

want to thank Congressman TEAGUE of New Mexico for offering an amendment to this bill during the subcommittee markup that clarified the effective end date of the pilot program.

This legislation works to expand and improve the educational benefits available to our country's veterans by directing the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs to conduct a 5-year pilot project that tests the feasibility and advisability of expanding the scope of work study activities available to veterans receiving educational benefits through the VA.

Currently, eligible student veterans enrolled in college degree programs, vocational programs or professional programs, are eligible to participate in the work study allowance program. However, they are limited to positions involving VA-related work, such as processing VA paperwork, performing outreach services, and assisting staff at medical facilities or the offices of the National Cemetery Administration. Thus, veterans aren't afforded opportunities similar to those offered to non-veteran students.

This pilot program would expand the qualifying work study activities allowed to include positions in academic departments, such as tutoring or assisting with research, teaching and lab work, as well as student services such as positions in career centers, financial aid, orientation, cashiers, admissions, records, and registration offices.

Given the wide variety of tasks our men and women in uniform perform while serving their country, our Nation should be capitalizing on the unique training and skill sets that veterans who are pursuing their degrees bring to their educational institutions.

This pilot program will run from 2010 to 2014 and will give the VA an adequate opportunity to determine if this expanded work study program should be further expanded.

This bill also requires the Secretary of the VA to publish regulations on the supervision of veterans participating in these expanded work study positions.

Educational benefits are one of the essential benefits that our country gives its veterans. These benefits help our veterans take that experience that they have gained while serving, and translate that knowledge into college degrees and other types of professional development. The money we, as a Nation, invest in the education of veterans, has a direct positive economic benefit for the country.

As chairwoman of the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee, I look forward to continuing to work in a bipartisan manner with Mr. BOOZMAN and our subcommittee members to ensure veterans are receiving the best possible educational benefits.

On a personal note, Mr. Speaker, it has been 20 years now, but as a work study student myself, I wouldn't want any of my contemporaries then, and certainly the young men and women who are serving in uniform today, to be

denied particular opportunities available in an academic environment to pursue their own educational aspirations or to serve their fellow students on campus in any capacity that VA education benefits are intended to provide.

So again, I want to thank Chairman FILNER for his leadership on this issue, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. BOOZMAN. I yield the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN) 3 minutes.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. I rise today in support of the veterans of this country.

Mr. Speaker, I served in the United States Marine Corps. I'm also an original intent constitutionalist, and I believe very firmly that most Americans understand that a national defense, a strong national defense, and thus, supporting our military men and women as well as the veterans, is critically important. It's important for the veterans, the retirees, those who are on disability. It's extremely important to them.

It is also important to our current active duty troops for us to support veterans, because how are we going to get people to stay in the military to be senior NCOs, senior officers or flag officers if we do not fulfill the promises that we make to the men and women who come into the military to begin with? And thus, it is also important in the recruiting process. How are we going to recruit good men and women to come into the military, make it a career, if we don't fulfill the promises that we have made to them as they enlist or are commissioned in the military?

Mr. Speaker, we have broken promises to the veterans. We have broken many promises. In my district, I have two stellar VA hospitals, the Charlie Norwood Veterans Medical Center in Augusta, Georgia. I also have a veterans clinic just outside of Athens, Georgia, that gives stellar care to our veterans. But veterans are denied the health care, educational needs and other things that they have been promised, and it's a travesty. We have to stop denying the veterans the promises that we have made them, and it's absolutely critical for our national defense.

Mr. FILNER. I have no further speakers and am prepared to yield back.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I just want to say, to thank Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN for bringing this forward. I, like her—and it has been a little bit more than 20 years—enjoyed the ability of participating with work study. I know how important it is and how important it will be to these students if we can extend this even further to our military.

So I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill. It's a good one. I appreciate Chairman FILNER and Mr. BUYER for bringing this forward and would urge its adoption.

I yield back the balance of my time.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FILNER. 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. 1037, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. FILNER. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1037, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. BROUN 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 and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the operation of House Resolution 640 is stayed pending the acceptance by the House of a resignation creating a vacancy on the committee concerned.

There was no objection.

