

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on both H.R. 2199 and H.R. 2239, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, we have come to the end of a day of thanks to our Nation's veterans. We have seven bills, all of which will go to really improve our services, our health care, our sense of commitment to our Nation's veterans. We have had seven good bills today, and I think they will all be approved by this body.

I was a professor of European history before I became a Congressman, and I used to talk about the Roman world. And there was this famous Roman senator named Cato. And Cato would end all his speeches, no matter on what subject, which they might be about the sewer system of Rome or they might be about gladiator games or war against the Parthians or whoever, but he would always end his speech, no matter what the thing was, and everybody would expect it and he sort of became the laughingstock of the senate because they would know he would end all his speeches with "and we must destroy Carthage." And nobody paid any attention to his speeches because they were all waiting for that conclusion no matter on what subject.

So with that little history lesson, I urge my colleagues to unanimously support H.R. 2239.

Mr. SPACE. Mr. Speaker, I rise again today in support of H.R. 2239, the Early Access to Vocational Rehabilitation Benefits Act.

Currently, vocational rehabilitation benefits provided by the VA are not available to veterans until after they have been discharged from military service. This bill extends eligibility for vocational rehabilitation benefits to current members of the armed forces who are hospitalized or are undergoing out-patient medical care, who have a disability of at least 10 percent incurred or aggravated while on active duty, and who are likely to be discharged from service due to that disability.

As a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, I am dedicated to providing our Nation's veterans with every service that they have earned and that they were promised. Access to vocational rehabilitation is part of what our Nation's heroes are entitled to, and this bill is a step in the right direction.

By supporting this bill, we are ensuring that wounded servicemembers can access rehabilitational benefits more quickly without having to wait for their paperwork to catch up to them. This bill will get our wounded vets back on their feet and reintegrated into the workforce sooner than is currently possible by providing them with vocational benefits while they are awaiting military discharge. Reintegration into the workforce is a key part of easing stability back into the lives of our servicemembers who have often spent months in incredibly tense and mentally-exhausting environments. Re-establishing a "normal"

working routine at a pace that better suits our servicemembers is beneficial to all parties involved.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2239 because the bill provides our Nation's veterans with more timely access to a promised service as they transition back to civilian life.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2239, to expand eligibility for vocational rehabilitation benefits administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. I would like to take some of my time to express my deepest appreciation for our Nation's veterans. It is with this that I strongly ask you to expand eligibility for vocational rehabilitation benefits for all of our veterans. Every day, we find more and more of our veterans returning home with severe physical and mental disabilities. This legislation is a step in the right direction and will act as a cornerstone necessity for providing the medical care, services and treatment that all of our country's finest deserve.

This Congress must ensure that our injured soldiers, sailors, airmen and any other veterans who have returned home with a disability not only receive the basics in terms of medical attention, but also receive proper rehabilitation so that suitable employment in the future can become a viable option. The act of a person once again living independently is the highest goal that this legislation can achieve. Services that provide counseling, education, financial aid, and job assistance are the best tools for our veterans to use in order to get back on their feet and live a life of independence and dignity. Let us not revisit the fatal mistakes made after Vietnam. To quote my good friend and colleague, DICK DURBIN, "We owe our disabled veterans more than speeches, parades and monuments." Let's do our best to convey our appreciation for their sacrifices.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2239, 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. FILNER. 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 and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Votes will be taken in the following order: H.R. 67, H.R. 612, H.R. 1470, H.R. 2199, and H.R. 2239, in each case by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

## VETERANS OUTREACH IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2007

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 67, as amended, 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 California (Mr. FILNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 67, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 421, nays 0, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 410]

YEAS—421

Abercrombie	Cleaver	Goodlatte
Ackerman	Clyburn	Gordon
Aderholt	Coble	Graves
Akin	Cohen	Green, Al
Alexander	Cole (OK)	Green, Gene
Allen	Conaway	Grijalva
Altmire	Conyers	Gutierrez
Andrews	Cooper	Hall (NY)
Arcuri	Costa	Hall (TX)
Baca	Costello	Hare
Bachmann	Courtney	Harman
Bachus	Cramer	Hastert
Baird	Crenshaw	Hastings (FL)
Baker	Crowley	Hastings (WA)
Baldwin	Cubin	Hayes
Barrett (SC)	Cuellar	Heller
Barrow	Culberson	Hensarling
Bartlett (MD)	Cummings	Herger
Barton (TX)	Davis (AL)	Herseth Sandlin
Bean	Davis (CA)	Higgins
Becerra	Davis (IL)	Hill
Berkley	Davis (KY)	Hinchee
Berman	Davis, David	Hinojosa
Berry	Davis, Lincoln	Hirono
Biggert	Davis, Tom	Hobson
Bilbray	Deal (GA)	Hodes
Billirakis	DeFazio	Hoekstra
Bishop (GA)	Delahunt	Holden
Bishop (NY)	DeLauro	Holt
Bishop (UT)	Dent	Honda
Blackburn	Diaz-Balart, L.	Hooley
Blumenauer	Diaz-Balart, M.	Hoyer
Blunt	Dicks	Inglis (SC)
Boehner	Dingell	Insliee
Bonner	Doggett	Israel
Bono	Donnelly	Issa
Boozman	Doolittle	Jackson (IL)
Boren	Doyle	Jackson-Lee
Boswell	Drake	(TX)
Boucher	Dreier	Jefferson
Boustany	Duncan	Jindal
Boyd (FL)	Edwards	Johnson (GA)
Boyd (KS)	Ehlers	Johnson (IL)
Brady (PA)	Ellison	Johnson, E. B.
Brady (TX)	Ellsworth	Johnson, Sam
Bralley (IA)	Emanuel	Jones (NC)
Brown (SC)	Emerson	Jordan
Brown, Corrine	Eshoo	Kagen
Brown-Waite,	Etheridge	Kanjorski
Ginny	Everett	Kaptur
Buchanan	Fallin	Keller
Burgess	Farr	Kennedy
Burton (IN)	Fattah	Kildee
Butterfield	Feeney	Kilpatrick
Buyer	Ferguson	Kind
Calvert	Filner	King (IA)
Camp (MI)	Flake	King (NY)
Campbell (CA)	Forbes	Kingston
Cannon	Fortenberry	Kirk
Cantor	Fox	Klein (FL)
Capito	Frank (MA)	Kline (MN)
Capps	Franks (AZ)	Knollenberg
Capuano	Frelinghuysen	Kucinich
Cardoza	Gallely	Kuhl (NY)
Carnahan	Garrett (NJ)	LaHood
Carney	Gerlach	Lamborn
Carson	Giffords	Lampson
Carter	Gilchrest	Langevin
Castle	Gillibrand	Lantos
Castor	Gillmor	Larsen (WA)
Chabot	Gingrey	Larson (CT)
Chandler	Gohmert	Latham
Clarke	Gonzalez	LaTourette
Clay	Goode	Lee