

Cemetery in honor of our fallen heroes. Earlier this year, as my colleague had mentioned, he received national recognition for his service to our country when he was asked to perform the coin toss for the Super Bowl.

It is often said that the character of a person isn't measured by their actions while in the limelight, but rather by the work they do when they are not being in the light, when no one is looking. Woody's life is a manifestation of working behind the scenes. He has been unwavering in his support for our veterans, and Congress has an opportunity to offer him our heartfelt thanks and gratitude.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the passage of H.R. 3663, and I thank my colleague, EVAN JENKINS, for this introduction of the bill and his support for Woody Williams.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE), who is my good friend.

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this legislation, as well as legislation I introduced along with the Montana Senate delegation to honor three Montana veterans by renaming three Department of Veterans Affairs facilities in their honor. These three veterans have shown the true spirit and dedication all Montanans and Americans should aspire to.

Ben Steele from Roundup, Montana, joined the Army Air Corps and was stationed at Clark Field in the Philippines in 1941 when he was 24. Following the Japanese invasion, Ben fought on Bataan and survived the Bataan Death March. He was held prisoner for 3½ years, and sketched with charcoal scenes on concrete and secret scraps of paper. Some of his work is still on display in the MacArthur Museum in Norfolk. After the war, he continued his passion for art and taught at MSU-Billings for 33 years.

Mr. Steele passed away in September of 2016 at the age of 98. The only thing he liked more than art was fishing. I am proud that the Billings Community Based Specialty Clinic will be renamed in honor of Benjamin Charles Steele.

David Thatcher enlisted in the Army Air Corps in December of 1940. Following the attacks on Pearl Harbor, Mr. Thatcher volunteered for a secret mission joining Jimmy Doolittle in a bombing mission over Tokyo. Serving as a B-25 tail gunner on the Ruptured Duck, Thatcher saved the lives of his crew when the plane crashed into the sea trying to make landfall in China after the raid. For his actions, Thatcher was awarded the Silver Star.

The Ruptured Duck was piloted by Lieutenant Ted Lawson, who wrote "Thirty Seconds over Tokyo." Robert Walker played Thatcher in the movie.

Thatcher flew in the African and European theaters for the rest of the war. Thatcher worked for the Postal Service for 30 years following his Army career and was an avid outdoorsman. He passed away in June, 2016, at the age of

94. The community-based outpatient clinic in Missoula will be designated in his honor.

The community-based outpatient clinic on Spring Creek Lane in Billings will be designated in honor of Dr. Joseph Medicine Crow. Dr. Medicine Crow was born in the Crow Indian Reservation in 1913 and was the first member of the tribe to receive a master's degree, graduating from the University of Southern California in 1939.

After working in the naval shipyard in Bremerton, Medicine Crow joined the Army in 1943 and served as a scout in the 103rd Infantry Division in Europe. He became the last surviving war chief of the Crow Nation, having successfully led a war party, stolen horses from the Nazi SS, disarming an enemy and capturing him without killing him. For his service in World War II, he received the Bronze Star and the French Legion of Honor.

After the war, he worked for the Crow Agency and the Bureau of Indian Affairs as well as the Little Big Horn College. He has served on numerous boards and educational commissions. He even addressed the United Nations. He passed away in April of 2016.

Mr. Speaker, while their friends and families know their great deeds, I am honored to share this story with you and the rest of the country.

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

In closing, once again, Mr. Speaker, I would just remind everyone here that these are not just naming bills. This is our history; it is important. The four stories told today are an amazing testament to what bill we can do as a people, and these individuals deserve this honor.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to vote "yes," and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Once again, Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes." What I say to Woody is: thank you, thank you, thank you.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARSHALL). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3663.

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.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Gabrielle Cuccia, one of his secretaries.