WILLIAM C. TALLENT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
OUTPATIENT CLINIC

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 402) to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic in Knoxville, Tennessee, as the "William C. Tallent Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 402

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF WILLIAM C. TALLENT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OUTPATIENT CLINIC.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic in Knoxville, Tennessee, shall be known and designated as the "William C. Tallent Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, record, or other paper of the United States to the outpatient clinic referred to in subsection (a) shall be considered to be a reference to the William C. Tallent Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

□ 1300

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

Mr. Speaker, this naming bill comes to us from the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN). He is a great supporter of veterans and of this Nation, and I am going to leave it to him to explain what Mr. Tallent has done to deserve this honor.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he might consume to the distinguished gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN).

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, this is a bill to name the Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic in Knoxville, Tennessee, as the William C. Tallent Veterans Outpatient Clinic.

I first want to thank Chairman FILNER and Mr. BOOZMAN, the gentleman from Arkansas, for bringing this legislation to the floor today and for their assistance and for the help of the staff on both sides in regard to this bill.

In East Tennessee, Mr. Speaker, there is perhaps no person better known for devotion to area veterans than Bill Tallent. While the story of his service in World War II reads like a Hollywood script, his lifelong dedication to fellow veterans, his humble demeanor and his career as a public servant make him the perfect candidate for the naming of the Veterans Outpatient Clinic in Knoxville.

Following his capture by the Nazis during the Battle of the Bulge, Mr. Tallent spent 6 months as a prisoner of war. At his capture, notorious Nazi General Josef Sepp Dietrich lined him and his fellow soldiers up against a wall and ordered their execution; but through the grace of God, a fellow soldier persuaded the general to spare them and, instead, ship them to a prisoner of war camp. Mr. Tallent survived long enough to engineer an escape 6 months later with one other soldier, the only one willing to risk certain execution if captured.

As he made his way across Germany, wearing tattered clothes and sleeping in graveyards at night to avoid Nazi troops, Mr. Tallent and his fellow soldier searched for the American front line. One day, while on a scavenger trip into a nearby German town and while looking for food, a Buick carrying an American general came speeding down the street. Bill Tallent jumped in front of the car and gave a salute. He was rescued. His bravery, determination and sacrifice during this experience earned him two Purple Hearts and one Bronze Star.

While Bill Tallent's prisoner of war story is legendary, so is his service to veterans. Mr. Tallent founded the Smoky Mountain chapter of American Ex-Prisoners of War, where he served as its commander. During his tenure, he helped compile the prisoner of war stories of other members, and he gave

the publication to the Knox County Public Library for posterity. He has spoken to many civic clubs and to other groups about his experiences and about his dedication to veterans and to this country.

He was also appointed by the Governor to serve on the Veterans Administration Home Policy Board, where Mr. Tallent was instrumental in bringing a veterans' nursing home to Knoxville.

Bill Tallent's lifelong service to veterans also includes serving as commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, chapter 356; as a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, chapter 173; and as a member of the Disabled American Veterans, chapter 26.

In addition to his service to veterans, Mr. Tallent devoted his professional career to the public good, serving as Knox County Commissioner of Finance from 1953-1980, being reelected to that position several times.

Mr. Speaker, there is, perhaps, no greater sacrifice an American can make than that of serving his country during a time of war. Bill Tallent not only answered that call but did so with courage and humility. In 2003, he told the following to my hometown newspaper, the Knoxville News Sentinel:

"I would not go through what I went through again if you paid me \$1 million a day to do it. But I would do the same thing again, without compensation, just for the privilege of living as a free American."

Mr. Speaker, I think we can all agree we need more Bill Tallents in this world. I appreciate this opportunity to honor Bill Tallent, and this country is a better place today because of him and because of his service to this country. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation to name the Veterans Outpatient Clinic in Knoxville, Tennessee as the William C. Tallent Veterans Outpatient Clinic.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, we've all seen the old World War II movies where the hero barely escapes death or captivity through the valiant efforts of others or by his own wit or ingenuity. William C. Tallent was one of those true American heroes who has done both.

