

decision to award a contract. Under this bill, the Secretary may give a preference to such employers based on the percentage of the workforce made up of veterans. It makes sense.

The bill would also allow the Secretary to debar any offeror who willfully and intentionally misrepresents the number of veterans they employ. I am glad that provision is in there.

Mr. Speaker, the unemployment rate among certain age groups of veterans still exceeds their nonveteran peers, and this legislation is one commonsense step to incentivize employers to bring veterans into their workforce and increase job opportunities for veterans of all ages.

I firmly believe that we should do all we can to encourage both small and large businesses to provide job opportunities for veterans as well as provide the Secretary the authority to consider such hires when making contracting decisions. This will further incentivize government contractors to make a positive investment in their companies by making investments in our Nation's veterans.

I thank Miss RICE for her hard work on this bill, and it has my full support.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 974.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise in support of H.R. 947, the Boosting Rates of American Veteran Employment Act, or BRAVE Act.

I thank the vice chairman for his kind words on this bill, and I especially would like to thank the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE), an unwavering advocate of our veterans and author of this smart piece of legislation.

Both parties agree it is unacceptable that men and women returning home from our most recent conflicts don't have good, reliable jobs waiting for them. We can start right here in the Federal Government. The VA establishes long-term contracts with private companies for medical equipment, construction, supplies, services, and more.

Currently, the VA gives preferences to veteran-owned small businesses. That is great. What this piece of legislation does is expand this contracting preference to allow the VA Secretary to give a preference to companies that actively search out and employ veterans, a policy that would incentivize companies to even hire more veterans. This is already a smart approach for those companies because veterans bring to a job the skills they have learned over the years and make the company even stronger.

This bipartisan piece of legislation adds no cost to the taxpayers. It allows for debarment of any company that knowingly misrepresents its portion of veteran employees in order to receive the contracting preference.

The BRAVE Act represents a win-win for the private sector, the Federal Government, and, most importantly, for our veterans.

Again, I would like to thank the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE), who will tell us a little more about this in a few moments, and Chairman ROE of Tennessee and Vice Chairman BILIRAKIS for continuing to bring good pieces of veterans legislation to the floor. We are grateful for that.

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

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

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE), the author, the lead sponsor of this piece of legislation, a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee since coming to Congress, and a fierce advocate for those warriors.

Miss RICE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 974, the Boosting Rates of American Veteran Employment Act, which I introduced along with Congressman and Colonel PAUL COOK of California.

The BRAVE Act is commonsense, bipartisan legislation that will authorize the VA Secretary, when awarding Federal contracts, to give preference to contractors with high concentrations of full-time veteran employees. This bill will cost taxpayers absolutely nothing.

It will, first, reward companies that actively hire and invest in our veterans, companies that seek out veterans and give them opportunities to bring their unique skills, training, and experience to the civilian workforce.

Second, it will create an incentive for other companies to do the same and bring more veterans into their workforce.

Most importantly, as more and more companies hire more and more veterans, they will ultimately see that investing in veterans is good for business. That is the real incentive here. It is not just an advantage in securing Federal contracts; it is getting the benefit of employees who have worn the uniform, who have been trained by the greatest military in the world, and who have learned to get the job done, no matter what that job is.

We need more businesses in the private sector to recognize the value of investing in the men and women who have served our country. It is not an act of charity. Veterans are not looking for a handout; they just need an opportunity. The BRAVE Act will help ensure that more veterans have those opportunities.

I want to thank Chairman ROE of Tennessee, Vice Chairman BILIRAKIS, and Ranking Member WALZ for supporting this bill and for helping to bring it to the floor today.

This legislation passed unanimously in the last Congress, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to, once again, give it the bipartisan support it deserves.

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers on my side.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 974.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, once again, I encourage all Members to support this legislation. I commend Representative RICE for her good work.

