

catastrophic acts of terrorism, or to test and evaluate the readiness of governments to respond to and recover from catastrophic incidents. Both of these requirements can include exercises for emerging terrorist threats.

As this bill moves to the other body, I hope that we can work together to clarify the purpose and intent of section 3 of this legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4404, 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.

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COLA ACT OF 2016

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5588) to increase, effective as of December 1, 2016, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5588

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’ Compensation COLA Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. INCREASE IN RATES OF DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.

(a) RATE ADJUSTMENT.—Effective on December 1, 2016, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall increase, in accordance with subsection (c), the dollar amounts in effect on November 30, 2016, for the payment of disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation under the provisions specified in subsection (b).

(b) AMOUNTS TO BE INCREASED.—The dollar amounts to be increased pursuant to subsection (a) are the following:

(1) WARTIME DISABILITY COMPENSATION.—Each of the dollar amounts under section 1114 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDENTS.—Each of the dollar amounts under section 1115(1) of such title.

(3) CLOTHING ALLOWANCE.—The dollar amount under section 1162 of such title.

(4) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO SURVIVING SPOUSE.—Each of the dollar amounts under subsections (a) through (d) of section 1311 of such title.

(5) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO CHILDREN.—Each of the dollar amounts under sections 1313(a) and 1314 of such title.

(c) DETERMINATION OF INCREASE.—Each dollar amount described in subsection (b) shall be increased by the same percentage as the percentage by which benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) are increased effective December 1, 2016, as a result of a determination under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)).

(d) SPECIAL RULE.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may adjust administratively,

consistent with the increases made under subsection (a), the rates of disability compensation payable to persons under section 10 of Public Law 85-857 (72 Stat. 1263) who have not received compensation under chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 3. PUBLICATION OF ADJUSTED RATES.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall publish in the Federal Register the amounts specified in section 2(b), as increased under that section, not later than the date on which the matters specified in section 215(i)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)(2)(D)) are required to be published by reason of a determination made under section 215(i) of such Act during fiscal year 2017.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. ABRAHAM) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and add extraneous materials on H.R. 5588.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have introduced H.R. 5588, the Veterans’ Compensation COLA Act of 2016. This bill would provide a cost-of-living increase for wartime disability compensation, additional compensation for dependents, clothing allowance, dependency and indemnity compensation to surviving spouses, and dependency and indemnity compensation to children paid to our wounded warriors and their families for injuries they suffered while serving in uniform for our Nation.

Many of these veterans are suffering from serious conditions, such as traumatic brain injury, that may make it difficult for them to find gainful employment and provide for their families, and this clean cost-of-living increase will help them keep pace with inflation. Benefits are also paid to the spouses and children of those who have tragically made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of this great Nation.

H.R. 5588 would give veterans and their families the same cost-of-living increase that Social Security recipients receive. The men and women who were disabled as a result of their military service should not have to struggle to put food on the table and pay for housing and other necessities.

Members on both sides of the aisle have historically supported legislation that provides an annual COLA for disabled veterans because we know it is the right thing to do. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5588.

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

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

I rise in support of H.R. 5588, the Veterans’ Compensation COLA Act of 2016. This bill is our annual veterans cost-of-living adjustment. It would ensure that, beginning on December 1, 2016, our disabled veterans receive the same increases as those receiving Social Security benefits.

Specifically, H.R. 5588 directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to increase the rates of basic compensation for disabled veterans and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation, or DIC, to their survivors and dependents. It also increases other benefits, such as clothing allowance and wartime disability, to keep pace with the rising cost of living.

This bill sends a strong and important message that we are going to honor our commitment to supporting our veterans. This is the least we can do to repay their service.

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

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) for his kind words and his support. I have no speakers, so once again, I just encourage all Members to support H.R. 5588.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I, too, have no additional speakers. I thank the gentleman from Louisiana for his work on this issue. It is a pleasure working with him in committee.

I once again ask all of my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 5588 and the Veterans’ Compensation COLA Act of 2016.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5588, the “Veterans’ Compensation COLA Act of 2016,” which authorizes for the Department of Veterans Affairs to increase the rates of compensation for veterans.

As the friends, family, co-workers and neighbors to veterans, we have an obligation to ensure that they feel their service to this country is appreciated by their fellow Americans.

These honorable men and women are major contributors to our military presence and many have given their lives to keep our nation safe.

In the State of Texas we have 1,099,141 veterans under the age of 65 and 590,618 who are over the age of 65—there are over 1,689,759 veterans living in our state.

The 18th Congressional District has 20,607 under age 65 and 9,844 veterans over the age of 65.

H.R. 5588 increases the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities.

Additionally, the bill provides for an increase in the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans and surviving spouses and children.

