

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ADOPTION
ATTORNEYS, AMERICAN ACADEMY
OF ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TECH-
NOLOGY ATTORNEYS,

Washington, DC, February 16, 2016.

Hon. TODD YOUNG,
Longworth House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE YOUNG: I write as the President of the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys to enthusiastically endorse H.R. 4472 on behalf of our organization. H.R. 4472 is a bill that provides swift stability and permanency to vulnerable children who are being placed in foster/adoptive homes or with guardians across state lines.

Drafted in 1960, the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children ("ICPC") exists to ensure protection for children in interstate placements. The ICPC requires every placement to be scrutinized for legality and appropriateness. It requires that children remain in the state of origin for weeks, or even months, while the required paperwork is mailed from the placing state ICPC's office to the new parent's home state's ICPC office.

The ICPC is well meaning, but by its very nature, slows down the process due to the paperwork and mailing burdens. A uniform legal framework offers valuable protections, but such protections must be weighed against the significant burden it imposes on children and families. With the advances in technology that have been used by other state and federal agencies for over a decade, the process can be significantly shortened and the most vulnerable members of our society can be provided permanency in stable loving homes. The centralized electronic system created by the passage of H.R. 4472 will be a victory for children, by expanding an electronic pilot program to all state and U.S. territories.

The pilot program has been an unqualified success. Since the pilot program was launched, the placement time for children placed through those pilot states has been reduced by 30 percent. Placement time has been reduced by 11 days. As a truly centralized system evolves, the efficiencies should be better and better.

The current slow ICPC process causes weeks, and sometimes months, of children languishing in their states of original residence. Social science and neuroscience research has confirmed that children need stable families to thrive. The paperwork barrier to quick foster/adoptive placements creates unnecessarily delays. One month in the life of a child at this vulnerable stage is an eternity. Further, the delay caused by an outdated mailing system can result in significant developmental issues and treatment costs. In many instances, such treatment costs are incurred by local, state and federal governments. Prospective parents willing to provide homes to children in need of families have been subjected to placement processes that are extraordinarily difficult, risky, expensive and time consuming; often requiring months of persistence and intervention by members of Congress. Most significantly, the number of unparented children able to find families has been severely limited while the life potential of those fortunate enough to find families through foster care, guardianship and adoption has been impaired by weeks and months of needless delay.

Reform must begin with our government's acknowledgement that every child has a fundamental human right to be raised in a permanent loving family and that foster care, guardianship and adoption are an important means for providing such families to children living outside of parental care. Additionally, by eliminating this unnecessary delay, H.R. 4472 will reduce the treatment costs incurred by local, state and federal governments.

We have come together as a community of child advocates to identify a process that

will reform interstate adoption. We welcome the opportunity to discuss our request with you and members of your staff. Please note, the changes we are endorsing would have little budget impact. We look forward to working with you in support of swift passage of this bill. To simplify your communication with us, please feel free to contact our Director of Adoption, Denise Bierly on behalf of our group.

Sincerely,

HERB BRAIL,
President,
American Academy of Adoption Attorneys.

COUNTY WELFARE
DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION,
Sacramento, CA.
Re Support for H.R. 4472, "Modernizing the
Interstate Placement of Children in Foster
Care Act".

Hon. TODD YOUNG,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. DANNY DAVIS,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES YOUNG AND DAVIS: The County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA), representing the human services directors in California's 58 counties, supports the Modernizing the Interstate Placement of Children in Foster Care Act.

The bill will modernize the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) administrative process by replacing it with a successfully tested web-based electronic case processing system. The new National Electronic Interstate Compact Enterprise (NEICE) will change policies and provide funding to enable states and counties to connect to the NEICE to exchange data and documents across state jurisdictions so that our agencies may meet the unique needs of foster care children who may reside in another state. The proposed data exchange will enable state and counties more efficiently meet federal mandates for the timely services, placement and permanence of children in the foster care system, and will improve outcomes for children in foster care and their families.

Thank you again for introducing and co-sponsoring H.R. 4472. Please contact Tom Joseph, Director of CWDA's Washington Office, should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

FRANK J. MECCA,
Executive Director.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank those stakeholders once again for all their help in getting this across the finish line.

