

Constituents from across my district and across the country have been sharing heartbreaking stories of hardship and pain because these benefits have expired. One constituent, VeraMae of Lynn, Massachusetts, wrote to me and said:

I am one of the people whose benefits expired at the end of the last year. My husband and I have tapped out all of our savings, and I'm beside myself with worry wondering how to make the little that we have remaining last longer. It is a mistake to eliminate this crucial safety net for those of us struggling to get back on our feet.

We should not leave VeraMae and others just like her out in the cold another day longer.

If the moral imperative to act isn't enough, Mr. Speaker, perhaps we should consider the economic benefits of extending unemployment insurance. In fact, economists agree that unemployment insurance is one of the best ways to spur economic growth, delivering \$1.52 in economic activity for every dollar spent.

This House should pass that bill immediately.

REMEMBERING MAJOR CHARLES SWIM

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, sadly, I rise today in remembrance of my dear friend and a great patriot, Mr. Charles Swim of Paradise, California.

Charlie was quite a character. He was very involved politically, and if he picked you as the person he thought was going to win, that virtually guaranteed your election. But more importantly, what we know him for in northern California is his service to his Nation and his community.

He was born on April 14, 1927, in Detroit, Michigan, although he claimed Kentucky. His true age at the time he enlisted in the Army was 15. They finally caught up to him when he was 17. He then soon enlisted in the Navy, where he served 6 years during World War II. After that, he rejoined the Army. He also served as a California State parole agent for 27 years, where he successfully fought for the Second Amendment rights of parole agents. Many credit Charlie's efforts to saving their lives.

After retirement, Charlie's extensive knowledge and experience in his field continued to affect those in California's First District, leading him to become appointed the first official historian for the Butte County Sheriff's Office.

He is survived by his wife of 40 years, 8 children, 11 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, 3 great-great-grandchildren, 1 niece, and 3 nephews.

Charlie's valiance and warm heart touched and changed many lives. We are very grateful to him. He was deeply loved by his family, friends, and the community, and he will be incredibly missed by all.

□ 0915

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE SERVICE OF SALVADOR LARA AND JESUS DURAN

(Mr. TAKANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Salvador Lara and Jesus Duran, two Inland Empire heroes who, after decades of being overlooked, will be awarded the Medal of Honor.

Salvador Lara served in World War II and, while in Italy in 1944, he "aggressively led his rifle squad in neutralizing multiple enemy strong points. The next morning, as his company returned the attack, Lara sustained a severe leg wound but did not stop to receive aid."

Jesus Duran served in Vietnam and saved several wounded Americans on a search-and-clear mission in 1969. According to his son, Chuy, "His platoon was in a fight and a lot of guys were killed. He thought he was going to be left for dead, so he decided to take the M60 and unload."

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, these heroes are no longer with us and they will receive their Medals of Honor posthumously, but we must never forget their sacrifice, for it is because of their bravery that we are able to continue spreading freedom throughout the world.

UNFUNDED MANDATES INFORMATION AND TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2013

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 899.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 492 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. 899.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HULTGREN) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 0916

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. 899) to provide for additional safeguards with respect to imposing Federal mandates, and for other purposes, with Mr. HULTGREN 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 Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Last Congress, the Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee that I chaired began studying the effectiveness of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act, also known as UMRA, which was enacted in 1995.

We held three legislative hearings, and we inquired with the Congressional Budget Office and the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs about various UMRA provisions and the possible improvements to the law.

During our hearings, representatives from State and local governments, and the private sector, they all came to testify about many of the burdensome mandates that are actually not characterized and not protected under the original Unfunded Mandates Reform Act. The analyses often failed to capture the heavy burdens of those regulatory mandates.

UMRA's limited coverage is a concern because, as the chief economist of the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council testified: "Unfunded mandates and regulations continually stifle private sector growth and economic expansion."

To help raise awareness about unfunded mandates and ensure more of these mandates are captured by the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act, H.R. 899, the Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act, was introduced by Representative VIRGINIA FOXX. It is bipartisan legislation that will close existing loopholes in the law and bring more transparency and accountability to the regulatory process.

The legislation has the support of the National Federation of Independent Businesses, the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and the National Conference of State Legislatures.

The American Action Forum, which is headed by former CBO Director Doug Holtz-Eakin, also supports the concepts of this bill.

H.R. 899 requires that independent regulatory agencies comply with the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act. Independent regulatory agencies are currently excluded from review, but the regulations they promulgate can impose significant costs and burdensome requirements.

Currently, regulations issued by agencies such as the Securities and Exchange Commission, the National Labor Relations Board, they are excluded from cost-benefit analyses otherwise required of other agencies.

The Congressional Research Service found that between 2010 and 2012, nine independent agencies issued 57 major rules. Those are rules with a cost to the economy of over \$100 million. But