

brush and make sure that we don't have a fuel supply again, creating a better environment with a healthy forest?

There are things that we should do to create a healthy California and a healthy country. This water bill is one of those solutions.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FARENTHOLD). 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 today.

#### BREAST CANCER AWARENESS COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2722) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of the fight against breast cancer, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2722

*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 "Breast Cancer Awareness Commemorative Coin Act".

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) Breast cancer is the most common cancer among American women, except for skin cancers. Today, about 1 in 8, or 12 percent of, women in the United States will develop invasive breast cancer during their lifetime. This is an increase from 1 in 11, or 9 percent of, women in 1975.

(2) Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in women. The chance of dying from breast cancer is about 1 in 36. Thanks to earlier detection, increased awareness, and improved treatment, death rates from breast cancer have decreased since about 1989.

(3) There is a strong interest among the American public to do more to tackle this disease. The National Cancer Institute estimates \$16.5 billion is spent in the United States each year on breast cancer treatment. Assuming that incidence and survival rates follow recent trends, it is estimated that \$17.2 billion will be spent on breast cancer care in the United States in 2014.

(4) Finding a cure for breast cancer is a goal of the United States Government.

(5) The National Institutes of Health dedicated an estimated \$674 million for breast cancer research in Fiscal Year 2014. In Fiscal Year 2014, the Department of Defense's Breast Cancer Research Program received \$120 million.

(6) While the National Institutes of Health and the Department of Defense program on Breast Cancer research remain the largest funders of breast cancer research in the United States, in 2013, the National Cancer Institute funding was reduced by nearly \$66 million since 2011. The funding level for the Department of Defense Breast Cancer Re-

search Program has remained consistent since 2012, however this amount represents a 20-percent decrease from 2011 funding levels.

(7) Additional private sector support for breast cancer research will help us find cures for breast cancer even faster.

(8) It is estimated that in the United States 231,840 women will be diagnosed with and 40,290 women will die of cancer of the breast in 2015. This means that every 13 minutes a woman dies of breast cancer in the United States.

(9) However, due to disease type and lack of adequate care, African-American women have the highest death rates of all racial and ethnic groups overall and are at least 44 percent more likely to die of breast cancer as compared to other racial and ethnic groups.

(10) Breast cancer used to be considered a disease of aging but recent trends show that more aggressive forms of the disease have been increasingly diagnosed in younger women.

(11) Breast cancer is the most frequently diagnosed cancer among nearly every racial and ethnic group, including African-American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian/Pacific Islander and Hispanic/Latina women.

(12) Clinical advances, resulting from research, have led to increased survival from breast cancer. Since 1990, death rates from breast cancer have dropped over 34 percent.

(13) Among men in the United States it is estimated that there will be 2,350 new cases of invasive breast cancer and 440 breast cancer deaths in 2015.

(14) At this time there are more than 3.1 million breast cancer survivors in the United States.

(15) It is estimated that breast cancer costs \$12.5 billion in lost productivity. Such productivity losses will increase with projected growth rate and aging of the U.S. population if cancer mortality rates stay constant in the future.

(16) There is a better chance of survival and there are more treatment options with early stage detection through mammograms and clinical breast exams.

(17) Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women worldwide, with an estimated 1.7 million new cases of breast cancer among women worldwide in 2012.

(18) Breast Cancer Research Foundation (BCRF) is considered one of the most efficient cancer research charities.

(19) Of every dollar donated to BCRF, \$0.91 goes to research and awareness programs—88 cents towards research and 3 cents towards awareness.

(20) Founded in 1993, the BCRF has raised more than \$500 million to fund discoveries in tumor biology, genetics, prevention, treatment, survivorship and metastasis, making BCRF one of the largest private funders of breast cancer research in the world. For 2014–2015, BCRF committed \$58.6 million in research, including \$11.6 million to the international Evelyn F. McKnight Foundation's Fund focused on metastasis, to support the work of more than 220 researchers at leading medical institutions across six continents (25 states and 14 countries).

