

men and women of all ages and from every branch of the service.

I have heard from survivors of sexual assault from World War II, the war in Afghanistan, and every conflict in every era in between. There are veterans who are suffering from PTSD because they were sexually assaulted, and they are not being treated fairly.

With this bill, we are fighting to hold the VA accountable and making sure that they are following through on their promises.

The VA has acknowledged that PTSD from combat is a real injury and needs to be treated that way, and it should be the same for those who suffer from PTSD from sexual assault.

A Pentagon report showed 19,000 women and men were sexually assaulted in the military just last year, but only about a quarter of those assaults were reported and even fewer ended up with a prosecution.

I am glad the Defense Department and the VA has increased training and prevention efforts around rape and harassment, but let me be clear. As you have already heard, the problem is not fixed.

Survivors of sexual assault have been blamed and harassed, crimes have been covered up, and survivors themselves have been the subject of further harassment and recrimination. In the latest Pentagon report, 62 percent of the individuals who reported sexual assault have also reported retaliation.

Mr. Speaker, I want to talk for a minute about a very brave woman, Ruth Moore, a veteran from Maine and the person who we named this bill for.

Ruth fought for 23 years before she was finally given the benefits we owed her. When I met her in my office in Maine 4 years ago, she could barely tell her story.

Bit by bit, she has rebuilt her trust of people in positions of responsibility to the point where she is able to tell her story publicly. There are thousands and thousands of Ruth Moores out there who have been fighting for their benefits for years or even decades.

The Ruth Moore Act of 2015 is an important next step in ensuring that the VA treats these veterans fairly. To be clear, this bill does not create any new benefits for survivors of sexual assault or give special treatment to the survivors of sexual assault. This bill just tries to level the playing field, to hold the VA accountable, and ensure these veterans are treated fairly.

We were able to pass this bill in the last Congress, and I urge my colleagues to do so again this time around. This issue is too important. It cannot be ignored.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. TSONGAS).

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Ruth Moore Act. In 2012, 1 in 5 female and 1 in 100 male veterans told the VA that they had experienced

sexual abuse while serving in the military.

Yet, despite egregious prevalence of sexual abuse in the military, it remains difficult for veterans to receive disability benefits as a result of their military sexual trauma.

In 2013, the Service Women's Action Network, the Yale Law School Veterans Legal Services Clinic, the ACLU, and the ACLU of Connecticut released a report that shows that veterans who experienced sexual assault have their benefits claims denied more often than veterans with other types of PTSD claims.

The report also found the rate of granting these claims varied greatly, depending upon the VA regional office.

The St. Paul, Minnesota, office granted only 26 percent of the MST claims they received, while the office in Los Angeles granted more than 88 percent of the claims they received.

Last year the U.S. Government Accountability Office backed up these findings. GAO found approval rates ranged from 14 percent to 88 percent at different regional offices.

The GAO also found that some medical examiners examining these claims required more evidence than others to establish these claims.

The Ruth Moore Act we are considering today would require that the VA report data on military sexual trauma claims to Congress.

While this reporting is a good step forward and could lead to more consistency and transparency in claims processing, I am disappointed that we are not considering Representative PINGREE's original bill, which would have also made it easier for survivors of military sexual trauma to make their case and made the claims process more uniform.

This bill is named after Ruth Moore, a Maine constituent of Representative PINGREE who spent more than 20 years fighting for her own benefits. Other survivors should not be made to repeat her battle.

I urge passage of this bill.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers at this time. So I would just simply urge my colleagues to support passage of the Ruth Moore Act of 2015, H.R. 1607, as amended, and to provide support to the victims of MST who have so bravely served our Nation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support H.R. 1607, as amended.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1607, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 876. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require hospitals to provide certain notifications to individuals classified by such hospitals under observation status rather than admitted as inpatients of such hospitals.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

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

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disability Act. I rise to thank the members of the Lake County Board for issuing a resolution designating July 26, 2015, as Americans with Disabilities Act Awareness Day.

The Americans with Disabilities Act was in response to an appalling problem, widespread discrimination against people with disabilities.

Over the past 25 years, the ADA has had a profound impact across our country, requiring accessibility and banning discrimination all across America.

In Lake County, we are fortunate to have many great organizations that provide resources to people with disabilities and their families.

I particularly want to recognize the Lake County Center for Independent Living, an organization that provides free life skills training, employment training, and advocacy services to disabled individuals in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with the Lake County Board to celebrate the Americans with Disabilities Act, and I remain committed to working for policies that prohibit discrimination of all kinds.

