

conduct annual examinations of credit rating agencies on eight review areas. Evaluating each of these eight areas is resource-intensive for both the OCR and the rating agency and is often-times redundant when there have been no identified material issues.

H.R. 4586 is a straightforward bill to provide the OCR with discretion concerning these eight reviewable areas during their annual examinations.

Dodd-Frank's increased compliance requirements for nationally recognized statistical rating organizations, or NRSROs, put small credit rating agencies at a disadvantage in the market, chilled competition among rating agencies, and further consolidated power in the largest rating agencies. Additionally, small credit rating agencies were not the cause of the financial crisis and should not be treated as such.

The marketplace needs commonsense reforms like this. By providing discretion to the SEC's OCR for these eight review areas, H.R. 4586 is right-sizing the SEC's oversight of NRSROs and alleviating costly burdens that especially impact the smaller NRSROs.

By adopting a risk-based approach, H.R. 4586 allows for continued oversight by OCR but in a more efficient and targeted manner. It also removes burdensome and unnecessary compliance costs for small rating agencies to promote much-needed competition in the credit rating industry.

Mr. Speaker, I obviously support H.R. 4586, and I encourage my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support H.R. 4586, sponsored by Mrs. WAGNER, to help the Securities and Exchange Commission robustly oversee the credit rating agencies through more prudent annual examinations.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my Members to vote "yes," and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4586, 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.

POSTHUMOUSLY AWARDING THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL, COLLECTIVELY, TO GLEN DOHERTY, TYRONE WOODS, J. CHRISTOPHER STEVENS, AND SEAN SMITH, IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NATION

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 310) to posthumously award the

Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to Glen Doherty, Tyrone Woods, J. Christopher Stevens, and Sean Smith, in recognition of their contributions to the Nation, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 310

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

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) On September 11, 2012, the United States consulate, and its personnel in Benghazi, Libya, were attacked by militants.

(2) Four Americans were killed in the attack, including Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens, Sean Smith, Glen Doherty, and Tyrone Woods.

(3) Glen Doherty and Tyrone Woods were former Navy SEALs who served as security personnel in Libya. As the attack unfolded, they bravely attempted to defend American property and protect United States diplomatic personnel. In so doing, they selflessly sacrificed their own lives.

(4) Glen Doherty was a Navy SEAL for 12 years and served in Iraq and Afghanistan. He attained the rank of Petty Officer First Class and earned the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal. After leaving the Navy, Glen Doherty worked with the Department of State to protect American diplomats.

(5) Tyrone Woods served for 20 years as a Navy SEAL including tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. In Iraq he led multiple raids and reconnaissance missions and earned the Bronze Star. After retiring from the Navy as a Senior Chief Petty Officer, Tyrone Woods worked with the Department of State to protect American diplomats.

(6) J. Christopher Stevens served for 21 years in the U.S. Foreign Service. He was serving as U.S. Ambassador to Libya and previously served twice in the country, as both Special Representative to the Libyan Transitional National Council and as the Deputy Chief of Mission. Earlier in his life, he also served as a Peace Corps volunteer teaching English in Morocco.

(7) Sean Smith served for 6 years in the U.S. Air Force. He attained the rank of Staff Sergeant and was awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal. After leaving the Air Force, Sean Smith served for 10 years in the State Department on various assignments, which took him to places such as Baghdad, Brussels, Pretoria, and The Hague.

(8) As their careers attest, all four men served their country honorably.

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the posthumous award, on behalf of the Congress, of a single gold medal of appropriate design collectively in commemoration of Glen Doherty, Tyrone Woods, J. Christopher Stevens, and Sean Smith, in recognition of their contributions to the Nation.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") shall strike the gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary. The Secretary is authorized to create designs for the medal that, if the Secretary deems it appropriate, include images of, and inscriptions of the names of, Glen Doherty, Tyrone Woods, J. Christopher Stevens, and Sean Smith.

(c) CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY MUSEUM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the gold medal under subsection (a), the gold medal shall be given to the Central Intelligence Agency Museum, where it shall be displayed as appropriate and made available for research.

(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Central Intelligence Agency Museum should make the gold medal received under paragraph (1) available for display elsewhere, particularly at other appropriate locations associated with Glen Doherty, Tyrone Woods, J. Christopher Stevens, and Sean Smith.

SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 2, at a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

SEC. 4. STATUS OF MEDALS.

(a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursuant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

(b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SEC. 5. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF SALE.

(a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be necessary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under this Act.

(b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

SEC. 6. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled "Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation" for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and include extraneous material thereon.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 310 to posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to Glen Doherty, Tyrone Woods, J. Christopher Stevens, and Sean Smith, in recognition of their contributions to the Nation.

I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) for his unwavering dedication to ensuring Congress

honors the memories of the four brave individuals who served our country bravely for 59 collective years in public service.

The Congressional Gold Medal is an award bestowed by the United States Congress, and it is the highest representation of national gratitude for exemplary achievements and contributions by individuals or institutions.

