

Mr. Speaker, when you consider the technology race against nations like China, the stakes are very high. In fact, the commission noted in its final report that the competition for government adoption of artificial intelligence technologies will not be won by the side with the best technology, it will be won by the side with the best, most diverse, and tech-savvy talent.

The Artificial Intelligence Training for the Acquisition Workforce Act establishes a government-wide training program for Federal workers responsible for AI program management and acquisition. This training will help ensure the consistent and safe procurement and use of AI products across the Federal Government.

Those purchasing and using AI systems in Federal agency missions and programs need to understand the limits of the technology's capabilities and the risks posed by potential misuse. The American taxpayers deserve nothing less.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Chairwoman MALONEY working with me on the House companion bill for this legislation. I am pleased to be an original cosponsor. I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers on this side, and if the gentleman is prepared to close, then I am also prepared to close.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker I have no further speakers.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, artificial intelligence is proving to be a game-changing technology for nearly every sector of our economy. For instance, artificial intelligence helps farmers efficiently grow crops, scientists develop new materials, and weather forecasters predict hurricanes more accurately.

In the Federal Government, the Social Security Administration uses AI to determine benefit claims. Artificial Intelligence Training for the Acquisition Workforce Act will be invaluable to the Federal approach to artificial intelligence.

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

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague, Mr. COMER, for his help and assistance on this bill. We worked on it together.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of S. 2551, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2551.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. HICE of Georgia. 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.

## CHANCE TO COMPETE ACT OF 2022

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6967) to implement merit-based reforms to the civil service hiring system that replace degree-based hiring with skills- and competency-based hiring, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6967

*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 "Chance to Compete Act of 2022".

### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

(a) TERMS DEFINED IN SECTION 3304 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE.—In this Act, the terms "agency", "Director", "examining agency", "Office", "subject matter expert", and "technical assessment" have the meanings given those terms in subsection (c)(1) of section 3304 of title 5, United States Code, as added by section 3(a).

(b) OTHER TERMS.—In this Act, the term "competitive service" has the meaning given the term in section 2102 of title 5, United States Code.

### SEC. 3. DEFINING THE TERM "EXAMINATION" FOR PURPOSES OF HIRING IN THE COMPETITIVE SERVICE.

(a) EXAMINATIONS; TECHNICAL ASSESSMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3304 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by redesignating subsections (c) through (f) as subsections (d) through (g), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

"(c) EXAMINATIONS.—

"(1) DEFINITIONS.—

"(A) EXAMINATION.—

"(i) In this chapter, the term 'examination'—

"(I) means an opportunity to directly demonstrate knowledge, skills, abilities, and competencies, through an assessment;

"(II) includes a résumé review that is—

"(aa) conducted by a subject matter expert; and

"(bb) based upon indicators that—

"(AA) are derived from a job analysis; and

"(BB) bear a rational relationship to performance in the position for which the examining agency is hiring; and

"(iii) on and after the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of the Chance to Compete Act of 2022, does not include a self-assessment from an automated examination, a résumé review (except as provided in subclause (II)), or any other method of determining the experience or level of educational attainment of an individual, alone.

"(ii)(I) An agency's Chief Human Capital Officer may waive clause (i)(III) if the Officer provides a written report to the Director of the Office of Personnel Management within 30 days of authorizing the waiver that justifies the need for such waiver and articulates the data, evidence, and circumstances for such need.

"(II) The Director is authorized to provide agencies guidance and instruction on the

data, evidence, and circumstances that should be included in the waiver described in subclause (I) and shall post any waiver on a public website within 30 days of receipt of the waiver.

"(III) A waiver shall not be considered in effect until it is posted on the public website pursuant to subclause (II).

