shows our work together on this committee on two important pieces of really remembering our legacy and our history. Hopefully this helps us to keep that in mind as we continue to navigate these difficult waters and, hopefully to our posterity, that they will remember these moments of people coming together to honor our Founders and to honor our future.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. MORELLE), the ranking member on the Committee on House Administration, for his work.

The gentleman correctly noted that we are in challenging times as we face difficult national issues. As we reflect back in 2 years, we will have a celebration of 250 years of the greatest country in the world.

This time capsule, when viewed 250 years from now in 2276, may it be a reflection that, at the midpoint then, which will be today, we navigated these challenges that we faced with great courage and great vigor.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my colleague's work and support on both pieces of legislation today, and I encourage my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 469.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EZELL). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. STEIL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 469.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## MEDAL OF HONOR ACT

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 695) to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the rate of the special pension payable to Medal of Honor recipients, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 695

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 "Medal of Honor Act".

### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

- (1) The Medal of Honor is the highest and most prestigious military decoration of the United States.
- (2) To earn the Medal of Honor "the deed of the person . . . must be so outstanding that

it clearly distinguishes his gallantry beyond the call of duty from lesser forms of bravery"

- (3) The actions of Medal of Honor recipients inspire bravery, and the willingness to give all, in those who serve in the Armed Forces and those who will serve in the future.
- (4) Those listed on the Medal of Honor Roll exemplify the best traits of members of the Armed Forces, a long and proud lineage of those who went beyond the call of duty.
- (5) Pursuant to section 1562 of title 38, United States Code, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall pay monthly to each living person whose name has been entered on the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard Medal of Honor Roll a special pension.
- (6) Recipients of the Medal of Honor have earned a substantial and historic increase to such special pension in recognition of their conspicuous gallantry, unwavering commitment, and heroic actions above and beyond the call of duty.

#### SEC. 3. INCREASE IN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SPECIAL PENSION PAY-ABLE TO MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPI-ENTS.

Section 1562 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

- (A) by inserting "(A)" before "The Secretary";
- (B) by striking "the rate of \$1,406.73" and inserting "the rate described in subparagraph (B)"; and
- (C) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:
- "(B) The rate described in this subparagraph is equal to the amount of monthly compensation paid to a veteran without dependents under subsection (m) of section 1114 of this title, increased to the next intermediate rate under subsection (p) of such section."; and
  - (2) in subsection (e)—
  - (A) by inserting "(1)" before "Effective";
- (B) by inserting ", subject to paragraph (2)," before "shall"; and
- (C) by adding at the end the following new paragraph (2):
- "(2) The Secretary shall not, under paragraph (1), increase the amount of monthly special pension payable under subsection (a) in a year if such amount was otherwise increased during such year."

# SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN LIMITS ON PAYMENTS OF PENSION.

Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking "November 30, 2031" and inserting "January 31, 2033".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Bost) and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. McGarvey) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOST. 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 H.R. 695, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 695, offered by my colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEHLS).

This bill would increase the rate of special monthly pension for Medal of Honor recipients and their surviving spouses.

The Medal of Honor is our Nation's highest military award. It is reserved for servicemembers who have demonstrated extraordinary bravery and self-sacrifice in combat.

The Medal of Honor special pension is intended to repay part of the debt that our Nation owes them. The Medal of Honor pension is separate from the compensation that a veteran receives when they are unable to work due to service-related disabilities.

Today, there are just 63 Medal of Honor recipients who currently receive less than \$2,000 in special pension payments per month. Their stories of service, without question, should be honored and remembered and told.

However, the current pension offered does not cover the cost of travel to speak at events that inspire future generations and tell their fellow Americans about their service in defense of our freedom.

It is time we increase the Medal of Honor recipients' pension in recognition of their heroic military service and their continued service to our Nation. The bill is fully offset by using a bipartisan offset related to older veterans and pensions, and I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 695, as amended.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for H.R. 695, the Medal of Honor Act.

To join the armed services is an act of profound selflessness. On the Veterans' Affairs Committee, we recognize the sacrifice and service of every servicemember who, in the face of uncertainty and danger, took the oath and chose to commit themselves to a higher purpose.

While every individual servicemember makes sacrifices and dedicates themselves to this path of honor, there are a select few who distinguish themselves from the rest.

The Medal of Honor cannot be won. It must be earned through extreme self-lessness and bravery. We recognize this distinguished service with our Nation's highest military honor, the Medal of Honor.

From the first awardee to the most recent, Medal of Honor recipients have demonstrated their unwavering commitment to serve above and beyond the call of duty, even to their own death.

