

NOT VOTING—16

Butterfield	Emmer	Olson
Chaffetz	Gohmert	Poliquin
DeGette	Grijalva	Raskin
Delaney	Holding	Rooney, Francis
Diaz-Balart	Messer	
Doggett	Newhouse	

□ 1641

Mr. STIVERS changed his vote from “aye” to “no.”

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PROVIDING FOR A CORRECTION IN THE ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 244

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I send to the desk a concurrent resolution and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MITCHELL). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 53

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That in the enrollment of the bill H.R. 244, the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall make the following corrections:

(1) Amend the long title so as to read: “Making appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes”.

(2) Strike the first section 1 immediately following the enacting clause and all that follows through “Sec. 4. Display of Award”.

(3) In the table of contents for the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017, strike “**Division N—Honoring Investments in Recruiting and Employing American Military Veterans Act of 2017**” and insert the following:

DIVISION N—INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

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

(4) Insert immediately before “It is unlawful for any employer to publicly display a HIRE Vets Medallion Award” the following:

“DIVISION O—HONORING INVESTMENTS IN RECRUITING AND EMPLOYING AMERICAN MILITARY VETERANS ACT OF 2017

“SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

“This division may be cited as the ‘Honoring Investments in Recruiting and Employing American Military Veterans Act of 2017’ or the ‘HIRE Vets Act’.

“SEC. 2. HIRE VETS MEDALLION AWARD PROGRAM.

“(a) PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor shall establish, by rule, a HIRE Vets Medallion Program to solicit voluntary information from employers for purposes of recognizing, by means of an award to be designated a ‘HIRE Vets Medallion Award’, verified efforts by such employers—

“(1) to recruit, employ, and retain veterans; and

“(2) to provide community and charitable services supporting the veteran community.

“(b) APPLICATION PROCESS.—Beginning in the calendar year following the calendar

year in which the Secretary establishes the program, the Secretary shall annually—

“(1) solicit and accept voluntary applications from employers in order to consider whether those employers should receive a HIRE Vets Medallion Award;

“(2) review applications received in each calendar year; and

“(3) notify such recipients of their awards; and

“(4) at a time to coincide with the annual commemoration of Veterans Day—

“(A) announce the names of such recipients;

“(B) recognize such recipients through publication in the Federal Register; and

“(C) issue to each such recipient—

“(i) a HIRE Vets Medallion Award of the level determined under section 3; and

“(ii) a certificate stating that such employer is entitled to display such HIRE Vets Medallion Award.

“(c) TIMING.—

“(1) SOLICITATION PERIOD.—The Secretary shall solicit applications not later than January 31st of each calendar year for the Awards to be awarded in November of that calendar year.

“(2) END OF ACCEPTANCE PERIOD.—The Secretary shall stop accepting applications not earlier than April 30th of each calendar year for the Awards to be awarded in November of that calendar year.

“(3) REVIEW PERIOD.—The Secretary shall finish reviewing applications not later than August 31st of each calendar year for the Awards to be awarded in November of that calendar year.

“(4) SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS.—The Secretary shall select the employers to receive HIRE Vets Medallion Awards not later than September 30th of each calendar year for the Awards to be awarded in November of that calendar year.

“(5) NOTICE TO RECIPIENTS.—The Secretary shall notify employers who will receive HIRE Vets Medallion Awards not later than October 11th of each calendar year for the Awards to be awarded in November of that calendar year.

“(d) LIMITATION.—An employer who receives a HIRE Vets Medallion Award for one calendar year is not eligible to receive a HIRE Vets Medallion Award for the subsequent calendar year.

“SEC. 3. SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS.

“(a) APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall review all applications received in a calendar year to determine whether an employer should receive a HIRE Vets Medallion Award, and, if so, of what level.

“(2) APPLICATION CONTENTS.—The Secretary shall require that all applications provide information on the programs and other efforts of applicant employers during the calendar year prior to that in which the medallion is to be awarded, including the categories and activities governing the level of award for which the applicant is eligible under subsection (b).

