

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 2273 WITHDRAWN

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw amendment No. 2273.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 2273) was withdrawn.

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the votes following the first vote in this series be 10 minutes in length.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate for 1 minute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 2885

Mr. REED. Mr. President, the Reed amendment would name a fellowship program on behalf of Senator JOHN MCCAIN. I can't think of anything more fitting, in addition to the naming of this bill, than naming this fellowship program on behalf of Senator MCCAIN.

I hope all of my colleagues will join me in voting unanimously for Senator MCCAIN's fellowship program.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired.

The question now occurs on agreeing to amendment No. 2885, offered by the Senator from Rhode Island, Mr. REED.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PERDUE). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 97, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 125 Leg.]

YEAS—97

Alexander	Coons	Graham
Baldwin	Corker	Grassley
Barrasso	Cornyn	Harris
Bennet	Cortez Masto	Hassan
Blumenthal	Cotton	Hatch
Blunt	Crapo	Heinrich
Booker	Cruz	Heitkamp
Boozman	Daines	Heller
Brown	Donnelly	Hirono
Burr	Durbin	Hoeven
Cantwell	Enzi	Hyde-Smith
Capito	Ernst	Inhofe
Cardin	Feinstein	Isakson
Carper	Fischer	Johnson
Casey	Flake	Jones
Cassidy	Gardner	Kaine
Collins	Gillibrand	Kennedy

King	Perdue	Stabenow
Klobuchar	Peters	Sullivan
Lankford	Portman	Tester
Leahy	Reed	Thune
Lee	Risch	Tillis
Manchin	Roberts	Toomey
Markley	Rounds	Udall
McCaskill	Rubio	Van Hollen
McConnell	Sanders	Warner
Menendez	Sasse	Warren
Merkley	Schatz	Whitehouse
Murkowski	Schumer	Wicker
Murphy	Scott	Wyden
Murray	Shaheen	Young
Nelson	Shelby	
Paul	Smith	

NOT VOTING—3

Duckworth	McCain	Moran
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The amendment (No. 2885) was agreed to.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 2276

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question now occurs on agreeing to amendment No. 2276, offered by the Senator from Oklahoma, Mr. INHOFE, for the Senator from Arkansas, Mr. BOOZMAN.

The amendment (No. 2276) was agreed to.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 2282, AS MODIFIED, AS AMENDED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question now occurs on agreeing to amendment No. 2282, offered by the Senator from Oklahoma, Mr. INHOFE, as modified and amended.

The amendment (No. 2282), as modified, as amended, was agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Calendar No. 442, H.R. 5515, an act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Mike Crapo, Deb Fischer, Mike Rounds, Roger F. Wicker, Ted Cruz, Cindy Hyde-Smith, James Lankford, Marco Rubio, James M. Inhofe, John Cornyn, Roy Blunt, Thom Tillis, James E. Risch, John Barrasso, Cory Gardner, John Thune.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on H.R. 5515, an act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 81, nays 15, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 126 Leg.]

YEAS—81

Alexander	Fischer	Perdue
Baldwin	Gardner	Peters
Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Bennet	Grassley	Reed
Blumenthal	Hassan	Risch
Blunt	Hatch	Roberts
Booker	Heinrich	Rounds
Boozman	Heitkamp	Rubio
Brown	Heller	Sasse
Burr	Hirono	Schatz
Cantwell	Hoeven	Schumer
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Scott
Cardin	Inhofe	Shaheen
Carper	Isakson	Shelby
Casey	Jones	Smith
Cassidy	Kaine	Stabenow
Collins	King	Sullivan
Coons	Klobuchar	Tester
Cornyn	Lankford	Thune
Cortez Masto	Leahy	Tillis
Cotton	McCaskill	Toomey
Crapo	McConnell	Udall
Cruz	Menendez	Van Hollen
Daines	Murkowski	Warner
Donnelly	Murphy	Whitehouse
Enzi	Murray	Wicker
Ernst	Nelson	Young

NAYS—15

Corker	Harris	Merkley
Durbin	Johnson	Paul
Feinstein	Kennedy	Sanders
Flake	Lee	Warren
Gillibrand	Markley	Wyden

NOT VOTING—4

Duckworth	McCain
Manchin	Moran

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 81, the nays are 15.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Louisiana.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

STEPHEN MICHAEL GLEASON CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I join Senator CASSIDY and many of our colleagues in recognizing one of Washington State's favorite sons—Spokane's own Steve Gleason.