There have been 43 Kentuckians who were awarded the Medal of Honor. I will just talk about one, Sergeant John C. Squires, a Louisville native who went from Male High School to the United States Army and served in Italy in World War II.

It was in April of 1944, in the Italian countryside, that Squires braved automatic gunfire, artillery, and mortar fire to carry messages through barbed wire and over minefields, to organize troops, and bring reinforcements to the front line. With total disregard for his own well-being, he fought German soldiers day and night.

He was killed in action. He lies in rest at Zachary Taylor National Cemetery in Louisville, and a bronze statue of Squires sits atop the Kentucky Medal of Honor Memorial.

Squires is one of just 3,538 Medal of Honor recipients in our history. From all who have been awarded, for all of those who earned this honor, they do so through the acts of service that are incredible.

There is no paycheck that could repay their sacrifice and no thank-you letter that could truly convey our Nation's gratitude. We cannot ever hope to repay this debt, but we can show our fullest support for them and their surviving spouses and families by increasing their annual compensation.

The Medal of Honor Act ensures that servicemembers and their surviving spouses get an increased pension for their sacrifice, an increase that properly reflects the gravity of their service.

Currently, the payment of \$1,619.34 a month is deeply inadequate. Medal of Honor recipients go above and beyond the call of duty. It is only right that we honor their sacrifice with compensation that truly reflects their extraordinary actions.

#### □ 1600

These heroes continue to serve, speaking throughout the country and inspiring our citizens in schools and beyond. They continue to carry the mantle of courage, sacrifice, patriotism, citizenship, integrity, and commitment here at home.

There is nothing we can pay them that will ever match their sacrifice, but voting for this act is a step toward recognizing their service, courage, and enduring legacy. It is about showing them not just with words but with action that they are seen and valued and that they will never ever be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 695. I urge my colleagues to do the same, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEHLS), the chief sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. NEHLS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my distinguished colleague, Chairman Bost, for yielding. First and foremost, it has been a sincere pleasure to work with the chairman and his staff to advance this important legislation to the House floor. It is an honor to stand with him today. I also extend my gratitude and thanks to my colleague, Mr. Pappas, for co-leading this bipartisan legislation with me for the last two Congresses.

Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in strong support of H.R. 695, the Medal of Honor Act.

The Medal of Honor is our Nation's highest and most prestigious military decoration that can be awarded.

Under current law, the President may award a Medal of Honor to a member of the Armed Forces who has distinguished himself conspicuously by "gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty while engaged in action against an enemy of the United States; while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party."

Since the Medal of Honor was established by Congress in 1862, it has been awarded 3,528 times. Today, as the chairman stated, there are only 63 living Medal of Honor recipients.

Throughout my time in Congress, I have had the privilege of getting to know some of these heroes and hearing their stories firsthand. In my humble opinion, these heroes are our Nation's most sacred treasure, and it is our obligation, as Congress, to do everything in our capacity to support them and their families.

Currently, each Medal of Honor recipient receives a special pension that totals roughly \$1,500 per month, or \$18,000 annually. The last update to the special pension for Medal of Honor recipients was back in 2002, when Congress passed the Medal of Honor pension act.

This legislation increased the Medal of Honor recipients' special pension from \$600 per month to \$1,000 per month. However, since 2002, for more than 20 years, the Medal of Honor special pension has not been updated by Congress. It is long overdue that Congress acts.

My legislation would raise the Medal of Honor special pension to roughly \$5,600 per month, or \$67,500 annually, and is fully offset.

When I hear stories about how a Medal of Honor recipient's family requested to set up a GoFundMe to pay for surgery and extensive care, or how Medal of Honor recipients are not being reimbursed for travel expenses to speak at several military recruiting events, I knew something had to be done.

Our Medal of Honor heroes deserve better, which is exactly why this critical legislation is needed. While this bill is a small step forward, it is the very least that Congress can do to recognize and show support for these selfless, courageous heroes.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support our Medal of Honor recipients by passing this bipartisan legislation.

Mr. McGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. Pappas), my good friend and the ranking member of the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Kentucky for yielding. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Medal of Honor Act. The Medal of Honor is our Nation's highest military decoration. It recognizes the extraordinary valor that distinguished men and women of our military demonstrated in critical moments during their service to our great Nation.

There are 63 living Medal of Honor recipients, including heroes like Army Staff Sergeant Ryan Pitts of New Hampshire, who served two tours in Afghanistan. During his second deployment, hundreds of insurgents attacked the Army base where he was stationed. Sergeant Pitts was badly wounded by a grenade but continued to fight with a tourniquet on his leg, singlehandedly holding his outpost for 2 hours.

