

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 motion will be postponed.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1231) supporting the goals and ideals of Vietnam Veterans Day and calling on the American people to recognize such a day.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1231

Whereas the Vietnam War was the longest military conflict in United States history;

Whereas more than 3,000,000 Americans served in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War;

Whereas more than 58,000 Americans lost their lives defending the Nation's freedom during the Vietnam conflict;

Whereas 304,000 additional Americans were wounded during the war;

Whereas on March 29, 1973, the last remaining members of the United States Armed Forces withdrew from Vietnam; and

Whereas the United States does not have a national day of recognition specifically for Vietnam veterans: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Vietnam Veterans Day; and

(2) calls on the American people to recognize such a day to remember those men and women who sacrificed their lives defending the Nation in the Vietnam conflict, to recognize the prisoners of war and those members of the Armed Forces who are missing in action, and to honor all Vietnam veterans who served the Nation faithfully to protect its freedom.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. FILNER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This resolution, 1231, supports the goals and ideals of Vietnam Veterans Day. I don't think we have to remind this body that the Vietnam war was a very divisive time in this country. One of the lessons that we should draw from Vietnam is that although we may disagree about a war, as we do about the current one in Iraq, we must never, never disagree about the importance of honoring the service and sacrifice of the men and women who serve our Nation. We must never confuse the war with the warrior. We must never, never forget the warrior.

This war that we are engaging in Iraq is only exceeded in its length by America in the Vietnamese war, the longest conflict in our history. More than 3 million Americans served in southeast

Asia. More than 58,000 Americans lost their lives on the battlefield. Over 300,000 Americans were wounded, and that was at the time of the war itself. We know because we did not honor these heroes when they came home and we did not have the resources in place, especially with regard to mental health, that we inflicted a terrible, terrible future on many of those soldiers.

Half of the homeless on the street tonight are Vietnam veterans. We think that there are more suicides by Vietnam veterans than who died on the original battlefield. That's a terrible, terrible blot on America for not honoring our veterans. And certainly we cannot make the same mistake again with those returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

So we have a Vietnam memorial. We must always remember the service and sacrifices. A day of remembrance is a particularly fitting way to remember the painful lessons learned. But we could do some more material things, too, and I hope that the cooperation and goodwill shown by my ranking member at all times will make sure that we up the budget, for example, to deal with the homeless veterans on the street—most of them are Vietnam veterans—that we grant their Agent Orange claims that they have fought for for decades, that we provide some security for them and increase the budget that is aimed at their future as citizens in this Nation.

So yes, let us pass this resolution. But let us move on in the context of the budget and in the context of other legislation to really honor these warriors who, when they came home, did not get that honor.

I will reserve the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KLEIN of Florida). The gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER) is recognized.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, it looks like "buyer" but it's pronounced BOO-yer. It comes from Alsace-Lorraine, along the Rhine, and it was pronounced de BOO-yea. You just Americanized my name by calling me "Buyer." We sort of Americanized de Buyer as referring to it as BOO-yer. You are now the second Speaker pro tem who has taken the well who has done so.

Perhaps I need to introduce myself to you. So for that, I apologize.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair apologizes and recognizes the gentlemen from Indiana.

□ 1845

Mr. BUYER. I rise in support of House Resolution 1231, a bill which would support the goals and ideals of Vietnam Veterans Day and calls upon the American people to recognize such a day. I thank my colleague, Mr. SHULER of North Carolina, for his efforts in bringing the bill to the House floor.

The American participation in the conflict of Vietnam began in March 1959 and continued until March 29, 1973, when the last remaining members of

the United States Armed Forces were withdrawn from Vietnam. The conflict itself continued until April 30, 1975. During this conflict, considered the longest military conflict in U.S. history, over 3 million veterans answered their Nation's call to duty. More than 58,000 servicemembers lost their lives, and over 300,000 were wounded. This bill would designate for the first time a national day to recognize Vietnam veterans and commend them for their service to a grateful Nation.

While this resolution is belated, it reflects a better perspective on those who served in an unpopular war and who came home to indifference or outright hostility. That was wrong, and today, we acknowledge that our Vietnam veterans deserved much better.

Now, we recognize also that there are some that perhaps did not honor these veterans in the way in which they should have been, but I also want to recognize there were many people in the country that did recognize their service and honor them.

My grandfather was a World War I veteran who was a Legion commander of the post in Francesville, Indiana. My father then later became that very same commander. And I remember, even as a young man, the discussions about Vietnam and the support. And I remember a young man who even babysat for the four kids and later went on to Vietnam, and I remember the discussions.

But I came from a small town, and I don't remember the hostilities. I remember seeing war protesters on TV, and I remember the term "hippy." I didn't even know what that meant, and I remembered all these things happening as a young man in the 1960s and early 1970s. And it was challenging for me because I didn't share that perspective. I wasn't brought up in a family that had the perspective of public protest and war protesting and those of whom would spat upon someone in uniform and treat them in outward disgrace.

I never understood that. I could never get there to understand that. I understand today that those of whom may have done that in the follies of their youth are filled with guilt, and I'm glad that they are overcoming those types of feelings.