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. BILIRAKIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 974.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. 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.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUALS TO UNITED STATES-CHINA ECONOMIC AND SECURITY REVIEW COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2001 (22 U.S.C. 7002), as amended, and the order of the House of January 3, 2017, of the following individuals on the part of the House to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission for a term expiring on December 31, 2018:

Mr. Larry Wortzel, Williamsburg, Virginia

Mr. Robert Glenn Hubbard, New York, New York

APPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUALS TO THE CREATING OPTIONS FOR VETERANS' EXPEDITED RECOVERY COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 931(c) of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (Pub. L. 114-198), and the order of the House of January 3, 2017, of the following individuals on the part of the House to the Creating Options for Veterans' Expedited Recovery Commission:

Captain John M. Rose, U.S. Navy, Retired, Kenosha, Wisconsin

Lieutenant Colonel Jamil S. Khan, U.S. Marine Corps, Retired, Janesville, Wisconsin

APPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUAL TO THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON MILITARY, NATIONAL, AND PUBLIC SERVICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 553(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Pub. L. 114-328), and the order of the House of January 3, 2017, of the following individual

on the part of the House to the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service:

Mr. Thomas Kilgannon, Centreville, Virginia

APPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUALS TO THE MEDAL OF VALOR REVIEW BOARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 3(b) of the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Act of 2001 (42 U.S.C. 15202), and the order of the House of January 3, 2017, of the following individuals on the part of the House to the Medal of Valor Review Board for a term of 4 years:

Mr. Brandon Clabes, Choctaw, Oklahoma

Mr. Brian Murphy, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

APPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUAL TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE AMERICAN FOLKLIFE CENTER IN THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 2103(b), and the order of the House of January 3, 2017, of the following individual to the Board of Trustees of the American Folklife Center in the Library of Congress on the part of the House for a term of 6 years:

Ms. Patricia A. Atkinson, Carson City, Nevada

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 23 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOODALL) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 66, DISAPPROVING RULE SUBMITTED BY DEPARTMENT OF LABOR RELATING TO SAVINGS ARRANGEMENTS BY STATES FOR NON-GOVERNMENTAL EMPLOYEES, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 67, DISAPPROVING RULE SUBMITTED BY DEPARTMENT OF LABOR RELATING TO SAVINGS ARRANGEMENTS BY QUALIFIED STATE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS FOR NON-GOVERNMENTAL EMPLOYEES

Mr. BYRNE, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report

(Rept. No. 115-11) on the resolution (H. Res. 116) providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 66) disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to savings arrangements established by States for non-governmental employees, and providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 67) disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to savings arrangements established by qualified State political subdivisions for non-governmental employees, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 244, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 974, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The second electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

HONORING INVESTMENTS IN RECRUITING AND EMPLOYING AMERICAN MILITARY VETERANS ACT OF 2017

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 244) to encourage effective, voluntary private sector investments to recruit, employ, and retain men and women who have served in the United States military with annual presidential awards to private sector employers recognizing such efforts, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 409, nays 1, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 86]

