

National Executive Director.

FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION,
April 19, 2018.

Hon. PHIL ROE,
Chairman, House Veterans Affairs Committee,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROE: The Fleet Reserve Association (FRA) supports the "Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act" (H.R. 299) that would clarify a presumption for filing disability claims with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for ailments associated with exposure to the Agent Orange herbicide during the Vietnam War. FRA believes Congress should recognize that so-called "Blue water" veterans were exposed to Agent Orange herbicide and authorize presumptive status for VA disability claims associated with this exposure.

We understand that the bill will be amended to provide for a fee on VA home loan mortgages to cover the estimated cost for providing the presumption for the "Blue Water" veterans, and this fee will not apply to any veteran with a disability rating.

The Association appreciates your strong leadership on this issue. FRA stands ready to provide assistance in advancing this legislation.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. SNEE,
National Executive Director.

THE AMERICAN LEGION,
June 22, 2018.

Hon. DAVID VALADAO,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE VALADAO: On behalf of the 2 million members of The American Legion, we heartily support the provisions of H.R. 299, legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify presumptions relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes.

This legislation, as written, includes as part of the Republic of Vietnam its territorial seas for purposes of the presumption of service connection for diseases associated with exposure by veterans to certain herbicide agents while in Vietnam. It also includes American servicemen who served in the Korean demilitarized zone (DMZ) between September 1, 1967 and August 31, 1971.

The American Legion strongly supports legislation to expand the presumption of Agent Orange exposure to any military personnel who served on any vessel during the Vietnam War that came within 12 nautical miles of the coastlines of Vietnam, as well as in the Korean DMZ between 1967 and 1971. Our organization feels that our nation's defenders should receive the full benefits to which they are entitled.

Through Resolution No. 35, Agent Orange, passed at the 2016 National Convention, The American Legion supports legislation "to amend title 38, United States Code, section 1116, to provide entitlement to these presumptions for those veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange while serving in areas other than the Republic of Vietnam where Agent Orange was tested, sprayed, or stored."

Thank you again for your continued commitment to the men and women in uniform and the nation's veterans and for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

DENISE ROHAN,
National Commander, The American Legion.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, the VA estimates that there are 6.6 million living Vietnam-era veterans; there are 58,220 who died in that war;

and there only will be about 4.4 million remaining in just 10 short years. That means we will lose 2.2 million Vietnam-era veterans in the next 10 years, which is an average of about 523 Vietnam-era veterans per day.

We must now act because, if we don't, blue water Navy veterans may not be around to receive the benefits they and their loved ones have been waiting on for so long. We owe it to the brave men and women veterans who served offshore during the Vietnam era to cease waiting on perfect science and provide compensation benefits for conditions they may have developed because of exposure to Agent Orange.

I am not the only one who believes this. H.R. 299 has broad bipartisan support: 330 cosponsors. I think I can speak for all of us when I say that H.R. 299, as amended, does the right thing for our blue water Navy veterans.

Mr. Speaker, this is personal for our Vietnam-era veterans like myself. I served and walked the territory not long after in Korea, over 40 years ago.

We have done great work on the committee: We passed an accountability bill this year, a way to speed up disability claims. The Forever GI Bill funded the Veterans Choice Program. We just passed the VA MISSION Act, just a few of the things that our committee in a bipartisan way, has done.

But there is a little inconvenience out there that we have 90,000 blue water Navy veterans who are being left behind—not after today.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the other side of the aisle. We worked hand in hand.

And I thank the staffs—I don't think they get enough credit—for the hard work that the staffs do behind the scenes. When we seem to find a blind alley and can't get to a conclusion, they continue to work in a bipartisan way to find a way to get to yes.

I also thank all of the outside groups that kept this issue in front of us for decades.

When I got the chairmanship a year and a half ago, I said one of the things that I will base my chairmanship on is if we can get this solved and do the right thing for our blue water Navy veterans. Today, we are going to do the right thing in this House and send it to the Senate, where they will do the right thing.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I encourage all Members to support H.R. 299, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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. 299, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

ceedings on this motion will be postponed.

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 15 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. RUTHERFORD) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

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. 299, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 5783, 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.

