHY, California

Mr. YOUNG, Alaska

Mr. SENSENBRENNER

Mr. ROGERS, Kentucky

Mr. WOLF

Mr. VISLOSKY

Mr. BISHOP, Georgia

Mr. CALVERT

Mr. MCKEON

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN

Ms. JACKSON LEE, Texas

Mr. LATHAM

Mr. PRICE, North Carolina

Mr. ADERHOLT

Ms. GRANGER

Mr. SESSIONS

Mr. CARTER

Mr. COLE

Mr. KING, Iowa

Mr. GOHMERT

Mr. ROE, Tennessee

Mr. NUNNELEE

Mr. WOMACK

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 9 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1601

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PETRI) at 4 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.

#### 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 motions 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.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

#### AUTHORIZING AWARD OF MEDAL OF HONOR

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3304) to authorize and request the President to award the Medal of Honor to Bennie G. Adkins and Donald P. Sloat of the United States Army for acts of valor during the Vietnam Conflict and to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to certain other veterans who were previously recommended for award of the Medal of Honor.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3304

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

#### SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION AND REQUEST FOR AWARD OF MEDAL OF HONOR TO BENNIE G. ADKINS FOR ACTS OF VALOR DURING THE VIETNAM CONFLICT.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Notwithstanding the time limitations specified in section 3744 of title 10, United States Code, or any other time limitation with respect to the awarding of certain medals to persons who served in the Armed Forces, the President is authorized and requested to award the Medal of Honor under section 3741 of such title to Bennie G. Adkins of the United States Army for the acts of valor during the Vietnam Conflict described in subsection (b).

(b) ACTS OF VALOR DESCRIBED.—The acts of valor referred to in subsection (a) are the actions of then Sergeant First Class Bennie G. Adkins of the United States Army serving with Special Forces Detachment A-102 from March 9 to 12, 1966, during the Vietnam Conflict for which he was originally awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

**SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION AND REQUEST FOR AWARD OF MEDAL OF HONOR TO DONALD P. SLOAT FOR ACTS OF VALOR DURING THE VIETNAM CONFLICT.**

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Notwithstanding the time limitations specified in section 3744 of title 10, United States Code, or any other time limitation with respect to the awarding of certain medals to persons who served in the Armed Forces, the President is authorized and requested to award the Medal of Honor under section 3741 of such title to Donald P. Sloat of the United States Army for the acts of valor during the Vietnam Conflict described in subsection (b).

(b) ACTS OF VALOR DESCRIBED.—The acts of valor referred to in subsection (a) are the actions of then Specialist Four Donald P. Sloat of the United States Army serving with 3rd Platoon, Delta Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, 196th Light Infantry Brigade, Americal Division on January 17, 1970, during the Vietnam Conflict.

**SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION FOR AWARD OF MEDAL OF HONOR TO FORMER MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES PREVIOUSLY RECOMMENDED FOR AWARD OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR.**

Section 552(e) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002 (Public Law 107-107; 10 U.S.C. 3741 note) is amended—

(1) by inserting “(1)” after “HONOR.—”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) In addition to the authority provided by paragraph (1), a Medal of Honor may be awarded to a veteran of the Armed Forces who, although not a Jewish-American war veteran or Hispanic-American war veteran described in subsection (b), was identified during the review of service records conducted under subsection (a) and regarding whom the Secretary of Defense submitted, before January 1, 2014, a recommendation to the President that the President award the Medal of Honor to that veteran.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS) and the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material into the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3304. This bill would waive the time limit for the President to consider awarding the Medal of Honor to a handful of American heroes. The battlefield actions of these brave Americans have undergone a thorough review by the Department of Defense and have

been determined to merit consideration for our Nation's highest honor.

Among those heroes who would be considered under this bill is Mr. Bennie Adkins of Opelika, Alabama. In 1966, while serving in Vietnam, then-Sergeant First Class Bennie Adkins was assigned to Special Forces Detachment A-102 at Special Forces Camp A Shau in the Republic of Vietnam. From March 9 to March 12 of that year, he displayed extraordinary bravery during a sustained and well-coordinated attack from a determined, vicious, and highly lethal Viet Cong force. Though recommended at the time by his chain of command for the Medal of Honor, he received, instead, the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions.

His citation read:

When the camp was attacked by a large Viet Cong force, Sergeant First Class Adkins rushed through intense hostile fire and manned a mortar position. Although he was wounded, he ran through exploding mortar rounds and dragged several of his comrades to safety.

When the hostile fire subsided, Sergeant First Class Adkins exposed himself to sporadic sniper fire and carried his wounded comrades to the camp dispensary. During the evacuation of a seriously wounded American, Sergeant First Class Adkins maneuvered outside the camp walls to draw fire and successfully cover the rescue.

