

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RUNYAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 1263.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. FOXX). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. RUNYAN. I encourage all Members to support H.R. 1263, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. RUNYAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1263, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to provide surviving spouses with certain protections relating to mortgages and mortgage foreclosures, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 2000

PROVIDING HONORARY STATUS TO RESERVE MILITARY MEMBERS

Mr. RUNYAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1025) to amend title 38, United States Code, to recognize the service in the reserve components of certain persons by honoring them with status as veterans under law.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1025

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

SECTION 1. PROVISION OF STATUS UNDER LAW BY HONORING CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE RESERVE COMPONENTS AS VETERANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 107 the following new section:

"§ 107A. Honoring as veterans certain persons who performed service in the reserve components

"Any person who is entitled under chapter 1223 of title 10 to retired pay for nonregular service or, but for age, would be entitled under such chapter to retired pay for nonregular service shall be honored as a veteran but shall not be entitled to any benefit by reason of this section."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 107 the following new item:

"107A. Honoring as veterans certain persons who performed service in the reserve components."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. RUNYAN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 1025 recognizes those retired from the National Guard and Reserve component of the United States Armed Forces by honoring them with the status of veterans under law.

Representative WALZ of Minnesota, the bill's chief sponsor, recently commented that "failure to recognize those who have served 20 years or more in the Reserve and National Guard as veterans represents a gross injustice."

These are men and women who showed devotion and dedication, serving their Nation in uniform for an entire career of 20 years or more in the Reserve and National Guard. These servicemembers wore the same uniform as active duty servicemembers, were subject to the same code of military justice, received the same training, and were available for call-up to active duty service at any time.

H.R. 1025 confers honorary veteran's status on the individuals who are entitled to retirement pay for nonregular service or who would be entitled to retirement pay but for age. In addition, this bill ensures those who receive the honorary recognition as veterans conferred in the bill would not be entitled to any statutory benefit under title 38 or any other title of United States Code for reason of such recognition alone.

I would now like to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LATHAM).

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1025. I join my colleague, the gentleman from Minnesota, in introducing this bill. My colleagues, you may not be aware that a member of the Guard and Reserve can complete an entire career without earning the title of veteran of the armed forces of the United States if they have never served on Federal active duty for other than training purposes.

As a result, National Guard members protecting our skies and airports, or protecting our Southern border—technically under State orders—may one day retire from the Guard but not qualify to be classified as a veteran of our Armed Forces.

Our military increasingly depends on the National Guard and Reserve to keep our country safe. Men and women who served our country faithfully for decades deserve full recognition as veterans, even if they were never deployed overseas.

Current law does not consider Guard and Reserve members to be veterans unless they were deployed for more than 30 days. The policy excludes many who deployed for long periods of time, carried out critical support roles during times of war and peace, engaged in frequent and often dangerous training exercises, and stood ready to risk their lives to protect our Nation during military careers that spanned decades.

This legislation recognizes the service and sacrifice of National Guard and

Reserve retirees and grants them the full honor of being called veterans, which they've earned. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, which is a matter of honor and fairness for our citizens soldiers.

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

The bill before us, H.R. 1025, as noted sponsored by Congressman WALZ of Minnesota, would ensure that deserving men and women of our National Guard and Reserve receive the honor and distinction of being called veterans. It seems a simple thing, and yet it is denied them.

Representative WALZ introduced this bill in the last Congress. I'm disappointed to say it didn't clear the Senate, and so we'll have to try again. Our Guard and Reserve comprise a large component of those called to serve in our current wars, and these changing dynamics need to be incorporated into our policies. I think this bill strikes the desired balance. I am in full support of the bill.

I would now yield such time as he may consume to the author of the bill, Congressman WALZ, to explain it in more detail.

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. I thank the ranking member for yielding me this time, as well as being a staunch supporter of this and, of course, other legislation to secure the rights and benefits for our veterans.

I would also like to thank the gentleman from New Jersey for his unwavering support on this and other bills, and appreciate all of the things that are moving today.

I say a special thank you to Chairman MILLER and the majority leader and the majority whip who changed the schedule around to allow this bill to be debated tonight after Representatives ROE, BENISHEK, DESJARLAIS, DENHAM, and I returned from Afghanistan, visiting our warriors downrange defending freedom and putting their lives on the line and doing it in such a professional manner, and standing there and not being able to tell the difference between a Navy, a Marine, or an Army National Guard or Reservist, all of those services working together in unity for this.

I'm proud to sponsor this piece of legislation, the Honor America's Guard and Reserve Act. The veterans' community has prioritized this for a long time. About the honor that you heard my good friend and the lead Republican sponsor on this from Iowa, Mr. LATHAM, talk about, it's about that honor and dignity and a country respecting that.

These are folks who serve in so many ways, responding to national emergencies. But, most importantly, I think, standing ready to be deployed at a moment's notice as a deterrent to aggression. They stood there during the Cold War, many of these people for 20 years, serving this Nation, training the current warriors who are downrange. And yet we will honor them with military retired pay, medical care through

Tricare, we'll even bury them in a veterans' cemetery. But under current law, that member of that reserve component, if they weren't called up under title 10 for more than 179 days, the honor we will not bestow upon them is the right to call themselves veterans, and that truly is a gross injustice. I believe it's an oversight to them, and it's an oversight to their families who understood the respect they had. I think it is basic common sense. A reservist can be buried in a Federal cemetery. They should have the right—and what this bestows upon them, no money, no extra benefits, but when the flag comes by on Veterans Day, they can render a hand salute in taking part when that national anthem is played. It is about honor.

