Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6418, as amended, the VA Website Accessibility Act of 2018. This bill from Representative ESTY mandates that the VA finally make all of its websites compliant for visually impaired individuals. This is a long-overdue action that the Blinded Veterans Association has tirelessly advocated for to make VA communications and information fully accessible to everyone, and I am proud to support this bill.

I have no further speakers.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in support of H.R. 6418, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, once again, 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 Tennessee (Mr. Roe) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6418, 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. MASSIE. 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, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

DOUGLAS FOURNET DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CLINIC

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3444) to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Lake Charles, Louisiana, as the "Douglas Fournet Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic".

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

S. 3444

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF DOUGLAS FOURNET DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CLINIC IN LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Lake Charles, Louisiana, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Douglas Fournet Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic" or the "Douglas Fournet VA Clinic".

(b) REFERENCE.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the community-based outpatient clinic referred to in subsection (a) shall be considered to be a reference to the Douglas Fournet Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. 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 gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS) to discuss this bill.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3444, which renames the VA community-based outpatient clinic in Lake Charles, Louisiana, after First Lieutenant Douglas Fournet.

Mr. Speaker, I was proud to sponsor the House version of this bill.

Douglas Fournet is an American hero deserving of the highest tribute. He joined the Army in 1966 and was deployed to Vietnam. There, Fournet served as rifle platoon leader of the 2nd Platoon, Company Bravo.

In the A Shau Valley of Vietnam, the platoon came under sniper fire. With an enemy mine in the way of the platoon's advance, Fournet ordered his men to take cover. He then ran uphill to the mine and attempted to disarm it with a knife. Before he could succeed, the mine was detonated.

Douglas Fournet was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor in 1970. He is the sole recipient from southwest Louisiana.

Douglas Fournet gave his last full measure of devotion in service to his country and in defense of his platoon.

Our freedoms are paid for by the blood of patriots like First Lieutenant Fournet. Renaming of the Lake Charles VA clinic is a small tribute to his courage and forever enshrines the legacy among southwest Louisiana veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join with me and honor the life, legacy, and gallantry of First Lieutenant Douglas Fournet. I urge favorable passage

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3444, a bill to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Lake Charles, Louisiana, as the Douglas Fournet Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic.

I support this bill from Senator CASSIDY to name this clinic after Louisiana Medal of Honor recipient Douglas Fournet.

I have no further speakers. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in support of S. 3444, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Members to support this

legislation for an American hero, First Lieutenant Douglas Fournet. It is a privilege to recommend 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 Tennessee (Mr. Roe) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3444.

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. MASSIE. 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, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

FOREVER GI BILL HOUSING PAY-MENT FULFILLMENT ACT OF 2018

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3777) to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a tiger team dedicated to addressing the difficulties encountered by the Department of Veterans Affairs in carrying out section 3313 of title 38, United States Code, after the enactment of sections 107 and 501 of the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017.

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

S. 3777

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 "Forever GI Bill Housing Payment Fulfillment Act of 2018".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND SENSE OF CONGRESS.

- (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:
- (1) On August 16, 2017, the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-48) (known by some as the "Forever GI Bill") was enacted into law.
- (2) Such Act makes certain improvements to the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance program for veterans, including improvements relating to how the Secretary of Veterans Affairs calculates the amount of payments for monthly housing stipends under that program.
- (3) Section 107 of such Act (Public Law 115–48; 33 U.S.C. 3313 note) requires the Secretary to calculate the amount of payments for monthly housing stipends based on the location of the campus of the institution of higher learning where the individual attends classes, a change from the previous direction to make such calculation based on the location of the institution of higher learning.
- (4) Section 501 of such Act (Public Law 115-48; 37 U.S.C. 403 note) repeals the inapplicability of a modification of the basic allowance for housing for members of the uniformed services to benefits administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- (5) The amendments made by section 107 and 501 of such Act became effective on August 1, 2018, and January 1, 2018, respectively.

- (6) Representatives of the Department of Veterans Affairs have stated that the Department will not be able to determine proper payment amounts based on the amendment made by section 107 of such Act until December 1, 2019.
- (7) Representatives of the Department have also stated that outdated information technology systems have stymied efforts to update necessary information that enable proper housing payments as required by the provisions of law amended by sections 107 and 501 of such Act.
- (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—
- (1) as soon as possible, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs should end the making of improper payment amounts for monthly stipends under section 3313 of title 38, United States Code:
- (2) by January 1, 2020, the Secretary should make whole the individuals entitled to payments of monthly stipends under section 313 of title 38, United States Code, who have been underpaid as a result of the difficulties encountered by the Department of Veterans Affairs in carrying out such section after the enactment of sections 107 and 501 of the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-48); and
- (3) no individuals entitled to payments of monthly stipend under section 3313 of title 38, United States Code, who have been overpaid as a result of the difficulties encountered by the Department in carrying out such section after the enactment of sections 107 and 501 of such Act should have overpayments recuperated by the Department.