(21) Susan G. Komen (Komen) is the largest non-government funder of breast cancer research, funding research that spans the breast cancer continuum from basic biology to treatment to survivorship.

(22) Over the past 5 years, more than 80 cents of every dollar spent by Komen has gone directly to its mission to save lives and end breast cancer by empowering people, ensuring quality care for all and energizing science to find the cures.

(23) Since its inception in 1982, Komen has invested more than \$2.6 billion towards its mission, including more than \$847 million in over 2400 research grants and 450 clinical

trials in 48 states and 21 different countries. Recent funding has focused on research to stem metastatic and aggressive disease, find scientifically sound preventive strategies, and investigate environmental links to breast cancer development.

(24) Today, BCRF and Susan G. Komen continue their work to advance research and support programs for patients and their families.

#### SEC. 3. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.

(a) DENOMINATIONS.—The Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") shall mint and issue the following coins:

(1) \$5 GOLD COINS.—Not more than 50,000 \$5 gold coins, which shall—

(A) have a diameter of 0.850 inches; and

(B) be made of "pink gold" which contains not less than 75 percent gold.

(2) \$1 SILVER COINS.—Not more than 400,000 \$1 coins, which shall—

(A) weigh 26.73 grams;

(B) have a diameter of 1.500 inches; and

(C) contain not less than 90 percent silver.

(3) HALF-DOLLAR CLAD COINS.—Not more than 750,000 half-dollar coins which shall—

(A) weigh 11.34 grams;

(B) have a diameter of 1.205 inches; and

(C) be minted to the specifications for half-dollar coins contained in section 5112(b) of title 31, United States Code.

(b) LEGAL TENDER.—The coins minted under this Act shall be legal tender, as provided in section 5103 of title 31, United States Code.

(c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all coins minted under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

#### SEC. 4. DESIGN OF COINS.

(a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The design of the coins minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the fight against breast cancer.

(2) DESIGNATION AND INSCRIPTIONS.—On each coin minted under this Act there shall be—

(A) a designation of the face value of the coin;

(B) an inscription of the year "2018"; and

(C) inscriptions of the words "Liberty", "In God We Trust", "United States of America", and "E Pluribus Unum".

(b) SELECTION.—The design for the coins minted under this Act shall be selected by the Secretary based on the winning design from a juried, compensated design competition described under subsection (c).

(c) DESIGN COMPETITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall hold a competition and provide compensation for its winner to design the obverse and reverse of the coins minted under this Act. The competition shall be judged by an expert jury chaired by the Secretary and consisting of 3 members from the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee who shall be elected by such Committee and 3 members from the Commission of Fine Arts who shall be elected by such Commission.

(2) PROPOSALS.—As part of the competition described in this subsection, the Secretary may accept proposals from artists, engravers of the United States Mint, and members of the general public, and any designs submitted for the design review process described herein shall be anonymized until a final selection is made.

(3) ACCOMPANYING DESIGNS; PREFERENCE FOR PHYSICAL DESIGNS.—The Secretary shall encourage 3-dimensional designs to be submitted as part of the proposals, and the jury shall give a preference for proposals that are accompanied by a 3-dimensional physical design instead of, or in addition to, an electronic design.

(4) COMPENSATION.—The Secretary shall determine compensation for the winning design under this subsection, which shall be not less than \$5,000. The Secretary shall take into account this compensation amount when determining the sale price described in section 6(a).

#### SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.

(a) QUALITY OF COINS.—Coins minted under this Act shall be issued in uncirculated and proof qualities.

(b) PERIOD FOR ISSUANCE.—The Secretary may issue coins minted under this Act only during the 1-year period beginning on January 1, 2018.

#### SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.

(a) SALE PRICE.—The coins issued under this Act shall be sold by the Secretary at a price equal to the sum of—

- (1) the face value of the coins;
- (2) the surcharge provided in section 7(a) with respect to the coins; and
- (3) the cost of designing and issuing the coins (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses, marketing, and shipping).

