CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

Herrera Beutler Higgins Himes Hinoiosa Holding Horsford Hover Hudson Huizenga (MI) Hultgren Hunter Hurt. Israel Issa Jackson Lee Jeffries Jenkins Johnson (GA) Johnson (OH) Johnson, E. B. Johnson Sam Jolly Jordan Joyce Kaptur Keating Kelly (IL) Kelly (PA) Kennedy Kildee Kilmer Kind King (IA) King (NY) Kinzinger (IL) Kirkpatrick Kline Kuster LaMalfa Lamborn Lance Langevin Larsen (WA) Larson (CT) Latham Latta Levin Lipinski LoBiondo Loebsack Long Lowenthal Lowey Lucas Luetkemeyer Lujan Grisham (NM) Luján, Ben Ray (NM) Lvnch Maffei Maloney, Sean Marchant Marino Matheson Matsui McAllister McCarthy (CA) McCaul McCollum McHenry McIntvre McKeon

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Jones	Salmon
Kingston	Sanford
Labrador	Schakowsky
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Carolyn	Takano
Massie	Tierney
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NOT VOTING-27

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Rangel

□ 1153

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York changed her vote from "aye" to "no."

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on

Stated for:

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, May 30, 2014, I was unable to vote due to my duties and responsibilities in my daughter's wedding rehearsal and ceremony on the 30th and 31st. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 271.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I missed the following votes:

Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 4681. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this bill.

H.R. 4681—Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this bill.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MEADOWS). The unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO CORRECTIONS MAKE IN EN-GROSSMENT OF H.R. 4681, INTEL-LIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEARS 2014 AND 2015

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that in the engrossment of the bill. H.R. 4681, the Clerk be authorized to make such technical and conforming changes as necessary to reflect the actions of the House.

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

There was no objection.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, JUNE 2. 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon on Monday, June 2, 2014

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

There was no objection.

ACTION FOR DENTAL HEALTH (Mr. SIMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, we are in the midst of a dental health crisis in this country. In 2010, 181 million Americans didn't see a dentist. More than 50 percent of Americans over the age of 30 suffer from some form of periodontal disease, and estimates suggest that 25 percent of children under the age of 5 already have cavities.

It is time to take action. This is why the American Dental Association last year launched Action for Dental Health: Dentists Making a Difference, a nationwide, community-based movement focused on delivering care now to people already suffering from dental disease, strengthening and growing the public-private safety net to provide more care for more Americans, and bringing dental health education and disease prevention into underserved communities.

I urge all of my colleagues to read the Action for Dental Health One Year Report to Congress to learn more about this movement and its progress.

HONORING REBECCA MARTIN

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

Mr. BARROW of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rebecca Martin, the principal of Screven County Elementary School, who is retiring after more than 30 years as an educator.

Educators are the unsung heros in the fight for a better life for all of us. Ms. Martin started her teaching career in 1981 and then went on to teach 18 years in the Screven County School System. Since becoming a principal in 1999, she has overseen a school system that has taught thousands of students who have received too many awards to be mentioned here, all as a direct result of her leadership and dedication to our children.

While I know the students and teachers of Screven County Elementary School will miss Ms. Martin's spirit and dedication and she will miss seeing them as much as she is used to, she can be sure that her teaching and leadership have had a profound impact upon her students and her fellow teachers wherever they go.

I congratulate Ms. Martin on her retirement. I wish her; her husband, Dr. Charles Martin; their two children; and their six grandchildren all the good things to come in the next step of their journey together.

□ 1200

THE GIS ON D-DAY-1944

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it was 70 years ago. The sky was gray, the

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Clark (MA)

Burgess Capuano

Cohen

Conyers

DeFazio

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Duncan (SC)

Duncan (TN)

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Ellison

Gibson

Gohmert

Benishek

Campbell

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the table.

rain pelted the teenage Americans as they were part of the greatest amphibious attack in world history.

It was June 6, 1944—D-Day. The rough seas of the English Channel tossed GIs about in the landing craft as they came under intense brutal fire from the enemy on the French shore. In spite of high casualties on the beaches, they moved forward. They climbed the unbelievable cliffs, and the troops were successful in driving the enemy from the French coast.

Their success allowed more Americans to follow in future waves and later days and later weeks.

My dad, Sergeant Virgil Poe, was one of them who came later. The GIS—they came, they liberated, and some went home. The others lie in graves atop the cliffs of Normandy, France. Their crosses and Stars of David glisten in the sun where 9,000 Americans are buried.

We appreciate and remember all of them for giving up their youth so we could have a future.

And that's just the way it is.

ATOMIC VETERANS SERVICE MEDAL ACT

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

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the bipartisan Atomic Veterans Service Medal Act.

Between 1945 and 1962, about 225,000 members of our Armed Forces participated in hundreds of nuclear weapons tests. These GIs became known as the Atomic Veterans. They were placed in extremely dangerous areas and constantly exposed to radiation in performance of their duties. Sworn to secrecy, they could not even speak of their service.

Thankfully, Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush recognized their valiant service and acted to provide specialized care and compensation for their harrowing duty.

One of my constituents, Joe Mondello from Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, is an atomic veteran, and very proud of his service to our country. Like me, he believes it is past time for the Defense Department to honor with a medal the unique service carried out by the atomic veterans.

More than 75 percent of atomic veterans have passed away, never having received this recognition. I call on this House to act swiftly on the passage of this bill.