That battle is now known as the Battle of Wanat, one of the bloodiest battles of the war in Afghanistan. Thanks to the bravery of Sergeant Pitts, Americans were able to turn the tide in that battle and hold their position, leading Taliban fighters to withdraw from the area.

As ranking member of the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, I am focused, with my colleagues, on how we can make good on our promises to our veterans and be worthy of their sacrifice.

It is our responsibility as Americans to ensure that all of our servicemembers, veterans, and their families have the support that they earned and deserve. One way we can do that is by ensuring that veterans are financially secure when their military service is over.

Medal of Honor awardees receive a monthly pension that has not been raised in 23 years. It is well past time to do the right thing and increase the pension for these distinguished American warriors. This bill ensures their extraordinary acts of bravery are not forgotten and that their sacrifices are valued by a grateful Nation.

I have been really glad to partner with Congressman Nehls on this bill to introduce this legislation and get it to the floor today. I thank him for his determined leadership on this issue and hope that we can get all of our colleagues on board later today with a strong vote in passing this legislation over to the Senate and seeing it signed into law.

Mr. Speaker, this is the right thing to do by our veterans and by our Medal of Honor recipients, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Mr. McGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 695, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Bost)

that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 695, 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. NEHLS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 15minute vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 695, as amended, will be followed by a 5-minute vote on:

Passage of H.J. Res. 35.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 424, nays 0, not voting 9, as follows:

## [Roll No. 51]

#### YEAS-424

Adams Collins Gillen Gimenez Golden (ME) Aderholt Comer Aguilar Conaway Connolly Goldman (NY) Alford Allen Correa Goldman (TX) Costa Amo Gomez Amodei (NV) Courtney Gonzales, Tony Ansari Craig Gonzalez, V. Arrington Crane Gooden Auchincloss Crank Goodlander Babin Crawford Gosar Crenshaw Gottheimer Bacon Crockett Baird Graves Balderson Crow Grav Cuellar Green (TN) Balint Barr Davids (KS) Green, Al (TX) Barragán Davidson Greene (GA) Davis (IL) Barrett Griffith Baumgartner Davis (NC) Grothman Bean (FL) De La Cruz Guest Dean (PA) Guthrie Beatty Begich DeGette Hageman DeLauro Hamadeh (AZ) Bell Bentz DelBene Harder (CA) Bera Deluzio Haridopolos DeSaulnier Harrigan Bergman DesJarlais Harris (MD) Beyer Rice Dexter Harris (NC) Diaz-Balart Biggs (AZ) Harshbarger Biggs (SC) Dingell Hayes Hern (OK) **Bilirakis** Doggett Bishop Donalds Higgins (LA) Downing Hill (AR) Boebert Bonamici Dunn (FL) Himes Edwards Hinson Bost Boyle (PA) Elfreth Horsford Brecheen Ellzev Houchin Bresnahan Emmer Houlahan Brown Escobar Hoyer Hoyle (OR) Brownley Espaillat Buchanan Estes Hudson Budzinski Evans (CO) Huffman Burchett Evans (PA) Huizenga Burlison Ezell Hunt Bynum Fallon Hurd (CO) Fedorchak Calvert Issa Cammack Feenstra Ivey Carbajal Fields Jack Jackson (IL) Carev Figures Jackson (TX) Carson Finstad Carter (GA) Fischbach Jacobs Carter (LA) Fitzgerald James Carter (TX) Fitzpatrick Jayapal Casar Fleischmann Jeffries Case Fletcher Johnson (GA) Johnson (LA) Casten Flood Castor (FL) Fong Johnson (SD) Castro (TX) Foster Johnson (TX) Jordan Joyce (OH) Cherfilus-Foushee McCormick Foxx Chu Frankel, Lois Joyce (PA) Ciscomani Franklin, Scott Kamlager-Dove Cisneros Friedman Kaptur Clark (MA) Frost Kean Clarke (NY) Fry Fulcher Keating Cleaver Kelly (IL) Cline Garamendi Kelly (MS) Cloud Garbarino Kelly (PA) Clyburn Garcia (CA) Kennedy (NY) Kennedy (UT) Clyde García (IL) Cohen Garcia (TX) Khanna Gill (TX) Kiggans (VA) Cole