Serving in the United States Army as part of the 28th Infantry Division of World War II, as Mr. DUNCAN said, he was captured and, along with other American troops, was nearly executed. Mr. Tallent spent 6 months in captivity at a POW camp before escaping with another American soldier willing to face execution if recaptured by the Germans. For his bravery, determination and sacrifice during the war, Bill Tallent, who was twice wounded, was awarded two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star.

Naming the VA Outpatient Clinic in Knoxville, Tennessee as the William C. Tallent Department of Veterans Affairs

Outpatient Clinic is a fitting tribute to a great public servant, veteran and servicemember. I appreciate Mr. DUNCAN's bringing this forward, and I urge my fellow Members to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 402, a bill to designate the VA Outpatient Clinic in Knoxville, Tennessee, as the "William C. Tallent Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic" which would honor a valiant World War II hero and servant to his fellow veterans.

Mr. Speaker, we have all seen the old World War II movies where the hero barely escapes death or captivity through the valiant efforts of others, or by their own wit and ingenuity. William C. Tallent is one of those true American heroes who has done both. Serving in the United States Army as part of the 28th Infantry Division in World War II, he was captured by German troops in 1944 and, along with other American troops, was nearly executed by General Josef Sepp Dietrich. Instead, the successful pleading of his commanding officer saved his and his comrades' lives just before the execution order was given.

Bill Tallent spent six months in captivity at a POW camp before escaping with another American soldier willing to face execution if recaptured by the Germans. They made their way to the American front line, sleeping in cemeteries and scrounging for food. They were found by U.S. forces, while foraging for food. For his bravery, determination, sacrifice during the war, Bill Tallent, who was twice wounded, was awarded two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star.

During an interview in 2003 by the Knoxville News-Sentinel, Bill Tallent said best what drives Americans to fight for their country in times of war; he stated "I would not go through what I went through again if you paid me one million dollars a day to do it. But I would do the same thing again, without compensation, just for the privilege of living as a free American."

Bill Tallent has continued his dedication to our Nation's veterans through his work in various veteran organizations. He established the Smoky Mountain Chapter of American Ex-Prisoners. In his role as commander of this organization, he worked to preserve the memory of POWs by collecting the stories of other POW members and then depositing them in the Knox County Public Library. Appointed to the Veterans Administration Home Policy Board by the Governor, Mr. Tallent played an important role in bringing a state veteran's home to Knox County.

Naming the VA Outpatient Clinic in Knoxville, Tennessee, as the "William C. Tallent Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic" is a fitting tribute to a great public servant, veteran, and servicemember.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the full support of my colleagues on this legislation.

We have one additional speaker. I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROWN).

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, and I agree with my good friend JIMMY DUNCAN from Tennessee. We need more people in this country serving this Nation.

As I spoke earlier, I think we are doing a tremendous disservice to our

veterans in this country by not fulfilling the promises that we've made to them. The way that we can get more people into the military, the way that we can get more folks, good people, who will be willing to serve our Nation, is to be able to fulfill the promises that we give them on enlistment or on a commissioning.

We are not doing that. We are not fulfilling those promises. We are not giving those people the kind of health care that they so desperately need, and we are certainly not helping their spouses, because we are not giving them the health care financing that they need either.

So, Mr. Speaker, I rise today not only in support of this bill to name this facility in Knoxville after this hero, but we have to remember the heroes in Iraq and in Afghanistan today, those heroes I see at the VA hospital in Augusta, Georgia—the Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center—those heroes I see at the Eisenhower Medical Center in Fort Gordon, Georgia, those heroes who have lost a leg or an arm, those heroes who want to go back to their units in theater to continue to fight for our freedom.

We cannot turn our backs upon those heroes, just like we cannot turn our backs upon the past heroes. I think it's a travesty the way this government has treated our veterans. We're not doing them right. It verges on criminal because we have broken our promises, and we need to fulfill those promises, and I'll do everything I can as a Member of Congress in supporting the veterans in my 10th Congressional District in Georgia. As a physician, I understand their medical needs. I'll do everything I can as the Congressman from the 10th Congressional District of Georgia to make sure that our veterans have all of the promises made to them fulfilled. This government has broken promises. It continues to break promises. It has got to stop, and I'll do everything I can to fulfill those promises.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Before yielding back, I would just like to again thank the gentleman from Tennessee, Mr. DUNCAN, for bringing forward this, really, very nice and very timely recognition of Mr. Tallent. I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 402.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. FILNER. I thank Mr. DUNCAN for bringing us this wonderful story of Bill Tallent, and I urge my colleagues to unanimously support H.R. 402.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 402.