“(3) VERIFICATION.—The Secretary shall verify all information provided in the applications, to the extent that such information is relevant in determining whether or not an employer should receive a HIRE Vets Medallion Award or in determining the appropriate level of HIRE Vets Medallion Award for that employer to receive, including by requiring the chief executive officer or the chief human relations officer of the employer to attest under penalty of perjury that the employer has met the criteria described in subsection (b) for a particular level of Award.

“(b) AWARDS.—

“(1) LARGE EMPLOYERS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish 2 levels of HIRE Vets Medallion

Awards to be awarded to employers employing 500 or more employees, to be designated the ‘Gold HIRE Vets Medallion Award’ and the ‘Platinum HIRE Vets Medallion Award’.

“(B) GOLD HIRE VETS MEDALLION AWARD.—No employer shall be eligible to receive a Gold HIRE Vets Medallion Award in a given calendar year unless—

“(i) veterans constitute not less than 7 percent of all employees hired by such employer during the prior calendar year;

“(ii) such employer has retained not less than 75 percent of the veteran employees hired during the calendar year preceding the preceding calendar year for a period of at least 12 months from the date on which the employees were hired;

“(iii) such employer has established an employee veteran organization or resource group to assist new veteran employees with integration, including coaching and mentoring; and

“(iv) such employer has established programs to enhance the leadership skills of veteran employees during their employment.

“(C) PLATINUM HIRE VETS MEDALLION AWARD.—No employer shall be eligible to receive a Platinum HIRE Vets Medallion Award in a given calendar year unless—

“(i) the employer meets all the requirements for eligibility for a Gold HIRE Vets Medallion Award under subparagraph (B);

“(ii) veterans constitute not less than 10 percent of all employees hired by such employer during the prior calendar year;

“(iii) such employer has retained not less than 85 percent of the veteran employees hired during the calendar year preceding the preceding calendar year for a period of at least 12 months from the date on which the employees were hired;

“(iv) such employer employs dedicated human resources professionals to support hiring and retention of veteran employees, including efforts focused on veteran hiring and training;

“(v) such employer provides each of its employees serving on active duty in the United States National Guard or Reserve with compensation sufficient, in combination with the employee’s active duty pay, to achieve a combined level of income commensurate with the employee’s salary prior to undertaking active duty; and

“(vi) such employer has a tuition assistance program to support veteran employees’ attendance in postsecondary education during the term of their employment.

“(D) EXEMPTION FOR SMALLER EMPLOYERS.—An employer shall be deemed to meet the requirements of subparagraph (C)(iv) if such employer—

“(i) employs 5,000 or fewer employees; and

“(ii) employs at least one human resources professional whose regular work duties include those described under subparagraph (C)(iv).

“(E) ADDITIONAL CRITERIA.—The Secretary may provide, by rule, additional criteria with which to determine qualifications for receipt of each level of HIRE Vets Medallion Award.

“(2) SMALL- AND MEDIUM-SIZED EMPLOYERS.—The Secretary shall establish similar awards in order to recognize achievements in supporting veterans by—

“(A) employers with 50 or fewer employees; and

“(B) employers with more than 50 but fewer than 500 employees.

“(c) DESIGN BY SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall establish the shape, form, and design of each HIRE Vets Medallion Award, except that the Award shall be in the form of a certificate and shall state the year for which it was awarded.

"SEC. 4. DISPLAY OF AWARD."

(5) In section 5(b) of division O, strike "Act" and insert "division".

(6) In section 6 of division O, strike "Act" and insert "division".

(7) In section 8 of division O, strike "Act" and insert "division".

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1645

PAKISTAN

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, for years, Pakistan has provided support for America's enemies with American blood on their hands. Pakistan has supported the Taliban providing them safe haven, cash, and weapons. It is no coincidence that the leader of the Taliban was living in Pakistan when a United States air strike took him out last year.

Pakistan harbored the number one enemy of the world, Osama bin Laden, until our SEALs brought him to justice. Pakistan's intelligence services has been dubbed the veritable arm of the terrorist group Haqqani Network. They have even cut off supply routes for our troops in Afghanistan.