"(B) OTHER DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

"(i) the term 'agency' means an agency described in section 901(b) of title 31;

"(ii) the term 'Director' means the Director of the Office;

"(iii) the term 'examining agency' means—

"(I) the Office; or

"(II) an agency to which the Director has delegated examining authority under section 1104(a)(2) of this title;

"(iv) the term 'subject matter expert' means an employee or selecting official—

"(I) who possesses understanding of the duties of, and knowledge, skills, and abilities required for, the position for which the employee or selecting official is developing or administering an assessment; and

"(II) whom the agency that employs the employee or selecting official designates to assist in the development and administration of technical assessments under paragraph (2); and

"(v) the term 'technical assessment' means an assessment developed under paragraph (2)(A)(i) that—

"(I) allows for the demonstration of job-related technical skills, abilities, and knowledge;

"(II)(aa) is based upon a job analysis; and

"(bb) is relevant to the position for which the assessment is developed; and

"(III) may include—

"(aa) a structured interview;

"(bb) a work-related exercise;

"(cc) a custom or generic procedure used to measure an individual's employment or career-related qualifications and interests; or

"(dd) another assessment that meets the criteria under subclauses (I) and (II).

"(2) TECHNICAL ASSESSMENTS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—For the purpose of conducting an examination for a position in the competitive service, an individual or individuals whom an agency determines to have an expertise in the subject and job field of the position, as affirmed and audited by the Chief Human Capital Officer or Human Resources Director (as applicable) of that agency, may—

"(i) develop, in partnership with human resources employees of the examining agency, a position-specific assessment that is relevant to the position; and

"(ii) administer the assessment developed under clause (i) to—

"(I) determine whether an applicant for the position has demonstrated qualification for the position; or

"(II) rank applicants for the position for category rating purposes under section 3319.

"(B) SHARING AND CUSTOMIZATION OF ASSESSMENTS.—

"(i) SHARING.—An examining agency may share a technical assessment with another examining agency if each agency maintains appropriate control over examination material.

"(ii) CUSTOMIZATION.—An examining agency with which a technical assessment is shared under clause (i) may customize the assessment as appropriate, provided that the resulting assessment satisfies the requirements under part 300 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

"(iii) PLATFORM FOR SHARING AND CUSTOMIZATION.—

"(I) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall establish and operate an online platform on which

examining agencies can share and customize technical assessments under this subparagraph.

“(II) ONLINE PLATFORM.—The Director shall—

“(aa) not be responsible for independently validating the utility of the content and technical assessments shared in the online platform described in subclause (I); and

“(bb) ensure that such online platform includes the ability of its users to rate the utility of the content and technical assessments shared in the online platform to allow for a ranking of such contents.

“(3) REGULATIONS.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of the Chance to Compete Act of 2022, the Office of Personnel Management shall prescribe regulations necessary for the administration of this subsection with respect to employees in each agency.”.

(2) ALTERNATIVE RANKING AND SELECTION PROCEDURES.—Section 3319(a) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following: “To be placed in a quality category under the preceding sentence, an applicant shall be required to have passed an examination in accordance with section 3304(b), subject to the exceptions in that section.”.

(3) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3330a(a)(1)(B) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking “section 3304(f)(1)” and inserting “section 3304(g)(1)”.

(b) OPM REPORTING.—

(1) PUBLIC ONLINE TOOL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall maintain and periodically update a publicly available online tool that, with respect to each position in the competitive service for which an examining agency examined applicants during the applicable period, includes—

(i) the type of assessment used, such as—

(I) a behavioral off-the-shelf assessment;

(II) a résumé review conducted by a subject matter expert;

(III) an interview conducted by a subject matter expert;

(IV) a technical off-the-shelf assessment; or

(V) a cognitive ability test;

(ii) whether or not the agency selected a candidate for the position; and

(iii) the hiring authority used to fill the position.

(B) TIMING.—

(i) INITIAL DATA.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall update the online tool described in subparagraph (A) with data for positions in the competitive service for which an examining agency examined applicants during the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the date of submission of the report.

