

at Miramar National Cemetery. While there, Captain Bruyere devoted almost 4,300 hours to help visitors locate their loved ones' graves and provided information about veterans' burial benefits.

By naming a dedicated space in the Jennifer Moreno VA Medical Center after Captain Bruyere today, we will further ensure that her influence and services are forever remembered.

Currently, of the 1,255 VA healthcare facilities, only two are named for women veterans. It is time to recognize the many contributions and the heroism of women who have served, especially those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. LEVIN), my good friend who is back from a very warm welcome at the White House, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity and also the author of the bill.

Mr. LEVIN of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his support.

For far too long, our country has failed to give women servicemembers and veterans the recognition they have rightfully earned and deserve for their service and commitment to protecting this Nation.

For my friends and colleagues who may not know, women have served in the U.S. military since the Revolutionary War. And long before women could formally serve, hundreds of women disguised themselves as men for the opportunity to serve in the Armed Forces.

Hundreds of thousands of women answered the call to serve in World War I and World War II in any way they could. Following these invaluable contributions, women finally became permanent members of the Armed Forces in 1948.

Now there are 2 million women veterans living in the United States, and women comprise the fastest growing subpopulation of both the military and veteran populations.

Women servicemembers now make up 20 percent of military personnel. Because of this, the women veteran population is projected to grow to 18 percent of the total veteran population by 2040.

Yet, they still fail to receive the recognition they deserve for their service to our Nation.

While millions of women have served in the U.S. military, only two of VA's 1,293 healthcare facilities have been named after these brave and courageous Americans.

That is simply unacceptable.

So, in November 2020, I convened a panel of highly qualified servicemembers, veterans, and community leaders to collaborate on recommendations to rename the San Diego Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

The panel included a wide variety of local stakeholders from organizations like The American Legion, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Disabled American Veterans, and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

After an extensive effort considering many incredible women veterans who have served our country with distinction, the panel chose Captain Jennifer M. Moreno, a highly decorated combat veteran from San Diego who was killed in action during a deployment to Afghanistan in October 2013.

Jennifer Moreno was born in San Diego and was raised in Logan Heights by her single mom after the early loss of her father.

While attending San Diego High School, Moreno was an active member of the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps for all 4 years, which is a Department of the Army Honor Unit with Distinction, the highest rating by the Army.

Following her graduation from the University of San Francisco with a bachelor of science degree in nursing in 2010, Moreno received her commission in the U.S. Army as a second lieutenant Nurse Corps officer.

Moreno was deployed to Afghanistan in June 2013 with the Army's 75th Ranger Regiment, where she was attached to a joint special operations task force as a Cultural Support Team member.

Just 3 months into her first tour, while on a night mission in Kandahar province to capture a high-value target, four explosive devices were triggered. Moreno endured these explosive devices, including a suicide explosive at a range of no more than 25 meters.

Moreno then reportedly heard two orders. One was a call to help a wounded soldier struck by a blast. The other was a command to stay put in case she was to strike another mine in the area. Moreno did not hesitate to respond to the call for help.

As Moreno made her way to help a fallen soldier, she triggered the fifth explosion, which tragically ended her life on October 6, 2013.

Moreno was the first nurse Cultural Support Team member to die in action, and part of her legacy is the number of young women coming from medical fields seeking out voluntary assignments to join the Cultural Support Team.

Jennifer Moreno was promoted posthumously to captain and was the first combat casualty to be buried at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery in San Diego since the post-9/11 conflicts began, receiving full military honors. I was honored to visit her gravesite earlier this year.

The panel also recommended that a prominent space within the San Diego VA Medical Center be named after U.S. Navy Captain Kathleen M. Bruyere, a longtime San Diego resident who helped shape the military's policies on sexual discrimination and was instrumental in expanding opportunities for women in the Navy.

In 1977, Bruyere joined five other women officers who sued the United States Secretary of the Navy and the United States Secretary of Defense over restrictions that prevented women from serving on combat aircraft and ships. This led to the 1948 Women's Armed Services Integration Act being struck down as unconstitutional, overturning a ban on women serving at sea.

In 1987, as special assistant to the Chief of Naval Operations for women's policy, Bruyere conducted an examination of the status of Navy women, including career opportunities and complaints of sexism. The study led to 9,000 sea-duty and command jobs opening up for women on 24 combatant ships.

Bruyere retired from the Navy as a captain after 28 years of service in 1994. Last year, she passed away and was buried at Miramar National Cemetery with full military honors.

This bill expresses the sense of Congress that VA should follow through with the panel's recommendation to honor Captain Bruyere.