SEC. 3. TIGER TEAM FOR HOUSING STIPENDS.

- (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than one day after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish a tiger team (in this section referred to as the "Tiger Team") dedicated to addressing the difficulties encountered by the Department of Veterans Affairs in carrying out section 3313 of title 38, United States Code, after the enactment of sections 107 and 501 of the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 (Public Law 115–48; 38 U.S.C. 3313 note and 37 U.S.C. 403 note).
- (b) COMPOSITION.—Not later than 15 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress the names and titles of the employees of the Department who compose the Tiger Team established under subsection (a), including the name and title of the senior-level employee of the Department who serves as the lead accountable official of the Tiger Team.
 - (c) Duties.—
- (1) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Tiger Team shall submit to Congress the following:
 - (A) A plan describing the following:
- (i) How the Secretary will obtain the information necessary to determine the correct payment amounts for monthly stipends under section 3313 of title 38, United States Code, made after the enactment of sections 107 and 501 of the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 (Public Law 115–48; 38 U.S.C. 3313 note and 37 U.S.C. 403 note), from officials responsible for the certification of payments of monthly stipends made under section 3313 of such title.
- (ii) How the Secretary will modify the relevant information technology systems of the Department to correct the payment amounts for monthly stipends under section 3313 of such title made after the enactment of sections 107 and 501 of such Act (Public Law 115–48; 38 U.S.C. 3313 note and 37 U.S.C. 403 note) that were deficient.
- (iii) How the Secretary will identify all of the individuals who received payments of

- monthly stipends under section 3313 of such title that were not in compliance with such section, after the enactment of sections 107 and 501 of such Act (Public Law 115-48; 38 U.S.C. 3313 note and 37 U.S.C. 403 note).
- (iv) How the Secretary will notify the individuals described in clause (iii).
- (v) The procedures the Secretary will use to correct the payments of monthly stipends under section 3313 of such title that were deficient as a result of the difficulties encountered by the Department of Veterans Affairs in carrying out such section after the enactment of sections 107 and 501 of such Act (Public Law 115–48; 38 U.S.C. 3313 note and 37 U.S.C. 403 note).
- (B) A complete timeline for the implementation of the plan described in subparagraph (A).
- (C) Any additional funding and personnel requirements necessary to support the implementation of the plan described in subparagraph (A), including any such requirements as may be necessary for staffing increases or relevant improvements to the information technology infrastructure of the Department.
 - (2) IMPLEMENTATION.—
- (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall implement the plan submitted under paragraph (1)(A).
- (B) PERIODIC UPDATES.—Not less frequently than once every 90 days after submission of the items under paragraph (1), the Tiger Team shall submit to Congress an update on the implementation of the plan described in subparagraph (A) of such paragraph.
 - (3) Final report.—
- (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than July 1, 2020, the Tiger Team shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a final report on the activities and findings of the Tiger Team.
- (B) CONTENTS.—The report required by subparagraph (A) shall include the following:
- (i) The number of individuals who were affected by payments of monthly stipends under section 3313 of title 38, United States Code, that were not in compliance with such section after the enactment of sections 107 and 501 of the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 (Public Law 115–48; 38 U.S.C. 3313 note and 37 U.S.C. 403 note).
- (ii) The number of individuals described in clause (i) who received deficient payments as a result of the difficulties encountered by the Department in carrying out section 3313 of such title after the enactment of sections 107 and 501 of such Act (Public Law 115–48; 38 U.S.C. 3313 note and 37 U.S.C. 403 note), and the total amount of the deficiency for each individual, disaggregated by State.
- (iii) The number of individuals described in clause (ii) who have not received the amount of monthly stipend to which such individuals are entitled under section 3313 of such title and an explanation of why such individuals have not received such amounts.
- (iv) A certification of whether the Department is fully compliant with sections 107 and 501 of such Act (Public Law 115-48; 38 U.S.C. 3313 note and 37 U.S.C. 403 note).
- (C) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term "appropriate congressional committees" means the following:
- (i) The Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate.
- (ii) The Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives.