I have to say, as a fellow Cougar, sponsoring this legislation to recognize Steve's legacy of excellence—from

Martin Stadium in Pullman, to the NFL, to his avid work as an advocate in the health world—was a no-brainer for me. But our bill to award Steve the Congressional Gold Medal—the highest honor Congress can bestow on an American citizen—has been embraced and cosponsored by more than 70 Members of this Chamber from both sides of the aisle is a testament not just to the incredible respect Steve has garnered across our Nation as a standout athlete but to his inspiring leadership and tireless advocacy that has made an indelible impact on our Nation and our culture.

Of course, Steve's skills and talents on the football field are legendary. Many will not soon forget that iconic blocked punt at the Superdome in 2006—a play that helped lift up the spirits of an entire community that was still struggling in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Yet it has been Steve's work off the gridiron that has had perhaps the most lasting impact on our country and on our future.

Since being diagnosed with ALS in 2011, Steve has become a passionate warrior for ALS survivors and their families. Through his Gleason Initiative Foundation, Steve actively supports critical research efforts to combat ALS and helps to raise much needed public awareness about the condition while also providing ALS patients with leading-edge technology, equipment, and services to help them not only live with their ALS diagnoses but to thrive.

In motivating others by his lived example, Steve, together with his wife, his mother, and everyone at Team Gleason, has inspired hope in individuals throughout Washington State and across the globe, and he has undoubtedly changed countless lives for the better.

Few people make Washington State as proud as Steve Gleason, and I am delighted to sponsor this legislation to award him the Congressional Gold Medal. I urge our colleagues to support our efforts.

I thank my colleague Senator CASSIDY for his leadership on this and for working with me on an important piece of legislation that will recognize an incredible human being.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I am here to speak about honoring Steve Gleason with the Congressional Gold Medal.

Steve is well known in Louisiana and throughout the gulf coast and to football fans across the country. He is a Washington State native, as Senator MURRAY recently spoke, but he lives in New Orleans with his wife Michel and son Rivers.

Steve played in the NFL for 8 seasons, mostly with the New Orleans Saints. He is famous as a New Orleans Saint. On September 25, 2006, on "Monday Night Football," the first game

back in the Superdome when it reopened after Hurricane Katrina, the Saints were playing their archrival and division opponent, the hated Atlanta Falcons. The Presiding Officer probably likes the Falcons.

The Falcons were punting from deep in their own territory. Steve broke through the line and blocked the punt. Fellow Saint Curtis Deloatch recovered the ball for a touchdown.

The stadium erupted. There were 70,000 fans in the Superdome stadium. I was watching on TV. Al Michaels was blown away. It was an incredible moment, not just for the football team but because it was the first game in the Superdome, having just been reopened after Hurricane Katrina, which had almost destroyed the city and, indeed, the whole gulf coast, and it had much more meaning.

The emotion was for the play but also for what the play symbolized for the game. Steve Gleason's blocked punt symbolized, as Steve would say, "no white flags." New Orleans and the gulf coast were back, and despite Katrina's devastation, we would not surrender.

Now Steve demonstrates that "no white flags" resolve in another arena. In 2011, Steve was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also called Lou Gehrig's disease. He cannot speak and, except for moving his eyes and blinking, he cannot move. But Steve can still think, and because he can think and because of what he has done with his thoughts is why he inspires and why we wish to honor him with a Congressional Gold Medal.

He has a difficult challenge, but his accomplishments addressing that challenge are what is noteworthy. After his diagnosis, Steve and his wife began a mission to show that patients with diseases such as ALS cannot only live, but they can thrive.

Steve declared that there would be "no white flags," and that became the mantra of something he began: the Gleason Initiative Foundation. This foundation helps to provide individuals who have neuromuscular disease or other injuries with cutting-edge technology, equipment, and services. It raises global awareness about ALS to find solutions and an end to the disease. It has also helped hundreds of people with ALS experience life adventures they never thought possible.

Steve's story and mission have been chronicled by national and local media outlets as well as a 2016 documentary, "Gleason," which shows what his life has been like since 2011.