I am hoping for broad and fulsome support from all Members of this Chamber. I hope we can all agree here today that we should do everything possible to get our most vulnerable children immediately placed into the setting that is best for them, regardless of State boundary lines.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4472, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

WOMEN AIRFORCE SERVICE PILOT ARLINGTON INURNMENT RES- TORATION ACT

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4336) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the burial of the cremated remains of persons who served as Women's Air Forces Service Pilots in Arlington National Cemetery, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4336

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

SECTION 1. BURIAL OF CREMATED REMAINS IN ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY OF CERTAIN PERSONS WHOSE SERVICE IS DEEMED TO BE ACTIVE SERVICE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2410 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(c)(1) The Secretary of the Army shall ensure that under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, the cremated remains of any person described in paragraph (2) are eligible for inurnment in Arlington National Cemetery with military honors in accordance with section 1491 of title 10.

"(2) A person described in this paragraph is a person whose service has been determined to be active duty service pursuant to section 401 of the GI Bill Improvement Act of 1977 (Public Law 95-202; 38 U.S.C. 106 note) as of the date of the enactment of this paragraph."

(b) APPLICABILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to—

(A) the remains of a person that are not formally interred or inurned as of the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(B) a person who dies on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) FORMALLY INTERRED OR INURNED DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term "formally interred or inurned" means interred or inurned in a cemetery, crypt, mausoleum, columbarium, niche, or other similar formal location.

SEC. 2. REPORT ON CAPACITY OF ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Army shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs and the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report on the interment and inurnment capacity of Arlington National Cemetery, including—

(1) the estimated date that the Secretary determines the cemetery will reach maximum interment and inurnment capacity; and

(2) in light of the unique and iconic meaning of the cemetery to the United States, recommendations for legislative actions and nonlegislative options that the Secretary determines necessary to ensure that the maximum interment and inurnment capacity of the cemetery is not reached until well into the future, including such actions and options with respect to—

(A) redefining eligibility criteria for interment and inurnment in the cemetery; and

(B) considerations for additional expansion opportunities beyond the current boundaries of the cemetery.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and add extraneous material on H.R. 4336, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge all Members to support H.R. 4336, as amended.

This bill, which was introduced by our colleague, the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY), would ensure that Active Duty designees, including women Air Force pilots, are eligible for inurnment with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery.

Active Duty designees are members of civilian groups who served alongside the regular Armed Forces during World Wars I and II. These brave men and women were often located in combat zones, where they risked their lives to protect the freedom that we should never take for granted.

Their contributions to the war effort was so vital that they have been granted the most prestigious title our Nation can bestow—that of veteran. As such, they are eligible to be laid to rest in any cemetery administered by the National Cemetery Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

However, Arlington National Cemetery is run by the Department of the Army. Between 2002 and last year, the Army inurned Active Duty designees with military honors in Arlington National Cemetery. Unfortunately, last March, then-Secretary McHugh, reversed this policy, which means that many of those courageous individuals can no longer choose to be laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery.

H.R. 4336, as amended, would reverse this decision and require the Army to provide Active Duty designees inurnments with military honors in Arlington National Cemetery.

Mr. Speaker, it is our duty as a Nation to ensure that those who have served our Nation are treated with the utmost respect and dignity, especially after they pass on.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4336, as amended.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 4336, as amended.

Arlington National Cemetery has been called our Nation's most hallowed ground. Since the first military burial took place on May 13, 1864, Arlington is the final resting place for over 400,000 Active Duty servicemembers, veterans, and their families.

H.R. 4336, as amended, would overturn a recent change in Army policy and restore the right of the Women Airforce Service Pilots of World War II, or WASP, to be buried in Arlington. These brave women volunteered for duty, and their service made a major contribution to our victory in World War II.

In addition, H.R. 4336 would restore the right of others who assisted in the war and whose service and sacrifice was recognized with the enacting of the GI Bill Improvement Act of 1977.

I applaud my colleagues, Representatives MARTHA MCSALLY and SUSAN DAVIS, for introducing this important bill and leading the fight, a fight that has widespread support and bipartisan support, to recognize the service of these brave women and others who helped us defeat the Axis Powers in World War II.

That we are bringing this to the floor during Women's History Month is a fitting tribute to women who served our Nation in the past and the women who today serve in our Active Duty forces. This is a matter of justice and a matter of fairness.

In 2009, we recognized the service and sacrifice of these brave men and women when we awarded a Congressional Gold Medal to the Women Airforce Service Pilots. Today, we have the opportunity to do it again.

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

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY), the sponsor of this legislation, a combat veteran herself, a pilot of the A-10 Warthog from the Second District of Arizona.

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in wholehearted support of H.R. 4336, the Women Airforce Service Pilot Arlington Inurnment Restoration Act. This is the right thing to do.