Morrison Kiley (CA) Simpson Moskowitz Smith (MO) Kim Knott Moulton Smith (NE) Smith (NJ) Krishnamoorthi Mrvan Kustoff Murphy Smith (WA) LaHood Nadler Smucker LaLota Neal Sorensen Landsman Neguse Soto Langworthy Nehls Spartz Larsen (WA) Newhouse Stansbury Latimer Norcross Stanton Latta Norman Stauber Nunn (IA) Lawler Steil Lee (FL) Obernolte Steube Lee (NV) Ocasio-Cortez Stevens Lee (PA) Ogles Strickland Olszewski Leger Fernandez Strong Stutzman Letlow Omar Levin Onder Subramanyam Liccardo Suozzi Owens Lieu Pallone Swa1we11 Lofgren Sykes Palmer Loudermilk Panetta Takano Lucas Pappas Taylor Luna Pelosi Tennev Luttrell Perez Thanedar Thompson (CA) Lvnch Perry Thompson (MS) Peters Mace Mackenzie Thompson (PA) Pfluger Magaziner Tiffany Pingree Malliotakis Pocan Timmons Titus Malov Pou Pressley Tlaib Mann Mannion Quiglev Tokuda Massie Ramirez Tonko Torres (CA) Mast Randall Torres (NY) Matsui Raskin Reschenthaler McBath Trahan McBride Riley (NY) Tran McCaul Rivas Turner (OH) McClain Rogers (AL) Turner (TX) McClain Delanev Rogers (KY) Underwood McClellan Valadao Ross McClintock Rouzei Van Drew McCollum Roy Van Duyne McCormick Ruiz Van Orden McDonald Rivet Rulli Vargas Vasquez McDowell Rutherford Veasey McGarvev Ryan McGovern Salazar Velázquez McGuire Salinas Vindman McIver Sánchez Wagner Meeks Scalise Walberg Menendez Scanlon Wasserman Schakowsky Schultz Meng Messmer Schmidt Waters Watson Coleman Meuser Schneider Scholten Weber (TX) Mfume Miller (OH) Schrier Webster (FL) Miller (WV) Schweikert Westerman Miller-Meeks Scott (VA) Whitesides Min Scott, Austin Wied Moolenaar Scott, David Williams (GA) Moore (AL) Self Williams (TX) Sessions Wilson (FL) Moore (NC) Moore (UT) Sewell Wilson (SC) Moore (WI) Sherman Wittman Moore (WV) Sherrill Womack

#### NOT VOTING-9

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HUFFMAN GRAVES Messrs. and changed their vote from "nay"

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE ENVIRON-MENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY "WASTE RELATING TOEMIS-SIONS CHARGE FOR PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS SYSTEMS: PROCEDURES FOR FACILITATING COMPLIANCE. INCLUDING NET-TING AND EXEMPTIONS'

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MURPHY). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on passage of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 35) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Waste Emissions Charge for Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems: Procedures for Facilitating Compliance, Including Netting and Exemptions", on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the joint resolution.

This is a 5-minute vote.

Aderholt

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 220, nays 206, answered "present" 1, not voting 6, as follows:

## [Roll No. 52] YEAS-220

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Alford Jackson (TX) Emmer Allen Estes James Evans (CO) Amodei (NV) Johnson (LA) Arrington Ezell Johnson (SD) Babin Fallon Fedorchak Bacon Baird Feenstra Balderson Finstad Barr Fischbach Barrett Fitzgerald Baumgartner Fleischmann Bean (FL) Flood Regich Fong Bentz Foxx Kim Bergman Franklin, Scott Bice Frv Fulcher Biggs (AZ) Biggs (SC) Garbarino Bilirakis Gill (TX) Boebert Gimenez Bost Golden (ME) Brecheen Goldman (TX) Bresnahan Gonzales, Tony Buchanan Gonzalez, V Burchett Gooden Burlison GosarCalvert Graves Cammack Grav Green (TN) Carey Carter (GA) Greene (GA) Carter (TX) Griffith Ciscomani Grothman Cline Guest Guthrie Cloud Clyde Hageman Hamadeh (AZ) Cole Collins Haridopolos Comer Harrigan Harris (MD) Crane Crank Harris (NC) Crawford Harshbarger Hern (OK) Crenshaw Cuellar Higgins (LA) Davidson Hill (AR) De La Cruz Hinson DesJarlais Houchin Diaz-Balart Hudson Donalds Huizenga Downing Hunt Hurd (CO) Dunn (FL) Moolenaar Edwards Moore (AL) Issa

Jordan Joyce (OH) Joyce (PA) Kean Kelly (MS) Kelly (PA) Kennedy (UT) Kiggans (VA) Kilev (CA) Knott Kustoff LaHood LaLota LaMalfa Langworthy Latta Lawler Lee (FL) Letlow Loudermilk Lucas Luna Luttrell Mace Mackenzie Malliotakis Maloy Mann Massie Mast McCaul McClain McClintock McCormick McDonald Rivet McDowell McGuire Messmer Meuser Miller (IL) Miller (OH) Miller (WV) Miller-Meeks Mills