

to destroy the Germans' 155-millimeter artillery guns, which have a range of between 10 and 15 miles, that threatened the entire invasion which they believed were positioned at the top of the cliffs.

Bud Lomell and his Rangers, upon successfully climbing the cliffs despite heavy casualties, were dismayed to find when they got to the top of the cliffs that the Allied military intel was misled by decoys and that the entire invasion was now at risk. Bud, I know parenthetically, was actually wounded leaving the landing craft but tenaciously continued. In one interview, he said: I lost half my guys.

First Sergeant Lomell and another Ranger, Sergeant Jack Kuhn, found the five guns camouflaged in a nearby orchard. He discovered they were all aimed at Utah Beach, although they could easily reach Normandy as well. Remember, they have a 10-to-15-mile range. They could have taken out ships, landing craft, and, of course, the infantry soldiers and others making the beachheads.

With Kuhn providing cover, Bud Lomell used thermite grenades to singlehandedly destroy three of the Nazi big artillery guns, then got more thermite grenades and went back and destroyed the other two. Five massive artillery guns were utterly destroyed, ultimately helping to ensure the success of the Allied invasion and saving countless lives.

Historian Stephen Ambrose has described Bud Lomell as the single individual, besides Supreme Allied Commander Dwight D. Eisenhower, as the most responsible for the success of D-day.

In his book, "The Greatest Generation," Tom Brokaw devoted an entire chapter to Bud Lomell, who he first met 40 years after the invasion of D-day. He noted that during their interview, even after several decades—these are his words—he "could almost see the tough, young First Sergeant Lomell directing his men as they landed under the withering fire of German forces."

For his amazing leadership and extraordinarily brave acts, Bud Lomell received the Distinguished Service Cross. As we all know, that is the second highest military decoration. The citation said in part: "First Sergeant Lomell led a patrol of men through the heaviest kind of automatic weapons fire to destroy an enemy machine gun nest. Later on the same day, while leading another patrol, he penetrated through the enemy lines to the rear and discovered five enemy 155-millimeter guns. . . .

"[He] gallantly led his patrol against the enemy and successfully destroyed the guns . . . . First Sergeant Lomell's bold and outstanding leadership in the face of superior numbers is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Army."

Lomell also received a rare battle-field promotion to second lieutenant, and it was said that "there was not a man who did not feel proud to serve with him."

Six months later, Bud Lomell served in the Battle of Hurtgen Forest, where he and D Company helped capture and defend the notorious Hill 400, which had claimed thousands of his fellow servicemembers' lives.

He subsequently received the Silver Star for his valor in combat, and that citation says in pertinent part: "Conspicuously leading from the front, Lomell directed the successful defense of the hilltop in the face of nearly overwhelming German counterattack mid-day . . . . [Refusing] shelter and at risk of his life with blood oozing from his ears, nose, and mouth, firing his machine gun cradled in his bandaged left arm with his right hand, he continued to lead his men against another ruthless German assault throughout the entire afternoon."

What an amazing, amazing hero. He was wounded at Hurtgen and again several weeks later at the Battle of the Bulge. In addition to the Distinguished Service Cross and Silver Star, Bud Lomell received other awards, including the Bronze Star, Purple Heart with two oakleaf clusters, and France's highest medal, the Legion of Honor. Those are just some of the most remembered ones. There were others as well.

As was pointed out by my colleagues, he became an unbelievably effective lawyer, had his own law firm, and was very active in the community in Ocean County. He was even the head of Veterans Services in Ocean County, the first person to take on that position.

As President Reagan famously said in his speech at Pointe du Hoc, the men who invaded Normandy, including and most especially Bud Lomell, "had faith that what they were doing was right, faith that they fought for all humanity, faith that a just God would grant them mercy on this beachhead or on the next." They were "the men who took the cliffs." They were "the champions who helped free a continent." They were "the heroes who helped end a war."

Mr. Speaker, in enduring gratitude to them, I ask my colleagues to vote for this legislation.

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Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 2170 to honor this very deserving veteran, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I encourage 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 Illinois (Mr. BOST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2170.

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.

#### VETERANS EMPLOYMENT READINESS YIELD ACT OF 2025

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2625) to amend title 38, United States Code, to update certain terminology regarding veteran employment.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2625

*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 "Veterans Employment Readiness Yield Act of 2025" or the "VERY Act of 2025".

#### SEC. 2. UPDATE OF CERTAIN TERMINOLOGY REGARDING VETERAN EMPLOYMENT.

Title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking "employment handicap" each place it occurs and inserting "employment barrier"; and

(2) by striking "employment handicaps" each place it occurs and inserting "employment barriers".

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2625.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2625 offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. DAVIS), my colleague.

H.R. 2625 would strike the term "employment handicap" from the Veteran Readiness and Employment statute, or VR&E, and replace it with the term "employment barrier."

