

Is it too much for the leadership of this body to have the decency to acknowledge that the Capitol Police, the Metropolitan Police, and others saved the lives of Members of Congress on that day at great personal risk to themselves? Is it too much to say thank you?

All that said, I support this bill to award medals of sacrifice to other public safety officers who lose their lives in service to their country and their communities, and I thank them.

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

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST), someone who has certainly sacrificed and served our country and is the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I sincerely thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their work on this piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 3497, the Medal of Sacrifice Act. Its purpose is singular. It is of the highest importance to honor fallen law enforcement officers and first responders.

This bill, this medal, came to be in this way on November 21, 2024, because my community lost three Palm Beach County Sheriff's deputies in one moment: Deputy Ralph "Butch" Waller, Deputy Ignacio "Dan" Diaz, and Deputy Luis Paez. They were three motorcycle officers, all killed.

At their memorial service to honor them, President Trump, myself, and a few of our friends, Eric and Dan, we were having a conversation that there is no medal which is awarded posthumously to law enforcement officers and first responders killed in the line of duty directly from the Office of President and on behalf of a grateful nation. Out of this horrific tragedy, the medal of sacrifice was born.

Six months later, I had the profound honor of standing alongside President Trump in the Oval Office as he presented the first medals of sacrifice to the families of those three fallen Palm Beach County Sheriff's Deputies that were lost on that day, three lions of our community.

These men gave their lives in service each and every day. In the end, they gave the last breath in their lungs and the last beat of their heart as so many of our law enforcement and first responders across our country do each year.

There is not a recognition that can ever bring them back. There is not an award that could ever repay their sacrifice. What we can do is ensure that their courage and their service and their legacies are recognized by the highest office of our land, the Office of President.

The medal of sacrifice will ensure that when a family member, a spouse, a son, a daughter, or a department, that when they reflect on the end of

watch for their friend or their hero or their loved one, they will know that it is the whole of America that remembers with them.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to send a clear message to the families who have given so much, suspend the rules, and pass the Medal of Sacrifice Act.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I endorse the comments of the sponsor of the bill. I totally agree we should be honoring the sacrifice of our public safety officers and it is right that that honoring should start from the top. I could not agree more that the President should be recognizing those public safety officers who have given all for this country, and I would put at the top of that list right now Brian Sicknick and Howard Liebengood.

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

□ 1640

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an estimate from the Congressional Budget Office for this bill.

H.R. 3497, MEDAL OF SACRIFICE ACT OF 2025, AS ORDERED REPORTED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY ON DECEMBER 18, 2025

	By fiscal year, millions of dollars—		
	2026	2026–2030	2026–2035
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (–) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	*	*	**

* = between zero and \$500,000.
** = not estimated.

Increases net direct spending in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2036? No.

Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2036? No.

Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply? No.

Mandate Effects:

Contains intergovernmental mandate? No.

Contains private-sector mandate? No.

H.R. 3497 would create a medal for officers employed by state, local, or tribal law enforcement agencies who are killed in the line of duty. Officers who were subject to an official finding of wrongdoing by their agency would not be eligible for the award. H.R. 3497 also would create a commission to advise the President on the design, presentation, and eligibility criteria for the medal; members of the commission would not be compensated. Lastly, the bill would award the medal to three officers.

CBO estimates that the cost to design, manufacture, and produce each medal would be about \$250, and based on the number of officers killed in the line of duty in recent years, that about 150 officers would be eligible to receive medals each year. On that basis, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 3497 would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2026–2030 period. Any related spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Jeremy Crimm. The estimate was reviewed

by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.

PHILLIP L. SWAGEL,
Director, Congressional Budget Office.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 3497, the Medal of Sacrifice Act, which would award medals to honor those who lose their lives while serving as public safety officers. I encourage my colleagues to support it, too.

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

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, the Medal of Sacrifice Act of 2025 is a great piece of legislation, and I hope everyone will vote for it.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3497, 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.

MOVING NATIONAL WOMAN'S RELIEF CORPS INCORPORATION AND DOMICILE TO ILLINOIS; PRINCIPAL OFFICE TO MURPHYSBORO, ILLINOIS

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 988) to amend title 36, United States Code, to move the place of incorporation and domicile of the National Woman's Relief Corps to Illinois, to move the principal office of such Corps to Murphysboro, Illinois, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 988

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

SECTION 1. MOVING NATIONAL WOMAN'S RELIEF CORPS INCORPORATION AND DOMICILE TO ILLINOIS; PRINCIPAL OFFICE TO MURPHYSBORO, ILLINOIS.

(a) PLACE OF INCORPORATION AND DOMICILE.—Section 153701(b) of title 36, United States Code, is amended by striking "the District of Columbia" and inserting "Illinois".

(b) PRINCIPAL OFFICE.—Section 153708 of title 36, United States Code, is amended by striking "Springfield" each place it appears and inserting "Murphysboro".

