

Eternal God, the source of our being, before we were born, You knew us. Our days were ordered long before even our bodies were formed. You have written into Your book our past, our present, and our future.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for us. In awe, we approach You, for we have assumed our own purpose rather than yielding to Your own. We have pursued our own will and failed to seek Your will for us.

Redeeming God, Your works are full of wonder, and Your grace has surrounded us with Your mercy, hemming us in and guarding us from our waywardness.

By the presence of Your holy spirit, guide us in the way You would have us go. Your thoughts—Your plans—are more numerous than the grains of sand. In Your eternity, may we find peace in our time. In Your grace plan, may we find our true meaning. In our lives, may we glorify You and live to show forth Your kingdom in our midst.

In Your sovereign name, we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina 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.

TRUMP ACHIEVEMENT FOR PEACE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, President Donald Trump has another historic achievement for peace and prosperity in the Middle East, reducing threats to Americans at home and abroad.

The Wall Street Journal reported Monday: "Syria has joined the U.S.-led mission to defeat Islamic State . . . after President Trump and Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa met at the White House."

This meeting was the first of a Syrian head of state to visit the White House in the 8,000-year history of Damascus.

It was promoted by Ambassador Tom Barrack, the tireless Trump envoy for Syria, and Admiral Brad Cooper, head of U.S. Central Command.

I personally appreciate the Trump triumph as, last November, I was condemned by the Syrian dictator, Assad,

as an enemy of the state weeks before he fled to Moscow.

Mr. Speaker, 8 months later, I was a guest in the Damascus office of Assad with the new President and Senator JEANNE SHAHEEN.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Trump is reinstituting peace through strength, revealing war criminal Putin lies, insulting Trump with attacks on civilians.

FAREWELL TO KATHRYN ALEXANDER

(Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with pride, gratitude, and some bittersweet news.

After nearly 8 years on Team Clark, Kathryn Alexander, my communications director and senior adviser, is moving on to her next project and her next chapter.

Kathryn, affectionately known as "KA" to all of us, brings her incredible style, good humor, patriotism, compassion, and wicked-smart strategy to all she does.

It has been a privilege to have her in the trenches with me, from late-night press conferences to early-morning interviews. It will always be my distinct honor to call her my friend.

I thank KA. She is extraordinary. May this next chapter bring her, Mike, Nolan, and baby Jude all of the happiness and all of the bliss that they deserve.

HONORING CALVO ENTERPRISES' 50TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Calvo Enterprises, Inc., as it marks 50 years of service to the people of Guam. From its beginning in 1938 with the island's first locally owned insurance agency, the Calvo family built more than just businesses. They built opportunity for our island.

Over the decades, Calvo Enterprises grew to include companies that became part of daily life, from Mid-Pacific Distributors and Pepsi bottling company, to KUAM, giving our community a strong media voice; and Pay-Less Supermarkets, helping to provide food and essentials to our families.

What we recognize today is not only business success but a commitment to Guam through civic and charitable work, including the Edward M. Calvo Cancer Foundation, which has supported families during some of their most difficult moments.

Mr. Speaker, three generations later, the Calvo family continues to lead with the same values of hard work, integrity, and service to community, helping to strengthen our island and create a future that our children can rely on.

I thank the Calvo family and every employee who contributed to this agency.

I congratulate Calvo Enterprises on 50 years of growing with Guam and for Guam. May the next 50 be just as strong.

RECOGNIZING JONES REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER PROJECT FUNDING

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight the \$2 million in community project funding I secured for Jones Regional Medical Center in Anamosa to build a permanent, state-of-the-art medical simulation lab.

For the past several years, JRMC has trained nurses out of two temporary trailers. Despite those challenges, their program continues to produce highly skilled providers who are urgently needed across Iowa.

This funding will create a 1,700-square-foot advanced simulation center that will allow more students to graduate each year and expand training for high-demand medical fields.

This investment strengthens Iowa's healthcare workforce, supports our rural hospitals, and ensures that communities across Jones County have access to trained, qualified providers. I am proud to have secured this funding and remain committed to strengthening healthcare access and training across Iowa.

Mr. Speaker, I wish a very happy birthday to Ambassador and Iowa's longest-serving Governor, Governor Terry Branstad. Happy birthday, Ambassador and Governor Branstad.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona) laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Education and Workforce:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 17, 2025.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON: In the wake of the late Congressman Grijalva's passing, it has been an honor to waive onto the Education and Workforce Committee and contribute to its work during this transitional period. With the recent—and long overdue—swearing-in of Adelita Grijalva, I respectfully remove myself from the Education and Workforce Committee to ensure she can assume this role seamlessly.