(ii) SUBSEQUENT UPDATES.—Not later than October 1 of each fiscal year beginning after the date on which the online tool is initially updated under clause (i), the Director shall update the online tool described in subparagraph (A) with data for positions in the competitive service for which an examining agency examined applicants during the preceding fiscal year.

(2) ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Each year, the Director, in accordance with subparagraphs (B) and (C), shall make publicly available and submit to Congress an overall progress report that includes summary data from examinations that are closed, audited, and anonymous on the use of examinations (as defined in subsection (c)(1)(A) of section 3304 of title 5, United States Code, as added by subsection (a) of this section) for the competitive service, including technical assessments.

(B) CATEGORIES; BASELINE DATA.—In carrying out subparagraph (A), the Director shall—

(i) break the data down by applicant demographic indicator, including veteran status, race, gender, disability, and any other measure the Director determines appropriate; and

(ii) use the data available as of October 1, 2020, as a baseline.

(C) LIMITATIONS.—In carrying out subparagraph (A), the Director may only make publicly available and submit to Congress data relating to examinations for which—

(i) the related announcement is closed;

(ii) certificates have been audited; and

(iii) all hiring processes are completed.

(c) GAO REPORT.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report that—

(1) assesses the implementation of this section and the amendments made by this section;

(2) assesses the impact and modifications to the hiring process for the competitive service made by this section and the amendments made by this section; and

(3) makes recommendations for the improvement of the hiring process for the competitive service.

#### SEC. 4. AMENDMENTS TO COMPETITIVE SERVICE ACT OF 2015.

(a) PLATFORMS FOR SHARING CERTIFICATES OF ELIGIBLES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3318(b) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “240-day” and inserting “1-year”;

(B) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (6); and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

“(5) ONLINE TOOL FOR SHARING RÉSUMÉS OF INDIVIDUALS ON CERTIFICATES OF ELIGIBLES.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of the Chance to Compete Act of 2022, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall establish and operate an online tool on which an appointing authority can share, with other appointing authorities and the Chief Human Capital Officers Council established under section 1303 of the Chief Human Capital Officers Act of 2002 (5 U.S.C. 1401 note; Public Law 107–296), the resumes of individuals who are on a certificate of eligibles requested by the appointing authority. In carrying out this paragraph, the Director shall consult with the Chief Human Capital Officers Counsel and its membership to develop a plan to establish such online tool.”.

(2) PLAN.—Not later than 270 days year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall provide to Congress a plan to develop the online tool required in paragraph (5) of section 3318(b) of title 5, United States Code, as added by paragraph (1) of this subsection. Such plan shall—

(A) incorporate the input and feedback collected during the required consultation under such paragraph; and

(B) include estimated costs for building and operating the online tool for ten years.

(b) MAXIMIZING SHARING OF APPLICANT INFORMATION.—Section 2 of the Competitive Service Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–137; 130 Stat. 310) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

“(c) EXPLORING THE BENEFITS OF MAXIMIZING SHARING OF APPLICANT INFORMATION.—

“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

“(A) the terms ‘agency’, ‘Director’, and ‘Office’ have the meanings given those terms in section 3304(c)(1) of title 5, United States Code; and

“(B) the term ‘competitive service’ has the meaning given the term in section 2102 of title 5, United States Code.

“(2) MAXIMIZING SHARING.—The Director shall research the benefits of maximizing the sharing of information among agencies regarding qualified applicants for positions in the competitive service, including by—

“(A) providing for the delegation to other agencies of the authority of the Office to host multi-agency hiring actions to increase the return on investment on high-quality pooled announcements; and

“(B) sharing certificates of eligibles and accompanying résumés for appointment.”.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall provide a written report to Congress on the findings of the research required by the amendment made by subsection (b)(2). Such report shall include a plan to implement the most effective methods of maximizing the sharing of qualified candidates for positions in the competitive service.

