

# THANK THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS STAFF

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

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I simply want to thank the incredible hard work of our staff. In particular, I would like to single out Angela Ellard, our chief trade counsel and staff director of the Ways and Means trade staff; Stephen Claeys, our trade counsel; Geoffrey Antell, our trade counsel; Neena Shenai, our trade counsel; Nasim Deylami, our trade counsel; Casey Higgins, our trade counsel; and Paul Guaglianone, our legislative assistant.

If it weren't for the late nights, hard work of our hard-working, dedicated staff that go all too often unrecognized around here, this effort would not have been possible. I just want to say from the bottom of my heart how appreciative I am for their dedication and hard work.

# TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF BURNEY STARKS

(Ms. MCSALLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life of Burney Starks, a man who was beloved by many in southern Arizona and who recently, suddenly passed away.

Burney dedicated his life to service as an Army veteran, a school counselor, and drop-out prevention specialist for the Tucson Unified School District. He played football for the University of Arizona and graduated from the U of A with honors.

Southern Arizonans will remember his incredible singing voice, his love for Motown and karaoke, and his active involvement in the community. He was a lead organizer for the Juneteenth Festival, and he was involved in many local organizations, including the Tucson Boys Choir, Tucson MLK Celebration Committee, and the Warrior Alumni Foundation.

He had a passion for helping others succeed and a unique gift for bringing out their best. I had the distinct pleasure of seeing Burney a few weeks ago on Memorial Day before he died. He was as lighthearted and dynamic as ever.

His smile and laughter will be missed by many, but no doubt his spirit will live on through the countless lives he touched during his life.

# DETERMINING A PATH FORWARD

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, over the last couple of hours, we had the opportunity to discuss some impor-

tant issues that, as they were framed, many Americans might not understand. They are called trade issues or trade legislation to discuss the interactions between the United States and its future world trading partners.

No vote here should be maligned. When I stand here to emphasize that whatever the ultimate results are, if these bills do not generate into actual jobs for our local districts, then we have all failed.

That is the question for this Congress and that is the question for those who are working so intently and for those of us who raise the question whether jobs are created. And we will only move forward if we can determine a pathway of a structure that actually addresses the question of documented jobs, nonlost jobs or substituting jobs for the American people.

Trade, yes, it is business. But it is also the business of the American people and the constituents of the 18th Congressional District in areas like Fifth Ward and southeast and South Park and Acres Home and Independence Heights. It is a question of whether or not jobs are created.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to that answer being answered as "yes."

# NATIONAL GUARDSMAN FLORICH BURIAL AT ARLINGTON NA- TIONAL CEMETERY

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

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, every once in a while, this place works. Recently, we had a National Guardsman, Sergeant Florich, who perished along with a number of U.S. marines in the Gulf of Mexico as their Black Hawk went down.

The Secretary of the Army is granted the authority to grant exemptions to allow these heroes to be buried in Arlington National Cemetery. Unfortunately, the initial decision by the Army was to reject Sergeant Florich's burial request and that of his family. He was a fourth-generation Armed Forces military man serving our country.

Just today, Secretary McHugh reversed that decision. Along with the support of 120 Members of this body, on both the Republican and Democrat side, they all came together and asked the Secretary to review the decision.

I want to thank the Members of this House, Republican and Democrat, Members that I want to ask that you all continue to keep the Florich family in your prayers as his wife is about to deliver their new child.

Thanks again to the Members, Mr. Speaker.

# MARITIME NATIONAL HERITAGE ACT

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

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the end of Capitol Hill Ocean Week.

In my region, the Pacific Ocean was and is central to Native American communities. It also gave rise to a proud maritime tradition along our coast. Entire industries sprang up and, for generations, folks have made a good living as fishermen, boat builders, dock workers, and servicemembers.

The Pacific is a place teaming with a diverse life that we ought to protect for future generations. If we want to protect our natural resources for our children, it is time to cherish our past and protect our future.

With that in mind, I will soon introduce the Maritime National Heritage Act. This legislation would designate the first and only heritage area in the country focused on maritime heritage. It would give Washington State greater access to resources to protect lighthouses, vessels, and other landmarks that contribute to the history and who we are in Washington State.

This bill is a good way to remind folks what our oceans mean to us and why they are so vital.

# TO EXTEND THE AUTHORIZATION TO CARRY OUT THE REPLACE- MENT OF THE EXISTING MED- ICAL CENTER OF THE DEPART- MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS IN DENVER, COLORADO

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (S. 1568) to extend the authorization to carry out the replacement of the existing medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Denver, Colorado, to authorize transfers of amounts to carry out the replacement of such medical center, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CARTER of Georgia). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the right to object, although I don't object.

I just want to thank my friend from Colorado, the authorizing committee, and the appropriators for providing some time through the end of the fiscal year. It gives the Army Corps of Engineers, the VA, and the contractor an opportunity to continue construction of our big VA Medical Center in Colorado. We still have a long-term solution that has to be resolved, but this gives everybody some breathing room to get that done.

With that, I withdraw my reservation.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1568

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

**SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECT PREVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED.**

Section 2(a) of the Construction Authorization and Choice Improvement Act (Public Law 114-19) is amended—

- (1) by striking “in fiscal year 2015,”; and
- (2) by striking “\$900,000,000” and inserting “\$1,050,000,000”.