And I will embrace what the chairman had just said, when he said never confuse the war with the warrior. And I think he's absolutely right. And so the country had learned some painful lessons with regard to the Vietnam War, and so if you've got challenges, don't take them out on the warrior, and so I embrace the chairman's remarks.

I was trained as a young ROTC cadet at The Citadel by Vietnam veterans, and I hold the Vietnam veteran in pretty high self-esteem because of the challenge that they went through in a guerilla war. You know, they never lost a battle. Our soldiers didn't lose a battle, but they ended up losing a war. And we

learned a lot, also as a military force, in guerrilla tactics. And a lot of that is coming home to roost here in the successes that General Petraeus had also used here with regard to the surge.

In the war in which I had served in, the first Gulf war, that war, the first Gulf war, its success came from the leadership of the Vietnam veteran. Those Vietnam veterans were, in fact, the senior NCOs, and they were the general officers and the senior colonels, and they knew the mistakes of Vietnam. They also knew that in Vietnam it was as soon as they hit the ground, they wanted to know when their rotation would end, when do they get to go home. And so when we went in the first Gulf war, it was nothing about rotation. It was all about we're here to do a job, we do the job and get to go home.

So that leadership, the senior leadership from Vietnam, had a great impact upon our military heritage and our legacy.

And so acknowledging the service and the honored sacrifice of the Vietnam veterans, I want to thank the chairman for doing that. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I yield back my time.

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 House Resolution 1231.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. FILNER. I urge my colleagues to join our committee unanimously to support House Resolution 1231.

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the millions of veterans who served our country during the Vietnam War.

March 29th, 1973 marked the official departure of the last American troops in Vietnam.

During the longest military conflict in U.S. history, over 3 million Americans served in Southeast Asia. Over 58,000 Americans lost their lives and 304,000 additional Americans were wounded.

Those who fought to preserve our freedom in Vietnam have never received the hero's welcome they richly deserve.

Derrell Maxwell and the Veterans of Chapter 994 of Vietnam Veterans of America in Franklin, North Carolina recently approached me with an idea. They wanted Congress to commemorate March 29th as Vietnam Veterans Day.

I was proud to work with Chairman FILNER to get the full House of Representatives on record in support of this idea. House Resolution 1231 calls on all Americans to take time each March 29th to remember all of the service members who defended our Nation in Vietnam.

We honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice, those held captive or missing in action, and those who sustained wounds, both seen and unseen. To all Vietnam veterans, including my constituents in Western North Carolina and those currently serving in this body, I offer

my deepest thanks for your service to our Nation.

I urge passage of this resolution.

Mr. FILNER. I have no further requests for time, and 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 agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1231.

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. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

ELWOOD "BUD" LINK DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OUTPATIENT CLINIC

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2245) to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Wenatchee, Washington, as the Elwood "Bud" Link Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2245

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF ELWOOD "BUD" LINK DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OUTPATIENT CLINIC.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic located in Wenatchee, Washington, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Elwood 'Bud' Link Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, record, or other paper of the United States to the medical center referred to in subsection (a) shall be considered to be a reference to the Elwood "Bud" Link Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my support of H.R. 2245, a bill to name the VA Outpatient Clinic in Wenatchee, Washington, after Elwood "Bud" Link.

Mr. Link, along with his comrades from the Cashmere Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1045, was the driving force in getting a VA clinic built in North Central Washington. A veteran of World War II, Link worked tirelessly to bring

accessible health care to his rural community.

And according to the Northwest Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, "Bud may not be the highest ranking veteran in the community or the one with the most medals. But if you ask us, no one stood taller than him in the veteran community and naming the [clinic] after him will inspire us all to greater heights."

In a newspaper article on the opening of the clinic, Mr. Link's widow stated that the message of Link's work for veterans was "if you want to get something done, get a group behind you and go for it." Mr. Link did just that, and today, the veterans of rural Washington have a veterans' health care facility.

So today we not only honor the work of Elwood "Bud" Link, we also, in a very real sense, recognize the efforts of all of our veterans who work tirelessly day after day to ensure that their comrades get the health care benefits that they earned in service to our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, everywhere I go across the Nation I find leaders like Bud Link who don't just care about their own benefits, their own next appointment with the VA, but all the veterans, and they work in their community to make sure that we as a Congress respond to those needs. And I hope that we continue to respond to them.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BUYER. I rise in support of H.R. 2245, a bill to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Wenatchee, Washington, as the Elwood "Bud" Link Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic. I commend my colleague from Washington, DOC HASTINGS, for introducing this bill.

Bud was a very outspoken Navy veteran of World War II. Along with his friend and fellow veteran Bill Forte, he worked tirelessly with local veteran service organizations and elected officials to establish this outpatient clinic in Wenatchee, Washington, which is about 148 miles from Seattle. Bud is recognized as the catalyst behind this outpatient clinic, but unfortunately, he passed away before seeing its opening.

This selfless example of service to veterans is an inspiration to us all and certainly should be recognized. Memorializing Bud by renaming the clinic will recognize his service as both a seaman and as a veteran advocate.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FILNER. I'm prepared to close and would reserve my time.

Mr. BUYER. I urge my colleagues to adopt this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2245.

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