#### SEC. 5. MODERNIZING AND REFORMING THE ASSESSMENT AND HIRING OF FEDERAL JOB CANDIDATES.

(a) OPM REVIEW.—The Director shall conduct a review of all examinations for hiring for a position that the Office or any other examining agency has determined requires a minimum educational requirement because of the nature of the duties of such position is of a scientific, technical, or professional position pursuant to section 3308 of title 5, United States Code, to determine whether there are data, evidence, or other information that justifies the need for educational requirements for such position. The Director shall consult with appropriate agencies, employee representatives, external experts, and other stakeholders when making any such determinations.

(b) ONLINE TOOL REGARDING POSITION DUTIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than two years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall create and maintain an online tool that lists each of the duties determined to require minimum educational requirements and the data, evidence, or other information that justifies the need for these educational requirements. This online tool shall include a mechanism to receive feedback regarding data, evidence, or information that could affect the determination that a duty requires a minimum educational requirement.

(2) HIRING PRACTICES.—Not later than one year after the creation of the online tool under paragraph (1), the Director and the head of any other examining agency shall amend the hiring practices of the Office or the other examining agency, respectively, in accordance with the findings of the review made by subsection (a).

(c) ONLINE TOOL REGARDING RECRUITING.—Upon the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall establish and maintain an online tool that provides Federal agencies guidance on, and information about, all programs and authorities that help agencies attract, recruit, hire, and retain individuals.

#### SEC. 6. TALENT TEAMS.

(a) FEDERAL AGENCY TALENT TEAMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An agency may establish one or more talent teams (referred to in this section as “agency talent teams”), including at the component level.

(2) DUTIES.—An agency talent team shall provide hiring support to the agency and other agencies, including by—

(A) improving examinations (as defined in subsection (c)(1)(A) of section 3304 of title 5, United States Code, as added by section 3(a));

(B) facilitating writing job announcements for the competitive service;

(C) sharing high-quality certificates of eligibles; and

(D) facilitating hiring for the competitive service using examinations (as defined in such subsection (c)(1)(A)) and subject matter experts.

(b) OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT.—The Director may establish a Federal talent team to support agency talent teams in facilitating pooled hiring actions across the Federal Government, providing training, and creating technology platforms to facilitate hiring for the competitive service, including—

(1) the development of technical assessments; and

(2) the sharing of certificates of eligibles and accompanying résumés under sections 3318(b) and 3319(c) of title 5, United States Code.

#### SEC. 7. 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 New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 6967.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6967, the Chance to Compete Act.

The bipartisan Chance to Compete Act was introduced by Representative HICE along with Representatives KHANNA, FOXX, and MFUME. Representatives MACE and Subcommittee Chairman CONNOLLY later joined the bill, as well.

This bill aims to make evaluations more useful in assessing the skills of candidates for Federal positions and alleviate inefficiencies that have long hindered the hiring process.

The bill turns away from the current reliance on self-assessment and attainment of an educational degree to determine candidate qualifications in the Federal hiring process. Instead, subject matter experts in agencies would design assessments that test knowledge specific to a position for which the agency is hiring.

This overhaul to the assessment method would better match qualified applicants with positions and expand employment opportunities to candidates with more diverse professional and educational backgrounds.

The Chance to Compete Act aligns with the Office of Personnel Management's guidance released in May to facilitate an executive order to modernize the process of assessing and hiring Federal job candidates. Establishing hiring methods that are more skills-based will improve agency managers' ability to hire people who possess the knowledge and experience to do the job and to hire from a wider array of qualified applicants.

The bill also directs the Office of Personnel Management to create an online platform for sharing candidate assessments between agencies and maintain a portal for hiring managers to find candidates who have already demonstrated their qualifications for certain positions but were not hired.

Under this legislation, agencies may assemble talent teams to support this assessment of job candidates and the hiring process.

The OPM director would be required to submit annual progress reports to Congress on the use of the skills-based assessments. After 5 years, the Government Accountability Office would conduct a study of the implementation of the Federal job assessment reforms and their impact on the Federal hiring process.

