

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 17, 2011.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 17, 2011 at 9:45 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 349.

That the Senate passed S. 655.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 793.

Appointments:

Board of Visitors of the United States Naval Academy.

Board of Visitors of the United States Military Academy.

Board of Visitors of the United States Air Force Academy.

Board of Visitors of the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

Board of Visitors of the United States Coast Guard Academy.

United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 18, 2011.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 18, 2011 at 11:09 a.m.:

Appointments:

President's Export Council.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 20, 2011.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 20, 2011 at 11:30 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 990.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

COMMUNICATION FROM DISTRICT
DIRECTOR AND PRESS SEC-
RETARY, THE HONORABLE JIM
GERLACH, MEMBER OF CON-
GRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Kori Walter, District Director and Press Secretary, the Honorable JIM GERLACH, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 16, 2011.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives that I have been served with a subpoena, issued by the County of Berks, Pennsylvania Magisterial District Court 23-02-02, for witness testimony.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined to comply with the subpoena to the extent that it is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

KORI WALTER,
District Director & Press Secretary.

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 9 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

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

PERMISSION TO FILE SUPPLE-
MENTAL REPORT ON H.R. 1540,
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZA-
TION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

Mr. McKEON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to file a supplemental report on the bill, H.R. 1540.

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

There was no objection.

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 on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-
OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF
2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1407) to increase, effective as of December 1, 2011, 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, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1407

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 "Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2011".

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

(a) RATE ADJUSTMENT.—Effective on December 1, 2011, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall increase, in accordance with subsection (c), the dollar amounts in effect on November 30, 2011, 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.—

(1) PERCENTAGE.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), 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, 2011, as a result of a determination under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)).

(2) ROUNDING.—Each dollar amount increased under paragraph (1), if not a whole dollar amount, shall be rounded to the next lower whole dollar amount.

(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 2012.

SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO PROVIDE SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUALS RESIDING TEMPORARILY IN HOUSING OWNED BY A FAMILY MEMBER.

(a) *SHORT TITLE.*—This section may be cited as the “Andrew Connolly Veterans’ Housing Act”.

(b) *EXTENSION.*—Section 2102A(e) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “December 31, 2011” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 1407, as amended, the Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2011.

This is an annual bill that authorizes a cost-of-living increase in veterans’ disability compensation, veterans’ clothing allowance, and dependency and indemnity compensation for veterans’ survivors. This increase is tied to the increase in the cost-of-living adjustment for Social Security beneficiaries. I’m also glad that the committee was able to include H.R. 1671, the Andrew Connolly Veterans’ Housing Act, to the end of this bill at the full committee markup.

This amendment was introduced by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. BRALEY). It provides a 5-year extension for the VA to provide specially adapted housing assistance to individuals residing temporarily in housing owned by a family member. Unless it is extended, this program will expire on September 30 of this year.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 1407, as amended.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to thank the chairman, the gentleman from Minnesota, for bringing this bill and the others to the floor today. It’s appropriate, as we are approaching Memorial Day, that we are working to fight for our veterans. But I think that all of us who get the opportunity to work in that VA Committee know that the chairman’s focus on veterans is every day of the year, not just Memorial Day, and this is certainly a good one.

I rise in wholehearted support of the Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Act of 2011, as amended. While we don’t control the COLA, the chairman and everyone in the committee understood how important it was to get this forward, get there with Social Security when that’s enacted. It is important that these payments are made on time. This Nation has a solemn and moral responsibility to our veterans, and this is just one more way to make sure that we do what’s right.

I also would like to thank the chairman for including Mr. BRALEY’s bill, the Andrew Connolly Act. It’s really important. I think all of us who heard the testimony of Mr. Connolly and his family—a true American hero, someone who is doing everything right—want to make sure that we share that pain with him and his family for the costs that he has given going to war.

That grant is intended to assist eligible veterans to adapt a family member’s home to provide a barrier-free living environment, to make sure that they have the highest level of independent living as possible. And so, again, I thank you for that.

I would, if I could, for just a moment, Mr. Chairman, just put in a slight plug, if I may, for a bill I’d like to see moved with this: H.R. 1025, the bill recognizing our reservists for their service and then being able to call themselves “veterans.” And I want to thank the majority and minority staff working on that; keep moving that in the future if at all possible. But your unwavering support of this piece of legislation, this bill, has been absolutely necessary. We worked on it together in committee the way it should be, and your leadership in bringing it to the floor is certainly appreciated.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. I thank the gentleman for his kind words. I look forward to working with him on his issues and other bills that will come before our committee in the future.

At this time, Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the chairman of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. RUNYAN).