This bill is simply a fix that would remove the negative implications of the term "handicap" and replace it with the broader term to ensure service-connected veterans can access the support they might need.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 2625, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2625, the Veterans Employment Readiness Yield Act of 2025 introduced by my good friend Representative DON DAVIS.

The Veteran Readiness and Employment program, or VR&E, offers vital services to help veterans and service-members with service-connected disabilities and those determined to have

an employment handicap prepare for, find, and maintain suitable employment or live more independently.

This bill would replace the terms "employment handicap" and "serious employment handicap" with "employment barrier" and "serious employment barrier."

Historically, the term "handicap" has been associated with disadvantage or burden, which does not accurately reflect our veteran population.

By making this change, we acknowledge the challenges that veterans with service-connected disabilities often face in the job market. Eliminating the stigma associated with these disabilities will encourage more veterans to participate in the VR&E program, ultimately assisting them in preparing for and securing meaningful employment.

The Department of Veterans Affairs requested this change, which has bipartisan support and incurs no cost. I thank Mr. DAVIS for his work on veterans' issues during his time in Congress. I am proud of his work to open doors at the VA for more veterans so they may access the benefits they have earned through their service.

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

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. DAVIS), my good friend who currently serves on the House Committee on Armed Services and the House Committee on Agriculture, the sponsor of H.R. 2625.

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman BOST and Representative TAKANO for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2625, the Veterans Employment Readiness Yield Act of 2025.

On behalf of the more than 56,000 veterans in North Carolina's First Congressional District, which I am proud to represent, and so many across our country, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this commonsense legislation.

I thank the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. CISCOMANI), who co-led the bill. I also thank the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs for marking it up and moving it forward. Lastly, I thank the Disabled American Veterans and Paralyzed Veterans of America for endorsing this legislation.

H.R. 2625 amends terminology in the Veteran Readiness and Employment program to replace the term "employment handicap" with "employment barrier" and the term "serious employment handicap" with "serious employment barrier," while, most importantly, leaving the definitions unchanged.

The Veteran Readiness and Employment program helps former service-members find jobs and ensure their mental and financial well-being are intact. Updating the terminology will improve efficiency and encourage vet-

erans to use the Veteran Readiness and Employment program.

No veteran should have any discomfort advocating for themselves and seeking help for their service-connected disabilities. We will continue to stay in this fight until every disabled veteran has what they need to get the assistance they have earned.

On behalf of a grateful nation, we can honor those who have given life and limb to serve by passing the VERY Act.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to do exactly that, and I thank the chair and the ranking member for yielding time.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, we passed this bill in the House last Congress, only for the Senate to run out of time. I am hopeful that this year the Senate acts quickly to send this bill directly to the President's desk.

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 2625, the Veterans Employment Readiness Yield Act of 2025, and I urge all my colleagues to support it, as well.

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 2625, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2625.

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.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Matthew Hanley, one of his secretaries.

#### ESTABLISHING NEW ZIP CODES

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 672) to establish new ZIP Codes for certain communities, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 672

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

#### SECTION 1. ESTABLISHING NEW ZIP CODES.

Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the United States Postal Service shall designate a single, unique ZIP Code for each of the following communities:

- (1) Eastvale, California.
- (2) Scotland, Connecticut.
- (3) Cooper City, Florida.
- (4) Miami Lakes, Florida.
- (5) Ocoee, Florida.
- (6) Village of Estero, Florida.
- (7) Urbandale, Iowa.

(8) Mills, Wyoming.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) and the gentleman from California (Ms. SIMON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 672 designates single and unique ZIP Codes for communities across the Nation. There are currently over 41,000 ZIP Codes in the United States. In some cases, ZIP Codes are misaligned with local boundaries. H.R. 672 addresses the concerns of various localities and establishes new ZIP Codes for communities across the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART), the bill's sponsor, for putting this bill together.

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

Ms. SIMON. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 672 would require the United States Postal Service to designate unique ZIP Codes for a number of communities across the country. This bill aims to address certain issues related to economic development and public safety regulations and mail delivery.

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For example, Eastvale is a town in southern California that is home to 69,000 residents. It currently shares two ZIP Codes with neighboring jurisdictions.

Without a unique ZIP Code, Eastvale residents have reported mail delivery issues for delivery of legal notices, code enforcement activities, public outreach, and election mail.

Eastvale residents have also reported higher insurance rates because of errors related to another jurisdiction, disrupting their ability to obtain affordable wildfire insurance.

I appreciate the diligence of Congressman DIAZ-BALART, the chair, and the committee staff, and the other Members in ensuring that each town being marked up in today's amendment version of this bill satisfies all the committee's requirements for consideration.

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART), the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, let me first start by thanking the chairman and the ranking member for their fine work.