The Ambassador to Afghanistan has said that Pakistan supports terrorist groups in Afghanistan, but still Pakistan is considered a major non-NATO ally of the U.S. This status means that they get priority for significant benefits in the areas of foreign aid and defense cooperation. I am introducing a bill that removes Pakistan from this list of trusted allies.

Pakistan is playing both sides. It is time to call it like it is. Pakistan should not be counted as a major non-NATO ally of the United States.

And that is just the way it is.

HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF GENERAL AMEDEO "ARMIE" MEROLLA

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of General Amedeo "Armie" Merolla—a dedicated patriot, a passionate legal mind, a community leader in Rhode Is-

land, and someone whom I was proud to call a dear friend.

Armie's distinguished military career spanned 36 years, during which time he served in the United States Marine Corps and the Rhode Island National Guard. He served as assistant adjutant general for the State and retired as the first brigadier general of Italian heritage in the history of the Rhode Island National Guard.

As an accomplished attorney for more than 60 years, he provided legal counsel and advice to several public officials—myself included—and maintained a very successful private practice.

As a tireless community leader, he served as chairman of the Warwick School Committee and held leadership positions in local branches of charities and children's organizations. Above all, he prioritized his family, whom he loved dearly and to whom he devoted his life's work.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to remember Armie on the floor today, just as it was to consider him a trusted friend and adviser. Mr. Speaker, he made a difference, and he will be greatly missed.

ARE WE LOSING OUR DEMOCRACY?

(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, are we losing our democracy?

CNN has censored and refused to air an ad by Trump for President, claiming that it is inaccurate. Of course, that is their opinion and they are entitled to it. What they are not entitled to do is violate the Constitution's protection of free speech.

Where are all the editorial boards of the media who rightly advocate for free speech? Why are most silent?

To censor a political ad because CNN disagrees with it is to threaten our democratic form of government.

2017 CONTINUED APPROPRIATIONS

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the continued appropriations for 2017 and to say: Say it isn't so.

When the Trump budget was presented—the skinny budget—\$600 billion was cut out of NIH, which would impact a major research in diseases that impact Americans. Thank goodness that we worked for a \$2 billion increase for the NIH in this appropriations bill.

And, equally so, how important it is that we can announce in Houston that the Houston Housing Authority will be able to reissue vouchers for homeless families because \$654 million-plus was put in the section 8 vouchers, \$40 million-plus was put in for veterans who

are homeless, and \$10 million was put in for the disabled.

In addition, we added to the Cops on the Beat program and, as well, provided additional dollars to enhance the Civil Rights Division some \$897.5 million.

The budget or the appropriations should be a road map for serving Americans, not a nickel-and-dime approach to undermine. I am glad the resistance remains strong, and that is why we have a budget or an appropriation that listens to the people and the healthcare subsidies are being paid for, so that people can have that health insurance.

ANTIQUITIES ACT

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, this week in the Natural Resources Committee, we conducted an important hearing and review on the Antiquities Act. This is the process for which these days the President unilaterally can declare national monuments, thereby placing acres that are deemed to be preserved into a monument, which then cannot be touched by human hands as it is interpreted and enforced these days.

Under President Obama, twice as many acres were placed into that type of monument status as all other Presidents combined over the history of the country.

Now, what this means is that you can't have access for forestry, fire protection, and other things you need to do for human activity. Even access for hunting and fishing is oftentimes limited. What we need is to have a process where Congress can have approval of the Antiquities Act if one of these proposals comes into place. We need to have that so that the people will have access to their lands so they can be managed if need be.

The size of the monument, yes, we have areas we need to declare and protect. But the size of the monument is very important as well because it doesn't need to be always hundreds of thousands, even millions, of acres. Indeed, under the act, the idea is that it would be under the smallest possible size to preserve the object.

NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize this week as National Small Business Week and to applaud the vast contributions of small-business owners and entrepreneurs across my district—the 10th Congressional District of New Jersey.

National Small Business Week is the perfect opportunity to recognize the