YEAS—409

Abraham	Bilirakis	Bucshon	Cicilline	Heck	McSally
Adams	Bishop (GA)	Budd	Clark (MA)	Hensarling	Meadows
Aderholt	Bishop (MI)	Burgess	Clarke (NY)	Herrera Beutler	Meehan
Aguilar	Bishop (UT)	Bustos	Clay	Hice, Jody B.	Meng
Allen	Black	Butterfield	Cleaver	Higgins (LA)	Messer
Amodei	Blackburn	Byrne	Clyburn	Higgins (NY)	Mitchell
Arrington	Blum	Calvert	Coffman	Hill	Moolenaar
Babin	Blumenauer	Capuano	Cohen	Himes	Mooney (WV)
Bacon	Blunt Rochester	Carbajal	Cole	Holding	Mullin
Banks (IN)	Bonamici	Cárdenas	Collins (GA)	Hollingsworth	Murphy (FL)
Barletta	Bost	Carson (IN)	Collins (NY)	Hoyer	Murphy (PA)
Barr	Brady (PA)	Carter (GA)	Comer	Hudson	Nadler
Barragán	Brady (TX)	Carter (TX)	Comstock	Huffman	Napolitano
Barton	Brat	Cartwright	Conaway	Huizenga	Neal
Bass	Bridenstine	Castor (FL)	Connolly	Hultgren	Newhouse
Beatty	Brooks (AL)	Castro (TX)	Conyers	Hunter	Noem
Bera	Brooks (IN)	Chabot	Cook	Hurd	Nolan
Bergman	Brown (MD)	Chaffetz	Cooper	Issa	Norcross
Beyer	Brownley (CA)	Cheney	Correa	Jackson Lee	Nunes
Biggs	Buck	Chu, Judy	Costa	Jayapal	O'Halleran
			Costello (PA)	Jeffries	O'Rourke
			Courtney	Jenkins (WV)	Olson
			Cramer	Johnson (GA)	Pallazzo
			Crawford	Johnson (LA)	Pallone
			Crist	Johnson (OH)	Palmer
			Crowley	Johnson, E. B.	Panetta
			Cuellar	Johnson, Sam	Pascarella
			Culberson	Jones	Paulsen
			Cummings	Jordan	Payne
			Curbelo (FL)	Joyce (OH)	Pearce
			Davidson	Kaptur	Pelosi
			Davis (CA)	Katko	Perlmutter
			Davis, Danny	Keating	Perry
			Davis, Rodney	Kelly (IL)	Peters
			DeFazio	Kelly (MS)	Peterson
			DeGette	Kelly (PA)	Pocan
			DeLauro	Kennedy	Poe (TX)
			DelBene	Khanna	Poliquin
			Demings	Kihuen	Polis
			Denham	Kildee	Posey
			Dent	Kilmer	Price (NC)
			DeSantis	Kind	Quigley
			DeSaulnier	King (IA)	Raskin
			DesJarlais	King (NY)	Ratcliffe
			Deutch	Kinzinger	Reed
			Diaz-Balart	Knight	Reichert
			Dingell	Krishnamoorthi	Renacci
			Doggett	Kuster (NH)	Rice (NY)
			Donovan	Kustoff (TN)	Rice (SC)
			Doyle, Michael	Labrador	Richmond
			F.	LaHood	Roby
			Duffy	Lamborn	Roe (TN)
			Duncan (SC)	Lance	Rogers (AL)
			Duncan (TN)	Langevin	Rogers (KY)
			Dunn	Larsen (WA)	Rohrabacher
			Emmer	Larson (CT)	Rokita
			Engel	Latta	Rooney, Francis
			Eshoo	Lawrence	Rooney, Thomas
			Espallat	Lawson (FL)	J.
			Esty	Lee	Ros-Lehtinen
			Evans	Levin	Rosen
			Farenthold	Lewis (GA)	Roskam
			Ferguson	Lewis (MN)	Ross
			Fitzpatrick	Lieu, Ted	Rothfus
			Fleischmann	Lipinski	Rouzer
			Flores	LoBiondo	Roybal-Allard
			Fortenberry	Loeb sack	Royce (CA)
			Foster	Lofgren	Ruiz
			Fox	Long	Ruppersberger
			Frankel (FL)	Loudermilk	Russell
			Franks (AZ)	Love	Rutherford
			Frelinghuysen	Lowenthal	Ryan (OH)
			Fudge	Lowe	Sánchez
			Gabbard	Lucas	Sanford
			Gaetz	Luetkemeyer	Sarbanes
			Gallagher	Lujan Grisham,	Scalise
			Garrett	M.	Schakowsky
			Gibbs	Luján, Ben Ray	Schiff
			Gohmert	Lynch	Schneider
			Gonzalez (TX)	MacArthur	Schrader
			Goodlatte	Maloney,	Schweikert
			Gosar	Carolyn B.	Scott (VA)
			Gottheimer	Maloney, Sean	Scott, Austin
			Gowdy	Marchant	Scott, David
			Granger	Marino	Sensenbrenner
			Graves (GA)	Marshall	Serrano
			Graves (LA)	Massie	Sessions
			Graves (MO)	Mast	Sewell (AL)
			Green, Al	Matsui	Shea-Porter
			Green, Gene	McCarthy	Sherman
			Griffith	McClintock	Shimkus
			Grijalva	McCollum	Shuster
			Grothman	McEachin	Simpson
			Guthrie	McGovern	Sinema
			Hanabusa	McHenry	Slaughter
			Harper	McKinley	Smith (MO)
			Harris	McMorris	Smith (NE)
			Hartzler	Rodgers	Smith (NJ)
			Hastings	McNerney	