[From Leavenworth Times, May 8, 2009] Atomic Veterans Still Fighting For

RECOGNITION FROM U.S. GOVERNMENT

(By Belinda Larsen)

Approximately 225,000 American servicemen participated in atmospheric nuclear tests conducted between 1945 and 1962 in the U.S. and over the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

About 225,000 American servicemen participated in atmospheric nuclear tests con-

ducted between 1945 and 1962 in the U.S. and over the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

These Americans were placed in very hazardous, extremely dangerous areas and were constantly exposed to the unknown factors of radiation in the performance of their duties. They were assigned to these duties with no formal training, knowledge of the hazards and with very little or no safety gear.

They were America's atomic guinea pigs and kept away from the public. And still today the U.S. government re-

And still today the U.S. government remains reluctant to acknowledge the health problems created by the atomic testing, which left the servicemen with hidden wounds—not from bullets or shrapnel, but from radiation.

"Thousands of veterans have died while they begged for medical help. The government has never admitted that subjecting them to atomic radiation causes all different kinds of cancer," said Gary Thornton of Leon, Kan., who has been working hard to bring honor and remembrance to our nation's forgotten veterans.

Thornton, a 27-year veteran of the U.S. Navy, was assigned duty aboard the U.S.S. Engage, a minesweeper. Thornton, along with his fellow crew members, were "volunteered" to participate in a top-secret project.

They were also instructed to sign a document stating that whatever they "witnessed, saw, or heard would not be revealed for 20 years under the penalty of execution and/or life imprisonment." This was called the Atomic Secrets Act and no entries were made in the service jackets, medical records or orders of these soldiers.

Because of the sworn secrecy, it's as if the testing never happened.

Thornton has been telling anyone who will listen that most of the Atomic Veterans have experienced severe health problems, as well as their children and grandchildren.

In order to be compensated, a veteran must be certified by a VA doctor, which means the veteran must have proof of their assignment or participation. Due to the Atomic Secrets Act, it's impossible to attain the needed certification.

The Atomic Secrets Act was finally lifted in 1996—not 20 years, but 51 years after being imposed. The veterans who were left were allowed to discuss their experiences.

"Because so much emphasis was put on the severity of breaking the 20 year imposed threat, there are older survivors that are still afraid to say anything for the fear of being punished," Thornton said. "It's a national disgrace. I just can't stand to see any more of these people die without the recognition they deserve. ... They're not even mentioned in our history books."

The government has never researched or sought out these veterans. Thousands have died from multiple cancers or related illnesses and were not granted any medical assistance.

SMALL STEPS

In 1988, the government finally conceded to allow treatment for six types of cancer, only provided that the veteran could prove they were part of the atomic testing—nearly impossible to do because of the secrecy act.

The Department of Defense has instituted a program that works to confirm veteran participation in U.S. atmospheric nuclear tests from 1945 to 1962, and the occupation forces of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan.

If the veteran is a confirmed participant of these events, the Nuclear Test Personnel Review (NTPR) may provide either an actual or estimated radiation dose received by the veteran. The information then can be used to assist with VA claims. Sadly, it takes a long time for claims to be reviewed and only a few thousand have been approved. In the meantime, more than 75 percent of the Atomic Veterans have died.

SEEKING RECOGNITION

In 1982, there were over 850 Atomic Veterans in Kansas. Today there are only 100 left.

In 2003, Thornton, along with fellow veteran Larry Halloran, began working toward getting recognition and a special medal for the Atomic Veterans.

"These veterans had no idea how the radiation would affect them. . . . None of us knew. We were 18 and 19 years old, following orders and serving our country. We're dying by the thousands and still no recognition. It's a disgrace. We can't let their deaths be in vain," Thornton said.

The allied countries of Great Britain, New Zealand, and Australia enacted the Atomic Veterans Medal Act of 2007, in which a Queen-authorized special medal to honor their Atomic Veterans who served with the United States, was authorized. Their medals came with full monetary and medical compensation.

Still, the U.S. government remains silent. Because of the sacrifices made by the Atomic Veterans, the U.S. has the safest nuclear generating power plants, nuclear aircraft carriers and Trident submarines. Strides were also made in medical technology—including x-rays, MRIs and sonograms.

Thornton also credits the nuclear test results with helping to end the Korean War, "MacArthur had three atomic bombs in Korea and when Korea found out, they backed off," he added, "President Kennedy also had the upper hand in Cuba because of the bomb."

KANSAS EFFORTS

In 2004, former state Rep. Everett Johnson, of Augusta, and an Atomic Veteran who was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease several years ago, helped get a resolution adopted to recognize and honor Kansas Atomic Veterans, which led to then-Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius presenting a Certificate of Recognition to each known Atomic Veteran in Kansas.

"We couldn't have done it without Everett Johnson and Governor Sebelius. . . . Kansas is the only state to do this," Thornton said.

A day of celebration was held in Topeka, but more than 50 percent of the state's Atomic Veterans were too ill or too old to attend the special event.

In 2007, the Kansas Legislature adopted resolution HCR 5018, introduced by Kansas Rep. Ed Trimmer, of Winfield, and co-sponsored by Rep. David Crum, of Augusta, encouraging the President of the United States Congress to honor our nation's Atomic Veterans with a special Atomic Veterans Service Medal.

There has been no official action or designation number for the bill in Washington, but Kansas Congressman Todd Tiahrt's office and other sponsors are routing the bill for introduction to the House of Representatives.

FUNDRAISING PROJECT

During a legislative session last year, Trimmer and Crum co-sponsored legislation to name a portion of Highway 400 in honor of the Atomic Veterans. The legislation passed unanimously in both the House and Senate and was signed by Sebelius in April 2008.

Trimmer led the fundraising efforts for the purchase of the Kansas Department of Transportation highway signs. More than \$1,400 was raised through private donations.

In a ceremony on May 22, the highway signs will be revealed. Legislators, state and county officials, veterans and their families will gather at 10 a.m. at the Bluestem High