

beyond their service to preserve the freedoms we enjoy today.

The Flying Tigers aircraft was easily recognizable because it had the face of a shark painted on the nose of the plane and its menacing teeth served as a warning to their enemies wherever they flew.

During World War II, when Taiwan was brutally attacked by the Japanese, its leader called upon the world community for help. A group of American volunteers answered the call and joined up with Taiwan's Air Force to become one of the most important elements in the ultimate defeat of the Japanese invaders.

It is fitting that we recognize the role of the Flying Tigers and Taiwan's Air Force in holding off the onslaught that U.S. military forces eventually rolled back.

Mr. Speaker, the Flying Tigers held the fort until our Nation was able to gather our strength. For this, we are eternally grateful.

We remember. We are grateful. We salute you.

COLOMBIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

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

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I joined the people of Colombia and my fellow Colombian Americans in celebrating the nation's 215 years of independence.

I am extremely proud of Colombia's rich history and vibrant culture. I am even prouder of the close friendship between our two countries, a partnership which has never been more important.

On issues from narcotrafficking to the promotion of democracy, the United States and Colombia are working arm in arm together to make our hemisphere a more peaceful and prosperous place.

Mr. Speaker, the Colombian people are celebrating their independence at a critical juncture in Colombian history.

After decades of bloody conflict and instability, Colombia is engaged in intense negotiations with the FARC guerrillas, talks that could produce a landmark peace agreement.

This inspiring effort not only demonstrates the Colombian Government's commitment to peace, but also the Colombian people's capacity for healing and forgiveness.

I commend Colombian President Santos and his administration for the progress to date and encourage both parties to press ahead, despite the obstacles that remain.

Mr. Speaker, my sincere hope is that 1 year from today the Colombian people will be able to celebrate not just their innocence, but their freedom from fear and violence.

WOOD COUNTY'S BRANT FREELAND

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

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, it is the most trying times that bring out the best in people. West Virginia has faced high water and floods over the past few weeks. Recently there was an act of heroism in Wood County that deserves recognition on the House floor.

On their way home on Sunday, 15-year-old Brant Freeland and his mother pulled over to wait out high water blocking the road. Brant noticed a car caught in the rising water ahead of him. Not thinking twice, Brant bolted from his car to see if someone was inside.

There he found 69-year-old Connie Boggs trapped inside with the water rising. He wrenched open the door and got her to safety.

Connie said, "If it wasn't for Brant, I would more than likely have drowned."

For his part, Brant said the last thing on his mind when he entered the water was being a hero. "I was just worried about saving that lady's life. That is all."

Brant did more than that. He showed us the kind of courage that is too often missing these days.

CHATTANOOGA 5

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

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Marine Sergeant Carson Homquist, Marine Gunnery Sergeant and Purple Heart recipient Thomas Sullivan, Marine Lance Corporal Skip Wells, Marine Sergeant David Wyatt, and Navy Petty Officer Second Class Randall Smith.

I also rise to assure their loved ones and the American people that Congress will act to prevent this tragic loss from occurring again.

This week I am joining Congressman and former Marine Corps Major DUNCAN HUNTER in introducing legislation to enhance security at our Armed Forces centers by allowing our military members to defend themselves from attacks.

Congress and I send a clear message that this cowardly attack will not be ignored and our heroes shall not die in vain.

I urge all Members to join me in flying the Marine Corps flag and the Navy Anchor flag outside their D.C. office this week.

God bless America and the men and women who defend her. Semper fi and anchors aweigh.

AMERICANS SUPPORT BORDER SECURITY, NOT LEGALIZATION

(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, Americans do not agree with the President's executive order giving amnesty to 5 million immigrants who are in the U.S. illegally, and they especially do

not agree with Hillary Clinton's plan to legalize even more.

A recent Rasmussen poll found that a majority of Americans, 63 percent, now think gaining control of our border is more important than legalizing those already in the United States.

Earlier this month Rasmussen reported that a majority of Americans believe illegal immigration increases the level of serious crime in America.

Tragically, the death of Kate Steinle in San Francisco serves as a reminder of how the administration's failed policies have endangered the lives of innocent Americans.

Instead of putting the safety of Americans first, the administration has often given a free pass to violent criminals who cross our border illegally.

The administration should listen to the American people. Securing our borders should be its first priority, not giving amnesty to those who are here illegally.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 14 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1631

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FARENTHOLD) at 4 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 21, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on July 21, 2015 at 3:15 p.m.

That the Senate passed S. 1177.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

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.

VETERANS INFORMATION MODERNIZATION ACT

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2256) to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit an annual report on the Veterans Health Administration and the furnishing of hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care by the Department of Veterans Affairs, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2256

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 “Veterans Information Modernization Act”.

SEC. 2. ANNUAL REPORT ON VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION AND FURNISHING OF HOSPITAL CARE, MEDICAL SERVICES, AND NURSING HOME CARE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 73 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 7330B. Annual report on Veterans Health Administration and furnishing of hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care

“(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than March 1 during each of years 2016 through 2020, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on the furnishing of hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care under the laws administered by the Secretary and on the administration of the provision of such care and services by the Veterans Health Administration during the calendar year preceding the calendar year during which the report is submitted.