BLUE WATER NAVY VIETNAM VETERANS ACT OF 2018

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 299) to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify presumptions relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam, 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 Tennessee (Mr. ROE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 382, nays 0, not voting 45, as follows:

[Roll No. 289]

YEAS—382

Abraham	Biggs	Bucshon
Adams	Bilirakis	Budd
Aderholt	Bishop (GA)	Burgess
Aguilar	Bishop (MI)	Bustos
Allen	Bishop (UT)	Butterfield
Amash	Blum	Byrne
Amodei	Blumenauer	Calvert
Arrington	Blunt Rochester	Capuano
Babin	Bonamici	Cárdenas
Bacon	Bost	Carson (IN)
Banks (IN)	Boyle, Brendan	Carter (GA)
Barletta	F.	Carter (TX)
Barr	Brady (TX)	Cartwright
Barragán	Brat	Castor (FL)
Barton	Brooks (AL)	Castro (TX)
Bass	Brooks (IN)	Chabot
Beatty	Brown (MD)	Cheney
Bera	Brownley (CA)	Cicilline
Bergman	Buchanan	Clark (MA)
Beyer	Buck	Clay

Cleaver	Hoyer	Napolitano	Vela	Wasserman	Wilson (FL)	Clark (MA)	Hollingsworth	Neal
Clyburn	Hudson	Neal	Velázquez	Schultz	Wittman	Clay	Hoyer	Newhouse
Coffman	Huffman	Newhouse	Visclosky	Waters, Maxine	Womack	Cleaver	Hudson	Noem
Cohen	Huizenga	Noem	Wagner	Watson Coleman	Woodall	Clyburn	Huffman	Nolan
Cole	Hultgren	Nolan	Walberg	Weber (TX)	Yarmuth	Coffman	Huizenga	Norcross
Collins (GA)	Hunter	Norcross	Walden	Webster (FL)	Yoder	Cohen	Hultgren	Norman
Collins (NY)	Hurd	Norman	Walker	Welch	Yoho	Cole	Hunter	Nunes
Comer	Issa	Nunes	Walorski	Wenstrup	Young (AK)	Collins (GA)	Hurd	O'Halleran
Comstock	Jackson Lee	O'Halleran	Walters, Mimi	Westerman	Young (IA)	Collins (NY)	Issa	Olson
Conaway	Jayapal	Olson		Williams	Zeldin	Comer	Jackson Lee	Palazzo
Connolly	Jeffries	Palazzo				Comstock	Jayapal	Pallone
Cook	Jenkins (KS)	Pallone				Conaway	Jeffries	Palmer
Cooper	Jenkins (WV)	Palmer	Black	Gomez	Rice (SC)	Connolly	Jenkins (KS)	Panetta
Correa	Johnson (GA)	Panetta	Blackburn	Gowdy	Rooney, Thomas	Cook	Jenkins (WV)	Pascarell
Costa	Johnson (LA)	Pascarell	Brady (PA)	Gutiérrez	J.	Cooper	Johnson (GA)	Paulsen
Costello (PA)	Johnson (OH)	Paulsen	Carbalaj	Johnson, Sam	Rosen	Correa	Johnson (LA)	Pelosi
Courtney	Johnson, E. B.	Pelosi	Chu, Judy	Lujan Grisham,	Ross	Costa	Johnson (OH)	Perlmutter
Cramer	Jones	Perlmutter	Clarke (NY)	M.	Ruppersberger	Costello (PA)	Johnson, E. B.	Perry
Crawford	Jordan	Perry	Cuellar	Maloney,	Rush	Courtney	Jones	Peters
Crist	Joyce (OH)	Peters	Cummings	Carolyn B.	Scott (VA)	Cramer	Jordan	Peterson
Crowley	Kaptur	Peterson	Curtis	Marchant	Scott, David	Crawford	Joyce (OH)	Pingree
Culberson	Katko	Pingree	DeGette	Meeks	Sewell (AL)	Crist	Kaptur	Pittenger
Curbelo (FL)	Keating	Pittenger	Delaney	Moore	Shea-Porter	Crowley	Katko	Poe (TX)
Davidson	Kelly (IL)	Poe (TX)	DeSantis	O'Rourke	Sires	Cuellar	Keating	Poliquin