Mr. RUNYAN. Thank you, Chairman MILLER.

Today I rise in support of H.R. 1407, as amended, the Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2011.

H.R. 1407, as amended, which I introduced in April, puts veterans on equal footing with Social Security beneficiaries by increasing the amount provided for disabled veterans’ compensation, veterans’ clothing allowance, and dependency and indemnity compensation for veterans’ survivors by the amount of the Social Security cost-of-living adjustment.

This annual and noncontroversial bill, which has been scored by CBO as having no budgetary impact, is a crucial part of ensuring benefits for disabled veterans and their families are sufficient to meet their needs.

H.R. 1407, as amended, also includes H.R. 1671, introduced by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. BRALEY), the Andrew Connolly Veterans’ Housing Act, which provides a 5-year extension to the current program set to expire on September 30.

Mr. Connolly’s story demonstrates the beneficial impact specially adapted housing can have on a disabled veteran

temporarily living in the house of a family member. It is important that we extend this program and continue to allow disabled veterans in similar situations adapted housing.

I urge all Members to support H.R. 1407, as amended.

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I would like to also thank the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey, the chairman of the subcommittee. Thank you for your work on this. You’re absolutely right. This is one that’s supported; it is the work for our veterans. Together, you did a fine job of moving this through, Mr. Chairman. And we are certainly proud to support it.

I’m sorry, Mr. MILLER. I tried to move you north from Florida. I just had Minnesota on my mind. This time of year, it’s not bad, though.

Thank you for your work on this. It’s a great bill.

I have no further requests for time, Madam Speaker, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. I would invite my good friend to visit Florida’s great northwest sometime in the winter, where thousands of people live like millions wish they could. So you’re welcome any time.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MILLER of Florida. I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 1407, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. STUTZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of Chairman RUNYAN’s H.R. 1407, as amended, the Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2011.

In addition to authorizing a cost of living increase for VA disability compensation for FY 2012, which I support, the bill contains provisions introduced by my Ranking Member BRALEY of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, as the Andrew Connolly Veterans’ Housing Act. These provisions would extend the Temporary Residence Grant commonly called the TRA grant program for five years.

The TRA program offers severely disabled veterans the opportunity to use a small portion of their Specially Adapted Housing grant to renovate the home of a family member to assist the veteran while the veteran is residing in the home on a temporary basis.

This program is needed because many severely injured veterans need temporary housing while their long-term home is adapted to meet their disabilities. For some veterans that temporary residence is that of a parent or sibling.

Anyone who attended the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity’s hearing on Mr. BRALEY’s bill could not be impressed by the courage shown by Mr. Connolly and his wife, Jennifer. Mr. Connolly is a former member of the Iowa National Guard unit that had the longest tour of duty in Iraq of any Guard unit.

Unfortunately, he has been diagnosed with cancer of the spine and is confined to a

wheelchair. His young son is also wheelchair-bound and is afflicted with a disease that requires the child to be on a respirator around-the-clock for life. That we would not extend a benefit that would make life better for Mr. and Mrs. Connolly is unthinkable and I applaud Mr. BRALEY for his work.

I also thank Chairman MILLER, Ranking Member FILNER, and Chairman RUNYAN for including the provisions of the Andrew Connolly Veterans' Housing Act in this must-pass legislation. I urge all Members to support H.R. 1407 as amended.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I once again urge all Members to support H.R. 1407, as amended.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1407, 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.

□ 1610

HONORING AMERICAN VETERANS ACT OF 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1627) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for certain requirements for the placement of monuments in Arlington National Cemetery, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1627

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 "Honoring American Veterans Act of 2011".

SEC. 2. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PLACEMENT OF MONUMENTS IN ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY.

Section 2409(b) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking "Under" and inserting "(1) Under";

(2) by inserting after "Secretary of the Army" the following: "and subject to paragraph (2)"; and

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

"(2)(A) Except for a monument containing or marking interred remains, no monument (or similar structure, as determined by the Secretary of the Army in regulations) may be placed in Arlington National Cemetery except pursuant to the provisions of this subsection.

"(B) A monument may be placed in Arlington National Cemetery if the monument commemorates—

"(i) the service in the Armed Forces of the individual, or group of individuals, whose memory is to be honored by the monument; or

"(ii) a particular military event.

"(C) No monument may be placed in Arlington National Cemetery until the end of the 25-year period beginning—

"(i) in the case of the commemoration of service under subparagraph (B)(i), on the last day of the period of service so commemorated; and

"(ii) in the case of the commemoration of a particular military event under subparagraph (B)(ii), on the last day of the period of the event.

