

provider of the modification services must adhere to specific requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards.

Mr. Speaker, I think these are important protections for those veterans who need to personalize the vehicles they drive.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. WALORSKI). She represents the Second Congressional District of Indiana, "Gin Town."

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support the Veterans Mobility Safety Act. This legislation will improve veterans' care and ensure the quality of the automobile adaptive equipment and hearing aids disabled veterans depend on.

Automotive mobility plays a vital role in helping our disabled veterans live a normal life after being wounded on the battlefield. The VA's Automobile Adaptive Equipment, or AAE, program provides eligible disabled veterans with an automobile or modification, such as wheelchair lifts and reduced-effort steering and braking, to existing vehicles to improve their quality of life.

Under the current AAE program, local VA facilities operate based upon their own interpretations of VA procedures that haven't been updated since 2000. It lacks quality standards for providers as well. As you can imagine, this fragmented and outdated system has resulted in cases of improperly installed equipment that caused serious safety issues for both the veteran and the driving public.

My legislation requires the VA to develop a comprehensive policy regarding quality standards for providers that participate in the AAE program in close consultation with a host of stakeholders, including veterans service organizations, the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, and industry representatives. The result will be a veteran-centric policy that ensures access to safe, quality equipment. Lastly, it would require VA to update the AAE program handbook to reflect the new policy, along with biennial reports on implementation and compliance.

This legislation also includes Congressman DUFFY's bill that would allow the VA to utilize hearing aid specialists to help fill the need for certain hearing aid services. This legislation will decrease audiologists' workload and allow them to focus on special cases and complex conditions while also decreasing the wait time for a veteran who just needs a quick tweak to their hearing aid.

I want to thank the chairman for all his work on veterans' issues. I want to also thank Representatives BROWNLEY

and RUIZ for their work on this legislation. Lastly, I want to thank Paralyzed Veterans of America for all of their help and all other veterans service organizations for all of their hard work advocating for veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense bill.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I urge my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 3471, as amended.

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

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, once again, I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting this piece of legislation.

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. 3471, 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.

AUTHORIZING THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION TO ACQUIRE, OPERATE, AND MAINTAIN THE LAFAYETTE ESCADRILLE MEMORIAL

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5937) to amend title 36, United States Code, to authorize the American Battle Monuments Commission to acquire, operate, and maintain the Lafayette Escadrille Memorial in Marnes-la-Coquette, France, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5937

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

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY OF THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION TO ACQUIRE, OPERATE, AND MAINTAIN THE LAFAYETTE ESCADRILLE MEMORIAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 21 of title 36, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"§ 2115. Acquisition, operation, and maintenance of Lafayette Escadrille Memorial.

"The American Battle Monuments Commission may enter into an agreement with the Lafayette Escadrille Memorial Foundation to acquire, operate, and maintain the Lafayette Escadrille Memorial in Marnes-la-Coquette, France. Under such an agreement, the Commission shall make necessary arrangements to ensure the ongoing maintenance of the memorial, including the cemetery at the memorial that contains the remains of 49 aviators of the United States who died during World War I."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 21 of such title is amended by adding at the end of the following new item:

"2115. Acquisition, operation, and maintenance of Lafayette Escadrille Memorial."

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and add extraneous materials to H.R. 5937, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5937, as amended. I want to thank Chairman ED ROYCE of the Foreign Affairs Committee and his staff for their assistance in expeditiously scheduling this bill.

My bill would ensure that the Lafayette Escadrille Memorial located outside of Paris, France, will continue to be cared for in a manner that honors America's servicemembers who fought in World War I.

Before the United States entered World War I, 269 brave American volunteers flew in combat missions in the French Air Service. These Americans were referred to as the Lafayette Escadrille after Marquis de Lafayette, the Frenchman who was instrumental to America's victory during the Revolutionary War. Unfortunately, 68 members of the Lafayette Escadrille lost their lives during the war, and the Lafayette Escadrille Memorial contains a crypt that serves as the final resting place for 49 of these brave Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Since 1928, the Lafayette Escadrille Memorial has been operated by the Lafayette Escadrille Memorial Foundation. The foundation is running out of funds that are needed to maintain the memorial.

H.R. 5937, as amended, would authorize the American Battle Monuments Commission to acquire, operate, and maintain the Lafayette Escadrille Memorial, which would guarantee that the memorial receives the care it deserves as a final resting place for Americans.

The ABMC, a Federal agency, currently operates numerous American military cemeteries and memorials in foreign countries. The ABMC is well equipped to ensure that the Lafayette Escadrille Memorial continues to stand as a reminder that Americans fought all around the world in the name of freedom. So I would urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5937, as amended.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Chairman MILLER's bill that would authorize the American Battle Monuments Commission to acquire, operate, and maintain the Lafayette Escadrille Memorial in Marnes-la-Coquette, France.

This request was brought to us directly from the American Battle Monuments Commission in order to ensure that this memorial that honors the service and sacrifice of the Lafayette Flying Corps is properly maintained.

The Lafayette Flying Corps was a small group of American aviators who volunteered to serve in the Lafayette Escadrille prior to the United States entering World War I. Forty-nine members of the Lafayette Flying Corps lost their lives in the war and are interred in the crypts below the memorial.

This incredible group included "Lucky" Herschel McKee, who became their youngest ace with 12 kills, and Eugene James Bullard, the first African American military pilot who was subsequently made a knight of the Legion of Honor, France's most coveted award established by Napoleon Bonaparte.