The four individuals honored today, Glen Doherty, Tyrone Woods, J. Christopher Stevens, and Sean Smith, exemplified what it means to live a life of service. Mr. Doherty, Mr. Woods, and Mr. SMITH were decorated servicemembers, known for their bravery and dedication to protecting the American diplomats with whom they served. Ambassador Stevens was a lifelong public servant and diplomat, deeply invested in promoting peace and security throughout the world.

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As we come upon the 10-year anniversary of their tragic deaths, we, as a Nation mourn the loss of these shining examples of our shared American values. And to their loved ones, who carry their memories with them today and always, we offer our sincerest condolences and profound gratitude with their tireless efforts to preserve their legacy.

This bill would present the Congressional Gold Medal to the four brave men who protected and served their country honorably and died in service of their country. I cannot think of any who are more deserving of this great honor.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 310, a bill that will posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal to four American heroes who died in Benghazi on September 11, 2012.

H.R. 310 will recognize the sacrifice that Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens, Navy SEALs Glen Doherty and Tyrone Woods, and Staff Sergeant Sean Smith made for our country. These four men lived exceptionally impressive lives that should be recognized and honored today.

Ambassador Stevens, born in Grass Valley, California, joined the U.S. Foreign Service in 1991. Over his 21-year career he held a number of important posts including section chief in Jerusalem, political officer in Damascus, and consular officer in Cairo before he returned to D.C. to serve as Director of the Office of Multilateral Nuclear and Security Affairs and Pearson Fellow with Senate Foreign Relations Committee under then-Senator Richard Lugar. Ambassador Stevens was a dedicated public servant who traversed the globe to carry out the mission statement of the Foreign Service: to promote peace, support prosperity, and protect American citizens while ad-

vancing the interests of the U.S. abroad.

Petty First Class Glen Doherty, born in Winchester, Massachusetts, was a decorated Navy SEAL sniper and corpsman. Doherty served in both Iraq and Afghanistan and responded to the infamous USS *Cole* bombing in Yemen. Doherty left the Navy after 12 years of service. He went on to continue to protect U.S. interests by working as a contractor for the State Department.

Senior Chief Petty Officer Tyrone Woods, known by his friends and family as "Rone," was born in Portland, Oregon. Tyrone Woods, like Doherty, was a retired Navy SEAL who continued to serve after an illustrious military career by protecting American diplomats. During his time as a SEAL, Woods was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with combat "V" for valor in Iraq and served multiple tours in Iraq, Afghanistan, the Middle East, and Central America.

Staff Sergeant Sean Smith was born in San Diego, California, and served in the U.S. Air Force for 6 years. During this time, he was awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal. Smith retired from the Air Force and continued to serve as a U.S. Foreign Service officer. Smith was posthumously awarded the U.S. Department of State's Thomas Jefferson Star for Foreign Service on May 3, 2013.

Mr. Speaker, these four men served honorably and died in service to our country. H.R. 310 will honor these men with the recognition that they deserve.

I thank my colleagues, especially Representative LYNCH of Massachusetts and Representative MAST of Florida for their bipartisan work on this very important piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I wholeheartedly support this bill, I urge my colleagues to support it as well, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH).

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairwoman WATERS for her leadership on this and for helping us to get this bill on the floor.

As the proud sponsor of H.R. 310, I rise in strong support of this legislation to posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal to four heroic Americans killed in the September 11, 2012, terrorist attack against the U.S. diplomatic mission in Benghazi, Libya: U.S. Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens; U.S. Navy SEAL and CIA security contractor, Glen Doherty; U.S. Navy SEAL and CIA contractor, Tyrone Woods; and U.S. Air Force Staff Sergeant, Sean Smith.

At the outset, I would like to thank Chairwoman WATERS, Ranking Member MCHENRY, and Mrs. WAGNER of the Financial Services Committee for their bipartisan work in support of H.R. 310. I would also like to recognize the invaluable contributions that were made by our late chairman of the Oversight

and Reform Committee, Elijah Cummings. He made contributions to the legislation and to our additional effort to secure full death benefits for the Doherty family of Massachusetts.

Importantly, the advancement of this bill would not be possible without the support of all the family members as well as pro bono counsel from K&L Gates and other stakeholders whose relentless advocacy on behalf of our four fallen heroes is reflective of their sacrifice on behalf of our Nation.

In my home State of Massachusetts, I would like to particularly recognize Mrs. Barbara Doherty and Ms. Kate Quigley, the devoted mother and sister respectively of Navy SEAL Glen Doherty of Winchester, Massachusetts.

I would also like to thank Amy Carnevale and Dennis Porter, two attorneys from K&L Gates, for their steadfast legal support and counsel to guide this legislation, as well as my dear friend, Dan Rea of WBZ News Radio who amplified the story about these four heroes and our efforts over the past 9 years, notably during a time of deep division in this country.

I would like to recognize and thank the nearly 300 bipartisan Members—Democrat, Republican, and Independents—who have joined me to cosponsor this legislation and enable this consideration on the House floor, including my lead Republican cosponsor of H.R. 310, Representative BRIAN MAST of Florida.