The increase will be the same percentage as that provided under title II (Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance) of the Social Security Act.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. ABRAHAM) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5588.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MARCELINO SERNA PORT OF ENTRY

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5252) to designate the United States Customs and Border Protection Port of Entry located at 1400 Lower Island Road in Tornillo, Texas, as the "Marcelino Serna Port of Entry."

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5252

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

SECTION 1. MARCELINO SERNA PORT OF ENTRY.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The United States Customs and Border Protection Port of Entry located at 1400 Lower Island Road in Tornillo, Texas, shall be known and designated as the "Marcelino Serna Port of Entry".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the port of entry referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Marcelino Serna Port of Entry".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 5252, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5252, to designate the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Port of Entry located at 1400 Lower Island Road in Tornillo, Texas, as the Marcelino Serna Port of Entry.

Private Serna was a brave veteran who selflessly honored his country. He demonstrated courage, bravery, and heroism in battle, risking his life to save his fellow soldiers, and became the most decorated World War I veteran from the State of Texas.

I am honored to stand here today, as a veteran and a fellow Texan, to pay

tribute to this brave American. I congratulate my colleague, Mr. HURD of Texas, for his leadership in introducing this legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5252.

Private Marcelino Serna was an undocumented Mexican immigrant who became the most decorated soldier from Texas in World War I, and the first Hispanic to be awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the highest military decoration of the United States Army after the Medal of Honor. By designating this port in his name, his exemplary service to our country is fully recognized.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill to honor this great American.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Speaker, our nation was founded by and built upon the blood, sweat, and tears of immigrants.

Today, I want to honor one particular immigrant, U.S. Army Private Marcelino Serna, the most decorated World War I Veteran from Texas.

The heroic story of Private Serna, an immigrant from Mexico, began when he volunteered for the U.S. Army during World War I.

After a brief training, Serna was sent overseas to join the Allied Powers in Europe. Upon arrival, it came to light that he was not a U.S. citizen. Serna had the option of withdrawing from the fight. Instead, he decided to stay and fight together with his fellow soldiers.

During his time abroad, Serna's dedication and bravery stood out with acts worthy of a Medal of Honor. While he did not receive the Medal of Honor during his lifetime, he is currently being reviewed to receive it now.

During the war, Serna was injured in a confrontation that left twelve of his companions dead. He continued to fight, chasing those who had attacked them, managing to capture eight German soldiers.

In another confrontation, Serna managed to capture twenty-four enemy soldiers alone. Upon discovering a sniper's position, Serna shot and wounded him. As the soldier fled to his base, Serna decided to follow him. After discovering the base, Serna attacked, killed 26 enemy soldiers, and forced another 24 to surrender.

Without a doubt, these two examples of heroism demonstrated his dedication and commitment to the fight, but there is more to Serna's story.

As he led the prisoners back to the Allied base, some of his fellow soldiers suggested that they should be executed. Serna refused to allow this. Alongside his courage, he possessed a remarkable sense of honor.

For his extraordinary acts of valor, Serna was awarded two Purple Hearts and the Distinguished Service Cross, the second highest military honor after the Medal of Honor.

This bill serves to commend his bravery by renaming the Tornillo Port of Entry in honor of

Pvt. Marcelino Serna, who lived in the area and is buried with full military honors at Fort Bliss National Cemetery in El Paso.

The Tornillo-Marcelino Serna Port of Entry will not only honor this extraordinary man's service to our nation, it will serve as a reminder of the countless Mexican-American immigrants who have fought valiantly to keep our nation safe.

Their contributions and sacrifices will not be ignored or forgotten.

I urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5252.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIONAL GEORGE C. MARSHALL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

Mr. BRAT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 138) designating the George C. Marshall Museum and George C. Marshall Research Library in Lexington, Virginia, as the National George C. Marshall Museum and Library.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 138

Whereas General George C. Marshall served as Army Chief of Staff during World War II, Special Ambassador to China, Secretary of State, and Secretary of Defense;

Whereas General George C. Marshall was promoted to General of the Army in 1944, one of only five Army five-star generals in the history of the United States;

Whereas General George C. Marshall was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 1946 for his military strategy and vital role during World War II;

Whereas General George C. Marshall was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1953 for developing the European economic recovery strategy known as the Marshall Plan;

Whereas the George C. Marshall Foundation was established in 1953 and is devoted to preserving the legacy of General George C. Marshall through educational scholarship programs and facilities;

Whereas the George C. Marshall Foundation opened the George C. Marshall Museum and George C. Marshall Research Library in 1964 in Lexington, Virginia, on the post of the Virginia Military Institute, which is the alma mater of General George C. Marshall;

Whereas the George C. Marshall Museum educates the public about the military and diplomatic contributions of General George C. Marshall through extensive exhibits; and

Whereas the George C. Marshall Research Library maintains the most comprehensive collection of records documenting the life and leadership of General George C. Marshall: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress designates the George C. Marshall Museum and George C. Marshall Research Library in Lexington, Virginia, as the National George C. Marshall Museum and Library.