

across-the-board increase to GAO employees who met expectations but did not receive the adjustment.

In summary, the legislation sets a “floor guarantee” that would preserve GAO’s performance-based compensation system, while ensuring that GAO employees receive an annual increase in their permanent pay, provided they meet expectations, that is at least equal to the congressionally approved across-the-board increase. The floor guarantee will be comprised of the annual adjustment to the GAO pay schedule plus the permanent merit pay increase received by an employee under GAO’s merit pay system.

Other provisions in the bill include creating a statutory Inspector General for GAO, permitting the Comptroller General greater flexibility to administer oaths to witnesses when auditing and settling accounts, enabling the CG to expenditures for meals and other expenses in connection with recruitment, and eliminates the statutorily employed GS-15 pay cap to allow the Comptroller General the authority to pay employees up to the rate for Executive Level III.

After consideration by our colleagues in the Senate, H.R. 5683 returns to us in the House amended and, in some respects, strengthened by the inclusion of language requiring the Treasury Department, the Internal Revenue Service, or any other Federal agency that the GAO elects to audit, to reimburse the GAO for the cost of performing such audits during fiscal year 2007. The most recent iteration of the bill also makes sure that GAO would be reimbursed by an agency that asks to be audited and elects to pay for the audit.

While the bill represents a significant step forward, the subcommittee and many Members of the House still recognize that more work needs to be done at GAO. Nevertheless, H.R. 5683 will help improve the morale at GAO and remedy the inequities that resulted from the denial of the 2006 and 2007 across-the-board adjustments.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that my colleagues will once again join GAO and the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers and support the passage of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on H.R. 5683, the Government Accountability Office Act of 2008. Last year, the GAO submitted to Congress a legislative proposal to make a number of largely noncontroversial changes to GAO’s authorizing statutes. In May of this year, our committee approved H.R. 5683, and in June, the bill passed the House under suspension.

Now, the bill passed by the House did a number of things that were sought by the GAO. For example, that bill and the bill we’re taking up today would make statutory GAO’s Inspector Gen-

eral and would attempt to resolve longstanding pay disputes between GAO and some of its employees.

The Senate took up the House bill before the August recess, amended it, passed it, and sent it over here back to the House. It is the Senate’s version of our bill that we’re taking up today.

Now, the Senate’s new language would add 4 percent to the lump sum payments under section 3. This is intended to compensate employees for the fact that under the Senate bill employees would have to make contributions into the retirement system.

□ 1400

The original House bill expected GAO to cover these costs, which GAO was willing to do, but the Senate language expects employees to pay their fair share.

The new language would also revise reimbursement of GAO audit costs to limit reimbursements to those audits that are currently being done by GAO, but would allow reimbursement of other audits with the concurrence of the agency’s IG.

Since it appears all interested parties agreed to the new language before the bill passed the Senate, I support it as well and urge my colleagues to vote for the bill.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. I want to thank the gentleman from Virginia for his support of the bill.

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 Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 5683.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LANCE CORPORAL DREW W. WEAVER POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6168) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 112 South 5th Street in Saint Charles, Missouri, as the “Lance Corporal Drew W. Weaver Post Office Building”.

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. LANCE CORPORAL DREW W. WEAVER POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 112 South 5th Street in Saint Charles, Missouri, shall be known and designated as the “Lance Corporal Drew W. Weaver Post Office Building”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Lance Corporal Drew W. Weaver Post Office Building”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. AKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. 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 Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I present for consideration and support H.R. 6168, which names a postal facility in St. Charles, Missouri, after Lance Corporal Drew Weaver, a heroic marine and great American.

H.R. 6198 was introduced by a colleague, Representative AKIN of Missouri, on June 3, 2008, and has been considered by and reported from the Oversight Committee. I should mention that the measure had the support of the entire congressional delegation from Missouri before the committee approved the bill by a voice vote on July 16, 2008.

Lance Corporal Drew Weaver was assigned to the 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division I, Marine Expeditionary Force Twenty-Nine out of Palms, California, and was serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom during the time of his death. A true hero and American serviceman, Lance Corporal Weaver was well known not only for his service to his country, but also for his service to his local community of St. Charles, Missouri.

St. Charles, Missouri is proud of their hometown hero for the sacrifices he so nobly made, and those of us in the House of Representatives are as well. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, let us remember and pay tribute to the life and legacy of the courageous Lance Corporal Weaver and pass H.R. 6168 without objection.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6168. It’s a bill that I introduced to honor the life of Drew W. Weaver by designating the post office in St. Charles, Missouri, as the Lance Corporal Drew W. Weaver Post Office Building.