(b) BULK SALES.—The Secretary shall make bulk sales of the coins issued under this Act at a reasonable discount.

(c) PREPAID ORDERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall accept prepaid orders for the coins minted under this Act before the issuance of such coins.

(2) DISCOUNT.—Sale prices with respect to prepaid orders under paragraph (1) shall be at a reasonable discount.

#### SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—All sales of coins issued under this Act shall include a surcharge of—

- (1) \$35 per coin for the \$5 coin;
  - (2) \$10 per coin for the \$1 coin; and
  - (3) \$5 per coin for the half-dollar coin.
- (b) DISTRIBUTION.—Subject to section 5134(f) of title 31, United States Code, all surcharges which are received by the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this Act shall be promptly paid by the Secretary as follows:

(1) ½ to the Susan G. Komen for the Cure, Dallas, Texas, for the purpose of furthering research funded by the organization.

(2) ½ to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation, New York, New York, for the purpose of furthering research funded by the Foundation.

(c) AUDITS.—The surcharge recipients under subsection (b) shall be subject to the audit requirements of section 5134(f)(2) of title 31, United States Code, with regard to the amounts received under that subsection.

(d) LIMITATIONS.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), no surcharge may be included with respect to the issuance under this Act of any coin during a calendar year if, as of the time of such issuance, the issuance of such coin would result in the number of commemorative coin programs issued during such year to exceed the annual 2 commemorative coin program issuance limitation under section 5112(m)(1) of title 31, United States Code (as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act). The Secretary of the Treasury may issue guidance to carry out this subsection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MAXINE WATERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Mem-

bers may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS), the distinguished chairman of the Rules Committee.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman, my dear friend from Missouri, for this opportunity to allow me to speak today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my friends and colleagues, including the gentlewoman from New York, Congresswoman CAROLYN B. MALONEY, in support of H.R. 2722, the Breast Cancer Awareness Commemorative Coin Act.

This bipartisan legislation supports research only and awareness with a new \$1 gold minted coin, proceeds of which will benefit breast cancer research.

Mr. Speaker, breast cancer research is one of the most important pieces of research that the Federal Government and other organizations perform on behalf of the American people and people all around the world. This is going to allow, for the first time ever, for these congressionally approved coins to be minted in pink gold in honor of the fight against breast cancer.

Mr. Speaker, today, I wear this pin of the breast cancer fight. I applaud organizations all across the country that are not only trying to make progress in this issue, but are making sure that awareness about breast cancer and actual research to eliminate this deadly disease, that progress is being made. That is what the funds would do from private contributions of individuals all around the United States.

There will be approximately 231,840 cases—new cases—of breast cancer among women and 2,350 new cases of breast cancer in men this year alone. That means that every 13 minutes, a woman will die of breast cancer in the United States, making breast cancer the second leading cause of death in women in the United States.

I think it is important that we understand what we are trying to accomplish with this coin and this act today. The bottom line is that the United States Congress allows several organizations each year to be able to mint coins on behalf of highlighting the services that they offer to the American people.

It comes at no cost to the taxpayers of this country. As a matter of fact, the Treasury makes a small amount of money as a result of their doing the work.

Mr. Speaker, what will happen is that through this legislation today—that is very intricate and well understood—no money outside of any money that is brought to bear would be for anything other than breast cancer re-

search. I am aware of the sensitivity of taxpayer money and how that might be used, but no taxpayer money would be used for this effort today.

I want to recognize not only the people in breast cancer research, but also many of the survivors all across this country who are recognizing that the awareness and highlighting this project and the money that would be brought to bear of how important that is.

I would say to my colleagues today that breast cancer research cannot be done entirely through taxpayer money. We are counting on outside money. This is allowing the American people to buy coins, just as we did when I handled the Boy Scout coin with the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts several years ago. People who were part of the Boy Scouts of America paid money in, and it helped us to sell the coin and to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts.