I want to thank the chairman for quickly moving this through the committee and to the floor, and Chairman THORNBERRY for signing off on it, so that we could do the right thing to allow these amazing women and these pioneers who went before us and who opened the door for so many of us women in the military to serve, that they could be laid to rest in a place of honor and a place of rest for the most hallowed, the most amazing men and women who have served and gone before us. The fact that these women were denied this right is unconscionable and, quite frankly, infuriating when we heard about it.

Let me tell you a little bit about the WASPs. The WASPs during World War II raised their right hand and said: I will support.

We needed pilots, we needed men and women to do whatever it took for the war effort. So these women went through training—1,074 of them went through training. An additional 28 actually already had flying experience and were directly brought in. So it was

actually 1,102 that said: I am going to be a pilot. I am going to support the effort.

General Hap Arnold, at the time the head of the Army Air Corps, had intended that they be militarized. They went through military training, they marched, and they slept in barracks. They went through everything that the men alongside them did. The intent was to be militarized. The only reason they weren't militarized was because of hang-ups and sexism about the role of women in the military back then. Heaven forbid we have women military pilots. We couldn't handle it back then.

These women served anyway. They flew 60 million miles ferrying airplanes all over the theater. They towed targets for the ground gunners to practice shooting at targets. They trained male pilots to then head off to the war effort. Thirty-eight of them perished in training in the line of duty. Yet they still were in this quasi-civilian military status. They had no veterans benefits. They were passing the hat around to support getting their bodies back to their families. There was no recognition at the time, but they still served.

At the end of the war, they were discharged and told to go home—the men needed the cockpits. It wasn't until 1977 that this Congress passed a law finally giving them veterans' rights so that they would be treated as veterans. After the fact, they were given honorable discharges and they were given the medals that they deserved at the time.

We thought that this was finally over, the fight was over, that they would be recognized for all that they deserved, and they would be able to be laid to rest with full military honors. But a bureaucratic, technocratic glitch created another door that shut to them.

This is an extraordinary example, by the way, of somebody taking action to bring a wrong to our attention and for us to be able to make it right.

I want to highlight Elaine Harmon, who passed away, as one of the WASPs. She passed away last year. I met with her family and I read her hand-written will. She wanted to have her ashes in Arlington. She requested it. We thought that they were allowed, so the family put in a request. It wasn't until they got a letter back saying, "Denied, WASPs are not allowed in Arlington," that they didn't just accept that no.

In the legacy of Elaine Harmon—and, by the way, these women were feisty; they were strong; they were not going to take no for an answer. In that spirit, her children and her granddaughter—and Erin Miller is with us in the gallery today—said, "We are not going to take no for an answer. We are going to get awareness on this, and we are going to get my grandmother and the WASPs the right that they deserve."

I first heard about this through the media in early January. We sprung into action working with our colleague, SUSAN DAVIS, getting sponsors.

We are over 190 right now. This has been fast-tracked through the committee in order to allow them to be laid to rest there. Elaine Harmon's ashes are sitting on a shelf in her granddaughter's closet. We need to make this right as quickly as possible.

Let me just say, Mr. Chairman, this isn't just about the pioneers that we read about in history books. These WASPs were personal mentors to me. When I first went through combat training, we didn't really have any women we could look up to, and these amazing women came alongside me as wing-women to encourage me and to mentor me. I had three of them sitting in my front row at my chain of command ceremony when I took over command of an A-10 squadron. Dawn Seymour, Ruth Helm, and Eleanor Gundersen, they personally supported and encouraged me along the way. It is because of their service that the doors were opened for those of us in the military to serve. It is ridiculous that Arlington would close the gates to them at the very time they were opening up all positions to women in the military.

□ 1430

This is the right thing to do. I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation, especially during Women's History Month. The least we can do is allow the WASPs, including Elaine Harmon, to be laid to rest in Arlington as quickly as possible. Let's get this passed today. Let's get it through the Senate and onto the President's desk so that she can be laid to rest.

As for the rest who remain who choose to have their ashes laid to rest in Arlington, this is their right. The only reason they were not Active Duty at the time was due to sexism. It is time for us to shut this remaining door and give them this final resting place.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to not make references to occupants of the gallery.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. KUSTER), who is on the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for acknowledging the Women Airforce Service Pilots.

My father was a P-47 fighter pilot in World War II, and he was able to access the benefits that were due him in terms of his military career. It is only fitting now, during Women's History Month, that we begin to finally get the opportunity for the WASPs to be interred at Arlington National Cemetery.