This important effort will incur no additional costs as the ABMC has indicated that they can maintain this important memorial within their existing appropriations.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in support of passage of this important legislation that honors the services and sacrifice of our men and women that defend our great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation, H.R. 5937, as amended.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I too would urge all colleagues to support this piece of legislation.

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. 5937), 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.

ENSURING ACCESS TO PACIFIC FISHERIES ACT

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4576) to implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean, to implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4576

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 "Ensuring Access to Pacific Fisheries Act".

TITLE I—NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES CONVENTION IMPLEMENTATION

SEC. 101. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) **COMMISSION.**—The term "Commission" means the North Pacific Fisheries Commission established in accordance with the North Pacific Fisheries Convention.

(2) **COMMISSIONER.**—The term "Commissioner" means a United States Commissioner appointed under section 102(a).

(3) **CONVENTION AREA.**—The term "Convention Area" means the area to which the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean applies under Article 4 of such Convention.

(4) **COUNCIL.**—The term "Council" means the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, the Pacific Fishery Management Council, or the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council established under section 302 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1852), as the context requires.

(5) **EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE.**—The term "exclusive economic zone" means—

(A) with respect to the United States, the zone established by Presidential Proclamation Numbered 5030 of March 10, 1983 (16 U.S.C. 1453 note); and

(B) with respect to a foreign country, a designated zone similar to the zone referred to in subparagraph (A) for that country, consistent with international law.

(6) **FISHERIES RESOURCES.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the term "fisheries resources" means all fish, mollusks, crustaceans, and other marine species caught by a fishing vessel within the Convention Area, as well as any products thereof.

(B) **EXCLUSIONS.**—The term "fisheries resources" does not include—

(i) sedentary species insofar as they are subject to the sovereign rights of coastal nations consistent with Article 77, paragraph 4 of the 1982 Convention and indicator species of vulnerable marine ecosystems as listed in, or adopted pursuant to, Article 13, paragraph 5 of the North Pacific Fisheries Convention;

(ii) catadromous species;

(iii) marine mammals, marine reptiles, or seabirds; or

(iv) other marine species already covered by preexisting international fisheries management instruments within the area of competence of such instruments.

(7) **FISHING ACTIVITIES.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term "fishing activities" means—

(i) the actual or attempted searching for, catching, taking, or harvesting of fisheries resources;

(ii) engaging in any activity that can reasonably be expected to result in the locating, catching, taking, or harvesting of fisheries resources for any purpose;

(iii) the processing of fisheries resources at sea;

(iv) the transshipment of fisheries resources at sea or in port; or

(v) any operation at sea in direct support of, or in preparation for, any activity described in clauses (i) through (iv), including transshipment.

(B) **EXCLUSIONS.**—The term "fishing activities" does not include any operation related to an emergency involving the health or safety of a crew member or the safety of a fishing vessel.

(8) **FISHING VESSEL.**—The term "fishing vessel" means any vessel used or intended for use

for the purpose of engaging in fishing activities, including a processing vessel, a support ship, a carrier vessel, or any other vessel directly engaged in such fishing activities.

(9) **HIGH SEAS.**—The term "high seas" does not include an area that is within the exclusive economic zone of the United States or of any other country.

(10) **NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES CONVENTION.**—The term "North Pacific Fisheries Convention" means the Convention on the Conservation and Management of the High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean (including any annexes, amendments, or protocols that are in force, or have come into force) for the United States, which was adopted at Tokyo on February 24, 1912.

(11) **PERSON.**—The term "person" means—

(A) any individual, whether or not a citizen or national of the United States;

(B) any corporation, partnership, association, or other entity, whether or not organized or existing under the laws of any State; or

(C) any Federal, State, local, tribal, or foreign government or any entity of such government.

(12) **SECRETARY.**—Except as otherwise specifically provided, the term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Commerce.

(13) **STATE.**—The term "State" means each of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and any other commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States.

(14) **STRADDLING STOCK.**—The term "straddling stock" means a stock of fisheries resources that migrates between, or occurs in, the economic exclusion zone of one or more parties to the Convention and the Convention Area.

(15) **TRANSHIPMENT.**—The term "transshipment" means the unloading of any fisheries resources taken in the Convention Area from one fishing vessel to another fishing vessel either at sea or in port.

(16) **1982 CONVENTION.**—The term "1982 Convention" means the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982.

SEC. 102. UNITED STATES PARTICIPATION IN THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES CONVENTION.

(a) **UNITED STATES COMMISSIONERS.**—

(1) **NUMBER OF COMMISSIONERS.**—The United States shall be represented on the Commission by 5 United States Commissioners.

(2) **SELECTION OF COMMISSIONERS.**—The Commissioners shall be as follows:

(A) **APPOINTMENT BY THE PRESIDENT.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Two of the Commissioners shall be appointed by the President and shall be an officer or employee of—

(I) the Department of Commerce;

(II) the Department of State; or

(III) the Coast Guard.

(ii) **SELECTION CRITERIA.**—In making each appointment under clause (i), the President shall select a Commissioner from among individuals who are knowledgeable or experienced concerning fisheries resources in the North Pacific Ocean.

(B) **NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL.**—One Commissioner shall be the chairman of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council or a designee of such chairman.

(C) **PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL.**—One Commissioner shall be the chairman of the Pacific Fishery Management Council or a designee of such chairperson.

(D) **WESTERN PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL.**—One Commissioner shall be the chairman of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council or a designee of such chairperson.

(b) **ALTERNATE COMMISSIONERS.**—In the event of a vacancy in a position as a Commissioner appointed under subsection (a), the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary, may designate from time to time and for periods of time considered appropriate an alternate Commissioner to the Commission. An alternate Commissioner may exercise all powers and duties of