That is exactly what this coin would do also. It would be money from citizens all across this country that would highlight breast cancer awareness and the research dollars that would come as a result of that. That is why we are here today, the incredible medical research that is improving the lives of those who are diagnosed and undergoing treatment for breast cancer.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this is the right thing to do for breast cancer research, and I want to thank my colleague, CAROLYN B. MALONEY, who has been doing this bill, not only for the hard work necessary to get 290 Members of Congress to say we want to vote on this bill, but also the awareness that, if we will join ranks with millions of people who are back home in our congressional districts who want to see breast cancer be solved in our lifetime, that it means that it would be all of us across this country.

I want to thank the gentleman who is handling this on behalf of the Financial Services Committee, the gentleman from Missouri, for his great work. I think that this is an overwhelmingly bipartisan bill where the money will go 100 percent for research, not a dime of taxpayer dollars, and it is a well-understood process that is in the best interests of cancer research for our country.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in favor of H.R. 2722, introduced by my distinguished colleague on the Financial Services Committee, Representative CAROLYN B. MALONEY, the ranking member of the Financial Services Subcommittee on Capital Markets and Government Sponsored Enterprises.

I commend the gentlewoman for introducing the bill before us today, the Breast Cancer Awareness Commemorative Coin Act, which provides a chance

for all of us to come together to raise awareness about this critical health issue that impacts the lives of so many women and families.

Mr. Speaker, the statistics are startling. Approximately one in eight women in the United States will develop invasive breast cancer during her lifetime; and many of these women, approximately 1 in 36, will lose their lives from this horrible disease.

This means that every 13 minutes, a woman in this country will die from breast cancer. That is 40,290 women in the United States are expected to die from breast cancer in 2015 alone.

□ 1245

While this disease affects women in every community across this country for a variety of reasons, such as the lack of adequate care, the likelihood of dying from the disease is particularly high for African American women. In fact, African American women had a 44 percent higher rate of breast cancer mortality than White women. That is why the conversation we are having here today is so important.

With increased awareness, early detection, new research, and better medicine, we can save lives, thousands of them each year. If consideration of the bill before us today causes at least one woman to get screened for breast cancer, we will be better off for it.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill before us today, which will help raise awareness and modest sums for the fight against breast cancer.

Again, I urge adoption of the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY), the author of this legislation.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend and colleague from the great State of California for yielding me the time and for her leadership in so many important areas before this body.

Mr. Speaker, I am very, very proud to rise today to urge the passage of H.R. 2722, the Breast Cancer Awareness Commemorative Coin Act, a bill that I authored with my good friend and colleague, Congressman PETE SESSIONS from Texas. I also want to add my thanks to Chairman HENSARLING, Ranking Member MAXINE WATERS of the Financial Services Committee, and the House leadership for bringing this bill so quickly to the floor.

And a very special thank-you to my partner in this effort, Congressman SESSIONS, who has worked with great commitment and, I would say, creativity in bringing this bill forward and has selflessly worked to have it passed in this body. With his leadership, we were able to secure over 307 cosponsors supporting the passage of this bill in writing.

What we are doing together with this bill is we are going to save American

lives. I am absolutely delighted that Senator HEIDI HEITKAMP from North Dakota, who is, herself, a breast cancer survivor, has pledged to put 100 percent of her effort to making sure that the passage of this bill happens in the United States Senate.

In the United States, over 200,000 new cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed this year, and more than 40,000 women will die. Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in women, and over 2,000 men will be diagnosed. Many people think that it is a woman's disease, but there will be, on average, over 400 men a year who will die from breast cancer. There is only one thing, and one thing only, that can possibly save these lives, and that is research.

The Breast Cancer Commemorative Coin Act will create the opportunity to raise millions of dollars for badly needed breast cancer research without spending one taxpayer dime. Money buys research, and research saves lives. Make no mistake, there have been significant advances in medical research and better detection efforts over the years. But 40,000 women are still dying every year, and so much more needs to be done.