This bill streamlines the hiring process for Federal agencies and shortens the time it takes to bring new, well-qualified employees on board.

The Senate companion to this bill, introduced by Senator SINEMA, also enjoys bipartisan support.

I thank Representative HICE for his leadership in introducing this bill that is the result of constructive collaboration by several members of our committee from both sides of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, Congress is charged with overseeing the general management and operations of government agencies. For the success of each Federal program, we must have a competent and skilled workforce to deliver services to the American people, defend our Nation, and execute the laws passed by Congress. However, agencies currently lack the tools to identify and hire the best candidates to fill the broad types of job positions supporting the Federal Government's various missions and programs.

The problem is that hiring for the Federal civil service has over-relied on the paper credentials and self-administered job proficiency assessments of candidates.

The Chance to Compete Act makes sure agencies use objective, skills-based assessments to evaluate job candidates. The private sector already uses such structured interviews, knowledge tests, and writing samples for the hiring process. It is time for the Federal Government to do so, as well.

Agencies should be able to hire professionals that can do the work, and

there are many ways to build the right kind of professional expertise.

H.R. 6967 represents one of those rare, bipartisan legislative reforms that targets a specific problem, implements tested solutions, and reflects private-sector best practices. The bill codifies and improves upon policy initiatives begun in the Trump administration which the Biden administration is continuing to implement.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the House Oversight and Reform Committee Chairwoman MALONEY and Government Operations Subcommittee Chairman GERRY CONNOLLY for working diligently with the bill's cosponsor, Congressman JODY HICE, to strengthen this bipartisan bill.

□ 1530

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representatives RO KHANNA, VIRGINIA FOXX, and KWEISI MFUME for their support. We hope that our Senate colleagues can rapidly advance this important legislation so it can be signed into law this year, and I urge my colleagues to support this smart reform bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. HICE), the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Government Operations.

Mr. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the support and comments both from Ranking Member COMER and Chairwoman MALONEY. I appreciate that a great deal.

The concept of this bill is quite simple. It allows us to hire applicants for Federal positions based on whether or not they have the skills for the job. It is really that simple.

Too frequently, the hiring process is based on whether or not someone has a degree whether or not that degree has anything to do with the specific position or not.

Currently, hiring managers also have to rely on self-assessments that are filled out by applicants to determine their strengths and weaknesses. Not surprisingly, those assessments also are likely not to work.

This Chance to Compete Act simply allows agencies to develop appropriate skills that are based on examinations so that the applicants show what they can do. Federal supervisors have said for a long time that their top concern is getting a pool of quality candidates to do the job, and this bill addresses that problem head-on.

It will facilitate agencies sharing information about candidates who have passed assessments, which will make the hiring process more efficient across the government, saving both time and money. It also creates teams of subject matter experts to help agencies create assessments that are geared for the job.

This builds off what was started in the Trump administration, and I likewise express my thanks to Representatives KHANNA, FOXX, MFUME, and MACE for their cosponsorship, as well as Chairman CONNOLLY, my colleague

from the Subcommittee on Government Operations.

This is good policy. It will help America's government work more efficiently.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this smart reform bill.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, this is a commonsense bill aimed at hiring applicants for Federal positions based on whether they have the relevant skills to do the job. The American people deserve nothing less from their Federal Government.

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

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 6967, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6967, the Chance to Compete Act.

This bill is a good first step in reforming how we find and hire talent to the federal civil service and removes barriers that prevent agencies from recruiting the best talent.

The bill specifically eliminates antiquated hiring assessment tools, improves federal agencies' hiring process, and allows qualified applicants to compete for open positions across government. This bill will move government away from a focus on academic parchment to a prioritization on skills and expertise.

I'm proud to be a cosponsor of this bill, introduced by my Ranking Member JODY HICE and my Oversight colleague RO KHANNA.