A resident of St. Charles, Missouri, Lance Corporal Drew Weaver was part of the 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division,

1st Marine Expeditionary Force. On February 21, 2007, Lance Corporal Weaver died while conducting combat operations in the al Anbar province in Iraq. As Captain Mark C. Brown noted, Drew was "known for his enthusiasm and his ability to motivate people around him."

Drew's contribution to his country was honored by his community when hundreds of people showed up to his memorial service and procession. A graduate of St. Charles High School, friends and family of Drew remember him as an energetic young man who was eager to serve his country. Ryan Hanson, his best friend and a fellow serviceman, said, "Drew loved what he was doing and was proud of what he was doing for the Marine Corps."

As the father of two Marines, one of whom has served in Iraq, it is a privilege to stand here today to honor one of our fallen heroes. Drew's commitment and dedication to his country is a shining example of how our military men and women are the finest our Nation has to offer.

His and his family's sacrifice should serve as a reminder to all that the freedom we enjoy as Americans is not free, but the result of tremendous bravery and selfless sacrifice of men and women willing to put themselves in harm's way for freedom's cause.

As Reverend James Benz noted during Drew's funeral, "I think we can learn from them that the freedom we enjoy in this country is precious, that it is special, and it must be preserved sometimes at great personal cost."

Our Nation will be forever indebted to Lance Corporal Drew Weaver. Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Lance Corporal Drew Weaver.

Vote "yes" on H.R. 6168.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. SOLIS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6168.

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. AKIN. Madam 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 motion will be postponed.

SPECIALIST PETER J. NAVARRO POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6169) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15455 Manchester Road in Ballwin, Missouri, as the "Spe-

cialist Peter J. Navarro Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6169

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

SECTION 1. SPECIALIST PETER J. NAVARRO POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15455 Manchester Road in Ballwin, Missouri, shall be known and designated as the "Specialist Peter J. Navarro Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Specialist Peter J. Navarro Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. AKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam 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 Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform I am pleased to join my colleagues, particularly the gentleman from Missouri, in the consideration of H.R. 6169, which names a postal facility in Baldwin, Missouri, after a fallen hero, Specialist Peter J. Navarro.

Introduced on June 3, 2008, H.R. 6169 is sponsored by Congressman TODD AKIN, representative of Missouri's Second Congressional District, and co-sponsored by Missouri's entire congressional delegation and a total of eight Members of Congress. H.R. 6169 was reported from the Oversight Committee on July 16, 2008 by a voice vote.

Upon graduating from Lafayette High School in Wildwood, Missouri, Specialist Peter J. Navarro was assigned to the Army's 2nd Battalion and served in that capacity as an outstanding member of his regiment. While conducting combat operations, an improvised explosion device was detonated near his Humvee, killing the 20-year-old.

His mother had asked him not to return to Iraq, but being the dedicated soldier that he was, Specialist Navarro returned because he believed in the mission. Described as a strong willed and caring young man, Specialist Peter J. Navarro served his country in Iraq with pride and distinction. In honor of this sacrifice, Mr. Speaker, let us also pay tribute to the life of Specialist Navarro and pass H.R. 6169 and des-

ignate the Manchester Road Post Office Building in Baldwin, Missouri, after this fine and outstanding American soldier.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 6169, a bill I introduced to honor the life of Peter J. Navarro by designating the post office in Baldwin, Missouri, as the "Specialist Peter J. Navarro Post Office Building."

A resident of Wildwood, Missouri, Specialist Peter Navarro was part of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division. On December 13, 2005, Specialist Navarro was one of four soldiers killed when a roadside bomb detonated near their Humvee during combat operations in Taji, Iraq.

A graduate of Lafayette High School, Peter declined his acceptance at Truman State University so he could join the Army right after graduation.

When Peter returned home for his younger brother's funeral, he was faced with the undeniable risks of serving his country; however, he returned to Iraq, telling friends and family "they need me there." Peter was a dedicated soldier willing to give the ultimate sacrifice to protect his country and the men and women who reside there.

As Peter's father, Jose Navarro, said, "He cared for the soldiers he worked with. He would do anything for his friends. And he told me he believed in the mission that he was involved in."

As a father of two marines, one of whom has served in Iraq, it is a privilege to stand here today to honor one of our fallen soldiers. Peter's commitment and dedication to his country is a shining example of how our military men and women are the finest our Nation has to offer.

His and his family's sacrifice should serve as a reminder to all that the freedom we enjoy as Americans is not free, but the result of the tremendous bravery and selfless service of men and women willing to put themselves in harm's way for freedom's cause.

Our Nation will be forever indebted to Specialist Peter Navarro. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Peter by voting "yes" on H.R. 6169.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to join with Representative AKIN. And we would urge passage of this legislation in honor of an outstanding American soldier.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SALAZAR). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6169.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.