Mr. Speaker, since the American Revolution, Congress has commissioned and bestowed its highest civilian honor—the Congressional Gold Medal, in recognition of distinguished acts of bravery, leadership, and achievement that leave an enduring impact on our American history.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on National Security, I firmly believe that there is no legacy more lasting and profound than the bravery and sacrifice of those who have stood in defense of our Nation. In view of the approaching 10th anniversary of the terrorist attack against the U.S. Consulate, the nearby classified annex, and personnel in Benghazi, Libya, it is more than fitting that we bestow the Congressional Gold Medal on these four fallen American heroes who bravely defended our compound and dedicated their lives to patriotic service on behalf of the United States of America.

For over 20 years, Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens served our Nation in the Foreign Service. From his first assignment as a consular and economic officer in Saudi Arabia to his last diplomatic mission in Libya, Ambassador Stevens reflected a genuine commitment to building bridges with our Middle Eastern and North African partners and advancing our most cherished democratic ideals.

During their decades of service as elite U.S. Navy SEALs with tours of duty in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other conflict zones, Glen Doherty and Tyrone Woods perpetually exemplified the

Navy SEAL motto: "The Only Easy Day Was Yesterday." Their continued service as overseas security personnel responsible for the safety of American diplomatic officials was maintained with the highest standards of military excellence.

As a former ground radio maintenance specialist in the U.S. Air Force and a State Department officer, Sean Smith served our Nation with honor and distinction throughout multiple deployments that included Iraq, South Africa, Oman, and Libya.

Mr. Speaker, the commissioning of the Congressional Gold Medal in honor of these four exceptional Americans will appropriately recognize their heroism, bravery, and sacrifice on behalf of a grateful Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support H.R. 310. Again, I thank Chairwoman WATERS for her valued support.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 310, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I thank, again, Mr. LYNCH, as well as the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST) for their tireless efforts to ensure that these four individuals receive the recognition that they clearly deserve. We must strive to recognize these brave and honorable members of our country who have committed their lives to protecting it.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important piece of legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 310, 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.

EXPANDING ACCESS TO CAPITAL FOR RURAL JOB CREATORS ACT

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5128) to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to expand access to capital for rural-area small businesses, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5128

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Expanding Access to Capital for Rural Job Creators Act".

SEC. 2. ACCESS TO CAPITAL FOR RURAL-AREA SMALL BUSINESSES.

Section 4(j) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78d(j)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4)(C), by inserting "rural-area small businesses," after "women-owned small businesses,"; and

(2) in paragraph (6)(B)(iii), by inserting "rural-area small businesses," after "women-owned small businesses,".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5128, the Expanding Access to Capital for Rural Job Creators Act, introduced by Representative AXNE.

While small businesses in the big cities may enjoy easier access to capital to grow their businesses, hire and support their employees, and serve their communities, the businesses in rural America often struggle. Rural America's job growth is half the rate than that of big cities, and rural America's poverty rate is also higher than that of the big cities, even though it has dropped under President Biden's leadership and as a result of this Congress' work.

Congresswoman AXNE's bill would require SEC's small business advocate to report to Congress particular challenges that rural businesses face in accessing our capital markets.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5128, the Expanding Access to Capital for Rural Job Creators Act.

I thank Representatives AXNE and MOONEY for their work on H.R. 5128. In the Financial Services Committee, we continually highlight the importance of capital formation for entrepreneurs and job creators in the underbanked rural communities. We all know constituents who have struggled to gain capital to begin their own small businesses.

Small and rural counties and the small businesses in those areas are even more vulnerable during recessions and during economic recovery. H.R. 5128 is an example of legislation that can help solve one of the biggest issues for a number of rural small businesses: access to capital.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5128, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I thank Mrs. AXNE for her work on this important issue and for always working on behalf of the rural businesses and communities in her district. Congresswoman AXNE's bill directs the SEC's Small Business Advocate to similarly focus on the challenges rural small businesses face.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5128.

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.

PUBLIC AND FEDERALLY ASSISTED HOUSING FIRE SAFETY ACT OF 2022

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7981) to require qualifying smoke alarms in certain federally assisted housing, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7981

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Public and Federally Assisted Housing Fire Safety Act of 2022".

SEC. 2. SMOKE ALARMS IN FEDERALLY ASSISTED HOUSING.

(a) PUBLIC HOUSING, TENANT-BASED ASSISTANCE, AND PROJECT-BASED ASSISTANCE.—The United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 3(a) (42 U.S.C. 1437a(a)), by adding at the end the following:

"(9) QUALIFYING SMOKE ALARMS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Each public housing agency shall ensure that a qualifying smoke alarm is installed in accordance with applicable codes and standards published by the International Code Council or the National Fire Protection Association and the requirements of the National Fire Protection Association Standard 72, or any successor standard, in each level and in or near each sleeping area in any dwelling unit in public housing owned or operated by the public housing agency, including in basements but excepting crawl spaces and unfinished attics, and in each common area in a project containing such a dwelling unit.

"(B) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this paragraph, the following definitions shall apply:

"(i) SMOKE ALARM DEFINED.—The term 'smoke alarm' has the meaning given the term 'smoke detector' in section 29(d) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2225(d)).