Sincerely,

YASSAMIN ANSARI,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.
There was no objection.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 11 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FINE) at 4 p.m.

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.

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-
OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF
2025

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2392) to increase, effective as of December 1, 2025, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2392

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' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. INCREASE IN RATES OF DISABILITY COM-
PENSATION AND DEPENDENCY AND
INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.

(a) RATE ADJUSTMENT.—Effective on December 1, 2025, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall increase, in accordance with subsection (c), the dollar amounts in effect on November 30, 2025, for the payment of disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation under the provisions specified in subsection (b).

(b) AMOUNTS TO BE INCREASED.—The dollar amounts to be increased pursuant to subsection (a) are the following:

(1) WARTIME DISABILITY COMPENSATION.—Each of the dollar amounts under section 1114 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDENTS.—Each of the dollar amounts under section 1115(1) of such title.

(3) CLOTHING ALLOWANCE.—The dollar amount under section 1162 of such title.

(4) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO SURVIVING SPOUSE.—Each of the dollar amounts under subsections (a) through (d) of section 1311 of such title.

(5) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO CHILDREN.—Each of the dollar amounts under sections 1313(a) and 1314 of such title.

(c) DETERMINATION OF INCREASE.—Each dollar amount described in subsection (b) shall be increased by the same percentage as the percentage by which benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) are increased effective December 1, 2025, as a result of a determination under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)).

(d) SPECIAL RULE.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may adjust administratively, consistent with the increases made under subsection (a), the rates of disability compensation payable to persons under section 10 of Public Law 85-857 (72 Stat. 1263) who have not received compensation under chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 3. PUBLICATION OF ADJUSTED RATES.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall publish in the Federal Register the amounts specified in section 2(b), as increased under that section, not later than the date on which the matters specified in section 215(i)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)(2)(D)) are required to be published by reason of a determination made under section 215(i) of such Act during fiscal year 2026.

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.

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 S. 2392. Each year, Congress passes the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act.

The legislation ensures that VA compensation benefits for veterans and their survivors keep pace with inflation and the cost of living. Millions of veterans and their loved ones depend on these benefits to pay for daily living expenses.

This bill would help them meet that need by increasing certain VA benefits to the same percentage as the annual Social Security cost-of-living adjustment increase.

I recognize this is something we could and should have taken up sooner, and there was real concern that if the shutdown dragged on, VA might not have had the staff in place to implement the COLA on time.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the sponsors of this bill, Senators MORAN and BLUMENTHAL, for their bipartisan work on this vitally important bill to ensure our veterans get their benefits. I also thank Representative LUTTRELL for his leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support S. 2392, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that we are considering S. 2392, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2025 today. I rise in strong support of the measure, and I thank Senator MORAN for introducing the bill and appreciate Representatives MORGAN LUTTRELL and MORGAN MCGARVEY for leading the House version.

We have a uniquely solemn charge on the Veterans' Affairs Committee: to serve those who have served. It is a task I take very seriously as do my colleagues.

We continually strive to deliver on the promise to America's service-women and -men as they become veterans; that we will take care of you just as you have taken care of us.

Because of this, I find it disheartening when I hear conversation gaining speed about veterans not deserving the benefits provided to them or of defrauding the compensation and pension system en masse; Project 2025, The Economist, The Wall Street Journal, and The Washington Post.

We have even heard this from some veterans themselves at recent congressional hearings that somehow veterans' benefits make them lazy and reward exaggeration, but I know, as does America, that this is a ridiculous notion.

I think Senator DUCKWORTH put it perfectly when she said: "Portraying disabled veterans as a group of takers who will happily never work again for \$3,100 a month is incredibly condescending and disrespectful to these heroic Americans."

Our veterans have sworn an oath to risk life and limb to protect our Nation. They are honorable and forthright, and they deserve whatever assistance they need post-service to live happy, healthy, productive lives. The sacrifices they make and wounds they take occur not just on the battlefield but in training and on the home front, as well.

These veterans don't just serve alone. Military families sacrifice right alongside their servicemember. Many are exposed to the same hazardous environments as those in uniform. They are left to care for that servicemember when their time is done, and they do so willingly and with courage.

Mr. Speaker, to denigrate them by suggesting the system of veterans' benefits is overgenerous is grossly insulting to me, and I am sure to Americans, as well. If anything, we know there are still a great deal of toxic exposures, locations, injuries, and illnesses that VA doesn't recognize or cover.

Too many veterans and their families are left waiting for help. If anything, we must be more generous, and that is why I am in strong support of this legislation. Raising the compensation owed to our veterans to adjust to the cost of living is a small-in-dollar amount but large-in-significance gesture to demonstrate to veterans and their families that we see them, we understand their plight, and we can and will do what we must to help them.