

stabilization of Iraq that was declared in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003, is to continue in effect beyond May 22, 2018.

Obstacles to the orderly reconstruction of Iraq, the restoration and maintenance of peace and security in the country, and the development of political, administrative, and economic institutions in Iraq continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to the stabilization of Iraq.

DONALD J. TRUMP.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 18, 2018.

#### PROTECTING OUR NATION'S VETERANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, I am honored to fight for the veterans in my district and throughout the Nation. In return for their service and sacrifice, we owe them the best medical care that can be provided.

I am proud that the House of Representatives has passed the VA MISSION Act to address these critical concerns. I commend Chairman ROE, Ranking Member WALZ, and the members of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee for their work on this issue over the last year.

This legislation will provide better community-based care without detracting from the outstanding medical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities, such as the Central Texas Veterans Health Care Center in Temple, Texas, in my district.

While I believe veterans are best served by the VA, there are also those who live too far from a VA facility, cannot afford a long wait period, or have very specific medical services that are best provided outside the VA system.

The VA MISSION Act provides this community-based care option, and it pays for it with discretionary spending, which means Congress has more control, more oversight, and more responsibility.

The VA MISSION Act includes a provision for a bill I authored, the Veterans Transplant Coverage Act, to ensure that no other American hero is denied organ transplant coverage again through the VA.

This was inspired by the Nelson family of Leander, Texas. Mr. NELSON, a veteran, required a transplant. His son was a matching live donor. However, the VA would not cover medical costs

for the donor, Mr. NELSON's son, even though this was a lifesaving transplant for Mr. NELSON. I am sorry to say that Mr. NELSON had to liquidate almost everything he owned to pay for the medical expenses. We could not help Mr. NELSON's family, but his story inspired me to work towards changing the law.

When the VA MISSION Act is enacted, it will ensure future generations of veterans will have their transplant medical expenses, along with the donor's expenses, covered by the VA. We must do the right thing for our veterans who need these lifesaving procedures, and I am honored that the VA MISSION Act includes language I wrote to do just that.

I want to publicly thank several of my colleagues on the committee: Dr. NEAL DUNN, Dr. BRAD WENSTRUP, and GUS BILIRAKIS, my neighbor, all of whom championed transplant care for veterans and worked extremely hard to ensure this language was included in the bill.

The VA MISSION Act is a step forward towards the goal of caring for our veterans. The Senate must pass this legislation, and I urge President Trump to quickly sign it into law. I can think of no better way to celebrate Memorial Day than enact the VA MISSION Act, which will ensure our heroes receive the best medical care available.

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

□ 1245

#### FARM BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) for 30 minutes.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to address you here on the floor of the House of Representatives, and I always appreciate that opportunity.

It is a right and a privilege of any Member of Congress to come down here and address you from this floor about whatever issues might be on our minds, and I have a couple of them on my mind here this afternoon, Mr. Speaker. One of them is the circumstance that brought about the loss of the farm bill here on the floor.

I come from the Fourth Congressional District of Iowa, and I will make the case with anyone in this Congress, out of all 435 districts, that we produce more agricultural products in the Fourth District than any other. There are some folks in the San Joaquin Valley who we have an interesting discussion with, and I tip my hat to their progress but still stand in defense of the Fourth District of Iowa.

The corn we raise, the soybeans we raise, the pork that we produce, the eggs that come out of there, all of that sets the standard for the rest of the country. And I am giving the credit to the producers, the families that raised

the farmers that we have today who went off to school and came back with the technology in their brain and developed the technology to bring this kind of crop out of this ground.

I have two ears of corn down in my man cave, Mr. Speaker, and they are beside each other on a nail. I would say half the people in this Congress would guess wrong on which was which. One of them is an open-pollinated variety that they used to plant back in 1848, and the other one is a triple-stack hybrid that came out of the 2015 crop, neither one of them irrigated. God's rainfall raised them.

That one ear that is just as big as the other one and actually has got more rows around it is the open-pollinated from 1848, and it yielded between 15 and 25 bushels to the acre.

Then you look at the 2015 ear. It is roughly the same length, with fewer rows of kernels around it, and that yielded not 15 to 25 bushels, but 232 bushels to the acre, over the scales. That is how far we have come with agriculture technology.

You can divide your 15 or 20 to 25 bushels into the 230. It is almost 10 times. You might make the argument that we have got 10 times the yield today that we had back when the pioneers rolled across the prairie in their covered wagons and began to figure out how to bring crops out of this ground. That is an example of what has taken place.

We have tractors running around out in the field now. No markers. The markers used to always—there used to be planter wire and cross-checked. Then the markers would mark until we came back around, and you lined up on that mark from the last round so that all the rows were nice and beautiful and parallel and straight. Everybody took pride in having fields where they could look down those rows and see that wonderful crop of corn and soybeans and other crops coming out of the ground.

Now there are not markers on a lot of our planters, and some of the planters are running around with the markers folded up because we are being guided by GPS. That is just some of the technology.

We are applying fertilizer differently as the soil types change going across the field. We have got the ability to change and adjust the numbers of corn according to the soil type, too. We are using less fertilizer than we did. We are taking care of the water quality.

Lots of good things are coming up out of the ground, and that means food for America and Americans. This farm bill is designed to stabilize our family farm operations so that they can stay in business. It is not good enough just to be in business next year, but to be in business next generation. This is the center and the heart and soul of America.

This is the American Dream: the family farm on that land looking back through their generations and seeing