I suspect that absolutely everyone in this body and everyone who is listening who hears my voice today knows someone that they love, some woman they admire, some family member that they care for who has been touched by the shadow of breast cancer. Through this bill, we offer them hope.

Our bill directs the U.S. Mint to create up to 50,000 \$5 gold coins, 400,000 silver dollars, and 750,000 clad commemorative coins and make them available for purchase by the public throughout 2018 so that the American public can be involved with their dollars themselves making a decision to support breast cancer research.

These coins will feature designs submitted and judged through a national art competition that will symbolize the fight against this terrible disease. The gold coin will be unique, made out of the beautiful, highly-prized pink gold to reflect the pink ribbon, an international symbol of breast cancer awareness. Like the ribbon, we hope that Americans across this Nation will be wearing the pink gold coin.

Actually, Mr. Speaker, there has never been a pink gold commemorative coin made like this in U.S. history. This will be another congressional first.

This bill is a creative way to raise awareness about breast cancer entirely from private funds for critically needed research that is necessary to find a cure. The proceeds will be split between two outstanding organizations: the Breast Cancer Research Foundation and Susan G. Komen. Over the years, the Breast Cancer Research Foundation and Komen each have raised hundreds of millions of dollars for breast cancer research across this Nation.

I am privileged to represent the Breast Cancer Research Foundation and appreciate the constant support and effort from its founder, Evelyn Lauder, who has passed but created this wonderful organization, and Myra Biblowit, president of the Breast Cancer Research Foundation. The Research Foundation has been responsible for many of the cures that have come forward and breakthroughs.

There are 3.1 million Americans alive today because of cures that have been financed by the Breast Cancer Research Foundation and Komen. Both organizations have low administrative cost rates so that the majority of every dollar received goes directly to research. For instance, for every dollar donated to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation, 91 cents goes directly to research, and that is incredibly important.

The bill requires that every dollar generated through the coin program must also be matched by private fundraising dollars that are raised by these two organizations. The coin program has the potential to raise millions of dollars to save lives—and at absolutely no cost to the American taxpayer. It can raise as much as \$8 million. The money will buy research, and the research will save lives. When so many lives are on the line, every dollar counts, every dollar matters.

I thank my colleagues, particularly my partner in this effort, Congressman SESSIONS, for their support, and I urge their continued bipartisan support in passing the Breast Cancer Commemorative Coin Act.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Just to reiterate, the gentleman from Texas and the fine ladies from New York and California have really done a good job of explaining this bill. The importance of this, the fact that we are going to try and go after one of the Nation's leading killers, a disease that has claimed many lives, I think it is important to show that the bipartisan support here and the well wishes and good intentions of the group are something where it is nice to see something like this happen in Congress.

I urge support of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2722, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

# HOMES FOR HEROES ACT OF 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 251) to transfer the position of Special Assistant for Veterans Affairs in the Department of Housing and Urban Development to the Office of the Secretary, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 251

*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 “Homes for Heroes Act of 2015”.

## SECTION 2. SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR VETERANS AFFAIRS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT.

(a) TRANSFER OF POSITION TO OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY.—Section 4 of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act (42 U.S.C. 3533) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(h) SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR VETERANS AFFAIRS.—

“(1) POSITION.—There shall be in the Office of the Secretary a Special Assistant for Veterans Affairs, who shall report directly to the Secretary.

“(2) APPOINTMENT.—The Special Assistant for Veterans Affairs shall be appointed based solely on merit and shall be covered under the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service.