When first meeting Steve, you would expect to feel pity. Yet, as you walk in and meet him and see what he has done, as he speaks to you through the machines he has helped to develop, you feel inspired. His perseverance and commitment to giving hope to others is amazing.

I will give a partial list of what he and his wife have done since his diagnosis. He founded the Gleason Initia-

tive Foundation, of which I just spoke. Steve, in partnership with Microsoft,—and I have a poster here showing Steve and the Microsoft team—developed eye-tracking technology that allows him to communicate and to move.

So as Steve looks up—again, he can only move his eyes and blink his eyes—he can look at this keyboard and if it says, "Turn my wheelchair to the right," he looks there and blinks his eyes and his wheelchair will turn to the right.

He has prerecorded statements. So if you walk in, he will blink at a prerecorded statement that says: "Hello. My name is Steve Gleason. How are you?"

If he wishes to say something spontaneously, he can blink, blink, blink, and it will say: "Well, let's discuss this further."

It is not all just "let's talk business." He has his iTunes on there. He can blink and get his favorite song. There is a multiplicity of functions that allow the man to live—and not just him, because among other accomplishments Steve Gleason and his wife Michel have achieved, he led efforts to enact legislation, the Steve Gleason Enduring Voices Act, to make these devices available to those suffering from neurodegenerative diseases. It was a bill that I was privileged to introduce and that has passed into law.

Steve continues to challenge the heads of industry and medicine to improve the technology and the science to find a cure for ALS. He opened the Team Gleason House for Innovative Living, where up to 18 people can live as productively and as independently as possible.

A few years ago, Steve hosted a global summit, bringing together researchers, patients, caregivers, and others in the ALS community. The summit resulted in the single largest coordinated and collaborative ALS research project in the world, called Answer ALS. It has nearly 2 dozen research institutions, 1,000 patients, and 20 trillion data points that will help to find unknown pathways to lead to new treatments or to cures.

In recognition of Steve's work, in April I introduced legislation with Senators MURRAY, KENNEDY, and CANTWELL to honor Steve Gleason with the Congressional Gold Medal. Steve's story is so compelling that in less than 2 months, over 70 of our colleagues joined to affirm Steve's inspiring story and impact upon his fellow Americans to make him worthy of the highest honor Congress can bestow.

Steve should be awarded this medal. He is an example of what makes our country great. He has given hope to many. He gives hope to all those who have ever received a devastating diagnosis, and his message is simple: Your life still has meaning. Your best years can still be ahead of you.

Steve is a role model, not just for those in the disability community but for all Americans. I suspect that what

he may appreciate most about this honor is the attention it brings to find solutions and cures for those with diseases such as ALS.

I would like to thank my colleagues, their staff, and everyone else who has helped build support for this legislation including Microsoft, the ALS Association, the NFL, and the New Orleans Saints.

I wish to encourage my colleagues in the House to cosponsor this legislation and to pass it as soon as possible.

I would like to thank Steve for continuing to be an example of commitment, perseverance, and inspiration.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 2652 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.
The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2652) to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Stephen Michael Gleason.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 2652) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2652

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 “Stephen Michael Gleason Congressional Gold Medal Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) Stephen “Steve” Gleason was born March 19, 1977, in Spokane, Washington to Mike and Gail Gleason.

(2) Steve attended Gonzaga Preparatory School for high school where he excelled as both a football and baseball player.

(3) In 1995, Steve enrolled at Washington State University where he was a 2-sport athlete for the baseball and football teams and helped the Cougars football team advance to the 1997 Rose Bowl.

(4) In 2000, Steve signed a professional football contract with the Indianapolis Colts of the National Football League as an undrafted free agent but later joined the New Orleans Saints in November of that same season.

(5) Steve would go on to play 7 more seasons as a member of the New Orleans Saints.

(6) Steve will always be remembered for his blocked punt on September 25, 2006, against the Atlanta Falcons, the night the Louisiana Superdome reopened for the first time after Hurricane Katrina in a game the Saints would win 23 to 3.

(7) In January, 2011 Steve was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or ALS, considered a terminal neuro-muscular disease.

(8) Following his diagnosis, Steve, with the loving support of his wife, Michel, began a

mission to show that patients can not only live but thrive after a diagnosis of ALS and established The Gleason Initiative Foundation also known simply as “Team Gleason”.