Although this effort does not make up for all the appreciation women veterans and servicemembers are still owed, it is my great hope that this token of gratitude inspires similar recognition across the country.

I thank Army veteran and Carlsbad resident Karin Brennan, who led this effort and exercised strong leadership in bringing stakeholders together to make recommendations for women veterans with ties to the region who are among the worthiest of receiving this honor.

But most of all, I am grateful for the service of Captain Jennifer Moreno and Captain Kathleen Bruyere.

It is my honor to share their stories on behalf of the local veterans who recommended this renaming, and I look forward to this legislation passing the House and becoming law.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to support this legislation and for all that it stands for.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) for facilitating this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 3665, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3665.

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.

COLONEL JOHN M. McHUGH TUTION FAIRNESS FOR SURVIVORS ACT OF 2021

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S.

1095) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the disapproval by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of courses of education offered by public institutions of higher learning that do not charge veterans the in-State tuition rate for purposes of Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1095

*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 "Colonel John M. McHugh Tuition Fairness for Survivors Act of 2021".

#### SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS DISAPPROVAL OF COURSES OFFERED BY PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING THAT DO NOT CHARGE VETERANS THE IN-STATE TUITION RATE FOR PURPOSES OF SURVIVORS' AND DEPENDENTS' EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3679(c) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking "or 33" and inserting "33, or 35";

(2) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(D) An individual who is entitled to assistance under section 3510 of this title."; and

(3) in paragraph (6), by striking "and 33" and inserting "33, and 35".

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 3679(e) of such title is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking "or 33" and inserting "33, or 35"; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking "or 33" and inserting "33, or 35"; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking "or 33" and inserting "33, or 35".

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this Act shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply with respect to an academic period that begins on or after August 1, 2022.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on S. 1095.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 1095, the Colonel John M. McHugh Tuition Fairness for Survivors Act.

This bill codifies an important protection for beneficiaries using the Department of Veterans Affairs Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program, or DEA. Through the DEA program, VA helps cover the cost of a beneficiary's school or job training.

This bill requires that public institutions of higher learning only charge in-State tuition for those utilizing the DEA program.

There are currently over 150,000 beneficiaries utilizing the DEA program. These beneficiaries are the survivors of brave women and men who died serving our country and the dependents of 100 percent service-connected disabled veterans.

Currently, this benefit equates to about \$11,000 a year for most students. With the increasing costs of higher education, \$11,000 does not cover all of a beneficiary's tuition costs at most schools, including public institutions where the student beneficiary would be considered out-of-State.

□ 1730

S. 1095 would provide parity for students using the DEA program with the Forever GI Bill program by requiring public institutions to charge in-State tuition for student veterans. This legislation has the strong endorsement of the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank Speaker PELOSI and Leader HOYER for bringing this legislation to the floor, and I urge the rest of my colleagues to support this legislation to ensure the survivors and dependents of those who bravely serve our country are not hindered by tuition costs when pursuing their education.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1095, the Colonel John M. McHugh Tuition Fairness for Survivors Act of 2021. This bill would expand the in-State tuition requirements to dependents and survivors of eligible veterans through the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance, or the DEA program.

The DEA program provides \$1,224 a month in tax-free benefits directly to the eligible participants to help cover the costs of higher education or training.

Dependents are eligible for this program if the veteran died while on Active Duty, is a former prisoner of war, or has a permanent and total service-connected disability rating or dies from a service-connected disability.

By expanding the in-State tuition requirements, we will make it easier for DEA participants to complete their studies without additional debt.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the bill is named in honor of Colonel John McHugh. Colonel McHugh was killed in action on May 18, 2010, by a suicide bomber in Afghanistan after serving his country for 24 years. This bill honors his sacrifice.

I thank Senator MORAN, ranking member of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, as well as Congressman MOORE, for their hard work in crafting this commonsense piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support S. 1095, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. MOORE), my friend.

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of the Senate version of my bill, the Colonel John M. McHugh Tuition Fairness for Survivors Act.

Members of our military and their families sacrifice so much in service to our country. As a grateful Nation, we have accepted a responsibility to ensure that the educational needs of the survivors and dependents of our fallen heroes are provided for.

The Dependents Educational Assistance program currently provides \$1,224 a month to eligible participants to help cover the costs of higher education. The program is available for survivors, dependents of certain servicemembers who died on Active Duty, or later found to be 100 percent service-connected disabled or died in a service-connected disability.