Davis (CA)	Kelly (MS)	Poliquin	Doggett	Payne	Thompson (MS)	Culberson	Kelly (IL)	Posey
Davis, Danny	Kelly (PA)	Posey	Donovan	Pearce	Tsongas	Curbelo (FL)	Kelly (MS)	Price (NC)
Davis, Rodney	Kennedy	Price (NC)	Ellison	Pocan	Walz	Davidson	Kelly (PA)	Quigley
DeFazio	Khanna	Quigley	Engel	Polis	Wilson (SC)	Davis (CA)	Kennedy	Raskin
DeLauro	Kihuen	Raskin				Davis, Danny	Khanna	Ratcliffe
DelBene	Kildee	Ratcliffe				Davis, Rodney	Kihuen	Reed
Demings	Kilmer	Reed				DeFazio	Kildee	Reichert
Denham	Kind	Reichert				DeLauro	Kilmer	Renacci
DeSaulnier	King (IA)	Renacci				DelBene	Kind	Rice (NY)
DesJarlais	King (NY)	Rice (NY)				Demings	King (IA)	Richmond
Deutch	Kinzing	Richmond				Denham	King (NY)	Roby
Diaz-Balart	Knight	Roby				DeSaulnier	Kinzing	Roe (TN)
Dingell	Krishnamoorthi	Roe (TN)				DesJarlais	Krishnamoorthi	Rogers (AL)
Doyle, Michael	Kuster (NH)	Rogers (AL)				Deutch	Kuster (NH)	Rogers (KY)
F.	Kustoff (TN)	Rogers (KY)				Diaz-Balart	Kustoff (TN)	Rohrabacher
Duffy	Labrador	Rohrabacher				Dingell	Labrador	Rokita
Duncan (SC)	LaHood	Rokita				Doyle, Michael	LaHood	Rooney, Francis
Duncan (TN)	LaMalfa	Rooney, Francis				F.	LaMalfa	Rooney, Thomas
Dunn	Lamb	Ros-Lehtinen				Duffy	Lamb	J.
Emmer	Lamborn	Roskam				Duncan (SC)	Lamborn	Ros-Lehtinen
Eshoo	Lance	Rothfus				Duncan (TN)	Lance	Roskam
Espallat	Langevin	Rouzer				Dunn	Langevin	Rothfus
Estes (KS)	Larsen (WA)	Roybal-Allard				Emmer	Larsen (WA)	Rouzer
Esty (CT)	Larson (CT)	Royce (CA)				Eshoo	Larson (CT)	Roybal-Allard
Evans	Latta	Ruiz				Espallat	Latta	Royce (CA)
Faso	Lawrence	Russell				Estes (KS)	Lawrence	Ruiz
Ferguson	Lawson (FL)	Rutherford				Esty (CT)	Lawson (FL)	Russell
Fitzpatrick	Lee	Ryan (OH)				Evans	Lee	Rutherford
Fleischmann	Lesko	Sánchez				Faso	Lesko	Ryan (OH)
Flores	Levin	Sanford				Ferguson	Levin	Sánchez
Fortenberry	Lewis (GA)	Sarbanes				Fitzpatrick	Lewis (GA)	Sanford
Foster	Lewis (MN)	Scalise				Fleischmann	Lewis (MN)	Sarbanes
Fox	Lieu, Ted	Schakowsky				Flores	Lieu, Ted	Scalise
Frankel (FL)	Lipinski	Schiff				Fortenberry	Lipinski	Schakowsky
Frelinghuysen	LoBiondo	Schneider				Foster	LoBiondo	Schiff
Fudge	Loeb	Schrader				Fox	Loeb	Schneider
Gabbard	Lofgren	Schweikert				Frankel (FL)	Lofgren	Schrader
Gaetz	Long	Scott, Austin				Frelinghuysen	Long	Schweikert
Gallagher	Loudermilk	Sensenbrenner				Fudge	Loudermilk	Scott, Austin
Gallego	Love	Serrano				Gabbard	Love	Sensenbrenner
Garamendi	Lowenthal	Sessions				Gaetz	Lowenthal	Serrano
Garrett	Lowe	Sherman				Gallagher	Lowe	Sessions
Gianforte	Lucas	Shimkus				Gallego	Lucas	Sherman
Gibbs	Luetkemeyer	Shuster				Garamendi	Luetkemeyer	Shimkus
Gohmert	Luján, Ben Ray	Simpson				Gianforte	Luján, Ben Ray	Shuster
Gonzalez (TX)	Lynch	Sinema				Gibbs	Lynch	Simpson