#### HOMELESS VETERANS' RE-INTEGRATION PROGRAMS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2018

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4451) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a five-year extension to the homeless veterans reintegration programs and to provide clarification regarding eligibility for services under such programs, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4451

*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 "Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Programs Reauthorization Act of 2018".*

#### SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF HOMELESS VETERANS REINTEGRATION PROGRAMS.

(a) FIVE-YEAR EXTENSION OF HOMELESS VETERANS REINTEGRATION PROGRAMS.—Section 2021(e)(1)(F) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking "2018" and inserting "2022".

(b) FIVE-YEAR EXTENSION OF HOMELESS WOMEN VETERANS AND HOMELESS VETERANS WITH CHILDREN REINTEGRATION GRANT PROGRAM.—Section 2021A(f)(1) of such title is amended by striking "2018" and inserting "2022".

(c) CLARIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR SERVICES UNDER HOMELESS VETERANS REINTEGRATION PROGRAMS.—Section 2021(a) of such title is amended by striking "reintegration of homeless veterans into the labor force." and inserting the following: "reintegration into the labor force of—

"(1) homeless veterans (including veterans who were homeless but found housing during the 60-day period preceding the date on which the veteran begins to participate in a program under this section);

"(2) veterans participating in the Department of Veterans Affairs supported housing program for which rental assistance is provided pursuant to section 8(o)(19) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(19)) or the Tribal HUD-VA Supportive Housing (Tribal HUD-VASH) program;

"(3) Indians who are veterans and receiving assistance under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4101 et seq.);

"(4) veterans described in section 2023(e) of this title or any other veterans who are transitioning from being incarcerated; and

"(5) veterans participating in the Department of Veterans Affairs rapid rehousing and prevention program authorized in section 2044 of this title.".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material into the RECORD on H.R. 4451, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4451, as amended. This bill would reauthorize the Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program, known as HVRP, and Homeless Women Veterans and Homeless Veterans With Children Reintegration Grant Program, through fiscal year 2022.

These are grant programs managed by the U.S. Department of Labor's Veterans Employment and Training Service. Grants are made generally to non-profit, community-based organizations to fund efforts to train and place homeless veterans in jobs.

This has been a highly successful program that puts homeless veterans back on the path to self-reliance and sustainability and is worthy of Congress' continued support and funding.

This bill would also clarify that homeless veterans who are eligible for other federally funded homeless veteran programs are also eligible to receive training and employment services provided by grantees through HVRP and HVRP-W.

I believe that expanding eligibility for HVRP and HVRP-W will provide participants in these programs better access to job training programs that can help homeless veterans on their path to sustainable employment and positive outcomes. This expansion would also occur without impacting current authorization levels for this program.

I want to thank Congressman WENSTRUP and Congresswoman BROWNLEY for introducing this must-pass bill, which has my full support.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4451, as amended, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4451, and thank the gentleman and everyone involved in this piece of legislation. Veteran homelessness, combating it and reducing it to zero, has been a focus of this committee for many years.

Direct services provided by HVRP include placement, skills training, job development, career counseling, and resume writing. It is the only nationwide program focused on assisting homeless veterans in reintegrating into the workforce. This is incredibly important because reintegrating homeless veterans into the workforce is the best way to ensure that they do not reenter homelessness again.

This would reauthorize the program for 5 years. Reducing veteran homelessness remains our priority. I believe this piece of legislation will get us there.

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

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP), who is my Health Subcommittee chair.

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I thank my distinguished colleague and Chairman ROE for yielding.

In November of last year, I joined my colleague and the ranking member of the Health Subcommittee, Representative BROWNLEY, in reintroducing H.R. 4451, the Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Programs Reauthorization Act.

This bill would provide much-needed services to our veterans transitioning out of homelessness and ensure no veteran falls through unintended legislative gaps in programs. We do this by reauthorizing through fiscal year 2022 the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program, along with programs designed for female homeless veterans and homeless veterans with children. Additionally, the bill would clarify that those eligible for housing assistance from either a Federal or non-Federal entity are also eligible for the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program.