“(3) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Special Assistant for Veterans Affairs shall be responsible for—

“(A) ensuring veterans have fair access to housing and homeless assistance under each program of the Department providing either such assistance;

“(B) coordinating all programs and activities of the Department relating to veterans;

“(C) serving as a liaison for the Department with the Department of Veterans Affairs, including establishing and maintaining relationships with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs;

“(D) serving as a liaison for the Department, and establishing and maintaining relationships with the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness and officials of State, local, regional, and nongovernmental organizations concerned with veterans;

“(E) providing information and advice regarding—

“(i) sponsoring housing projects for veterans assisted under programs administered by the Department; or

“(ii) assisting veterans in obtaining housing or homeless assistance under programs administered by the Department;

“(F) coordinating with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in carrying out section 3 of the Homes for Heroes Act of 2015; and

“(G) carrying out such other duties as may be assigned to the Special Assistant by the Secretary or by law.”.

(b) TRANSFER OF POSITION IN OFFICE OF DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR SPECIAL NEEDS.—On the date that the initial Special Assistant for Veterans Affairs is appointed

pursuant to section 4(h)(2) of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act, as added by subsection (a) of this section, the position of Special Assistant for Veterans Programs in the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Special Needs of the Department of Housing and Urban Development shall be terminated.

## SEC. 3. ANNUAL SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT ON VETERANS HOMELESSNESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in coordination with the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, shall submit annually to the Committees of the Congress specified in subsection (b), together with the annual reports required by such Secretaries under section 203(c)(1) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11313(c)(1)), a supplemental report that includes the following information with respect to the preceding year:

(1) The same information, for such preceding year, that was included with respect to 2010 in the report by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs entitled “Veterans Homelessness: A Supplemental Report to the 2010 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress”.

(2) Information regarding the activities of the Department of Housing and Urban Development relating to veterans during such preceding year, as follows:

(A) The number of veterans provided assistance under the housing choice voucher program for Veterans Affairs supported housing (VASH) under section 8(o)(19) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(19)), the socioeconomic characteristics of such homeless veterans, and the number, types, and locations of entities contracted under such section to administer the vouchers.

(B) A summary description of the special considerations made for veterans under public housing agency plans submitted pursuant to section 5A of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437c–1) and under comprehensive housing affordability strategies submitted pursuant to section 105 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12705).

(C) A description of the activities of the Special Assistant for Veterans Affairs of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

(D) A description of the efforts of the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the other members of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness to coordinate the delivery of housing and services to veterans.

(E) The cost to the Department of Housing and Urban Development of administering the programs and activities relating to veterans.

(F) Any other information that the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs consider relevant in assessing the programs and activities of the Department of Housing and Urban Development relating to veterans.

(b) COMMITTEES.—The Committees of the Congress specified in this subsection are as follows:

(1) The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

(2) The Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate.

(3) The Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

(4) The Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives.

(5) The Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(6) The Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MAXINE WATERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. 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 the bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 251, the Homes for Heroes Act of 2015.

This bill, introduced by my colleague from Texas, Congressman AL GREEN, would establish the position of special assistant for Veterans Affairs within HUD to coordinate services provided to homeless veterans and to serve as HUD’s liaison to the Department of Veterans Affairs, the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, State and local officials, and nonprofit service organizations. The position is currently in the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Special Needs. This transfer highlights the importance of this issue.

H.R. 251 would also require HUD to submit a comprehensive annual report to Congress on the housing needs of homeless veterans and the steps undertaken by HUD to meet these needs.

Previous iterations of H.R. 251 have garnered broad support in the past. In 2013, the bill passed by a vote of 420–3; in 2012, by a vote of 414–5; in 2009, by a vote of 417–2; and in 2008, by a vote of 412–9.

Our servicemen and -women continue to bravely serve our country both here and abroad. The least we can do is ensure they have proper access to the services offered to them. This bill represents a step in that direction.

I urge my colleagues to again support this worthy endeavor.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to thank my colleague and friend, Mr. GREEN, for introducing this important bill, the Homes for Heroes Act of 2015.

This bill aims to help prevent low-income veteran families from falling into homelessness, while also providing relief for those who are currently homeless. This bill achieves these aims by elevating a position at HUD aimed specifically at coordinating efforts to ensure that all Federal agencies working to house our homeless veterans are working together at maximum capacity. This position will work closely