

Armed Services be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 7194) to authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to Kareem N. Dockery for acts of valor as a member of the Army while serving in Afghanistan, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7194

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 “Kareem N. Dockery Medal of Honor Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) On October 2, 2012, then 2nd Lieutenant Kareem N. Dockery was serving as an Infantry Rifle Platoon Leader with the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Light), 4th Infantry Division, in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.

(2) Dockery’s platoon and accompanying Afghan and ITS forces were conducting combat operations in Kapisa Province, Afghanistan when they were ambushed with rifle, machine gun, and rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) fire by a large group of Taliban fighters.

(3) During the ambush, Dockery moved between Afghan units with his own small element, attempting to rally and reinforce partner forces with his own small element.

(4) Hearing that one of his soldiers was wounded, Lieutenant Dockery moved inside a courtyard to defend the small, isolated group of United States soldiers.

(5) He assaulted into the next room to kill 1 enemy fighter with his carbine.

(6) Surrounded by more enemy fighters, Dockery rallied the remaining 4 United States soldiers to continue to defend the courtyard.

(7) As the enemy continued its assault, additional RPG and grenade blasts suppressed the fire team. Attempting to regain the momentum, Dockery led a counterattack to clear the courtyard, at one point using his body to shield a soldier from an enemy grenade explosion.

(8) The enemy again counter-attacked the compound with 10 additional fighters. RPG fire and grenades wounded the entire element and destroyed the last covered position of Lieutenant Dockery’s team.

(9) Noticing that one of his NCOs was missing, Lieutenant Dockery moved into a nearby alley and found 2 enemy fighters dragging away an unconscious United States soldier. Lieutenant Dockery assaulted the 2 fighters and killed them both in close combat.

(10) Dockery then administered CPR and first aid to the soldier, saving his life.

(11) To mark the element’s position for friendly helicopter gunships to suppress the remaining embassy, Dockery then moved to the roof of the compound, still under enemy fire, and fired smoke grenades.

(12) In recognition of his actions, Kareem N. Dockery received the Silver Star for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy, demonstrating heroism and selflessness above and beyond the call of duty at the risk of life, keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect credit upon himself, 4th Infantry Brigade, 4th Infantry Division and the United States Army.

(13) Kareem N. Dockery deserves the Medal of Honor for his extraordinary heroism and selflessness as he successfully protected his element from an enemy ambush and killed 3 enemy fighters, while repeatedly putting his life in danger for the safety of his fellow soldiers.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION FOR AWARD OF MEDAL OF HONOR TO KAREEM N. DOCKERY FOR ACTS OF VALOR AS A MEMBER OF THE ARMY WHILE SERVING IN AFGHANISTAN.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Notwithstanding the time limitations specified in section 7274 of title 10, United States Code, or any other time limitation with respect to the awarding of certain medals to persons who served in the Armed Forces, the President is authorized to award the Medal of Honor, under section 7271 of such title, to Kareem N. Dockery for the acts of valor described in subsection (b).

(b) ACTS OF VALOR DESCRIBED.—The acts of valor described in section 2 of this Act are the actions of Kareem N. Dockery, as a member of the Army, on October 2, 2012, while serving in Afghanistan, for which he was previously awarded the Silver Star.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BACON

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Nicholas Dockery Medal of Honor Act”.

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION FOR AWARD OF MEDAL OF HONOR TO NICHOLAS DOCKERY FOR ACTS OF VALOR AS A MEMBER OF THE ARMY WHILE SERVING IN AFGHANISTAN.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Notwithstanding the time limitations specified in section 7274 of title 10, United States Code, or any other time limitation with respect to the awarding of certain medals to persons who served in the Armed Forces, the President is authorized to award the Medal of Honor, under section 7271 of such title, to Nicholas Dockery, formerly known as Kareem N. Dockery for the acts of valor described in subsection (b).

(b) ACTS OF VALOR DESCRIBED.—The acts of valor described in section 2 of this Act are the actions of Nicholas Dockery, as a member of the Army, on October 2, 2012, while serving in Afghanistan, for which he was previously awarded the Silver Star.

Mr. BACON (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading of the amendment.

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

There was no objection.

The amendment was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: “A bill to authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to Nicholas Dockery for acts of valor as a member of the Army while serving in Afghanistan.”.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING SUSQUEHANNA REGIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE

(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 today to recognize the Susquehanna Regional Emergency Medical Service, which recently received the 2025 Dick Ferneau Career EMS Service of the Year Award.

This is one of the top national awards in emergency medical services and highlights organizations that exemplify outstanding care, innovation, and commitment to the people who they serve.

The Susquehanna Regional EMS covers a 3,000-square-mile region covering townships across four counties. Their EMS has a team of over 170 EMTs and responds to over 20,000 calls annually.

Susquehanna Regional EMS is dedicated to serving the community and has worked to ensure that patients beyond the hospital are protected. The service has donated over 100 AEDs to various counties and has helped to train residents in critical lifesaving skills.

Representatives from Susquehanna Regional EMS will accept the award on stage at the EMS World Exposition in Indianapolis, Indiana, later this year.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the care that the Susquehanna Regional EMS provides for the community and for all of the workers who are committed to serving others.

NO FUNDING FOR ICE

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

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, Donald Trump promised that he would cut prices. Instead, his administration is killing people.

No Democrat should vote to give ICE another penny for public executions. ICE started by chasing people through the fields and factories where they work, then deporting U.S. kids with stage IV cancer, pulling women by their hair down the street, and now just murdering citizens in daylight. We have an unqualified, masked militia eager to escalate.

