

dedication from the leadership of the IRS, and it is past time, Mr. Speaker, for them to get it together.

TIME TO GIVE AMERICA HOPE

(Mrs. MCBATH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, this is not the time to back down.

In my home State of Georgia, hard-working Georgians have been laid off, small businesses have had to close, and families are worried about the health and well-being of their loved ones.

Americans everywhere are counting on us to help them get through this crisis as safely as possible. This is what we are sent to Washington to do: to protect and to uplift our communities in a time such as this.

We must work together, Republicans and Democrats, to make a difference in the lives of those we represent when they need us most.

This is the time to give America hope.

This is the time to govern with our hearts, and not partisan politics, because we can get through this pandemic together, stronger and more unified than before.

REMEMBERING SAM JOHNSON

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in sadness today, acknowledging the news I received late last night of the loss of our former colleague from Texas, Mr. Sam Johnson, a great American.

I had the pleasure of knowing him personally. His story is amazing of his life serving our country. Of course, he is known as being a Vietnam POW, held 7 years in what is known as the Hanoi Hilton.

He wrote a book about his exploits, including that part, called "Captive Warriors: A Vietnam POW's Story." I would highly recommend everybody get that and then pass it along.

My sweetest memory of him is Leader MCCARTHY invited a group of about 10 of us Members to go have dinner with him one night and just sit and listen to this man talk about his life, not only the negative of being a POW, but what we always saw here in his positive, upbeat spirit all the time.

This guy was a true cool guy. He was a Thunderbird aerobatic team member and also later directed the Air Force Fighter Weapons School, which is known as the Top Gun version of the Air Force.

This was an all-around great American. We will miss him badly.

THE NEED FOR PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

(Ms. SCANLON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, we have lost over 100,000 lives to this pandemic—that we know of—and people on the front lines are still waiting for the PPE they need to protect themselves and our communities.

Every single day, healthcare providers, States, and first responders tell us that they are being forced to compete for high-priced supplies, if they can find any at all. They are told to keep a 90-day supply for the fall surge, when it is a miracle if they have enough supplies for 2 weeks.

Our frontline workers are feeling abandoned by their government. How can we blame them?

The President is claiming victory in a crisis we are still fighting, visiting State after State and saying it is safe to reopen completely when it is not. He has the authority to use the Defense Production Act to increase production of PPE to save lives and chooses not to, while the safety of our frontline workers hangs in the balance.

We have sent countless letters, introduced bills, and passed legislation. We need the President to act. The American people need straight talk, not magical thinking. We need leaders who listen to civil servants when they raise alarms, not fire the messenger.

We can defeat this pandemic if we hear the facts and act on them.

AMERICA'S LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY IN CRISIS

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

Mr. HAGEDORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because America's livestock industry is in crisis. In southern Minnesota and across the country, this has particularly hit our hog farmers. They are in big trouble. Packing plant disruptions have led to excess hogs and the actual destruction of animals and not even using the meat for the food supply.

The situation is so bad that, this week, I introduced legislation to mitigate losses in this area. I introduced the Livestock Producer Assistance for COVID-19 Damages Act. This bill will expand the USDA's Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Catfish Program to cover income losses for farmers and producers who have been unable to market livestock due to packing plant closures.

In Minnesota, our hog operators make a significant contribution to our State's economy. According to a study from the University of Minnesota, current disruptions in the pork supply chain, coupled with the current 15 percent unemployment rate, could result in an estimated loss of \$660 million of economic activity in our State. The researchers also concluded that a 15 percent drop in hog production would lead to an estimated loss of 2,100 Minnesota jobs.

While these statistics are rightfully alarming, this problem is not unique to Minnesota. States like South Dakota, Missouri, North Carolina, Virginia, and Iowa have similar issues. Pork and livestock producers are suffering huge losses, financial and otherwise, and all through no fault of their own.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting this bill. We must stand with our family farmers and defend the interests of rural communities, the American economy, and our food supply.

INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO HEALTHCARE ISSUES

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

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, with so much uncertainty in our future, families shouldn't have the additional burden of worrying about the state of their healthcare. Unfortunately, though, COVID-19 has only further exposed the cracks in our healthcare system and forced us all to face the urgency with which we must work to address them.

As we continue to respond to the public health crisis, I have been working with my colleagues here in the House to find innovative and timely solutions for the problems that COVID-19 continues to exacerbate.

Over the past several months, I have fought for the price of insulin and other drugs to be lowered immediately because families that are struggling need access to lifesaving medication. I fought alongside my colleagues for more supplies for our healthcare workers, for hospitals, and for community healthcare centers.

We can't let up now. We must continue to take steps that address the health disparities that place a significant and dangerous burden on American families.

I would like to join my colleagues and constituents in remembering the lives tragically lost during this pandemic and recommit to working together to help families across our country stay safe.

HONORING JACK "JD" BARNES SHAW

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jack "JD" Barnes Shaw of Russell, Pennsylvania, for accepting a fully qualified appointment to the United States Naval Academy.