- (d) TERMINATION.—On the date that is 60 days after the date on which the Tiger Team submits the final report required by subsection (c)(3), the Secretary shall terminate the Tiger Team established under subsection (a).
- The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.
- The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material during consideration of S. 3777.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3777, Forever GI Bill Housing Payment Fulfillment Act of 2018.

Mr. Speaker, the Forever GI Bill is one of several landmark bills that this Congress has enacted to help our Nation's veterans; however, the implementation of this law has been bumpy, to say the least, and there have been veterans who have been underpaid due to the Department of Veterans Affairs' inability to modify their ancient IT systems to properly implement the law

While I am encouraged by Secretary Wilkie's decision to reset implementation of the IT modifications, we owe it to our veterans to conduct proper oversight of this process. That is why I am proud to support this legislation introduced by my good friends Senator BOOZMAN of Arkansas and Mr. ANDY BARR of Kentucky on the House side.

This bill would require the VA to create a "tiger team" that would produce a plan to ensure all GI bill users who were underpaid as a result of the IT systems not being in place are made whole. The bill would also require periodic updates on the VA's progress on providing these underpayments to veterans.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will ensure the VA does the right thing and pays student veterans what they are owed under the law. I encourage my colleagues to support S. 3777, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3777, the Forever GI Bill Housing Payment Fulfillment Act of 2018. This bill from Senators BOOZMAN and SCHATZ will help keep the VA accountable as it moves forward to fix the issues it has run into in fully implementing the Forever GI Bill.

As we continue our oversight over VA's implementation of the Forever GI Bill, I am glad this bill provides us with more tools to do so.

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I have no further speakers.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in support of S. 3777, the Forever GI Bill Housing Payment Fulfillment Act of 2018, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Members to support S. 3777, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. Roe) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3777.

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. MASSIE. 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, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1330

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the order of the House of today, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Concurring in the Senate amendment to the House amendment to S. 756, by the yeas and nays;

Passing H.R. 7328, by the yeas and nays;

Concurring in the Senate amendment to H.R. 5075, by the yeas and nays;

Passing H.R. 7093, by the yeas and navs:

Passing S. 2896, by the yeas and nays; Passing S. 2961, by the yeas and nays; Passing S. 2679, by the yeas and nays; Passing H.R. 7227, by the yeas and nays:

Concurring in the Senate amendments to H.R. 4227, by the yeas and nays:

Passing S. 2652, by the yeas and nays; Passing S. 2765, by the yeas and nays; Concurring in the Senate amendment to H.R. 5509, by the yeas and nays;

Passing S. 7, by the yeas and nays; Passing S. 2200, by the yeas and nays; Concurring in the Senate amendment to H.R. 767, by the yeas and nays;

Passing S. 2322, by the yeas and nays; Passing H.R. 6418, by the yeas and nays:

Passing S. 3444, by the yeas and nays; Passing S. 3777, by the yeas and nays. The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 2-minute votes.

SAVE OUR SEAS ACT OF 2018

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the mo-

tion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the bill (S. 756) to reauthorize and amend the Marine Debris Act to promote international action to reduce marine debris, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the House amendment.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 358, nays 36, not voting 38, as follows:

[Roll No. 448] YEAS—358

Heck

Crist

Adams

Aguilar Cuellar Hensarling Allen Culberson Hern Herrera Beutler Amash Cummings Curbelo (FL) Amodei Hice, Jody B. Arrington Curtis Higgins (NY) Davidson Bacon Hill Balderson Himes Davis (CA) Banks (IN) Davis, Rodney Hollingsworth Barletta DeFazio Hoyer DeGette Huffman Barr Barragán Delanev Huizenga DeLauro Barton Hunter DelBene Hurd Bass Beatty Demings Jackson Lee Bera Jayapal Denham Bergman DeSaulnier Jeffries Bever DesJarlais Johnson (GA) Bilirakis Johnson (LA) Deutch Bishop (GA) Diaz-Balart Johnson (OH) Bishop (UT) Dingell Johnson, E. B. Jones (MI) Blackburn Doggett Blum Donovan Jordan Blumenauer Doyle, Michael Joyce (OH) Blunt Rochester Kaptur Duncan (TN) Bonamici Katko Kelly (IL) Bost Dunn Boyle, Brendan Ellison Kelly (MS) F Emmer Kelly (PA) Brady (PA) Kennedy Engel Brady (TX) Eshoo Khanna Brat Espaillat Kihuen Brooks (IN) Estes (KS) Kildee Brown (MD) Esty (CT) Kilmer King (NY) Brownley (CA) Evans Buchanan Kinzinger Faso Ferguson Bucshon Knight Fitzpatrick Krishnamoorthi Budd Burgess Fleischmann Kuster (NH) Bustos Flores Labrador Butterfield Fortenberry LaHood Lamb Calvert Foster Carbajal Foxx Lamborn Frankel (FL) Cárdenas Lance Langevin Carson (IN) Frelinghuysen Carter (GA) Fudge Larsen (WA) Gabbard Larson (CT) Cartwright Castor (FL) GaetzLatta Castro (TX) Gallagher Lawrence Lawson (FL) Chabot Gallego Garamendi Cheney Lee Chu, Judy Garrett Lesko Cicilline Gianforte Levin Clark (MA) Gibbs Lewis (GA) Clarke (NY) Gomez Lewis (MN) Clay Gonzalez (TX) Lieu, Ted Cleaver Goodlatte Lipinski Clyburn Gottheimer LoBiondo Coffman Loebsack Gowdy Cohen Granger Lofgren Graves (GA) Cole Long Loudermilk Collins (GA) Graves (LA) Collins (NY) Graves (MO) Lowey Comer Green, Al Lucas Conaway Green, Gene Luetkemever Connolly Griffith Luján, Ben Ray Cook Grijalva Lynch Cooper Grothman MacArthur Correa Guthrie Maloney, Carolyn B. Costello (PA) Handel Courtney Harper Maloney, Sean Harris Marino Cramer Marshall Crawford Hartzler

Quigley Raskin Mast Matsui Reed McCarthy McCaul McClintock McCollum McEachin McGovern McHenry McKinley McMorris Rodgers McNerney McSally Meadows Meeks Meng Mitchell Moolenaar Mooney (WV) Moore Morelle Moulton Murphy (FL) Nadler Napolitano Neal Newhouse Nolan Norcross Nunes O'Halleran O'Rourke Olson Pallone Panetta Pascrell Paulsen Payne Pelosi Perlmutter Perry Peters Pingree Pocan Poe (TX) Poliquin Price (NC)

Stewart Reichert Stivers Renacci Suozzi Rice (NY) Takano Richmond Taylor Roe (TN) Tennev Rogers (KY) Thompson (CA) Rohrabacher Thompson (PA) Rooney, Francis Thornberry Rooney, Thomas Tipton J. Titus Ros-Lehtinen Tonko Roskam Torres Rothfus Tsongas Roybal-Allard Turner Rovce (CA) Upton Ruiz Ruppersberger Valadao Vargas Rush Veasey Russell Rutherford Velázquez Rvan (OH) Visclosky Sánchez Wagner Sarbanes Walberg Scalise Walden Scanlon Walker Schakowsky Walorski Schiff Wasserman Schneider Schultz Schrader Waters, Maxine Schweikert Watson Coleman Scott (VA) Webster (FL) Scott, Austin Welch Sensenbrenner Wenstrup Serrano Westerman Sessions Wild Sewell (AL) Williams Sherman Wilson (FL) Shimkus Wittman Shuster Womack Simpson Woodall Sires Smith (NJ) Yarmuth Yoder Smith (TX) Yoho Smith (WA) Young (IA) Smucker Soto Zeldin NAYS-36

Posey Abraham Higgins (LA) Holding Aderholt Rice (SC) Babin Hudson Roby Biggs Rogers (AL) King (IA) Brooks (AL) Kustoff (TN) Rokita LaMalfa Buck Rouzer Byrne Marchant Sanford Carter (TX) Mullin Smith (MO) Smith (NE) Cloud Norman Duffv Weber (TX) Palazzo Gohmert Palmer. Wilson (SC) Gosar Pearce Young (AK)

NOT VOTING-38

Bishop (MI) Jenkins (KS) Polis Ratcliffe Black Johnson, Sam Capuano Jones (NC) Rosen Keating Comstock Ross Scott, David Costa Kind Crowley Love Shea-Porter Davis, Danny Lowenthal Sinema. Swalwell (CA) Duncan (SC) Lujan Grisham, Gutiérrez Thompson (MS) Hanabusa. Messer Trott Hastings Noem Vela Peterson Hultgren Walters, Mimi Tssa. Pittenger Walz

□ 1358

Messrs. WILSON of South Carolina, POSEY, PEARCE, SMITH of Nebraska, MARCHANT, MULLIN, and SANFORD changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Mrs. LOWEY and Ms. STEFANIK changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment to the House amendment was concurred in.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.