

□ 1656

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COACH JODIE BAILEY POST OFFICE BUILDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 3072.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3072.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 483.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 483.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1700

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include tabular and extraneous material on H.R. 3326.

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

There was no objection.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 685 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 3326) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

□ 1704

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 3326) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes, with Ms. BALDWIN in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time. The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Chairman, yesterday I was out at Bethesda, and I saw a young fellow that was wounded 2 years ago. And when he was wounded, his internal organs were outside the body for almost 10 days. And he's been putting up with that ever since, until he came back to Bethesda and had an operation just recently, where they were able to take the bag away that he had and restore his internal organs. That's what this bill's all about.

This Defense bill is all about taking care of the troops, making sure they have what they need. BILL YOUNG and I work together, going to the hospital, seeing the wounded. We listen to what they say and what they need. We listen to them at the bases. We had 37 hearings this year, 51 trips that the staff made all over the country to visit the various installations to find out what the problems were.

I was out at Fort Carson where the commanding officer—and this is not something that I'm divulging, this is something that's already known—his one boy was killed in Iraq, and his other son committed suicide before he

was sworn in. So he's been emphasizing how do you reduce suicides in the military. The units that came back, we've just found, have had some terrible problems with people, robberies and actually homicide, some of the actual units, at least allegedly. That's what we've seen in the newspaper.

These troops are under a tremendous strain. They're deployed too often. When I talked to the 12 troops there at Fort Carson and Fort Benning, they all told me the biggest single problem is the long deployments and the lack of time at home. And JERRY LEWIS, who was chairman of the subcommittee—and BILL will tell you the same thing—when we talk to the troops, they talk about how they need more time at home. They need to spend some time at home. And even when they're home, they're training. They don't have an opportunity to visit with their families as long as they would like.

We've had hundreds of meetings with Members of Congress, hundreds of input from Members of Congress on the floor and in the committee room, trying to make sure we put a bill together that was bipartisan. We've been partners in this thing the whole way through. And we've tried to make sure—and the thrust of this bill has been for the Department to start hiring more people and getting rid of the contractors, in other words, get rid of contractors and hire people because contractors cost \$44,000 more.

Well, we just find every time we turn around we find somebody at the lower level is making all kinds of changes in that policy, and we worry about it. In this bill, we have a number of things that we've done that help, not only military families, but do research for long term. We put the first money in, for instance, military pay. We raised them five tenths of a percent above the request.

First-class medical care is one of the things that we stress. Peer-reviewed research programs. \$150 million for breast cancer research, \$80 million for prostate cancer research, \$30 million for orthopedic research. An amazing thing, the military didn't have any money in for these kinds of things until we stepped in in the subcommittee in the forefront of making sure that that gets done. \$472.4 million for family advocacy programs. I could go on and on. I don't want to go too long on this debate.