MEDICARE'S FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, access to affordable, quality health care is a fundamental value, and Medicare and Medicaid have helped millions of Americans live with economic security and dignity for 50 years.

President Lyndon Johnson signed Medicare and Medicaid into law in 1965 on the basic principles that access to health care is a right, not a privilege, and certainly no one should be forced into poverty because of healthcare costs.

Thirty-four percent of those in New York's capital region that I represent

depends on these programs, and we must do everything we can here in the House to strengthen Medicare and Medicaid.

No programs have changed the lives of Americans more over the last 50 years. We cannot strengthen these programs. We cannot ensure the long-term survival of these programs by passing budgets that turn Medicaid into block grants or Medicare into a voucher system.

Medicare and Medicaid save lives, help people live longer, and provide the peace of mind that comes with affordable health care that is there when you need it most.

Moving forward, I hope the House breaks with its recent tradition and works together to pass meaningful legislation that boosts these programs, like the Affordable Care Act.

Happy 50th birthday, Medicare. Happy 50th birthday, Medicaid. Here's to many, many more.

QUESTIONS FROM TEXANS ABOUT THE IRANIAN DEAL

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have asked people on my Facebook page what they think about the Iranian deal. Here are a few of the 300 responses.

Tammy says: Why were our hostages left out of the negotiation? Why even trust Iran at all to live up to the deal when they hate America?

John says: Why are there no American inspectors? Why no instant inspections?

Jacob says: Why are they doing a deal with the world's number one state sponsor of terrorism? This used to be called treason.

Carlos says: Ask them if they remember who Neville Chamberlain was and his policy toward Nazi Germany. Giving into Iran has a very similar overtone to what Chamberlain and the world did back then.

Adam says: 24 days' notice, no USA inspectors, no prisoners coming home? No inspection of their most lucrative site? China and Russia can sell them weapons?

Mr. Speaker, the American public wants some candid answers. Tomorrow Mr. Kerry will testify before our Foreign Affairs Committee. Time for some frank, no-double-talk answers from the administration on this Iranian deal.

And that is just the way it is.

RECOVERING MISSING CHILDREN ACT

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, one out of four child abductions in the United States are not committed by a stranger, but instead are perpetrated by a relative.

An inspector general's report has found that tax filings can help locate these missing children nearly half of the time because new addresses can be identified, but law enforcement can't access this critical information.

We owe it to these children to give law enforcement the tools they need in order to find the more than 200,000 children that are kidnapped by family members every year here in the United States.

That is why Congressman COURTNEY and I have introduced the bipartisan Recovering Missing Children Act, which will allow law enforcement, with a court order, to access tax filings that could aid in the search for abducted children.

This legislation has been endorsed by the Fraternal Order of Police, the National Association of Police Organizations, the Major County Sheriffs' Association, and the Sergeants Benevolent Association.

Mr. Speaker, this is a zero-cost, commonsense way to cut red tape and help law enforcement bring these missing children home.

RESILIENT FEDERAL FOREST ACT OF 2015

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, well, we have yet another reminder why we need for the Senate to take up H.R. 2647, the Resilient Federal Forest Act of 2015. We need to bring active management back to our forests.

Why is this important? Because now in California as well as the rest of the Western States the fire season is upon us.

In my district, the Lowell fire is burning near Alto, California. It has already consumed over 1,700 acres since Saturday, and it is only 20 percent contained. This is one of 12 fires burning in California. It is unknown how many throughout the West.

Sadly, four firefighters have already been injured in this blaze, two from the State and two from the Federal level. Thankfully, three of the men have been released, though one is still hospitalized with severe burns. Thankfully, they are nonlife-threatening.

Nonetheless, the nonmanagement of our forests are roadblocks that get thrown up by a few environmental groups to the type of wise management we need, especially in the time of

drought, especially in the time we have millions of dead trees in the Western States and in California.

They should be thinned. They should be managed. We should have a forest where it will be better for the habitat, better for everybody, and better for everything involved. Instead, we have roadblocks.

We need this bill. We need a much better attitude on managing our forests because, again, this is hurting our firefighters, putting them at unnecessary risk, as well as the homeowners in the area, the wildlife, the habitat, and the economy that used to come from those areas.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CLAWSON of Florida (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today and for the balance of the week on account of a family emergency.

Mr. COHEN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of a flight delay due to weather.

Ms. GABBARD (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of a flight delay.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and tomorrow on account of official business.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today through July 29 on account of official business.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Ms. SLAUGHTER (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of travel complications.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 1626. An act to reduce duplication of information technology at the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2499. An act to amend the Small Business Act to increase access to capital for veteran entrepreneurs, to help create jobs, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, July 28, 2015, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.