I acknowledge my colleague Representative MCSALLY, in her great service to this country, and my colleague TAMMY DUCKWORTH, a combat helicopter pilot. I also acknowledge the veterans who serve on our Veterans' Affairs Committee's staff.

We recently had a ceremony with Brigadier General Wilma Vaught. She was the first woman to reach the brigadier

general status and was the first woman to deploy within the Air Force bomber unit. She is an inspiration to us.

One of the important reasons for doing this bill now is that we learned recently during a hearing in the Veterans' Affairs Committee that women are the fastest growing group of veterans but that, often, our women veterans do not access the VA benefits, including health benefits and cemetery benefits, to which they are entitled. We need to encourage women who have served the country. You have served us, and now it is our turn to serve you. We need to encourage our women veterans to come forward for the benefits they deserve.

I thank my colleague from Arizona, and I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for bringing this bill forward. It is an important bill, and it is a great time to do it.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Sixth District of Colorado (Mr. COFFMAN), another combat veteran and a member of our Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4336.

In Colorado Springs, Colorado, a monument stands to honor the Women Airforce Service Pilots, or WASPs. With this legislation, we salute them today, and we recognize that we neglected to salute them for far too long.

During World War II, more than 1,000 WASPs flew over 60 million air miles. Without official military recognition, families were forced to pay out of pocket to send 36 fallen comrades home. After the war, the United States continued to deny them military status despite their extraordinary service to our country.

Today, we can help correct some of that injustice. H.R. 4336 would restore the right for these women to be buried at Arlington. These women paved the way for the women in uniform today. They endured gender-based discrimination for years, and they served and died just as other members of the military did. I believe they belong in Arlington.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN).

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. I thank the gentlewoman from Florida for giving me this opportunity to stand up here during Women's History Month and to say this is a bipartisan piece of legislation that is well done and overdue.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that there were women who went before me who were brave and who were courageous and who did all of the jobs that were asked of them in a manner that was of high standard. They gave and sacrificed on my behalf, and now we have the opportunity to eliminate some of the last vestiges of disparate treatment or secondary treatment, or treating them as second-class citizens.

I rise in support of this legislation, and I congratulate my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for having brought this to our attention and for giving us the opportunity to express our support.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. ABRAHAM), a veteran himself and the chairman of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs on the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. ABRAHAM. I thank the chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I am here to urge my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation that recognizes the services of certain groups of men and women who have valiantly served their country.

When the GI Bill Improvement Act became law in 1977, it contained language that was championed by Senator Barry Goldwater and by Louisiana's own Lindy Boggs that deemed certain groups of women, civilians, and foreigners who served the United States as Active Duty in order to qualify for benefits administered by the VA. Ultimately, nearly 35 groups have been made eligible for benefits through that law. These include the Women Airforce Service Pilots, the U.S. merchant seamen who served on blockships in Operation Mulberry on D-Day, male civilian ferry pilots, U.S. civilians of the American Field Service, and many, many more.

In recognition of their service, the cremated remains of these groups may be inurned in all cemeteries under the jurisdiction of the VA. However, Arlington National Cemetery is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defense, not of the VA. This bill recognizes all of the individuals who are eligible to have their cremated remains inurned in Arlington National Cemetery to include groups that have been given veteran status in the GI Bill Improvement Act, including the WASPs.

Decades after Congresswoman Boggs championed this legislation, I am proud to continue Louisiana's long tradition of support for these groups by cosponsoring this bill.

I thank, most greatly, Congresswoman MCSALLY for introducing this very important piece of legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support it. It is long past due that we recognize these women and men who have served this country.

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

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from the 12th District of Illinois (Mr. BOST), a marine and a member of our Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. BOST. I thank the chairman.

Mr. Speaker, World War II was a time when Americans came together to defend this Nation against evil. Entire families enlisted in this effort, which included many brave and dedicated women of the Women Airforce Service Pilots, or WASPs.

The WASPs flew military aircraft in noncombat roles, and they served as instructors for male pilots. When the WASP program was created, it was intended that these women would receive full military status. Sadly, this goal has not been achieved. That is why H.R. 4336 is so important. It overturns a previous Army directive and restores the burial rights in Arlington National Cemetery for WASP veterans.

I ask that all of my colleagues join me in supporting these women's rights of putting them in the place they need to be and in receiving those full military benefits.

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

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from the Second District of Texas (Mr. POE).