(c) SERVICE OF PROCESS.—Section 153710 of title 36, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking "designated agent in the District of Columbia" and inserting "designated agent in Illinois"; and

(2) by striking "Mayor of the District of Columbia or another office designated by the Mayor" and inserting "Secretary of State of Illinois or another office as designated by Illinois law".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCANLON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JORDAN. 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 H.R. 988.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 988 amends the congressional charter for the National Woman's Relief Corps.

In 1883, the National Woman's Relief Corps was founded as an auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic. This nonprofit organization was founded to perpetuate the memory of those who sacrificed much, and sometimes all, in the American Civil War. Today, the National Woman's Relief Corps provides assistance to veterans of all wars and their families.

In 1962, Congress granted the corps a congressional charter under title 36 of the U.S. Code. Congressional charters often stipulate an organization's place of incorporation and corporate domicile.

In the case of the National Woman's Relief Corps, their charter requires that the organization be incorporated and domiciled in Washington, D.C. Due to changes in the organization over the years, the corps would like to move its domicile to Illinois, and this bill does just that.

H.R. 988 amends the corps' congressional charter to formally change the organization's place of incorporation and domicile from Washington, D.C., to Illinois. The bill further amends the charter by moving the location of the organization's headquarters to Murphysboro, Illinois.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 988, a bill to amend the charter of the National Woman's Relief Corps to formally change its principal office from Springfield, Illinois, to Murphysboro, Illinois, where I understand it is already located. It also moves its place of incorporation from Washington, D.C., to Illinois.

The Woman's Relief Corps was formally organized in 1883 to preserve the memory of those who served in the Civil War and provide assistance to veterans, widows, and orphans. The National Woman's Relief Corps, as it is now known, was congressionally chartered on September 7, 1962, and continues to serve all of our veterans and their families.

Congress has incorporated both public and private organizations since 1791. While organizations are free to incorporate under D.C. laws or the laws of any other State, many continue to

seek charters from Congress for the related prestige, which can help expand membership and increase funding. More than 90 organizations hold congressional charters, and many of them have principal offices and places of incorporation outside D.C.

Particularly as this administration has slashed programs that serve our veterans, gutted staff at the Veterans Crisis Line and Veterans Health Administration, and made drastic cuts to programs that veterans and their families rely upon, like SNAP and Medicaid, organizations that work to support our veterans, like the National Woman's Relief Corps, are more important than ever.

Ultimately, this bill is a straightforward administrative fix, and I support it.

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

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST), who has served our country, not in the Civil War but in a number of capacities, and is currently the great chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. JORDAN for allowing me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Woman's Relief Corps, the oldest national women's patriotic organization and the auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic, which was our first VSO in the United States.

This organization has a long history of service and patriotism, with strong ties to Illinois and to my hometown, Murphysboro, not Murfreesboro. That is in Tennessee. I am speaking of Murphysboro, M-u-r-p-h-y-s-b-o-r-o. There is only one in this world, and it is Murphysboro.

Murphysboro is also the hometown of former Member of Congress, former U.S. Senator, and Civil War General John A. Logan, who was a strong advocate for our Nation's veterans. He played a key role in establishing Memorial Day as a national holiday in his 11th general order when he was commandant of the Grand Army of the Republic. His legacy of service continues to inspire Americans today.

It is fitting that the Woman's Relief Corps has made its home at the General John A. Logan Museum in Murphysboro, Illinois.

Although the Woman's Relief Corps received its congressional charter many years ago, the charter still lists Washington, D.C., and Springfield as its official location. That is why I introduced legislation to update the charter to recognize Murphysboro, my hometown, as the Woman's Relief Corps' home.

This change reflects where the organization is actually based and honors its close connection to John A. Logan and the southern Illinois communities that support its work. I am proud to support this measure and am grateful for the opportunity to assist an organi-

zation that has done so much for veterans and our communities.

The Woman's Relief Corps stands for patriotism, service, and community. By recognizing Murphysboro as its home, we honor its history and support its continued work.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation and in recognizing Murphysboro, Illinois, as the home of the Woman's Relief Corps.

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

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an estimate from the Congressional Budget Office for this bill.

H.R. 988, A BILL TO AMEND TITLE 36, UNITED STATES CODE, TO MOVE THE PLACE OF INCORPORATION AND DOMICILE OF THE NATIONAL WOMAN'S RELIEF CORPS TO ILLINOIS, TO MOVE THE PRINCIPAL OFFICE OF SUCH CORPS TO MURPHYSBORO, ILLINOIS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, AS ORDERED REPORTED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY ON NOVEMBER 20, 2025

	By fiscal year, millions of dollars—		
	2026	2026–2030	2026–2035
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (–) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	0	0

Increases net direct spending in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2036? No.

Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2036? No.

Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply? No.

Mandate Effects:

Contains intergovernmental mandate? No.
Contains private-sector mandate? No.

H.R. 988 would change the location of the congressionally chartered National Woman's Relief Corps, Auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic. Because organizations chartered under title 36 of the U.S. Code are not federal agencies, CBO estimates that enacting this bill would have no effect on the federal budget.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Matthew Pickford. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.

PHILLIP L. SWAGEL,
Director, Congressional Budget Office

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, the Woman's Relief Corps began as a way for patriotic women to show their continued loyalty to the Union and support Civil War veterans.

