

only strengthens our military but directly addresses the border crisis.

A cornerstone of this plan is the authorization of National Guard deployments to the southern border. This ensures we have the manpower to respond effectively to illegal crossings, combat the influx of dangerous drugs, and disrupt cartel operations that endanger American lives and jeopardize our national security.

We are directing resources to where they are needed the most: protecting the borders and safeguarding the homeland. Indeed, the cartels have been so powerful and so aggressive in what they do that it endangers many, many lives. We have heard horrific stories about the lives that have been taken and the trafficking.

This focused approach prioritizes the well-being of all Americans over the inefficiency we typically find in Washington.

To prepare the folks who serve in our military, this bill would help them with that. This bill makes significant improvements in housing, boosts pay, and shortens healthcare wait times. If you have dealt with VA on that, which we do often, our retired soldiers should not have to do such horrific things to get the care they need through the VA or the Veterans Choice Program through any local entity.

The bill even enhances childcare options for military families. The legislation also eliminates divisive policies that have no place and no business being in the Department of Defense, allowing our military to concentrate solely on readiness and morale within the military.

This renewed focus ensures that our forces are prepared to succeed in tackling challenges such as the border crisis. House Republicans are delivering a comprehensive defense bill that prioritizes border security, improves the conditions for servicemembers, and eliminates wasteful spending.

Mr. Speaker, more locally, in my district in northern California, part of the effort will be to set up the new mission of collaborative combat aircraft at Beale Air Force Base. These drone wingmen will make our existing aircraft more lethal, as well as protect the manned aircraft by having these drone vehicles available to be part of a flight, which will place less emphasis on and create less risk for manned aircraft.

Drone technology can extend the fight longer and farther and allow the engagement of many more targets.

This year's NDAA invests more money into this new drone technology. This forward-looking technology enhances the existing airframes that we have to be able to keep vital air dominance and control in near-term Indo-Pacific conflicts.

Mr. Speaker, this is really great technology that is important to incorporate so we have less risk to our pilots. We can use existing aircraft instead of having to buy nearly as many

hyper-expensive new aircraft. It is not that I am against it. I am in favor of the newest, best aircraft we can get, but maybe we don't have to buy nearly as many when the stuff that we have is still good for the mission, with the wingman approach of these drones being able to do a lot of the dirty work and take the immediate risk off of the manned aircraft.

The NDAA is something we have to pass every year. We need to get this done this month and keep that continuity that our fighting people need to get the job done, as certainly it is a more dangerous world than it ever has been right at this moment with what is happening in the Middle East and with what is happening in the South Pacific with China and its aggression.

Mr. Speaker, we need to be ready, and this legislation will help move us in that direction. These new technologies will lower the risks for our fighting people.

RECOGNIZING KAY GRANGER ON HER RETIREMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Congresswoman KAY GRANGER of Texas, who will be retiring at the end of the 118th Congress.

For close to three decades, the gentlewoman has represented Texas' 12th Congressional District in the people's House, and she made history as the first Republican woman to represent Texas in the people's House.

From her staunch support of the military to her defense of border security, Congresswoman GRANGER has built a reputation as a rock-ribbed conservative and someone who many look up to, especially when she chaired the House Appropriations Committee.

KAY GRANGER's departure is a serious loss to the people's House. I thank the gentlewoman for her years of service to this great institution, to her constituents in Texas' 12th Congressional District, and to the American people.

Mr. Speaker, may God continue to bless the gentlewoman and her family as she enjoys a well-deserved retirement.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 38 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WEBER of Texas) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

The Earth belongs to You, O Lord, and the fullness thereof. Therefore, let the fullness of this day remain in Your care and keeping.

May everything that comes to our minds be filled with Your wisdom and discernment. Let every sentiment that passes through our souls reflect the fullness of Your compassion and mercy.

In all that we do or say today may our words and actions be fully laden with Your message of love and grace for Your people.

We lift up our heads, our hands, and our hearts to seek Your face. We lift up our heads, our hands, and our hearts to You, O God, the king of glory, that You would enter in.

May Your strength and might lead us in the way we should go, and may You be glorified in all that we accomplish.

In Your sovereign name, we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNIZING PENN HIGHLANDS DUBOIS

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Penn Highlands DuBois for earning a Pathway to Excellence designation.

Penn Highlands DuBois has delivered expert health and wellness care to the central Pennsylvania region for nearly 125 years.