Jack is the son of James and Ruth Shaw and a senior at Agora Cyber Charter School. During his time in school, Jack was very involved with the Boy Scouts, Civil Air Patrol, and fencing.

Over the years, Jack has held many leadership positions, including senior patrol leader in his Boy Scout troop and a Sea Scout National Quarterdeck, a representative on the Sea Scout National Committee. He is an Eagle Scout and has been recognized as the 2018 Northeast Region Sea Scout of the Year.

Jack's dedication and discipline are two traits that will lead to his success at the U.S. Naval Academy. Jack is a proven leader. I wish him the best in this exciting new chapter of his life.

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RECOGNIZING JOE JOYCE

(Mr. ROSE of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROSE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember all those who we have lost to the coronavirus, and one man in particular who is close to my heart and the hearts of thousands of people in my district.

Joe Joyce may best be known for his bar in Bay Ridge, J.J. Bubbles, but the truth is he served our community much more than cold beer. His generous spirit touched countless lives on both sides of the Verrazzano.

Joe was an Army veteran who served in Vietnam, and after he returned home his service continued. He worked as a phys ed teacher for disabled students on Staten Island, supported the Special Olympics, and would offer up his bar to host fundraisers for any organization who asked. That was one thing that never changed over the 42 years Joe was in business. As soon as you walked into J.J. Bubbles you were family.

Today, we remember and think of Joe's family: his wife, Jane; his children, Eddie, Kristin, Kevin; and his six grandchildren. Joe's loss can be felt all throughout my district, but his gift to all of us was his unique ability to bring people of all stripes together, and that is a gift we need now more than ever.

QUALITY HEALTHCARE FOR VETERANS

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

Mr. WATKINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of S. 3084, the Competitive Pay for Leaders in Veterans Healthcare Act. This legislation was introduced by my good friend and fellow Kansan, the chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Senator JERRY MORAN.

Our Nation's veterans deserve the best care possible. We must ensure that the VA can recruit and retain high-quality talented leaders. The Competitive Pay for Leaders in Veterans Healthcare Act is less about the leaders, actually, it is more about the veterans as the quality of their care is the

direct result of the quality of the VA leadership.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I support the Competitive Pay for Leaders in Veterans Healthcare Act and encourage my colleagues to do the same. No one fights harder for our veterans than President Trump. He has always made us a top priority, and I am glad that he and the VA Secretary will support this measure, and I look forward to its passage.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2020

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6168) to increase, effective as of December 1, 2020, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6168

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 "Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2020".

SEC. 2. INCREASE IN RATES OF DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.

(a) RATE ADJUSTMENT.—Effective on December 1, 2020, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall increase, in accordance with subsection (c), the dollar amounts in effect on November 30, 2020, for the payment of disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation under the provisions specified in subsection (b).

(b) AMOUNTS TO BE INCREASED.—The dollar amounts to be increased pursuant to subsection (a) are the following:

(1) WARTIME DISABILITY COMPENSATION.—Each of the dollar amounts under section 1114 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDENTS.—Each of the dollar amounts under section 1115(1) of such title.

(3) CLOTHING ALLOWANCE.—The dollar amount under section 1162 of such title.

(4) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO SURVIVING SPOUSE.—Each of the dollar amounts under subsections (a) through (d) of section 1311 of such title.

(5) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO CHILDREN.—Each of the dollar amounts under sections 1313(a) and 1314 of such title.

(c) DETERMINATION OF INCREASE.—Each dollar amount described in subsection (b) shall be increased by the same percentage as the

percentage by which benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) are increased effective December 1, 2020, as a result of a determination under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)).

(d) SPECIAL RULE.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may adjust administratively, consistent with the increases made under subsection (a), the rates of disability compensation payable to persons under section 10 of Public Law 85–857 (72 Stat. 1263) who have not received compensation under chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 3. PUBLICATION OF ADJUSTED RATES.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall publish in the Federal Register the amounts specified in section 2(b), as increased under that section, not later than the date on which the matters specified in section 215(i)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)(2)(D)) are required to be published by reason of a determination made under section 215(i) of such Act during fiscal year 2021.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous materials on H.R. 6168.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 6168, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2020 increases veterans' disability compensation at the same rate as the annual Social Security increase. This puts a little extra money in the pockets of our disabled veterans and their families to make sure VA benefits keep pace with inflation.

While this increase may be a small one, it is an essential one that veterans and their families rely on us passing each year. In my time as chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, I have had the opportunity to speak to and know many veterans. Many of them highlight this bill as a priority for them and their families.

The cost-of-living adjustment, or COLA, is vital for ensuring that veterans' benefits do not decline due to changes in the economy. For veterans with service-connected disabilities, this annual change is an assurance to them and their families that their benefits will remain consistent. It is a guarantee we make to them and a great source of comfort to many veterans and their families.

As our country deals with the novel coronavirus pandemic, and the severe economic effects it will have, it is more important than ever that we pass this yearly COLA increase so that veterans and their families trust that their benefits will not decline due to inflation.