

troop, organizing children's Christmas parties, and assembling troop care packages.

None of it would have happened if Ms. Rohan was the sort to hold grudges, however. When the couple lived briefly in Marshall, Wisconsin, a member of the local American Legion came by to recruit Mike.

□ 1645

Rohan identified herself as an eligible veteran, but the Legion recruiter told her that women could join the auxiliary only.

Years later, the Marshall Post realized its mistake and hung a photo of Ms. Rohan, then district commander, behind a sign that says: "Remember, women are veterans, too."

Today, the Marshall Post is one of her biggest supporters. "I promised they would get one of my first national commander photos to put in that frame," she says. "We can do that," is what Rohan has become known for. Her name is known in more than just Legion circles.

At the Wisconsin National Guard Armory in Madison, she and her husband are Aunt Denise and Uncle Mike. Since 2006, they frequented drill weekends so often that young servicemen sometimes assumed they are part of their unit.

Facing a rough situation with a soldier fresh off deployment and needing resources fast, Staff Sergeant Dan Killam was told to talk to the Rohans at the Legion. That call led to an unbelievable amount of care for troops and their families.

When soldiers needed satellite phone minutes to call home after a battle, the Wisconsin Legion family raised \$50,000. At a spur run for the 105th Calvary, Legionnaires fed nearly 500 people.

I think after this lengthy—but I think much deserved—report on the first woman to head The American Legion, we understand why the bill that comes before us is much deserved.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, may I ask how much time I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Kentucky has 14 minutes remaining. The time of the gentleman from Texas has expired.

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

Mr. Speaker, once again, in support of The American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act, I want to share a story from just yesterday in Nicholasville, Kentucky, where The American Legion was there, as they always are, supporting our veteran families.

We were at Camp Nelson—which was originally a Union Army cemetery, but since the Civil War, has become a final resting place for many of our heroes—yesterday to honor many of the Kentucky Gold Star families who had lost loved ones, heroes, in the war on terror.

The first one was a U.S. Naval officer killed on September 11, 2001, in the

Pentagon. And most recently, Captain Matthew Roland, a captain in the United States Air Force, was killed in action in August of 2015 in Afghanistan. And the families of these fallen heroes were there. We were there to honor those fallen heroes and unveil a dedication, a memorial to those Gold Star families who had sacrificed so much. Not only did those heroes sacrifice everything for this country, but those families have sacrificed because they have lost their loved ones, and they are missing anniversaries, birthdays, and their children growing up and walking down the aisle.

But who was there to honor those Gold Star families?

The American Legion. And The American Legion was there holding those American flags high, and they were there to deliver the three-volley salute in honor of those fallen heroes.

The American Legion is, first and foremost, a local organization. They pride themselves in that, and that is what they were in Jessamine County, Kentucky, honoring those Gold Star families. Yes, they represent a country of heroes and servicemembers and veterans, but they are local, and they showed that yesterday in the Sixth Congressional District of Kentucky, and they show that all over this country.

I would just note also, Mr. Speaker, that when we think of how to honor our veterans, we have to remember what General George Washington—who, of course, was the Founder of our country, and who, of course, was that famous general during the American Revolution who arguably was the first veteran—said. And what General Washington—President Washington famously said about our country and veterans was that the willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive veterans of earlier wars and how they were treated and appreciated by our Nation.

The American Legion embodies that. They are a group of patriots, of veterans who know that it is critically important to instill in other Americans the importance of patriotism, love of our country, love of the American flag, so they help us and future generations respect our veterans and their service and their sacrifice.

We appreciate the fact that we have a piece of legislation before this body today that honors that great organization—The American Legion—that provides that level of patriotism and support to our men and women in uniform and veterans who have served this country so heroically and patriotically.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ), the legislation's sponsor.

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time and, more importantly, for his eloquent words. I appreciate the support

both for The American Legion and for this piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for bringing the bill to the floor, H.R. 2519, The American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act, for a vote today.

For nearly a century, The American Legion has worked tirelessly day and night to improve the lives of veterans and their families. For that reason, words cannot express the gratitude that we have for the men and women of The American Legion.

As both a veteran and a legislator, I see firsthand the results they achieve for veterans on a daily basis.

This bipartisan piece of legislation has the support of over 370 of our peers, including the entirety of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, the Financial Services Committee, and the majority and minority leaders.

The Senate has passed a similar piece of legislation, and I look forward to continue working to get this to the President's desk.

These commemorative coins are just a small token of thanks to show the millions of American Legion members that we appreciate what they do for our servicemembers, for our veterans, for our national security, and for our local communities.

In full disclosure, Mr. Speaker, as a longtime member of The American Legion, I am proud to stand here sponsoring this piece of legislation. I look forward to it being signed into law, and then I look forward to Americans getting a piece of this history that we should all be proud of.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2519, 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.

FACILITATING CONSTRUCTION OF A BRIDGE ON CERTAIN PROPERTY IN CHRISTIAN COUNTY, MISSOURI

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 810) to facilitate construction of a bridge on certain property in Christian County, Missouri, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 810

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

SECTION 1. RIVERSIDE BRIDGE PROJECT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Riverside Bridge Project is authorized to be carried out notwithstanding—

(1) any agreement entered into under, or restriction pursuant to, section 404(b)(2) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170c(b)(2)); or

(2) any easement or other Federal restriction pursuant to that Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) that requires the covered property to be maintained for open space, recreation, or wetland management.