The bill came to us from the Senate, less than perfect and opposed by the Administration.

But parties across both chambers worked together to draft an updated version of the bill that incorporates important feedback from the Office of Personnel Management and the Office of Management and Budget.

As currently drafted, the bill would:

Redefine competitive-service hiring applicant assessments to help agencies focus on candidates who can perform on the job.

Put subject-matter experts at the helm of hiring, empowering those who can best distinguish practical performers from the field of candidates.

Require OPM to begin a review of all federal "duties" that require an educational achievement level for hiring purposes, and then instructs OPM to make available online the data.

Clarify to agencies, Congress, and the public why some positions, like a doctor at the Department of Veterans Affairs, must have an advanced degree, while a cybersecurity expert at the Department of Homeland Security would benefit from a seasoned specialist, trained from the field.

Authorize "talent teams" in agency human resources offices—ensuring each agency has a key group of staff focused on improving federal hiring.

I thank Ranking Member HICE for working with me to improve this bill and ensure it is policy that all stakeholders, including the Administration and our union partners, believe will improve how we find and recruit talent to the federal government.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6967, 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.

Mr. HICE of Georgia. 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.

#### SERGEANT GERALD T. "JERRY" DONNELLAN POST OFFICE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6267) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15 Chestnut Street in Suffern, New York, as the "Sergeant Gerald T. 'Jerry' Donnellan Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6267

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

#### SECTION 1. SERGEANT GERALD T. "JERRY" DONNELLAN POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15 Chestnut Street in Suffern, New York, shall be known and designated as the "Sergeant Gerald T. 'Jerry' Donnellan Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Sergeant Gerald T. 'Jerry' Donnellan Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. HICE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support today of H.R. 6267, authored by my good friend and colleague from the great State of New York.

This bill will designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15 Chestnut Street in Suffern, New York, as the Sergeant Gerald T. "Jerry" Donnellan Post Office.

Sergeant Donnellan was born on December 18, 1946, in Nyack, New York, as

the youngest of five children. He graduated from Albertus Magnus High School and went on to major in English at Rockland Community College and Texas A&M University.

During the height of the Vietnam war, Sergeant Donnellan was drafted into the Army and began his basic training at Fort Gordon in Georgia. After several months, he was deployed to Vietnam.

On the front lines, Sergeant Donnellan sustained life-threatening injuries after an enemy grenade exploded in front of him. While in recovery at Valley Forge, he received the Purple Heart.

After recovery, Sergeant Donnellan worked in the Veterans Service Agency office of Rockland County as commissioner of veterans affairs until his retirement in January 2018.

During his tenure, he created the local Chapter 333 of the Vietnam Veterans of America, started a veterans' health clinic, helped create Camp Shanks Museum in Orangetown, established the Rockland County Buffalo Soldiers Award to recognize the contributions of African-American veterans, and established the Rockland County Public Service Medal to honor those who served in Afghanistan, Iraq, and the global war on terror.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Sergeant Donnellan, a Purple Heart recipient, by naming the post office after him.

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

Mr. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6267, which honors Gerald T. Donnellan.

Mr. Donnellan served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam war, rising to the rank of sergeant and receiving three Purple Hearts.

After the war, his service to his country and community continued for his entire life. He served as commissioner of veterans affairs in Rockland County, New York, for 30 years and was responsible for starting a veterans' health clinic in the county.

He leaves a legacy of other noteworthy accomplishments. He established a local chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America. He helped create the Camp Shanks Museum, commemorating the military facility that served as the largest point of embarkation for soldiers headed for the front lines in North Africa and Europe during World War II.

He also established the Rockland County Buffalo Soldiers Award to recognize the contribution of African-American veterans.

He helped start the Memorial Day watchfires in 1987 as an alternative to a parade for Vietnam veterans, and he established the Rockland County Public Service Medal to honor those who served in Afghanistan, Iraq, and the global war on terror.