During the early morning hours of 10 March 1966, a Viet Cong regiment launched its main attack. Within 2 hours, Sergeant First Class Adkins was the only man firing a mortar weapon. Although he was painfully wounded and most of his crew was killed or wounded, he fought off the fanatical waves of attacking Viet Cong. After withdrawing to a communications bunker where several Americans were attempting to fight off a company of Viet Cong, Sergeant First Class Adkins killed numerous insurgents with his suppressive fire.

Running extremely low on ammunition, he returned to the mortar pit, gathered the vital ammunition, and ran through intense fire back to the communications bunker. After being ordered to evacuate the camp, all signal equipment and classified documents were destroyed. Sergeant First Class Adkins and a small group of men fought their way out of the camp and evaded the Viet Cong for 2 days until they were rescued by a helicopter.

Sergeant First Class Adkins' extraordinary heroism in close combat against a numerically superior hostile force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

Mr. Adkins continued his stellar military career until he retired in 1977 at the rank of sergeant major. Mr. Adkins also served a term as the national commander of the Legion of Valor.

Following a thorough review of Mr. Adkins' actions in battle by the Department of Defense, Secretary of Defense Hagel recently wrote to Congress that Mr. Adkins' actions merited the Medal of Honor and that, if Congress would waive the time requirement, he would recommend to President Obama that the President should award the Medal of Honor to Mr. Adkins.

As such, Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for the RECORD a letter from Secretary Hagel.

This bill would also allow Mr. Donald Sloat to be considered for the Medal of Honor. On January 17, 1970, while serving in Vietnam, then-Specialist Donald Sloat, a machine gunner with Company D, Second Battalion, First Infantry Regiment, 196th Light Infantry, American Division, was killed while saving the lives of his squad members by drawing an enemy grenade to his body and shielding them from the blast. For his ultimate sacrifice to save his fellow soldiers, the DOD determined that Mr. Sloat's actions merited consideration for the Medal of Honor.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to commend the Department of Defense for completing the review of Jewish and Hispanic American veterans going back to World War II in order to correct an injustice to deserving members of our military who risked their lives for their country but whose actions were overlooked due to their ethnicities and religions. While conducting this review, the Department discovered seven individuals who did not meet the exact criteria of the congressionally mandated review but who, nevertheless, were deserving of the Medal of Honor. This bill would allow them to be recognized with the Nation's highest award for valor.

It is important to note that none of these brave Americans asked for this renewed consideration. It was through the advocacy and admiration of loved ones and of those who served with them that led to this effort.

For those brave Americans who show such extraordinary heroism in defense of our liberties, it is never too late to say thank you. To Mr. Adkins and Mr. Sloat and to all of the brave Americans like them, I say thank you.

I reserve the balance of my time.

PENTAGON,

Washington, DC, June 7, 2013.

Hon. MIKE ROGERS,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: I am writing in response to your request for award of the Medal of Honor to then-Sergeant First Class (SFC) Bennie G. Adkins under the provisions of section 1130 of title 10, United States Code (U.S.C.), “Consideration of proposals for decorations not previously submitted in timely fashion: procedures for review.”

I reviewed the proposal for award of the Medal of Honor to then-SFC Bennie G. Adkins for his valorous acts from March 9 to March 12, 1966, during the Vietnam Conflict. After giving the nomination careful consideration, I believe then-SFC Bennie G. Adkins' actions merit award of the Medal of Honor. However, section 3744 of title 10, U.S.C., requires that the Medal of Honor be awarded “within three years after the date of the act justifying the award.” Therefore, a statutory time waiver to section 3744 of title 10, U.S.C. is required before the President of the United States may, if he so chooses, award the Medal of Honor to then-SFC Bennie G. Adkins.

The final award authority for the Medal of Honor rests solely with the President of the United States. My favorable determination in no way presumes what the President's decision might be.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs. A similar letter is being sent to the Chairmen of the Senate and House Committees on Armed Services.

Sincerely,

CHUCK HAGEL,  
Secretary of Defense.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 3304, introduced by my friend and colleague, Mr. DEUTCH of Florida.

H.R. 3304 authorizes the President of the United States to award the Medal of Honor to Bennie G. Adkins, Donald P. Sloat, Melvin Morris, Ardie Copas, Jack Weinstein, Leonard Kravitz, Alfred Nietzel, Donald Schwab, and William Leonard.

These individuals have distinguished themselves in service to our Nation in previous conflicts, ranging from World War II to Vietnam. The individuals were reviewed by the appropriate services, and their nominations were given careful consideration by the Secretary of Defense, and their names have been submitted to the Congress.

Section 3744 of title X, United States Code, requires the Medal of Honor to be awarded within 3 years after the date of the act justifying the award, which is why we are here on the floor—to seek a statutory time waiver to allow the President of the United States to award the Medal of Honor to these particular individuals. So I urge my colleagues to support the passage of this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH), the author of this bill.