Currently, a gap arises because the Department of Labor considers veterans participating in these housing assistance programs to no longer be defined as homeless. As such, they are unable to participate in the Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program, a program that provides vital employment assistance and training.

By prioritizing the reintegration of homeless and recently homeless veterans, we will empower our veterans to reenter the workforce and help them regain self-sufficiency.

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Our veterans have sacrificed so much for our country, and we must ensure that they have the tools to succeed in civilian life.

I am proud of Chairman ROE's and the House Veterans' Affairs Committee's commitment to reducing veteran homelessness, and I believe that this legislation only further supports this committee's goals.

I urge all my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BROWNLEY), my good friend. She is a true champion of veterans and is the conscience on this issue in our committee of alleviating veterans' homelessness.

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Minnesota for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4451, the Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Programs Reauthorization Act.

I thank the gentleman from Ohio, the chair of the House Veterans' Affairs Health Subcommittee, for partnering with me to introduce this important legislation.

Our Nation's servicemembers undertake enormous sacrifices every day to keep us safe, and we must ensure they can smoothly transition back into civilian life when they come home. Un-

fortunately, however, too many of our returning servicemembers are struggling with homelessness.

In 2017, HUD's annual survey found that veteran homelessness increased by 1.5 percent after years of declining percentages. Los Angeles County, which I represent a part of, saw a 57 percent increase in the number of homeless veterans just in the past year.

While our local partners are committed to working together with the VA and other Federal agencies to ensure all veterans have access to safe and affordable housing, clearly, we need to be using every tool in our toolbox to end veteran homelessness completely. That means supporting both the housing programs and wraparound services necessary to heal and to house our veterans.

Today's legislation will allow veterans who have struggled with homelessness to remain eligible for job services while utilizing VA housing programs. This will help more veterans break the cycle of homelessness, support themselves and their families, and get back on their feet.

Again, I thank the chairman for championing this issue together, and the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans for highlighting this problem in testimony before the committee, and for their support of the bill.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

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

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, again, I want to thank the gentleman from Ohio and the gentlewoman from California for addressing this. It is a smart move to do this, continuing to keep our focus. While our numbers are improving in areas, we know this is a zero-sum proposition. Any veteran on the street is one too many. So I appreciate any effort that is made. This is a good piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage a "yes" vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I strongly encourage my colleagues to support this piece of legislation.

When I came to Congress in 2009, there were over 100,000 homeless veterans in the United States. General Shinseki, our Secretary at that time, set out to eliminate veteran homelessness in the next 6 or 7 years. It was a very ambitious task. Great progress has been made.

I have visited the West L.A. campus and seen what they are doing in Los Angeles and Los Angeles County. As my good friend, TIM WALZ, said, one homeless veteran is one too many.

For people who may be watching this today, we as a country are providing HUD-VASH vouchers for veterans who can use these, along with a case manager. But that is only part of it. Many of these veterans have many other issues and there are other programs that need to be available for these men

and women who find themselves in this situation. This is one of them where you can access job training so you can get a meaningful job and take care of yourself. Actually, I think this program and the other one end up paying for themselves over time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to encourage my colleagues to support this, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4451, Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Programs Reauthorization Act of 2017.

H.R. 4451 proposes an amendment to Title 38 of the United States Code to provide for a five-year extension to homeless veterans reintegration programs and to provide clarification regarding eligibility for services under such programs.

This bill includes the reauthorization of reintegration programs among those for whom job training, counseling, and placement services are to be provided to expedite their reintegration into the labor force.

These services provided to homeless veterans include the VA supported housing program, assistance under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act of 1996, transitioning from being incarcerated, and participating in the VA's rapid rehousing and homelessness prevention program.

Mr. Speaker, our United States veterans bravely put their lives on the line to defend our freedoms and to keep our nation safe.

Without the brave efforts of all the soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines and Coast Guardsmen and women and their families, our country would not live so freely.

Homelessness among the American veteran population is on the rise in the United States and we must be proactive in giving back to those who have given so much to us.