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. BROUN 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 and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR VICTIMS OF JUNE 22 METRORAIL CRASH

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 612) expressing the profound sympathies of the House of Representatives for the victims of the tragic Metrorail accident on Monday, June 22, 2009, and for their families, friends, and associates.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 612

Whereas late in the afternoon on Monday, June 22, 2009, two 6-car trains on the Metrorail Red Line, Train 112 and Train 214, were on the same track headed toward the Shady Grove Station;

Whereas at 4:59 p.m., Train 112 crashed into Train 214, which was waiting for another train boarding at the Fort Totten Station;

Whereas 9 people died in this accident, including train operator Jeanice McMillan, 42, of Springfield, Virginia, who loved her job and was filled with pride when her son Jordan enrolled in college; Ana Fernandez, 40, originally from El Salvador, who lived in Hyattsville, Maryland, with her husband and 6 children and was on her way to one of her two jobs when she died in the collision; and 7 residents of the District of Columbia: Mary Doolittle, 59, of Northwest, who was the face of the American Nurses Association internationally and who was helping with global accreditation for nurses; Veronica Dubose, 29, of Northwest, who was headed to her first day of school for classes to become a certified nurse; Dennis Hawkins, 64, of Southeast, who worked as a non-instructional aide and a data entry clerk for Whittier Education Center and taught vacation Bible school at Bethesda Baptist Church; LaVonda ("Nikki") King, 23, of Northeast, a mother of 2 sons who was engaged to be married and who had just bought the hair salon LaVonda's House of Beauty; General David Wherley, 62, of Southeast, the recently retired commander of the D.C. Army and Air National Guard, a command pilot who converted the D.C. National Guard from weekend warriors to Army troops performing the duties of enlisted soldiers in fields of battle in both Iraq and Afghanistan while working tirelessly to improve conditions at home for the people of the District of Columbia, especially the children, and who decided to make the city his home; his wife, Ann Wherley, 62, who retired as a mortgage banker but did not retire as a mother, grandmother, and loving wife of General Wherley ever since they were high school sweethearts at York

Catholic High School; and Cameron Williams, 37, of Northwest, who grew up in Takoma Park and who worked a night job in maintenance as a contract laborer;

Whereas according to emergency first responders, 76 people reported injuries and 51 people were taken to hospitals for treatment as a result of this accident; and

Whereas the Board of Directors of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority voted on June 23 to establish an emergency hardship relief fund of \$250,000 from a reserve fund to provide financial help for the victims of the accident, including assistance with funeral, medical, and other expenses: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives expresses its profound sympathies for the victims of the tragic Metrorail accident on Monday, June 22, 2009, and for their families, friends, and associates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. NORTON. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I introduced House Resolution 612 on July 7 with members of the National Capitol Region delegation as well as with others in the House. It is with a heavy heart that I call up for consideration House Resolution 612, which expresses the profound sympathies of the House of Representatives for the victims of the tragic Red Line Metrorail accident on June 22, 2009, and for their families and friends and associates, and also recognizes the dozens of people who were injured.

I appreciate the work and courtesy of Chairman ED TOWNS, of Ranking Member DARRELL ISSA, of Chairman STEPHEN LYNCH, and of Ranking Member JASON CHAFFETZ for their efforts in bringing forward this resolution and for seeing to it that the resolution was marked up at the earliest markup meeting of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

Let us begin, Mr. Speaker, by allowing each of us to take a moment on the floor of the House today to remember the nine people who were lost as a result of this tragic accident. I ask for a moment of silence.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Seven of the nine were from the District of Columbia. One was from Maryland. Another was from Virginia.

Mary "Mandy" Doolittle, of the District, served the American Nurses Association by spreading its work globally.

Veronica DuBose, of the District, was a devoted mother of two who was on her way to a nursing class.