“(b) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—Each report required by subsection (a) shall include each of the following for the year covered by the report:

“(1) An evaluation of the effectiveness of the Veterans Health Administration program in increasing the access of veterans eligible for hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care furnished by the Secretary to such care.

“(2) An evaluation of the effectiveness of the Veterans Health Administration in improving the quality of health care provided to such veterans, without increasing the costs incurred by the Government or such veterans, which includes the relevant information for each medical center and Veterans Integrated Service Network of the Department set forth separately.

“(3) An assessment of—

“(A) the workload of physicians and other employees of the Veterans Health Administration;

“(B) patient demographics and utilization rates;

“(C) physician compensation;

“(D) the productivity of physicians and other employees of the Veterans Health Administration;

“(E) the percentage of hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care provided to such veterans in Department facilities and in non-Department facilities and any changes in such percentages compared to the year preceding the year covered by the report;

“(F) pharmaceutical prices; and

“(G) third party health billings owed to the Department, including the total amount of such billings and the total amounts collected, set forth separately for claims greater than \$1000 and for claims equal to or less than \$1000.

“(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms ‘hospital care’, ‘medical services’, ‘nursing home care’, and ‘non-Department facilities’ have the meanings given such terms in section 1701 of this title.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 7330A the following new item:

“7330B. Annual report on Veterans Health Administration and furnishing of hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care.”.

SEC. 3. EXPANSION OF DEFINITION OF HOMELESS VETERAN FOR PURPOSES OF BENEFITS UNDER THE LAWS ADMINISTERED BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

Section 2002(1) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting “or (b)” after “section 103(a)”.

SEC. 4. IDENTIFICATION AND TRACKING OF BIOLOGICAL IMPLANTS USED IN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL FACILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 73 of title 38, United States Code, as amended by section 2, is further amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 7330C. Identification and tracking of biological implants

“(a) STANDARD IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM FOR BIOLOGICAL IMPLANTS.—(1) The Secretary shall adopt the unique device identification system developed for medical devices by the Food and Drug Administration pursuant to section 519(f) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360i(f)), or implement a comparable standard identification system, for use in identifying biological implants intended for use in medical procedures conducted in medical facilities of the Department.

“(2) In adopting or implementing a standard identification system for biological implants under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall permit a vendor to use any of the accredited entities identified by the Food and Drug Administration as an issuing agency pursuant to section 830.100 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

“(b) BIOLOGICAL IMPLANT TRACKING SYSTEM.—(1) The Secretary shall implement a system for tracking the biological implants referred to in subsection (a) from human donor or animal source to implantation.

“(2) The tracking system implemented under paragraph (1) shall be compatible with the identification system adopted or implemented under subsection (a).

“(3) The Secretary shall implement inventory controls compatible with the tracking system implemented under paragraph (1) so that all patients who have received, in a medical facility of the Department, a biological implant subject to a recall can be notified of the recall, if based on the evaluation of appropriate medical personnel of the Department of the risks and benefits, the Secretary determines such notification is appropriate.

“(c) CONSISTENCY WITH FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION REGULATIONS.—To the extent

that a conflict arises between this section and a provision of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.) or sections 351 or 361 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262) (including any regulations issued under such Acts), the provision of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act or Public Health Service Act (including any regulations issued under such Acts) shall apply.

“(d) DEFINITION OF BIOLOGICAL IMPLANT.—In this section, the term ‘biological implant’ means any animal or human cell, tissue, or cellular or tissue-based product—

“(1) under the meaning given the term human cells, tissues, or cellular or tissue-based products in section 1271.3 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation; or

“(2) that is regulated as a device under section 201(h) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter, as amended by section 2, is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 7330B, as added by section 2, the following new item:

“7330C. Identification and tracking of biological implants.”.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINES.—

(1) STANDARD IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to biological implants described in paragraph (1) of subsection (d) of section 7330C of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall adopt or implement a standard identification system for biological implants, as required by subsection (a) of such section, by not later than the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(B) IMPLANTS REGULATED AS DEVICES.—With respect to biological implants described in paragraph (2) of subsection (d) of such section, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall adopt or implement such standard identification system in compliance with the compliance dates established by the Food and Drug Administration pursuant to section 519(f) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360i(f)).

(2) TRACKING SYSTEM.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall implement the biological implant tracking system required by section 7330C(b), as added by subsection (a), by not later than the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the biological implant tracking system required by section 7330C(b) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), is not operational by the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a written explanation for why the system is not operational for each month until such time as the system is operational.

(2) ELEMENTS.—Each explanation submitted under paragraph (1) shall include a description of the following:

(A) Each impediment to the implementation of the system described in such paragraph.

(B) Steps being taken to remediate each such impediment.

(C) Target dates for a solution to each such impediment.

SEC. 5. PROCUREMENT OF BIOLOGICAL IMPLANTS USED IN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL FACILITIES.

(a) PROCUREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 81 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new section: