

□ 1859

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Chair, I missed a series of votes today because of a family medical issue. If I had been here, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 389; "yea" on rollcall No. 390; "yea" on rollcall No. 391; "yea" on rollcall No. 392; "no" on rollcall No. 393; "no" on rollcall No. 394; "yea" on rollcall No. 395; "yea" on rollcall No. 396; "yea" on rollcall No. 397; "yea" on rollcall No. 398; "no" on rollcall No. 399; "no" on rollcall No. 400; "yea" on rollcall No. 401; "yea" on rollcall No. 402; "yea" on rollcall No. 403; "yea" on rollcall No. 404; "yea" on rollcall No. 405; "no" on rollcall No. 406; "no" on rollcall No. 407; "no" on rollcall No. 408; and "yea" on rollcall No. 409.

#### ELECTING A MEMBER TO A CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution as follows:

#### H. RES. 293

*Resolved*, That the following named Member be and is hereby elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

(1) COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY.—Ms. Hochul.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

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

Mr. ISSA. I object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk continued to read.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on amendment No. 1 offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROKITA), I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

#### REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 771

Mr. CUELLAR. I ask for unanimous consent, Mr. Speaker, to remove Representative PAUL RYAN as a cosponsor of H.R. 771.

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

There was no objection.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 2055 and that I may include tabular material on the same.

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

There was no objection.

#### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 288 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2055.

□ 1903

#### IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2055) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes, with Mr. TERRY in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CULBERSON. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, it's my privilege to lay out tonight for the House for consideration the appropriations bill for Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and my good friend, Mr. SANFORD BISHOP of Georgia, we have worked together arm in arm in this committee to make sure that our men and women in uniform have everything they need to do their job. We on this committee think of our job as sort of we are the peace of mind committee for the United States military and for our veterans.

We have an obligation—this Congress, this government—has an obligation, first and foremost, to provide for national security, to make sure that our men and women in uniform, not only here at home, but overseas have everything they need to do their job.

The scope of our appropriations bill today includes construction, of course, of all the military bases here and over-

seas. We have fully funded in this bill all the requests of the branches of the military for our men and women in uniform on active duty. We've made sure that all the retired men and women who have served this Nation have everything they need when it comes to the veterans hospitals, the Department of Veterans Affairs.

We are laying before the House tonight this funding bill as a part of our Nation's—I like to also think of it as part of our Nation's mortgage payment. This is one of those fundamental obligations that we have as a government to ensure that our military is fully funded, that they've got the equipment, the logistical support that they need, that their housing is the best it can be, that the facilities are the very best they can be, and this is one of those fundamental obligations we've absolutely got to take care of.

In this bill and in all the appropriations bills, Mr. Chairman, brought to the House for the first time, this new Republican majority, this conservative majority is for the first time—money that has been left in the Treasury unspent in previous years was just spent in other areas. For the first time under the leadership of Chairman HAL ROGERS of Kentucky, our committee, the other subcommittees of Appropriations, are returning that unspent money back to taxpayers to reduce the deficit.

Chairman ROGERS and the leadership of the House, Speaker BOEHNER, our Republican leadership, all of us are committed to bringing the Nation—doing everything in our power to get back to a balanced budget, to reduce Federal spending, to bring the size, scope, and cost of the Federal Government back under control.

While we recognize our responsibility to fully fund and take care of our troops in military construction, of our veterans in the Veterans Affairs, the hospitals, through the VA, we also have an obligation to manage the money in a way that's fiscally sound. So we've identified rescissions, or returned money, unspent money, to taxpayers in the amount of \$388 million, again, the first time that's ever been done.

Again, these savings don't impact in any way the level of services provided to our veterans. This in no way impacts or diminishes the quality of housing or the level of service necessary on bases here in the United States or overseas.

But we have found savings. For example, \$100 million in planning and design money that was left over from previous years. We found \$100 million in unspent funds from the BRAC, the Base Realignment and Closure Commission in 1990, money that was unspent and left over. We found money in a variety of accounts, Mr. Chairman, that in previous years would have been spent elsewhere.

And under the leadership of Chairman ROGERS and Speaker BOEHNER, our

subcommittee, every subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee is committed to return that money to taxpayers and to find savings everywhere we can that will not diminish, again, the level of service provided to our military because we want to make sure they have absolutely no worries as they stand on the wall defending our freedom every night, every day, 24/7.

We have also incrementally funded, Mr. Chairman, five projects and found savings of \$304 million that we have been able to return to taxpayers. In three cases, we found there's three projects which we did not fund for the F-35 aircraft facility at the Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada because that aircraft is not ready to be fully deployed. There is a central distribution facility in Germany, a commissary building, a variety of savings that we've looked for, not just unspent money but looking for ways we can save money for taxpayers while maintaining that very high level of service for our men and women in uniform while being good stewards of the public's precious tax dollars.

In the areas of Veterans Affairs, Mr. Chairman, we were able to find savings of \$25 million in the general administration of the VA. We also found savings of \$136 million in information technology. And in a whole separate category of accounts for minor construction, we saved about \$75 million there. All of this money has been returned to taxpayers to reduce the deficit, to do everything we can within our power to reduce the level of obligation that our children and grandchildren are going to inherit.

Finally, I want to point out we also found savings—the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims had asked for a new courthouse. And in light of the unprecedented size of the debt and the deficit, we did not recommend to the House that that new courthouse be built. That resulted in a \$25 million savings. The Court of Appeals for Veteran Claims does a great job. They're working in a leased facility right now, and we recommend that that be continued.

Mr. Chairman, the situation the Nation faces today is truly unprecedented. We calculated that about \$2.2 trillion in revenue comes into the Treasury every year, yet the existing obligations of the Federal Government to pay the current liability of Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, interest on the national debt, and our veterans benefits are all programs that have to be funded upfront. That is sort of our national mortgage payment. And those programs alone consume \$2.3 trillion.

So if you just look at the math, right out of the gate, the Nation begins the year, at the stroke of midnight on the first day of the year, American taxpayers are already \$105 billion in debt.

□ 1910

So every dollar the Appropriations Committee spends all year is borrowed.

This is why you see fiscal conservatives, all of us, constitutional conservatives in this new majority are so passionate, so determined to get us back on path to a balanced budget, to do everything we can within each one of these subcommittees to find savings. I am so grateful to Chairman ROGERS and Speaker BOEHNER for the first time returning unspent money to reduce the deficit.

We have had to reduce the overall amount of money available to every sector of the government dramatically. And it is tough. We have a lot of tough savings. But in the area of supporting our military, when it comes to making sure that they have got the best equipment, that they have got the absolute best in their housing and their hospital care, whether you are active duty military or if you are retired and in the care of the Veterans Administration, you can be sure that the United States Congress stands behind you. We are immensely proud of you. We have made sure that we have fully funded every need that you have got, and we have made sure that you are given the absolute best medical care.

All of the family members out there who have sons or daughters or fathers or mothers serving in the U.S. military need to know that, despite this tough budget environment, this Congress stands behind your father, your mother, your brother, your sister who serves in the military, and we are absolutely committed to ensuring that they have the very best equipment possible on the face of the Earth, that they have got everything they need to do their job, to stand on the wall defending this great Nation 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, as they do so beautifully.

We are very fortunate on this subcommittee, Mr. Chairman. We have an extraordinary group of people working behind the scenes—we have had for years—to make sure that this subcommittee has produced a bill that this House can support in a bipartisan way with great pride.

I want to make sure to thank our extraordinary staff: Tim Peterson who is our chief clerk of the subcommittee and has served with the Appropriations Committee for 22 years and served on the staff of the Secretary of the Navy for 9 years. Tim has done an extraordinary job, and I am very grateful to him for the time and effort he has put into this bill. I want to thank Sue Quantius for her work on the committee and her expertise when it comes to veterans affairs. To Sarah Young who has done such an extraordinary job as well and has been such a great asset. They have all done a magnificent job, and we are lucky to have them.

On the minority side, Matt Washington has just done an extraordinary job, as has Danny Cromer. All of us have worked together, arm in arm. My good friend, Mr. BISHOP from Georgia.

This is one bill, Mr. Chairman, that I know that Members of the House will be able to support in a bipartisan way

with great pride because our subcommittee has produced this bill in a bipartisan way without regard to party label. Our entire focus has been: How can we make sure that our men and women in uniform, active duty and retired, have got everything they need? How can we be better stewards of the taxpayers' precious dollars?

We identified things, for example, we share a concern for money that was unspent. Veterans hospitals and the giant facilities like the new one in Denver that I understand had \$978 million unspent for years, and we put language in this bill telling them they are going to lose that money after 5 years unless they make sure that they get it obligated and get these hospitals built.

We had great support from Mr. BISHOP on ensuring that our veterans who have valid claims for disabilities get those disability claims handled in an expeditious way.

We worked together arm in arm not just to find savings, but to make sure we identify efficiencies. How can we make sure that our men and women in uniform not only have the best housing, but veterans who are retired are given the best possible service?

We have, on every occasion throughout the year working on this bill, found that we have areas of agreement in this bill, and we produce it in a way that is really unanimous. It is a real privilege for me to work with Mr. BISHOP and with our ranking member from Washington State, Mr. DICKS. It has been a real privilege to work with him.

But above all, I am extraordinarily proud to serve as the subcommittee chairman under my chairman, HAL ROGERS of Kentucky, who I count as a role model and as a mentor to me. Mr. ROGERS has been a very good friend and a great leader for this committee and is a stalwart fiscal conservative, committed to making sure that our men and women in uniform continue to be the very best military in the world.

It is my privilege to be here tonight to present this bipartisan bill to the House.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am pleased to join Chairman CULBERSON as the House takes up the fiscal year 2012 appropriations bill for Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and related agencies. The MilCon-VA bill is critically important to the strength and the well-being of our military, our veterans, and the families who sacrificed so much to defend our country.

Working with Chairman CULBERSON and the members of the subcommittee, we have crafted a bill that will address the funding needs for military construction and family housing for our troops and for their families, as well as other quality of life construction projects.

In addition, it will provide funding for many important VA programs as

well as agencies like the Veterans Court of Appeals and the American Battle Monuments Commission.

The bill before us today touches every soldier, every sailor, every marine, and every airman. In addition, this bill will also impact military spouses, their children, and every veteran that participates in veterans programs.

I want to commend Chairman CULBERSON for his hard work. He has done his best to hold hearings that he believes are important to the work of the subcommittee. Together we sat through 12 hearings, gaining valuable insight into the working of all of the agencies under the subcommittee's jurisdiction.

I would like to thank all of the subcommittee members and recognize them for their hard work on the bill.

I believe that the minority was treated fairly during this process, and I want to thank Chairman CULBERSON for that. We worked very well in a very collegial fashion, and I think that is the way that this institution should work.

Chairman CULBERSON has already provided the funding highlights in the bill, and I won't repeat them all, but I want to point out a few items that I think are extremely important.

The Department of Defense schools. The bill before us today includes \$483 million for the renovation and replacement of 15 Department of Defense schools. Six schools here in the United States and nine schools at overseas installations will be refurbished with this funding. Mr. Chairman, I believe that providing the funds for DOD schools will not only help our servicemembers' children get a quality education in a safe facility, but it will also give our servicemembers some peace of mind.

Medical center replacement. Mr. Chairman, I was pleased that the bill includes \$1.1 billion for the medical center replacement in Germany. As you know, a large proportion of the serious casualties from the Iraq and Afghanistan theaters are treated there in Landstuhl, and I am pleased to see we are making this very, very important investment.

Regarding veteran affairs, the bill contains \$52.5 billion for advance appropriations for medical services, for medical support and compliance, and medical facilities at the VA, which is \$1.8 billion above the amount that was included in the FY 2011 continuing resolution.

Mr. Chairman, I strongly believe that advance funding provides timely and predictable funding for the veterans health care system. For example, during the delay in the FY 2011 funding, veterans health care funding was already in place and the veterans health care programs were not subject to the continuing resolution process and our veterans did not have to go without their health care.

Mr. Chairman, overall the bill provides adequate funding for programs

included in this bill. However, I am troubled by one item. Unfortunately, during the full committee markup, an amendment was adopted to eliminate funding to implement Executive Order 13502, which was issued in February 2009, which addresses project labor agreements, PLAs. Now, if you are opposed to that Executive Order, that's fine; but using the MilCon-VA bill to address this issue, I believe, is the wrong place.

□ 1920

This language is purely an ideological and political provision that really is beyond the scope of this bill.

If we want to deal with this issue, we should deal with it on a labor bill and not on the Military Construction-VA bill. The MilCon-VA bill has always enjoyed broad bipartisan support, and has avoided divisive issues like this no matter which party has held the gavel. I believe including this language only causes unnecessary complications and does nothing to help our servicemembers or our veterans.

Mr. Chairman, please know that as we continue through the process, I will work to address this issue because an item like this really has no place in a bill that has always placed our troops, their families and our veterans above ideology.

Before I close, I would like to recognize the staff for all of the work and the time that they have put into this bill. From the minority committee staff, I would like to thank Matt Washington and Danny Cromer as well as Michael Reed and Greg Browder from my personal office. From the majority committee staff, I would like to thank Tim Peterson, Sue Quantius, Sarah Young, and Tracey Russell as well as Alec Fritchie and Evan Ewachiw from the chairman's personal office.

I would also like to thank the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS), our ranking member; and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS), who set the standard for the committee and for the subcommittees with their collegial relationship in their ability to work together and in their efforts to make sure that we move these appropriations bills through regular order. I appreciate that very much.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, it is my privilege to yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished chairman of the full committee, the gentleman from Kentucky, Congressman HAL ROGERS.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. I thank the chairman for yielding me this time.

I want to, at the outset, congratulate him on a great job on this bill. He and his terrific staff have worked long and hard, along with the subcommittee members, to produce, I think, a star of a bill.

So, on your maiden voyage, Mr. Chairman, congratulations on a good job.

To Mr. BISHOP and the minority members of the subcommittee, including my distinguished cohort, Mr. DICKS, the ranking on the full committee, we've all worked together on this, and we appreciate the collegial atmosphere, as Mr. BISHOP has said, that has governed this proceeding.

I rise in support of this act. Colleagues on both sides of the aisle agree that our Nation's servicemembers, their families and our veterans deserve the greatest quality of care and support for their service and their sacrifices. This bill funds their most pressing needs in a timely manner while also acknowledging the urgent need to rein in Federal spending at a time of historically high and dangerous deficits.

This legislation provides \$72.5 billion in discretionary funding for military construction projects, veterans' programs and other agencies that support the quality of life of our warfighters, veterans and families. This funding level represents a \$615 million cut from last year's level and a \$1.2 billion reduction from the budgetary request.

The bill fully funds the construction of Department of Defense hospitals and clinics, schools and family housing, providing our military personnel with the resources to effectively advance U.S. missions abroad and the support they need here at home. The bill also protects the health and well-being of our veterans, funding medical care, disability benefits and education benefits.

But in addition to adequately funding these programs, the subcommittee also made difficult but responsible choices that eliminate excess spending wherever appropriate. Much of the reduction in this bill comes from savings related to the BRAC process and from rescissions of previous year funding left over from lower-than-estimated construction costs. The bill also includes provisions for strong oversight overspending.

Mr. Chairman, cleaning up the way we spend taxpayer dollars will help balance our Nation's budgets, and will show the American taxpayers that we can be trusted with their hard-earned money. We can't restrict cuts to only some areas of government. All agencies and programs must be held accountable to tighter budgets with more stringent supervision.

Chairman CULBERSON and members of this subcommittee have shown great fiscal restraint and a commitment to real savings in reducing the discretionary spending in this bill below the 2011 levels while providing the resources our troops and our vets deserve.

So, again, I want to congratulate Chairman CULBERSON, Ranking Member BISHOP, all the members of the subcommittee, and my ranking partner, Mr. DICKS, for their great work on this bill. Of course, I want to again say how much we appreciate the work of this fine staff, both on the minority and majority levels. Great work.

Mr. Chairman, I believe this bill is an excellent representation of the good work that we can do in Congress when we work together, both as we support our troops and our veterans and as we work in regular order to fund our government responsibly. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I am delighted to yield 4 minutes to the distinguished ranking member of the Defense Subcommittee and of the full Appropriations Committee, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS).

Mr. DICKS. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. BISHOP, I want to congratulate you on being the new ranking member on MilCon-VA. I also congratulate Chairman CULBERSON, who has, I think, done an outstanding job, and of course my good friend and colleague, HAL ROGERS, the chairman of our committee. I want to also congratulate the staff. The staff has done an amazing job considering we had to go through the 2011 episode and then come right back and get the 2012 bill out.

The MilCon-VA Subcommittee has always had a strong reputation for common ground and bipartisanship as members traditionally work together to fund the construction of military facilities and strive to improve the quality of life and care afforded to our veterans and military families.

Many years ago, during the Reagan administration, we got David Stockman to allow us and Cap Weinberger to do incremental funding on military hospitals, and I'm glad the committee has gone back to an incremental funding approach. I think it's the only way we can do these major projects.

We all acknowledge the challenges facing the Nation today with respect to the debt and deficit, and I believe this bill has done a commendable job in addressing these fiscal challenges while ensuring that we are not impacting the level of care and benefits that our servicemembers have so rightfully earned.

Military construction is funded at \$14 billion, which is \$2.6 billion below the FY11 enacted amount and \$752 million below the President's request. The subcommittee achieved these cuts through the incremental funding of projects and by eliminating funding for several projects that were ahead of need. As Ranking Member BISHOP noted, this bill makes a strong investment into Defense Department schools by investing \$483 million for the construction and replacement of substandard facilities. I have been a strong advocate for the modernization of schools serving the children of our Nation's servicemembers, and I commend the chairman and ranking member on their commitment to this effort.

The Department of Veterans Affairs would be funded at \$58.3 billion in discretionary spending, which is \$1.85 billion above the fiscal year 2011 enacted level and \$476 million below the President's request. Most of this funding is

for veterans' medical services. The recommendation provides the full funding of \$69.5 billion for the mandatory VA programs providing compensation and pensions, educational benefits, vocational rehabilitation, life insurance, and housing loan programs.

I would like to commend the chairman and ranking member for their efforts to ensure that our Nation's veterans are well taken care of by maintaining adequate funding for veterans' health care and other benefits on which so many have come to count on.

Again, I am pleased overall with the funding levels proposed in this bill today, and I am pleased that during the full committee markup we were able to remove a contentious and divisive restriction on the implementation of Davis-Bacon wage requirements; but unfortunately, there is one item that I believe will complicate the passage of this bill.

□ 1930

I am troubled by the inclusion of a provision that prohibits the use of project labor agreements for any project in this bill. This divisive policy rider should not be included in an appropriations bill, and the decision to implement PLAs should remain at the discretion of the agency as to whether it is appropriate for an individual project. The inclusion of this provision unnecessarily complicates the support for a bill that would otherwise pass with wide bipartisan support. I expect an amendment to be offered that would remove this restriction on PLAs and would further improve the bill. I would like to urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support the amendment.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. DICKS. Regardless, I remain committed to working with my colleagues to respectfully work out any differences on the floor so that we may pass a bipartisan bill that adequately provides for our troops, veterans, and military families.

Again, I intend to support this bill. I wish we could finish tonight, but I understand we can't. I look forward to seeing this bill done. I commend, again, the chairman and ranking member for their good work.

Mr. CULBERSON. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I want to say very briefly, again, truly how much I appreciate working with all the members of this committee, including the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP). All of us have worked with one goal in mind, and that is to ensure the peace of mind of our men and women in uniform and our retired military members, to ensure that no matter where they go, no matter what they're doing, they don't have a worry in the world. We want to make sure

they are taken care of. And we've done so in a way that is fiscally responsible. We've done so in a way ever mindful of the record debt, the record deficit, of the inability of many of the projects the VA has worked on before getting done on time or, frankly, even getting started, making sure that disability claims are paid on time.

We are also presenting the bill tonight, Mr. Chairman, giving any Member of the House an opportunity to come down and file an amendment and be heard in an open and transparent way, something that we in the new majority committed to do, that every American would have an opportunity to read the bill online at least 72 hours in advance. It is vitally important that we, doing the Nation's business, do so in a way that's absolutely transparent and open and straightforward, especially when it comes to supporting our men and women in uniform. When it comes to making sure they are taken care of and have no worries, there are no party labels. It's really been a privilege to work with each and every one of you on this committee.

I see my good friend Mr. FARR of California is here. He's been a particularly valuable member of the subcommittee. He has brought great expertise to the committee. I look forward to hearing from him tonight as well.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I am delighted to yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR), ranking member of the Agriculture Subcommittee of Appropriations but who is a longtime member of this MilCon-VA subcommittee.

Mr. FARR. I thank the gentleman from Georgia for yielding.

It is a pleasure to serve on this committee. I might be the longest serving member on the committee, but I'm a ranking member on another committee. It's a pleasure to serve. I welcome the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON) to his new role as chair of the committee. And it's always a pleasure to serve with the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS), the ranking and chair of the major committee.

This committee is unique in Congress. It's the only committee where both active duty military and veterans are dealt with from the same policy. There's no other committee in this House or in the Senate that has the one-stop that this committee has. It's a pleasure to be focused on the continuum of care for active duty and reservists and veterans.

This past weekend, we remembered the patriotic sacrifice of those who have lost their lives in service to our country, and today we renew our commitment to keep our promise to our Nation's more than 2 million troops and reservists, their families, and 23 million veterans.

This committee has a strong history of working in a bipartisan way to

produce a bill that supports our active duty servicemembers and our veterans. I am proud to support some much needed increases for the Veterans Affairs Department, and I would note that while this bill is \$1.4 billion above last year's level, it is also \$1.2 billion less than what the President requested.

Additionally, I am pleased to see that this bill emphasizes the needs of our veterans in rural areas. The National Cemetery Administration anticipates that 10 percent of all veterans will not receive access to a burial option in a national, State, or tribal cemetery within 75 miles of their home. I am pleased that this bill directs the National Cemetery Administration to develop a strategy to serve our rural veterans.

This language is important because it recognizes that veterans who live in rural communities should be treated on par with veterans who live in urban areas in all services provided by the VA. In my rural district, the central coast of California, veterans are moving a step closer to achieving a dream of a veterans cemetery at the former Fort Ord military base.

I commend the chairman and ranking member for their hard work in ensuring that this bill is another significant step in fulfilling the promise our country has made to leave no veteran behind.

I urge support for this bill on one condition. The condition is that the language against project labor agreements needs to be taken out.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CULBERSON. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I want to say very briefly that one of the reasons we're trying to move expeditiously on this is we want to make sure our men and women in uniform have everything they need as soon as possible. We're trying to get this bill through to ensure that we not only get it, but that we get it done in an expeditious fashion.

We are waiting for an amendment to be completed drafting, but it's important, I think, to reemphasize, if I could, in the time I have remaining, the scale of the problem the Nation faces. This is not just a record deficit and record debt we face. It's actually a whole lot bigger than that.

As we make sure that our men and women in uniform are taken care of with their housing, we've made sure that, for example, all the BEQs, the bachelor enlisted quarters, are fully funded; that the Army, the Navy, the Air Force is fully funded; our veterans are fully funded. We've had to do this in a way that is fiscally responsible because we are ever mindful of the scale of the problem the Nation faces financially.

It is difficult to even begin to comprehend how huge the problem is that has been created by so many years of

previous Congresses, of previous administrations, too many promises to too many people on too many occasions on money that was borrowed from future generations. The result has been that today, the unfunded liabilities facing the taxpayers of the Nation are about \$49.6 trillion. Those are liabilities at present value.

For example, the publicly held debt, military and civilian pensions, retiree health benefits and other explicit, direct liabilities of about \$16.9 trillion. The entire U.S. economy is about \$13 trillion. Our gross domestic product is, I think, right at about \$13 trillion. So just the explicit liabilities that we have to pay already exceed the size of the entire U.S. economy.

We've got long-term contingencies and implicit liabilities. For example, the future cost of Social Security benefits is \$31 trillion.

□ 1940

Future Medicare benefits under part A, part B, and part D all added together create—and this is unfunded liability for which there is no source or revenue lined up to pay for this—about \$50 trillion, \$49.6 trillion. And to give you an idea of how big that number is, in order to pay that liability off, every living American would have to write a check tonight for \$159,000 to pay off that future unfunded liability. I've had constituents ask me if they just write that check, can they be done? Is that it? They're done? I wish it were that simple. But we, on the Appropriations Committee, this vast amount of money that we spend every year, this extraordinary responsibility with which we have been entrusted by our constituents, the amount of money we spend every year pales in significance to the size of the unfunded liabilities in the future.

The amount of money that we spend every year on the Appropriations Committee—a little over \$1 trillion, an extraordinary amount of money, \$1,000 billion—is dwarfed by the size of the unfunded liability that we face in the future.

And it's important for everyone, Mr. Speaker, listening to this debate tonight to remember that the money we spend here tonight in support of our troops, the money we spend on Homeland Security, to build highways, to pay for all the things the Federal Government does, it's all borrowed. The hole is so deep that's been dug by our predecessors, and again, too many promises to too many people on too many occasions, too many Big Government promises—I'm still wondering about Lyndon Johnson's war on poverty, that is, how many trillions of dollars later and that still hasn't worked out.

We, in the new constitutional conservative majority, are absolutely committed to getting us back on track to a balanced budget because we recognize the scale of the problem, the urgency of these impending unfunded li-

abilities, this massive bill that's going to come due to our children and grandchildren. In fact, the Joint Chiefs of Staff do an analysis about every 5 years on the strategic threats facing the United States. And analyzing all the threats facing our Nation, the Joint Chiefs concluded that one of the greatest strategic threats America faces is our national debt, this unfunded liability, these crushing obligations that our kids are going to inherit if we as a Congress don't work—as we have on this subcommittee in a way without regard to party for the benefit of the Nation—to find ways to make sure that Social Security and Medicare are solvent, that we get the entitlement programs under control because they're going right off a cliff unless we make sure we rescue them and make sure they're solvent and there for our kids. But we've got to make sure that we are doing everything within our power in the annual appropriations process to save every single dollar that we can.

There has been some debate, Mr. Chairman, some Members of Congress in the past have said, well, we just need to raise taxes. My predecessor, Bill Archer, who was chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, had an analysis done that showed that even if you were to confiscate all of the corporate income—100 percent of the corporate income in America—that would generate about \$1.3 trillion. If the government were to confiscate 100 percent of all individual income, over \$200,000, that would generate about \$2.1 trillion. So you can see that it isn't possible to solve this problem by raising taxes. And that is something that we also understand instinctively as conservatives; if you just simply get the government out of our lives, out of our pocket, out of our way, and leave us alone to raise our kids, to run our businesses, to run our lives—let Texans run Texas, let Georgians run Georgia. If you unleash the entrepreneurial creativity of the American people, the economy will grow, people will invest and save their own money far wiser than the government will, and we will begin to dig out of this hole that we're in.

We're committed not just to saving money year to year through the appropriations process, we're committed to ensuring that Medicare, Social Security, that these social safety net programs that are so essential to our Nation are there for the future, for our children and our grandchildren. We're going to do everything in our power to make sure that we have done our job in a fiscally responsible way this year. When it comes to Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, or Homeland Security, or Transportation, or Labor, Health and Human Services, all the various subcommittees of appropriations, that's year-to-year dollars that we have direct control over right now, but we're also thinking long term.

We also want to eliminate that threat that the Joint Chiefs of Staff

identified, the greatest threat to our long-term national security they identified as the national debt—much of which is held by nations hostile to the United States. Deeply, deeply disturbing, Mr. Chairman, that the Communist Chinese Government buys so much of our debt. They're the largest purchaser today of gold. The Chinese economy is thundering. They have a very aggressive campaign underway to acquire as much intellectual property as they can through espionage and acquisition. We have, as a Nation, in allowing this debt to be created and allowing so many nations that are hostile to the United States to buy our debt, have placed too much power in the hands of the Chinese, of sovereign wealth funds.

And we here tonight, when it comes to supporting our military, through this construction bill, through the Veterans Affairs, we've made sure our men and women in uniform have everything they need in a fiscally responsible way. And this is just a first step of many that we will take on this committee to get America back on track to a balanced budget.

Mr. Chairman, the Members of the minority and our staff have been working to put together an en bloc amendment so we can attempt to continue to expedite this process and ensure that this bill is done as quickly as possible in order that, again, our men and women in uniform can have the peace of mind of knowing they're taken care of—there is no bubble in the logistical supply chain. And they are not going to have to worry about disability claims if they go to a veterans hospital, or make sure their housing needs are taken care of on bases.

We have an en bloc amendment, Mr. Chairman, that should be on the brink of being ready for consideration so that we can move very rapidly to passage of this bill and get it over to the Senate—because we know how long it sometimes takes the Senate to get things done.

I yield to my good friend from Georgia.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

We have, I think, presented a good bill, with the caveats that have been expressed by Ranking Member DICKS and myself, along with Mr. FARR. At this time, we are prepared to entertain the amendments. I think the chairman has some en bloc amendments that he would like to offer. We are happy to entertain those and move forward at this time.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chair may accord priority in recognition to a Member offering an amendment who has caused it to

be printed in the designated place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Those amendments will be considered read.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2055

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

(INCLUDING RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, military installations, facilities, and real property for the Army as currently authorized by law, including personnel in the Army Corps of Engineers and other personal services necessary for the purposes of this appropriation, and for construction and operation of facilities in support of the functions of the Commander in Chief, \$3,141,491,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That of this amount, not to exceed \$255,241,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, architect and engineer services, and host nation support, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of Army determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That of the unobligated balances available for "Military Construction, Army" from prior appropriations Acts (other than appropriations designated by law as being for contingency operations directly related to the global war on terrorism or as an emergency requirement), \$100,000,000 are hereby rescinded.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

(INCLUDING RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, naval installations, facilities, and real property for the Navy and Marine Corps as currently authorized by law, including personnel in the Naval Facilities Engineering Command and other personal services necessary for the purposes of this appropriation, \$2,461,547,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That of this amount, not to exceed \$84,362,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Navy determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That of the unobligated balances available for "Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps" from prior appropriations Acts (other than appropriations designated by law as being for contingency operations directly related to the global war on terrorism or as an emergency requirement), \$25,000,000 are hereby rescinded.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

(INCLUDING RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, military installations, facilities, and real property for the Air Force as

currently authorized by law, \$1,279,358,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That of this amount, not to exceed \$81,913,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Air Force determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That of the unobligated balances available for "Military Construction, Air Force" from prior appropriations Acts (other than appropriations designated by law as being for contingency operations directly related to the global war on terrorism or as an emergency requirement), \$32,000,000 are hereby rescinded.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, DEFENSE-WIDE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER AND RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, installations, facilities, and real property for activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments), as currently authorized by law, \$3,665,157,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That such amounts of this appropriation as may be determined by the Secretary of Defense may be transferred to such appropriations of the Department of Defense available for military construction or family housing as the Secretary may designate, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes, and for the same time period, as the appropriation or fund to which transferred: *Provided further*, That of the amount appropriated, not to exceed \$454,602,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of Defense determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That of the amount appropriated, notwithstanding any other provision of law, \$24,118,000 shall be available for payments to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization for the planning, design, and construction of a new North Atlantic Treaty Organization headquarters: *Provided further*, That of the unobligated balances available for "Military Construction, Defense-Wide" in prior appropriations Acts (other than appropriations designated by law as being for contingency operations directly related to the global war on terrorism or as an emergency requirement), \$131,400,000 are hereby rescinded.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Army National Guard, and contributions therefore, as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$773,592,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That of the amount appropriated, not to exceed \$20,671,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of Defense determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR NATIONAL GUARD

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities

for the training and administration of the Air National Guard, and contributions therefor, as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$116,246,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That of the amount appropriated, not to exceed \$9,000,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of Defense determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

#### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Army Reserve as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$280,549,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That of the amount appropriated, not to exceed \$28,924,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of Defense determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

#### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the reserve components of the Navy and Marine Corps as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$26,299,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That of the amount appropriated, not to exceed \$2,591,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of Defense determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

#### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the reserve components of the Air Force Reserve as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$33,620,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That of the amount appropriated, not to exceed \$2,200,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of Defense determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

#### NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION SECURITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM

For the United States share of the cost of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program for the acquisition and construction of military facilities and installations (including international military headquarters) and for related expenses for the collective defense of the North Atlantic Treaty Area as authorized by section 2806 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$272,611,000, to remain available until expended.

#### FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

For expenses of family housing for the Army for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, \$186,897,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016.

#### FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY

For expenses of family housing for the Army for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, \$494,858,000.

#### FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For expenses of family housing for the Navy and Marine Corps for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, \$100,972,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016.

#### FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For expenses of family housing for the Navy and Marine Corps for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, \$367,863,000.

#### FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

For expenses of family housing for the Air Force for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, \$84,804,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016.

#### FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE

For expenses of family housing for the Air Force for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, \$404,761,000.

#### FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE

For expenses of family housing for the activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments) for operation and maintenance, leasing, and minor construction, as authorized by law, \$50,723,000.

#### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FAMILY HOUSING IMPROVEMENT FUND

For the Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund, \$2,184,000, to remain available until expended, for family housing initiatives undertaken pursuant to section 2883 of title 10, United States Code, providing alternative means of acquiring and improving military family housing and supporting facilities.

#### HOMEOWNERS ASSISTANCE FUND

For the Homeowners Assistance Fund established by section 1013 of the Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966, (42 U.S.C. 3374), as amended, \$1,284,000, to remain available until expended.

#### CHEMICAL DEMILITARIZATION CONSTRUCTION, DEFENSE-WIDE

For expenses of construction, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the destruction of the United States stockpile of lethal chemical agents and munitions in accordance with section 1412 of the Department of Defense Authorization Act, 1986 (50 U.S.C. 1521), and for the destruction of other chemical warfare materials that are not in the chemical weapon stockpile, as currently authorized by law, \$75,312,000, to remain avail-

able until September 30, 2016, which shall be only for the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives Program.

#### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE ACCOUNT 1990

For deposit into the Department of Defense Base Closure Account 1990, established by section 2906(a)(1) of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (10 U.S.C. 2687 note), \$373,543,000, to remain available until expended.

#### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE ACCOUNT 2005

##### (INCLUDING RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

For deposit into the Department of Defense Base Closure Account 2005, established by section 2906A(a)(1) of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (10 U.S.C. 2687 note), \$258,776,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Department of Defense shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress 14 days prior to obligating an amount for a construction project that exceeds or reduces the amount identified for that project in the most recently submitted budget request for this account by 20 percent or \$2,000,000, whichever is less: *Provided further*, That the previous proviso shall not apply to projects costing less than \$5,000,000, except for those projects not previously identified in any budget submission for this account and exceeding the minor construction threshold under section 2805 of title 10, United States Code: *Provided further*, That of the unobligated balances available under this heading from prior appropriation Acts (other than appropriations designated by law as being for contingency operations directly related to the global war on terrorism or as an emergency requirement), \$50,000,000 are hereby rescinded, which represent savings resulting from favorable bids.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

SEC. 101. None of the funds made available in this title shall be expended for payments under a cost-plus-a-fixed-fee contract for construction, where cost estimates exceed \$25,000, to be performed within the United States, except Alaska, without the specific approval in writing of the Secretary of Defense setting forth the reasons therefor.

SEC. 102. Funds made available in this title for construction shall be available for hire of passenger motor vehicles.

SEC. 103. Funds made available in this title for construction may be used for advances to the Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, for the construction of access roads as authorized by section 210 of title 23, United States Code, when projects authorized therein are certified as important to the national defense by the Secretary of Defense.

SEC. 104. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to begin construction of new bases in the United States for which specific appropriations have not been made.

SEC. 105. None of the funds made available in this title shall be used for purchase of land or land easements in excess of 100 percent of the value as determined by the Army Corps of Engineers or the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, except: (1) where there is a determination of value by a Federal court; (2) purchases negotiated by the Attorney General or the designee of the Attorney General; (3) where the estimated value is less than \$25,000; or (4) as otherwise determined by the Secretary of Defense to be in the public interest.

SEC. 106. None of the funds made available in this title shall be used to: (1) acquire land; (2) provide for site preparation; or (3) install utilities for any family housing, except housing for which funds have been made available

in annual Acts making appropriations for military construction.

SEC. 107. None of the funds made available in this title for minor construction may be used to transfer or relocate any activity from one base or installation to another, without prior notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 108. None of the funds made available in this title may be used for the procurement of steel for any construction project or activity for which American steel producers, fabricators, and manufacturers have been denied the opportunity to compete for such steel procurement.

SEC. 109. None of the funds available to the Department of Defense for military construction or family housing during the current fiscal year may be used to pay real property taxes in any foreign nation.

SEC. 110. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to initiate a new installation overseas without prior notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 111. None of the funds made available in this title may be obligated for architect and engineer contracts estimated by the Government to exceed \$500,000 for projects to be accomplished in Japan, in any North Atlantic Treaty Organization member country, or in countries within the United States Central Command Area of Responsibility, unless such contracts are awarded to United States firms or United States firms in joint venture with host nation firms.

SEC. 112. None of the funds made available in this title for military construction in the United States territories and possessions in the Pacific and on Kwajalein Atoll, or in countries within the United States Central Command Area of Responsibility, may be used to award any contract estimated by the Government to exceed \$1,000,000 to a foreign contractor: *Provided*, That this section shall not be applicable to contract awards for which the lowest responsive and responsible bid of a United States contractor exceeds the lowest responsive and responsible bid of a foreign contractor by greater than 20 percent: *Provided further*, That this section shall not apply to contract awards for military construction on Kwajalein Atoll for which the lowest responsive and responsible bid is submitted by a Marshallese contractor.

SEC. 113. The Secretary of Defense shall inform the appropriate committees of both Houses of Congress, including the Committees on Appropriations, of plans and scope of any proposed military exercise involving United States personnel 30 days prior to its occurring, if amounts expended for construction, either temporary or permanent, are anticipated to exceed \$100,000.

SEC. 114. Not more than 20 percent of the funds made available in this title which are limited for obligation during the current fiscal year shall be obligated during the last 2 months of the fiscal year.

SEC. 115. Funds appropriated to the Department of Defense for construction in prior years shall be available for construction authorized for each such military department by the authorizations enacted into law during the current session of Congress.

SEC. 116. For military construction or family housing projects that are being completed with funds otherwise expired or lapsed for obligation, expired or lapsed funds may be used to pay the cost of associated supervision, inspection, overhead, engineering and design on those projects and on subsequent claims, if any.

SEC. 117. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any funds made available to a military department or defense agency for the construction of military projects may be

obligated for a military construction project or contract, or for any portion of such a project or contract, at any time before the end of the fourth fiscal year after the fiscal year for which funds for such project were made available, if the funds obligated for such project: (1) are obligated from funds available for military construction projects; and (2) do not exceed the amount appropriated for such project, plus any amount by which the cost of such project is increased pursuant to law.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 118. In addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense, proceeds deposited to the Department of Defense Base Closure Account established by section 207(a)(1) of the Defense Authorization Amendments and Base Closure and Realignment Act (10 U.S.C. 2687 note) pursuant to section 207(a)(2)(C) of such Act, may be transferred to the account established by section 2906(a)(1) of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (10 U.S.C. 2687 note), to be merged with, and to be available for the same purposes and the same time period as that account.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 119. Subject to 30 days prior notification, or 14 days for a notification provided in an electronic medium pursuant to sections 480 and 2883 of title 10, United States Code, to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, such additional amounts as may be determined by the Secretary of Defense may be transferred to: (1) the Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund from amounts appropriated for construction in "Family Housing" accounts, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same period of time as amounts appropriated directly to the Fund; or (2) the Department of Defense Military Unaccompanied Housing Improvement Fund from amounts appropriated for construction of military unaccompanied housing in "Military Construction" accounts, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same period of time as amounts appropriated directly to the Fund: *Provided*, That appropriations made available to the Funds shall be available to cover the costs, as defined in section 502(5) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, of direct loans or loan guarantees issued by the Department of Defense pursuant to the provisions of subchapter IV of chapter 169 of title 10, United States Code, pertaining to alternative means of acquiring and improving military family housing, military unaccompanied housing, and supporting facilities.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 120. In addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense, amounts may be transferred from the accounts established by sections 2906(a)(1) and 2906A(a)(1) of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (10 U.S.C. 2687 note), to the fund established by subsection (d) of section 1013 of the Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 3374) to pay for expenses associated with the Homeowners Assistance Program incurred under subsection (a)(1)(A) of such section 1013. Any amounts transferred shall be merged with and be available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the fund to which transferred.

SEC. 121. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds made available in this title for operation and maintenance of family housing shall be the exclusive source of funds for repair and maintenance of all family housing units, including general or flag officer quarters: *Provided*, That not more

than \$35,000 per unit may be spent annually for the maintenance and repair of any general or flag officer quarters without 30 days prior notification, or 14 days for a notification provided in an electronic medium pursuant to sections 480 and 2883 of title 10, United States Code, to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, except that an after-the-fact notification shall be submitted if the limitation is exceeded solely due to costs associated with environmental remediation that could not be reasonably anticipated at the time of the budget submission: *Provided further*, That the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) is to report annually to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress all operation and maintenance expenditures for each individual general or flag officer quarters for the prior fiscal year.

SEC. 122. Amounts contained in the Ford Island Improvement Account established by subsection (h) of section 2814 of title 10, United States Code, are appropriated and shall be available until expended for the purposes specified in subsection (i)(1) of such section or until transferred pursuant to subsection (i)(3) of such section.

SEC. 123. None of the funds made available in this title, or in any Act making appropriations for military construction which remain available for obligation, may be obligated or expended to carry out a military construction, land acquisition, or family housing project at or for a military installation approved for closure, or at a military installation for the purposes of supporting a function that has been approved for realignment to another installation, in 2005 under the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (part A of title XXIX of Public Law 101-510: 10 U.S.C. 2687 note), unless such a project at a military installation approved for realignment will support a continuing mission or function at that installation or a new mission or function that is planned for that installation, or unless the Secretary of Defense certifies that the cost to the United States of carrying out such project would be less than the cost to the United States of canceling such project, or if the project is at an active component base that shall be established as an enclave or in the case of projects having multi-agency use, that another Government agency has indicated it will assume ownership of the completed project. The Secretary of Defense may not transfer funds made available as a result of this limitation from any military construction project, land acquisition, or family housing project to another account or use such funds for another purpose or project without the prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress. This section shall not apply to military construction projects, land acquisition, or family housing projects for which the project is vital to the national security or the protection of health, safety, or environmental quality: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Defense shall notify the congressional defense committees within seven days of a decision to carry out such a military construction project.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 124. During the 5-year period after appropriations available in this Act to the Department of Defense for military construction and family housing operation and maintenance and construction have expired for obligation, upon a determination that such appropriations will not be necessary for the liquidation of obligations or for making authorized adjustments to such appropriations for obligations incurred during the period of availability of such appropriations, unobligated balances of such appropriations may be transferred into the appropriation "Foreign Currency Fluctuations, Construction,



Defense”, to be merged with and to be available for the same time period and for the same purposes as the appropriation to which transferred.

SEC. 125. Amounts appropriated or otherwise made available in an account funded under the headings in this title may be transferred among projects and activities within the account in accordance with the reprogramming guidelines for military construction and family housing construction contained in the report of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives to accompany this bill and in the guidance for military construction reprogrammings and notifications contained in Department of Defense Financial Management Regulation 7000.14 — R, Volume 3, Chapter 7, of February 2009, as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

#### (RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

SEC. 126. Of the unobligated balances available for “Base Realignment and Closure Account, 1990” from prior appropriations Acts (other than appropriations designated by law as being for contingency operations directly related to the global war on terrorism or as an emergency requirement), \$100,000,000 are hereby rescinded.

SEC. 127. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Secretary of Defense to take beneficial occupancy of more than 1,000 parking spaces provided by the combination spaces provided by the BRAC 133 project and the lease of spaces in the immediate vicinity of the BRAC 133 project.

SEC. 128. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for any action that relates to or promotes the expansion of the boundaries or size of the Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site, Colorado.

SEC. 129. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Secretary of the Army to relocate a unit of the Army that would impact more than 200 personnel, calculated as the sum of impacted members of the regular or reserve components of the Army, civilian employees of the Department of the Army, and Army contractor personnel, unless the Secretary certifies to the congressional defense committees that the Secretary complied with Army Regulation 5–10 relating to the policy, procedures, and responsibilities for Army stationing actions.

## TITLE II

### DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION COMPENSATION AND PENSIONS (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the payment of compensation benefits to or on behalf of veterans and a pilot program for disability examinations as authorized by section 107 and chapters 11, 13, 18, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code; pension benefits to or on behalf of veterans as authorized by chapters 15, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code; and burial benefits, the Reinstated Entitlement Program for Survivors, emergency and other officers’ retirement pay, adjusted-service credits and certificates, payment of premiums due on commercial life insurance policies guaranteed under the provisions of title IV of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 541 et seq.) and for other benefits as authorized by sections 107, 1312, 1977, and 2106, and chapters 23, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code, \$58,067,319,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$32,187,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be reimbursed to “General operating expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration”, “Medical support and compliance”, and “Information technology systems” for necessary ex-

penses in implementing the provisions of chapters 51, 53, and 55 of title 38, United States Code, the funding source for which is specifically provided as the “Compensation and pensions” appropriation: *Provided further*, That such sums as may be earned on an actual qualifying patient basis, shall be reimbursed to “Medical care collections fund” to augment the funding of individual medical facilities for nursing home care provided to pensioners as authorized.

#### READJUSTMENT BENEFITS

For the payment of readjustment and rehabilitation benefits to or on behalf of veterans as authorized by chapters 21, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36, 39, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code, \$11,011,086,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That expenses for rehabilitation program services and assistance which the Secretary is authorized to provide under subsection (a) of section 3104 of title 38, United States Code, other than under paragraphs (1), (2), (5), and (11) of that subsection, shall be charged to this account.

#### VETERANS INSURANCE AND INDEMNITIES

For military and naval insurance, national service life insurance, servicemen’s indemnities, service-disabled veterans insurance, and veterans mortgage life insurance as authorized by chapters 19 and 21, title 38, United States Code, \$100,252,000, to remain available until expended.

#### VETERANS HOUSING BENEFIT PROGRAM FUND

For the cost of direct and guaranteed loans, such sums as may be necessary to carry out the program, as authorized by subchapters I through III of chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That during fiscal year 2012, within the resources available, not to exceed \$500,000 in gross obligations for direct loans are authorized for specially adapted housing loans.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, \$154,698,000.

#### VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the cost of direct loans, \$19,000, as authorized by chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading are available to subsidize gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans not to exceed \$3,019,000.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct loan program, \$343,000, which may be paid to the appropriation for “General operating expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration”.

#### NATIVE AMERICAN VETERAN HOUSING LOAN PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For administrative expenses to carry out the direct loan program authorized by subchapter V of chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code, \$1,116,000.

#### VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION MEDICAL SERVICES

For necessary expenses for furnishing, as authorized by law, inpatient and outpatient care and treatment to beneficiaries of the Department of Veterans Affairs and veterans described in section 1705(a) of title 38, United States Code, including care and treatment in facilities not under the jurisdiction of the Department, and including medical supplies and equipment, food services, and salaries and expenses of health care employees hired

under title 38, United States Code, aid to State homes as authorized by section 1741 of title 38, United States Code, assistance and support services for caregivers as authorized by section 1720G of title 38, United States Code, and loan repayments authorized by section 604 of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–163; 124 Stat. 1174; 38 U.S.C. 7681 note) \$41,354,000,000, plus reimbursements, shall become available on October 1, 2012, and shall remain available until September 30, 2013: *Provided*, That, of the amount made available under this heading \$1,000,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2014: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish a priority for the provision of medical treatment for veterans who have service-connected disabilities, lower income, or have special needs: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall give priority funding for the provision of basic medical benefits to veterans in enrollment priority groups 1 through 6: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may authorize the dispensing of prescription drugs from Veterans Health Administration facilities to enrolled veterans with privately written prescriptions based on requirements established by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That the implementation of the program described in the previous proviso shall incur no additional cost to the Department of Veterans Affairs: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided in Public Law 112–10 for “Department of Veterans Affairs, Medical services” for fiscal year 2012, \$664,000,000 shall be available only in the fourth quarter of the fiscal year upon approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of a request from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to release such funding due to unanticipated needs related to economic conditions.

#### MEDICAL SUPPORT AND COMPLIANCE

For necessary expenses in the administration of the medical, hospital, nursing home, domiciliary, construction, supply, and research activities, as authorized by law; administrative expenses in support of capital policy activities; and administrative and legal expenses of the Department for collecting and recovering amounts owed the Department as authorized under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, and the Federal Medical Care Recovery Act (42 U.S.C. 2651 et seq.); \$5,746,000,000, plus reimbursements, shall become available on October 1, 2012, and shall remain available until September 30, 2013: *Provided*, That, of the amount made available under this heading \$100,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2014.

#### MEDICAL FACILITIES

For necessary expenses for the maintenance and operation of hospitals, nursing homes, domiciliary facilities, and other necessary facilities of the Veterans Health Administration; for administrative expenses in support of planning, design, project management, real property acquisition and disposition, construction, and renovation of any facility under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department; for oversight, engineering, and architectural activities not charged to project costs; for repairing, altering, improving, or providing facilities in the several hospitals and homes under the jurisdiction of the Department, not otherwise provided for, either by contract or by the hire of temporary employees and purchase of materials; for leases of facilities; and for laundry services, \$5,441,000,000, plus reimbursements, shall become available on October 1, 2012, and shall remain available until September

30, 2013: *Provided*, That, of the amount made available under this heading, \$100,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2014.

#### MEDICAL AND PROSTHETIC RESEARCH

For necessary expenses in carrying out programs of medical and prosthetic research and development as authorized by chapter 73 of title 38, United States Code, \$508,774,000, plus reimbursements, shall remain available until September 30, 2013.

#### NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses of the National Cemetery Administration for operations and maintenance, not otherwise provided for, including uniforms or allowances therefor; cemeterial expenses as authorized by law; purchase of one passenger motor vehicle for use in cemeterial operations; hire of passenger motor vehicles; and repair, alteration or improvement of facilities under the jurisdiction of the National Cemetery Administration, \$250,934,000, of which not to exceed \$25,100,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2013: *Provided*, That no funds shall be made available to any project associated with the National Cemetery Administration's Urban Initiative program until a strategy to serve rural veterans is finalized and operational.

#### DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

##### GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary operating expenses of the Department of Veterans Affairs, not otherwise provided for, including administrative expenses in support of Department-Wide capital planning, management and policy activities, uniforms, or allowances therefor; not to exceed \$25,000 for official reception and representation expenses; hire of passenger motor vehicles; and reimbursement of the General Services Administration for security guard services, \$422,500,000, of which not to exceed \$22,144,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2013: *Provided*, That \$20,000,000 shall be used to increase the Department's acquisition workforce capacity and capabilities and may be transferred by the Secretary to any other account in the Department to carry out the purposes provided therein: *Provided further*, That funds provided under this heading may be transferred to "General operating expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration".

#### GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES, VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

For necessary operating expenses of the Veterans Benefits Administration, not otherwise provided for, including hire of passenger motor vehicles, reimbursement of the General Services Administration for security guard services, and reimbursement of the Department of Defense for the cost of overseas employee mail, \$2,020,128,000: *Provided*, That expenses for services and assistance authorized under paragraphs (1), (2), (5), and (11) of section 3104(a) of title 38, United States Code, that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines are necessary to enable entitled veterans: (1) to the maximum extent feasible, to become employable and to obtain and maintain suitable employment; or (2) to achieve maximum independence in daily living, shall be charged to this account: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, not to exceed \$105,856,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2013: *Provided further*, That from the funds made available under this heading, the Veterans Benefits Administration may purchase (on a one-for-one replacement basis only) up to two passenger motor vehicles for use in operations of that Administration in Manila, Philippines.

#### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS

For necessary expenses for information technology systems and telecommunications support, including developmental information systems and operational information systems; for pay and associated costs; and for the capital asset acquisition of information technology systems, including management and related contractual costs of said acquisitions, including contractual costs associated with operations authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, \$3,025,000,000, plus reimbursements, shall remain available until September 30, 2013: *Provided*, That none of the funds made available under this heading may be obligated until the Department of Veterans Affairs submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, and such Committees approve, a plan for expenditure that: (1) meets the capital planning and investment control review requirements established by the Office of Management and Budget; (2) complies with the Department of Veterans Affairs enterprise architecture; (3) conforms with an established enterprise life cycle methodology; and (4) complies with the acquisition rules, requirements, guidelines, and systems acquisition management practices of the Federal Government: *Provided further*, That not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a reprogramming base letter which sets forth, by project, the operations and maintenance costs, with salary expenses separately designated, and development costs to be carried out utilizing amounts made available under this heading.

#### OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General, to include information technology, in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), \$109,391,000, of which \$6,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2013.

#### CONSTRUCTION, MAJOR PROJECTS

For constructing, altering, extending, and improving any of the facilities, including parking projects, under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or for any of the purposes set forth in sections 316, 2404, 2406, 8102, 8103, 8106, 8108, 8109, 8110, and 8122 of title 38, United States Code, including planning, architectural and engineering services, construction management services, maintenance or guarantee period services costs associated with equipment guarantees provided under the project, services of claims analysts, offsite utility and storm drainage system construction costs, and site acquisition, where the estimated cost of a project is more than the amount set forth in section 8104(a)(3)(A) of title 38, United States Code, or where funds for a project were made available in a previous major project appropriation, \$589,604,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016, of which \$5,000,000 shall be to make reimbursements as provided in section 13 of the Contract Disputes Act of 1978 (41 U.S.C. 612) for claims paid for contract disputes: *Provided*, That except for advance planning activities, including needs assessments which may or may not lead to capital investments, and other capital asset management related activities, including portfolio development and management activities, and investment strategy studies funded through the advance planning fund and the planning and design activities funded through the design fund, including needs assessments which may or may not lead to capital investments, and salaries and associated costs of the resident engineers who

oversee those capital investments funded through this account, and funds provided for the purchase of land for the National Cemetery Administration through the land acquisition line item, none of the funds made available under this heading shall be used for any project which has not been approved by the Congress in the budgetary process: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading for fiscal year 2012, for each approved project shall be obligated: (1) by the awarding of a construction documents contract by September 30, 2012; and (2) by the awarding of a construction contract by September 30, 2013: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall promptly submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a written report on any approved major construction project for which obligations are not incurred within the time limitations established above.

#### CONSTRUCTION, MINOR PROJECTS

For constructing, altering, extending, and improving any of the facilities, including parking projects, under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs, including planning and assessments of needs which may lead to capital investments, architectural and engineering services, maintenance or guarantee period services costs associated with equipment guarantees provided under the project, services of claims analysts, offsite utility and storm drainage system construction costs, and site acquisition, or for any of the purposes set forth in sections 316, 2404, 2406, 8102, 8103, 8106, 8108, 8109, 8110, 8122, and 8162 of title 38, United States Code, where the estimated cost of a project is equal to or less than the amount set forth in section 8104(a)(3)(A) of title 38, United States Code, \$475,091,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016, along with unobligated balances of previous "Construction, minor projects" appropriations which are hereby made available for any project where the estimated cost is equal to or less than the amount set forth in such section: *Provided*, That funds made available under this heading shall be for: (1) repairs to any of the nonmedical facilities under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department which are necessary because of loss or damage caused by any natural disaster or catastrophe; and (2) temporary measures necessary to prevent or to minimize further loss by such causes.

#### GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF STATE

##### EXTENDED CARE FACILITIES

For grants to assist States to acquire or construct State nursing home and domiciliary facilities and to remodel, modify, or alter existing hospital, nursing home, and domiciliary facilities in State homes, for furnishing care to veterans as authorized by sections 8131 through 8137 of title 38, United States Code, \$85,000,000, to remain available until expended.

#### GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF VETERANS CEMETERIES

For grants to assist States and tribal governments in establishing, expanding, or improving veterans cemeteries as authorized by section 2408 of title 38, United States Code, \$46,000,000, to remain available until expended.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 201. Any appropriation for fiscal year 2012 for "Compensation and pensions", "Readjustment benefits", and "Veterans insurance and indemnities" may be transferred as necessary to any other of the mentioned appropriations: *Provided*, That before such transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of

Congress the authority to make the transfer and such Committees issue an approval, or absent a response, a period of 30 days has elapsed.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 202. Amounts made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2012, in this Act or any other Act, under the “Medical services”, “Medical support and compliance”, and “Medical facilities” accounts may be transferred among the accounts: *Provided*, That any transfers between the “Medical services” and “Medical support and compliance” accounts of 1 percent or less of the total amount appropriated to the account in this or any other Act may take place subject to notification from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the amount and purpose of the transfer: *Provided further*, That any transfers between the “Medical services” and “Medical support and compliance” accounts in excess of 1 percent, or exceeding the cumulative 1 percent for the fiscal year, may take place only after the Secretary requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued: *Provided further*, That any transfers to or from the “Medical facilities” account may take place only after the Secretary requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued.

SEC. 203. Appropriations made available in this title for salaries and expenses shall be available for services authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code; hire of passenger motor vehicles; lease of a facility or land or both; and uniforms or allowances therefore, as authorized by sections 5901 through 5902 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 204. No appropriations in this title (except the appropriations for “Construction, major projects” and “Construction, minor projects”) shall be available for the purchase of any site for or toward the construction of any new Department of Veterans Affairs hospital or home.

SEC. 205. No appropriations in this title shall be available for hospitalization or examination of any persons (except beneficiaries entitled to such hospitalization or examination under the laws providing such benefits to veterans, and persons receiving such treatment under sections 7901 through 7904 of title 5, United States Code, or the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.)), unless reimbursement of the cost of such hospitalization or examination is made to the “Medical services” account at such rates as may be fixed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

SEC. 206. Appropriations available in this title for “Compensation and pensions”, “Readjustment benefits”, and “Veterans insurance and indemnities” shall be available for payment of prior year accrued obligations required to be recorded by law against the corresponding prior year accounts within the last quarter of fiscal year 2011.

SEC. 207. Appropriations available in this title shall be available to pay prior year obligations of corresponding prior year appropriations accounts resulting from sections 3328(a), 3334, and 3712(a) of title 31, United States Code, except that if such obligations are from trust fund accounts they shall be payable only from “Compensation and pensions”.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 208. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, during fiscal year 2012, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, from the National Service Life Insurance Fund under

section 1920 of title 38, United States Code, the Veterans’ Special Life Insurance Fund under section 1923 of title 38, United States Code, and the United States Government Life Insurance Fund under section 1955 of title 38, United States Code, reimburse the “General operating expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration” and “Information technology systems” accounts for the cost of administration of the insurance programs financed through those accounts: *Provided*, That reimbursement shall be made only from the surplus earnings accumulated in such an insurance program during fiscal year 2012 that are available for dividends in that program after claims have been paid and actuarially determined reserves have been set aside: *Provided further*, That if the cost of administration of such an insurance program exceeds the amount of surplus earnings accumulated in that program, reimbursement shall be made only to the extent of such surplus earnings: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall determine the cost of administration for fiscal year 2012 which is properly allocable to the provision of each such insurance program and to the provision of any total disability income insurance included in that insurance program.

SEC. 209. Amounts deducted from enhanced-use lease proceeds to reimburse an account for expenses incurred by that account during a prior fiscal year for providing enhanced-use lease services, may be obligated during the fiscal year in which the proceeds are received.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 210. Funds available in this title for salaries and other administrative expenses shall also be available to reimburse the Office of Resolution Management of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Office of Employment Discrimination Complaint Adjudication under section 319 of title 38, United States Code, for all services provided at rates which will recover actual costs but not exceed \$42,904,000 for the Office of Resolution Management and \$3,360,000 for the Office of Employment and Discrimination Complaint Adjudication: *Provided*, That payments may be made in advance for services to be furnished based on estimated costs: *Provided further*, That amounts received shall be credited to the “General administration” and “Information technology systems” accounts for use by the office that provided the service.

SEC. 211. No appropriations in this title shall be available to enter into any new lease of real property if the estimated annual rental cost is more than \$1,000,000, unless the Secretary submits a report which the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress approve within 30 days following the date on which the report is received.

SEC. 212. No funds of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall be available for hospital care, nursing home care, or medical services provided to any person under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, for a non-service-connected disability described in section 1729(a)(2) of such title, unless that person has disclosed to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in such form as the Secretary may require, current, accurate third-party reimbursement information for purposes of section 1729 of such title: *Provided*, That the Secretary may recover, in the same manner as any other debt due the United States, the reasonable charges for such care or services from any person who does not make such disclosure as required: *Provided further*, That any amounts so recovered for care or services provided in a prior fiscal year may be obligated by the Secretary during the fiscal year in which amounts are received.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 213. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, proceeds or revenues derived from enhanced-use leasing activities (including disposal) may be deposited into the “Construction, major projects” and “Construction, minor projects” accounts and be used for construction (including site acquisition and disposition), alterations, and improvements of any medical facility under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Such sums as realized are in addition to the amount provided for in “Construction, major projects” and “Construction, minor projects”.

SEC. 214. Amounts made available under “Medical services” are available—

(1) for furnishing recreational facilities, supplies, and equipment; and

(2) for funeral expenses, burial expenses, and other expenses incidental to funerals and burials for beneficiaries receiving care in the Department.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 215. Such sums as may be deposited to the Medical Care Collections Fund pursuant to section 1729A of title 38, United States Code, may be transferred to “Medical services”, to remain available until expended for the purposes of that account.

SEC. 216. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may enter into agreements with Indian tribes and tribal organizations which are party to the Alaska Native Health Compact with the Indian Health Service, and Indian tribes and tribal organizations serving rural Alaska which have entered into contracts with the Indian Health Service under the Indian Self Determination and Educational Assistance Act, to provide healthcare, including behavioral health and dental care. The Secretary shall require participating veterans and facilities to comply with all appropriate rules and regulations, as established by the Secretary. The term “rural Alaska” shall mean those lands sited within the external boundaries of the Alaska Native regions specified in sections 7(a)(1)–(4) and (7)–(12) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 1606), and those lands within the Alaska Native regions specified in sections 7(a)(5) and 7(a)(6) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 1606), which are not within the boundaries of the Municipality of Anchorage, the Fairbanks North Star Borough, the Kenai Peninsula Borough or the Matanuska Susitna Borough.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 217. Such sums as may be deposited to the Department of Veterans Affairs Capital Asset Fund pursuant to section 8118 of title 38, United States Code, may be transferred to the “Construction, major projects” and “Construction, minor projects” accounts, to remain available until September 30, 2016 for the purposes of these accounts.

SEC. 218. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to implement any policy prohibiting the Directors of the Veterans Integrated Services Networks from conducting outreach or marketing to enroll new veterans within their respective Networks.

SEC. 219. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a quarterly report on the financial status of the Veterans Health Administration.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 220. Amounts made available under the “Medical services”, “Medical support and compliance”, “Medical facilities”, “General operating expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration”, “General administration”, and “National Cemetery Administration”

accounts for fiscal year 2012, may be transferred to or from the "Information technology systems" account: *Provided*, That before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued.

## (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 221. Amounts made available for the "Information technology systems" account may be transferred between projects: *Provided*, That no project may be increased or decreased by more than \$1,000,000 of cost prior to submitting a request to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress to make the transfer and an approval is issued or absent a response, a period of 30 days has elapsed.

SEC. 222. Of the amounts made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2012, in this Act or any other Act, under the "Medical facilities" account for non-recurring maintenance, not more than 20 percent of the funds made available shall be obligated during the last 2 months of that fiscal year: *Provided*, That the Secretary may waive this requirement after providing written notice to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

## (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 223. Of the amounts appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2012 for "Medical services", "Medical support and compliance", "Medical facilities", "Construction, minor projects", and "Information technology systems", up to \$241,666,000, plus reimbursements, may be transferred to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 3571) and may be used for operation of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4500): *Provided*, That additional funds may be transferred from accounts designated in this section to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund upon written notification by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

## (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 224. Such sums as may be deposited to the Medical Care Collections Fund pursuant to section 1729A of title 38, United States Code, for health care provided at facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4500) shall also be available: (1) for transfer to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 3571); and (2) for operations of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4500).

## (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 225. Of the amounts available in this title for "Medical services", "Medical support and compliance", and "Medical facilities", a minimum of \$15,000,000, shall be transferred to the DOD-VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund, as authorized by

section 8111(d) of title 38, United States Code, to remain until expended, for any purpose authorized by section 8111 of title 38, United States Code.

## (INCLUDING RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

SEC. 226. (a) Of the funds appropriated in title X of division B of Public Law 112-10, the following amounts which become available on October 1, 2011, are hereby rescinded from the following accounts in the amounts specified:

(1) "Department of Veterans Affairs, Medical services", \$1,000,000,000.

(2) "Department of Veterans Affairs, Medical support and compliance", \$100,000,000.

(3) "Department of Veterans Affairs, Medical facilities", \$100,000,000.

(b) In addition to amounts provided elsewhere in this Act, an additional amount is appropriated to the following accounts in the amounts specified, to remain available until September 30, 2013:

(1) "Department of Veterans Affairs, Medical services", \$1,000,000,000.

(2) "Department of Veterans Affairs, Medical support and compliance", \$100,000,000.

(3) "Department of Veterans Affairs, Medical facilities", \$100,000,000.

SEC. 227. The Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of all bid savings in major construction projects that total at least \$5,000,000, or 5 percent of the programmed amount of the project, whichever is less: *Provided*, That such notification shall occur within 14 days of entering into a contract: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall notify the committees 14 days prior to the obligation of such bid savings and shall describe the anticipated use of such savings.

SEC. 228. The scope of work for a project included in "Construction, major projects" may not be increased above the scope specified for that project in the original justification data provided to the Congress as part of the request for appropriations.

SEC. 229. (a) Section 5701 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(1)(1) The Secretary shall disclose to a State controlled substance monitoring program, including a program under section 3990 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280g-3), the name and address of a veteran or a dependent of a veteran to the extent necessary to prevent misuse and diversion of prescription medicines.

"(2) In this subsection, the terms 'State' and 'controlled substance' have the meaning given such terms in section 3990(m) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280g-3(m))."

(b) Section 7332(b)(2) of title 38, United States Code is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(G)(i) To a State controlled substance monitoring program, including a program under section 3990 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280g-3), to the extent necessary to prevent misuse and diversion of prescription medicines.

"(ii) In this subparagraph, the terms 'State' and 'controlled substance' have the meanings given such terms in section 3990(m) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280g-3(m))."

SEC. 230. Not more than \$250,000 may be used by the Department of Veterans Affairs to conduct any single national outreach and awareness marketing campaign, including motorsports sponsorship, prior to submitting a request to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress and an approval is issued or absent a response, a period of 30 days has elapsed.

## TITLE III

## RELATED AGENCIES

AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION  
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, of the American Battle Monuments Commission, including the acquisition of land or interest in land in foreign countries; purchases and repair of uniforms for caretakers of national cemeteries and monuments outside of the United States and its territories and possessions; rent of office and garage space in foreign countries; purchase (one-for-one replacement basis only) and hire of passenger motor vehicles; not to exceed \$7,500 for official reception and representation expenses; and insurance of official motor vehicles in foreign countries, when required by law of such countries, \$61,100,000, to remain available until expended.

## FOREIGN CURRENCY FLUCTUATIONS ACCOUNT

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, of the American Battle Monuments Commission, such sums as may be necessary, to remain available until expended, for purposes authorized by section 2109 of title 36, United States Code.

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR  
VETERANS CLAIMS

## SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the operation of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims as authorized by sections 7251 through 7298 of title 38, United States Code, \$30,770,000: *Provided*, That \$2,726,363 shall be available for the purpose of providing financial assistance as described, and in accordance with the process and reporting procedures set forth, under this heading in Public Law 102-229.

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE—CIVIL

## CEMETERIAL EXPENSES, ARMY

## SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses, as authorized by law, for maintenance, operation, and improvement of Arlington National Cemetery and Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery, including the purchase or lease of passenger motor vehicles for replacement on a one-for-one basis only, and not to exceed \$1,000 for official reception and representation expenses, \$45,800,000, to remain available until expended. In addition, such sums as may be necessary for parking maintenance, repairs and replacement, to be derived from the "Lease of Department of Defense Real Property for Defense Agencies" account.

Funds appropriated under this Act may be provided to Arlington County, Virginia, for the relocation of the federally-owned water main at Arlington National Cemetery making additional land available for ground burials.

## ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME

## TRUST FUND

For expenses necessary for the Armed Forces Retirement Home to operate and maintain the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Washington, District of Columbia, and the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Gulfport, Mississippi, to be paid from funds available in the Armed Forces Retirement Home Trust Fund, \$67,700,000, of which \$2,000,000 shall remain available until expended for construction and renovation of the physical plants at the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Washington, District of Columbia, and the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Gulfport, Mississippi.

## TITLE IV

## GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 401. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for

obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 402. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for any program, project, or activity, when it is made known to the Federal entity or official to which the funds are made available that the program, project, or activity is not in compliance with any Federal law relating to risk assessment, the protection of private property rights, or unfunded mandates.