One lady who I met recently in San Jose asked me: We have only been through 1 year of this. How will we survive 4 years?

We won’t. Not until we do the right thing. No other policy matters if we can’t protect our people.

Today, let’s send a message. That is why I voted to shut down their funding so that we never again see the murder of a nurse named Pretti or a mom named Good.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to observe proper decorum in the House.

NO FUNDING FOR DHS

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

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I voted today not to continue funding for the Department of Homeland Security without real oversight and constraints on ICE and Border Patrol.

Minnesotans are being racially profiled on a mass scale, assaulted on their streets, and kidnapped from their homes. Peaceful demonstrators are being threatened and detained for exercising their First Amendment rights. Two American citizens were killed on our streets by Department of Homeland Security agents.

This is not the America that we learned about in civics class. This is the behavior of a dictatorship. We live in a democracy, where even the President must follow the rule of law and the Constitution.

My vote against the funding today for DHS was to stand in solidarity with Minnesotans to demand changes that will protect our democracy. We are one Minnesota. We will continue to care for our neighbors and to stand up for our rights because they are your rights, too.

RECOGNIZING ALEX HONNOLD

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

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituent, Alex Honnold, on his remarkable climb of one of the world's tallest skyscrapers, Taipei 101, without a rope.

Alex is a world-class athlete and perhaps one of the best athletes of our time. He is also known for being the first person to ever free solo El Capitan in Yosemite.

I am proud to say that Alex and I have worked together to promote outdoor recreation with my PARC Act, which helps protect climbers on our beautiful public lands. Alex also founded the Honnold Foundation, which partners with marginalized communities to expand equitable solar access around the world.

Nevada's Third District is honored to have such an accomplished athlete with a passion for outdoor recreation and making the world a better place. We are all looking forward to seeing what Alex will accomplish next.

I congratulate Alex.

END HUNGER NOW

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, food costs are sky high, and millions of people across the country are losing their SNAP benefits due to Trump's big,

ugly bill, which made the largest cut to food assistance and healthcare in American history.

Amazing organizations, like Lorraine's Soup Kitchen & Pantry in Chicopee, Massachusetts, are working to bridge the gap so that families don't go hungry amid these reckless Republican cuts.

Lorraine's, named after the first executive director of the soup kitchen, has been providing nutritious food and hope to families in western Massachusetts for 30 years. Under the incredible leadership of Kim Caisse, Lorraine's serves hot meals and provides nutritious pantry staples and produce to hungry families.

As part of my statewide End Hunger Now tour, I visited the pantry with my friend, Richie Neal, ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee. We learned about an increase in need due to Republican cuts and talked directly with pantry workers and people experiencing hunger.

As Congress prepares to consider the next farm bill, we must repeal the SNAP cuts enacted as part of the big, ugly bill and fully restore food assistance programs as we work to end hunger now.

UNFREEZE FUNDS FOR GATEWAY TUNNEL

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

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, during the government shutdown last fall, OMB Director Russell Vought announced that the Trump administration would be pausing billions of dollars in funding for the Hudson River Gateway Tunnel project.

This critical project creates a much-needed passenger rail tunnel under the Hudson River, supplementing existing tunnels that were built over 100 years ago, and will deliver thousands of commuters in and out of New York every day in the busiest Amtrak corridor in the United States.

For several months, the White House has held these funds captive over misleading claims that the project's contracting policies violate administration policies on diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Last week, the Gateway Development Commission announced that construction will have to cease if President Trump does not swiftly restore the project's funding. If construction is delayed, thousands of union construction workers will lose their jobs, and timely completion of this project will be in jeopardy.

Mr. Speaker, I implore the President to end this vindictive quest to hurt people in the Northeast and immediately unfreeze project funds to allow for the construction to resume.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF STEPHEN F. BOTSFORD

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

Ms. RIVAS. Mr. Speaker, the San Fernando Valley mourns the loss of Stephen Botsford.

Steve passed away on January 11 at the age of 75 after living a life filled with love, generosity, and impact. Steve was a successful businessman and philanthropist, who supported small businesses across the country, including in Los Angeles.

Steve deeply understood the importance of making sure that communities have what they need to thrive, which is why he set up a scholarship fund that allowed first-generation students across the San Fernando Valley to attend college. Steve's legacy lives on through the first-generation students who benefited from his scholarships and the dreams that were made possible through his support.

I send my condolences to his wife, Kathleen, and his children, Alexandra, Stephen Jr., and Victoria.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for a moment of silence in honor of Steve.

RESTORING RETIREMENT PROCESSING FOR FEDERAL WORKERS

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

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, this past year, more than 112,000 Federal employees retired, far more than last year. A lot of them retired because they took the DOGE buyout deal, the Deferred Resignation Program, where people were given a buyout if they resigned by October. Others had simply put in their time and were ready to leave and receive their earned retirement benefits.

We are here months later, and many of these Federal employees who have served our country well are still waiting for their benefits and the money that they are owed.

Our office has seen a huge spike in constituents experiencing delayed retirement processing at OPM, at Federal agencies, and at payroll providers across the government. These delays are not isolated. They are systemic.

The administration knew these retirements were coming. It was part of the DOGE plan, but once again, the administration was not prepared for what came next. As a result, Federal retirees faced delayed annuity payments, gaps in benefits, and real financial hardship.

These are families who are trying to pay mortgages, cover healthcare, and plan their next chapter. This backlog is completely unacceptable. We must fix it and restore trust in a retirement system that enables us to recruit the great people who we have in government.