It may not seem important to some, but for those who wear the uniform subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice, received the same training, and spent 20 years away from their families and had the ability to be called up, this lack of recognition is a gross injustice. H.R. 1025 will finally correct this in a straightforward way, including the Guard and Reserve retiree in the definition of the term "veteran." It will ensure they're no longer regulated to second-class status.

As I've said, the sole purpose is to grant veteran's status to those who've been denied it to this point. In light of this fact, let me be absolutely clear: it's about honor. It's not about monetary benefits or material privilege. Both the Congressional Research Service as well as the Department of Veterans Affairs concluded this legislation will provide no additional benefits; instead, it is a tribute to their service. It has been reinforced by the Congressional Budget Office which says it has a zero cost to taxpayers. It's a simple bill. It simply states that those members of the Guard who've served for all of their time, stood ready to be deployed for whatever reason at a moment's notice, have earned the right to be considered veterans.

I would like to point out this legislation is supported by the Military Coalition and the National Military Veterans Alliance, which together represent more than 4 million active-duty servicemember veterans and their families.

I'd like to thank everyone who has engaged in this. It's been a long process. We've got a companion version in the Senate, Madam Speaker, and the time is right to bestow this honor on those who have given so much. So with that, I encourage my colleagues to use this as an opportunity to right an injustice, to stand tall with our Guard and Reserve soldiers, to set this right and allow them to proudly, by this Veterans Day, be able to render their hand salute to our flag.

Mr. RUNYAN. I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Tennessee, Dr. ROE.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank my friend, Mr. WALZ, for his leadership on this very important issue which is long overdue. I think both sides of the aisle feel this is an injustice. It's gone on far too long. When you take the oath to uphold the Constitution, you put on the service uniform of our country, you serve your obligation and are honorably discharged. You are a veteran. You're as much a veteran as I am, who served on active duty.

Just a few hours ago, Congressman WALZ and others who he mentioned were in Landstuhl, Germany, before we flew home, and saw National Guardsmen, who may not be able to be called veterans, flying planes home to bring our wounded warriors home.

I knew that this legislation was coming up tonight, and I felt compelled, after meeting these young men and women who are doing an incredible job to protect our wounded warriors and protect our country, they be offered this status of veterans. This bill rights a long-standing wrong. I urge very strong support of this much-needed legislation.

□ 2010

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RUNYAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 1025.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. RUNYAN. I once again encourage all Members to support H.R. 1025, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. RUNYAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1025.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 2020

UNITED STATES-COLOMBIA TRADE PROMOTION AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 425, I call up the bill (H.R. 3078) to implement the United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 425, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3078

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Purposes.
- Sec. 3. Definitions.

TITLE I—APPROVAL OF, AND GENERAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO, THE AGREEMENT

- Sec. 101. Approval and entry into force of the Agreement.
- Sec. 102. Relationship of the Agreement to United States and State law.
- Sec. 103. Implementing actions in anticipation of entry into force and initial regulations.
- Sec. 104. Consultation and layover provisions for, and effective date of, proclaimed actions.
- Sec. 105. Administration of dispute settlement proceedings.
- Sec. 106. Arbitration of claims.
- Sec. 107. Effective dates; effect of termination.

TITLE II—CUSTOMS PROVISIONS

- Sec. 201. Tariff modifications.
- Sec. 202. Additional duties on certain agricultural goods.
- Sec. 203. Rules of origin.
- Sec. 204. Customs user fees.
- Sec. 205. Disclosure of incorrect information; false certifications of origin; denial of preferential tariff treatment.
- Sec. 206. Reliquidation of entries.
- Sec. 207. Recordkeeping requirements.
- Sec. 208. Enforcement relating to trade in textile or apparel goods.
- Sec. 209. Regulations.

TITLE III—RELIEF FROM IMPORTS

- Sec. 301. Definitions.
- Subtitle A—Relief From Imports Benefitting From the Agreement
- Sec. 311. Commencement of action for relief.
- Sec. 312. Commission action on petition.
- Sec. 313. Provision of relief.
- Sec. 314. Termination of relief authority.
- Sec. 315. Compensation authority.
- Sec. 316. Confidential business information.
- Subtitle B—Textile and Apparel Safeguard Measures

- Sec. 321. Commencement of action for relief.
- Sec. 322. Determination and provision of relief.
- Sec. 323. Period of relief.
- Sec. 324. Articles exempt from relief.
- Sec. 325. Rate after termination of import relief.
- Sec. 326. Termination of relief authority.
- Sec. 327. Compensation authority.
- Sec. 328. Confidential business information.
- Subtitle C—Cases Under Title II of the Trade Act of 1974

- Sec. 331. Findings and action on Colombian articles.

TITLE IV—PROCUREMENT

- Sec. 401. Eligible products.

TITLE V—EXTENSION OF ANDEAN TRADE PREFERENCE ACT

- Sec. 501. Extension of Andean Trade Preference Act.

TITLE VI—OFFSETS

- Sec. 601. Elimination of certain NAFTA customs fees exemption.
- Sec. 602. Extension of customs user fees.
- Sec. 603. Time for payment of corporate estimated taxes.

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are—

- (1) to approve and implement the free trade agreement between the United States and