(b) CONDITIONS.—As a condition of the authorization under subsection (a)—

(1) Christian County, Missouri, or an assignee shall—

(A) carry out the Riverside Bridge Project in a manner that ensures that no flood damage attributable to the Project occurs; and

(B) be liable for any such flood damage that does occur; and

(2) the Federal Government shall not be liable for future flood damage that is caused by the Project.

(c) DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROHIBITED.—No future disaster assistance from any Federal source may be provided with respect to the covered property or any improvements thereon.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act, the following definitions apply:

(1) COVERED PROPERTY.—The term “covered property” means the property—

(A) in Christian County, Missouri;

(B) conveyed to such County by the Riverside Inn, Inc.; and

(C) that is approximately 1.5 acres and 482 linear feet adjacent to the westerly line of Riverside Road to the center of Finley Creek.

(2) RIVERSIDE BRIDGE PROJECT.—The term “Riverside Bridge Project” means the project to construct, maintain, and operate a bridge on and over the covered property.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. FERGUSON) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 810.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, S. 810 would allow the community of Ozark, Missouri, to finish the Riverside Bridge project, which spans the Finley River. After repeated major flooding in the area, the community purchased the land next to the existing bridge.

As a condition of the Federal funds used to purchase this land, FEMA prohibits the building of any structures on the property. Replacing the current one-lane bridge is essential and will alleviate traffic for families, small business owners, and emergency responders traveling in the region.

I would like to thank the entire Missouri delegation for their work on this legislation. I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 810. This bill authorizes construction of a bridge on property acquired for open space under section 404 of the Stafford Act.

Riverside Bridge in Christian County, Missouri, is a 100-year-old one-lane bridge that currently frequently closes due to flooding. Local transportation officials have agreed on a plan to replace the existing one-lane bridge with a wider bridge that has a larger footprint.

However, expanding the bridge involves building on land that has received FEMA disaster mitigation funds in the past.

After repeated flooding, FEMA provided funding to Christian County in 2009 to demolish a structure adjacent to the bridge, the Riverside Inn, and to purchase the land. As a condition of providing the funding, FEMA required that the land be maintained for open space, recreation, or wetland management. Unless Congress removes the restriction on construction on that site, the county cannot replace Riverside Bridge.

S. 810 provides that Christian County must ensure the bridge replacement project does not result in flood damage and is liable for any flood damage that occurs. No further disaster assistance from any Federal source may be provided for the property or the structure.

This bill provides a narrow exemption from existing FEMA rules that will allow Christian County, Missouri, to solve a transportation problem. I am not aware of any opposition to this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge its adoption, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. FERGUSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 810.

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.

DISASTER TAX RELIEF AND AIRPORT AND AIRWAY EXTENSION ACT OF 2017

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3823) to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to provide disaster tax relief, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3823

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Disaster Tax Relief and Airport and Airway Extension Act of 2017”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—FEDERAL AVIATION PROGRAMS

Sec. 101. Extension of airport improvement program.

Sec. 102. Extension of expiring authorities.

Sec. 103. Federal Aviation Administration operations.

Sec. 104. Small community air service.

Sec. 105. Air navigation facilities and equipment.

Sec. 106. Research, engineering, and development.

Sec. 107. Funding for aviation programs.

TITLE II—AVIATION REVENUE PROVISIONS

Sec. 201. Expenditure authority from Airport and Airway Trust Fund.

Sec. 202. Extension of taxes funding Airport and Airway Trust Fund.

TITLE III—EXPIRING HEALTH PROVISIONS

Sec. 301. Extension of certain public health programs.

Sec. 302. Extension of Medicare Patient IVIG Access Demonstration Project.

Sec. 303. Funds from the Medicare Improvement Fund.

TITLE IV—DEVELOPMENT OF PRIVATE FLOOD INSURANCE MARKET

Sec. 401. Private flood insurance.

TITLE V—TAX RELIEF FOR HURRICANES HARVEY, IRMA, AND MARIA

Sec. 501. Definitions.

Sec. 502. Special disaster-related rules for use of retirement funds.

Sec. 503. Disaster-related employment relief.

Sec. 504. Additional disaster-related tax relief provisions.

Sec. 505. Budgetary effects.

TITLE I—FEDERAL AVIATION PROGRAMS

SEC. 101. EXTENSION OF AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 48103(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting “and \$1,670,410,959 for the period beginning on October 1, 2017, and ending on March 31, 2018.”.

(2) OBLIGATION OF AMOUNTS.—Subject to limitations specified in advance in appropriations Acts, sums made available pursuant to the amendment made by paragraph (1) may be obligated at any time through September 30, 2018, and shall remain available until expended.

(3) PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION.—For purposes of calculating funding apportionments and meeting other requirements under sections 47114, 47115, 47116, and 47117 of title 49, United States Code, for the period beginning on October 1, 2017, and ending on March 31, 2018, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall—

(A) first calculate such funding apportionments on an annualized basis as if the total amount available under section 48103 of such title for fiscal year 2018 were \$3,350,000,000; and

(B) then reduce by 50 percent—

(i) all funding apportionments calculated under subparagraph (A); and

(ii) amounts available pursuant to sections 47117(b) and 47117(f)(2) of such title.