More than 140 years later, the organization continues to serve veterans of all wars and endeavors to "encourage the spread of universal liberty and equal rights of everyone."

I support the National Woman's Relief Corps' work, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 988 is a great bill. I appreciate the sponsor

and his great work. He told me that I did pronounce "Murphysboro" right, so we are off to a good start. I hope everyone votes for it.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 988.

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.

□ 1650

VETERANS READINESS AND EMPLOYMENT IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2025

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 980) to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements to the provision of on-campus educational and vocational counseling by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 980

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 Readiness and Employment Improvement Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. ELIMINATION OF REQUIREMENT THAT ON-CAMPUS EDUCATIONAL AND VOCATIONAL COUNSELING IS PROVIDED BY CERTAIN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EMPLOYEES.

Section 3697B(a) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking the second sentence.

SEC. 3. AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO APPROVE NON-DEGREE FLIGHT TRAINING COURSES AS PART OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAMS FOR CERTAIN VETERANS WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3104(b) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting "(1)" before "A rehabilitation program";

(2) by striking "To the maximum extent practicable" and inserting "Except as provided under paragraph (2), to the maximum extent practicable"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(2) Notwithstanding section 3680A(b) of this title, the Secretary may approve a rehabilitation program for a veteran under this chapter that includes the pursuit of a course of flight training other than one given by an educational institution of higher learning for credit toward a standard college degree the veteran is seeking."

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to a rehabilitation program approved on or after August 1, 2026.

SEC. 4. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TRAINING AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMS FOR VETERANS WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES: OUTREACH REQUIREMENT; EXTENSIONS.

(a) VRE CONTACT INFORMATION.—Section 3104 of title 38, United States Code, is amend-

ed by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(f) The Secretary shall establish a dedicated telephone number within the Education Call Center of the Department for calls about services provided under this chapter. Each regional office of the Department shall include, on the website of the regional office, a name, telephone number, and email address, through which veterans may receive information about services provided under this chapter."

(b) REQUESTS FOR EXTENSIONS OF PROGRAMS: TIMELY CONSIDERATION; REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3105 of title 38, United States Code, is amended, in subsection (c)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively;

(B) by inserting "(1)" before "The Secretary"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(2) The Secretary shall approve or deny a request for an extension under paragraph (1) not later than 30 days after the date on which the veteran submits such request."

(2) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for five years, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives an annual report on requests for extensions under such subsection (c). Each such report shall include, for the year preceding the date of the report—

(A) the number of veterans who requested such an extension;

(B) the number of such requests that were approved; and

(C) the number of such requests that were denied.

SEC. 5. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN LIMITS ON PAYMENTS OF PENSION.

Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking "January 31, 2033" and inserting "July 31, 2033".

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. 980, as amended.

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. 980, as amended, offered by my friend and colleague, Representative DERRICK VAN ORDEN of Wisconsin.

This bill would make improvements to the VA's Veteran Readiness and Employment, or VR&E, program.

Over the last 2 years, my committee has uncovered disastrous wait times, fraud, waste, and abuse in the VA VR&E program. This bill would move the program in the right direction by providing more transparency on these failures.

Mr. Speaker, it is our duty to make sure that veterans who complete this

workforce program are earning more and are better off than they were before entering the program.

VR&E currently does not track those results. In fact, the only thing VR&E does track is the 45 percent of veterans who have completed programs and simply reentered them later. There remains continued fraud, waste, and abuse in the VR&E program, and the return on investment for the veterans is unknown.

Mr. Speaker, in fact, it shows me that VR&E needs an overhaul. This bill would reduce the bureaucracy and red tape that the VA has used in the past and would modernize the requirements for the VetSuccess on Campus officers, or VSOCs, by removing the master's degree requirement to a bachelor's degree in the relevant field of study.

This bill would also include increasing oversight and transparency of the VR&E program by implementing a call center specifically for the VR&E program. For VR&E to work well, there must be transparency to veterans who are using the program.

Finally, this bill would also allow veterans in the VR&E program to pursue noncollege degrees, like flight training.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is a step in the right direction of putting veterans first at the VA. I thank my friend and colleague, Representative VAN ORDEN, for sponsoring this bill to improve the VR&E program.

I also thank the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAMADEH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. OBERNOLTE) for championing the other provisions of this language.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 980, as amended, 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 to express my support for H.R. 980, the Veterans Readiness and Employment Improvement Act of 2025, as amended.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will remove the requirement that Veteran Readiness and Employment, or VR&E, counselors staff the VetSuccess on Campus, or VSOC, program. This change will put counselors back into the severely understaffed VR&E program and will also allow the future expansion of the VSOC program, which has been limited by the availability of VR&E counselors.

Mr. Speaker, many colleges and universities and Members of Congress are asking for VSOC staff on their campuses and in their district because they have seen firsthand the impact a VSOC can have. By expanding who can fill that role, we will give more student veterans access to the program and help enable them to access their earned benefits.

While I do have concerns that section 4 of the bill requires VA to adjudicate extension requests within 30 days without addressing the underlying issue of