Goodlatte	MacArthur	Smith (MO)				Gohmert	MacArthur	Sinema
Gosar	Maloney, Sean	Smith (NE)				Gonzalez (TX)	Maloney, Sean	Smith (MO)
Gottheimer	Marino	Smith (NJ)				Goodlatte	Marino	Smith (NE)
Granger	Marshall	Smith (TX)				Gosar	Marshall	Smith (NJ)
Graves (GA)	Massie	Smith (WA)				Gottheimer	Mast	Smith (TX)
Graves (LA)	Mast	Smucker				Granger	Matsui	Smith (WA)
Graves (MO)	Matsui	Soto				Graves (GA)	McCarthy	Smucker
Green, Al	McCarthy	Speier				Graves (LA)	McCaul	Soto
Green, Gene	McCaul	Stefanik				Graves (MO)	McClintock	Speier
Griffith	McClintock	Stewart				Green, Al	McCollum	Stefanik
Grijalva	McCollum	Stivers				Green, Gene	McEachin	Stewart
Grothman	McEachin	Suozi				Grijalva	McGovern	Stivers
Guthrie	McGovern	Swalwell (CA)				Grothman	McHenry	Suozi
Hanabusa	McHenry	Takano				Guthrie	McKinley	Swalwell (CA)
Handel	McKinley	Taylor				Hanabusa	McMorris	Takano
Harper	McMorris	Tenney				Handel	Rodgers	Taylor
Harris	Rodgers	Thompson (CA)				Harper	McNerney	Tenney
Hartzler	McNerney	Thompson (PA)				Harris	McSally	Thompson (CA)
Hastings	McSally	Thornberry				Hartzler	Meadows	Thompson (PA)
Heck	Meadows	Tipton				Hastings	Meng	Thornberry
Hensarling	Meng	Titus				Heck	Messer	Tipton
Herrera Beutler	Messer	Tonko				Hensarling	Mitchell	Titus
Hice, Jody B.	Mitchell	Torres				Herrera Beutler	Moolenaar	Tonko
Higgins (LA)	Moolenaar	Trott				Hice, Jody B.	Mooney (WV)	Torres
Higgins (NY)	Mooney (WV)	Turner				Higgins (LA)	Moulton	Trott
Hill	Moulton	Upton				Higgins (NY)	Mullin	Turner
Himes	Mullin	Valadao				Hill	Murphy (FL)	Upton
Holding	Murphy (FL)	Vargas				Himes	Nadler	Valadao
Hollingsworth	Nadler	Veasey				Holding	Napolitano	Vargas

NOT VOTING—45

□ 1853

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. THOMAS J. ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 289.

COOPERATE WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND WATCH ACT OF 2018

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5783) to provide a safe harbor for financial institutions that maintain a customer account at the request of a Federal or State law enforcement agency, 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 Arkansas (Mr. HILL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 379, nays 4, not voting 44, as follows:

[Roll No. 290]

YEAS—379

Abraham	Biggs	Buck
Adams	Billirakis	Bucshon
Aderholt	Bishop (GA)	Budd
Aguiar	Bishop (MI)	Burgess
Allen	Bishop (UT)	Bustos
Amodei	Blum	Butterfield
Arrington	Blumenauer	Byrne
Babin	Blunt Rochester	Calvert
Bacon	Bonamici	Capuano
Bacon (IN)	Bost	Cárdenas
Barletta	Boyle, Brendan	Carson (IN)
Barr	F.	Carter (GA)
Barragán	Brady (TX)	Carter (TX)
Barton	Brat	Cartwright
Bass	Brooks (AL)	Castor (FL)
Beatty	Brooks (IN)	Castro (TX)
Bera	Brown (MD)	Chabot
Bergman	Brownley (CA)	Cheney
Beyer	Buchanan	Cicilline