**SEC. 2. LIMITED, ONE-TIME AUTHORITY TO TRANSFER SPECIFIC AMOUNTS TO CARRY OUT MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECT IN DENVER, COLORADO.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Of the unobligated balances of amounts available to the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2015, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may transfer amounts from the appropriations accounts under the following headings, in the amounts and from the activities specified, to the appropriations account under the heading “Construction, Major Projects”:

- (1) “Medical Services”, \$6,494,000 to be derived from amounts available for the Human Capital Investment Plan.
- (2) “Medical Support and Compliance”, \$1,611,000 to be derived from amounts available for the Human Capital Investment Plan.
- (3) “Medical Facilities”, \$80,735,000 to be derived from amounts available for green energy projects of the Department.
- (4) “National Cemetery Administration”, \$60,000 to be derived from amounts available for the Human Capital Investment Plan.
- (5) “General Administration”, \$1,130,000 to be derived from amounts available for the Office of the Secretary.
- (6) “General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration”, \$670,000 to be derived from amounts available for the Human Capital Investment Plan.
- (7) “Information Technology Systems”, \$240,000 to be derived from amounts available for the Human Capital Investment Plan.
- (8) “Construction, Minor Projects”, \$3,000,000 to be derived from amounts available for minor construction projects at the staff offices of the Department.

(b) TRANSFER OF AMOUNTS AVAILABLE IN FUNDS.—

- (1) REVOLVING SUPPLY FUND.—Of the unobligated balances of amounts available in the revolving supply fund of the Department under section 8121 of title 38, United States Code, the Secretary may transfer \$20,030,000 to the appropriations account under the heading “Construction, Major Projects”.
- (2) FRANCHISE FUND.—Of the unobligated balances of amounts available in the Department of Veterans Affairs Franchise Fund established in title I of the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1997 (Public Law 104-204; 31 U.S.C. 501 note), the Secretary may transfer \$36,030,000 to the appropriations account under the heading “Construction, Major Projects”.

(c) USE OF AMOUNTS AND AVAILABILITY.—The amounts transferred under subsections (a) and (b) shall—

- (1) be used only to carry out the major medical facility construction project in Denver, Colorado, specified in section 2 of the Construction Authorization and Choice Improvement Act (Public Law 114-19); and
- (2) remain available until September 30, 2016.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time,

and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**TRADE**

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

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today on behalf of the Michigan 14th District, which includes the great city of Detroit, to make clear my strong opposition to TPP and TAA.

As a native of Detroit and a longtime public servant, I have seen firsthand the devastating impact of global trade agreements like NAFTA. I will always fight for our businesses and manufacturing so that they can remain competitive globally, but never at the expense of hard-working Americans.

The TAA is underfunded by \$125 million. The TAA also excluded public sector workers, which is unacceptable. Passage of TPP and TAA will only increase the risk of loss of American jobs.

I greatly appreciate the help the TAA provides to workers who have lost their jobs in trade in Michigan and the livelihoods of nearly 500,000. This is why I want to be on the record why my vote was a “no.”

I will never accept cuts to these training programs. I will never agree to leave any hard-working Americans uncovered.

□ 1430

**TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY**

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, trade promotion authority has passed the House on a pretty good bipartisan basis here. This will give the United States the tools it needs to send a message around the world that we are going to be competitive and we are going to be serious about trade.

It also gives the Congress very important tools to adhere to the principles that we in this House believe are important to hold the USTR and the White House accountable with all of our principles together for what is good for the country.

When we have huge tariffs on some of the products we try and export around the world, it makes it noncompetitive. This will send, again, a very strong signal the U.S. is ready to compete; it is not going to be pushed around on trade, and TPA will be a good tool to do that.

However, it is not TPP, which we haven't had much input on lately, and is very difficult to get at. People need to understand, there is a strong difference between TPA, that authorization, and TPP, which is still not finished, still not negotiated, and is something that is a complete separate question from TPA, which I think was a responsible measure we got done here today.

We need to clear up the misconceptions on what is happening and the good measures we in this House did today in order to have America and more jobs be able to come home and stay in the U.S. because of better trade policy.

**800TH ANNIVERSARY OF MAGNA CARTA**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 15, we will celebrate the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta, a document that revolutionized the world and is the foundation for the freedoms that so many take for granted today.

It is impossible to overstate the significance of that day at Runnymede in 1215 when King John of England declared that everyone, including the King, was subject to the rule of law; and as a result, constitutional government was born.

Magna Carta is Latin for “great charter,” and it was so named because of the document's protracted length. Only later, did the world realize how visionary the name truly is.

Most of the 63 clauses granted by King John dealt with specific grievances of a group of barons relating to his rule, but that framework for the relationship between the King and his subjects initiated the concept of freedom under law.

Clause 1 states:

First, that we have granted to God, and by his present charter have confirmed for us and our heirs in perpetuity, that the English Church shall be free, and shall have its rights undiminished, and its liberties unimpaired. That we wish this so to be observed, appears from the fact that of our own free will, before the outbreak of the present dispute between us and our barons, we granted and confirmed by charter the freedom of the Church's elections—a right reckoned to be of the greatest necessity and importance to it—and caused this to be confirmed by Pope Innocent III. This freedom we shall observe ourselves, and desire to be observed in good faith by our heirs in perpetuity.

To all free men of our kingdom we have also granted, for us and our heirs forever, all the liberties written out below, to have and to keep for them and their heirs, of us and our heirs.

Clause 12 reads:

No scutage or aid will be levied in our kingdom without its general consent.

Clause 13 says:

The city of London shall enjoy all its ancient liberties and free customs, both by land and by water. We also will and grant that all other cities, boroughs, towns, and ports shall enjoy all their liberties and free customs.

Clause 38 reads:

In future no official shall place a man on trial upon his own unsupported statement, without producing credible witnesses to the truth of it.

Finally, clause 39 states:

No free man shall be seized or imprisoned, or stripped of his rights or possessions, or