SEC. 403. No part of any funds appropriated in this Act shall be used by an agency of the executive branch, other than for normal and recognized executive-legislative relationships, for publicity or propaganda purposes, or for the preparation, distribution, or use of any kit, pamphlet, booklet, publication, radio, television, or film presentation designed to support or defeat legislation pending before Congress, except in presentation to Congress itself.

SEC. 404. All departments and agencies funded under this Act are encouraged, within the limits of the existing statutory authorities and funding, to expand their use of "E-Commerce" technologies and procedures in the conduct of their business practices and public service activities.

SEC. 405. Unless stated otherwise, all reports and notifications required by this Act shall be submitted to the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

SEC. 406. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for a project or program named for an individual serving as a Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner of the United States House of Representatives.

SEC. 407. (a) Any agency receiving funds made available in this Act, shall, subject to subsections (b) and (c), post on the public website of that agency any report required to be submitted by the Congress in this or any other Act, upon the determination by the head of the agency that it shall serve the national interest.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to a report if—

(1) the public posting of the report compromises national security; or

(2) the report contains confidential or proprietary information.

(c) The head of the agency posting such report shall do so only after such report has been made available to the requesting Committee or Committees of Congress for no less than 45 days.

SEC. 408. None of the funds made available in this Act may be distributed to the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN) or its subsidiaries or successors.

SEC. 409. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

SEC. 410. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this Act may be used by an agency of the executive branch to pay for first-class travel by an employee of the agency in contravention of sections 301-10.122 through 301-10.124 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 411. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this Act may be

used by an agency of the executive branch to exercise the power of eminent domain (to take private property for public use) without the payment of just compensation.

SEC. 412. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Defense in this Act may be used to renovate, expand, or construct any facility in the continental United States for the purpose of housing any individual who has been detained, at any time after September 11, 2001, at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

SEC. 413. None of the funds provided in this Act may be used to execute a contract for goods or services, including construction services, where the contractor has not complied with Executive Order 12989.

Mr. CULBERSON (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the remainder of the bill through page 60, line 9, be considered as read, printed in the RECORD, and open to amendment at any point.

The CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. CULBERSON

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

On page 29, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$20,000,000) (increased by \$20,000,000)"

Page 31, line 2, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$100,000) (increased by \$100,000)".

Page 32, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$22,000,000)".

Page 33, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$22,000,000)".

Page 34, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert the following: "(reduced by \$100,000) (increased by \$100,000)".

Page 35, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$70,000,000) (increased by \$70,000,000)".

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that debate on this amendment, and any amendments thereto, be limited to 10 minutes, to be equally divided and controlled by myself and the ranking member.

The CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

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The CHAIR. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CULBERSON. This is an amendment which we've worked hard again to come up with arm in arm in a cooperative, bipartisan way to increase, for example—we're making sure we've got \$20 million set aside for suicide prevention outreach. A terrible, terrible problem among veterans and a high priority for us to do everything we can to help prevent suicide, that amendment offered by Congressmen HOLT and RUNYAN.

Also, this is another amendment we are submitting to attempt to reduce wait times for mental health services, also to increase research funding by \$22 million offset by a reduction in general administration. And also, Mr. Chairman, to set aside \$100,000 for the pur-

pose of a study of Veterans Affairs, VA historic properties.

I reserve the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT).

Mr. HOLT. I thank the gentleman, and I appreciate that this bipartisan amendment offered by my colleague Representative RUNYAN of New Jersey has been accepted by the majority, and I thank Chair CULBERSON and Ranking Member BISHOP and their staffs for making this possible.

As you may know, Mr. Chairman, last month the Federal Ninth Circuit Court sided with two veterans groups that sued the Department of Veterans Affairs for failing to provide timely care to veterans at risk of suicide. The court noted that on average, 18 veterans per day take their own lives. I'll repeat. On average, 18 veterans per day take their own lives. We must end this suicide epidemic.

This amendment is one important step in that process. Our amendment is simple. It fences \$20 million of the billion dollars in advance funding for the VA for fiscal years 2013 and 2014 and dedicates these funds to suicide prevention outreach. Specifically, our intention is to use television ads and social media. We know that when veterans are made aware of the national suicide prevention number, which is 1-800-273-TALK, they use it. And lives are saved. 1-800-273-TALK. Indeed, in the State of New Jersey, we have our own veteran counseling hotline, the Vet-to-Vet Program run by the University of Medicine and Dentistry in New Jersey.

Since it went live a half dozen years ago, no New Jersey Guard member who has used its services has taken his or her own life. It is a successful program. We want to see this expanded. When we get the word out about these counseling services, we save lives. It's past time that we push the VA to do the advertising and the outreach that's necessary to reach the people who need it.

This amendment is budget neutral, it's vitally needed, and I thank my colleagues for carrying it forward.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased at this time to yield such time as he may consume to my colleague from New Jersey (Mr. RUNYAN).

Mr. RUNYAN. Thank you for the time.

I thank my colleague from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) for his work on this amendment.

Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of the Holt-Runyan amendment, which takes further steps towards keeping veterans alive by dedicating \$20 million of suicide prevention outreach within the VA for fiscal year 2012.

Suicide is always tragic, but suicide by a veteran, especially young veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan, is especially troubling. VA officials tell us that one in five suicides in America is a veteran, and that the suicide rate of male veterans is twice that of the general population. While most of these are older

veterans, young male veterans are still more likely to commit suicide than those who have never served in Iraq or Afghanistan.

When the suicide rate of veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan spiked in 2004, Congress responded by increasing VA's budget for mental health by nearly a third. This allowed VA to create a veterans crisis line and place suicide prevention coordinators in every medical center.

But if any veteran who needs help cannot get help or does not know it is available, the program is a failure. As I said before, every suicide is tragic. And more must be done.

This is why I strongly support this amendment which would give the VA the necessary additional resources to let veterans know, through TV and social media, to reach out to our veterans. I hope all of my colleagues will stand with me and my colleague, Mr. HOLT, in support of this amendment.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlelady from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE).

Ms. MOORE. Thank you so much to the gentleman from Georgia.

I rise to support this omnibus amendment and for the purpose of directing the Department of Veterans Affairs to examine its practices on how it plans to rehabilitate and reuse national landmarks that are aging, outdated, or in obsolete condition within the VA infrastructure and issue a report to Congress no later than January 1, 2012, on any actions taken or planned to be taken to rehabilitate and use these national landmarks, to fulfill its responsibilities under section 106 of the National Historic Preservation and to our veterans.

An example of these landmarks is the Milwaukee Soldier's Home, built in 1867, one of the original soldier's homes established by congressional legislation and approved by President Abraham Lincoln on March 3, 1865. The soldier's home reflects how our forefathers chose to care for and honor the soldiers who fought to keep the country united as one Nation.

I say forefathers because it was the ladies of Milwaukee's West Side Soldiers Aid Society whose tenacity and dedication made it possible to raise the funds necessary to create the Milwaukee Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers which they generously gifted to the soldier's home system, a forerunner of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

This summer, on the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, the soldier's home will hopefully be dedicated as a national historic landmark.

I urge the Department of Veterans Affairs to send a report to Congress.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I would note we're pleased to support this amendment. As the gentlewoman has just pointed out, this Veterans Hospital was created, I think she said March 30 of 1865. That would have been one of the last acts on Earth of Presi-

dent Abraham Lincoln. So we're pleased to accept her amendment to ensure the preservation of this very historic and important piece of American history.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. We want to commend the gentlelady for her amendment and her compassion in offering it.

While I have the time, let me discuss the Altmire amendment which has been offered, and Mr. ALTMIRE, I believe, is on his way to the floor. This amendment will move \$22 million from the Veterans Administration's general administration account to the medical and prosthetic research account.

A recent Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs heard testimony from wounded soldiers about the disparity of prosthetics technologies between the Department of Defense and the veterans health care. This amendment will restore some of the funding that was cut from the medical and prosthetic research account by taking a small dollar amount from the VA general administration account.

Wounded warriors are deserving of no less than this Nation's full commitment. I rise in strong support of this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I do support Mr. ALTMIRE's amendment.

Obviously, we are all committed to supporting prosthetics research. Our military doctors have done an extraordinary job of saving the lives of these young men and women who are wounded in combat, and we want to make sure we are giving them all the support they need.

I am glad Mr. ALTMIRE has brought this amendment to us. I understand he is on the way to the floor because he would like to speak on his amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CULBERSON. I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, in an effort to expedite consideration of this bill and ensure our men and women in uniform get all the help they need as soon as possible, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. RUNYAN) having assumed the chair, Mr. TERRY, Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2055) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

## SECURING OUR SOUTHERN BORDER

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

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I want to take 1 minute to address, tonight, an important bill the House passed on Homeland Security, funding all the agencies of Homeland Security.

In addition to funding our military, the Military Construction bill which we have just done, for Veterans Affairs, we also have a fundamental obligation to secure our borders. And the Homeland Security bill that we just passed does that in a number of important ways, most importantly, for the people of Texas.

I want to reassure everyone listening tonight that the Texas delegation and this Congress, this majority, will not rest until the southern border is secure, until we, with the full support of the people that live along the border, secure the border with zero tolerance, using existing law, which means 6 months in jail for crossing the border illegally, as we are doing in Del Rio with the full support of the local community, arresting everybody that crosses the border and throwing them in jail for up to 6 months, with the obvious exception of women and children. But we are enforcing the law in Texas, in Del Rio and in Laredo.

With the help of my friend HENRY CUELLAR and the local community, we are working in this majority to expand that zero tolerance program from Brownsville to San Diego. And I want to thank the Homeland Security Committee, Mr. ADERHOLT, for allowing us, through language in the bill, to expand rapidly the use of available empty bed space for illegal aliens so there are no more police officers like we just lost, another police officer in Houston, Texas, to an illegal alien. And we are not going to rest until that border is secured, Mr. Speaker.

## REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 292, REGARDING DEPLOYMENT OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES IN LIBYA, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. CON. RES. 51, LIBYA WAR POWERS RESOLUTION

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 112-99) on the resolution (H. Res. 294) providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 292) declaring that the President shall not deploy, establish, or maintain the presence of units and members of the United States Armed Forces on the ground in Libya, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 51) directing the President, pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution, to remove the United