Mr. DEUTCH. I thank my friend, the gentledady from Guam.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3304. I was pleased to work with my colleagues, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. BRIDENSTINE of Oklahoma, and Mr. ROONEY of Florida, on this bill; and I appreciate the work that they do on behalf of our veterans and the men and women who serve our country today.

This legislation will waive the time limitation to allow the award of the Medal of Honor to two brave men, Bennie G. Adkins, a constituent of Mr. ROGERS', and Donald P. Sloat, a constituent of Mr. BRIDENSTINE's. I sincerely appreciate my colleagues' support and the support of the House Armed Services Committee in the effort to bring this legislation to the floor today.

This legislation will also allow the award of the Medal of Honor to several other deserving veterans. This bill represents the culmination of a long fight to remedy discrimination against Jewish American and Hispanic American veterans of our Armed Forces who, in spite of their acts of valor above and beyond the call of duty, may have been overlooked as being deserving of the Medal of Honor.

Over 12 years ago, this important effort began because Mitch Libman, a

close friend of Leonard Kravitz', made it known that then-Private First Class Kravitz may have been improperly bypassed for the Medal of Honor. After sacrificing his life in combat in Korea, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross with the following citation:

Upon order to withdraw, Private Kravitz voluntarily remained to provide protective fire for the retiring elements. Traversing the gun to the left to cover the infiltrating enemy and ignoring the pleadings of his comrades to fall back, he fearlessly maintained his position. Detecting a column of Communist troops moving toward friendly positions, he swept the hostile soldiers with deadly accurate fire, killing the entire group. His destructive retaliation caused the enemy to concentrate vicious fire on his position and enabled the friendly elements to effect a withdrawal.

Leonard Kravitz bravely gave his life for the men fighting at his side and for his country. In spite of his acts of valor above and beyond the call of duty, Kravitz was not awarded the Medal of Honor. In fact, when Mr. Libman came forward to share Mr. Kravitz' story, no Jewish American veteran had been recommended to receive the Medal of Honor for service in Korea. To ensure that this disparity was not the result of discrimination, Congress required each military department to conduct a review of veteran files to identify any deserving veteran who may have been overlooked for the Medal of Honor. This review has ensured that our highest military honor will be awarded based only on the acts of valor and courage displayed in battle and that no veteran will be denied the Medal of Honor as a result of his or her religion, race, or heritage.

I am extremely proud of the long, rich history of Jewish Americans and Hispanic Americans serving in our Armed Forces. Over half a million Jewish Americans fought for the United States in World War II, and 11,000 of them perished while fighting for this country. Jewish Americans have served with distinction in Korea, Vietnam, Operation Desert Storm, and countless other missions around the globe. Hispanic Americans have a proud history of military service stretching back to the Revolutionary War. Over 1 million Latino veterans have served courageously in our Armed Forces. Hispanic Americans and Jewish Americans are among the brave young men and women who have stepped forward to serve our Nation in our most recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Members of both of these communities have fought for America's freedom and have had to fight to ensure that they receive the respect and honor they are owed for their service. The review of hundreds of service records resulted in the recommendation of the award of the Medal of Honor to at least seven veterans, including Mr. Kravitz.

I want to thank all of those at the Department of Defense who diligently reviewed their records to make certain that we properly recognize all of the

brave veterans deserving of the Medal of Honor.

□ 1615

The President of the United States, Mr. Speaker, has awarded the Medal of Honor to 3,471 of our finest Americans over the course of our Nation's history. With the passage of this bill, the President will be authorized to add Bennie G. Adkins, Donald P. Sloat, and at least seven other veterans whose heroic acts can at last receive the highest honor that they richly deserve.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support the passage of this legislation.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I have no further requests to speak, so I am prepared to close with an urging to my colleagues that they vote in favor of this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, but I do want to commend the author of this bill, this very worthwhile piece of legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3304.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### VULNERABLE VETERANS HOUSING REFORM ACT OF 2013

Mr. COTTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1742) to exclude from consideration as income under the United States Housing Act of 1937 payments of pension made under section 1521 of title 38, United States Code, to veterans who are in need of regular aid and attendance, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1742

*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 "Vulnerable Veterans Housing Reform Act of 2013".

#### SEC. 2. EXCLUSION FROM INCOME.

Paragraph (4) of section 3(b) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)(4)) is amended—

(1) by striking "and any amounts" and inserting ", any amounts";

(2) by striking "or any deferred" and inserting ", any deferred"; and

(3) by inserting after "prospective monthly amounts" the following: ", and any expenses related to aid and attendance as detailed under section 1521 of title 38, United States Code".

#### SEC. 3. UTILITY ALLOWANCES AND DATA.

Section 8(o) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(D) UTILITY ALLOWANCE.—