Mr. POE of Texas. I thank the chairman for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, during the peak of World War II, Sandy Thompson, now a Houston resident, left her teaching job and received her aviation wings on September 11, 1943. She had just volunteered for the Women Airforce Service Pilots, known as the WASPs.

These pilots had towed targets for live anti-aircraft practice. Think about that, Mr. Speaker. They are in the air, and these young teenagers are learning how to shoot anti-aircraft guns and to aim them at the targets behind these female pilots who are pulling these—a dangerous occupation. These pilots helped deliver planes to overseas bases, and they tested new aircraft that was used in the Pacific and used in Europe, and, of course, they trained male pilots who went overseas.

Of the 1,000 women who were WASPs, 38 were killed during their missions, and 16 of these original pilots of World War II now live in my State of Texas.

They were considered civilians until 1977. Then Congress gave them veteran status. In 2002, the WASPs were allowed to be cremated and have their ashes placed in Arlington National Cemetery—right down the street from this building. Now bureaucrats have decided that these veterans are not worthy of a proper military burial, and they have revoked the burial rights at Arlington because of space. This is disgraceful, shameful, and is a sorry excuse to dishonor them.

Find space to permanently honor these women. As a former member of the United States Air Force Reserves, I urge that we show respect to these pilots—give them proper burials, and pass this legislation.

And that is just the way it is.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE).

Ms. FUDGE. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, first, let me thank all of the men and women who have sacrificed and served this Nation.

I can't imagine why any person of sound mind would deny women the

right to the same benefits, to the same recognition that men get who serve this Nation. I would think that not one person would deny them this right. I cannot imagine why those who serve would have to fight for the dignity that each and every single person who serves this country should have.

I support this legislation, and I support the people who support it. Anybody who doesn't should not be in this building.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from the 27th District of the Lone Star State, Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD).

Mr. FARENTHOLD. I thank the chairman.

Mr. Speaker, it shouldn't take an act of Congress for these women to be interred in Arlington National Cemetery. We have heard from numerous people on both sides of the aisle that this is simply the right thing to do. The Army should have just said, "Yes, let's get them buried there." The President should have used his pen and phone and ordered the Army to do it if they wouldn't. Guess what. We are here now, and it is going to take an act of Congress, and it is going to be a very strong act of Congress. I can't imagine not passing this out of this House unanimously, and I suspect we will see similar results in the Senate.

The remains of this woman should not have to rest in her granddaughter's closet. They should be interred in Arlington now. I urge my colleagues to pass this bill unanimously. I urge the Senate to act quickly. I urge President Obama to sign this into law. It is, simply, the right thing to do. We have just got to do it.

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

In recent hearings, many of the service organizations have indicated that this was one of their top priorities. Women have served in every single war in this country, and they deserve the same benefits and recognition as men.

I urge my colleagues to support this important and timely bill in order to honor those brave women and others whose efforts were essential in the victory of World War II.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1445

Again, I encourage all my fellow colleagues to support H.R. 4336, as amended.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4336, "Women Airforce Service Pilot Arlington Interment Restoration Act of 2016" which directs the Department of the Army to ensure that the cremated remains of persons who served as Women's Air Forces Service Pilots are eligible for interment in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors.

I support this legislation sponsored by Congresswoman MARTHA MCSALLY of Arizona, because the women who have devoted their lives to the armed services deserve appropriate recognition and praise for their sacrifice.

This important bill provides the remains of a person who dies on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, and whose service has been determined to be active duty, eligibility for interment in Arlington National Cemetery.

The Secretary of the Army shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs and the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report on the interment and interment capacity of Arlington National Cemetery.

With respect to the unique and iconic meaning of the cemetery to the United States, the Secretary of the Army determines necessary considerations beyond the current boundaries of the cemetery.

The Secretary of the Army must submit the estimated date the cemetery will reach maximum interment and interment capacity.

The Secretary of the Army has the ability to redefine eligibility criteria for interment and interment in the cemetery.

Implementation of the arrangements necessary to facilitate the burial of the cremated remains should be a priority.

It is our responsibility to ensure that the suitable recognition is provided to Americans who have devoted their time and physical assistance towards our freedom.

This bill actively displays our gratitude towards all who participated in the armed services.

Even after death, we reflect on their contributions with our hearts and minds for those who put themselves in harm's way to protect our nation.

I urge all Members to join me in voting to pass H.R. 4336.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4336, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 653;

Adopting House Resolution 653, if ordered; and

Suspending the rules and passing H.R. 4742, H.R. 4755, and H.R. 4336.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.