"(D) A monument may be placed only in those sections of Arlington National Cemetery designated by the Secretary of the Army for such placement and only on land the Secretary determines is not suitable for burial.

"(E) A monument may only be placed in Arlington National Cemetery if an appropriate non-governmental entity has agreed to act as a sponsoring organization to coordinate the placement of the monument and—

"(i) the construction and placement of the monument are paid for only using funds from private sources;

"(ii) the Secretary of the Army consults with the Commission of Fine Arts before approving the design of the monument; and

"(iii) the sponsoring organization provides for an independent study on the availability and suitability of alternative locations for the proposed monument outside of Arlington National Cemetery.

"(3)(A) The Secretary of the Army may waive the requirement under paragraph (2)(C) in a case in which the monument would commemorate a group of individuals who the Secretary determines—

"(i) has made valuable contributions to the Armed Forces that have been ongoing and perpetual for longer than 25 years and are expected to continue on indefinitely; and

"(ii) has provided service that is of such a character that the failure to place a monument to the group in Arlington National Cemetery would present a manifest injustice.

"(B) If the Secretary waives such requirement under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall—

"(i) make available on an Internet website notification of the waiver and the rationale for the waiver; and

"(ii) submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives written notice of the waiver and the rationale for the waiver.

"(4) The Secretary of the Army shall provide notice to the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives of any monument proposed to be placed in Arlington National Cemetery. During the 60-day period beginning on the date on which such notice is received, Congress may pass a joint resolution of disapproval of the placement of the monument. The proposed monument may not be placed in Arlington National Cemetery until the later of—

"(A) if Congress does not pass a joint resolution of disapproval of the placement of the monument, the date that is 60 days after the date on which notice is received under this paragraph; or

"(B) if Congress passes a joint resolution of disapproval of the placement of the monument, and the President signs a veto of such resolution, the earlier of—

"(i) the date on which either House of Congress votes and fails to override the veto of the President; or

"(ii) the date that is 30 session days after the date on which Congress received the veto and objections of the president."

SEC. 3. CODIFICATION OF PROHIBITION AGAINST RESERVATION OF GRAVESITES AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 24 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 2410 the following new section:

"§2410A. Arlington National Cemetery: other administrative matters

"(a) ONE GRAVESITE PER FAMILY.—(1) Not more than one gravesite may be provided at Ar-

lington National Cemetery to a veteran or member of the Armed Forces who is eligible for interment at such cemetery and the family members of such veteran or member who are also eligible for interment at such cemetery.

"(2) The Secretary may waive the requirement under paragraph (1) in extreme circumstances, as determined by the Secretary. If the Secretary waives such requirement under this paragraph, the Secretary shall submit notice of the waiver to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

"(b) PROHIBITION AGAINST RESERVATION OF GRAVESITES.—A gravesite at Arlington National Cemetery may not be reserved for an individual before the death of such individual."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 24 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2410 the following new item:

"2410A. Arlington National Cemetery: other administrative matters."

(c) APPLICABILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), section 2410A of such title, as added by subsection (a), shall apply with respect to all interments at Arlington National Cemetery after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (b) of such section, as so added, shall not apply with respect to the interment of an individual for whom a written request for a reserved gravesite was submitted to the Secretary of the Army before January 1, 1962, and subsequently approved.

(d) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Army shall submit to Congress a report on reservations made for interment at Arlington National Cemetery.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) The number of requests for reservation of a gravesite at Arlington National Cemetery that were submitted to the Secretary of the Army before January 1, 1962.

(B) The number of gravesites at such cemetery that, on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, were reserved in response to such requests.

(C) The number of such gravesites that, on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, were unoccupied.

(D) A list of all reservations for gravesites at such cemetery that were extended by individuals responsible for management of such cemetery in response to requests for such reservations made on or after January 1, 1962.

(E) A description of the measures that the Secretary is taking to improve the accountability and transparency of the management of gravesite reservations at Arlington National Cemetery.

(F) Such recommendations as the Secretary may have for legislative action as the Secretary considers necessary to improve such accountability and transparency.

SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE PROVISION OF A MEMORIAL MARKER ON CHAPLAINS HILL TO HONOR THE MEMORY OF THE JEWISH CHAPLAINS WHO DIED WHILE ON ACTIVE DUTY IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) 13 Jewish chaplains have died while on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States.

(2) Army Chaplain Rabbi Alexander Goode died on February 3, 1943, when then U.S.S. Dorchester was sunk by German torpedoes off the coast of Greenland.

(3) Chaplain Goode received the Four Chaplains' Medal for Heroism and the Distinguished