The Colonel John M. McHugh Tuition Fairness for Survivors Act would expand the DEA program benefits, requiring GI Bill eligible schools to extend in-State tuition benefits to beneficiaries of the Dependents Educational Assistance Program, bringing the rules for this program in line with the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

It is fitting that this bill bears the name of U.S. Army Colonel John McHugh. Colonel McHugh was tragically killed 11 years ago by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan. The loved ones left behind by this fallen hero have suffered unimaginable pain. The least we can do for his family and others like him is to honor our commitment to them and ensure their education is affordable. Colonel McHugh's family resides in my southeast Alabama district in Enterprise. It gives me great pride to name this bill in honor of the Colonel McHugh's legacy.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is a commonsense solution to help our heroes' families meet their higher education goals. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in passing S. 1095, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1095.

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. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

# **AUTHORIZING SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO FURNISH SEASONAL INFLUENZA VACCINES**

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5671) to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish seasonal influenza vaccines to certain individuals, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5671

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

## **SECTION 1. AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO FURNISH SEASONAL INFLUENZA VACCINES TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS NOT ENROLLED IN PATIENT ENROLLMENT SYSTEM OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

Section 2 of the SAVE LIVES Act (Public Law 117-4; 38 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended—

(1) by striking “a vaccine for COVID-19” each place it appears and inserting “a vaccine for COVID-19, a seasonal influenza vaccine, or both”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “and seasonal influenza vaccines” after “vaccines for COVID-19”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “, seasonal influenza vaccines, or both” after “vaccines for COVID-19”;

(3) in subsection (d), by striking “VACCINE ALLOCATION” in the heading and inserting “COVID-19 VACCINE ALLOCATION”;

(4) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (f);

(5) by inserting after subsection (d) the following new subsection (e):

“(e) **LIMITATION ON FURNISHING SEASONAL INFLUENZA VACCINE.**—A seasonal influenza vaccine may not be furnished under this section after April 29, 2022.”;

(6) in subsection (f), as so redesignated—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (7); and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (5) the following new paragraph:

“(6) **SEASONAL INFLUENZA VACCINE.**—The term ‘seasonal influenza vaccine’ means any product that is—

“(A) approved by the Food and Drug Administration;

“(B) commercially available; and

“(C) recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for the prevention of influenza in a particular season.”; and

(7) in the section heading by striking “VACCINE” and inserting “AND INFLUENZA VACCINES”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 5671, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5671, as amended. Earlier this year, the SAVE LIVES Act was passed unanimously by both Chambers and signed into law. It has allowed VA to provide COVID-19 vaccinations to veterans, their caregivers, and spouses.

With flu season in full swing and COVID-19 continuing to burden our health systems, the urgency to provide both flu and COVID vaccines has never been greater. Public health officials are clear. It is completely safe to receive both inoculations, even at the same time.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I introduced this legislation to build on the lifesaving work of the SAVE LIVES Act and allow VA to administer flu vaccines in addition to COVID-19 vaccines to the same population. By providing easy access to both vaccines at the same time, I hope we can begin to reduce the burden on the broader healthcare system this winter.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST), the ranking member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for working with me on this legislation in committee.

I ask all my colleagues here today to join this bipartisan effort and support this important legislation to increase access to both vaccines.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5671, as amended. This bill will authorize VA to give flu shots to certain nonveterans this flu season. Earlier this year, the chairman and I worked with the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs' colleagues to allow VA to vaccinate all veterans, as well as their spouses and certain caregivers against COVID-19.

The bill we are considering today would allow VA to provide flu vaccines to those individuals as well this flu season. Preventing a bad flu season this year is important for many reasons. It could help save lives, most importantly. It could help avoid adding further burden to the shoulders of the doctors and the nurses who have already sacrificed so much throughout this pandemic. It could also help ensure that COVID-19 recovery efforts stay on track as we continue to try to get back to life as we knew it before March 2020.

This is an important public health initiative and I am glad to support it today. I hope this bill will have the support of all of my colleagues.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, in closing, and before asking all of my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 5671, I truly believe that passing the SAVE LIVES Act and passing this legislation today, H.R. 5671 constitutes one of the best moments that I have had as chairman where all four corners of the Congress came together.

Ranking Member BOST, I know walked a very delicate balance to bring his Members together, but I appreciate his persuasive abilities with his side of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, I want to encourage that we do this more, and I have no doubt that we really did save lives. And I have no doubt today that we are going to save lives because of this effort before us.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5671, 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.

## **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 41 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

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## **AFTER RECESS**

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. KELLY of Illinois) at 6 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.

## **COLONEL JOHN M. McHUGH TUTION FAIRNESS FOR SURVIVORS ACT OF 2021**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1095) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the disapproval by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of courses of education offered by public institutions of higher learning that do not charge veterans the in-