(9) At the time of his diagnosis, however, Steve said there will be “No White Flags”, which has become the mantra of Team Gleason.

(10) The Gleason Initiative Foundation helps provide individuals with neuromuscular diseases or injuries with leading edge technology, equipment and services, raises global awareness about ALS to find solutions and an end to the disease, and has helped hundreds of people with ALS experience life adventures they never thought possible after their diagnosis.

(11) Steve’s story and mission have been told by the NFL Network, ESPN, HBO, ABC, CBS, CNN, and many local media outlets, as well as in a 2016 documentary titled “Gleason”, which was heralded at the Sundance Film Festival and premiered across the country with Variety calling the production “an emotional powerhouse”. The documentary won several awards, including the 2016 Washington, D.C. Area Film Critics Association Award for Best Documentary.

(12) Steve was named one of two Sports Illustrated’s Inspirations of the Year in 2014, has been a keynote speaker for Microsoft and at two United Nations sponsored Social Innovation Summits, and received the 2015 George S. Halas Courage Award, given to a NFL player, coach or staff member who overcomes the most adversity to succeed.

(13) Steve helped advocate for the Steve Gleason Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-40; 129 Stat. 441), and the Steve Gleason Enduring Voices Act of 2017, H.R. 2465, 115th Congress (2017), which permanently ensures people living with diseases such as ALS have access to speech generating devices regardless of their setting, whether at home or a healthcare institution.

(14) In 2014, Steve and Team Gleason hosted a global summit to bring together researchers, patients, caregivers, and all ALS stakeholders to create a plan to ultimately end ALS. That summit resulted in the single largest coordinated and collaborative ALS research project in the world, Answer ALS, which brings together nearly two dozen research institutions, 1,000 patients and 20,000,000,000 data points that are important to the project and that will define the unknown pathways that will lead to treatments or finally a cure.

(15) In 2015, Steve and Microsoft worked together to create a method for people who are completely paralyzed to navigate their power wheelchairs with their eyes. Today, Steve, Microsoft and all wheelchair manufacturers are working collaboratively to make it widely available to all who need this technology. In addition, Microsoft has also made eye tracking technology part of all Windows 10 products across the globe.

(16) In 2011, 10 months after his diagnosis, Steve and Michel made their most significant accomplishment, becoming parents to their son Rivers.

(17) Steve and Michel Gleason continue to fight to find a solution for ALS so they can share many years together and as parents to Rivers.

SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the award, on behalf of the Congress, of a single gold medal of appropriate design to Stephen Michael Gleason.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter

in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”) shall strike the gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

Under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under section 3, at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.

Medals struck pursuant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

Mr. CASSIDY. I yield the floor.
The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASSIDY). The Senator from Ohio.

OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, today I come back to the floor of the Senate to talk again about the opioid crisis that has gripped the country and my State of Ohio.

I want to focus on the issue of fentanyl. This is the most deadly of the drugs now. It is a drug that is causing the most overdoses at a time in which we have unprecedented numbers of overdoses.

Fentanyl is a synthetic form of heroin and opioids. It is coming through the mail. It is coming mostly from one country—China. It is the poison that has contributed more in the last few years to the rise in opioid use than anything else.

Over the past week, we have made some significant progress in pushing back against fentanyl, and I want to report on that today.

As I am talking today, the U.S. House of Representatives is going to take up legislation called the STOP Act, which we have been working on here in the Senate for a couple of years. I am very pleased about that. I suspect the vote today will be bipartisan. I suspect it will pass the House.

I also want to report that here in the Senate we have had a breakthrough in the last week. Not only have we negotiated something with the House that is, in my view, an improvement from the legislation that passed the House Ways and Means committee a couple of weeks ago, but also, in the Senate Finance Committee this week, we had a markup and got a commitment from the chairman and ranking member that the Finance Committee will also mark up the same legislation—identical legislation—as is likely to pass the House of Representatives today.

I thank Chairman ORRIN HATCH and Ranking Member RON WYDEN for working with us to ensure we could get this legislation marked up in committee and onto the floor of the U.S. Senate as part of whatever we do in terms of the opioid crisis here in the coming days and weeks.

Of course, I also commend my House colleagues for the vote today and for the work they have done on this, particularly the Ways and Means Committee chairman, KEVIN BRADY, Representatives MIKE BISHOP, DAVE