Recently, Penn Highlands DuBois received a Pathway to Excellence designation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center. This prestigious status is a recognition held by fewer than 250 organizations nationwide and less than 25 in Pennsylvania.

The Pathway to Excellence designation is awarded to healthcare systems that create a healthy working environment where nurses feel empowered and valued.

To qualify for the designation, a hospital must demonstrate its commitment to the ANCC's six pathway standards. These standards include: shared decisionmaking, leadership, safety, quality, well-being, and professional development.

The healthcare industry, particularly in rural communities, has been affected by workforce shortages. When organizations like Penn Highlands DuBois strive to foster a better working environment, staff retention improves, and the whole community benefits.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Penn Highlands DuBois on the Pathways to Excellence designation and recognize its commitment to improving workplace satisfaction.

SERVICEMEMBER QUALITY OF LIFE

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, servicemember quality of life directly impacts morale, family stability, and military readiness, affecting recruitment and retention, as well.

The NDAA addresses these issues with key provisions to improve the lives of servicemembers and their families. A 14.5 percent pay raise is authorized for junior enlisted servicemembers, and a 4.5 percent raise is supported for all others.

This pay increase was previously opposed by the Biden administration but is now a critical part of the bill we will be taking up soon to support those who serve our country.

The cost-of-living allowance calculation is improved to better reflect inflation, particularly for those stationed abroad. Inflation has been devastating toward the military family incomes.

The NDAA expands the basic needs allowance to support servicemembers facing financial challenges. It requires the Department of Defense to reassess the subsistence allowance to ensure it covers the rising cost of necessary goods and services.

These improvements will strengthen both the well-being of our servicemembers and military readiness, ensuring our forces are better equipped and have a higher morale to defend our Nation.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignations of the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. KIM) and the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF), the whole number of the House is 431.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair

will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR HIGHWAY

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1478) to designate United States Route 20 in the States of Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, and Massachusetts as the "National Medal of Honor Highway", and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1478

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

SECTION 1. NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR HIGHWAY.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to honor all current and future Medal of Honor recipients; and

(2) to recognize the valor and service of those Medal of Honor recipients.

(b) DESIGNATION.—United States Route 20 in each of the States of Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, and Massachusetts shall be known and designated as the "National Medal of Honor Highway".

(c) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the highway referred to in subsection (b) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "National Medal of Honor Highway".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 1478.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1478, a bill which designates U.S. Route 20 as the "National Medal of Honor Highway."

I also thank my colleague from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY) for sponsoring the House companion bill which is H.R. 3149.

The Medal of Honor is an award presented to servicemembers who go above and beyond the call of duty and risk their own lives to protect the United States.

Formally designating U.S. Route 20 as the "National Medal of Honor Highway" honors all 3,519 recipients of the Medal of Honor and all future recipients.

U.S. Route 20 is the longest continuous highway in our Nation, spanning 3,365 miles across 12 States. As people travel along U.S. Route 20, through Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, and Massachusetts, they will be reminded of the recipients and their exemplary service to the United States.

This bill is supported by The American Legion, Congressional Medal of Honor Society, Legion of Valor, Medal of Honor Historical Society of the United States, Military Officers Association of America, Military Order of the Purple Heart, and the Vietnam Veterans of America.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1478, which would designate U.S. Highway 20 as the "National Medal of Honor Highway." U.S. 20 is the longest road in the United States, passing through 12 States between Oregon and Massachusetts.

Currently, all 12 of these States have designations at the State level deeming U.S. Route 20 the Medal of Honor Highway. This bill would overlay a Federal designation.

Servicemembers are awarded the Medal of Honor for embodying the highest levels of bravery and valor. We owe a great debt of gratitude to every recipient of this award.

This bill is a way to honor all current and future recipients and help to ensure we remember their acts of heroism.

This legislation's House companion bill was already reported favorably by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee by unanimous consent.

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

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY), who sponsored the House companion bill.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Missouri for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in favor of my legislation that would designate U.S. Highway 20 as the "National Medal of Honor Highway."

U.S. Route 20 is America's longest continuous highway, spanning more than 3,000 miles from coast to coast, from Massachusetts to Oregon and across our great country, including through my district in Erie County, Pennsylvania.

This bipartisan, bicameral legislation is critical as it would commemorate all 3,519 recipients of the Medal of Honor award both living and deceased.