We as a nation have a responsibility to our veterans to provide programs that aid in their reintegration back into the labor force.

Nearly 230,000 veterans and their families have been able to come back from homeless and find permanent homes since 2010.

By passing H.R. 4451, homeless veterans will receive assistance to enhance their quality of life and community integration.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for H.R. 4451.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4451, as amended.

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. ROE of Tennessee. 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.

bill (H.R. 4334) to provide for certain reporting requirements relating to medical care for women veterans provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs and through contracts entered into by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs with non-Department medical providers, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4334

*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 "Improving Oversight of Women Veterans' Care Act of 2018".

#### SEC. 2. ANNUAL REPORT ON VETERAN ACCESS TO COVERED SEX-SPECIFIC SERVICES UNDER COMMUNITY CARE CONTRACTS.

(a) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives an annual report on the access of women veterans to covered sex-specific medical care under contracts with non-Department medical providers entered into by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for the provision of hospital care or medical services to veterans eligible for enrollment in the patient enrollment system of the Department of Veterans Affairs maintained under section 1705 of title 38, United States Code. Such report shall include data and performance measures for the availability of covered sex-specific medical care, including—

(1) the average wait time between the veteran's preferred appointment date and the date on which the appointment is completed;

(2) driving time required for veterans to attend appointments; and

(3) reasons why appointments could not be scheduled with non-Department medical providers.

(b) SUNSET.—The requirement to submit a report under this section shall terminate on the date that is seven years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) COVERED SEX-SPECIFIC MEDICAL CARE.—In this section, the term "covered sex-specific medical care" means mammography, maternity care, and gynecological care.

#### SEC. 3. REPORTING ON VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION ENVIRONMENT OF CARE STANDARDS FOR WOMEN VETERANS.

(a) MEDICAL FACILITY REPORTING.—Each medical facility of the Department shall submit to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs a quarterly report on the compliance and non-compliance of the facility with the environment of care standards for women veterans. Each such report shall include the name of each person associated with such facility who is responsible for such compliance and the specific role or responsibility assigned to each such person.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the plan of the Secretary to strengthen the environment of care standards for women veterans at Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities. Such report shall include—

(1) a description of the process established to verify that noncompliance information reported under subsection (a) is accurate and complete; and

(2) a description of the method by which the Secretary will—

(A) ensure that all patient care areas of each Department medical facility are inspected as required; and

(B) expand the list of items that facility staff inspect for compliance to align with the women's health handbook of the Veterans Health Administration.

(c) SUNSET.—The requirement to submit a report under this section shall terminate on the date that is seven years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) ENVIRONMENT OF CARE STANDARDS FOR WOMEN VETERANS.—In this section, the term "environment of care standards for women veterans" has the meaning given that term in Veterans Health Administration Directive 1330.01(1).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material into the RECORD on H.R. 4334, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4334, as amended, Improving Oversight of Women Veterans' Care Act of 2018.

While VA has vastly improved its capacity to care for gender-specific needs of women veterans, many are still referred to the community when VA cannot provide the appropriate services.

Mr. Speaker, last week, the House overwhelmingly approved the VA MISSION Act by a vote of 347-70. The MISSION Act will, among other things, improve the ability for eligible veterans to seek care from community providers when VA cannot meet strict access standards.

With more veterans becoming eligible to seek care in the community, it is incumbent upon us as members of the House VA Committee to provide oversight over the care delivered within the community as well.

This bill, offered by my friend and fellow committee member from California (Mr. CORREA), would help us do just that. H.R. 4334 would require VA medical centers to report to the Secretary on the compliance of contracted community providers with standards of care for women veterans, as established by VA.

The Secretary would also be required to report to Congress on the accessibility of gender-specific medical care for women with community providers, as well as to develop a plan to strengthen standards of care within the facilities.

Mr. Speaker, as we await Senate passage of the VA MISSION Act, I urge

#### IMPROVING OVERSIGHT OF WOMEN VETERANS' CARE ACT OF 2018

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the